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-07 Issue-18 S.A.S. NAGAR MOHALI, MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY, 2026 Total Pages : 08 Price : 3.00

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Amit Shah Outlines Borders, Narcotics, and Criminal Law as Key Priorities



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Union Home Minister Amit Shah today outlined the Centre's top priorities ahead of 2029, focusing on strengthening borders to prevent infiltration, tackling the menace of narcotics, and ensuring full implementation of three key criminal laws.

Addressing the 79th Raising Day ceremony of the Delhi Police, Shah said, "Border management modernisation to make India infiltrator-free, combating the menace of narcotics and complete implementation of the three criminal laws are the three priority areas of the Central Government prior to 2029." He added that work on implementing the three criminal laws nationwide is expected to be completed within the next two years.

On the occasion, Shah inaugurated the first phase of the Delhi Police's Safe City project. The initiative includes an Integrated Command Communication Control Centre (C4I) established at a cost of ₹857 crore, aimed at enhancing security and surveillance across the capital.

Borah Resigns as Assam Congress Chief Ahead of Assembly Elections



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Guwahati : In a major blow to the Congress party in Assam ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections, former state unit president Bhupen Kumar Borah has resigned, citing neglect by party leadership and lack of recognition within the state unit. Borah sent his resignation letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, detailing his concerns.

Borah, who served as Assam Congress president from 2021 to 2025 and is a two-time MLA, stated he resigned due to the party's organizational shortcomings, not for personal reasons. "I have served the Congress for 32 years, and I am worried about the future of the party," he said.

The resignation drew immediate attention from political leaders, with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma calling Borah "the last Hindu leader in the Assam Congress party" and announcing plans to visit his residence. Opposition leaders, including Raijor Dal chief Akhil Gogoi, and several Congress leaders, are at Borah's home in Guwahati attempting to persuade him to reconsider.

Borah clarified that he has not received any proposals from other political parties and that his resignation does not mark a retirement from politics. Assembly elections in Assam are scheduled in the coming months.

This development is being seen as a symbolic setback for Congress in Assam, highlighting internal party challenges and organizational gaps ahead of the crucial polls.

MP Budget Session Opens with National Song, Opposition Protests



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Bhopal : The Madhya Pradesh Assembly's budget session began today with a historic and tense start. For the first time, all six stanzas of the national song by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee were sung in unison, following a state government directive making the full rendition mandatory at all government functions, in line with a January 28 Union Home Ministry order.

Governor Mangubhai Patel, in his address, highlighted the government's achievements, including the Global Investors Summit, the push toward a $2 trillion economy by 2047, the "Year of Agriculture" 2026, 1.35 lakh houses under PM Janman Yojana, Shipra River rejuvenation, and reforms under the New Education Policy.

However, the address was interrupted by Opposition Leader Umang Singhar, who raised concerns over alleged failures in the tap water scheme and deaths from contaminated water in Indore. Slogans filled the House, forcing the Governor to continue amid protests. Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar later declared the unread portion of the speech as read, escalating tensions. The session, running from February 16 to March 6, will see 3,478 questions, 236 calls for attention, 10 adjournment motions, 41 private member resolutions, and 83 Zero Hour questions.

Mani Shankar Aiyar Sparks Controversy Over Congress, Kerala Politics Remarks



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Veteran Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar has once again stirred debate with his candid comments on party colleagues and Kerala politics. In an interview, Aiyar claimed the Congress is unlikely to win the upcoming Kerala Assembly elections, saying party leaders "hate each other more than they hate the Communists."

Aiyar took aim at four-time Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor, calling him "anti-Pakistan" with ambitions to become the next Foreign Minister. He also labelled party spokesperson Pawan Khera a "puppet" and criticised him for consistently accusing Aiyar over the past two years. On Jairam Ramesh, Aiyar remarked that he must "keep his job."

The remarks come after Aiyar praised Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and predicted the Left veteran would retain his position post-elections. The Congress has distanced itself from his statements. Pawan Khera clarified that Aiyar "has had no connection with the Congress for the past few years" and speaks in a personal capacity, while Jairam Ramesh reaffirmed confidence in the UDF's prospects in Kerala.

Aiyar made these comments at the seminar 'Vision 2031: Development and Democracy', lamenting the absence of his party colleagues and commending Kerala's progress in Panchayati Raj, calling on Vijayan to "pick up the baton that the Congress has dropped."



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NASA Faces Delays Launching Artemis-II Moon Mission

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Nasa is working through a series of technical and operational challenges as it prepares for Artemis-II, the first crewed mission in its plan to return humans to the Moon in more than five decades.

The mission, which will send astronauts around the Moon aboard the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion spacecraft, is a crucial step toward building a long-term human presence in lunar orbit and on the Moon's surface.

Speaking about the progress of the program, Nasa chief Jared Isaacman said that the space agency is committed to openness as engineers address problems uncovered during testing.

For a program as costly and important to national security as Artemis, the public is entitled to the facts," he said, emphasising transparency about both successes and setbacks.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH ARTEMIS-II MOON ROCKET?

One of the key challenges involves propellant system seals and fuelling interfaces on the SLS rocket. During a recent confidence test conducted on February 12, engineers evaluated seals that had been repaired or replaced after earlier wet dress rehearsal tests.

The results showed significantly lower hydrogen leak rates compared with previous testing, suggesting progress in addressing a major technical concern.

The test ended earlier than planned, not because of a failure, but because engineers gathered enough data to continue analysis without further troubleshooting.

Nasa reviewed the results the following day and released a public update soon after, timing the announcement carefully alongside a crewed mission launch to the International Space Station to avoid confusion.

Despite these improvements, Artemis-II preparations remain complex. Nasa officials say it is not unexpected to encounter difficulties following the long gap between Artemis-I in 2022 and the upcoming crewed mission, especially given the scale of the rocket system and the cryogenic fueling technologies involved.

Engineers are continuing to refine procedures and hardware to ensure reliability.

Isaacman noted that lessons learned now will shape future missions. For Artemis-III, Nasa plans to "cryoproof" the vehicle before it reaches the launch pad and redesign propellant-loading interfaces currently under review.

These changes are intended to make future launches more predictable and efficient.

The Artemis program is designed as a long-term lunar exploration effort, with plans for repeated missions and eventually a sustained human presence on and around the Moon. Nasa expects the program's architecture to evolve as new technologies emerge and industry partnerships expand.

For now, Nasa officials stress that astronaut safety remains the top priority. Engineers continue to analyse test data, refine systems, and prepare hardware for flight readiness reviews.

There is still a great deal of work ahead," Isaacman said, adding that Nasa "will not launch unless we are ready" as the agency prepares for humanity's return to deep space exploration.



Atul Sharma



Astro Speak by: Rajesh Kumar

Birth Date 17th Feb

Born on 17thFebruary : 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

February 17th 2026 : Sheer pleasure and enjoyment for you- as you set about to enjoy life to the fullest. You can acquire money from an unknown source today, which will resolve many of your financial troubles. Evening with friends will be good for pleasure.

Taurus

February 17th 2026 : Your frustration could ruin your health- if you keep thinking about past events- Try to relax as much as possible. You should look twice at investment schemes that are presented to you today. Try not to say the wrong things at the wrong time-Be.

Gemini

February 17th 2026 : Company of humourous relatives will lessen your tension and give you the much-needed relief. You are fortunate to have these kinds of relatives. Traders and Businessmen who have relations with foreign countries are likely.

