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Lok Sabha Passes Motion of Thanks Amid Opposition Protests



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Lok Sabha today passed the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address without the customary reply by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, amid loud protests and sloganeering by opposition members.

Speaker Om Birla put the amendments moved by the opposition to vote, which were rejected. He then read out the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address to the joint sitting of Parliament on January 28. The motion was passed by a voice vote as opposition MPs continued raising slogans. As disruptions persisted, the Speaker adjourned the House till 2 pm.

Earlier in the day, the House had witnessed similar scenes. When proceedings resumed at noon, opposition members trooped into the well, shouting slogans and displaying placards. The Speaker objected to the unruly behaviour and made it clear that members entering the House with placards and banners would not be allowed to speak.

Expressing concern over the repeated disruptions, Birla said the manner in which members entered the well was "not acceptable" and stressed that maintaining discipline and decorum in the House was the collective responsibility of all MPs. The House was adjourned shortly after convening amid continuing protests.

Parliament Tensions Rise Over Rahul Gandhi's Speech Ban



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Parliament witnessed fresh disruptions as Congress protested against Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi being barred from speaking on the President's address. The standoff escalated in the Lok Sabha, forcing the cancellation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply to the Motion of Thanks.

Though the Motion was later passed, Congress warned it would continue to block proceedings if Gandhi remained restricted. The protests revolve around an unpublished memoir of former Army chief Gen MM Naravane, which Congress claims exposes government lapses during the 2020 China border crisis. Opposition MPs said they would not allow ruling party members to speak if Gandhi was barred. Tensions rose further when BJP MP Nishikant Dubey was allowed to discuss books critical of the Gandhi family. Eight opposition MPs were suspended for the session.

In Rajya Sabha, Opposition leader Mallikarjun Kharge defended Gandhi, while Union Minister JP Nadda called him an "abodh balak" (naive child). The standoff underscores growing political friction, with Congress accusing the government of curbing free speech and BJP citing House rules. The confrontation is set to continue as the Prime Minister prepares to address Rajya Sabha.

CM Yumnam Khemchand Singh to Face Floor Test



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Imphal : The Manipur Assembly will convene at 4 pm today, a day after Yumnam Khemchand Singh was sworn in as the 13th Chief Minister of the state. A floor test is likely to be held on the opening day of the session.

The BJP holds 37 seats in the 60-member House, while its ally NPP has six, giving the ruling coalition a clear majority. Singh chaired the first Cabinet meeting on today evening shortly after taking oath, formally beginning governance under the new Council of Ministers. His appointment comes nearly a year after former Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned amid prolonged ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities. With the Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla summoning the 12th Assembly, the new session marks the official end of President's Rule in the state.

After assuming office, Singh thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and pledged to work with dedication for Manipur's development in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat. He said his government would focus on inclusive economic growth while preserving the state's cultural heritage. The last session of the 12th Assembly was held from July 31 to August 12, 2024.

Tharoor Criticizes Washington Post For Son's Layoff



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Congress leader Shashi Tharoor expressed shock over The Washington Post's recent layoffs, which included his son, Ishaan Tharoor, among more than 300 staff members affected. Ishaan, a prominent international affairs analyst and writer, runs the widely followed 'WorldView' column, boasting over 500,000 subscribers.

Tharoor criticized the decision on X, calling it a "perverse act of self-immolation" and highlighting the column's significant reach. "I've met foreign ministers, diplomats, and scholars who read him daily," he said. Ishaan confirmed his layoff late today night, expressing heartbreak over losing colleagues and gratitude for the loyal readership of his column, which he launched in 2017 to provide insights on global affairs.

Historian Andre Pagli called Ishaan an expert in his field, while former Washington Post Executive Editor Marty Baron described the layoffs as "the darkest days in the history of one of the world's greatest news organisations," questioning the future of fact-based reporting. Sources noted that the cuts heavily affected foreign bureaus, local reporting teams, and business divisions, dismantling much of the international reporting structure and drawing widespread criticism within global journalism circles.



ਓਅੰ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥
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Scientists Raise Concerns Over Human Reproduction in Space

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



As humanity races toward colonizing the Moon and Mars, a critical question is emerging: can humans safely reproduce in space? Despite decades of space exploration, scientists say there is still no clear answer, and long-term missions may pose serious risks to reproductive health.

