# The Aman Sandesh Times

Daily Evening English Newspaper

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

Volume-06 Issue-207 S.A.S. NAGAR MOHALI, THURSDAY 09 OCTOBER, 2025 Total Pages : 08 Price : 3.00


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21 Octobet 2025

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## What Mayawati's praise for BJP reveals about BSP's poll tactics



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Lucknow :** BSP chief Mayawati held a massive rally at the Manyawar Kanshi Ram Memorial in Lucknow today, marking her first major address since 2021. Over two lakh party workers attended, signaling a show of strength amid the party's electoral lows.

In her hour-long speech, Mayawati attacked the SP and Congress for "insulting Dalits" while sparing the ruling BJP, appreciating their maintenance of BSP-built memorials. She accused the SP-Congress combine of hypocrisy and casteist politics and urged Dalits to reject opportunistic parties

The rally also highlighted the BSP's groundwork ahead of the 2027 UP Assembly elections, including strengthening grassroots networks, scaling up digital outreach, and reinstating her nephew Akash Anand as national coordinator. Sources said the party has been quietly preparing for months to reclaim Dalit support and counter SP-Congress influence.

While BSP has seen a sharp decline in recent elections, the Lucknow rally may mark the beginning of a strategic revival, aiming to consolidate Dalit and OBC votes and challenge the dominant SP-BJP contest in UP.

## LJP Meets on NDA Seat-Sharing: HAM Demands 15 Seats



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Patna :** Union Minister Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) held an emergency meeting to finalise its strategy for the Bihar Assembly elections, amid talks over NDA seat-sharing. Paswan dismissed reports of tension, calling them "false and baseless."

The two-phase polls are scheduled for November 6 and 11, with counting on November 14. Both LJP and Jan Suraaj denied reports of an alliance.

HAM chief Jitan Ram Manjhi demanded at least 15 seats, warning his party may not contest otherwise, though it would continue supporting the NDA.

BJP leaders met in Patna to finalise candidates, with JD(U) and BJP expected to contest 102 and 101 seats, respectively. LJP, previously allotted 20–22 seats, now seeks around 45.

## OpenAI, NPCI, Razorpay Pilot UPI Payments via ChatGPT in India




THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**New Delhi :** OpenAI, in collaboration with India's NPCI and fintech firm Razorpay, has launched a pilot programme enabling UPI payments directly through ChatGPT. The initiative allows users to complete purchases within the chat interface and explores AI-driven autonomous transactions in a safe, secure, and user-controlled manner.

Bigbasket is among the first platforms to participate, while Axis Bank and Airtel Payments Bank join as banking partners.

The pilot will study how conversational AI can interact with India's real-time payment network, which processes over 20 billion transactions monthly.

At the Global Fintech Fest 2025, NPCI also unveiled initiatives such as AI-based UPI Help, IoT payments via UPI, and UPI Reserve Pay for managing credit limits.

The service is currently limited to select users and platforms, with broader rollout dependent on user experience, security, and transaction reliability.

## Suspends Three UDF MLAs Over Sabarimala Protest




THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Thiruvananthapuram :** Three Congress-led UDF MLAs — Roji M John, M Vincent, and Saneesh Kumar Joseph — were suspended for the remainder of the session following protests that disrupted the Kerala Assembly for the fourth consecutive day.

The suspension, moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister MB Rajesh, was passed after UDF members boycotted proceedings over alleged irregularities in the gold-plating of Sabarimala temple idols.

During the protest, the MLAs reportedly attacked the Chief Marshall, who was hospitalized, and attempted to block the Speaker's podium, prompting a brief adjournment of the House.





Amarjit Singh
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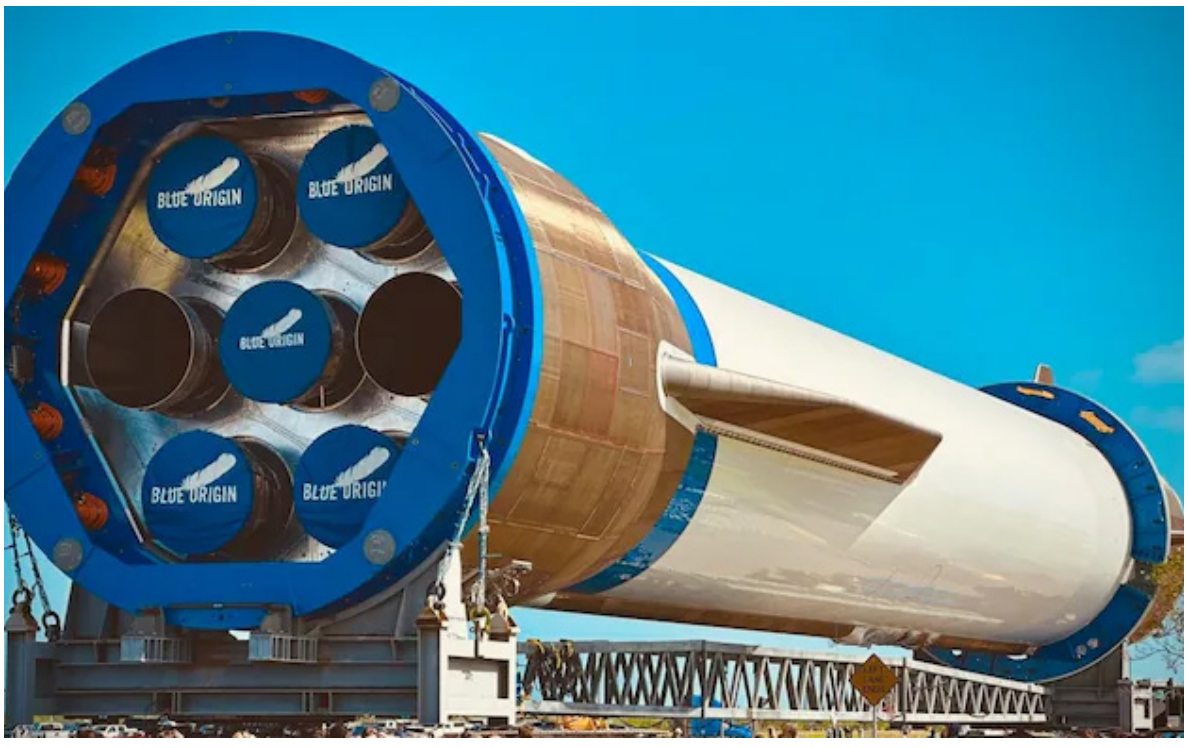
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# Blue Origin Prepares Rocket Launch to Mars: Date Announced

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES




Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin is primed for a major leap to Mars as it readies its second New Glenn rocket for launch from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

The booster's rollout to the pad marks a crucial step toward its upcoming mission: sending Nasa's highly anticipated ESCAPADE twin probes to orbit the Red Planet.

Standing tall at 320 feet, New Glenn will make only its second flight after debuting with a successful orbital test in January. For this new launch, targeted for late October or early November, Blue Origin aims to achieve a milestone: flying its first interplanetary mission and attempting to recover the reusable first stage, nicknamed "Never Tell Me the Odds," by landing it on the company's Jacklyn drone ship at sea. This follows an earlier landing attempt that fell short, but Blue Origin is optimistic after implementing key upgrades and corrections.

WHAT WILL BLUE ORIGIN LAUNCH TO MARS?

The mission's payload, Nasa's ESCAPADE (Escape and Plasma Acceleration and Dynamics Explorers), consists of two identical orbiters named Blue and Gold.