Cancer

February 17th 2026 : Company of humourous relatives will lessen your tension and give you the much-needed relief. You are fortunate to have these kinds of relatives. Watch your tendency to live for the day and to spend too much on entertainment.

Leo

February 17th 2026 : Hectic work schedule may make you short-tempered. You need to accumulate your money and know when and where to spend wisely, otherwise you will have to repent in the coming time. Overall a beneficial day but someone you think you can trust.

Virgo

February 17th 2026 : Your tremendous intellectual potential will help you to fight the disability. Only by keeping positive thoughts you can fight this problem. Today, you may spend your money on getting a defective electronic item fixed. Plan a short picnic.

Libra

February 17th 2026 : Spend your valuable time with your children to get rid of stress. You will experience the healing power of child. As they are the most powerful spiritual and emotional personality on earth. You yourself will feel rejuvenated. Profits in business can bring joy.

Scorpio

February 17th 2026 : Pleasure trip with your friends or family members makes you relaxed If you had invested in any land overseas, then it can be sold today at a good price, which will help you earn profits. Unexpected good news from distant relatives.

Sagittarius

February 17th 2026 : Your positive outlook will impress those around you. If you had borrowed some money from a member of your family, then it is best to return it today, or else that member can take legal action against you. Your thirst for knowledge.

Capricorn

February 17th 2026 : Try to put your high energy to good use today. Certain important plans will be executed bringing you fresh financial gains. Enjoy a peaceful and quiet day with family members-If people approach you with problems-Ignore them and don't let this bother.

Aquarius

February 17th 2026 : Divert your thought and energy to what you wish to see in physical reality. There is no point in imaging only. The problem so far with you is that you don't try but only wish. Use what you already have before rushing out to buy more.

Pisces

February 17th 2026 : Don't exert yourself beyond a point and remember to take proper rest. Money gains will not be to your expectations. Health of some female member in the family may cause worries. Don't allow your romantic views to be aired.

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Pb CM Mann Launches Second Phase of Anti-Drug Campaign

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : Ending speculation over his presence, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann addressed a massive Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) rally at Killi Chahal village in Moga district, urging collective action against the state's drug menace. Mann emotionally raised the slogan, "Zindagi zindabad, no murdabad," and concluded his address with "love you all."

Launching the second phase of the state's anti-drug campaign, Mann criticized previous governments for turning Punjab into a "drug cesspool" for political and financial gains. He said, "We are breaking the drug supply chain, rehabilitating addicts and taking strict action against suppliers. There is now a 'Lok Lehar' (people's wave) against drugs, and only collective resolve can eliminate this menace."

Since the campaign began on March 1, 2025, Mann said it has gained strong public support. Village Defence Committees (VDCs) have enrolled over 1.5 lakh members, issued more than 70,000 identity cards, and received over 33,000 actionable tips, resulting in nearly 17,000 arrests while keeping informers' identities confidential.

The Chief Minister also announced the development of playgrounds in every village to encourage youth participation in sports, highlighting that Punjabis were historically known for producing athletes and wrestlers. He further added that 60,000 government jobs have been provided and daytime power supply to farmers ensured.

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal called for public participation, blaming BJP, Congress, and SAD (Badal) for fostering drug networks. Former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia praised VDC members as the "live cameras" of the government.

Punjab Health Minister Dr. Balbir Singh reported 2,046 kg of drugs recovered in 2025 and 25,000 youths rehabilitated. DGP Gaurav Yadav said over 34,000 FIRs were registered and around 45,000 arrests made in drug-related cases, with Punjab achieving over 90% conviction under the NDPS Act, the highest in India.

Chief Secretary KAP Sinha emphasized that government efforts alone are insufficient without public cooperation. VDC members who aided in the seizure of 43 kg of heroin were honored, and all members took a collective oath to keep their villages drug-free.

MLA Sets March 31 Deadline for Road Projects

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES





Mohali : In a high-level review meeting led by MLA Kuljit Singh Randhawa, authorities assessed the current condition of roads and ongoing development works in the Derabassi constituency to expedite progress and ensure quality. The meeting was attended by SDM Derabassi, senior officials from PWD, Mandi Board, Mining, and Drainage departments.

During the review, a priority list of damaged roads was prepared, and officials were given strict instructions to resolve public issues promptly. Randhawa emphasized zero tolerance for delays or negligence in development works.

Officials were instructed to adhere strictly to project timelines and address any funding or operational hurdles immediately. Special focus was placed on ensuring quality, strengthening monitoring systems, and holding contractors accountable. Coordination with the drainage system was also stressed to prevent road damage during rains.

All priority road projects in the constituency are mandated to be completed by March 31 to provide residents with better and safer commuting facilities.

Janjua Overseas Q3 Profit at ₹122.80 Lakh

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mohali : Janjua Overseas Limited, listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and based in Mohali, announced robust financial results for the third quarter of FY 2026.

According to the company's directors, total revenue stood at ₹158.67 lakh, with a net profit of ₹122.80 lakh. The company demonstrated effective cost management, reporting total expenses of ₹68.14 lakh after accounting for the bonus share allotment.

The paid-up equity capital of the company now totals ₹2,424.68 lakh. For the nine months ending December 31, 2025, the company generated ₹484.79 lakh in revenue and a net profit of ₹234.49 lakh, closely matching the ₹245.78 lakh net profit recorded over the 12 months of FY 2025. Total expenses for the nine-month period amounted to ₹273.16 lakh.

Managing Director Major Harjinder Singh Janjua (Retd.) credited the results to the hard work of the company's staff and the trust of its shareholders.

Dog Bite Triggers Violent Clash, Four Injured

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES





Chandigarh : A 7-year-old boy, son of a local police officer, was bitten by a pet dog in Chandigarh afternoon, escalating into a violent dispute between the child's father and the dog owner. The altercation involved hand-to-hand fighting and stone-pelting, leaving two people injured.

According to Police Constable Sumit, his son was playing cricket on the terrace when the ball fell downstairs around 3:30 pm. As the boy went to retrieve it, the neighbor's dog bit him. Sumit rushed to rescue his son, and a dispute arose when the dog's owner, Sahil, insisted on taking the boy for treatment themselves. The argument escalated when Sumit refused, citing the risk to his only son, and Sahil allegedly called his brother and nephew, leading to a physical fight. Two youths, Ankit and Sunil, who intervened to stop the fight, were also injured.

Sahil, the dog's owner, claimed the dog was near his mother when the ball fell, and the bite was accidental. He said he had rescued the boy and apologized, but the situation escalated as more people joined the clash. His brother Deepak and nephew Arman were also injured during the incident. The entire episode was captured on CCTV footage, showing the fight and intervention by bystanders. Police have seized the footage and launched an investigation.

PIC OF THE DAY

Who Cares...?

Roadside Encroachments continues in Mohali



Atul Sharma

Mohali : Illegal encroachments outside showrooms, at marketplaces, roadsides have become a common affair. We often see that owners of showrooms encroach upon public many vendors have encroachment over spaces on roadsides leading to regular traffic congestion.

Residents of Mohali raises a question does the concerned officials really have any concrete policy against roadside encroachments in the city? Unfortunately, with the present situation of roads in Mohali it seems concerned officials have no such plan so far, as a result illegal grabbing/ encroachment of roadside is continuing unabated in almost every part of Mohali.

Residents stated without carrying out a massive anti-encroachment drive, the Mohali Municipal Corporation would have no meaning at all. Despite the fact that the Mohali Municipal Corporation has constructed pathways for the convenience of pedestrians, a majority of them have been encroached by the street vendors, no checks have been conducted to restrict such vendors from illegally occupying the footpaths stated residents.