A new study, published in Reproductive BioMedicine Online, highlights the potential dangers of space environments, including exposure to cosmic radiation, microgravity, psychological stress, and disrupted circadian rhythms. Researchers caution that these conditions could harm sperm and eggs, affect embryo development, and even increase cancer risks. "Despite over 65 years of human spaceflight activities, little is known of the impact of the space environment on human reproductive systems during long-duration missions," the study notes.

Radiation in space can damage DNA, harm reproductive cells, and cause cellular damage in developing fetuses. Microgravity can disrupt hormone levels, reduce sperm and egg quality, and interfere with normal embryo growth. Studies on animals in space have produced mixed results. While some animals showed normal development, others experienced significant reproductive issues, leaving scientists uncertain about human outcomes.

"Extended time in space poses potential hazards to the reproductive function of female and male astronauts," the researchers said, emphasizing that prolonged exposure to radiation, altered gravity, physical and mental stress, and circadian disruption could have lasting effects. Short-term missions appear to have minimal impact on fertility, but the long-term consequences remain unclear. "Although short-term missions appear safe, the effects of radiation, microgravity, hormonal disruption, and epigenetic changes over months or years are not yet fully understood," the study warns.

Experts stress that as humans move toward establishing permanent off-world habitats, including lunar bases and Mars colonies, reproductive health concerns are becoming urgent, not hypothetical.

Dr. Fatahi Karouia, senior author of the study and NASA research scientist, said: "As human presence in space expands, reproductive health can no longer remain a policy blind spot." The study calls for further research to understand the impact of space on human reproduction and to develop protective measures such as improved radiation shielding.

Additionally, scientists stress the need for strong ethical guidelines to safeguard astronauts' reproductive health and ensure safe long-term habitation beyond Earth. "International collaboration is urgently needed to close critical knowledge gaps and establish ethical guidelines that protect both professional and private astronauts," Dr. Karouia added. "This will ultimately safeguard humanity as we move toward a sustained presence beyond our planet."

As space agencies plan longer missions and consider permanent settlements on the Moon and Mars, understanding reproductive risks will be crucial for the future of human colonization. The study emphasizes that protecting reproductive health is essential not only for astronauts but also for ensuring the long-term survival of human populations in off-world environments.

The researchers hope their findings will prompt global cooperation, advanced scientific studies, and the creation of comprehensive policies addressing fertility and reproductive health in space, ensuring that humanity's next steps beyond Earth are safe and sustainable.



Atul Sharma



Astro Speak by: Rajesh Kumar

Birth Date 06th Feb

Born on 06th 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.

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Aries

February 06th 2026 : Health remains good. Those who are managing their business with their close ones or relatives need to remain very careful today, otherwise financial losses can occur. Health of an infant might cause some concern. Your eyes light up with joy.

Taurus

February 06th 2026 : Pressure from seniors at workplace and discord at home might bring some stress- which would disturb your concentration at work. People who had undertaken loans may experience troubles in repaying the amount today. Think before sharing your confidential.

Gemini

February 06th 2026 : Health of your spouse may cause reason for stress and anxiety. Investment in stocks and mutual funds recommended for long-term gains. Your witty nature will make you popular at social gatherings. Today you will feel the fragrance of your friend in his absence.

Cancer

February 06th 2026 : Smile as it is best antidote for all your problems. Your money comes to your work only when you stop yourself from spending extravagantly, today you can understand this thing well. Children cause some disappointment as they spend more time on outdoor.

Leo

February 06th 2026 : Chances of your recovering from physical illness are high which will enable you to participate in sports competition. Today you should focus on issues related to land, real estate, or cultural projects. Family obligations require immediate attention.

Virgo

February 06th 2026 : Stress may result in minor illness. Sit amongst friends and family members to feel relaxed. If you want to become financially strong in the future, then you have to start saving money from today. Visit of an old friend in the later of the day would brighten.

Libra

February 06th 2026 : Pleasure trips and social get-togethers will keep you relaxed and happy. Investment in stocks and mutual funds recommended for long-term gains. A better understanding with your spouse brings in happiness-peace and prosperity at home. Your love life will take.

Scorpio

February 06th 2026 : Evenings at the movie- theatre or dinner with your spouse seem to keep you in a relaxed and wonderful mood Today, you won't need to spend your own money, as an elder of your house can help you with your finances. It is high time to change your dominating.

Sagittarius

February 06th 2026 : It is high time for you to take the help of spirituality as it is the one of the best option to counterattack your mental stress. Meditation and yoga will enhance your mental toughness. Finances improve later in the day. News of arrival of a new family member.