Built by Rocket Lab, these small but sophisticated spacecraft will study how sunlight and solar wind interact with the Martian atmosphere, critical data for understanding Mars' habitability and the challenges of future crewed missions. The probes arrived at Florida's Space Coast in late September and are undergoing final preparations before integration with New Glenn.

After months of anticipation, the agency put ESCAPADE on New Glenn's manifest, betting on Blue Origin's ability to deliver beyond Earth orbit. A successful flight will solidify the New Glenn rocket as a strong competitor in the commercial heavy launch sector and pave the way for more Mars-bound missions in the coming decade.

As Blue Origin and Nasa set their sights on the Red Planet, this mission represents both a technological test and a declaration of private spaceflight's growing capabilities.

With New Glenn on the pad and ESCAPADE's twin spacecraft nearly ready, Florida's space coast will soon witness another historic countdown to Mars.



**Atul Sharma**



## Astro Speak by: Rajesh Kumar

**Birth Date**
10th Oct

**Born on 10th October** : They can read the motives of others and are good judges of character. These ambitious, career-oriented people have a pragmatic nature yet dream large. They possess a generous soul and the desire to be part of the crowd but may be unwilling to show these aspects of their personality.

They are consistent, dependable, and loyal. They often have more than their share of emotional ups and downs in romantic love. Finding the right person can be a chore, but when they do, they want that person with them for a lifetime.

This could relate to a difficult childhood or feeling left out of the family. They are sometimes unsure in their parenting role. They believe in strict discipline but don't want to restrict their children the way they themselves may have been.

The people born on this date are worriers and often suffer from worrier's ailments: headaches, backaches, upset stomach, and sleeping disorders.

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## Aries

**October 10th 2025 :** Likely to face some setback as you are unable to go in an important assignment due to health problem. But use your rationale to propel you. Today, a creditor can visit you and ask you to repay your loan. Although you will repay the amount, but it can further.

## Taurus

**October 10th 2025 :** Take the support of family members to relieve from your tension. Accept their help gracefully. You must not bottle up feelings and pressure within. Sharing your problems frequently would help you. Try to control your spending- and buy only.

## Gemini

**October 10th 2025 :** Avoid overeating and visit a health club regularly to stay fit. Certain important work will come to a halt due to bleak financial position. Focus on new things and seek help from your best friends. Your devoted and unquestioned love has a magic creative power.

## Cancer

**October 10th 2025 :** A day of recreation and fun. Any advice from your father can prove to be beneficial at the workplace. Friends will come to your aid if needed. May be disappointed in love but don't lose heart as lovers are ever sycophantic. You'll soon have a new and a better public.

## Leo

**October 10th 2025 :** Today, your health is expected to be healthy. Due to your good health, you can plan to play with your friends today. You will like to overspend on others. Your witty nature will make you popular at social gatherings. It is not right to show off your love in every situation.

## Virgo

**October 10th 2025 :** Success from past ventures lifts your confidence. Those who had spent their money in betting or gambling are likely to suffer losses today. Therefore, you are advised to stay away from betting. Time spent with relatives will be to your advantage.

## Libra

**October 10th 2025 :** Health wise this period will be dull therefore be careful of what you consume. Today, your siblings can ask you for your financial help, but helping them can add to your financial burden. However, the situation will soon improve. Health of your parents requires.

## Scorpio

**October 10th 2025 :**Your enormous confidence and easy work schedule brings you enough time to relax today. Monetary gains will be from various sources. Social events will be perfect opportunity to improve your rapport with influential and important people.

## Sagittarius

**October 10th 2025 :** Try to get out of your office early and do things that you really enjoy. Investment in stocks and mutual funds recommended for long-term gains. You should spend your spare time enjoying the company of children-even if you have to go out of your way.

## Capricorn

**October 10th 2025 :** Some people might feel that you are too old to learn something new-but that is far from the truth- you will easily learn new things because of your sharp and active mind. You need to talk to your family members today regarding money investment and savings.

## Aquarius

**October 10th 2025 :** Today you might have to face several tensions and difference of opinion that will make you feel irritated and uneasy. If you were about to take a loan and had been engaged in this work for a long time, then today is your lucky day.

## Pisces

**October 10th 2025 :**Today you might have to face several tensions and difference of opinion that will make you feel irritated and uneasy. If you were about to take a loan and had been engaged in this work for a long time, then today is your lucky day.


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# Grapples with Severe Garbage Crisis Mayor Urges State Action

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES





**Mohali :** Mohali is grappling with a serious waste management problem, with no proper site available for garbage disposal, officials said. Mayor Amarjeet Singh Jeeti Sidhu, along with fellow councillors, met senior officials of the local government department, including the Director and Secretary, to submit a memorandum urging immediate action. Senior Deputy Mayor Amreek Singh Somal and several councillors were also present.

Mayor Sidhu highlighted that the city collects 100–150 tons of waste daily, including around 50 tons from surrounding areas such as Balongi, JLPL, TDIA, and GMADA sectors. "The city's own waste management system is under immense pressure," he said.

He added that Mohali previously had its own dumping site, but it was closed following NGT and High Court orders. Since then, there has been no designated site for waste disposal, causing garbage piles near residential areas, leading to hygiene, odor, and health concerns.

Mayor Sidhu stressed that multiple meetings with officials, including the Commissioner, DC, and local government secretary, had not produced a solution. He said councillors visited the local government head office in Sector 35 today, demanding urgent action.

He also noted that modern technology could allow waste processing in smaller spaces, but the lack of funds and the immediate need for a dumping site remain major obstacles. "Mohali has grown into a major city, but without government support, we cannot resolve this problem. We urgently need funding and approval for site development," he said.

Officials from the local government department, including Director Kulwant Singh and CEO PMIDC Davit Naval, listened to the delegation and assured them that immediate measures would be taken to address the city's garbage crisis.

# Issues Firecracker Licenses: Timings Set For Diwali & Gurpurab

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Mohali :** A transparent draw was held today at the District Administrative Complex, Sector-76, SAS Nagar, to issue 44 temporary licenses for the sale of firecrackers in the district. The draw was conducted under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate Ms. Komal Mittal, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Ms. Geetika Singh, SDM Ms. Damandeep Kaur, Assistant Commissioner (G) Dr. Ankita Kansal, Tehsildar Kharar Ms. Gurvinder Kaur, and other officials. Members of the public witnessed the process, which was fully videographed to ensure fairness.

Following directions from the Punjab and Haryana High Court and guidelines issued by the Punjab Government's Department of Industries and Commerce, this year only 20 percent of the licenses issued in 2016 have been granted. Out of 1,260 applications received, 1,180 were valid, and the draw allocated

18 licenses for Mohali and Banur (from 1,042 applications

8 licenses for Kharar, Kurali, and Naya Gaon (from 19 applications

6 licenses for Dera Bassi (from 187 application

12 licenses for Lalru and Zirakpur (equal to applications received, so no draw required)

Ms. Mittal reaffirmed that only 13 designated locations in the district are approved for firecracker sales. She warned that no sale or bursting of firecrackers will be allowed outside the prescribed dates and timings, and that illegal storage or sale without a valid license will attract strict action.

The Deputy Commissioner specified the permitted timings for bursting firecrackers:

Diwali (October 20): 8:00 PM to 10:0

P

Gurpurab (November 5): 4:00 AM to 5:00 AM and 9:00 PM to 10:00 P

The sale of firecrackers is allowed only on October 18, 19, 20, and November 5 (Gurpurab), from 10:00 AM to 7:30 PM at designated sites

Further details on designated sale points, conditions, and license guidelines are available on the district administration website: www.sasnagar.nic.in .