Residents also add that the number of street vendors occupying the pavement had increased significantly in recent months. A senior citizen added encroachments are so massive in the evening that pedestrians are forced to step on the road. "Although the encroachments are comparatively less in the morning, it still causes more inconvenience to the early morning walkers. Some vendors set up food stalls with plastic sheets tied to serve as a shelter during evenings. With many public spots located in the area, traffic snarls are a common sight. Main Phases dividing roads witnesses a lot of traffic throughout the day and it is unsafe to walk on the roads, but there is no other way. Residents complain that the illegal hawkers selling items on footpaths are causing traffic congestion as people randomly park their vehicles on the road to purchase fruits and vegetables from these vendors. The vehicles parked on the road occupy the space meant for vehicles to commute. It is pertinent to mention that the traffic around Phase 1 Mohali Village road in the city and at other places such as Phase 4, Phase 11are the common places where traffic moves at a snail's pace during the evening hours.

Residents said the levelled footpaths were created as parking spaces for vehicles, but now have been illegally encroached upon by vendors on roads which causes traffic congestion. But Who Cares???

PCA CEO Deepak Sharma Asked to Resign Over Dual Salary



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The Ethics Officer-cum-Ombudsman of the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA), Justice Jaspal Singh, has directed PCA Chief Executive Officer Deepak Sharma to submit his unconditional resignation by February 18, failing which his services will be considered automatically terminated, as per an order dated February 13.

The directive follows proven charges that Sharma drew salaries simultaneously from PCA and HOUSEFED during 2014–15 by concealing relevant facts and documents. "It is evident that he misrepresented the actual facts and availed financial benefit by drawing salary from two different sources for the same period and committed misconduct to obtain financial gain," the order stated.

Sharma has reportedly expressed his willingness to resign. The order also clarifies that he will receive service benefits for the period served.

The complaint was filed by PCA life member Rakesh Handa, who alleged that the PCA Apex Council failed to act despite raising the issue in the 2025 Governing Body meeting. Handa also raised concerns over irregularities in appointments of PCA managers and alleged undue influence in the selection of Sharma's son for the Punjab state team, though these charges were not substantiated.

The Ombudsman has directed the PCA Apex Council to make interim arrangements to ensure smooth functioning of the association.

Punjab Housing Dept Waives ₹40 Crore Dues for Mohali Builder



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : The Punjab Housing Department has waived nearly ₹40 crore, including penal interest, for private realtor Remigate Builders, following delays in providing basic amenities at a 1.13-acre site in Mohali. The site, allotted nine years ago for a food court in Sector 62, had seen repeated delays as the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) failed to provide an encumbrance-free plot despite repeated representations. Instead, GMADA had issued a show-cause notice to the builder for non-payment of pending dues.

The matter was reviewed in the 34th authority meeting of GMADA, chaired by Chief Secretary KAP Sinha, where officials decided to waive the penal interest and reschedule the allotment date from 2016 to 2022.

The builder had won the site in a September 2015 auction at a reserve price of ₹32.50 crore, paying 20% upfront along with the first instalment of ₹9.87 crore. The Housing Department admitted that deficiencies in the Estate Office had prevented the allottee from commencing the commercial project.

Officials noted that from 2016 onwards, Estate Officers and Chief Administrators had violated provisions of the Punjab Regional Town Planning and Development Act, causing delays in recovering dues from the allottee.

Central Government Approves Waste-to-Energy Project

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : The Central Government has approved a Waste-to-Energy (WtE) project for Chandigarh, aimed at remediating the Dadu Majra garbage dump, Union Minister of State for Urban Development and Housing Tokhan Sahu informed the Lok Sabha. The announcement followed a question raised by Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari under Rule 377 regarding the need for a WtE plant and clearance of legacy waste at the site.

According to Sahu, 5.10 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste at the Dadu Majra dumpsite have already been remediated, while an additional 55,000 MT of unprocessed waste is currently being processed. Chandigarh Administration has assured that adequate waste management measures will be implemented to prevent future accumulation.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0), financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for scientific processing of municipal solid waste, including WtE plants, Waste-to-Compost plants, Material Recovery Facilities, bio-methanation, and remediation of legacy waste. Chandigarh's project for remediation of 7.67 lakh MT of legacy waste, costing ₹42.18 crore with a central share of ₹28.50 crore, has been approved under SBM-U 2.0.

Commenting on the approval, Tewari said his repeated parliamentary interventions to get the Dadu Majra dump remediated are moving forward. He stressed that the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation and Administration must now ensure the site is cleared, noting past delays and missed deadlines despite commitments to Parliament, courts, and parliamentary committees.

Chandigarh's First Sainik School Gets Defence Ministry Nod

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : Chandigarh is set to get its first Sainik School, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh assuring Gulab Chand Kataria, Punjab Governor and UT Administrator, of approval for the project.

The proposed Sainik School will be established on the 16-acre campus of the Government Model Senior Secondary School (GMSSS) in Sector 23 and will aim to strengthen discipline, leadership qualities, and the spirit of national service among students.

Project Progress

The proposal, which originated in June 2025, has undergone multiple evaluations. An Evaluation Committee visited GMSSS-23A in November 2025 to assess infrastructure, academic readiness, and administrative preparedness. The committee found the proposal complete and suitable, pending final approval from the Sainik Schools Society under the Ministry of Defence.

Once approved, the school will admit students in Classes VI and IX through the All-India Sainik Schools Entrance Examination conducted by the National Testing Agency. It will be a fully residential, CBSE-affiliated institution, combining academic rigour with military training, value-based education, and leadership development.

Key Details

Location: 16-acre GMSSS campus, Sector 23

Model: Partnership under Sainik Schools Society, MoD

Intake: 40–80 students per class

Nature: Fully residential

Curriculum: CBSE with military training & leadership modules

Funding: Self-financed through fees

Staffing: 17 teaching posts under a principal-led hierarchy

During the meeting, the leaders also discussed strengthening border vigil, particularly to curb smuggling of narcotics and weapons via drones, and modernising anti-drone systems to reinforce national security.

The Defence Ministry is currently evaluating applications for new Sainik Schools under a partnership model, with approval letters to be issued after scrutiny of selected proposals.

Punjab Sees Rising Women's Cancer Deaths, MP Demands Urgent Action



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Cancer has become a grave public health crisis in Punjab, claiming the lives of an average of eight women every day, Rajya Sabha member Balbir Singh Seechewal highlighted during a Special Mention in Parliament's ongoing Budget Session.

Citing the Union Ministry of Health data, Seechewal noted that nearly 2,700 women died from cancer in 2025 alone, bringing the total to 13,299 between 2021 and 2025. Breast cancer accounted for the highest fatalities with 7,186 deaths, followed by cervical cancer (3,502) and uterine cancer (2,611).

Seechewal expressed concern over rising cases among women aged 50–56 years, linking the trend to environmental pollution, contaminated drinking water, and excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture.

He urged the Centre and Punjab government to provide 100% free cancer treatment for women and 75–80% subsidies for economically weaker families, whether in government or private hospitals. Emphasising dignity and uniform care for patients, Seechewal stressed that safeguarding women's health was crucial for Punjab's future.

Harsimrat Kaur Badal Slams Bathinda Police Over Rising Drug Menace

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Bathinda : Bathinda MP and senior Shiromani Akali Dal leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal has publicly accused the police of failing to tackle the drug problem in the city, posting a 2-minute video on Facebook showing individuals allegedly exchanging drugs.