Capricorn

February 06th 2026 : You should destroy your negative thoughts before they become mental illness. You can get rid of them by involving yourself in some donation and charity work that would give you complete mental satisfaction. People who had bought land and now want to sell it.

Aquarius

February 06th 2026 : Your polite behaviour will be appreciated. Many people will shower verbal praise on 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.

Pisces

February 06th 2026 : Some people might feel that you are too old to learn something new-but that is far from the truth- you will easily learn new things because of your sharp and active mind. Well-established and known businessmen of this zodiac sign are required to invest.

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MC Launches Intensified Road Sweeping Sanitation Drive

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mohali : The Municipal Corporation, Mohali, has launched an intensified city-wide road sweeping and sanitation drive to ensure cleaner roads, healthier surroundings and an improved urban environment. Sharing details, Municipal Commissioner Parminderpal Singh, IAS, said the campaign covers all major roads, markets and residential areas across the city. The initiative focuses on the regular removal of dust, debris, horticultural waste and litter from roads, footpaths and central verges.

To enhance efficiency and widen coverage, both manual and mechanized sweeping methods are being deployed, with special emphasis on high-traffic corridors and densely populated localities.The Commissioner appealed to residents to support the cleanliness drive by refraining from dumping waste on roads and maintaining litter-free surroundings.

He also urged citizens to avoid roadside parking during scheduled sweeping hours to ensure smooth operations. In addition, the Corporation has undertaken extensive cleaning of road gullies to prevent waterlogging and maintain hygienic conditions, especially ahead of changing weather conditions. As part of efforts to strengthen waste management systems, clearance and maintenance work at all Resource Management Centres (RMCs) in Zone No. 1 has been completed.

Senior officials conducted on-site inspections at RMC Sector 80, RMC Phase-9 and RMC Sector-69, along with adjoining commercial areas, to ensure efficient sanitation arrangements and timely waste processing. Twin bins have also been installed across market areas to encourage segregation of waste at source. Joint Commissioner Jasjit Singh, PCS, reiterated the Corporation's commitment to maintaining high standards of urban cleanliness under the Swachh Bharat Mission. He urged residents, shopkeepers and commercial establishments to actively participate in the drive and adopt responsible waste disposal practices.

Officials warned that strict action, including the issuance of challans, will be taken against individuals or establishments found littering or violating cleanliness norms, emphasizing that sustained public cooperation is essential to keeping the city clean and environmentally healthy.

Jasbir Singh Bunty Named Congress Candidate For FCC Committee

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mohali : The Chandigarh Congress Party has announced the appointment of Councillor Jasbir Singh Bunty as its authorized candidate for the Finance and Contract Committee (FCC) of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation. The announcement was made by Congress Party President H. S. Lucky. Addressing the occasion, H. S. Lucky highlighted the importance of the FCC within the municipal governance structure. He stated that the FCC is considered the second-most important committee after the General House, as it oversees critical decisions related to the city's development, financial management, and contract allocations.

Recognizing these responsibilities, the Congress Party has chosen Jasbir Singh Bunty for this key position. President Lucky expressed full confidence in Bunty's capabilities, citing his extensive experience, integrity, and dedication to public service. "With his commitment to the welfare of citizens and proven record of effective work, we are confident that Jasbir Singh Bunty will effectively raise public concerns in the FCC and contribute to the city's balanced and sustainable development," he said.

The Congress Party reaffirmed its commitment to the overall development of Chandigarh and emphasized its focus on protecting the interests of the people. The party stated that the selection of Bunty reflects its dedication to ensuring competent leadership in crucial municipal committees, which play a vital role in decision-making processes affecting infrastructure, urban planning, and fiscal management. During the announcement, Councillor Sachin Yadav proposed the appointment, while Councillor Gurpreet Singh Gappi seconded the decision, showing unanimous support within the party ranks for Bunty's nomination.

The Chandigarh Congress Party emphasized that the FCC plays a pivotal role in shaping the financial and developmental trajectory of the city. With responsible leadership and transparent governance, the committee is expected to contribute significantly to public welfare initiatives and efficient contract management.

Through this nomination, the Congress Party aims to strengthen its presence in municipal governance, ensuring that the voices of citizens are effectively represented and that decisions regarding the city's growth and finances are made with accountability, integrity, and transparency.

