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Modi Begins Two-Day Israel Visit to Boost Strategic Partnership



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Prime Minister Narendra Modi departed on a two-day visit to Israel, expressing confidence that his meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will strengthen cooperation and deepen bilateral ties.

The visit aims to advance the India–Israel Strategic Partnership and expand collaboration in defence, agriculture, water management, innovation, science and technology, trade, and investment.

This will be Modi's second visit to Israel after his landmark 2017 trip, which opened new avenues of cooperation. He described India–Israel relations as a "robust and multifaceted Strategic Partnership" and said discussions will also cover regional and global issues. During the visit, Modi will meet Israeli President Isaac Herzog and address the Knesset, becoming the first Indian Prime Minister to do so. He will also interact with the Indian diaspora.

India's Ministry of External Affairs said the visit will reaffirm the deep strategic partnership, while Netanyahu termed it a milestone and highlighted plans to expand cooperation in advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence and quantum research.

Tharoor Criticises Move to Rename Kerala as 'Keralam'



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Congress MP Shashi Tharoor criticised the Centre's decision to rename Kerala as "Keralam," saying the government is prioritising a name change over development projects. He noted that "Keralam" is already the Malayalam name for the state and questioned the practical value of introducing the term in English while major projects such as AIIMS and new institutions remain pending.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recently approved the proposal following a resolution passed by the state assembly.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had sought the change in official records across languages listed in the Constitution.

Tharoor also raised a linguistic query about terms like "Keralite" and "Keralan," joking that alternatives such as "Keralamite" or "Keralamian" sounded unusual.

The decision comes ahead of the upcoming state Assembly elections.

SC Stays Trial Against Hemant Soren in Money Laundering Case



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Supreme Court of India on Wednesday stayed the trial proceedings in a money laundering case registered against Hemant Soren, offering interim relief to the Jharkhand Chief Minister.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi issued notice to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Soren's plea seeking quashing of the case. The court's order effectively pauses the ongoing trial until further hearing. In his petition before the apex court, Soren challenged the Jharkhand High Court's recent decision refusing to quash the proceedings against him. On January 15, the High Court had declined to set aside the cognisance taken by a special MP-MLA court in a complaint filed by the ED, dealing a setback to the JMM leader. The ED had initiated the complaint case alleging that Soren failed to appear before the agency despite repeated summons in connection with an alleged land scam.

In his plea, Soren also questioned the legality of the repeated summons issued to him. The Supreme Court's stay order now provides temporary relief to the Chief Minister as the matter awaits further adjudication.

Rishab Shetty Visits Mantralayam. Shares Update on 'Jai Hanuman'



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Karnataka : Actor-director Rishab Shetty visited Mantralayam in Karnataka's Raichur district with his wife Pragathi Shetty to attend the Guru Vaibhavotsava celebrations dedicated to Raghavendra Swamy. The visit coincided with Rayaru's birth anniversary, adding special significance to the occasion as devotees gathered in large numbers.

Shetty offered prayers at Rayaru's Brindavana and expressed his deep spiritual bond with the shrine. "I find peace of mind whenever I come to Mantralayam. It's my good fortune to get Rayaru's darshan. We keep visiting regularly," he said, becoming emotional while speaking to the media. During the visit, Shetty also shared updates on his upcoming film Jai Hanuman, directed by Prasanth Varma.

He revealed that the muhurat ceremony was recently held and shooting will begin soon. Calling it a film with a strong message, he expressed confidence that audiences would appreciate its scale and grandeur once the teaser and trailer are released.

When asked about making a film on Rayaru, Shetty said it would be a challenging task and refrained from making any commitments for now.



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India Begins 90-Day HPV Vaccine Drive For 14-Year-Old Girls

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

The Indian government has approved a nationwide 90-day health campaign starting March 2026 to provide free Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines to 14-year-old girls, aiming to combat cervical cancer, which claims nearly 80,000 lives annually in the country.

Under the program, the quadrivalent Gardasil 4 vaccine, produced by Merck & Co, will be administered at government health facilities. This vaccine targets four strains of HPV, including high-risk types 16 and 18, which are responsible for approximately 83 percent of cervical cancer cases in India. The vaccine uses virus-like particles (VLPs), engineered proteins resembling the virus's outer shell, to trigger an immune response without causing infection. Antibodies generated by the vaccine can recognize and neutralize the virus if exposed later in life.



HPV is a DNA virus that primarily infects epithelial cells. While low-risk types may cause warts, high-risk types produce proteins that disable tumor-suppressor mechanisms, potentially leading to cervical cancer. Most infections resolve naturally, but persistent infections can transform healthy cells into cancerous ones.

Vaccinating girls at age 14 ensures protection well before typical exposure to HPV while taking advantage of the adolescent immune system, which produces robust and long-lasting antibodies. WHO and CDC guidelines recommend pre-exposure vaccination, and recent studies confirm that a single dose at this age provides strong immunity. The government's initiative emphasizes early prevention as the most effective strategy against cervical cancer.

Although this drive targets girls, HPV also affects males, contributing to cancers of the throat, head, neck, and genitals. Vaccinating boys, as seen in some private-sector programs using Gardasil 9, contributes to herd immunity, reducing virus circulation in the population. The vaccine is safe, with decades of CDC and WHO data supporting its excellent safety profile. Minor side effects like soreness at the injection site or mild fever are common. India's indigenous HPV vaccine, Cervavac, alongside Gardasil 4, strengthens the country's public health measures against cervical cancer.

Health officials stress that this initiative is part of a larger effort to eliminate cervical cancer and improve adolescent health nationwide. By combining science-based vaccination with early awareness programs, India aims to significantly reduce the burden of cervical cancer in future generations.

This 90-day campaign marks a major milestone in preventive healthcare, highlighting the importance of early intervention, public awareness, and government-led health programs in protecting young populations from life-threatening diseases.



Atul Sharma



Astro Speak by: Rajesh Kumar

Birth Date 26th Feb

Born on 26th Feb : 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 25th 2026 : Your personality will act like a perfume today. Sudden inflow of funds takes care of your bills and immediate expenses. A favorable day for domestic matters and finishing pending household jobs. Forgive bitter trifles in your love life.

Taurus

February 25th 2026 : Your polite behaviour will be appreciated. Many people will shower verbal praise on you. Today, you can take your family members out for a get-together and spend a lot of money on them. Great day when you would receive all the attention you want.

Gemini

February 25th 2026 : You need to exhibit extreme courage and strength as you face some traumas. You could easily overcome these by your optimistic attitude. Today, with the help of a native of the opposite sex, you are likely to get financial benefits in business or job.

Cancer

February 25th 2026 : Take care of your well being otherwise things might take a turn for the worse. Those who are married may have to spend a lot of money on the education of their children today. Think before sharing your confidential information with your spouse.

Leo

February 25th 2026 : You will have enough time to yourself today so, go out for a long walk for the sake of your good health. Those who have borrowed money from anyone may have to repay the loan under any circumstances. In such a manner it can weaken your economic.

Virgo

February 25th 2026 : A wonderful day to do things that would make you feel good about yourself. Money gains will not be to your expectations.