Targeting Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Badal criticised the government for spending public funds on rallies and publicity under the banner of "Yudh Nashian Virudh" instead of addressing the ground reality. She alleged that drug distribution in Bathinda city continues from morning to evening and suggested that the Chief Minister resign if he cannot fulfil his responsibilities.

Police Response

Nearly 12 hours after the video went viral, Inspector Parvinder Singh, SHO of Kotwali police station, stated that the individuals seen in the footage had been identified, and some were taken into custody. The SHO added that the location shown in the video is Machhi Market Chowk and necessary legal action is underway.

Authorities are continuing investigations into the matter as political and public attention intensifies around the ongoing drug issue in Bathinda.

Snow Leopard Sighted with Cubs and Spiti

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mandi : The tribal district of Himachal Pradesh is emerging as a safe haven for the elusive snow leopard, with a recent sighting of a leopardess and her two cubs delighting wildlife enthusiasts and forest officials.

The rare moment was captured earlier this month in Lahaul valley by a trap camera installed by forest officer and wildlife enthusiast Shiv Kumar. The footage shows the leopardess hiding near a bush with her cubs as they fed on prey, providing clear evidence of breeding activity in the region.

Positive Signs for Population Recovery

Keylong Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Inderjeet Singh confirmed that, following success in Spiti valley, Lahaul has now emerged as a secure habitat for the endangered species. Repeated sightings over the past few years indicate a steady rise in the snow leopard population

"The consistent sightings, particularly of a mother with cubs, are encouraging. It reflects improving habitat conditions and growing awareness among local communities," the DFO said.

Role of Local Communities

Officials credit the positive trend to changing attitudes among residents. While hunting was more common in remote tribal areas a few years ago, awareness campaigns and stricter enforcement have significantly reduced poaching. Local communities are now actively participating in conservation efforts, recognising both the ecological and economic value of preserving wildlife.

In Spiti valley, snow leopards are already a major eco-tourism attraction. Tourists visit during winter months to catch a glimpse of the big cat, generating income for locals while promoting conservation awareness. Authorities plan to explore similar eco-tourism models in Lahaul valley to integrate species protection with sustainable livelihoods.

Women Leading Grassroots Conservation

Women in Spiti are being trained in wildlife conservation by the Nature Conservation Foundation, particularly in protecting snow leopards. Their involvement has strengthened community-led conservation initiatives and fostered local stewardship.

Wildlife experts believe that continued community participation, habitat protection, and responsible tourism can secure the future of snow leopards in Lahaul and Spiti, reinforcing Himachal Pradesh's status as a critical region for high-altitude wildlife conservation.

Kunickaa Sadanand Praises Son Ayaan's .Battle of Galwan Song. Thanks Salman Khan

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES





Mumbai : Actor Kunickaa Sadanand expressed immense pride as her son Ayaan Lall made his musical debut with the song Main Hoon from the upcoming film Battle of Galwan, starring Salman Khan. Sharing the teaser of the song on Instagram, Kunickaa posted an emotional note dedicated to her son. In her heartfelt message, she described Main Hoon as more than just a song — calling it a promise between a mother and her child. She wrote that whenever life feels overwhelming or uncertain, her son should remember the words "Main Hoon," assuring him of her constant presence and support

Encouraging Ayaan to chase his dreams fearlessly, she added that while the world may claim him, he will always remain her son first. Kunickaa also thanked Salman Khan for giving Ayaan the opportunity, writing, "Thank you for this opportunity, my prayers are always with you."

Ayaan Lall's Big Musical Break

Ayaan Lall has not only composed Main Hoon but also co-written the lyrics with Shabbir Ahmed. He has lent his voice to the track alongside acclaimed singer Shreya Ghoshal, marking a significant entry into mainstream cinema.

The film is produced by Salma Khan under the banner of Salman Khan Films and directed by Apoorva Lakhia. The project also features Chitrangada Singh in a pivotal role.

Battle of Galwan is expected to present a powerful story of bravery, sacrifice and resilience. The film is slated for theatrical release on April 17, 2026.

Ranbir Kapoor on Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani Sequel: "No Plans for Part 2"

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mumbai : Actor Ranbir Kapoor has put an end to speculation surrounding a sequel to his 2013 romantic hit Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani. Speaking during a Valentine's Day Instagram Live session on the official ARKS account, Kapoor addressed long-standing fan requests for a second installment of the beloved film.

Reflecting on the movie's enduring popularity more than a decade after its release, Kapoor expressed gratitude for the continued love from audiences but clarified that there are no plans for a sequel.

A lot of you guys want part 2, but there are so many new movies, new directors, and new ideas to work with. I think Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani had the perfect end. So it won't have a part 2," he said during the interaction.

However, the actor reassured fans that he remains open to exploring similar themes in future projects. "Maybe another film would come, of a similar genre, which you guys would enjoy too," he added.

Updates on Upcoming Projects

During the session, the 43-year-old star also shared updates about his upcoming films. He spoke about Love & War, directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali and co-starring Alia Bhatt and Vicky Kaushal. The film, initially slated for an August 2026 release, has reportedly been postponed. Kapoor noted that large-scale productions such as Love & War and Ramayana require additional time due to their ambitious scale and vision.

He also revealed that work on Brahmastra: Part Two – Dev, directed by Ayan Mukerji, may begin sooner than expected. Meanwhile, Animal Park — the sequel to Animal directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga — is likely to go on floors by mid-next year, offering fans a clearer production timeline.

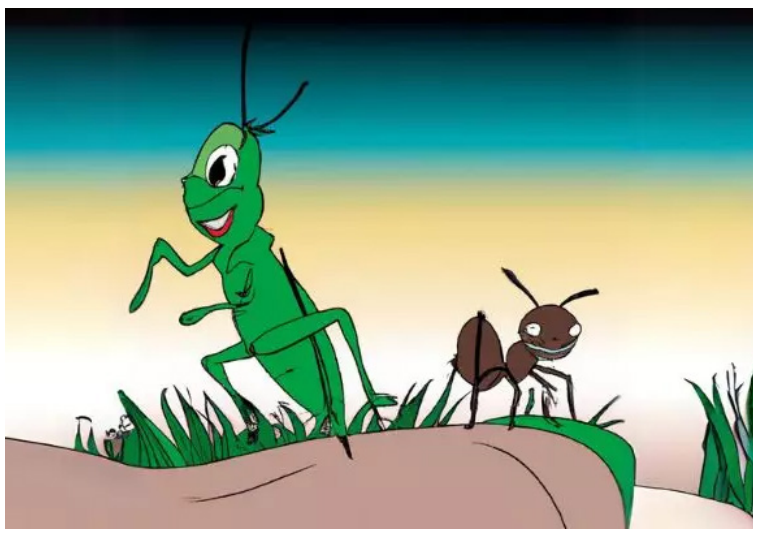
Concluding the live session, Kapoor acknowledged the work of his contemporaries and praised Ranveer Singh for his recent performance in Dhurandhar.

With several major projects in the pipeline, Kapoor made it clear that while Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani may not get a sequel, audiences can look forward to an exciting slate of films in the coming years.

The Ant and The Grasshopper

It's Story Time

The ant and the grasshopper were good friends. In the summer, the ant works hard to fill his storage with food. While the grasshopper was enjoying the fine weather and playing all day. When winter came, the ant was lying cozily in his home, surrounded by the food he stored during the summer. While the grasshopper was in his home, hungry and freezing. He asked the ant for food, and the ant gave him some. But it wasn't enough to last the entire winter. When he tried to ask the ant again, the latter replied: "I'm sorry my friend but my food is just enough for my family to last until the end of winter. If I give you more, we too will starve. We had the entire summer to prepare for the winter but you chose to play instead."