# Observes World Sight Day: Civil Surgeon Advises Eye Care

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Mohali :** Government health institutions across the district today observed World Sight Day. Civil Surgeon Dr. Sangeeta Jain emphasized the importance of eye care, raising awareness about eye diseases and encouraging precautionary measures to maintain good vision. Special eye examinations were conducted for patients during the event.

Dr. Jain highlighted this year's theme: "Love Your Eyes." She advised children and young adults to limit screen time on mobile phones, laptops, televisions, and other digital devices. When prolonged usage is unavoidable, she recommended following the 20-20-20 rule: every 20 minutes, take a 20-second break and focus on an object 20 feet away to protect eye health.

She stressed that eyes are a precious gift of nature and require careful attention. "In today's stressful lifestyle, eyes are adversely affected, so stress reduction is vital. Timely treatment can prevent up to 80% of blindness and vision-related issues," she said.

Dr. Jain also cautioned against smoking and alcohol consumption, noting these habits can lead to cataracts and other eye diseases. Tobacco use harms not only the eyes but also various organs in the body, and should be avoided. Reading in poor light, excessive mobile usage, and improper lighting while watching television or using computers can also strain eyes, particularly among the younger generation.

For health-related guidance, Dr. Jain urged residents to contact the toll-free number 104.

# Traders Meet SSP, Seek Enhanced Festive Season Security

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES




**Chandigarh :** A delegation from the Chandigarh Business Mandal (CBM), led by President Sanjeev Chaddha, Vice President Divakar Sahooja, and Executive Member Navdeep Sharma, met SSP Kanwardeep Kaur, IPS, to discuss law-and-order issues and security arrangements for the upcoming festive season

During the meeting, the delegation requested an increase in police presence and enhanced patrolling in markets, especially during late-night hours, to ensure peace and safety. They also urged strict action against illegal street vendors to prevent congestion at parking areas. It was suggested that beat officers coordinate with market presidents to address problems promptly and improve overall security

SSP Kanwardeep Kaur assured the delegation that station in-charges have already been instructed to increase evening patrols in markets. She also stated that the police department will fully coordinate with the municipal corporation's anti-encroachment drives targeting illegal vendors

Additionally, the CBM delegation submitted a list of members representing various sector markets in the city to the SSP to facilitate better coordination between traders and the police.

# PIC OF THE DAY

## Who Cares...?

## Industrial Area Mohali Struggles with Ongoing Sanitation Issues



Atul Sharma

**Mohali :** The Industrial Area Phases of Mohali continues to face significant sanitation challenges, causing inconvenience to workers and residents in the area. Despite repeated efforts to report the MC authorities to address the issue, overflowing garbage bins, uncollected waste, and poor hygiene remain persistent problems in the industrial zone. Workers and business owners in the area have expressed their frustration over the lack of proper waste management services, which is affecting both the health and the overall working environment. Piles of garbage can be seen on several streets, while the drains are often clogged with waste, contributing to foul odors and posing health risks. The ongoing sanitation issues have raised concerns among the industrial community, as cleanliness is a critical factor for a safe and productive environment. "The situation has worsened in recent months, and it's difficult to operate under such conditions," said a business owner. Despite the area's busy industrial and commercial activity, the waste management system has failed to keep pace, leaving streets and vacant plots littered with uncollected trash. Piles of garbage are frequently seen in various sectors of the Industrial Area, including near major factories and commercial spaces. The accumulated waste not only creates an unpleasant and unhygienic environment but also poses significant health risks, with concerns over the spread of diseases and the attraction of pests. Business owners and workers have raised concerns about the impact of these sanitation problems on productivity and public health. "It's becoming impossible to work in such a polluted environment. The stench from the garbage is unbearable, and it feels like nothing is being done to address the issue," said a factory worker in the area. Residents and industrialists are calling on the Mohali Municipal Corporation to take immediate action to improve waste collection services and maintain cleanliness in the area. Many have suggested that the authorities shiuld enforce stricter waste disposal regulations and provide more regular collection services. But Who Cares???

# Pb Mandis Procure Over 9 Lakh MT Cotton Smoothly

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Mohali :** The cotton procurement process in Punjab's mandis is progressing smoothly, with strong arrangements in place to ensure that farmers, traders, and laborers face no difficulties, said Punjab Mandi Board Chairman Harchand Singh Burst.

He stated that as of October 8, during the 2025-26 cotton procurement season, 9.62 lakh metric tons of cotton had arrived in mandis across the state, out of which 9.02 lakh metric tons had already been purchased.

To facilitate timely sales, comprehensive arrangements have been made in mandis, and officials from the Punjab Mandi Board headquarters are regularly visiting mandis to monitor operations

Mr. Burst added that facilities such as cleanliness, electricity, drinking water, toilets, shade, and seating arrangements have been fully provided, ensuring that farmers, traders, and laborers face no inconvenience

A control room has also been established at the Punjab Mandi Board headquarters to address any issues, which farmers and traders can contact at 0172-5101649 or 0172-5101704

Highlighting the state government's support, Mr. Burst said the Punjab government, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, stands firmly with farmers, traders, and laborers. He urged farmers to bring cotton to mandis only after proper drying to avoid any procurement issues

The procurement is being conducted at a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of ₹2,389 per quintal, compared to ₹2,320 per quintal in the 2024-25 season. In some cases, purchases have also been made at ₹2,410 per quintal

Providing a detailed breakdown, Mr. Burst said that as of October 8, cotton arrivals in 1,822 permanent mandis and 248 temporary purchase centers totaled 9,62,034 metric tons, with 9,02,501 metric tons already procured. Government agencies procured 8,96,091 metric tons, including:

Pangreen: 3,71,294 metric ton

FCI: 1,681 metric ton

Markfed: 2,46,967 metric ton

Pansap: 1,73,173 metric ton

Warehouses: 1,02,976 metric ton

On Wednesday alone, 94,869 metric tons of cotton arrived in mandis, with 77,988 metric tons purchased.

# Fans Bid Tearful Farewell to Punjabi Singer Rajvir Jawanda



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Ludhiana :** Punjabi singer Rajvir Jawanda was cremated at the Government School ground in his native village of Pona near Jagraon in Ludhiana district — a place where he had played as a child and later performed concerts during his career. Thousands of fans, including prominent figures from the music industry and art lovers, joined the funeral procession from the Jawanda residence to the school ground to bid a final farewell to the cop-turned-singer.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, along with his cabinet colleagues, visited the Jawanda residence to offer condolences to the grieving family.

Babbu Maan, Kulwinder Billa, Kanwar Grewal, Pukhraj Bhalla, Karamjit Anmol, and Malkit Rauni were among dozens of stars from the Punjabi music industry who paid tribute to Rajvir at his residence.

Police personnel remained on high alert, making arrangements to manage the growing number of mourners arriving from across Punjab and neighbouring states, including Haryana and Rajasthan.

Several police officers who had served with Jawanda during his tenure in Ludhiana police were seen consoling friends and family, many of them visibly emotional.

DSP (D) Inderjit Singh Boparai, stationed outside the Jawanda residence, recalled the singer's dedication: "Rajvir and his late father Karam Singh both served with me in Ludhiana (Rural) police. They were deeply committed to their duties while also pursuing their love for music and social work."