Love- companionship and bonding on the rise. Romance would be pleasurable and highly exciting.

Libra

February 25th 2026 : Attend some social gathering to change your mood. Those who were spending money without thinking much till now can understand its importance in life, as an urgent need can arise. Romantic moves will not pay. You will remain mentally calm.

Scorpio

February 25th 2026 : Desert your stubborn attitude for the sake of your happy life as it is sheer waste of time. Real estate investment would be lucrative. Likely to get some good news which will not only enthrall you but your family also. You need to keep your excitement.

Sagittarius

February 25th 2026 : Overeating and high calorie diet needs to be avoided. Today, you can spend a lot of money on a party with friends, but despite this, your financial side will remain strong today. Younger brother or sister may seek your advice. You must convey your message.

Capricorn

February 25th 2026 : Sound health will enable you to participate in sports competition. Financially, you will remain strong. Due to the benefic placement of planets and nakshatras, you'll come across numerous opportunities to earn money today.

Aquarius

February 25th 2026 : Your are likely to enjoy the success of other people by praising them. Those who still haven't received their salaries can get worried regarding money matters, and ask any of their friends for a loan. Your charms and personality will help you make few.

Pisces

February 25th 2026 : Health will be perfect despite a hectic day. Finances improve later in the day. Some cleaning up around your house needs to be done immediately. You needn't dream about your erotic fantasies anymore; they might come true today.

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INLD Vows to Play Active Opposition in HR Calls Congress "Failed"

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : On the fourth day of the budget session in the Haryana Assembly, INLD Legislative Party leader Aditya Devilal criticized the Congress for failing in its role as the main opposition and asserted that his party would assume the responsibility of raising key public issues effectively. He requested the Speaker to place the two INLD legislators' seats in the front row to facilitate their work, to which the Speaker responded that the matter would be considered.

During the Question Hour, Devilal raised concerns over incomplete sports infrastructure, including the Masitan village stadium, which has remained unfinished for nine years, and the Guru Gobind Singh Stadium in Dabwali. He questioned the delay and alleged mismanagement, urging the Sports Minister to clarify when these projects would be completed. Devilal also strongly objected to the recruitment of candidates from other states in government jobs, accusing both the BJP and Congress of neglecting the future of Haryana's youth. He pointed out that despite High Court-mandated investigations, those responsible have not been held accountable.

Commenting on the Governor's Address, INLD MLA Arjun Chautala criticized the government for making "marketing stunts" instead of delivering results. He highlighted shortcomings in education, human development, law and order, women empowerment, and environmental protection. Chautala also questioned government practices such as charging flood victims for surveys, inadequate admissions under the Super 100 and Guru-Shishya programs, and the shortage of trained police personnel.

Both Devilal and Chautala emphasized that the people of Haryana are now aware of the government's unfulfilled promises and will not be satisfied with plans that exist only on paper.

The INLD leaders stated that their party would actively raise issues impacting the state's youth and citizens, ensuring accountability and effective opposition in the Assembly.

The remarks underline INLD's commitment to playing a proactive role in Haryana politics, particularly in highlighting governance gaps, incomplete development projects, and policies affecting employment, education, and social welfare.

AAP Slams Sukhbir Badal Over Drug Gangster Comments in Pb

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mohali : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab's State Media In-charge, Baltej Pannu, today strongly reacted to Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Singh Badal's statement that drug traffickers and gangsters would be declared "terrorists" in the first cabinet meeting if his party comes to power.

Addressing a press conference at the AAP office, Pannu accused Sukhbir Badal of living in the past and ignoring the role of the Akali-BJP government in fostering drugs and gangsterism in Punjab between 2007 and 2017. "Before 2007, Punjab had never heard the word 'gangster'. It was during Sukhbir Badal's tenure that criminals received political patronage and roamed freely," he said.

Pannu recalled several high-profile incidents during the SAD rule, including the Nabha jail break, the abduction of a minor in Faridkot, and the murder of an ASI in Amritsar. He alleged that criminals involved in these cases were openly celebrated and later became gangsters, while drug outlets proliferated across the state. "Between 2007 and 2012, drug outlets spread across Punjab, and after 2012, the drug menace peaked. Whenever police arrested drug smugglers, their photos with Akali leaders surfaced, and ministers intervened for their release," Pannu added. Highlighting the efforts of the current AAP government, Pannu said, "The Bhagwant Mann-led government is honestly fighting a war against drugs and gangsters. Committees have been formed down to the village level, and the police are working with full alertness." He criticized Sukhbir Badal, saying his statements were driven by a hunger for power and an attempt to rebuild the old drug empire.

Pannu also reminded the public of past incidents of sacrilege during SAD's tenure in Bargari and Burj Jawahar Singh Wala, and the Kotkapura firing, in which Sukhbir Badal is currently out on bail. "The people of Punjab have not forgotten the blood of their loved ones and the destruction caused to youth during their rule," he said.Concluding his statement, Baltej Pannu urged Sukhbir Singh Badal to answer the people about his decade in power, the rise of drugs, and how small-time mechanics became billionaires.

He said Punjab has now recognized the "true face" of the SAD leadership.

HR Secretariat Employee Commits Suicide by Jumping From Sixth Floor

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : : In a tragic incident at the Haryana Secretariat, Ganesh Das Arora, Special Senior Secretary to IAS officer Hitesh Kumar Meena, died after jumping from the sixth floor of the building today afternoon. The incident occurred around 12:24 pm, and Arora was rushed to Civil Hospital, Sector 16, where doctors declared him dead.

Eyewitnesses said Arora had returned to duty on Wednesday after being on leave following a previous suicide attempt on February 9, when he had tried to jump from the roof of the Secretariat but was stopped by bystanders. While working in his office on Wednesday, he suddenly stood up and jumped without warning.

Colleagues noted that Arora had recently been promoted to Special Senior Secretary, which involved a branch transfer. The change reportedly angered him. He was due to retire in October this year. His wife, Uma Arora, posted at the Governor's House, has not commented on the incident.Police have taken custody of the body, now at the Civil Hospital mortuary. No suicide note has been found, and statements are being recorded from colleagues and witnesses. Further investigation will depend on medical reports and witness accounts. The Haryana Secretariat has witnessed similar tragedies before. Around a year and a half ago, an Agriculture Department employee also committed suicide by jumping from the building, prompting concerns about employee mental health.

Ganesh Arora had earlier served under IAS officer Aditya before his recent posting with Hitesh Kumar Meena, a 2019 cadre officer from Rajasthan, who currently serves as Additional Secretary, PWD (B&R), and Additional Chief Executive Officer of the Haryana Farmers Welfare Authority. The incident has shocked Secretariat staff and raised questions about workplace pressures and mental health support for government employees.

PEC 'Survey of India Sign MoU for Geospatial Research

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES





Chandigarh : The NSS Units and Red Ribbon Club of Government College of Commerce and Business Administration, Sector-50, Chandigarh, in collaboration with NIFFAA and Shree Shiv Kanwar Mahasangh Charitable Trust, organised a blood donation camp on February 25, 2026, at the college campus. The initiative was aimed at collecting blood exclusively for Thalassemia patients, highlighting the institution's continued commitment to community service and public health awareness.

