# The Aman Sandesh Times

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## PM Modi Unveils 'One State, One Global Destination' Vision at NITI Aayog Meet



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**New Delhi :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked states to work towards "future-ready" cities and develop at least one tourist destination at par with global standards. Chairing the Niti Aayog meeting, the Prime Minister urged the chief ministers to increase the speed of development in order to achieve the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat' or developed India by 2047.

In a big nationwide tourism push, PM Modi put forward the idea of "one state, one global destination".

"States should develop at least one tourist destination per state at par with global standards and by providing all facilities and infrastructure - One State: One Global Destination. It would also lead to the development of the neighbouring cities as tourist places," he said.

This was the first meeting of the Prime Minister with state chief ministers following Operation Sindoor and India's hostilities with Pakistan.

The tourism pitch shows that the government remains undeterred despite the attack on tourists in Kashmir's Pahalgam. The terror attack, which left 26 dead, has triggered an exodus of tourists.

**PM MODI'S CENTRE-STATES UNITY PITCH**

The meeting was given a miss by the southern chief ministers of Puducherry, Karnataka, and Kerala. The chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana - N Chandrababu Naidu, MK Stalin and Revanth Reddy - were present. J&K's Omar Abdullah and Himachal Pradesh's Sukhvinder Sukhu also attended the meeting.

PM Modi also called for the Centre and states to work together as "Team India" to realise the goal of 'Viksit Bharat'.

"We have to increase the speed of development. If the Centre and all the States come together and work together like Team India, no goal is impossible," he said.

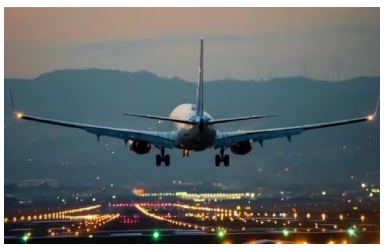
He also underscored that "growth, innovation and sustainability" should be the mantra for the development of future-ready cities.

"India is getting rapidly urbanised. We should work towards future-ready cities... We should have the aim of making each state viksit (developed), each city viksit, each nagar palika viksit and each village viksit. If we work on these lines, we will not have to wait till 2047 to become Viksit Bharat," he said.

He also emphasised that the route to being a developed nation includes the "inclusion of women in our workforce". "We must make laws and policies so that they can be respectfully integrated into the workforce," he said.

## Defence Airports Near Pak Border Mandate Shut Window Shades

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**New Delhi :** The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked all commercial airlines to ensure that aircraft window shades remain shut during takeoff and landing at defence airfields, particularly those near the western border.

The rule will be applicable till the aircraft ascends to 10,000 feet after takeoff, and after it descends to this height during landing. The only exception to this rule applies to emergency exit rows, the aviation regulator said.

The DGCA directive, which comes days after India's western borders saw hostilities with Pakistan, applies to dual-use airports that serve both civilian and military operations.

Moreover, the DGCA has also asked airlines to alert passengers of the ban on photography and videography at military bases during their transit.

"Operators should also communicate the potential consequences of non-compliance, including regulatory or legal action as per applicable security protocols," the statement said.

The guidelines have been issued to enhance "operational safety" and prevent the "unintentional sharing of security-related information by the public", the DGCA directive said.

## After Pahalgam Attack, J&K Special Forces Begin Jungle Warfare Training

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Srinagar :** In a first-of-its-kind move, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has begun training its Special Operations Group (SOG) personnel in jungle warfare, a step aimed at combating increasingly dangerous and terrain-savvy terrorists operating in the Union Territory's mountainous regions.

Formed in the 1990s, the SOG is a specialised wing of the Jammu & Kashmir Police.

The jungle warfare training decision follows the dastardly attack in Pahalgam's Baisaran Valley on April 22, where terrorists used dense forest cover to launch a terror attack, killing 26 people. The incident forced security forces to re-evaluate their preparedness for such guerrilla tactics.

According to top officials, the lack of actionable intelligence and the challenging terrain were key takeaways from the attack, prompting the need for specialised jungle warfare training.

Taking charge of this shift is DGP Nalin Prabhat, a 1992 batch IPS officer from the Andhra Pradesh cadre, who assumed office in October 2023. Known for his past role as commander of the elite anti-Naxal Greyhounds, Prabhat has directed that SOG units undergo intensive training in jungle and high-altitude warfare.

"The more you sweat in training, the less you bleed in battle," a senior officer said, highlighting the seriousness of the ongoing tactical overhaul.

**MULTI-TIERED TRAINING**

SOG units are being trained at multiple locations. Some batches have already undergone intensive training, while others are being prepared for advanced modules. Training partnerships include sessions with Greyhounds in Telangana and at the Jungle Warfare School. Regional training camps include the White Knight Corps base in Talwara and Corps Battle Schools (CBS) in Doda.

At these centres, SOG personnel, usually in teams of 30–50, are trained to move undetected, survive in hostile conditions for days, and navigate dense forests while tracking enemies.

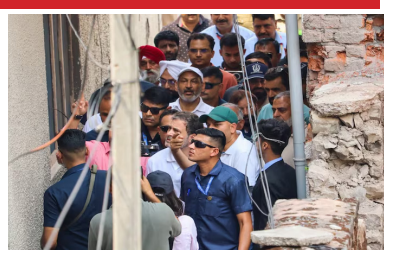
**NEED FOR TERRAIN MASTERY**

After the Pahalgam attack, SOG personnel launched a follow-up operation in Shopian's Keller Forest and neutralised three terrorists after hours of pursuit. The operation was hailed not just for eliminating threats, but for demonstrating improved terrain mastery and relentless pursuit under difficult conditions.

But jungle warfare is not just about combat. Intelligence, particularly HUMINT (human intelligence), is now at the core of SOG strategy. Officials say the absence of local intel in Pahalgam was a turning point. Since then, training has emphasized the cultivation of informant networks in remote regions - where trust can matter more than firepower.

## Rahul Gandhi Visits Poonch, Consoles Families Affected by Pak Shelling

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Jammu :** Congress MP Rahul Gandhi Today visited Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and met the victims of the cross-border shelling by Pakistani troops during recent hostilities between the two countries.

The Poonch sector was witness to heightened artillery and mortar shelling after India carried out precise strikes under Operation Sindoor on nine terror hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on May 7 in response to the deadly April 22 attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

This was Mr Gandhi's second visit to the Union territory since the deadly April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

During the visit, Mr Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, also interacted with school students.

"Now, you have seen danger and a little bit of a frightening situation, but don't worry, everything will come back to normal. Your way of responding to this problem should be that you study and play really hard and make a lot of friends in school," he told them.

He later spoke to reporters about his visit and said there has been "huge damage".

"I spoke with the people and tried to understand their problems. They have requested me to raise this issue on the national level, and I will do that," Mr Gandhi said.

Tensions between India and Pakistan have increased following the Pahalgam attack, which left 26 people dead.

India, after finding cross-border links to the attack, launched "Operation Sindoor" on May 7 and struck terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Pakistan then launched a massive missile and drone attack, but the threats were thwarted. In retaliation, Indian forces struck airfields in Pakistan. A ceasefire on May 10 ended the hostilities.





Amarjit Singh
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# India's NextGen Test Stars: Probables for Crucial England Tour Revealed

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With the retirement of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, two key spots have opened up in the playing XI, sending Indian into an immediate transitionary phase. The availability of two spots in the playing XI in turn, has opened up places in the extended squad as well. The Indian Test team is at a critical juncture, having lost back-to-back series against New Zealand and Australia. They need a strong showing in England to restore belief—and who better to lead the charge than Gautam Gambhir, a man who has always worn his heart on his sleeve.

However, Gambhir will be under pressure due to the recent results and he would like to carefully handpick the men he wants to surround himself with, in what might turn out to be a tough away tour against the Bazballing England.

This Indian team will truly be a Gautam Gambhir side, as he is expected to have significant input on squad selection following the retirements of the two senior players. New faces are expected to be included in the Test squad, especially since India have already named several rising stars in their A team.

On that note, here's how India's 16-member squad could look for the England Test tour:

Batters

Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Shubman Gill

Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul should be given the opener's slot, considering the partnership they forged in Australia in 2024–25. Rahul's experience of opening in English conditions could prove invaluable on this tour.




Shubman Gill transitioned to No. 3 once India moved on from Cheteshwar Pujara in the red-ball format. It might be time for him to move down one more spot and take over Virat Kohli's role. Shubman has the technique and temperament to control the pace of the game and should be earmarked as the next great in red-ball cricket.

Wicketkeeper

Rishabh Pant

The X-factor of the team—Rishabh Pant should be the first-choice keeper in the Test format. He is already out of the ODI and T20I squads and had a disappointing season in the Indian Premier League. It would benefit him if the Indian management shows some trust during the England tour. Dhruv Jurel can be named as Pant's backup.

Spinner

The toss-up will be between Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar. Gambhir has shown a preference for Sundar during his brief stint with the Indian team, but it will likely be Jadeja who gets the nod.

Kuldeep Yadav is likely to miss out on the England Tests.

Fast Bowlers

Nitish Kumar Reddy, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep

This is the pace attack India will rely on to win the Test series. The last time India toured England, in 2021, Virat Kohli's team rattled the English side. Under Jasprit Bumrah's leadership, India have been potent with the ball, but they'll need to find consistency to turn flashes of brilliance into sustained success.

Mohammed Shami is the most prominent name expected to miss out. Concerns over Shami's fitness ahead of the England tour have kept him out of Test action since the WTC Final in 2023.

Another name likely to miss the cut is Arshdeep Singh, who hasn't been named in the A squad either.