The party concluded by urging all members to support Councillor Jasbir Singh Bunty in his new role, expressing confidence that his leadership will guide the FCC toward achieving greater efficiency, inclusivity, and development for Chandigarh.

Anti Encroachment Drive Removes Illegal Constructions From Areas

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mohali : The Municipal Council (MC) Naya Gaon continued its anti-encroachment drive on the second day, focusing on the Kansal catchment area of Sukhna Lake. The operation was conducted under the supervision of MC officials, including the Executive Officer, AME, Sanitary Inspector, and General Inspector, with active participation from field staff. Adequate police deployment ensured law and order during the enforcement action, with the SHO, Naya Gaon, present on site.

Authorities removed illegal constructions and encroachments from ecologically sensitive and restricted zones, including floodplain areas crucial for maintaining natural drainage and protecting the ecological health of Sukhna Lake. Despite prior notices and opportunities for voluntary removal, several unauthorized structures continued to exist, necessitating legal action.The second-day operation was carried out systematically, peacefully, and in strict accordance with the law. Officials emphasized that illegal constructions obstruct rainwater flow, increase flood risks, and pose serious environmental hazards. The District Administration and MC Naya Gaon have reiterated that the drive will continue, with no tolerance for unauthorized structures in the Kansal catchment area, Patiala Ki Rao, or any other regulated zones.

Violators of High Court orders will face strict legal consequences, including demolition and penalties.Residents and property owners have been urged to comply with approved building plans, land-use regulations, and court directives. The Executive Officer warned that any future attempts to construct illegal structures in restricted areas will be met with stringent legal action.

The administration reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the Sukhna Lake catchment, preserving natural water bodies and drainage systems, and ensuring strict enforcement of environmental and municipal laws in the public interest. The drive highlights the government's focus on protecting ecologically sensitive zones while maintaining law and order in the region. This ongoing initiative underscores the administration's dedication to sustainable urban development and the protection of vital water resources in SAS Nagar.

Govt College of Education Holds 70th Annual Athletic Meet

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : The 70th Annual Athletic Meet of the Government College of Education, Sector 20-D, Chandigarh, commenced today with high enthusiasm, energy, and sporting spirit. The event was inaugurated by Ms. Prerna Puri, IAS, Secretary Education and Secretary Sports, Chandigarh Administration, in the presence of the college Principal, Dr. Sapna Nanda, and Dr. Neelam Paul, Associate Professor of Physical Education.

The inaugural ceremony began with the unfurling of the college flag, followed by an impressive March Past by the students, showcasing discipline, coordination, and teamwork. The Chief Guest took the salute and appreciated the participants for their physical fitness, discipline, and synchronization. The athletes' oath was administered, emphasizing fair play and sportsmanship.

Ms. Prerna Puri lauded the institution's efforts in organizing the meet and promoting sports activities among students and faculty. She encouraged everyone to maintain physical fitness and embrace the true spirit of sportsmanship.

Principal Dr. Sapna Nanda welcomed the Chief Guest and highlighted that the Annual Athletic Meet plays a significant role in promoting resilience, fitness, and healthy competition among students. Dr. Neelam Paul's meticulous planning and dedication were instrumental in ensuring the smooth conduct of the first day. Faculty members also contributed significantly, overseeing various events and ensuring discipline, safety, and systematic execution. A large number of students from B.Ed., M.Ed., and PGDGC courses participated enthusiastically in various track and field events, creating a vibrant and energetic atmosphere on campus.

The event not only highlighted sporting talent but also reinforced teamwork, coordination, and the values of fair competition. The meet is expected to continue over the next days, providing a platform for students to demonstrate their athletic abilities and sportsmanship.

PIC OF THE DAY

Who Cares...?

No Check on blocked Drains on Spice to Cheema Boiler Road Raising Sanitation Concerns



Atul Sharma

Mohali : The drainage system along the busy Spice Traffic Lights to Cheema Boiler Road in Industrial Area Phase 7,Mohali is in a state of severe neglect, with most drains remain covered by mud, dry leaves, and debris. Industrialists and commuters are voicing concerns over the poor sanitation and maintenance, fearing it could lead to hygiene issues, mosquito breeding, and even waterlogging during rains.

The drains, which were designed to channel rainwater and prevent flooding, have become blocked and clogged with accumulated dirt, leaves, and garbage, rendering them ineffective. In some areas, the drainage openings are entirely obscured, causing water to stagnate and creating an unsightly, unhygienic environment.