Principal Prof (Dr) Nisha Aggarwal attended the event as Chief Guest and was felicitated with a memento by Dr Aanchal Malik, Dr Yogesh Kumar (NSS Programme Officer Units), and Dr Subina Syal (Convenor, Red Ribbon Club). More than 175 volunteers enthusiastically participated in the camp, with medical teams carefully examining their health parameters before donation.

In the run-up to the camp, NSS Units and Red Ribbon Club volunteers conducted awareness drives across various sectors of Chandigarh from February 18 to 24, mobilising support for the noble cause. The effort resulted in the collection of 107 units of blood from staff members, alumni, students, volunteers and members of the general public, providing crucial support to Thalassemia patients in need of regular transfusions.

A special highlight of the event was the remarkable contribution of Mr Pragraj Sharma from the Blood Donor Society, Sector-50, Chandigarh, who has donated blood 221 times, averaging four donations annually. His extraordinary dedication served as an inspiration to all present. Additionally, the Red Ribbon Club organised intra-college events under "Youth Unplugged 2026" to promote HIV/AIDS awareness.

Winners were felicitated by the Principal and Dean Dr Sangam Kapoor, encouraging youth-led initiatives and social responsibility.

The college expressed gratitude to all donors, volunteers and partner organisations for making the camp a resounding success.

PIC OF THE DAY

Who Cares...?

Heaps of Garbage Plague Ward No. 10-Kahalon



Atul Sharma

Mohali : Residents Call for Immediate Action as Piles of Waste Persist Across the ward No 10 stated former MC Paramjit Singh Kahalon. Ward No. 10 – Heaps of garbage have become a common and troubling sight in Ward No. 10, as piles of waste accumulate on streets, in alleyways, and near residential areas. Former MC Paramjit Singh Kahalon said Residents have voiced their growing concerns over the lack of waste management services, which has led to unsanitary conditions, unpleasant odors, and a worsening public health crisis. Kahalon said residents have been forced to navigate through overflowing trash bins, causing an eyesore and a potential breeding ground for pests. The situation has been further exacerbated by inadequate garbage collection, with some areas going s without a pickup and added that, "The situation is unbearable." It feels like the authorities are ignoring us. Several complaints have been filed with the municipal corporation, but there has been little response, residents are frustrated with the slow pace of improvement, pointing to the lack of proper infrastructure for waste disposal in the area.

Experts warn that uncollected waste can lead to serious public health issues, including the spread of diseases or infections. "Without timely garbage collection and proper waste management, the risk of these diseases increases," said former MC Paramjit Singh Kahalon.Meanwhile, concerned residents are calling for immediate steps to address the growing garbage problem.

They are urging local officials to act quickly to restore cleanliness and prevent any further public health risks.

But Who Cares...?

From 'Challangarh' to Citizen-Friendly DGP Resets Traffic Policing



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Nicknamed "Challangarh" for its massive volume of traffic fines, Chandigarh saw a significant shift in approach in 2025 as new DGP Sagar Preet Hooda moved from penalty-driven enforcement to more public-friendly policing.

Between 2021 and 2025, the Chandigarh Traffic Police issued 36.2 lakh challans and collected over Rs 127 crore in fines. The surge in enforcement came as the city's vehicle population climbed towards 15 lakh — exceeding its estimated human population of 12.5 lakh — with over 100 new vehicles being registered daily. Official data accessed by The Tribune shows a steep year-on-year rise in challans between 2021 and 2024. In 2021, 2,39,654 challans were issued. The number nearly tripled in 2022 to 5,96,779 after the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS), equipped with AI-enabled cameras, became fully operational.

Enforcement peaked in 2023, when challans crossed 9.9 lakh. In 2024, the figure remained high at 9,91,706, placing Chandigarh among the most intensively policed traffic jurisdictions in the country. The number of impounded vehicles also rose sharply during this period.

After taking charge in July 2025, DGP Hooda directed officials to shift focus from purely punitive action to awareness-based and citizen-friendly regulation, aiming to improve compliance while shedding the "Challangarh" tag.

Officer Given Additional Charge to Keep Chd DRT-II Functional



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : In a move to prevent a shutdown of the debt tribunal system, a Delhi-based Presiding Officer has been given additional charge of DRT-II, Chandigarh, ensuring that at least one of the city's three Debts Recovery Tribunals continues to function. The Punjab and Haryana High Court was informed of the development today.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has assigned Shiv Kumar-I, Presiding Officer of DRT-3, Delhi, to hold additional charge of DRT-II, Chandigarh, for six months from February 14, 2026, or until a regular officer is appointed, whichever is earlier. Similarly, Pravas Kumar Singh, Presiding Officer of DRT, Lucknow, has been given additional charge of DRT, Ranchi, for a six-month period starting December 29, 2025.

The Bench, headed by Chief Justice Sheel Nagu, noted the temporary arrangement and stressed the need for a regular incumbent to maintain a functional tribunal system.

Additional Solicitor-General Satya Pal Jain informed the court that the order was issued late on February 24 and highlighted that one Chandigarh DRT officer is retiring on March 31, creating urgency.

Senior advocate Anand Chhibbar acknowledged the efforts but warned that giving additional charge to an officer from Delhi could create logistical challenges, including the need to shift records to the national capital. He emphasized the volume of cases, with 70–100 matters listed daily before the DRTs, and 30–40 requiring urgent attention, cautioning that non-functioning tribunals could overload the High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution.

The development comes amid earlier fears that all three Chandigarh DRTs — serving Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and the Union Territory — could become non-functional. Two tribunals were already without Presiding Officers, and the third was set to fall vacant in March. With the ACC's approval, DRT-II will now remain operational under temporary leadership, buying time for the Centre to appoint regular officers and avoid disruption of debt recovery proceedings.

Himachal Celebrates Arunachal & Mizoram Foundation Day



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Shimla : Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla presided over a felicitation ceremony at Lok Bhavan today to commemorate the foundation day of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. During the event, citizens from these states residing in Himachal Pradesh were honoured with traditional Himachali caps and mufflers as a mark of recognition.

The Governor engaged in detailed discussions with the attendees about the rich culture, heritage, customs, and traditions of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, highlighting the importance of cultural exchange in fostering understanding between states.

Lady Governor and Chairperson of the State Red Cross Hospital Welfare Section, Janaki Shukla, also attended the event, adding to the celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Shukla emphasized that such events promote the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', strengthening national unity and fraternity. He noted that each state in India has a unique cultural identity, and this diversity is the true strength of the nation. Exposure to different traditions, he said, helps build mutual respect and strengthens inter-state bonds.

Citizens from Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram expressed their gratitude for the recognition and warm hospitality extended to them, sharing their experiences and highlighting the significance of such initiatives in celebrating cultural diversity. The event underscored Himachal Pradesh's commitment to fostering cultural harmony and unity among different communities, while celebrating the heritage of India's northeastern states.