India's Probable 16 in England

Probable Playing XI

Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep

Reserves

Abhimanyu Easwaran, Washington Sundar, Karun Nair, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh

India's Bench Strength

India A captain Abhimanyu Easwaran will be only specialist back-up opener for this team. Apart from Easwaran, India are likely to name Karun Nair in the extended squad after thej terrific domestic season he has had. Washington Sundar is expected to get the nod as the second spinner, especially after he was chosen ahead of R Ashwin in the Australia series.

The remaining two spots are expected to go to two fast bowlers Harshit Rana and Arshdeep Singh, so that India can rotate their pacers and avoid short and long term injuries.

India will also have the option of calling up players from the A team, who will be playing in England before the Test series.

INDIA A Squad for England

India A squad: Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Karun Nair, Dhruv Jurel (VC) (WK), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shardul Thakur, Ishan Kishan (WK), Manav Suthar, Tanush Kotian, Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep, Harshit Rana, Anshul Kamboj, Khaleel Ahmed, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sarfaraz Khan, Tushar Deshpande, Harsh Dubey

Note: Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan will join India A for the second and third tour game of the series.



**Atul Sharma**



## Astro Speak by: Rajesh Kumar

Birth Date 25th May

**Born on 25th 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.**






## Aries

**May 25th 2025 :** Discomfort may disturb your mental peace but a friend will be immensely helpful to sort out your problems. If travelling make sure you carry all-important documents. The demands of your spouse might give you some stress.

## Taurus

**May 25th 2025 :** A day when you will be able to relax. Massage your body with oil to give relief to your muscles. Today, a creditor can visit you and ask you to repay your loan. Although you will repay the amount, but it can further create financial hardships in life.

## Gemini

**May 25th 2025 :** Health will be fine despite some mental pressures. Your idea of saving money for yourself can be accomplished today. Today you will be able to save appropriately. News of inheritance of ancestor's property would make the entire family happy.

## Cancer

**May 25th 2025 :** Try to get out of your office early for some recreation. Investment is recommended but seek proper advice. Great day to pamper yourself and do things that you enjoy the most. Relations with your sweetheart might get strained because of the interference of someone.

## Leo

**May 25th 2025 :** Try to get out of your office early and do things that you really enjoy. Do not invest in joint ventures and dubious financial schemes. Parents and friends will give in their best to keep you happy. Unexpected romantic inclination will cloud your mind towards the evening.

## Virgo

**May 25th 2025 :** Your continuous positive thinking will be rewarded. As you are likely to succeed in your endeavour. Today, you may spend your money on getting a defective electronic item fixed. Your presence makes this world a worthy place to be for your beloved.

## Libra

**May 25th 2025 :** Health will be perfect today. The court will make decisions in your favour today if you were involved in a case regarding money-related matters. It will benefit you financially. Period of tension may prevail but family support will help you.

## Scorpio

**May 25th 2025 :** You will have abundance of energy- but work pressure seems to get you irritated. Profits in business can bring joy to the faces of many traders and businessmen today. Don't let your friends take advantage of your generous nature.

## Sagittarius

**May 25th 2025 :** Best day to restart to improve your health. Today's formula for success is to put your money on the advice of people who are innovative and hold good experience. Your family would come to your rescue and guide you at the time of crisis.

## Capricorn

**May 25th 2025 :** Make serious efforts to improve your personality. You will be presented with many new financial schemes today-Weigh the pros and cons carefully before making any commitment. Your stubborn nature could mar the peace of your parents.

## Aquarius

**May 25th 2025 :** Likely to get a happy news. People who had bought land and now want to sell it can come across a good buyer today and acquire a good amount for it. Your witty nature will make you popular at social gatherings. Secret affairs can ruin your reputation.

## Pisces

**May 25th 2025 :** Don't let little thing bother your mind. Investment in antiques and jewelry will bring gains and prosperity. Unexpected good news from distant relatives will bring happy moments for the entire family. Yes, you are the lucky one.




# Demand Revives for General Category Commission Chairman Appointment

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Mohali :** The long-pending demand for the appointment of a Chairman and members to the Punjab State Commission for General Category has gained fresh momentum, with Mohali Municipal Corporation's Deputy Mayor, Kuljit Singh Bedi, formally urging Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to take immediate action.
In a letter addressed to the CM, Bedi highlighted that the Commission, constituted on December 29, 2021, during the previous Congress-led government, has remained headless for the past three years. Dr. Navjot Singh Dahiya was appointed its first Chairman before operations stalled ahead of the 2022 Vidhan Sabha elections. Since then, no appointments have been made, leaving the Commission effectively defunct.
Bedi stressed that the General Category community continues to face unresolved issues due to the absence of an active commission. "Just like other communities have dedicated welfare boards and corporations with appointed leadership, the General Category deserves the same representation to address its challenges," he wrote.
The Deputy Mayor criticized the current Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government for neglecting the Commission and failing to implement support schemes like the "Chief Minister Scholarship Scheme." The scheme, initiated by the previous Charanjit Singh Channi-led government with a budget allocation of ₹30 crore in 2022–23, reportedly received no funding in the subsequent financial year and has since been shelved.
Bedi recalled that despite assurances from a Cabinet Sub-Committee—including Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema and Cabinet Ministers Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal and Aman Arora—regarding the revival of the scholarship scheme, no concrete steps have been taken.
He called on the state government to act without delay and restore faith among General Category citizens by appointing a Chairman and members to the Commission. "The continued neglect is deeply discouraging for the community," he added.

# Villagers to Act as Guardians in Fight Against Drugs, Govt to Provide Full Support: MLA Kulwant Singh

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Mohali :** As part of the ongoing anti-drug campaign in Punjab, MLA Kulwant Singh of Mohali Assembly Constituency called on villagers to become self-appointed guardians of their communities in the fight against drug abuse. Addressing gatherings in the villages of Sambhalki, Nano Mazra, and Raipur Khurd under the Nasha Mukti Yatra (Drug-Free Campaign), the MLA pledged complete support from the Punjab Government for this grassroots movement.
MLA Kulwant Singh emphasized that under the direction of the state government, people across villages and wards are actively participating in awareness drives and taking a firm pledge to eradicate drugs from the roots. "This movement is not just a political campaign; it is a social mission," he asserted. "People are stepping up, taking charge of their localities, and the government will back them fully. Those who take a stand against drugs will face no political or administrative pressure—only encouragement."
The MLA also administered a public pledge to the residents of the three villages, committing them to a united fight against the drug menace. He noted that illegal properties of several major drug traffickers have already been demolished using bulldozers—an action he described as a major win for the state government in public interest.
Singh made a heartfelt appeal to every section of society—youth, parents, Panchayats, and social groups—to join the movement. "This is a mission of hope and transformation. Every home, every street, and every village must resonate with the message: Say No to Drugs, Choose Life."
He highlighted that the Punjab Government is also providing extensive rehabilitation support for drug addicts, including counseling, job opportunities, and mental health services. "This door-to-door awareness drive is a ray of hope for families trapped in the darkness of addiction," he said.
During the awareness events, many residents expressed their appreciation for the government's initiative and assured their commitment to the mission.
Prominent individuals present included Avatar Singh Mauli (Block President), Gurpreet Singh Kurra (Assembly Coordinator, Anti-Drug Campaign), Mrs. Anu Babbar (District Coordinator, Anti-Drug Campaign), Dr. Kuldeep Singh, Harpal Singh Brar, Jaspal Singh Matoor, Gurpreet Chahal, Arun Goel, village heads including Gursewak Singh (Sarpanch, Mauli), Kritika Sharma (wife of Gaurav Sharma, Sarpanch of Sambhalki), Palwinder Kaur (wife of Sandeep Gir, Sarpanch, Nano Mazra), and Karamjeet Kaur (Sarpanch, Raipur Khurd), along with officials DSP Harsimrat Singh Ball, BDPO Dhanwant Singh Randhawa, Naib Tehsildar Harjot Singh, and other respected village residents.

# MCC Launches Major Anti-Encroachment Drive in Sector 26, Clears Green Belt Near Sabzi Mandi

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Chandigarh :** In a determined move to reclaim public land and uphold civic regulations, the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh (MCC) conducted a large-scale anti-encroachment operation early Friday morning in Sector 26 near the Sabzi Mandi.
The drive began at 6:00 AM and was carried out by a joint team from the Enforcement Wing, Medical Officer of Health (MOH), and the Horticulture Wing of MCC, under the directives of MC Commissioner Sh. Amit Kumar, IAS. The operation focused on removing unauthorized fruit vendors—mainly watermelon and melon sellers—who had encroached upon the adjoining green belt of the mandi.
As part of the action, around 75 tractor-trolleys were cleared from the site. Authorities noted that slips were being issued to these vendors by the Market Committee and Aarthiyas, despite the area falling under the jurisdiction of MCC.
To prevent future encroachments, the Horticulture Wing has been directed to erect barricades along the green belt. Additionally, the Market Committee has been instructed to stop issuing receipts or permissions to unauthorized vendors in the area.
Commissioner Amit Kumar issued a stern warning to all encroachers, stating that any future violations will be met with strict legal consequences.
The MCC reaffirmed its commitment to preserving public spaces and enforcing municipal regulations for the welfare of all city residents.