Commuters along the Spice to Cheema Boiler Road have been grappling with the consequences of this neglect for weeks, with no visible efforts from the Mohali Municipal Corporation (MC) to address the issue. The clogged drains not only worsen the aesthetic condition of the area but also pose serious health risks. "It's disgusting to see the drains covered with mud and dry leaves," said a commuter.

Most of the time the stagnant water in the clogged drains is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, which may lead to outbreaks of diseases like dengue and malaria. With no proper sanitation or cleaning of the drains, commuters are concerned about the potential public health hazards.

"The situation is getting worse every day," we've made repeated complaints to the MC, but nothing seems to change. If the drains aren't cleared soon, it will be a serious health risk for everyone.

The lack of action by the concerned authorities has left many frustrated, another commuter on Spice Road, says, "We are not asking for anything extraordinary, just basic sanitation. The drains need to be cleared regularly to prevent any health issues. We've had enough of the MC's inaction."

The blocked drains also create traffic and pedestrian hazards. When rainwater can't flow through the clogged drains, it often spills over onto the road, creating puddles that obstruct traffic and force pedestrians to walk through the muck.

It is urged to the MC to prioritize cleaning the drains and may pay an attention to the poor state of sanitation and drainage in the area.

It is felt that, "If the MC cannot manage something as fundamental as maintaining the drainage system, how can we trust them to handle other municipal matters?"

The state of the drains on Spice to Cheema Boiler Road is not an isolated problem; similar issues have been reported in various parts of Mohali, where poor drainage maintenance has led to rising sanitation concerns.

The lack of sanitation and blocked drainage systems pose an urgent issue for Mohali, demanding immediate attention from concerned authorities to ensure the health and safety of all. Until these concerns are addressed, the city's infrastructure will continue to face increasing challenges in maintaining a safe and hygienic environment.

But Who Cares???

Rose Festival 2026 Auction Announced For Three Day Event



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The much-awaited annual Rose Festival will be held from February 20 to 22 at the Rose Garden in Sector 16. In preparation for the three-day celebration, the Municipal Corporation (MC) has invited bids for nearly 30 stalls to be set up at the venue.

As per the notice issued by the MC, each stall will measure 10 feet by 10 feet and will be allotted through an open auction scheduled for February 10.

Interested participants are required to deposit Rs 50,000 as earnest money through a demand draft drawn in favor of the MC Commissioner to qualify for the bidding process. The festival stalls will feature a wide variety of items for display and sale. Exhibitors can showcase garden décor, nursery plants, floral arrangements, interior décor items, decorative articles, paintings, handicrafts from different states, art works, garden equipment, fountains, garden and lawn furniture, aquariums, manure, and artificial flower arrangements. The sale of food and beverages will not be permitted at any stall.

To ensure a smooth and eco-friendly festival, the MC has laid down strict guidelines for exhibitors. Single-use plastics will be prohibited, and flex boards or banners will not be allowed. Stall holders must maintain cleanliness, avoid littering, and ensure no damage occurs to the surrounding areas. Participants are also required to comply with all rules, regulations, and prohibitory orders issued by the civic body during the event.

The Rose Festival is one of the city's most anticipated cultural events, drawing gardening enthusiasts, artists, and visitors from across the region. With a mix of handicrafts, art, and horticultural displays, the festival promises a vibrant and culturally rich experience. The auction offers local artisans, vendors, and businesses an opportunity to showcase their products, engage with visitors, and be part of this grand celebration. Organizers are confident that the event's careful planning and guidelines will ensure a safe, enjoyable, and successful festival for all attendees.

Lawyers Announce Two Day Strike Over Court Reforms



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The Chandigarh District Bar Association (DBA) has announced a two-day strike on February 5 and 6, 2026, during which no court work will be conducted. The decision was taken unanimously by the DBA Executive Committee during a meeting held to discuss pressing issues affecting lawyers in the district. The Bar Association has urged all lawyers practicing in Chandigarh to join the strike and refrain from attending court proceedings, emphasizing that full participation is essential for the protest to achieve its objectives.

The DBA clarified that the strike is a collective measure aimed at pressing for demands related to the functioning and management of the district courts. Association Secretary Amish Sharma and Treasurer Ujjwal Bhasin highlighted that the Bar Association has two primary demands, which they insist are crucial to safeguarding the interests, dignity, and independence of lawyers. While the specifics of the demands have not been fully disclosed, the strike reportedly revolves around concerns over a newly formulated action plan for the district courts and issues regarding the Legal Aid Defense Council (LADC) system.