Kochi Launch Knowledge Exchange For Better Urban Governance

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : The Chandigarh Municipal Corporation has launched a formal knowledge exchange program with the Kochi Municipal Corporation aimed at improving urban governance and development. The initiative seeks to enable both cities to learn from each other's successful practices in sanitation, waste management, urban planning, and environmental sustainability. Under the program, Chandigarh councillors and officials will visit Kochi to study its solid waste management systems, sanitation operations, e-governance initiatives, and revenue collection mechanisms.

The experience is expected to help Chandigarh adopt practical, efficient methods to enhance municipal services and governance. In return, a delegation from Kochi will visit Chandigarh to gain insights into the city's urban planning strategies, management of green spaces, and horticultural practices. The exchange is designed to foster collaboration, share best practices, and implement solutions addressing challenges faced by both cities.

Chandigarh Mayor Saurabh Joshi highlighted the importance of learning from successful cities to strengthen administrative and urban systems. "The objective of this initiative is to implement practical and better systems in Chandigarh by learning from cities that have achieved measurable success in governance and citizen services," he said.

The program comes amid a nationwide emphasis on improving civic amenities and promoting sustainable urban development. Officials believe inter-city collaboration will enhance planning, reduce inefficiencies, and encourage innovation in municipal service delivery.

The initiative also aims to create a long-term platform for Chandigarh and Kochi to exchange tools, strategies, and insights on issues such as urban congestion, waste management, and environmental sustainability. By integrating lessons from Kochi's experience with Chandigarh's innovations, the Municipal Corporation plans to implement more effective systems to improve residents' quality of life. The program is expected to serve as a model for other cities, promoting evidence-based governance and collaborative urban development.

This initiative underscores Chandigarh's commitment to modern, citizen-friendly city management and strategic urban growth.

SGPC Chief Fines Staff Rs 2,100 for Violating Dress Code

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mohali : Amid efforts to maintain discipline and uphold the spiritual ethos of Sikh shrines, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) president Harjinder Singh Dhami reprimanded around 20 managers and accountants for wearing western-style clothing during a meeting convened by him. Staff members dressed in coats, jeans, pants, and shirts were directed to deposit Rs 2,100 each into the Guru's golak as a penalty.

The SGPC has been emphasizing adherence to the traditional kurta-pyjama dress code for its employees to align with the sanctity of gurdwaras and to facilitate easy identification of staff among large congregations of devotees. The reprimand took place during a meeting of personnel from gurdwaras under Section 85 of the Sikh Gurdwara Act, which were recently reassigned from SGPC secretary Partap Singh to additional secretary Gurinder Singh Mathrewal on February 13. The reshuffle followed a police case registered in Mohali on February 9 concerning the alleged sale of land belonging to Gurdwara Amb Sahib in Saini Majra near IT City. Seven individuals, including a gurdwara manager, were booked on charges of cheating, forgery, and criminal conspiracy, based on a complaint by SGPC secretary Partap Singh.

The enforcement of the dress code and imposition of fines have sparked criticism and raised questions about SGPC's priorities. Giani Harpreet Singh, president of SAD (Punar Surjit), a breakaway Akali faction, accused the SGPC of shielding senior officials and attempting to evade accountability. He questioned why the committee declared the signature of a senior official as forged even before the completion of the probe, suggesting a hurried cover-up to protect insiders. The incident highlights tensions within the SGPC over staff discipline, administrative reshuffles, and ongoing investigations into alleged irregularities, with critics arguing that symbolic measures such as fines for attire cannot replace transparency and accountability in matters of serious financial and legal concern.

Trident Group to Hire 3,000+ Workers in Manufacturing Drive

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mohali : Trident Limited, the flagship company of the Trident Group, has announced a large-scale recruitment initiative to onboard more than 3,000 professionals, or "Karamyogis," across its manufacturing operations. The drive aligns with India's national agenda to strengthen skill development and boost employment in the textile manufacturing sector.

Commenting on the initiative, Pooja B. Luthra, Group CHRO of Trident, said, "Talent forms the foundation of India's manufacturing transformation. Through this hiring drive, we are strengthening our workforce while supporting the vision of a resilient, future-ready manufacturing ecosystem. Beyond business expansion, our focus remains on nurturing long-term careers, empowering communities, and contributing to India's journey towards global manufacturing leadership." The recruitment covers multiple technical and operational roles including operators, weavers, stitchers, fitters, electricians, and other skilled positions. Selections will be made based on candidates' qualifications and relevant industry experience.

Trident has also announced a structured compensation framework based on experience. Professionals with up to three years of experience will earn ₹25,000 per month, those with three to five years will receive ₹36,000 per month, and candidates with five to seven years of expertise will be offered ₹50,000 per month. In addition to competitive salaries, employees will benefit from performance-linked incentives, variable pay, structured learning and development programmes, free hostel accommodation, subsidised meals, access to sports and gym facilities, medical assistance, Provident Fund and ESI coverage, along with periodic recognition and rewards.

This recruitment drive underscores Trident Group's commitment to investing in human capital as a core element of its growth strategy. By expanding its skilled workforce, the company aims to strengthen manufacturing capabilities, ensure inclusive progress, and provide long-term financial security and career advancement opportunities for its employees.

With this initiative, Trident reinforces its position as a leading player in India's textile manufacturing industry while contributing to the national goal of a skilled and employable workforce.

10.76-Crore Service Road Project Launched to Improve Connectivity

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Ludhiana : Work has begun on a Rs 10.76-crore service road project in Dhuri, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's constituency, aimed at improving traffic flow and strengthening urban infrastructure. The initiative is part of broader efforts to enhance road connectivity and ease congestion across the town.

The project covers around 14.25 km within the Municipal Council limits and involves constructing service roads on both sides of the covered drain passing through key areas. Market Committee Chairman Rajwant Singh Ghulli and Dr Anwar Bhasaur, member of the Punjab Waqf Board, formally inaugurated the work.

Key stretches include Dhura village to Bagrian T-Point, Jagatpura to Bardrwal Road, Mansa Devi Temple Road, Sangrur Bypass to Kakrawal Bridge, and Walia Studio to the Truck Union. Officials said the upgraded roads will support smoother vehicular and pedestrian movement, improving traffic management and accessibility to markets, schools, temples, and other public spaces.

The project reflects the government's focus on modernizing town infrastructure, supporting regional connectivity, and boosting local economic activity.

Once completed, it is expected to reduce travel time, enhance commuter convenience, and contribute to Dhuri's overall urban development, marking a significant step forward in the town's infrastructure growth.

Sandeep Reddy Vanga Lands in Udaipur For Vijay-Rashmika Wedding

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mumbai : Filmmaker Sandeep Reddy Vanga was spotted at Udaipur airport on Wednesday, fuelling excitement ahead of the much-anticipated wedding of actors Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna. The director, who shares a close professional bond with both stars, was photographed by paparazzi as he arrived in the city for the celebrations.

Vanga kept his look casual yet festive, wearing a colourful kurta paired with jeans and sunglasses. His presence at the venue comes as no surprise, given his longstanding association with the couple. He made his directorial debut with the Telugu blockbuster Arjun Reddy, which featured Vijay Deverakonda in the lead role and catapulted both the actor and the filmmaker to national fame. Years later, Vanga cast Rashmika Mandanna in his Hindi film Animal, further strengthening their professional ties.