# Shiv Sena Pb to Hold Tiranga Yatra from Mohali to Ropar on June 6: Sanjeev Ghanouli

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Kharar :** Shiv Sena Punjab will organize a grand Tiranga Yatra (Tricolour March) on June 6, starting from Phase 6 in Mohali and passing through Kharar, Morinda, and Kurali, culminating in Ropar. The announcement was made during an emergency meeting of Shiv Sena Punjab held today in Kharar under the leadership of Bhupinder Sharma (Political Advisor, Shiv Sena Punjab) and Rajesh Malik (District President, Mohali).
The meeting was attended by Sanjeev Ghanouli, National President of Shiv Sena Punjab, Arvind Gautam, Youth State Chairman, and Sanjeev Rana, In-charge of Himachal Pradesh, among other key leaders.
Addressing the media, Sanjeev Ghanouli stated that at the conclusion of the Yatra in Ropar, tributes will be paid to paramilitary forces, CRPF personnel, Punjab Police officials, and 35,000 innocent Hindus who lost their lives during the Blue Star Operation.
He further mentioned that teams from various districts across Punjab will join the Yatra. Shiv Sena Punjab has also directed its intellectual wing to push for the inclusion of sacrifices made by security forces, police personnel, and innocent victims of terrorism in the Punjab School Education Board curriculum. The aim is to educate the younger generation about the difficult times of terrorism and the contributions of those who gave their lives for the country.
Key members present during the meeting included Mohit Kumar, Chandan Mishra, Mahinder Bajaj, Amit Sethi, Arun Uppal, Gaurav, and Sushil Billu, among others.

# PIC OF THE DAY

## Who Cares...?

## Stray Dog Crisis Spirals Out of Control: Over 2 Lakh Dog Bite Cases Reported in 2024



Atul Sharma

**Mohali :** The rising menace of stray dogs in Punjab has reached alarming levels, with over two lakh reported dog bite incidents in 2024 alone, according to government data shared by Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh Alias Lalan Singh, in the Lok Sabha earlier this year. Shockingly, this equates to about 60 children being attacked every hour, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive action on this crisis.
In Mohali, a microcosm of the growing epidemic, there have been 16,047 reported dog bite cases in just this district, with the Phase 6 Government Hospital being the sole facility catering to these patients for the entire region. The increase in such incidents is fueling renewed calls from concerned citizens, animal welfare organizations, and municipal authorities for more robust and coordinated measures to address the situation.
Proactive Measures Needed to Tackle the Crisis
With stray dog attacks rising at an alarming rate, many citizens are calling for immediate and comprehensive reforms in stray dog management policies. Animal welfare groups are advocating for stronger collaboration between municipal authorities and other organizations to implement sterilization programs, vaccination drives, and raise awareness about responsible pet ownership. These steps are viewed as essential to curb the growing menace of stray dogs, which has become a silent emergency of epidemic proportions.
The lack of a coordinated approach is evident in Mohali, where the strain on the local healthcare system is palpable, and the surge in dog bite cases is overwhelming. The problem is not just one of public safety; it is also a public health crisis, with many families facing severe consequences from attacks and the potential spread of diseases like rabies.
Punjab's Struggle with Compensation for Victims
Adding to the frustrations, victims of dog attacks in Punjab are facing delays and hurdles in receiving financial compensation, as mandated by the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Despite the clear court order, compensation is rarely disbursed, and even when it is, victims often report long delays and a lack of transparency in the status of their claims. Many complainants are left in the dark for months, unsure of the progress of their cases.
This delay in compensation not only causes financial hardship for the victims but also underscores the lack of urgency in addressing the wider issue of stray dog control and welfare.
Experts argue that tackling the stray dog crisis in Punjab requires a shift from reactive to proactive measures. This issue cannot be solved with temporary fixes or by focusing solely on individual incidents. A coordinated approach between government authorities, health bodies, and animal welfare groups is essential to create long-term solutions that will make Punjab's cities safer for both humans and animals.
With the situation continuing to worsen, it is clear that Punjab must act decisively. The state cannot afford to wait any longer as the rising number of dog bites points to a rapidly growing public health crisis. Comprehensive plans involving sterilization, vaccinations, and public awareness campaigns must be launched to address the root causes of this epidemic, ensuring the safety and well-being of both the citizens and the animals involved.
The stray dog crisis in Punjab has escalated to an urgent public health emergency. With thousands of dog bite incidents and widespread concerns about public safety, it's time for the government, local authorities, and animal welfare organizations to collaborate and take immediate, lasting action to address this growing threat. The situation is dire, and the citizens of Punjab, especially vulnerable children, are counting on effective intervention before the crisis spirals further out of control.
**But Who Cares??**

# Dr. Shandil Presses Centre for Swift Release of Pending Welfare Funds

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**New Delhi :** Himachal Pradesh Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram Shandil met Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Annapurna Devi, on Last evening in New Delhi, seeking immediate intervention on several pending welfare-related issues impacting the state.
During the meeting, Dr. Shandil urged the release of ₹132.41 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund for the "Mukhya Mantri Aadarsh Gram Sukh Aashray Parisar", a flagship initiative aimed at providing integrated residential, training, and recreational facilities for orphans, abandoned children, elderly citizens, and women residing in Shakti Sadans.
The Health Minister also sought clearance of pending dues amounting to ₹3.68 crore for Child Care Institutions in Himachal Pradesh for the financial year 2023–24, being operated under the Himachal Pradesh State Council for Child Welfare.
He further highlighted outstanding payments under the National Creche Scheme/Palna Scheme, including ₹91.33 lakh for 2020–21 and 2021–22, ₹1.80 crore for 2022–23, and ₹2.22 crore for 2023–24.
Raising concerns over operational costs under key women welfare schemes such as One Stop Centre, Women Helpline, Shakti Sadan, Sakhi Niwas, and Hub for Empowerment, Dr. Shandil pointed out that current management costs remain below the minimum wage levels prescribed by the State Government and urged a revision.
Additionally, he requested the release of the final installment of ₹27.85 lakh for the completed construction of Sakhi Niwas at Paonta Sahib in Sirmaur district, stating that all necessary documentation has been submitted.
On the nutrition front, Dr. Shandil welcomed the recent release of ₹27.99 crore under Poshan Abhiyaan but stressed the urgent requirement of an additional ₹8.04 crore for smartphone procurement. He also flagged pending liabilities of ₹18.31 crore for Anganwadi worker mobile recharges, community-based events (CBEs), and incentive disbursements.
Concluding the meeting, the Health Minister expressed optimism that the Union Government would prioritize these issues to ensure uninterrupted delivery of welfare services in Himachal Pradesh. Union Minister Annapurna Devi assured Dr. Shandil that the demands would be considered with priority.

# BBMB Moves Ahead to Accommodate CISF Troops Despite Pb's Strong Opposition



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Nangal :** Despite firm opposition from the Punjab government and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann regarding the deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at the Bhakra project, the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) has initiated preparations to house CISF personnel in its Nangal township.

A recent letter issued by BBMB management has directed officials in Nangal to earmark and vacate residential quarters in blocks CC, HH, H, GG, and DD to accommodate the CISF contingent. BBMB employees currently residing in these quarters have been instructed to relocate, with assurances of alternative accommodations elsewhere in the township.

The management is also expected to float tenders for repair and maintenance of the designated housing units. As per the plan, family accommodations will be arranged for 142 CISF personnel, including one commandant, two assistant commandants, and several subordinate ranks. The remaining CISF personnel will be stationed at BBMB's Talwara township.

The decision has stirred unrest among current BBMB residents. Many have written to the management, objecting to the eviction notices, citing personal investments made in renovating their homes. They have demanded that vacant houses be used for CISF personnel instead.

This move follows a 2021 BBMB full board decision, in which the Punjab government had initially given its assent. The Ministry of Home Affairs later approved the deployment of 296 CISF personnel for the security of the Bhakra project and directed BBMB to deposit approximately ₹8 crore for the deployment.

However, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann has recently opposed the decision, insisting that state police forces are sufficient for maintaining security at the dam.

Currently, BBMB's installations are guarded by over 200 personnel from Himachal Pradesh Police and about 15 from Punjab Police. The deployment of CISF is being met with resistance not only from state authorities but also from local residents and farmer groups, who fear increased restrictions and limited access once the central force assumes control.

Despite the growing opposition, BBMB appears committed to proceeding with the CISF accommodation plan, intensifying the ongoing standoff with the Punjab government.

# MLA Raman Arora Sent to 5-Day Remand, Seen Laughing in Court

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Jalandhar :** Jalandhar Central Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Raman Arora was produced before the court by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau on Saturday afternoon and was sent to five-day police remand in connection with a corruption case. While officials had sought a ten-day remand, the court granted half the requested period.

Arora, who was brought to court around 3 PM—hours later than the scheduled 11 AM appearance—was seen laughing during the proceedings, drawing public attention amid the seriousness of the case.

It remains unclear whether the MLA will be interrogated in Jalandhar or Mohali during the remand period.

The developments follow back-to-back raids at Arora's residence in



Ashok Nagar, Jalandhar. A six-hour-long search was conducted on Last morning, with a follow-up search Today. Vigilance officials also raided the residence of Arora's in-law, Raju Madan, and detained his personal assistant, Rohit, who was also presented in court.

The case against Arora is linked to an Assistant Town Planner (ATP) arrested earlier. According to the government spokesperson, the MLA is accused of issuing notices to residents through the Jalandhar Municipal Corporation and later quashing them in exchange for bribes. An FIR has already been registered in the case.

In a sign that the government had been preparing for action, Arora's official security was withdrawn days ago. AAP leader and Sewerage Board Chairman Sunny Ahluwalia confirmed Arora's arrest, though his lawyer denied this during the initial raid.

Interestingly, just four days before the arrest, Arora had been appointed as a member of the Vidhan Sabha's Public Undertaking Committee. The case is gaining traction, with several other officials reportedly under vigilance scrutiny.

# Majithia Drug Case: Hearing, SIT Changed For 5th Time

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Ludhiana :** The court has deferred its decision to May 28 in the high-profile drug smuggling case involving Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia.