Meanwhile, local residents, led by village sarpanch Harpreet Singh Raju, extended support to the influx of visitors, with many opening their homes to offer rest and relief to those who had travelled long distances to attend the funeral.

The local administration remained on high alert, managing security and making arrangements to accommodate the growing number of mourners arriving from across Punjab and neighbouring states, including Haryana and Rajasthan.

Family members, friends, and villagers had begun gathering on Wednesday evening when Rajvir's body was brought to the village.

His mother, Paramjit Kaur, widely known in the village as the sarpanch, is inconsolable. Her grief is compounded by the earlier loss of her husband, Karam Singh, an Assistant Sub-Inspector in the Punjab Police, who passed away a few years ago.

Rajvir Jawanda is survived by his widowed mother, wife, and two children.

# Pb Rolls Out Rs 5,000 Crore 'Roshan Punjab' Power Initiative



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Chandigarh :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal launched the ambitious "Roshan Punjab" project, a Rs 5,000 crore initiative aimed at making Punjab the first power cuts-free state in India

Addressing the gathering, Kejriwal said, "No government at the Centre or state has ever dreamt of such a project." The scheme promises 24-hour uninterrupted power supply by next year, with a focus on the industry sector, agriculture, and urban consumers

The project will involve

Setting up new substations and power line

Reducing load on feeder

Upgrading existing infrastructure and maintenanc

Special projects to improve power systems in large citie

A pilot project in Ludhiana (West) has now expanded to all 87 subdivisions under 13 municipal corporations, aiming for completion by June 2026. The initiative also includes LT network improvements, removal of unnecessary wires, raising low-hanging wires, replacing old wires, and sealing open meter boxes to enhance public safety

To assist consumers, a call centre with 180 staff has been set up in Mohali, with the helpline number 1912 operational 24/7

CM Mann highlighted that 90% of Punjab households currently receive zero electricity bills, offering significant economic relief to the public

The launch event was attended by Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora, Lok Sabha MP Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal, and Rajya Sabha MP Ashok Mittal, among others.

The Roshan Punjab campaign marks a major step in transforming the state's power sector, aiming to provide reliable electricity to industries, farmers, and households alike.

# Y Puran Kumar's Family Holds Last Rites Over FIR, Meets Haryana CM



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Chandigarh :** The wife of late IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, Amneet P Kumar, has submitted a detailed and urgent complaint to Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini, pressing for immediate action following the suicide of her husband. During a meeting with the Chief Minister, the bereaved family made it clear that they are unwilling to proceed with the post-mortem or last rites of Y Puran Kumar until an FIR is filed against those named in his suicide note and the related complaint. The family also conveyed that they are currently awaiting the arrival of their elder daughter from the USA, and no final rites will take place until her return and the registration of the FIR.

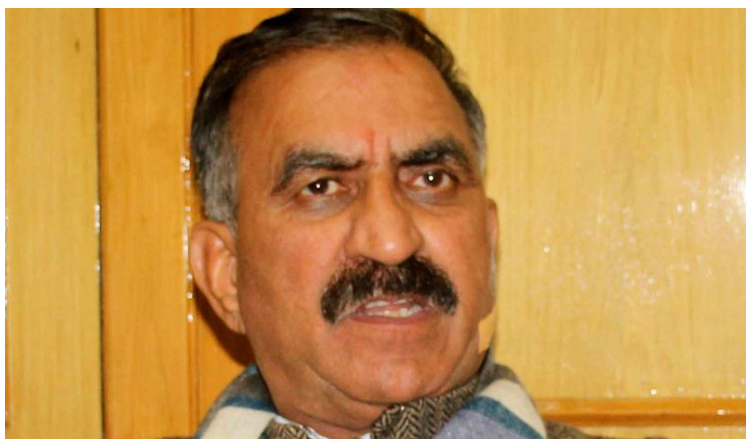
Amneet P Kumar's letter emphasises her profound anguish and the community-wide sense of injustice following the loss of Y Puran Kumar, who was a decorated police officer and recipient of the President's Medal for Meritorious Service. Citing his legacy as a symbol of honesty, dedication, and inspiration for the Scheduled Caste community, she described his death as a blow to thousands who saw him as an emblem of empowerment and justice.

The complaint highlights that despite the existence of a clear and explicit suicide note and a formal complaint identifying those responsible for creating a hostile work environment, harassment, and mental torture, no FIR has been registered even 48 hours after the incident. Amneet noted that this omission persists despite cognizable offences being disclosed under the law, particularly under the Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The letter further claims that no inquiry is under way against the powerful high-ranking officials of Haryana Police and the administration mentioned in the suicide note. The family expressed apprehension that these individuals might attempt to malign or implicate them further in retaliation for raising the complaint.

She underscored that this issue is not limited to one officer's death but has far-reaching implications for faith in justice, equality, and the rule of law. She called on the Chief Minister to take firm and swift action to restore public confidence and provide justice for her late husband and the wider community.

# CM Announces Pre-Diwali Wage and Honorarium Hike for Employees



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Shimla :** Ahead of Diwali, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced an increase in the wages and honorarium for various state government employees.

The honorarium of 21,115 mid-day meal workers has been increased by Rs 500, taking it to Rs 5,000 per month now. Meanwhile, honorarium for some categories of school management teachers was also increased by Rs 500, he said.

The salaries of daily wagers and part-time workers have been increased by Rs 25, bringing it to Rs 425 per day and the honorarium of stitching instructors, Panchayat chowkidars was also hiked by Rs 500, a statement issued here said.

The government has also increased the honorarium of the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies. With an increase of Rs 1,000, the zila parishad chairperson will now receive Rs 25,000 per month while the vice-chairperson will get Rs 19,000.

An increase of Rs 500 per month has also been made for zila parishad members who will now get Rs 8,300, whereas the panchayat samiti chairperson will receive Rs 12,000 and vice chairperson Rs 9,000 after an increase of Rs 600 each.

The honorarium of the mayor of the municipal corporation has also been raised by Rs 1,000 to Rs 25,000, the deputy mayor's by Rs 1,000 to Rs 19,000 and councillor's by Rs 1,000 to Rs 9,400.

The state government has also increased the honorarium of special police officers by Rs 300 and information technology teachers by Rs 500 per month, the statement added.

# IPS Officer Dies by Suicide: Wife Alleges Harassment by DGP, SP



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Chandigarh :** Senior Haryana IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, 53, died by suicide at his home in Chandigarh on October 7, allegedly after facing prolonged harassment from senior officials. The officer, who was serving as the Commandant of the 3rd IRB (Sunaria, Rohtak), shot himself with his service revolver in the basement of his residence around 1:30 pm.

A 9-page suicide note and a will, both dated October 6, were recovered from the spot. In his note, Kumar accused 12 serving and retired IAS and IPS officers of mental harassment, administrative bias, and caste discrimination. He specifically named Haryana DGP Shatrujeet Singh Kapur, alleging that the top cop obstructed his financial entitlements, delayed arrears, and withdrew his official vehicle to "mentally torture" him.