Vijay and Rashmika are set to tie the knot on February 26 and are currently immersed in their pre-wedding festivities in Udaipur. The couple has shared glimpses of the celebrations on their Instagram Stories, offering fans a sneak peek into the intimate yet grand affair.

The wedding is being held at ITC Mementos Udaipur, a luxury hilltop resort located approximately 25 kilometres from the city.

The property boasts 117 private villas and is uniquely surrounded by both a river and a lake, providing a scenic backdrop for the ceremonies.

In a heartfelt joint statement confirming their wedding, the couple acknowledged the special nickname given to them by fans — "VIROSH." Expressing gratitude, they announced that their union would be called "The Wedding of VIROSH," thanking supporters for their unwavering love and affection.

Vijay and Rashmika got engaged on October 3 last year in a private ceremony in Hyderabad. With close friends and family gathering in Udaipur, the wedding promises to be one of the most talked-about celebrity events of the year.

Anil Kapoor Shares Candid Family Moments at 'Subedaar' Trailer Launch

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : Veteran actor Anil Kapoor is all set for the release of his upcoming film Subedaar, and at the trailer launch event, he won hearts with his candid and humorous reflections on family life. Despite enjoying decades of stardom and a massive fan following, Kapoor revealed that at home, he is treated no differently from any other family member.

Recalling a light-hearted moment, Kapoor shared that as he was leaving for the trailer launch, he told his wife, Sunita Kapoor, about the event.

To his amusement, she asked, "Which film?" Kapoor laughed while narrating the incident, adding that his family remains largely unaware of the details of his professional life. "That's the kind of family I come from. They treat me exactly the same," he said. In another humorous admission, he mentioned that he sometimes asks his wife for Rs 10,000–15,000 in cash before heading to a shoot.

Anil and Sunita Kapoor recently marked 41 years of marriage, having tied the knot on 19 May 1984. Speaking emotionally about their journey together, Kapoor acknowledged the sacrifices Sunita made to support his career, especially during his early struggles in the film industry.

Talking about Subedaar, Kapoor said he tapped into his real-life relationship with his wife to bring emotional authenticity to his character.

He explained that the film explores themes of love for family, dedication to duty, and devotion to the nation — elements he personally connects with.

In the film, Kapoor portrays Subedaar Arjun Maurya, a retired army officer who returns home only to find his region overtaken by illegal sand mining and growing lawlessness.

As fear and intimidation grip the area, Arjun's confrontation with Prince, played by Aditya Rawal, forms the crux of the story. A powerful line from the trailer — "Fauji hai, seene mein goli jhel sakte hai, beizzati nahi" — highlights the character's unshakeable dignity and resolve.

The hard-hitting drama is scheduled to premiere on Amazon Prime Video on 5 March 2026.

It's Story TiME

Thirsty Crow

A thirsty crow was flying through a forest, looking everywhere for water. Finally, he saw a pot with some water at the bottom, but his beak couldn't reach it. The crow didn't give up. He looked around and noticed some pebbles on the ground. The clever crow started dropping the pebbles into the pot one by one. Slowly, the water rose higher and higher until it was close enough for him to drink. The crow finally quenched his thirst and flew away happily. **Moral of the story:** You can solve any problem if you think smart and don't give up!



Manjrekar Slams Gambhir's 'All-in-One' Use of Sundar After India's Heavy Loss



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mumbai : Former India batter Sanjay Manjrekar has criticised head coach Gautam Gambhir following India's 76-run loss to the South Africa national cricket team in their Super 8 opener of the T20 World Cup in Ahmedabad. The defeat, India's heaviest in T20 World Cup history, has left the defending champions on the brink of elimination and in a must-win situation to remain in contention for the semi-finals.

India were chasing a target of 188 but suffered a top-order collapse that derailed the innings early. A major talking point was the promotion of all-rounder Washington Sundar to No. 5 in the batting order, ahead of vice-captain Axar Patel and recognised finishers such as Rinku Singh and Hardik Pandya. The team management termed the move a tactical decision, but it failed to deliver the desired impact.

Speaking on CNN-News18's Stump Mic, Manjrekar questioned the strategy and described what he saw as an over-reliance on Sundar.

Drawing a humorous analogy, he compared Sundar's usage to an all-purpose Ayurvedic balm. "If there's a batting problem, Washi. If there's a bowling problem, Washi," he remarked, suggesting that the coaching staff was depending too heavily on the all-rounder to solve multiple issues in the side.

He also pointed out that pushing established finishers lower down the order limited India's ability to recover during the chase.

India's batting struggles were further exposed by South Africa's effective use of slower deliveries and variations in pace. The Indian batters appeared uncomfortable against change-ups rather than outright fast bowling. Manjrekar emphasised that the team must address its inability to handle slower balls and spin, especially in high-pressure situations.

Captain Suryakumar Yadav was among those who struggled against pace variations. Manjrekar noted that the skipper appeared particularly vulnerable to slower deliveries, underlining the need for technical and tactical adjustments ahead of the remaining fixtures.

The defeat has significantly dented India's net run rate, a crucial factor in tournament standings. Having entered the tournament as favourites to defend their title and become the first team to retain the T20 World Cup crown, India now face mounting pressure.

With a must-win clash against Zimbabwe coming up, India will need not only a victory but a convincing one to improve their net run rate and revive their semi-final hopes. The team management will likely reassess its strategies and combinations as the campaign reaches a decisive stage.



KL to Become Keralam Why West Bengal's Bangla Proposal Failed

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Kerala : The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal to rename Kerala as "Keralam," clearing a long-pending demand of the state government. The decision comes months ahead of the Assembly elections and follows unanimous resolutions passed by the state legislature in 2023 and 2024.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had argued that "Keralam" is the original Malayalam name of the state and reflects its linguistic and cultural identity. The name predates colonial rule and has been referenced in ancient literature and inscriptions.

The current name "Kerala" emerged during British rule. The renaming process will now require several constitutional steps. A Bill will be introduced in Parliament after the President seeks the Kerala Assembly's views. The amendment to the First Schedule of the Constitution must be passed by a simple majority in both Houses and receive presidential assent before the change is formally notified.

While Kerala moves closer to adopting its new name, West Bengal continues to wait for approval of its proposal to rename the state "Bangla." The state government, led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has made several attempts since 1999 with suggested names including Paschim Banga, Bengal and Bangla.

The 2018 proposal for a single name, "Bangla," also remains pending. The Centre had earlier cited procedural and diplomatic concerns, including similarity between "Bangla" and Bangladesh, which could create confusion in international forums. Banerjee alleged political reasons behind Kerala's approval and reiterated her government's commitment to securing the name change.

Under Article 3 of the Constitution, Parliament has the final authority to approve any change in the name of a state. While Kerala appears close to officially becoming Keralam, West Bengal's long-standing demand for renaming remains unresolved.