The matter pertains to a plea filed by Majithia's legal team seeking access to the application submitted by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) for obtaining a search warrant.

The plea argues that Majithia should be given a copy of the SIT's application for transparency. The SIT had earlier obtained a search warrant through the court as part of its ongoing probe into the case.

The case—FIR No. 2/21, registered at Police Station State Crime, Phase-4 Mohali—is filed under Sections 25, 27A, and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Notably, the SIT has yet to submit a challan in court.

SIT Restructured for the Fifth Time



In a major development, the Punjab government has reshuffled the SIT for the fifth time. AIG Varun Sharma, currently serving as SSP Patiala, has been appointed as the new SIT head. This marks the first time that the probe is being led by an officer of AIG rank, whereas previously it was always headed by officers of DIG rank or higher.

Joining Sharma on the SIT are SSP Tarn Taran Abhimanyu Rana and SP (NRI) Patiala Gurbans Singh Bains, who replace earlier members, including DIG HS Bhullar, the previous SIT chief.

Background of the Case

The drug case against Bikram Singh Majithia was registered in 2022 during the Congress-led state government. It stems from revelations connected to the infamous Bhola drug racket, where several FIRs had already been adjudicated by the courts. Investigators had earlier indicated that Majithia's name could not be added to those cases post-verdict, prompting a new FIR.

Majithia was arrested following the registration of the case and had also served time in jail. The current delay and repeated restructuring of the SIT have sparked discussions on the handling and progress of the investigation.

The court's upcoming decision on May 28 is expected to be pivotal in determining the next steps in the legal proceedings.

# Visually Impaired Himachali Woman Scales Mount Everest

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Shimla :** Chhonzin Angmo, a tribal woman from a remote village in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district, suffers from total blindness but she has never let her visual impairment stand in the way of her dreams.

Angmo, who idolises Hellen Keller, believes deeply in her words of wisdom -- "The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision." On Monday, she scripted history by becoming the first visually-impaired woman from India and the fifth such person in the world to scale Mt Everest, planting the Tricolour on Earth's highest mountain.

Born in the remote Chango village along the India-Tibet border, Angmo lost her sight when she was eight years old. She still went on to earn her graduation and masters degrees from Miranda House under the University of Delhi. At present, she works with the Union Bank of India as a customer service associate in Delhi.

Her father Amar Chand told, "My daughter has made me proud and we all are very happy about her achievement. However, we do not know the exact details yet and are waiting for her return." The news of Angmo scaling the world's highest peak also brought cheer among locals of her village.

Yamchin, her relative, said Angmo was bold and determined since childhood.

Her feat has brought happiness to the entire village, she said.

Angmo's journey may have been full of challenges but she turned every challenge into an opportunity.

"My story has just begun, my blindness is not my weakness but my strength," she had earlier told.

"Climbing mountain peaks has been my childhood dream but financial constraints were a big challenge. Now I will embark on scaling all the left-out peaks," she had said.

In October 2024, Angmo became the first visually-impaired Indian woman to complete a trek to the Everest base camp, located at an altitude of 5,364 metres.

She has scaled Mt Kang Yatsae 2 (6,250 metres) in Ladakh and was also a member of the Divyang expedition team that scaled an unnamed peak at an altitude of about 6,000 metres in the Union Territory.

Her feats even found mention in Prime



Minister Narendra Modi's "Mann ki Baat" radio broadcast as he recognised and praised her team.

With a passion for sports, Angmo won a gold medal in swimming at the state level and participated in a national-level judo championship. She has two bronze medals from national-level marathon events and participated in the Delhi Marathon three times, as well as the Pink Marathon and the Delhi Vedanta Marathon. She also played football at the zonal and the national levels.

In order to achieve her dream of scaling mountain peaks, Angmo completed a basic mountaineering course from the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports in 2016 and was adjudged the best trainee.

An adventurer by heart, she cycled from Manali to Khardung La, one of the world's highest motorable roads at an altitude of 18,000 feet (about 5486 metres), in 10 days, braving extreme temperatures, in 2018; embarked on a cycling expedition through the Nilgiris region across three states in just six days in 2019; and completed the seven-day cycling expedition from Manali to Kalpa across the Spiti Valley and Kinnaur last July.

She was also the only woman mountaineer of the team of people with disabilities that scaled the Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield, in 2021 under Operation Blue Freedom and set a New World Record.

She received the Sarvshresth Divyangjan National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities last year from President Droupadi Murmu. She is also a recipient of the NAB Madhu Sharma Young Achiever Award, International Day of Persons with Disabilities Award from the National Association for the Blind in Delhi, and the Cavinkare Ability Mastery Awards.

# Gidderbaha Clash: AAP MLA, Pb Congress Chief Spar Over Stalled MC Works

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Muktsar :** A fresh war of words has broken out between Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from Gidderbaha, Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon, and Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, as blame intensifies over stalled development projects in the town.

MLA Dimpy Dhillon publicly accused the Congress-led municipal council of deliberately delaying civic projects due to political rivalry. He claimed that despite making personal appeals to the municipal council president to set aside political differences in the interest of public welfare, no action has been taken.

"I appealed to the municipal council president not to let political grudges affect the public. I even told him to go ahead and take credit for the foundation stones. But he responded that he would only act on Raja Warring's instructions. As a result, six months have been



lost. The streets could've been built by now. I'm now looking at alternate arrangements," Dhillon said.

Responding sharply to the allegations on Friday, PCC chief Raja Warring, who previously represented Gidderbaha for three terms and is now MP from Ludhiana, dismissed the charges during a Facebook Live session.

"AAP leaders keep citing '12 years vs 2.5 years' but the people of Gidderbaha know the reality. The Chief Minister and the government are theirs — why the excuses now?" said Warring. "Works under the Municipal Council require formal resolutions and consultations with all MC members and the council president. How can any project proceed if due process is ignored?"

Warring also questioned the progress of previously announced AAP-led projects, including the Malwa canal work and promises related to sewerage solutions. "What happened to the 15-day sewerage promise? If I'm not mistaken, only ₹70 lakh has been allocated for Gidderbaha works since the bypoll. The CM should deliver on promises, release funds, and work in coordination with local bodies," he added.

The political standoff has cast a shadow over civic development in Gidderbaha, with both parties accusing each other of stalling progress for political gain.

# Sidhu Moosewala Murder Case Twist: Key Witness Angrez Singh Dies Before Testimony

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Mansa :** In a significant development in the Sidhu Moosewala murder case, Angrez Singh, the first Investigating Officer (IO) and a key witness, passed away late Friday night following a prolonged illness. Singh's death comes just weeks before he was scheduled to testify in court, potentially delaying further progress in the high-profile trial.

At the time of Moosewala's assassination in May 2022, Singh was serving as the Station House Officer (SHO) of Mansa Sadar police station and was among the first responders at the crime scene. His testimony was expected to shed crucial light on the early stages of the investigation.

Singh had been listed as one of three primary witnesses due to appear in court on July 4, alongside Sidhu Moosewala's



father, Balkaur Singh, and police official Sukhpal Singh. However, due to his ongoing health issues, Singh had already missed a scheduled appearance on May 23, citing medical reasons.

Legal experts believe Singh's passing is likely to result in further delays to a case that has already seen multiple adjournments. The court is expected to formally acknowledge his death in the upcoming hearing and revise the witness list accordingly.

Earlier hearings have seen pivotal eyewitness accounts from Gurpreet Singh and Gurvinder Singh, who identified the shooters, weapons used, and the getaway vehicles involved in Moosewala's killing.

Sidhu Moosewala, a celebrated Punjabi singer and rising political figure, was gunned down in broad daylight on May 29, 2022, in Punjab's Mansa district—a murder that sparked national outrage and led to mounting pressure on authorities for swift and transparent justice.

The court is still set to hear Balkaur Singh's testimony on July 4, which is expected to carry significant weight in the ongoing trial.

# Bhool Chuk Maaf Opens to Slow Start at Box Office on Day 1

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**New Delhi :** Karan Sharma's time loop comedy 'Bhool Chuk Maaf' starring Rajkummar Rao and Wamiqa Gabbi had a modest start at the box office. The film earned Rs six crore on its opening day.

As per early estimates, 'Bhool Chuk Maaf' registered an overall 19.36 per cent occupancy in the Hindi 2D category across India on its opening day. Morning shows started slow with just 9.40 per cent occupancy but saw a steady rise, peaking at 31.27 per cent by night.

The film fared better than Rajkummar Rao's last film, 'Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video', that had earned Rs 5.5 crore on day one of its release. However, it lagged much behind the actor's 'Stree 2' which minted Rs 51.8 crore on it's opening day.

The increase in footfalls during the evening and night shows indicates positive word-of-mouth, a good sign for the film's weekend prospects.

The story follows a soon-to-be-married man who discovers he's caught in a time loop, reliving the day before his wedding over and over.

The film reads, "Directed by Karan Sharma, 'Bhool Chuk Maaf' is an idea with potential, but one that needs more introspection. Time may loop, love may falter, and faith may be tested, but cinema must evolve. Because audiences aren't stuck in yesterday!"

A few weeks prior, producer Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films announced that the film would skip its planned theatrical release on May 9 and instead premiere on Prime Video on May 16, citing heightened nationwide security drills following Operation Sindoor.

# Mukul Dev, Acclaimed Actor and Former Model, Passes Away at 54

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Mumbai :** Actor Mukul Dev died due to a brief illness. After his health worsened, he was shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), where he received treatment. He was 54 and is survived by his brother, Rahul Dev.