'Clutch God' Hardik Pandya's Calm Reaction to Sahibzada Farhan's Dismissal Goes Viral



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

India demolished Pakistan by a massive margin of 61 runs in their T20 World Cup 2026 encounter in Colombo on Sunday, and the major catalyst to the win was India picking up four wickets in the powerplay. The initial blow was inflicted by star India all-rounder Hardik Pandya, who took the new ball and not only bowled a maiden first over, but also dismissed Pakistan opener Sahibzada Farhan. Pandya gave a stone-cold reaction during Farhan's dismissal, not even looking back to check if the catch had been completed. A video of it has gone viral on social media.

In the video, it can be seen that Pandya does not look back even once after Farhan mistimes his attempted pull shot on the fourth ball of the first over. Instead, Pandya appears to casually walk forward, almost in certainty that the catch was inevitably going to be taken. While many of the Indian players run towards Pandya after Rinku Singh completes the catch, Pandya himself does not celebrate with much pomp.

Meanwhile, Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson admitted that his side failed to adapt to match conditions in their high-pressure encounter against India after Men in Green suffered a one-sided 61-run loss in the Group A match at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

During the post-match press conference, reflecting on the contest, Hesson said India capitalised better on a surface that offered significant assistance to spinners early on.

With the ball, obviously it was spinning quite a lot initially, and I think the way Ishan Kishan played took the game away from us," he noted.

Hesson admitted that India managed to push the total beyond what Pakistan believed was a competitive score on the surface. "To be fair to India, they probably got about 25 above par on that surface."

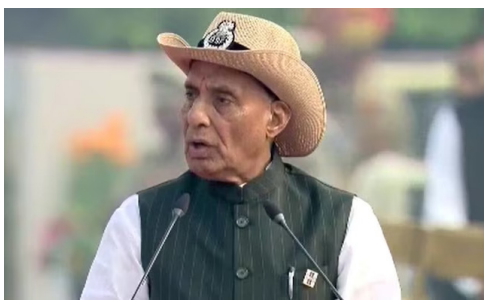
However, the Pakistan coach pointed to his team's batting performance as the bigger concern. According to Hesson, the side failed to adjust its approach after assessing the pitch conditions, ultimately costing them the contest.

In terms of adjusting to conditions, we didn't really give ourselves a chance," he remarked.



India, France to Hold 6th Bilateral Defence Dialogue on February 17

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Bengaluru : India and France are set to renew their long-term defence cooperation framework and advance joint weapons manufacturing initiatives as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh co-chairs the sixth annual bilateral defence dialogue with France's Minister of the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Catherine Vautrin in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Officials said the countries will extend their existing defence cooperation agreement for another 10 years and review the full spectrum of defence ties, with particular focus on industrial collaboration, co-production, and technology transfer.

HAMMER Missiles to Be Produced in India

The ministers are expected to oversee the signing of a memorandum of understanding for the production of HAMMER precision-guided air-to-ground missiles in India through a joint venture between Bharat Electronics Limited and Safran Electronics & Defense, aimed at boosting indigenous defence manufacturing.

Helicopter Manufacturing Facility

The leaders will also virtually inaugurate the final assembly line for the Airbus H125 at Vemagal, Karnataka. Set up by Tata Advanced Systems in partnership with Airbus, this marks India's first private-sector helicopter manufacturing unit. The facility is expected to deliver its first helicopter in 2027, including potential military variants (H125M) with significant indigenous components.

Military Cooperation and Strategic Ties

The dialogue may also announce reciprocal officer deployments between the Indian Army and French Land Forces to enhance institutional cooperation and interoperability.

Defence cooperation has been a cornerstone of India–France relations since India's acquisition of French fighter aircraft in the 1950s. France has supplied key platforms, including Mirage 2000, Rafale, and Scorpene-class submarine.

High-level engagements, such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi attending France's Bastille Day parade in 2023, and President Emmanuel Macron as Chief Guest at India's Republic Day in 2024, have strengthened ties further.

The two militaries also conduct regular joint exercises: Exercise Shakti, Exercise Varuna, and Exercise Garuda.

The Bengaluru dialogue comes amid discussions on manufacturing advanced fighter aircraft engines in India, alongside a potential procurement of 114 additional Rafale jets from France, highlighting continued momentum in the strategic partnership.

The annual ministerial-level dialogue, established in 2018, remains a key platform for consolidating defence coordination and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Kiren Rijiju Tells Rahul Gandhi Not to Politicise National Security

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Bumla : Union Minister Kiren Rijiju today visited the India–China border near Bumla Pass in Arunachal Pradesh and criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks on the Galwan Valley clash, asserting that matters of national security should not be politicised.

The Y-Junction at Bumla was among the flashpoints during the 2020 India–China standoff.

Speaking from the border, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said Rahul Gandhi "knows nothing about the border" and should educate himself before making statements on such sensitive issues.

Row Over Galwan Remar

The controversy stems from remarks made by Rahul Gandhi in Parliament, where he cited excerpts from former Army Chief General MM Naravane's memoir to accuse the government of mishandling the 2020 Galwan standoff. Gandhi claimed the book suggested a "paralysis" in political leadership and alleged that the Prime Minister had told the Army Chief to "do what you think is right."

The government strongly objected to the references, arguing that quoting from an unpublished work violates parliamentary norms, harms national security, and goes against the national interest. Gandhi was subsequently barred by the Speaker from mentioning the book in the House.

Reacting to the issue, Rijiju said, "What is there to discuss about a book that has not even been published? We should not be talking about it. This is a matter of national security, and we must approach it with seriousness. The country's security is a very serious issue and should not be turned into a political matter."

Further intensifying his attack, Rijiju, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, said Gandhi lacked understanding of border issues. "He should study and learn a bit. He should have proper knowledge about the border," the minister said.

On Move to Impeach Speaker

Commenting on the Opposition's notice to impeach Om Birla, Rijiju dismissed the move as politically motivated and lacking numbers.

He does not have the numbers to pass an impeachment motion. What will he impeach? It does not work like this. Such things do not happen in Parliament. They raise these matters only to create an issue, but nothing will happen," he said.

The minister also maintained that despite Opposition protests leading to reduced working hours, legislative business in both Houses of Parliament continued without disruption.

Toddler Drowns in Water-Filled Pit Weeks After Techie's Similar Death

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Dehli : Nearly a month after a techie's death in a water-filled pit in Noida, a three-year-old child died after falling into a similar rainwater-filled pit in Dalelgarh village of Greater Noida on Saturday, triggering anger among residents who alleged negligence by local authorities.

The deceased child, Devansh, had come to his maternal grandparents' home in Dalelgarh village in Dankaur with his mother from Sikandrabad in Bulandshahr district. The family had gone to attend a community feast at a nearby temple when the tragedy struck.

While playing near the venue, Devansh reportedly slipped and fell into a deep pit filled with rainwater. Family members and villagers rushed to rescue him, but by the time he was pulled out, he had died.

Villagers Allege Negligence

Residents claimed the pit had remained open for a long time and had filled with water following recent rains. They alleged that repeated complaints were submitted to the Greater Noida Authority seeking action to fill hazardous pits and implement safety measures, but no preventive steps were taken.

Villagers also pointed to concerns raised after a similar incident in Sector 150, saying the administration failed to act despite earlier warnings.