MH Debt Set to Reach Rs 9.32 Lakh Crore Supplementary Budget Tabled



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chennai : Maharashtra's projected state debt is expected to rise to nearly Rs 9.32 lakh crore, putting increasing pressure on government finances as it balances spending needs with fiscal discipline. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who also holds the finance portfolio, presented supplementary budget demands of Rs 11,995.33 crore in the state Assembly today.

The supplementary demands are relatively modest compared to earlier proposals this fiscal year, reflecting the government's attempt to control a widening revenue deficit that has already approached Rs 2 lakh crore. Officials said the latest allocations focus primarily on meeting existing commitments and maintaining essential public services rather than launching new schemes. Of the total proposed expenditure, Rs 5,748.10 crore has been earmarked for revenue expenditure, which will cover operational costs such as salaries, maintenance and ongoing government programmes. Another Rs 6,003.79 crore has been allocated for capital expenditure, aimed at infrastructure development and the creation of long-term public assets. The Industries and Energy Department has received the largest share of the supplementary demands, seeking Rs 5,840 crore.

Within this allocation, Rs 3,262 crore has been earmarked for the power sector to support electricity infrastructure and related services. An additional Rs 803 crore has been proposed for small and village industries to promote local enterprise and economic activity.

Other significant allocations include Rs 1,431 crore for water supply and sanitation projects, aimed at improving access to safe drinking water and strengthening urban and rural infrastructure. Smaller provisions have also been proposed for sectors such as medical education, rural development and welfare schemes for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The government's cautious approach to spending comes after Fadnavis assumed charge of the finance department following the passing of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. Unlike earlier Assembly sessions, where supplementary demands often ran into tens of thousands of crores for new initiatives, the present proposal is focused on sustaining existing programmes and essential services.

With the state's debt burden reaching record levels, the Maharashtra government has emphasised the need for tighter financial management.

Officials said fiscal discipline will remain a priority in the coming months in order to prevent further expansion of the revenue deficit while ensuring that key development and welfare activities continue without disruption.

The rising debt levels have drawn attention to the long-term sustainability of state finances, prompting calls for careful planning and prioritisation of expenditure.

The government has indicated that future spending decisions will be guided by the need to maintain financial stability while supporting economic growth and infrastructure development.

Teen Named in Goa Thar Crash That Killed Elderly Man

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES





New Delhi : A 19-year-old from Delhi has been named as the prime accused in a fatal road accident in Goa that claimed the life of a 65-year-old man. According to the First Information Report (FIR), Shaurya Goyal, a resident of Hauz Khas, was driving a rented Mahindra Thar when it rammed into a Hyundai i20 at a junction in Assagao.

As per the FIR, the Thar bearing registration number GA-03-V-5695 was being driven from Mapusa to Anjuna in a rash and negligent manner. Upon reaching the junction near Happy Bar in Assagao, the driver allegedly lost control of the SUV and crashed into a Hyundai i20 (GA-08-AB-6685). The i20 was being driven by Bhagat Ram, a resident of Bhopal, who was travelling from Assagao towards Parra village.

The collision caused severe damage to both vehicles. Visuals from the scene show the i20 crushed on its left side, with the front portion completely wrecked. Ram was rushed to District Hospital Mapusa but was declared brought dead.

Two other passengers travelling with him, including a five-month-old infant, sustained minor injuries. A video recorded after the crash shows a young man, identified as Goyal, stepping out of the vehicle while speaking on the phone, reportedly telling his father, "Papa, I was at the intersection…" A woman seated beside him is seen covering her face, while at least three other women were in the rear seats. However, the case has taken a new turn after an eyewitness alleged that a woman was initially driving the Thar and that an attempt was made to switch seats immediately after the collision. The claim, if substantiated, could complicate the investigation.

Goa Police have seized the rented vehicle and registered a case of rash and negligent driving causing death.

Authorities are examining forensic evidence, CCTV footage and eyewitness statements to determine the exact sequence of events, including allegations of a possible driver swap.

Harsh Singh Apologises in Racial Abuse Case Seeks Fair Hearing

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : Harsh Singh, one of the accused in the Delhi racial abuse case involving three women from Arunachal Pradesh, has issued a public apology for the incident while urging people not to draw conclusions without hearing both sides of the story.

Speaking in an interview, Singh apologised for the alleged use of racial slurs and expressed regret over the language used by his wife during the confrontation. He said he was sorry for the incident but claimed that several facts had been misrepresented and that the situation was more complex than reported.

According to Singh, the dispute began due to construction work at the residence of the women, where stones allegedly fell onto his property. He said he went upstairs to discuss the issue but claimed that he was first verbally abused, which led to an argument between the two sides.

Singh maintained that the full sequence of events had not been presented in public discussions and appealed to social media users to avoid forming opinions based only on partial information. He stressed that he respected people from all regions and did not intend to hurt anyone's sentiments.

The case had drawn attention after allegations surfaced that racial remarks were directed at the women from Arunachal Pradesh, sparking outrage online and raising concerns about discrimination faced by people from Northeast India. Authorities are examining the matter, and further action will depend on the findings of the investigation. Singh reiterated that he was willing to cooperate with officials and hoped that the truth would emerge through a fair inquiry.

ABVP Stages Protest at Azim Premji University Over Kashmir Row

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Bengaluru : Tensions flared at Azim Premji University in Bengaluru after activists of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) staged a protest alleging that an event planned on campus promoted separatism in Jammu and Kashmir and insulted the Indian Army. The university, however, denied that any such programme had been authorised or conducted.

According to the university, around 20 protesters forced their way into the campus on the evening of February 24, raised slogans, vandalised property, and allegedly assaulted security guards and students. The incident was reported to the Sarjapura police station, following which police intervened and took the protesters into custody as a precautionary measure.

The ABVP claimed that a programme linked to the All India Students' Association (AISA) and a student group named Spark was being organised on campus. Protesters alleged that the event opposed India's position on Jammu and Kashmir and promoted "anti-national" ideas.

A poster circulated by the agitators referred to the 1991 Kunan-Poshpora incident, describing it as an alleged case of mass rape and highlighting the lack of convictions over the past 35 years. The university clarified in an official statement that it follows strict procedures before approving any campus event and that the alleged programme "did not happen at all." It strongly condemned the "ruckus" and violence by what it described as an external group.

ABVP activists further alleged that when they objected to the event, they were detained inside the campus and assaulted by students. One protester claimed that activists holding the Indian flag were attacked, an allegation the university has not commented on directly.

The Bengaluru Rural District Police stated that law and order was maintained and that investigations are ongoing.

ABVP has also written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, demanding action against the organisers and seeking a ban on AISA and affiliated groups.

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Trump Repeats Claim of Preventing India-Pakistan Nuclear War

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Washington : US President Donald Trump has again claimed that he prevented a nuclear war between India and Pakistan, stating that millions of lives could have been lost during tensions following Operation Sindoor. Speaking during his State of the Union address, Trump said Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had told him that about 35 million people might have died if the conflict had escalated into a nuclear confrontation.

Trump said he had ended eight conflicts within his first 10 months in office, including disputes involving Israel, Iran, and several other regions, and cited India–Pakistan tensions among his diplomatic achievements. However, he did not provide new details about the alleged intervention.