Vindu Dara Singh, who worked with Mukul in 'Son of Sardaar', confirmed the news of his death. He lamented that Mukul would not be able to see himself on the big screen.

"After his parent's death, Mukul was keeping to himself. He would not even step out of the house or meet anyone. His health deteriorated in the last few days, and he was in the hospital. My condolences to his brother and everyone who knew and loved him. He was an amazing person, and we will all miss him," Singh said.

Mukul's friend and actor Deepshika Nagpal also posted a photo with the late actor on Instagram. Talking to India Today, she shared that Mukul never spoke about his health to anyone. They have a friends group on WhatsApp where they would often talk. "I woke up in the morning to this news. I have been calling his number since then, hoping he would pick up," she said, getting emotional.

Mukul was known for his work across Hindi and Punjabi films, television serials, and music albums. He also appeared in a few Bengali, Malayalam, Kannada, and Telugu films. For his performance in 'Yamla Pagla Deewana', he was honoured with the 7th Amrish Puri Award for excellence in acting.

Born in Delhi, the actor started his career on TV with the serial 'Mumkin' playing the role of Vijay Pandey in 1996. He also acted in Doordarshan's 'Ek Se Badh Kar Ek', a comedy Bollywood countdown show. He was part of various other films including 'Qila' (1998), 'Wajood' (1998), 'Kohram' (1999) and 'Mujhe Meri Biwi Se Bachaao' (2001), among others.

# Shubman Gill Named India's 37th Test Captain, Pant as Deputy for England Tour



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**New Delhi :** Shubman Gill has been appointed India's 37th Test captain, with the BCCI confirming the decision during the senior selection committee meeting in Mumbai on Saturday, May 24. The Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel and BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia met at the board headquarters to pick a 18-man squad for the 5-Test series against England, starting June 20 at Headingley.

Rishabh Pant was named as Shubman Gill's deputy for the tour of England. The likes of Sai Sudharsan and Arshdeep Singh were handed maiden call-ups in Test cricket. In a big call, Mohammed Shami was not picked due to fitness issues while the likes of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj made it to the 18. India A captain, Abhimanyu Easwaran, who has been travelling witht the squad, gets another opportunity.

Gill takes over from Rohit Sharma, who stepped away from Test cricket in May. Gill has been picked ahead of Jasprit Bumrah, who had already captained India in three Tests, including two matches in the absence of Rohit in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

"You don't pick captain for one or two series. We have to think long term. In the last year or so, we have looked at Shubman in the previous times even when we played England last year. He has made a lot of impact in the dressing room," chief selector Ajit Agarkar said after announcing the squad Today.

At 25, Gill has become one of the youngest players to hold the position in recent years. Though he lacks captaincy experience in the red-ball format, he has led India in a five-match T20I assignment in Zimbabwe in 2024. Gill has also been captained Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League.

Gill has led in only five first-class matches, winning only one of them with Punjab.

Gill has also served as vice-captain in ODIs and T20Is. He was Rohit Sharma's deputy in india's victorious Champions Trophy campaign in the UAE in February 2025.

In Test cricket, Gill has played 32 matches and scored 1,893 runs, including five centuries. His elevation to the role signals a forward-looking decision by the selectors, favouring long-term continuity as the team transitions into a new World Test Championship cycle.

However, there are concerns over whether captaincy has been thrust upon Gill, who is yet to cement his place in the Test side. To date, Gill has scored 559 runs in 13 matches in SENA countries and the West Indies, averaging just 25, with only two fifties in 24 innings. Since his match-winning 91 in the famous Brisbane Test in 2021, Gill has yet to score a half-century in any of these regions.

Gill now steps into the forefront of leadership at a time when the team is undergoing a generational shift - both in personnel and approach. Ever since India failed to qualify for the 2023-2025 World Test Championship final, following back-to-back series defeats to New Zealand at home and then to Australia in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, there has been growing speculation about India looking to revamp their Test side with young faces at the forefront.

With Shubman Gill taking charge and leading a relatively young squad in the wake of retirements from senior figures like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, fans will be hopeful that he can guide India into a new phase marked by consistency and success.

**INDIA SQUAD FOR ENGLAND TEST SERIES**

Shubman Gill (captain)
Rishabh Pant (wk) (vice-captain)
Yashasvi Jaiswal
KL Rahul
Sai Sudharsan
Abhimanyu Easwaran
Karun Nair
Nitish Kumar Reddy
Ravindra Jadeja
Dhruv Jurel (wk)
Washington Sundar
Shardul Thakur
Jasprit Bumrah
Mohammed Siraj
Prasidh Krishna
Akash Deep
Arshdeep Singh
Kuldeep Yadav

It's story TiME

# The Ant and the Grasshopper

One summer, an ant worked hard every day to gather food and store it safely for the winter. His friend, the grasshopper, however, laughed and said, "You work too hard! Relax!" The grasshopper spent all summer playing and singing instead of preparing. But when winter came, the grasshopper was cold and hungry, while the ant stayed cozy in his home with more than enough food.



**Moral of the story:** Always plan ahead and be prepared. Life won't always be easy, so take care of your needs while you can.



# Fresh Jolt For Rahul Gandhi: Non-Bailable Warrant Issued in Defamation Case

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Ranchi :** An MP-MLA court in Jharkhand's Chaibasa has issued a non-bailable warrant against Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case, ordering him to appear in person before the court on June 26. The court rejected a plea by Gandhi's lawyer seeking exemption from personal appearance.

The case, filed by BJP leader Pratap Katiyar, relates to remarks against Amit Shah, who was then the BJP president, by Rahul Gandhi during the Congress's plenary session in 2018.

In his speech, Gandhi had allegedly said that even someone facing "charges of murder" could become the president of the BJP.

Alleging that Gandhi's remark was defamatory and insulted all BJP workers, Katiyar filed a case against him on July 9, 2018, before the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) court in Chaibasa.

Following a directive from the Jharkhand High Court, the defamation case was transferred to the MP-MLA court in Ranchi in February 2020.

Subsequently, the case was sent back to the MP-MLA court in Chaibasa, where the magistrate took cognisance of the matter and issued a summons to the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Despite repeated summons by the court, Gandhi skipped appearances. Initially, a bailable warrant was issued. Then, Gandhi approached the Jharkhand High Court seeking a stay on the warrant. The plea was disposed of on March 20, 2024.

Later, the Raebareli MP filed a petition for exemption from personal appearance. It was also dismissed by the Chaibasa court.

Now, the special court has taken a strict approach by issuing a non-bailable warrant.

# Monsoon Set to Hit Kerala in 24 Hours - Earliest in 16 Years



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**New Delhi :** The monsoon is set to arrive in Kerala within the next 24 hours, nearly a week ahead of its usual schedule. This year's onset in Kerala is set to be the earliest in the last 16 years.

All favourable conditions for the onset of the monsoon have developed over the state, with heavy rainfall lashing several parts of Kerala over the past two days due to a combination of a low-pressure area and the advancing monsoon system.

The last time the monsoon arrived this early in the state was in 2009 and 2001, when it reached the state on May 23.

The normal date for the monsoon's onset over Kerala is June 1. However, the earliest recorded arrival was on May 11 in the year 1918. On the other hand, the record for the late onset was in 1972, when monsoon rains began as late as June 18.

In the last 25 years, the most delayed arrival occurred in 2016, when the monsoon entered Kerala on June 9.

**SOUTHERN STATES FORECAST**

In the southern states, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted isolated extremely heavy rainfall over Kerala, coastal and south interior Karnataka, and Konkan and Goa Today.

Heavy to extremely heavy rainfall is likely over Kerala and coastal Karnataka through May 29, with gusty winds reaching 40–50 kmph. Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will also see scattered showers and thunderstorms over the next five days, the weather department said.

**WESTERN STATES FORECAST**

**Maharashtra**

A depression has formed over the east-central Arabian Sea near the south Konkan coast and was located about 40 km northwest of Ratnagiri early on May 24. It is expected to move eastwards and cross the coast between Ratnagiri and Dapoli later this morning.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Last afternoon issued a red alert predicting heavy rainfall in the coastal districts of Maharashtra.

According to the weather report, Mumbai may experience thunderstorms accompanied by lightning, with light to moderate rainfall and winds gusting up to 40 to 50 kmph in isolated areas.

**Goa**

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for Goa, predicting heavy to very heavy rainfall till Sunday. The state government has urged people to stay away from rivers and waterfalls as a precaution. Several parts of the coastal state were lashed by intense showers over the past 24 hours.

**NORTHERN STATES FORECAST**

**Delhi-NCR**

Meanwhile, light rain is likely in parts of South Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) over the next two hours, according to an IMD update issued at 5:40 am. An orange alert has also been issued for Delhi-NCR, with gusty winds expected to reach up to 70 kmph.

Other northern states

IMD has forecast scattered to fairly widespread rainfall with thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds (40–50 kmph) over Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on May 24. Parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Rajasthan are also likely to receive light to moderate rain with gusty winds.

**EASTERN, CENTRAL STATES FORECAST**

The weather department on Friday forecast thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds and widespread rainfall across Jharkhand over the next few days.

According to the weather department, below-normal maximum temperatures ranging from 31 to 37 degrees Celsius are likely to continue till May 29.

Widespread light to moderate rain with thunderstorms and gusty winds (40–50 kmph) is likely over West Bengal, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Bihar between May 24–26. Thundersqualls (50–60 kmph, gusting to 70 kmph) may hit Bihar today and tomorrow.

Isolated heavy rain is also likely over Bihar (May 25), Odisha (May 24 and May 27–29), and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim (May 28–29).

# KTR Slams Revanth Reddy: "Turned Into Congress ATM"

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Hydarbad :** Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao said the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy-led Congress government has turned Telangana into an ATM, after the latter was named in the National Herald case chargesheet.