Authority Denies Responsibility

Responding to the incident, the Greater Noida Authority said its work circle team reached the site immediately after receiving information about the drowning near the temple.

In a statement, the authority said the land where the pit existed is registered in the name of a local farmer and is not a government pond. According to officials, rainwater had accumulated in the pit on privately owned land where the child drowned.

Reminder of Techie's Death

The incident comes weeks after the death of Noida techie Yuvraj Mehta, whose car plunged into a waterlogged pit at a construction site in Noida Sector 150 on the intervening night of January 16 and 17.

In that case, Mehta reportedly stood atop his vehicle for nearly two hours as rescue teams hesitated to enter the water due to freezing conditions and submerged iron rods. The incident had sparked widespread criticism over alleged lapses by authorities.

Saturday's tragedy has once again raised serious concerns about safety oversight and preventive action in the region.

On Camera Man Eats Samosa, Then Steals Bike

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Jaipur : In a bizarre case of vehicle theft, a man casually ate a samosa before stealing a motorcycle in Jaipur's Sanganer area — an incident that was captured on CCTV.

The theft occurred around 11 am in the jurisdiction of Sanganer police station. According to footage, the accused walked into the area holding a samosa and spent nearly three minutes calmly finishing it before committing the crime.

Even after reaching the motorcycle he would eventually steal, the man continued munching. At one point, he briefly chatted with another man who was cleaning the premises, raising no suspicion.

After finishing the snack, he looked around to ensure no one was watching, glanced upward briefly, then sat on the motorcycle, started it and rode away.

The bike's owner had reportedly parked it while stepping out to purchase goods. By the time he returned, the vehicle was gone.

Police have launched a search operation to identify and arrest the accused based on CCTV footage.

Narendra Modi to Host Global Tech Leaders at India's Mega AI Summit Today



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : India is set to host the Artificial Intelligence Impact Summit 2026 from today in the national capital, marking a major global convening to shape the future of inclusive, responsible and resilient artificial intelligence.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the India AI Impact Expo 2026 at 5 pm on February 16 at Bharat Mandapam. The Expo is being held alongside the Summit and will serve as a national showcase of AI-driven innovation in action.

Over 300 Pavilions, 600 Startups to Participate

The India AI Impact Expo 2026 will feature more than 300 curated exhibition pavilions and live demonstrations structured across three thematic "chakras" — People, Planet and Progress.

The event will host over 600 high-potential startups and 13 country pavilions, highlighting international collaboration in the AI ecosystem. Global technology firms, startups, academia, research institutions, central and state governments, and international partners are expected to participate.

Welcoming global tech leaders, PM Modi said in a post on X that it was a matter of pride that people from across the world were coming to India for the summit. He added that the event reflects the potential of India's youth and the country's rapid progress in science and technology.

The Prime Minister also announced the theme of the summit — "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya" (welfare for all, happiness for all) — underscoring a shared commitment to harness AI for human-centric progress.

Day One Focus: AI for Road Safety

The first day of the summit will focus on Artificial Intelligence for Road Safety, highlighting data-driven solutions to enhance road safety in India. Experts from the Ministry of Transport, IITs and other sectors will discuss how AI can help analyse crash patterns, predict risks and enable proactive interventions.

Sessions will also explore scalable AI applications for safer mobility, driver training and hyperlocal data-driven models to improve public safety.

AI in Education, Judiciary and Employment

A leadership session will examine how AI is reshaping learning and the future of work, redefining global employment patterns and future skill requirements.

Another key discussion will centre on transforming India's judicial ecosystem through AI, focusing on predictive analytics, automated case management, virtual courts and faster dispute resolution to reduce backlog and improve access to justice.

The summit will also address culturally grounded AI systems, emphasising the need to align technological solutions with social norms across diverse contexts.

Experts will deliberate on the future of employability in the AI age, highlighting opportunities for new job creation while acknowledging the need for large-scale reskilling as automation transforms existing roles.

AI for Agriculture and Global South Leadership

A special session on AI for Smart and Resilient Agriculture — From Research to Solutions will explore how artificial intelligence can support sustainable, climate-resilient farming practices.

Notably, this is the first global AI summit of this series to be held in the Global South. The summit aims to promote inclusive growth, social development and people-centric innovations that protect the planet.

The event builds on five rounds of public consultations and global outreach sessions held in Paris, Berlin, Oslo, New York, Geneva, Bangkok and Tokyo. It is anchored in three guiding principles — the Sutras of People, Planet and Progress — framing how artificial intelligence should serve humanity, safeguard the environment and promote inclusive development.

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Donald Trump: Board of Peace Members Pledge Over $5 Billion for Gaza Aid

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Washington : US President Donald Trump has announced that member states of the newly formed "Board of Peace" have pledged more than $5 billion for humanitarian relief and reconstruction efforts in Gaza ahead of the group's first formal meeting in Washington this week.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the funding commitment would be unveiled at a February 19 gathering in the US capital. He added that participating nations have also agreed to contribute thousands of personnel to a proposed international stabilisation force and local policing structure aimed at maintaining security in the Palestinian enclave.

Inaugural Meeting in Washington

Trump said delegations from more than 20 countries — including several heads of state — are expected to attend Thursday's meeting, to be held at the newly renamed Donald J. Trump Institute of Peace in Washington. The US State Department recently renamed the former US Institute of Peace after the president.

However, it remains unclear how many of the founding members will be present. Benjamin Netanyahu, who met Trump at the White House last week, is not expected to attend.

Backed by UN Resolution

The Board of Peace was endorsed by a United Nations Security Council resolution as part of a US-backed plan to end the Israel–Hamas war in Gaza. Countries including Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Israel and Indonesia have joined the initiative, though some Western allies have expressed caution.

European diplomats have reportedly voiced concerns about the board's scope and purpose, viewing it as a possible parallel forum to the United Nations system at a time when Washington is seeking reforms in multilateral institutions.

Reconstruction Challenges Ahead

The board was created following a US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas that came into effect in October after more than two years of conflict. While large-scale fighting has subsided, both sides continue to accuse each other of violating the truce.

International estimates suggest the pledged funds will cover only a fraction of the rebuilding costs. Assessments by the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union estimate that reconstructing Gaza after widespread destruction could require around $70 billion.

With humanitarian needs still acute and infrastructure severely damaged, the upcoming meeting is expected to focus on coordinating aid delivery, stabilisation mechanisms and long-term reconstruction planning for Gaza.

US Forces Board Second Venezuela-Linked Sanctioned Oil Tanker in Indian Ocean



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Washington : US military forces have boarded a second sanctioned oil tanker linked to Venezuela in the Indian Ocean after tracking the vessel across oceans from the Caribbean, the Pentagon announced Sunday, intensifying efforts to crack down on illicit oil exports.

The operation targeted the Panama-flagged tanker Veronica III, which US authorities say attempted to evade a quarantine on sanctioned vessels ordered last year by President Donald Trump. US forces tracked the ship from the Caribbean Sea before intercepting and boarding it without incident in the Indo-Pacific region following weeks of surveillance and pursuit.

In a statement posted on social media, the Pentagon said the vessel tried to defy the quarantine, but US personnel "tracked it from the Caribbean to the Indian Ocean, closed the distance, and shut it down."

This marks the second such boarding in recent weeks, following a similar interdiction of the tanker Aquila II, which remains held pending a decision on its status.

The Veronica III left Venezuelan waters on January 3 carrying nearly two million barrels of crude and fuel oil, according to shipping trackers. The ship is under US sanctions tied to Iranian-linked shipping networks.