The DBA stated that the implementation of these measures without adequate consultation with the lawyers' community has created operational difficulties and threatens the effective delivery of justice.

The Association believes that their protest is necessary to ensure that the work environment in the courts remains fair, transparent, and conducive to the legal profession. Lawyers have expressed that the action plan and changes in the LADC system could adversely affect the working conditions of lawyers, as well as the independence and functioning of the judiciary.

By organizing the strike, the DBA aims to draw attention to these challenges and compel the authorities to address their concerns adequately. The strike will cover all courts under the jurisdiction of Chandigarh, including civil, criminal, and other specialized benches. Lawyers are expected to participate fully in the protest, while routine court work, hearings, and proceedings will be suspended during this period. The DBA has urged authorities and the public to understand the necessity of the strike and the issues at stake for the legal fraternity.

The Association has indicated that it will continue to engage with the relevant administrative and judicial bodies to resolve the matter, but until its demands are met, it is committed to pressing its protest. The two-day strike marks a significant step by Chandigarh lawyers to assert their concerns and ensure that systemic issues in the district court and legal aid processes are addressed before further implementation of controversial reforms.

Pb Sakhi Shakti Mela Empowers Women Entrepreneurs

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mohali : The Mohali Carnival Punjab Sakhi Shakti Mela was inaugurated today at Saras Mela Ground, Sector 88, Mohali, by Punjab Rural Development and Panchayat and Tourism Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond, along with former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and AAP Punjab in charge Manish Sisodia.

The mela aims to empower rural women self-help groups (SHGs) and women entrepreneurs by providing them a strong government-supported marketing platform. Speaking at the event, Minister Sond highlighted that women SHGs produce high-quality, organic, and traditional products but often lack large-scale marketing opportunities."This initiative bridges the gap by offering a platform to showcase their products, boosting both visibility and income," he said. Nearly 90 per cent of the stalls at the mela are managed by women, demonstrating their entrepreneurial skills, dedication, and confidence. Manish Sisodia praised the determination and resilience of Punjab's women entrepreneurs.

He said they not only earn livelihoods for themselves but also uplift others by forming SHGs and raising economic standards, all while balancing household responsibilities. The mela featured a special award ceremony to honour women achievers for their contributions. Additionally, a renewable and solar energy innovation competition for women was announced, offering financial assistance of up to Rs 25 lakh, supported by GIZ India in collaboration with the Punjab State Rural Livelihood Mission (PSRLM).

Cultural programmes added vibrancy to the event, with performances by students from Sri Sukhmani School, Derabassi; Government High School, Daun; School of Eminence, Phase 3B-1; and Shivalik Public School, Mohali. The Punjab Sakhi Shakti Mela will continue till February 10, serving as a significant initiative to promote women entrepreneurship, showcase rural talent, and encourage economic self-reliance among women in the state.

Adolescent Education Lecture Empowers Students & Teachers

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES





Mohali : P. M. SHRI GHS Phase-5 Mohali hosted an enlightening session on Adolescent Education on February 5, 2026, delivered by Dr. Swapandeep Kaur. The lecture aimed to create awareness among students and teachers about the physical, emotional, and social changes that occur during adolescence and equip them with strategies to navigate these challenges effectively.

Dr. Kaur addressed several critical issues faced by adolescents today, including emotional stress, reproductive health, self-identity, and mental well-being.She emphasized the importance of developing self-confidence, making informed and healthy choices, and maintaining overall mental and emotional balance. Practical tips and guidance were provided to help adolescents cope with academic and social pressures, build resilience, and communicate effectively. The lecture was highly interactive, with students actively participating by asking questions, sharing their experiences, and seeking advice on personal and social issues. Dr. Kaur responded to the queries with clarity and sensitivity, ensuring that every concern was addressed thoughtfully. Teachers also contributed to the discussions, reinforcing the importance of supportive guidance during this critical phase of life.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks presented by staff members Maam Poonam, Maam Gurpreet Kaur, Maam Kamaljit Kaur, Maam Shallu Gupta, Maam Balvir Kaur, and Maam Karamjit Kaur.They expressed gratitude to Dr. Swapandeep Kaur for her valuable insights and meaningful contribution toward adolescent education. Participants described the lecture as highly informative and inspiring, highlighting its relevance in today's fast-paced and challenging environment. The session not only enhanced awareness among students and teachers but also encouraged open communication, empathy, and understanding around adolescent issues. The event left a lasting impact on everyone present, reinforcing the importance of education that goes beyond academics to include emotional and social development.