Slamming the Congress for having corruption in its DNA, he asked why senior party leader Rahul Gandhi is silent on Mr Reddy being named in the Enforcement Directorate chargesheet in the National Herald money laundering case.

Highlighting that Mr Reddy has visited Delhi 44 times, Mr Rao asked if he was visiting Union Home minister Amit Shah to avoid going to jail.

Stating that the Congress had demanded former Karnataka chief minister BY Yediyurappa's resignation after he was named in a corruption case in 2019, Mr Rao said that Mr Reddy should step down from the top post in the state too. He further alleged that the chief minister is sending "sacks of currency to fund Delhi", in a reference to the Congress high command in the national capital.

Mr Rao said that Telangana has lost its pride, while giving the Centre a month's time to take action. Failing action, he said he will meet the Governor and seek Mr Reddy's prosecution.

The remarks come a day after Mr Rao had called the Mallikarjun Kharge-led party "Scamgress" and said that all eyes will be on if the BJP-led government at the Centre takes action or pardons Mr Reddy like in the Telangana Civil Supplies scam and the multi-crore Amrut scam.

Mr Rao had also said that Telangana's governance is riddled with "corruption and commission deals". "The ED has officially exposed Telangana's bagman. Revanth Reddy has been caught influencing donors with political promises. He built a corrupt empire even before taking office. Since becoming the CM, he has expanded it into a multi-thousand crore scam," he said.

# DK Shivakumar Defends ₹25 Lakh Donation to National Herald

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Bengaluru :** Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that he and his brother have donated Rs 25 lakh each to the National Herald, a newspaper run by the Congress, "without hiding anything". Shivakumar's remarks came amid reports of his name being figured in an ED chargesheet in the National Herald case.

"Yes, we have donated money. I gave Rs 25 lakh and my brother DK Suresh gave another Rs 25 lakh. What's wrong with that? We donated to a newspaper run by the party. It's our hard-earned money. It's not stolen money. We have a trust, and we contributed openly, without hiding anything," Shivakumar told reporters.

He was responding a question by a journalist that the names of him and his brother reportedly figured in the ED chargesheet in the National Herald case.

Asserting that he has donated money, Shivakumar said he will continue to do the same in the future as well. He alleged that there was politics behind "mentioning his name" in the ED chargesheet.

Last month, the ED filed a chargesheet against Congress MPs Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Indian Overseas Congress chief Sam Pitroda in connection with the alleged National Herald money laundering case. On Wednesday, the probe agency told a Delhi court that Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi allegedly enjoyed Rs 142 crore in proceeds of crime.

Meanwhile, DK Suresh alleged that the ED chargesheet was filed in a manner "to fix the Congress leaders".

The charges will be questioned in court, he said, adding it was a political gimmick. "This is not Sonia Gandhi's trust but Young India Trust Limited (YIL). We donated to the Young India Trust. This was not an institution for personal gain and it was never used for personal motive," Suresh further said.

Responding to a question, the former Congress MP said the money donated to the National Herald newspaper was a part of the Income Tax declaration.

Reacting to the ED chargesheet, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told reporters in Mysuru, "Is charity wrong? There is nothing wrong in donations."

**WHAT IS THE NATIONAL HERALD CASE?**

The ED's probe, which formally began in 2021, stems from a complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy in 2012 before a Delhi court. The complaint accused Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and other senior Congress leaders of orchestrating a fraudulent takeover of Associated Journals Limited's (AJL) properties - estimated to be worth over Rs 2,000 crore - through YIL for a nominal sum of Rs 50 lakh.

In 2010, there were 1,057 shareholders in AJL, which published the National Herald. According to Swamy's complaint, the Gandhis had acquired AJL through YIL by means of cheating, criminal misappropriation and breach of trust.

The National Herald was a newspaper founded by India's first Prime Minister and Congress stalwart Jawaharlal Nehru along with other freedom fighters in 1938. It was meant to voice the concerns of the liberal brigade in Congress.

The newspaper became a mouthpiece of the party after independence in 1947. AJL also published two other newspapers, one each in Hindi and Urdu. In 2008, the paper closed down with a debt of over Rs 90 crore. Two years later, AJL was formed with Sonia and Rahul Gandhi holding 38 per cent of shares each, jointly amounting 78 per cent.

As AJL owed Rs 90.25 crore to the Congress, the party transferred the loan to YIL for Rs 50 lakh. With the transfer, control of AJL was subsequently transferred to YIL, which, now, owned 99 per cent of AJL.

Additionally, neither was the transfer done under the watch of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) nor any other regulatory body, which raised eyebrows.

# Quick-Thinking Conductor Saves Lives as Driver Suffers Heart Attack

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Chennai :** An alert conductor and passengers averted an accident as the driver of a bus plying in Tamil Nadu's Dindigul district suffered a heart attack. The bus driver, identified as Prabhu, died of a heart attack.

A video, captured by the CCTV camera installed inside the bus, showed that the conductor and the passengers rushed to help the driver, who fainted as he had a heart attack and consequently lost control of the bus. The conductor pulled the emergency brakes in time as the passengers attended to the driver.

Passengers were aboard a private bus plying toward Pudukottai. As the bus was crossing Kanakampatti, Prabhu called the conductor, attempting to signal that he was experiencing extreme chest pain, but before anyone could react, Prabhu fainted. Seeing that the driver had lost consciousness and had no control over the vehicle any more, the conductor reacted swiftly, bringing the bus to an immediate halt and averted an accident.

Police have launched an investigation into the case. They are examining the CCTV footage obtained from the bus and are also interrogating the conductor and the passengers.

In a similar incident that came to light in November last year, a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) driver passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest while operating a bus near Yeshwantpur. Kiran, 39, was driving the bus from Nelamangala to Yeshwantpur when he suddenly experienced severe chest pain and lost consciousness.

Recently, a number of heart attack cases have been reported wherein people have died attending events or going about their daily routine work.

Earlier this month, a 22-year-old bride-to-be died of cardiac arrest during the Haldi ceremony, a day before her wedding in Uttar Pradesh's Badaun.

In another shocking incident, a 35-year-old man died after collapsing from a suspected heart attack while trying to start his scooter in Chhattisgarh's Ambikapur.

Days before that a 50-year-old man named Wasim Sarwat collapsed after suffering a heart attack while dancing at his 25th wedding anniversary in UP's Bareilly.

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# Jaishankar: Germany Backs India's Right to Defend Against Terror

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Berlin :** During an interaction at the German Council on Foreign Relations, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke on the recent Pahalgam terror attack, India's subsequent Operation Sindoor, and the strong international support it has received, particularly from Germany.

Addressing the issue, he said, "When it comes to terrorism, today, there is virtually no country which would say they approve of what was done and won't condemn it. If I say I have the right to defend myself, my people and secure my country, much of the world will agree with me. Germany does. We are encouraged by the very early condemnation of the terrorist attack, as well as the clear message we got on May 7th and again today from Minister Wadephul that Germany recognises India's right to defend itself."

He further elaborated on the nature of the terror attack, stating, "This was a terrorist attack, which is part of a pattern which has targeted not only Jammu and Kashmir but other parts of India as well. This was meant to create a fear psychosis, destroy the tourism economy of Kashmir, and sow religious discord."

Mr Jaishankar added, "What we were responding to was terrorism, and when we responded, there was a lot of international understanding. We targeted terrorist headquarters and terror sites. Our campaign is against terrorism, and in this case, terrorists happen to be located in the country next door because that country, for many years, has used terrorism as a tool."

The minister's remarks highlight India's firm stance on counterterrorism and the strong international support it has received, particularly from Germany, regarding its right to self-defence and actions against terrorism.

As India and Germany mark 25 years of their strategic partnership, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also shared his vision for upgrading bilateral ties, suggesting collaboration in several key areas to further strengthen the relationship.

Mr Jaishankar made the remarks while speaking at the DGAP's Centre for Geopolitics, Geoeconomics and technology.

Mr Jaishankar said in his speech that his visit comes as the two countries are celebrating 25 years of their strategic partnership.

He said, "To be here early in the tenure of this government, so that we really lose no time in forging a pathway towards taking after 25 years to look at the next 25 years and see where we can take our relationship".

Listing down the challenges which the modern world has brought forth, such as the chip war, climate change, poverty, damage done by the COVID pandemic, among others.

The EAM expressed confidence in the India-Germany ties to face them. He said, "The global picture is very challenging... for that I would argue that the partnership between India and Germany, and India and the European Union, of which Germany is a crucial and invaluable member, has acquired an importance and a salience much more than it has had before".

Sharing his engagements in Germany, the EAM noted that the time is ripe to think about the next 25 years and how we can fully realise the potential of India-Germany ties.

Sharing his thoughts on what can be done to upgrade the relationship, he listed down areas of collaboration. The first area he highlighted was "A good start would be defence and security. We've had sort of an off and on relationship here. There have been times decades ago when there were actually active defence ties between us. Then for whatever reason, there's a certain conservatism about taking it forward. But I have seen that in the last few years, once again, there is a realization in both countries that there is something that we have to offer to each other. And the defence and security of both countries would be very much stronger through our cooperation. And we see this reflected. We see this reflected in exercises in the visits of German ships to the Indo-Pacific and to Indian ports. We see it reflected in enhanced export licensing practices, in discussions whether there can be further technology and equipment collaboration between our countries."

The second area he brought to attention was talent and mobility to meet demand and demographics. He highlighted that India's demographic curve is in the right place to fashion a global workforce.