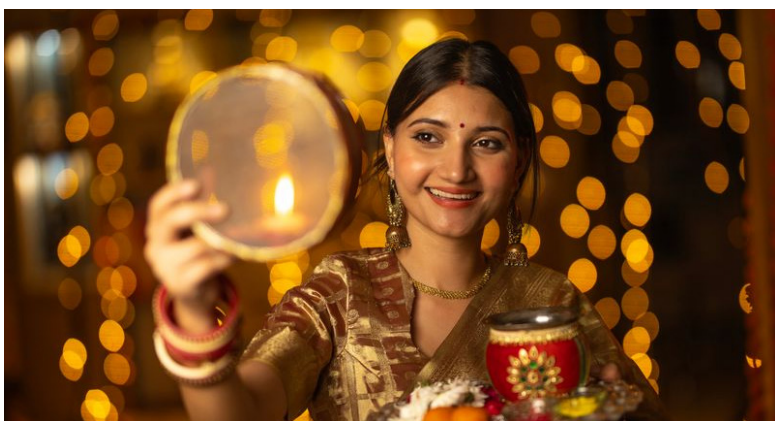
Sources said Kumar had sent copies of his suicide note and will to his wife, senior IAS officer Amneet P Kumar, who was on official duty in Japan. Alarmed by the messages, Amneet made 15 unanswered calls to her husband before contacting their younger daughter, who rushed home and found her father lifeless on a recliner in the basement.

According to the family's cook, Prem Singh, the officer had gone to the soundproof basement around 10 am, instructing not to be disturbed. He briefly came upstairs at 11 am to ask for lunch before returning below.

Following the tragedy, Amneet P Kumar has lodged a formal complaint against DGP Shatrujeet Singh Kapur and Rohtak SP Narendra Bijarniya, alleging abetment of suicide. She has sought an FIR and immediate arrest of the accused officers.

Police have launched an inquiry into the allegations, while forensic experts have seized the weapon and documents for examination.

# Tourism Offers Karva Chauth Discounts, Free Sargi and Puja Thali



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Shimla :** The Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) will offer a 10 per cent discount to couples staying at its hotels on October 9 and 10 to mark the Karva Chauth festival.

Women observing the fast will receive a free 'sargi' and 'puja thali', while other essential items required for the ritual will be made available on payment.

A special 'Vrat Thali' will also be provided to women after breaking the fast on the night of October 10, HPTDC General Manager Anil Taneja said.

He said Karva Chauth is a special occasion for women, and the corporation aims to make it even more memorable. "Couples will get a 10 per cent discount at all HPTDC hotels, and free Sargi and Puja Thali will be provided to women observing the fast. All necessary arrangements will be made to ensure their comfort," he said.

The tourism corporation official said this initiative was part of its efforts to combine hospitality with traditional celebrations and attract more visitors during the festive season.

# Akshay Kumar begins last schedule of Haiwaan, reflects on transformative role

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Mumbai :** Akshay Kumar has started shooting for the last schedule of the film 'Haiwaan', which is produced by KVN Productions in association with Thespian Films. This production marks Aksay's first time portraying a negative character in a film.

Akshay acknowledged the impact the role has had on him, sharing that the character has challenged and surprised him throughout the filming process. He emphasised the personal and professional growth he experienced on set.

He wrote, "Last schedule of #Haiwaanwhat a journey it's been. This character has pushed, shaped, and surprised me in so many ways. Forever grateful to Priyan Sir, your sets feel like home. And Saif, thank you for the laughter, ease, and all those effortless moments on screen. @priyadarshan.official @shriya.pilgaonkar @saiyami @thespianfilms_ind @kvn. productions."

Haiwaan is a joint venture between KVN Productions and Thespian Films. The film is being jointly produced by Venkat K Narayana and Shailaja Desai Fenn, highlighting a collaborative effort between the production teams.

The actor thanked Saif Ali Khan, Shriya Pilgaonkar, and Saiyami, mentioning their contributions to the filming experience. This is Akshay's sixth film with Saif.

The role in 'Haiwaan' marks a new chapter for Kumar, as he undertakes his first negative character. The experience, as shared by the actor, has been significant and memorable, reflecting a notable shift in his film career.

# Pradeep Ranganathan Explores Love and Self-Discovery

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES




**Mumbai :** Actor-director Pradeep Ranganathan is back with another film after the success of 'Dragon'. He stars as Agan in the newly released trailer of his upcoming film, 'Dude', unveiled by the makers today. The trailer introduces Agan's journey as he navigates love and self-discovery. Mamitha Baiju plays Kural, Agan's 'mama ponnu', and together they are event organisers whose dynamic sets the stage for comedic yet poignant moments.

The film is set for theatrical release on October 17, following the postponement of 'Love Insurance Kompany' to December. The trailer has drawn attention for its lively tone and blend of romance and comedy.

Agan, played by Pradeep Ranganathan, is someone who has always been single, with the story shifting as he develops feelings for Kural. However, Kural does not reciprocate, leading to themes of unrequited love and personal growth. The trailer uses quick cuts to show Agan's emotional highs and lows, culminating in moments of self-realisation

Mamitha Baiju brings her own style to Kural, contributing to the film's energetic atmosphere. The chemistry between Pradeep and Mamitha is central to the trailer, which teases a wacky and colourful progression of events.

The trailer leverages Pradeep's 'eccentricities' and Mamitha's performance, balancing humour and heartfelt moments.

Dude' is written and directed by Keerthiswaran, produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar, with Anil Yerneni as co-producer. Mythri Movie Makers backs the film

The cast includes R Sarath Kumar, Hridhu Haroon, Rohini, Aishwarya Sharma, and Dravid Selvam. The crew features Sai Abhyankkar as composer, Niketh Bommi as cinematographer, Barath Vikraman as editor, Latha Naidu as production designer, and stunt choreography by Yannick Ben and Dinesh Subbarayan.

Dude' will be released alongside other films on October 17, including Mari Selvaraj's 'Bison: Kaalamaadan' and 'Diesel' starring Harish Kalyan.

# Rohit Sharma's Speech Snub to Gambhir Sparks Team Rift Speculation




THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**New Delhi :** Cricket may be India's favourite obsession, but for once, the off-field drama has stolen the spotlight. After gesture wars and handshake controversies during the Asia Cup, India's upcoming tour of Australia is mired in debate over bold selection calls — most notably, the decision to replace Rohit Sharma with Shubman Gill as ODI captain.

At a recent awards ceremony, Rohit Sharma accepted an honour for leading India to the 2025 Champions Trophy title. However, what drew attention wasn't his trophy, but his words — and what they left unsaid. During a nearly ten-minute-long speech, Rohit extensively praised former coach Rahul Dravid for building the mindset and processes that shaped India's recent white-ball success. But he made no mention of current head coach Gautam Gambhir, under whose tenure India won the Champions Trophy in March this year.

The omission has sparked debate within cricketing circles. Supporters of Rohit argue that his tribute to Dravid was historical, recognising the foundation laid during their partnership that produced back-to-back ICC titles. Others see the silence as a snub, pointing out that Gambhir, who took over in July 2024, was the man officially in charge during India's latest triumph.

With Rohit recently removed as ODI captain, his comments have taken on added weight, further fuelling talk of internal rifts within the dressing room. Critics suggest that even if unintentional, the failure to mention Gambhir has reinforced perceptions of friction within the team's leadership.

While Rohit's praise for Dravid remains justified, analysts note that acknowledging Gambhir would have been a simple diplomatic gesture. Its absence, however, has ensured the story lingers — another reminder that in Indian cricket, every word, and every omission, carries meaning.