Pentagon officials described the action as a "right-of-visit, maritime interdiction and boarding" conducted under international maritime law, though they did not clarify whether the tanker has been formally seized or placed under US control.

The boardings form part of an expanded US maritime enforcement campaign aimed at disrupting Venezuela's sanctioned oil sector and restricting exports outside approved channels.

The aggressive pursuit underscores Washington's determination to enforce sanctions globally—even in distant waters—and projects its naval reach across multiple oceans as part of broader geopolitical pressure on Caracas.

Mark Zuckerberg Eyes $150-$200 Million Home in Miami's 'Billionaire Bunker'

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Washington : Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan are reportedly in talks to purchase a luxury waterfront estate in Indian Creek Village, Miami — a gated enclave often referred to as the "billionaire bunker.

According to a report by The Wall Street Journal, the property is owned by a limited liability company linked to Peter Cancro, founder of Jersey Mike's Subs. While the deal has not been publicly confirmed, sources suggest the nearly two-acre estate could fetch between $150 million and $200 million. The home was not officially listed for sale, a common practice for ultra-luxury off-market transactions in Miami.

Prime Waterfront Location

The estate is reportedly located on the western side of Indian Creek Village, offering expansive views of Biscayne Bay and direct access to open water. The property includes wraparound terraces, a private dock, landscaped grounds, a waterfront pool, and elaborate water features.

Real estate experts note that western-side lots in Indian Creek measure approximately 80,000 square feet — significantly larger than those on the eastern side — making them highly coveted.

If the deal goes through, Zuckerberg could soon become neighbors with Jeff Bezos, who has acquired multiple properties on the island since announcing his move to Florida in 2023. Bezos purchased a $68 million home that year, followed by a $79 million adjacent property to create a larger compound. In 2024, he added a third Mediterranean-style mansion for $87 million.

About the 'Billionaire Bunker'

Indian Creek Village is a 300-acre man-made island with just 41 residential lots and around 84 residents. It operates as an independent municipality with its own private police force and a single gated bridge controlling entry. The exclusive Indian Creek Country Club features an 18-hole golf course and reportedly charges a $500,000 initiation fee.

Other high-profile residents include Tom Brady and billionaire investor Carl Icahn.

Tax Incentives and Billionaire Migration

Zuckerberg already owns properties in Palo Alto, Washington, D.C., Lake Tahoe and Kauai. His potential move to Florida comes amid discussions in California about a proposed one-time 5% "billionaires' tax," which, if approved, would apply retroactively from January 1, 2026, to individuals with a net worth exceeding $1 billion. Florida, in contrast, has no state income tax — a factor that has drawn several ultra-high-net-worth individuals to the state in recent years.

If finalized, the deal would mark one of the most expensive residential real estate transactions in South Florida and further cement Indian Creek's reputation as one of America's most exclusive neighborhoods.

Kim Ju-ae Emerges Amid Succession Speculation in North Korea

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Seoul : Fresh speculation is swirling around North Korea's leadership succession after a series of high-profile public appearances by Kim Jong Un's teenage daughter, Kim Ju-ae. South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS) has reportedly told lawmakers that the North Korean leader may have "entered the stage of nominating her as successor," intensifying debate among regional analysts.

Kim Ju-ae, believed to be in her early teens, is the only one of Kim Jong Un's children to be publicly acknowledged. State media frequently refers to her as the "beloved daughter" and has increasingly featured her at key national events, including intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launches and military parades in Pyongyang.

Signs of a Possible Transition

According to South Korean lawmakers briefed by the NIS, Ju-ae's role now extends beyond ceremonial appearances. She is said to have "expressed opinions on some measures," an unusual development given the highly secretive nature of the regime.

A major political assembly scheduled later this month — the first in five years — is expected to provide further clues. Intelligence officials will reportedly monitor whether Ju-ae attends, how she is treated, and whether she is granted any formal titles.

Western analysts believe Kim Jong Un has three children, with Ju-ae identified as the middle child. However, details remain unverifiable due to North Korea's extreme secrecy and isolation, which deepened further during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Potential Rivalry Within the Kim Dynasty

Experts caution that a formal declaration of Ju-ae as successor could trigger internal power struggles. Rah Jong-yil, former South Korean ambassador to the UK and ex-deputy head of Seoul's intelligence service, suggested that Kim Yo-jong — Kim Jong Un's influential sister — may also harbor leadership ambitions.

Kim Yo-jong, widely regarded as one of the most powerful figures in North Korea, holds significant influence over the military and state bureaucracy. Analysts say timing will be crucial if competing claims to power emerge.

A History of Ruthless Transitions

North Korea's past leadership changes have not always been smooth. When Kim Jong Un assumed power in 2011 following the death of Kim Jong Il, he later ordered the execution of his uncle, Jang Song-thaek, on charges of treason.

In 2017, Kim's half-brother Kim Jong-nam was assassinated at Kuala Lumpur International Airport using the VX nerve agent.

Global Attention Intensifies

The international community first learned of Kim Ju-ae in 2013, when former NBA player Dennis Rodman visited Pyongyang and later spoke publicly about meeting the child. Ju-ae remained largely out of sight until 2022, when she appeared holding her father's hand during a missile launch event. Since then, her growing visibility has fueled theories that she may be groomed for leadership.

While some analysts view her prominence as a strategic move to shape international perception rather than signal a genuine transition, intelligence agencies across the region continue to watch closely.

With the Kim family having ruled North Korea for three generations, any indication of a shift in succession carries major implications for regional stability and global geopolitics.



Priyank Kharge Questions Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Funding Transparency



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge targeted the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), alleging financial opacity and demanding that the organisation be brought under constitutional and legal scrutiny.

Kharge accused the RSS, considered the ideological mentor of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), of financial irregularities and claimed it routed funds through donations or "guru dakshina." He alleged a lack of clarity regarding the source and utilisation of these funds, and further accused the organisation of money laundering, though he did not provide specific evidence.

They want us to be good citizens and pay income tax, but they want to remain free from paying taxes. How is this possible?" Kharge said at a private event in Bengaluru.

He claimed around 2,500 organisations are associated with the RSS and alleged that funds are being collected from countries including the US and UK. "When every rupee of others is being accounted for, why is there no accountability for their money and spending?" he asked, adding that he would continue to press for the RSS to be registered under constitutional provisions.

RSS Responds on Registration Issue

Kharge's remarks come after RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat reportedly stated that the organisation is a "body of individuals" and therefore does not require registration. Kharge, however, rejected that argument, saying no organisation should be above the law.

He compared the RSS and BJP to a "devil" and its "shadow" and questioned why the RSS does not pay taxes if it operates through structured activities.

Karnataka Government vs RSS Row

The confrontation between the RSS and Karnataka's Congress government has been escalating since late 2025. Kharge had earlier written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over reports that the RSS was using government schools and public grounds for its 'shakhas' (events).

On October 16, the Karnataka government issued an order making prior permission mandatory for private organisations or groups seeking to use government properties or premises for activities. The move came days after Kharge called for restrictions on RSS activities in public spaces.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah later clarified that the order did not amount to a ban on the RSS, stating that the organisation was not specifically mentioned in the directive.

The dispute intensified after a panchayat officer was suspended for attending an RSS programme and further escalated when authorities in Chittapur denied permission for an RSS march in November, citing security concerns.

The political sparring between the Congress-led state government and the RSS continues amid sharp exchanges between both sides.