The third area was technology and digital AI, and the fourth area was sustainability and green growth. He expressed optimism for trade ties to grow between the two countries, and an FTA with the EU would help in that regard.

# India Slams Pak at UN: Pahalgam Attack the Last Straw on Indus Treaty

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**New Delhi :** India's decision to place the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan in abeyance following the Pahalgam terrorist attack was the result of a well-considered process, driven by multiple factors, India said at the United Nations on Friday. New Delhi specified that it was Pakistan, not India, that violated the 1960 water-sharing agreement.

Parvathaneni Harish, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, dismissed the "disinformation spread by the Pakistani delegation" regarding the Indus Waters Treaty, highlighting key factors that led to the suspension of the treaty, also including repeated instances of cross-border terrorism, with the recent Pahalgam attack being the latest example.

"India entered into the Indus Water Treaty 65 years ago in good faith. The preamble of the treaty describes that the treaty was concluded in a spirit of goodwill and friendship. Throughout the six and a half decades, Pakistan has violated the spirit of the treaty by inflicting three wars and thousands of terror attacks on India. In the last four decades, more than 20,000 Indian lives have been lost in terror attacks, the most recent of which was a dastardly targeted terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam last month," the envoy told the Security Council.

He stressed that though Islamabad harboured terrorism against India, New Delhi has "shown extraordinary patience and magnanimity" throughout this period. "Pakistan's state-sponsored cross -border terrorism in India seeks to hold hostage the lives of civilians, religious harmony, and economic prosperity," he added.

According to Ambassador Harish, apart from regional security concerns, other factors, including India's energy requirements and dam safety, also necessitated the decision.

"In these 65 years, far-reaching fundamental changes have taken place, not only in terms of escalating security concerns through cross-border terror attacks, but also growing requirements for producing clean energy, climate change, and demographic change," he specified.

The UN diplomat pointed out to the Security Council that advancements in dam infrastructure technology have significantly improved safety and operational efficiency. However, some older dams continue to pose serious safety concerns.

"However, Pakistan has continued to block consistently any changes to this infrastructure and any modifications of the provisions which are permissible under the treaty. In fact, in 2012, terrorists even attacked the Tulbul Navigation Project in Jammu and Kashmir. These cynical acts continue to endanger the safety of our projects and the lives of civilians," he mentioned.

Additionally, India has formally asked Pakistan to discuss the modifications of the treaty on several occasions in the past two years, according to Harish. However, Pakistan continued to reject these and "Pakistan's obstructionist approach continues to prevent the exercise of full utilisation of the legitimate rights by India".

It is against this backdrop that India has finally announced that the treaty will be in abeyance until Pakistan, "which is a global epicentre of terror, credibly and irrevocably ends its support for cross-border terrorism".

"It is clear that it is Pakistan which remains in violation of the Indus Water Treaty".

The World Bank-brokered Indus Waters Treaty, signed on September 19, 1960, allocated the three eastern rivers--Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej--to India, and the three western rivers--Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab--to Pakistan. While India was permitted limited, non-consumptive use of the western rivers, the treaty is widely regarded as one of the most successful transboundary water-sharing agreements in the world.

However, India suspended the treaty on April 23, following a terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Baisaran Valley, which it blamed on Pakistan-backed elements. Although the nations reached an understanding to stop firing, the suspension of the water treaty continues.

# Trump Warns Apple: Build in U.S. or Face 25% Tariff

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Washington :** US President Donald Trump reiterated his demand that major manufacturers, including Apple, produce their iPhones within the United States or face a 25% tariff. His remarks came during the signing of several executive orders, including those promoting nuclear energy development. While addressing the media, Trump stated that Apple and other tech companies must relocate production to the US to avoid heavy tariffs.

"When they build their plant here, there's no tariff. So they're building plants here but I had an understanding with him (Tim Cook) that he wouldn't be doing this. He said he's going to India to build plants. I said, that's okay to go to India, but you're not going to sell into here without tariffs. And that's the way it is," Trump was quoted as saying.

Trump emphasized that these tariffs, potentially set at 25 per cent, would apply not just to Apple but to any company manufacturing similar products overseas, such as Samsung. "It wouldn't be fair otherwise," he added.

Trump exuded confidence that domestic manufacturing wouldn't necessarily drive up consumer prices due to advancements in automation.

"These plants are amazing if you look at them, but they can do that. Apple's coming in with 500 billion dollars. So are the chip companies coming in. The biggest 500 billion, 200 billion, 250 billion dollars they're spending. But we're talking about the iPhone now. And you know, the iPhone, if they're to sell it in America, I want it to be built in the United States. They're able to do that," he said.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump wrote,"I have long ago informed Tim Cook of Apple that I expect their iPhone's that will be sold in the United States of America will be manufactured and built in the United States, not India, or anyplace else."

"If that is not the case, a Tariff of at least 25% must be paid by Apple to the U.S. Thank your for your attention to this matter," he further added.

Trump also referenced major planned investments by tech and chip companies in the US, citing figures of up to USD 500 billion. "We're talking about the iPhone now, but others are coming too," he said.

Apple has yet to respond to Trump's warning. This warning aligns with his wider push to bring more manufacturing jobs back to the United States. However, it remains uncertain whether such a tariff could actually be implemented.

# Fugitive Angad Chadok Deported From U.S. to India in Bank Fraud Cases

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**New Delhi :** In a major development for investigative agencies, Angad Singh Chandhok, a prime accused in multiple bank fraud cases in India, has been deported from the United States and handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Chandhok, 34, was living in California and had been convicted in the US of running a large-scale money laundering operation tied to international tech-support and travel scams targeting elderly Americans.

After pleading guilty to conspiracy to launder criminal proceeds, he was sentenced in March 2022 to six years in US federal prison.

Despite seeking asylum, he was deported following coordinated efforts between the CBI, US Department of Justice and Homeland Security Investigations.

US Justice Department's Findings

The US Department of Justice, in a 2022 statement, detailed Chandhok's role in an international fraud network. US Attorney Zachary A Cunha said that Chandhok was instrumental in laundering over USD 1.5 million, including USD 930,000 in a single month. He used shell companies and Indian students on US visas to transfer stolen funds from victims in Rhode Island and Massachusetts to his controlled accounts.

He added, "Fortunately, thanks to a superb investigation undertaken by Newport Police in seamless collaboration with Homeland Security Investigations, this defendant has been brought to justice and held accountable for the financial harm he has caused to his victims."

CBI To Pursue Pending Cases

Chandhok is also wanted in India for bank fraud and criminal conspiracy. The CBI had declared him a fugitive, and with his deportation, authorities will now reopen investigations and initiate legal proceedings. Officials called the deportation a "big success".

CBI officials told India Today that Chandhok's extradition was the result of "persistent diplomatic and legal follow-up," and that further international cooperation is underway to bring back other white-collar criminals.

Global Fraud Network Disrupted

US investigators found that Chandhok's operations were crucial in moving stolen money out of the US to overseas accounts. "His arrest and deportation are major achievements in dismantling global fraud networks," said Matthew Millhollin of Homeland Security Investigations. Indian officials warned that his case should serve as a warning to other fugitives evading justice abroad.



# Abhishek Banerjee Slams Pak as 'Vile Handler' During Japan Outreach



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**New Delhi :** Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee, part of an all-party delegation to Japan, called for global unity to combat terrorism, comparing it to a rabid dog with Pakistan as its malicious handler.

“If terrorism is a rabid dog, Pakistan is a vile handler. We first need to bring the world together to combat this wild handler. Otherwise, this wild handler will end up breeding and raising more rabid dogs,” Banerjee stated during his address to the Indian community in Japan.

Banerjee stated that he and the all-party delegation are traveling to various countries with evidence of Pakistan's role in sponsoring terrorism. He further highlighted that all political parties remain united on matters concerning the nation.

“We are here to share the message and the truth that India refuses to bow down. We will not yield to fear. I belong to a political party that is in the Opposition. It is in the public domain that I have said that Pakistan needs to be taught a lesson in the language they understand," he said.

‘India to wipe off terror sponsors’

Leading the Japan delegation in Operation Sindoor outreach, Janata Dal (United) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha emphasised Pakistan’s role as a state sponsor of terrorism. Jha informed that the delegation’s 14-15 meetings in Japan with parliamentarians, think tanks, and diplomats from over 21 countries, including Mexico, Greece, Saudi Arabia and the UK.

“Pakistan funds, trains, and promotes terrorists. After the Pahalgam terror attack, India's stance is to wipe off the terror sponsors. Now people from all over the world should gather to eliminate this source from which terrorists are located," the JD(U) MP said.

The delegation, including BJP MPs Dr. Hemang Joshi, Aparajita Sarangi, Brij Lal, Pradan Baruah, CPI(M) MP John Brittas and Ambassador Mohan Kumar, aims to expose Pakistan’s role in sponsoring terrorism.

‘Mission to expose Pak sponsored terror’

BJP MPs Dr. Hemang Joshi highlighted the mission to unite the global community in India’s fight against terrorism, while Sarangi condemned Pakistan’s inaction despite evidence linking groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba to attacks.

"From India, the all-party delegation has come here with a mission. The mission is to unite the world in India's fight against terrorism and to expose the terror sponsored by Pakistan, in front of the world,” Joshi said adding that, the delegation also hosted a breakfast meeting with diplomats from over 21 countries, including representatives from Mexico, Greece, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom.

‘Pak cannot take India lightly’

BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi accused Pakistan of consistently spreading falsehoods against India and demanded an immediate end to such actions. She highlighted that within 48 hours of the incident, the Lashkar-e-Taiba proxy, The Resistance Front, claimed responsibility for the killing.