It's Story TiME

# The Mother & the Wolf

Early one morning a hungry Wolf was prowling around a cottage at the edge of a village, when he heard a child crying in the house. Then he heard the Mother's voice say: "Hush, child, hush! Stop your crying, or I will give you to the Wolf!" Surprised but delighted at the prospect of so delicious a meal, the Wolf settled down under an open window, expecting every moment to have the child handed out to him. But though the little one continued to fret, the Wolf waited all day in vain. Then, toward nightfall, he heard the Mother's voice again as she sat down near the window to sing and rock her baby to sleep. "There, child, there! The Wolf shall not get you. No, no! Daddy is watching and Daddy will kill him if he should come near!" Just then the Father came within sight of the home, and the Wolf was barely able to save himself from the Dogs by a clever bit of running. Do not believe everything you hear.





# Chidambaram Refutes Modi on 26/11 Retaliation Allegations





THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**New Delhi :** Former Home Minister and senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram has refuted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remarks criticizing his handling of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. Chidambaram called the PM's assertions a "figment of imagination" and said they were "terribly wrong.

The controversy stems from an interview in which Chidambaram admitted he had considered retaliating against Pakistan after the attacks but was eventually persuaded against military action due to global pressure. In the podcast, he recalled that former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visited Delhi days after he assumed office, urging restraint, and that international pressure influenced the government's decision

Following the interview, several BJP leaders, including PM Modi, criticized Chidambaram and the then-UPA government, claiming India had projected weakness by not responding militarily. Modi, speaking at the inauguration of Navi Mumbai International Airport, stated that the Congress government had stopped India's security forces from retaliating after the attacks.

Chidambaram, responding via Twitter, emphasized that all three points made by PM Modi about him were incorrect. "The statement has three parts, and each one of them is WRONG, terribly WRONG," he said, rejecting the allegations and defending his actions during a highly sensitive period

The exchange has reignited debate over India's response to the 2008 Mumbai attacks, bringing historical security decisions back into the political spotlight.

# Private Plane Crashes in UP After Take-Off: All Onboard Safe



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**New Dehli :** A private aircraft crashed in Uttar Pradesh's Farrukhabad today after it lost control shortly after taking off. The two pilots and passengers escaped unhurt in the incident.

According to district officials, the aircraft belonging to Jet Service Aviation Pvt Ltd, with the registration number VT-DEZ, lost control while taking off and veered off the Mohammadabad airstrip into nearby bushes at around 10.30 am.

The aircraft was carrying the managing director of a beer factory under construction in the district's industrial area, who had arrived to inspect the project site, agency quoted the officials as saying.

District Magistrate Ashutosh Kumar Dwivedi said, "The private jet carrying the MD of an under-construction factory lost control during take-off and went into nearby bushes. Fortunately, all occupants are safe, and no injuries have been reported."

# Jaish-e-Mohammed Recruits Women Using Religious Propaganda: Intel



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**New Delhi :** Indian intelligence agencies have uncovered a new recruitment strategy by the Pakistani terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), aimed at educating Muslim women across India using emotive and religious appeals. The propaganda materials, circulated in Urdu, feature images of Mecca and Medina, Quranic verses, and messages encouraging "daily prayers, charity, and hijab," designed to brainwash women and draw them into the terror network.

Active since 2004, JeM has reportedly targeted women in Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, and South India, operating in small cells via WhatsApp, Telegram, and madrasa networks. Intelligence sources indicate strong Pakistan links in the organization's operations.

The materials use religious terminologies like "service of the faith," "ikhlaas," and "Nizaam-e-Shariat", coupled with emotive language such as "This system is given by Allah" and "This light will spread across the world" to create psychological influence and facilitate recruitment. The activities are framed as acts of "blessing," "mercy," and "protection.

The revelations come in the wake of Operation Sindoor, where Indian forces destroyed at least nine major JeM and Hizbul Mujahideen hubs in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Punjab. Sources indicate that these terror outfits are now relocating to the rugged Pakistan-Afghanistan border to evade precision strikes, though Indian Army officials warn that no location is beyond retaliation.

Indian Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi last week issued a stern warning, stating that Islamabad would face severe consequences if it continued to support state-sponsored terrorism.

This intelligence underscores the evolving nature of terrorist operations and the use of psychological and ideological tactics to expand recruitment beyond traditional militant circles.

# Wife Reports Assault, Police Find 3 Pistols Hidden in Husband's Cooler




THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Lucknow :** A man was arrested after illegal weapons and bullets were found at his house in Uttar Pradesh. Behind the sudden police action was a domestic violence complaint from the accused's wife and a tip that her husband possessed illegal pistols.

Naveen Kumar, a resident of Mewala village in Baghpat, had allegedly assaulted his wife and tried to strangle her on October 4. She escaped the assault and called the police for help, while also informing them about the illegal weapons.

The police immediately reached the village and zeroed in on the accused's house. While conducting searches, they found three pistols and nearly two dozen cartridges wrapped in a black cover and hidden in the cooler, an official said.

The police found two pistols of 0.315 bore and one of 0.12 bore, and 22 cartridges of 0.12 and 7.62 bore," said Praveen Singh Chauhan, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Baghpat, in a statement

Naveen was arrested and charged under the relevant sections of the Arms Act, he said

During his interrogation, Naveen revealed that he had purchased these weapons from a man in Delhi. Further investigation revealed he used to threaten people by brandishing weapons in the area. A probe into the arms smuggling network is also underway.

# 9 UK universities to set up campuses in India: PM Modi



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

In a historic move to strengthen educational ties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced that nine leading British universities, including the University of Southampton, will open campuses in India. The Gurugram campus of Southampton University has already been inaugurated, with the first cohort of students now enroled. This initiative marks a significant step in India-UK educational collaboration and aligns with India's National Education Policy 2020. It aims to provide Indian students access to world-class education without leaving the country, while promoting collaborative research and academia-industry partnerships to boost innovation and skill development.

Five prestigious UK universities have committed to setting up campuses across major Indian cities. In addition to Southampton, the University of Bristol has received approval from the University Grants Commission to open a new Enterprise Campus in Mumbai, scheduled to welcome students in summer 2026.

LIST OF UK UNIVERSITIES SETTING UP CAMPUSES IN INDIA

1. University of Southampton - Gurugram (campus already operational)
2. University of Liverpool - Bangalore
3. University of York - Mumbai
4. University of Aberdeen - Mumbai
5. University of Bristol - Mumbai

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is on his first official visit to India from October 8–9. During the two-day trip, both leaders reviewed the progress of the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership under the Vision 2035 roadmap. This 10-year plan focuses on strengthening ties in trade, investment, technology, innovation, defence, security, climate, energy, health, education, and people-to-people connections.

The visit also coincides with the largest-ever UK business delegation, reflecting renewed vigour in bilateral relations. The recently signed Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement is expected to reduce import costs, generate new employment opportunities for youth, boost trade, and benefit industries and consumers in both countries.

VISION 2035: A NEW ERA IN EDUCATION

Adopted during PM Modi's UK visit in July 2025, the India-UK Vision 2035 roadmap has opened new avenues for cooperation in higher education. The establishment of UK university campuses in India is expected to:

Provide Indian students with access to a global-standard education.

Promote collaborative research between Indian and UK institutions.

Strengthen academia-industry linkages.

This initiative is hailed as a major milestone in India-UK educational ties, bringing world-class learning closer to home and reinforcing the strategic partnership between the two nations.

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# Everything I've Seen Says Otherwise": UK PM Slams Trump's 'Dead Economy' Taunt

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**London :** UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer asserted that India was well on track to become the world's third-largest economy by 2028, in what was seen as a seeming jibe at US President Donald Trump's claim that India's economy was "dead".

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi by his side, Starmer made no bones about the fact that India's growth story has been remarkable, with the country recently becoming the world's fourth-largest economy, surpassing Japan.