Shashi Tharoor Praises Priyanka Chopra After Harvard Meet

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Dehli : Actor Priyanka Chopra and Congress MP Shashi Tharoor reunited at the annual Harvard India Conference, where Chopra delivered the closing keynote address at Harvard University.

The event brought together leaders from Indian business, policy and culture, with both Chopra and Tharoor among the headline speakers. Their backstage interaction drew attention from attendees and fans alike.

Tharoor Praises Chopra

Shashi Tharoor shared photographs from backstage on X, writing that he had caught up with Chopra after more than a decade. He commended her achievements, saying she had made India proud by conquering a global stage where Indians rarely appear.

Chopra responded warmly, thanking Tharoor for attending her panel and expressing admiration for his oratory skills and public engagement.

Reflects on Defining Years in US

During her keynote, Chopra spoke about her formative years in the United States and how moving abroad at a young age shaped her independence and identity.

Your life is a sum of choices and experiences," she said, reflecting on how her teenage years in America influenced the adult she became.

Chopra, who has built a successful career across Bollywood and Hollywood, is widely regarded as one of the few Indian actors to successfully bridge the two industries.

Prominent Speakers Attend

The Harvard India Conference featured speakers from technology, finance, literature and sport, including badminton champion P. V. Sindhu. The event highlighted Indian leadership and explored issues related to India's global presence and development.

On the work front, Chopra is set to return to Indian cinema with filmmaker S. S. Rajamouli's upcoming project, co-starring Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran.

Samajwadi Party Leader Killed as High Mast Pole Falls on Moving Car

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Pratapgarh : A local Samajwadi Party leader died today after a high mast light pole being installed near a petrol pump collapsed onto his moving car in Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh district. The incident, which occurred in a busy market area, was captured on CCTV.

The victim, 48-year-old Lal Bahadur Yadav, was travelling from Babuganj towards Pratapgarh city in his Creta for personal work when the accident took place barely 500 metres from his residence

According to officials, a nearly 65-foot-high high mast pole belonging to Bharat Petroleum was being erected with the help of a crane in front of a petrol pump. The structure, reportedly weighing around 40 quintals, fell after the crane's strap suddenly snapped during installation. The heavy pole crashed directly onto Yadav's vehicle, crushing it.

Local residents rushed to the scene, broke open the car door and pulled him out. He was taken to a nearby community health centre, where doctors declared him dead.

Police said a case has been recorded and an inquiry is underway to examine safety arrangements and determine possible negligence in the installation process.

Yadav was a Public Works Department (PWD) contractor by profession and also held a country liquor contract. He had contested the Antu Nagar Panchayat elections twice but was unsuccessful.

He was the eldest among three brothers and a sister and is survived by four daughters and a son.

Aalin Sherin's Parents Hailed For Compassionate Organ Donation Decision



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Pathanamthitta : Kerala bid a heart-rending farewell to 10-month-old Aalin Sherin Abraham, the state's youngest organ donor, as she was laid to rest with full state honours days after giving a new lease of life to five critically ill recipients.

Police accorded a ceremonial guard of honour outside a church in Pathanamthitta district where the funeral service was held in the presence of Kerala Health Minister Veena George and Union Minister Suresh Gopi. Hundreds of mourners gathered to pay their final respects.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan described the parents' decision as a monumental act of compassion. "In the midst of unimaginable pain, her parents chose to donate her organs. By becoming Kerala's youngest organ donor, little Aalin has granted a new lease of life to five others," he said in a tribute.

Fatal Road Acciden

Aalin, daughter of Arun Abraham and Sherin Ann John, suffered critical injuries in a road accident on February 5 when a car rammed into their vehicle near a junction in Pathanamthitta district. Her mother and grandparents were also seriously injured

After initial treatment at local hospitals, the infant was shifted to Kochi for advanced care. Despite intensive medical efforts, doctors declared her brain dead on February 12. In the midst of grief, her parents made the courageous decision to donate her organs.

Green Corridor Saves Lives

An extraordinary effort followed to transport the organs swiftly from Kochi to Thiruvananthapuram through a specially created green corridor.

As civil aviation rules did not permit a night-time helicopter transfer, the Kerala government and police arranged ambulance transport under strict traffic restrictions and manual signalling. The nearly 230-kilometre journey was completed in just 3 hours and 20 minutes.

Her liver was transplanted into a six-month-old infant at a private hospital, the kidneys were sent to Government Medical College for a 10-year-old child, and the heart valve was transferred to a hospital within the Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram campus. The corneas were donated to a private hospital eye bank.

Emotional Tributes

The infant's death and organ donation drew tributes from across the country. Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar said he was deeply moved by the parents' selfless decision.

MP IAS Officer Marries For Third Time, Bride Also a Bureaucrat

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Bhopal : Senior IAS officer Avi Prasad has married for the third time, drawing attention within administrative and political circles in Madhya Pradesh. Notably, all three of his spouses have been Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers.

Prasad, a 2014-batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, tied the knot with 2017-batch IAS officer Ankita Dhakre on February 11 at Kuno National Park. Dhakre is currently posted as Deputy Secretary in the state administrative services department. Photographs from the ceremony have circulated widely on social media, evoking mixed reactions.

Background and Career

Originally from Sitapur district in Uttar Pradesh, Prasad first cleared the UPSC Civil Services Examination in 2013, securing selection to the IPS. He later secured All India Rank 13 in 2014 to join the IAS.

He comes from a political background — his grandfather, Tambeshwar Prasad alias Baccha Babu, served as a minister in the government of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh.

Within the Madhya Pradesh administration, Prasad has held several key field postings, including serving as District Panchayat CEO and Collector in multiple districts. His tenure as Collector of Katni gained attention for initiatives aimed at tackling malnutrition. He currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Employment Guarantee Council in Madhya Pradesh.

Previous Marriages

Prasad's first marriage was to IAS officer Riju Bafna, who is currently serving as Collector of Shajapur in Madhya Pradesh. The two reportedly met during their civil services preparation in Delhi. The marriage ended in divorce after a few years.

He later married 2016-batch IAS officer Misha Singh. Following their marriage, Singh moved to the Madhya Pradesh cadre. The couple separated after about four years. Singh is presently serving as Collector of Ratlam, having taken charge in 2025.

Prasad's third marriage has sparked discussion in bureaucratic circles, though no official statement has been issued regarding public reaction.

5 Killed in Bengaluru After Car Jumps Divider, Hits KSRTC Bus

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Bengaluru : Five people were killed in a tragic road accident on the northern outskirts of Bengaluru last night after a Tata Indica car rammed into a KSRTC bus.

According to police sources, the car, carrying five passengers, was allegedly overspeeding when the driver lost control. The vehicle first hit a divider, crossed into the opposite lane, and collided head-on with a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus. The impact was so severe that the car was completely mangled. Four passengers, aged between 17 and 22, died on the spot. The fifth occupant sustained critical injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he later succumbed.

All 43 passengers aboard the bus were safely evacuated and shifted to another bus to continue their journey.

Probe Underway

Bengaluru police have launched an investigation into the accident. Joint Commissioner of Police Karthik Reddy said authorities are examining the exact cause of the crash, including whether the driver or occupants had consumed alcohol.

We have gathered blood samples and sent them to the Forensic Science Laboratory for tests. Their background is also being verified," he told PTI.

Family in Shoc

The mother of one of the victims said her son had informed her he was going to a temple and would return late.

I have lost my son, who had just come of age. He was working as a CCTV camera operator. They were all friends. I don't know whose car it was," she said.

Police are continuing their investigation to determine the sequence of events leading to the fatal collision.

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