India has consistently rejected Trump's claims of playing a mediating role. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar earlier dismissed the suggestion of US involvement, saying the ceasefire understanding was reached through direct military-level communication between the two countries.

The tensions followed the April 2025 terrorist attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 tourists, after which India launched Operation Sindoor targeting terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. According to Indian officials, the ceasefire understanding came after Pakistan's military contacted its Indian counterpart through established communication channels.

Trump's renewed claim has drawn attention because Pakistan had earlier nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize, citing his alleged diplomatic role in reducing tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. India, however, has maintained that no third-party mediation was involved in ending the conflict.

US Build-Up Near Iran USS Ford Faces Deployment

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



new york : The United States has deployed one of its largest naval and air force presences in the Middle East in decades amid rising tensions with Iran, with warnings of possible military action by Donald Trump. The build-up includes the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford, now headed back to the region to join the USS Abraham Lincoln and other warships already stationed nearby.

However, while Washington prepares for potential conflict, life aboard the world's largest and most advanced carrier has been far from smooth for its nearly 5,000 sailors. After spending around eight months at sea — far beyond the typical six-month deployment — the crew aboard the Ford is facing chronic sanitation problems, including blocked toilets and sewage system failures.

Reports indicate that the strain of a prolonged deployment has led to malfunctioning vacuum-based sewage systems, with crews working long hours to clear clogs and manage leaks. Some sailors have complained about morale issues, missed family events and the tough conditions on board, while humorous social media posts have highlighted the unusual "toilet wars" unfolding at sea. The sanitation challenges come as the carrier and accompanying forces are tasked with supporting US strategic objectives, including deterrence and readiness in the face of Iran's regional activities.

The Ford's arrival in the Mediterranean and its eventual move toward the Gulf mark a rare moment with two American carriers operating in the region simultaneously, underscoring the scale of the US military's posture amid mounting geopolitical pressure.

In parallel, protests have emerged abroad, such as in Crete, where demonstrators opposed to the US deployment expressed disapproval of America's military presence and anticipated actions. The situation highlights both the strategic intensity of US military operations near Iran and the human and logistical challenges faced by service members as global tensions escalate.

Islamabad High Court Removes Judge Over Fake Law Degree

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



karachi : In a shocking development, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has removed Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri from his position after ruling that he obtained and practised law on the basis of a fraudulent degree. The court declared his law qualification "void ab initio," meaning invalid from the outset, rendering his appointment as a High Court judge legally untenable.

According to a detailed 116-page judgement issued on February 23, the bench found that Jahangiri's academic credentials were forged. Appointed to the IHC in December 2020, he had already been barred from performing judicial duties in September last year amid questions about his qualifications.

The court relied on official records provided by the University of Karachi Registrar, which showed discrepancies in his enrolment and examination history. The principal of Government Islamia Law College informed the court that Jahangiri had never been admitted to the institution.

The judgement revealed that Jahangiri allegedly appeared for a law examination in 1988 using a fake enrolment number and was caught cheating. He was subsequently banned by the university for three years in 1989. Instead of serving the penalty, he reportedly used fraudulent means to reappear for exams under a slightly altered name, using an enrolment number assigned to another student.

Despite being given multiple opportunities to present original documents and a written explanation, Jahangiri failed to do so. Instead, he filed applications seeking a full bench hearing, recusal of the chief justice and adjournments, citing related proceedings before the Sindh High Court. The IHC termed these moves "dilatory tactics" and held that his failure to rebut the evidence warranted an adverse inference.

The ruling has raised serious concerns about judicial scrutiny and credential verification processes within Pakistan's legal system.

From Comedian to Commander Zelensky's Wartime Transformation



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

kyiv : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has undergone a striking transformation from a television comedian to a wartime leader as Ukraine continues to battle Russia in a conflict that has reshaped Europe's security landscape. Once celebrated for his humour and boyish charm as part of the comedy troupe Kvartal 95, Zelensky rose to political prominence in 2019, winning a landslide victory with 73 per cent of the vote against incumbent Petro Poroshenko.

His presidency took a dramatic turn in February 2022 when Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, sparking Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II. In the early days of the invasion, Zelensky rejected offers to evacuate Kyiv and instead chose to remain in the capital. Recording handheld video messages from the streets and later from a bunker on Bankova Street, he signalled defiance and reassured Ukrainians that their leadership would not abandon them.

In a recent address marking four years since the invasion, Zelensky reflected on conversations with global leaders, including former US President Joe Biden, recalling warnings about imminent danger and suggestions that he leave the country. He chose to stay, a decision that cemented his image as a symbol of Ukrainian resistance.

Over time, Zelensky's appearance and public persona have evolved. The clean-shaven, suit-clad entertainer has given way to a bearded leader dressed in olive military-style clothing, an outward expression of solidarity with soldiers and civilians enduring relentless attacks. The pressures of war — constant travel to secure military and financial aid, frontline visits, and managing a nation under siege — are etched visibly on his face.

In contrast, Russian President Vladimir Putin has maintained a consistent public image, delivering speeches from the Kremlin and projecting calm authority despite sanctions and battlefield setbacks.

Four years into the war, the contrasting images of the two leaders have become emblematic of the conflict. Ukraine continues to endure missile strikes, energy shortages and economic hardship.

At the same time, Zelensky faces mounting international pressure, including calls from US President Donald Trump, to consider a negotiated settlement. Zelensky, however, has repeatedly ruled out any peace deal that would require surrendering Ukrainian territory, underscoring his commitment to defending national sovereignty.



HC Grants Bail in Alleged Abetment of Suicide Case



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Delhi High Court has granted regular bail to a man accused of abetting the suicide of a 27-year-old woman, observing that a broken relationship by itself does not amount to instigation under criminal law. Justice Manoj Jain passed the order, noting that the prosecution material did not conclusively establish the essential ingredients required to prove abetment. The case stemmed from an FIR registered at Swarup Nagar police station following the woman's death by suicide in October 2025.

According to the complaint filed by the deceased's father, the applicant had allegedly pressured his daughter to convert her religion as a condition for marriage, causing mental stress that led to her death. The deceased, a school teacher, had reportedly met the accused, a university professor, during her academic pursuits. The father alleged that the relationship later turned coercive. The defence, however, argued that the two had been in a consensual relationship for nearly eight years and separated in February 2025 due to parental opposition.

The applicant married another woman on October 19, 2025, and the suicide occurred five days later. It was contended that the deceased may have been under emotional distress due to family pressure and the breakup rather than any active instigation. The Court noted that there was no suicide note or dying declaration attributing provocation to the accused. It further observed that during the eight-year relationship, no complaint of harassment or coercion had been made.

Referring to Section 108 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (corresponding to Section 306 IPC), the Court emphasised that instigation requires clear intent and conduct that leaves the victim with no alternative but to take the extreme step. Statements from the deceased's friends suggested she was upset over the breakup and the applicant's subsequent marriage but did not mention any pressure to convert religion.