The UK Prime Minister, who began his speech by greeting the gathering in Hindi, reinforced that the country wanted to be partners on India's growth journey.

Namaskar doston... I want to congratulate the PM on his leadership, aiming to be the world's 3rd largest economy by 2028. Your vision of Viksit Bharat is to make it a completely developed country by 2047," the UK PM, who is in his first visit to India, said

Everything I have seen since I have been here is absolute proof to me that you are on track to succeed in that. We want to be partners on that journey," Starmer further emphasised

Starmer's remarks and the optics of him arriving in India with the largest ever delegation of more than 100 CEOs, entrepreneurs, university vice-chancellors and cultural leaders are enough to suggest that the Indian economy is not "dead" as Trump remarked a few weeks ago.

# Israel, Hamas Agree to First Phase of Gaza Peace Deal: Trump

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Washington :** US President Donald Trump has announced that Israel and Hamas have "signed off on the first Phase of our Peace Plan".

In a post on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump said, "This means that ALL of the Hostages will be released very soon, and Israel will withdraw their Troops to an agreed upon line as the first steps toward a Strong, Durable, and Everlasting Peace."

All Parties will be treated fairly! This is a GREAT Day for the Arab and Muslim World, Israel, all surrounding Nations, and the United States of America, and we thank the mediators from Qatar, Egypt, and Turkey, who worked with us to make this Historic and Unprecedented Event happen. BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS!" he added.

Trump is scheduled for a "routine yearly check-up" at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington DC, on Friday morning, according to the White House, Al Jazeera reported. He may travel to the Middle East, where negotiators are trying to finalise a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel "shortly thereafter," White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said.

Hamas's Gaza chief, Khalil al-Hayya, is meeting with Egypt's intelligence head to put the finishing touches to a "historic" Gaza agreement, says a source briefed on the talks, Al Jazeera reported, citing its sources

An agreement could be announced on Thursday, the sources told Al Jazeera

Palestine has accused Israel of waging a "genocidal war" in Gaza in a letter to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), warning that the devastation has reached unprecedented levels, Al Jazeera reported

Published on the State of Palestine's official X account, the letter said, "while the rest of the world exerts all efforts to stop the bloodshed, Israel, the occupying power, persists with its genocidal war against the Palestinian people in Gaza"

It said Israel had "insisted on its criminal path of collective punishment", accusing it of destroying Palestinian society and pursuing the "colonisation and annexation" of occupied land, as per Al Jazeera

According to the statement, "The casualty toll since October 2023 has surpassed at least 2,37,000 Palestinians in Gaza alone," with most homes and civilian infrastructure destroyed. It also warned that Israel's "all-out assault on Palestinian existence risks being replicated in the West Bank", citing rising settler violence and forced displacement

Israel's degradation of life and of international law must be halted. On this tragic second anniversary, we reiterate: This genocide must be stopped," the letter concluded.

# NYC Sues Facebook, TikTok, Snapchat Over Teen Mental Health Impact

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**New York :** City filed a new lawsuit accusing Facebook, Google, Snapchat, TikTok and other online platforms of fueling a mental health crisis among children by addicting them to social media.

327-page complaint in Manhattan federal court seeks damages from Facebook and Instagram owner Meta Platforms, Google and YouTube owner Alphabet, Snapchat owner Snap and TikTok owner ByteDance. It accuses the defendants of gross negligence and causing a public nuisance.

The city joined other governments, school districts and individuals pursuing approximately 2,050 similar lawsuits, in nationwide litigation in the Oakland, California, federal court.

New York City is among the largest plaintiffs, with a population of 8.48 million, including about 1.8 million under age 18. Its school and healthcare systems are also plaintiffs.

Google spokesperson Jose Castaneda said allegations concerning YouTube are "simply not true," in part because it is a streaming service and not a social network where people catch up with friends.

The other defendants did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

A spokesperson for New York City's law department said the city withdrew from litigation announced by Mayor Eric Adams in February 2024 and pending in California state courts so it could join the federal litigation.

DEFENDANTS BLAMED FOR COMPULSIVE USE, SUBWAY SURFING

According to Wednesday's complaint, the defendants designed their platforms to "exploit the psychology and neurophysiology of youth," and drive compulsive use in pursuit of profit.

The complaint said 77.3% of New York City high school students, and 82.1% of girls, admitted to spending three or more hours a day on "screen time" including TV, computers and smartphones, contributing to lost sleep and chronic school absences.

New York City's health commissioner declared social media a public health hazard in January 2024, and the city including its schools has had to spend more taxpayer dollars to address the resulting youth mental health crisis, the complaint said.

The city also blamed social media for an increase in "subway surfing," or riding atop or off the sides of moving trains. At least 16 subway surfers have died since 2023, including two girls aged 12 and 13 this month, police data show.

Defendants should be held to account for the harms their conduct has inflicted," the city said. "As it stands now, (the) plaintiffs are left to abate the nuisance and foot the bill."

# Trump's Gaza Deal Sparks Nobel Peace Prize Speculation




THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Washington :** Just a day before the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize winner is announced, US President Donald Trump has brokered what he calls the "first phase" of a peace deal between Israel and Hamas — a breakthrough that the White House swiftly hailed as the achievement of "the peace President."

The timing has sparked speculation that the 79-year-old leader, who has repeatedly expressed his desire to win the Nobel, is positioning the Gaza agreement as a final push in his long-running campaign for global recognition.

Trump, who claims to have "settled seven wars," including a short-lived India–Pakistan conflict that New Delhi has consistently dismissed, has been quick to highlight his mediation record. His latest remarks came during a roundtable with conservative influencers, where he joked that the Nobel Committee might still "find a reason not to give it to me."

In recent months, Trump has sought to project himself as a global peacemaker — hosting leaders from Azerbaijan and Armenia at the White House for a peace accord in August, and leveraging every diplomatic success to underscore his claim to the prestigious award.

French President Emmanuel Macron has even backed Trump's efforts, saying last month that "only Trump could stop the Gaza war."

The latest Gaza deal announcement came just hours after a handwritten note from US Secretary of State Marco Rubio reportedly urged Trump to post about the agreement first on Truth Social — a sign of how tightly choreographed the moment was.

Whether or not the Nobel Committee rewards Trump's self-declared peacemaking streak, the timing of the Gaza breakthrough has ensured that the US President is once again at the centre of global attention — right before the world's most coveted peace prize is unveiled.



# Siddaramaiah May Drop Half of Ministers as Mid-Term Approaches



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Bengaluru :** Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is reportedly hosting a dinner for all cabinet ministers on October 13, sources revealed.

During discussions with the All India Congress Committee (AICC) high command, the Chief Minister reportedly indicated plans to undertake a cabinet reshuffle in November, after completing 2.5 years of his tenure.

According to sources, the Chief Minister aims to drop 50 per cent of current ministers and bring in new faces. Party insiders believe that inducting around 15 new ministers in November could make it difficult for the high command to replace the Chief Minister immediately, as a fresh cabinet would already be in place.

The reshuffle, planned strategically after the Bihar elections, appears designed to consolidate the Chief Minister's position within the party ahead of potential leadership decisions.

Speaking about the cabinet reshuffle, DK Shivakumar told reporters, "Don't know any such information, this is left to the Chief Minister. We all work for the party. I will not interfere in any of it. This is left to the Chief Minister and the party. I can only give suggestions. No one should create confusion."