Despite knowing this terrorist group, harbored by Pakistan, was responsible, Pakistan took no action. Sarangi stated that this prompted the Indian government to declare, "Enough is enough," and launch an offensive to teach Pakistan a lesson that India cannot be taken lightly.

‘Terrorism will be treated as war’

Lastly, BJP MP Brij Lal interacted with the Indian community in Japan and stated the extensive evidence linking Pakistan to numerous terror attacks in India, while highlighting India’s new policy under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi - “Whenever there is terrorism, we will consider it as war."

The delegation is also scheduled to hold discussions with leaders in Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea and Singapore. In response to heightened tensions with Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack, the delegation seeks to inform international partners about India’s counterterrorism operation, Operation Sindoor and its efforts to combat cross-border terrorism.

# Covid Resurgence: Delhi, Mumbai, Kerala Report Fresh Cases; Hospitals on Alert

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**New Delhi :** After months of lull, Covid-19 seems to be making a slow return across urban centres in India, prompting states and UTs like Delhi, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh to put hospitals on alert.

Delhi, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have all reported fresh cases this month. In fact, the national capital has reported coronavirus cases (23) for the first time in three years.

However, most of the cases are mild and not associated with severity. No deaths have been reported so far.

**INDIA CORONAVIRUS TRACKER**

The surge in Covid cases in South Asia is likely being driven by the spread of the JN.1 variant (a sub-variant of Omicron). Experts said while the variant is quite "active", it has not been classified as a "variant of concern" yet by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The symptoms are usually mild and those infected recover within four days. Some common symptoms include fever, runny nose, sore throat, headaches, fatigue, exhaustion.

Delhi has registered 23 coronavirus cases, prompting the BJP government to direct hospitals to maintain the availability of beds, oxygen cylinders, testing kits, and vaccines. Health Minister Pankaj Singh said there was no need to panic as the latest variant was "like a common influenza only".

Delhi has also directed hospitals to upload daily Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) cases on the integrated health data platform.

Delhi-NCR cities like Noida and Ghaziabad have also registered coronavirus cases. Today, Noida reported the first Covid patient (55) in the ongoing wave. Ghaziabad has also reported four cases so far.

Kerala, with 273 Covid infections in May, has reported the maximum cases, prompting the Health Minister to direct all districts to increase surveillance. The state has made masks mandatory in hospitals, and has advised people with cough symptoms to wear face coverings.

Neighbouring Karnataka has also witnessed a slight uptick in Covid cases, registering 35 infections. Among them is a nine-month-old baby from Hoskote. Those with symptoms of Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) have been advised to get tested.

In Maharashtra's Thane, as many as 10 cases of Covid have been detected over the last three days. The health department said sufficient stock of medicines have been maintained at all health centres.

Even though Andhra Pradesh has not seen any spike, it has instructed health facilities to maintain adequate supplies of vaccines, PPE kits, and triple-layer masks. Those returning from Covid-affected countries, mostly Asian nations, have been advised to undergo testing.

# Storm Watch: Delhi-NCR Braces for Rain, Winds Up to 70 kmph

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**New Delhi :** Light rainfall is expected in parts of South Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) over the next two hours, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a morning update issued at 5:40 am on Friday. It has also issued an orange alert for most parts of Delhi-NCR, warning of gusty winds reaching speeds of up to 70 kmph.

According to the forecast, areas likely to witness light showers include Dwarka, Palam, IGI Airport, Vasant Vihar, Vasant Kunj, Mehrauli, Chhattarpur, IGNOU, Ayanagar, and Deramandi in South Delhi, along with Faridabad and Ballabhgarh in NCR.

Residents are advised to stay indoors and take the necessary precautions.

The weather department, in its forecast, predicted a partly cloudy sky for Delhi Today. These conditions are expected to bring some relief from the heat, with the maximum temperature hovering around 37 degrees Celsius.

Between May 22 and May 28, Delhi is expected to witness fluctuating weather patterns. Temperatures are likely to rise gradually through the week, reaching a high of 40 degrees Celsius on both May 26 and May 28. The minimum temperature is also set to increase, starting at 21 degrees Celsius on May 22 and climbing to 29 degrees Celsius by the end of the forecast period, the weather department said.

On Last night, the weather department issued an orange alert for heavy rainfall over the next two to three hours in several districts across Gujarat, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh.

Earlier this week, a powerful storm swept through parts of Delhi-NCR and Uttar Pradesh, claiming at least 50 lives and leaving dozens injured. Noida, Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Meerut, and Baghpat were among the worst-hit areas. The storm also uprooted trees and electric poles, causing damage to homes and vehicles across the region.

# CBI Charges Ex-Govt Firm Chief in Major Corruption Case

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES




**New Delhi :** The CBI filed a chargesheet against five accused, including the former chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), in connection with alleged bribery and loan disbursal amounting to Rs 50 crore.

Based on a reference from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the CBI registered a case on September 3 last year to probe alleged irregularities in the sanction and disbursal of a venture loan of Rs 50 crore by George Kuruvilla, BECIL's former CMD, to a private firm, The Green Billions Limited (TGBL), Mumbai, represented by Prateek Kanakia, CEO and founder.

Investigation revealed that during 2022, Kuruvilla allegedly entered a criminal conspiracy with then General Manager of BECIL, WB Prasad, then Legal Advisor of BECIL, Ashish Pratap Singh, and Kanakia, with an intent to cheat BECIL to the tune of Rs 50 crore on the pretext of sanctioning and disbursing the venture loan to the Mumbai-based company under a consortium agreement and a general venture loan deal.

In furtherance of the said criminal conspiracy, the accused officers of BECIL obtained a short-term corporate loan of Rs 80 crore from IREDA, out of which they disbursed Rs 50 lakh to TGBL in three tranches of Rs 12.50 crore, Rs 17.50 crore and Rs 20 crore respectively, on April 8, 2022; June 20, 2022 and December 30, 2022.

The 50 crore venture loan was disbursed to the accused company for a waste-to-energy project of the Pune Municipal Corporation, the CBI said.

Investigation also uncovered that, in furtherance of said criminal conspiracy, Kanakia did not utilise the disbursed funds in the project for which the funds were released. He, instead, diverted most of the funds to his own use and paid undue advantage of Rs 2 crore in April 2022 and Rs 1 crore in April 2023 to the main accused Kuruvilla.

To misuse the remaining amount of the sanctioned and disbursed loan of Rs 80 crore by IREDA to BECIL, the accused officers of BECIL sanctioned additional funds of Rs 25 crore to TGBL. The original documents related to the project at BECIL were destroyed by the accused, the CBI alleged.

The accused received a forged performance bank guarantee dated November 28, 2022, of Rs 25 crore purportedly issued from the Punjab National Bank, in Mumbai's Ghatkopar (East) branch, the CBI said.

After the disbursal of the venture loan of Rs 50 crore, they did not ensure the end use of the fund for the given purpose, and Kanakia did not repay the outstanding loan amount to BECIL.

Furthermore, Kuruvilla and WB Prasad of BECIL did not obtain collateral security from TGBL to secure the loan as per the loan agreement and in contravention of the terms and conditions of the venture loan agreement executed between both companies. The accused caused a wrongful loss of Rs 58.60 crore to BECIL, the CBI investigation revealed.

During the investigation, Kuruvilla, WB Prasad and Kanakia were arrested and sent to judicial custody.

# India, Nepal Launch Joint Drill Amid Intel on Pak Terror in Himalayas

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Lucknow :** India and Nepal conducted a joint combing operation and patrolling along the international border after New Delhi received inputs about suspected terrorists from Pakistan present in the Himalayan nation.

India's Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Armed Police Force (APF) of Nepal are engaged in searching for the suspects by conducting checking operations in the dense forests with their weapons.

The operation was carried out in the no-man's land area at the India-Nepal international border.

"During joint patrolling, soldiers from Nepal are with us in the fight against terrorism. We have very good relations with the Nepali forces. Every month, coordination meetings of the border forces of both countries are held. They are sharing their intelligence with us and we are sharing ours with them so that the suspects can be identified," SSB Commandant Ganga Singh told.

He said there is a markaz in Nepalgunj where people from Pakistan come for special functions. "If something goes wrong, then these people inform us," he added.

Speaking about the intel inputs of a possible terror attack in Ayodhya, Singh said any place can be targeted by Pakistani terrorists and that Nepali forces are continuously cooperating with the SSB.

The SSB forces are also keeping an eye on the Nepal border from watch towers and ready to handle any crisis with their INSAS guns.

India and Nepal share a border spanning more than 1,700 km, but there is no fencing along the boundary lines. Hence, Indian and Nepali soldiers have been deployed on both sides of the border to keep an eye on any suspicious movements.

# Factory Fire Triggers Blast, Building Collapses

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**New Delhi :** A massive fire broke out at a factory in Delhi's Bawana industrial area early Today, triggering a powerful explosion that caused the building to collapse, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said.

"Seventeen fire tenders were rushed to the spot in Sector 2 after a call reporting a fire at a factory manufacturing plastic bottles was received at 4.48 am," DFS chief Atul Garg said.

Thick black smoke was seen billowing from the multi-storey building, which collapsed after an explosion, as the flames rapidly engulfed the entire structure.

No injuries or casualties have been reported so far, officials said.

The explosion, which occurred shortly after the fire broke out, jolted the residents in the nearby areas, triggering panic as several locals rushed out of their homes, fearing further blasts, they said.

The rescue and containment operations faced difficulty due to the debris scattered all around, they said.

Police have launched a probe to find out what triggered the fire and the subsequent explosion.

The building's structural integrity and adherence to safety protocols are being examined.

Operations are underway to extinguish the flames completely and clear the debris.

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