The Court also highlighted the time gap between the end of contact and the suicide. Considering that the investigation was complete and the charge sheet filed, and noting the absence of criminal antecedents, the Court granted bail on a personal bond of Rs 25,000 with surety, subject to conditions. It clarified that the observations are prima facie and the trial will determine the final outcome.

Bride Shot by Alleged Lover at Wedding in Bihar's Buxar



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : A wedding ceremony in Buxar, Bihar, turned into a scene of panic after an 18-year-old bride was allegedly shot by her neighbour and suspected lover during the celebrations.

The incident took place around 11 pm today when Aarti Kumari was on stage with her groom, whose wedding procession had arrived from Ballia district in Uttar Pradesh. Police said the accused, identified as Deenbandhu, allegedly fired at the bride from among the gathered guests. The bullet struck Aarti in the stomach, causing chaos at the venue as family members rushed to her aid.

She was first taken to Sadar Hospital and later referred to a trauma centre in Varanasi, where she remains in critical condition. The accused is absconding, and police are conducting raids to arrest him.



City Approves 25-Crore Mission as 10,000+ Under HIV Treatment

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Meghalaya : Meghalaya has the highest HIV caseload in the country, with 10,293 people currently receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART), Health Minister W Shylla informed the Assembly on Wednesday. The state government has approved a Rs 25-crore five-year mission-mode intervention plan to address the rising number of HIV/AIDS cases.

Replying to a question by NPP legislator Mehtab Chandee A Sangma, the minister described the situation as an "alarming rise" and said the funds will be used to expand testing facilities, manpower and awareness campaigns. Over the past decade, 749 deaths linked to HIV/AIDS have been recorded in the state.

East Khasi Hills reported the highest number at 435, followed by West Jaintia Hills (123) and East Jaintia Hills (90). Other districts recorded lower figures. Shylla clarified that all reported deaths were due to opportunistic infections and none were directly attributed to HIV/AIDS.

Addressing concerns over increasing infections, the minister said confidentiality provisions under the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act and social stigma remain major challenges. "HIV status has to be kept confidential, tests cannot be done without consent, and we cannot force people to take medicines. Above all, stigma is playing a big role," he said.

Despite these constraints, the government is intensifying awareness efforts and working with community stakeholders to encourage voluntary testing and treatment.

Shylla credited Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma and the state cabinet for backing the five-year mission.

On infrastructure, Meghalaya has 392 standalone Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTCs) and four mobile ICTCs across districts.

The National AIDS Control Organisation has also sanctioned Rs 17.8 crore to the Meghalaya AIDS Control Society for 2025-26 to strengthen awareness, targeted outreach, opioid substitution therapy and expanded screening services. "HIV is no longer a death sentence. Though it cannot be cured, it can be treated so patients can live a dignified life," Shylla said.

AIADMK Questions Sasikala's New Party Despite Poll Disqualification

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chennai : A political controversy has erupted in Tamil Nadu after the opposition All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) questioned how expelled leader V. K. Sasikala could launch a new political party despite being disqualified from contesting elections until 2027. AIADMK leaders argued that Sasikala's conviction in a disproportionate assets case and subsequent disqualification from elections should prevent her from starting a political outfit.

The former aide of late Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa served a four-year prison term following the conviction and is barred from contesting polls for a specified period. However, Sasikala's supporters strongly defended her decision, stating that election disqualification applies only to contesting polls and does not prohibit forming a political party or fielding candidates.

Advocate Elanthamil Arvalan said there was nothing illegal about launching a party while being disqualified, adding that the law allows such leaders to remain politically active. Sasikala herself confirmed her electoral plans, saying she intends to field candidates in upcoming elections.

When asked whether the move was aimed at weakening the AIADMK, particularly by influencing Thevar community votes in southern Tamil Nadu, she said the impact would be clear only after election results.

She also launched a sharp attack on AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami, repeatedly calling him a "betrayer." Sasikala had chosen Palaniswami as Chief Minister in 2017 after she went to jail, but he later joined hands with former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam to expel her from the party. Although Sasikala cannot contest elections herself, her decision to float a new party and field candidates could reshape the political landscape in Tamil Nadu and pose a fresh challenge for her former party.

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Jharkhand : The mystery surrounding the air ambulance crash in Jharkhand's Chatra district that killed all seven people on board has deepened after initial findings revealed that the aircraft was not equipped with a black box.

The aircraft, a Beechcraft C90 (VT-AJV) operated by Redbird, was exempt from mandatory installation of a Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) and Flight Data Recorder (FDR) under existing aviation regulations. The twin-turboprop aircraft had a maximum take-off weight of 4,583 kg and was manufactured in 1987. Its Certificate of Airworthiness was issued the same year, prior to regulatory deadlines that made CVRs and FDRs compulsory for certain categories of aircraft.

Under current norms, CVRs are mandatory for aeroplanes with a maximum certificated take-off mass exceeding 5,700 kg if certified on or after January 1, 1987. Similarly, multi-engine turbine aircraft of 5,700 kg or less certified on or after January 1, 1990 must carry an FDR recording specified flight parameters. Since the crashed aircraft was certified before these cut-off dates and fell below the prescribed weight limit, it was not legally required to carry either system.

The aircraft had taken off from Ranchi at around 7:11 pm for Delhi.

About 23 minutes into the flight, the crew requested a weather deviation before losing communication and radar contact. The wreckage was later located in a forested area near Simaria in Chatra district.

With no flight data or cockpit recordings available, investigators from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) will depend heavily on air traffic control communications, radar data and physical evidence recovered from the crash site to piece together the sequence of events. The absence of a black box is expected to make the investigation more challenging as authorities work to determine the exact cause of the tragedy.

4 Crore Seized From Mines Official in Graft Case

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Odisha : In one of the biggest anti-corruption operations in the state, the Vigilance Department has seized Rs 4 crore in cash from the Bhubaneswar flat of Debabrata Mohanty, Deputy Director of Mines in Odisha. Officials confirmed that the recovery marks the highest-ever cash seizure made by the state's anti-corruption agency.

Mohanty was arrested today night after allegedly being caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000 from a licensed coal vendor. According to officials, the bribe was allegedly demanded in exchange for facilitating smooth business operations and official clearances.

Following his arrest, the Vigilance Department carried out simultaneous raids at multiple locations linked to the officer. Searches were conducted at his residential flat in Bhubaneswar, his parental home in Bhadrak district, and his office in Cuttack. During the operation, officials reportedly found stacks of currency notes packed inside trolley bags at his flat.

In addition to the Rs 4 crore recovered from his residence, another Rs 1.20 lakh in cash was seized from a drawer in his office. Authorities also identified other assets, including a palatial double-storey house in Bhubaneswar and approximately 130 grams of gold ornaments. A case has been registered against Mohanty under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. Officials stated that further investigation is underway to ascertain the source of the seized money and to identify any additional disproportionate assets.

The seizure surpasses the previous record of Rs 3.4 crore recovered in April 2022 from the residence of an assistant engineer in the Minor Irrigation Division in Ganjam district.

Vigilance authorities described the latest operation as a major breakthrough in their ongoing efforts to curb corruption in government departments.

The case has sparked widespread attention across Odisha, raising fresh concerns over alleged corruption within key administrative departments.

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