Speculation about a leadership change in Karnataka has been circulating within the Congress party. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, and many other leaders have hinted at a potential change of leadership after 2.5 years, raising questions about Siddaramaiah's tenure.

Despite these speculations, the Congress has maintained that there would be no leadership change in Karnataka. Party leaders have emphasised that decisions regarding leadership will be made by the high command.

DALIT MINISTERS MEET

Amid these developments, three Dalit ministers, G Parameshwar, Satish Jarkiholi, and Mahadevappa, met privately in a Bangalore apartment for breakfast, said sources.

They reportedly discussed what Dalit leaders should do if there is a change of Chief Minister and deliberated on their next steps. Reports suggest the Dalit ministers are considering pushing Parameshwar as the Chief Minister face for their camp.

# Congress Faces Rift Over Bigg Boss Set

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Bengaluru :** Cracks have surfaced within the Karnataka government over the Pollution Control Board's decision to seal the Bigg Boss house near Bengaluru.

Sources that the board's chairman, MLA Narendra Swamy, took the decision unilaterally, without informing Forest, Environment and Ecology Minister Eshwar Khandre, under whose ministry the board functions.

The chairman, who reports to the minister on paper, is said to have acted independently in the matter, leaving the minister "shocked and surprised," sources said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is learned to have taken note of the issue and has said he will speak to both Minister Khandre and Chairman Swamy to resolve the matter

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board recently sealed the Bigg Boss house citing alleged environmental violations, triggering political and administrative tension within the ruling setup.

Amid the row, a pro-Kannada organisation held a protest outside the gates of the Bigg Boss shooting set, slamming both the show and the Karnataka government for allowing filming to continue despite alleged environmental violations.

Protesters questioned how contestants were permitted to enter the premises when the violations had not yet been rectified.

According to Bengaluru South Deputy Commissioner Yashwanth, the set has been reopened on the instructions of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. He said the Bigg Boss team has been allowed to continue shooting, and that only contestants are permitted inside the premises.

# Vijay's TVK Plans Private Meeting with Karur Stampede Victims' Families

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Chennai :** South superstar and actor-politician Vijay's party, Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), has identified two venues in Karur to meet families affected by last month's tragic rally stampede, which claimed 41 lives, including women and children. The meeting will be private, limited to select workers and victims' families, with assurances from TVK that all conditions set by authorities will be strictly followed.

TVK sources said the party is coordinating directly with Karur police for permissions and security arrangements, though they expressed concerns about being held responsible for the tragedy. The exact date for the meeting is yet to be finalized

Following the stampede, Vijay has been consoling bereaved families through video calls and has announced ₹20 lakh relief for each deceased family and ₹2 lakh for the injured. He clarified earlier that he did not remain in Karur immediately after the tragedy to avoid tensions and prevent the situation from worsening

The incident sparked controversy, with police citing lapses such as a seven-hour delay in Vijay's arrival and an impromptu roadshow that allegedly escalated the chaos. TVK has denied any violations and accused the ruling DMK of trying to malign the party, pointing to alleged police mismanagement of traffic and security. DMK has rejected these claims

Legal proceedings are ongoing: the Madras High Court recently rejected a petition for a CBI probe, noting the state police investigation is in its early stages. TVK has since approached the Supreme Court, seeking an independent inquiry by a retired Supreme Court judge

So far, two TVK functionaries have been arrested, including Karur West District Secretary Mathiyazhagan, while police are searching for the party's General Secretary Bussy Anand and Deputy General Secretary Nirmal Kumar

The tragedy continues to cast a shadow over TVK's political activities as the party prepares to engage directly with the victims' families.

# BRS Leaders Detained in Hyderabad During Bus Fare Hike Protest



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

**Hyderabad :** Ahead of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) party's 'Chalo Bus Bhavan' programme on Thursday, several party leaders, including working president KT Rama Rao and former minister T Harish Rao, were placed under house arrest, the party claimed.

The protest was planned to demand an immediate rollback of the RTC bus fare hike. BRS leaders intended to reach Bus Bhavan and submit a representation to the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) Managing Director.

Dramatic scenes unfolded at the Bus Bhavan where BRS leaders were being detained.

KTR, in a post on X, said, "All I wanted to do is to board an RTC bus peacefully, travel to the RTC MD office & submit a letter demanding rollback of the steep hike in bus fares. Look at the number of police officers deployed right now outside my housing complex!!" He added, "If the police showed the same enthusiasm in curbing crimes across Hyderabad, it would benefit citizens."

The party further alleged that the Congress government deployed police to prevent BRS leaders from reaching Bus Bhavan. Senior leader Harish Rao was also placed under house arrest, with heavy police deployment outside his residence.

Speaking to India Today, KTR reiterated, "No matter how many restrictions or detentions they impose, our fight against the fare hike will continue until it is withdrawn. Such police detentions are nothing new to us or our party."

# Sresan Pharma Owner Arrested Over Toxic Syrup Deaths

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



**Chennai :** The owner of Sresan Pharmaceuticals, Ranganathan, has been arrested in connection with the deaths of at least 21 children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan after their cough syrup, Coldrif, was found to contain dangerously high levels of the industrial chemical diethylene glycol. Following the arrest, the company has been permanently shut down.

Ranganathan was taken into custody in Chennai late Wednesday and will be transported to Chhindwara district in Madhya Pradesh, where most deaths occurred, after securing transit remand. He was picked up from his Kodambakkam residence and questioned at his factory in Sunguvarchatram, Kancheepuram. Authorities indicated that more arrests are likely as the investigation continues

The Tamil Nadu Drugs Control Department's 26-page report exposed unhygienic manufacturing practices at the Kancheepuram facility, citing 350 violations, including rusted equipment and the illegal use of non-pharma-grade chemicals. The inspection revealed that up to 48% of industrial liquid had been added to the syrup, far exceeding the permissible limit of 0.1%, and that the company was operating without Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certification.

Following the discovery, the state regulatory body issued a stop-production order and suspended the company's license. Sources from the Union Health Ministry confirmed that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) had requested the cancellation of the company's license due to the presence of toxic chemicals. Officials noted that while the CDSCO can recommend cancellations, the final authority lies with the State Drug Controller, who oversees licensing compliance.

Authorities have confirmed that Coldrif had also been distributed to Odisha and Puducherry, raising concerns about the broader impact of the toxic syrup. Investigations are ongoing.

# Bihar Bridge Built For 6 Crores. But Can't Be Used. There's No Approach

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES




**Patna :** A bridge in Bihar was built at an outlay of approximately Rs 6 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Yet, four years after work began, it remains effectively unusable because the approach road that should connect it to the local road network has never been completed. The Pasanta Bridge in Dandkhoda block in Bihar's Katihar district looks, from a distance, like any other government-built bridge intended to end isolation for a clutch of flood-prone villages. However, there is no approach road on one side, only a swathe of fields and one of the pillars of the bridge, whose base lies on privately owned land.

The bridge was intended to carry residents from a cluster of some 10-12 nearby villages to the district headquarters, shortening journeys that now require long diversions.

Work on the bridge began on September 3, 2020. Contractors were given until September 2, 2021, to deliver the project. Locals say the bridge looks finished, but the approach road, and specifically one pillar that sits on private land, was never built because land acquisition was not completed.

The project's Detailed Project Report (DPR), the villagers insist, was drawn up without the necessary private-land acquisitions, and work proceeded regardless. That decision, the residents say, is the reason the bridge stands as a white elephant.

When contacted, Katihar's District Officer Manish Meena acknowledged the problem and said that he would investigate the matter.

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

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