It also underscored the need for continuous engagement and guidance to help adolescents navigate the complexities of growing up with confidence and awareness.

CM Promotes "Karmayoga" and Social Justice at Temple Event



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Shimla : Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu participated in the annual religious congregation organized by the Shree Radhakrishna Temple Committee in Kotla Kalan, Una, emphasizing the spiritual ethos of public service. Upon arrival, CM Sukhu performed traditional prayers and sought the blessings of National Saint Baba Bal Ji Maharaj.

Addressing the gathering, he invoked the teachings of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, stating that his government operates with the spirit of "Karmayoga"—performing duties selflessly without personal gain. He highlighted his administration's inclusive approach toward the welfare of women, marginalized communities, and ordinary citizens, reaffirming a commitment to the state's development.

A major part of the CM's address focused on Himachal Pradesh's pioneering social welfare initiatives. He highlighted the Mukhyamantri Sukh-Aashray Yojana, under which 6,000 orphans have been granted legal "Children of the State" status—the first such initiative in India.

The state takes full responsibility for their education, health, and upbringing until the age of 27, including a monthly pocket allowance of Rs. 4,000. Additionally, he detailed the Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar Vidyarthi Rin Yojana, offering education loans of up to Rs. 20 lakh at a nominal interest rate of 1 percent, ensuring financial constraints do not hinder higher education opportunities. Baba Bal Ji Maharaj lauded the Chief Minister for his dedication and devotion to the welfare of citizens, noting that his family values are deeply rooted in religious traditions. He also appreciated the temple committee's recent donation of Rs. 5 lakh to the CM Relief Fund during natural disasters.

The congregation was attended by several dignitaries, including MLAs Rakesh Kalia, Vivek Sharma, and Sudarshan Singh Babloo, Chairman of the State SC Commission Kuldeep Kumar, Advocate General Anup Rattan, and senior district officials. CM Sukhu noted that the visit provided him with spiritual energy to continue leading the state with integrity and dedication, reinforcing the government's focus on welfare, development, and humanitarian governance. The event underscored the integration of spiritual values with public service and the state's commitment to social welfare and inclusive growth.

INLD Slams HPSC Over Poor PGT Computer Science Results

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chandigarh : Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) national president, Chaudhary Abhay Singh Chautala, slammed the Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC) over the extremely low pass percentage in the recent PGT Computer Science examination, calling it a "mockery" of deserving candidates.

He expressed strong concern over the selection process, alleging that HPSC is undermining the efforts of Haryana youth while favoring outsiders for high-ranking positions. The PGT Computer Science exam saw 5,100 candidates compete for 1,711 posts, yet only 39 candidates—just 2.29 percent—were declared successful. Chautala criticized this result, stating that Haryana youth are highly capable, having cleared competitive exams like UPSC to become IAS, IPS officers, judges, and scientists. He argued that it is unacceptable that only a small fraction passes a relatively routine state-level exam.

Chautala further alleged that about 90 percent of recent recruitments have gone to candidates from other states, suggesting a deliberate strategy by the ruling BJP to keep local youth unemployed while placing outsiders aligned with RSS in key administrative positions. He accused the government of manipulating the system to control high-level posts across the state. Calling for immediate action, Chautala demanded the removal of the HPSC chairman and assured that an INLD government would ensure fair recruitment for all eligible Haryana youth without discrimination.

He emphasized the party's commitment to protecting the rights and opportunities of local candidates and addressing unemployment among the state's educated youth.

The INLD leader's remarks have highlighted growing discontent among young job seekers in Haryana, who feel marginalized despite years of preparation and hard work, and intensified the political debate over recruitment policies and state governance.

Pb Police Bust Drug Smuggling Network Seize 9 Kg Heroin

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Amritsar : police's Counter Intelligence (CI) wing has busted a major drug smuggling network, arresting eight individuals and recovering more than 9 kilograms of heroin in separate operations. In the first operation, four men — Sukhchain Singh alias Mani, Navdeep Singh, Sukhpal Singh, and Akashdeep Singh, all from Daoke village — were arrested.

Police said the accused were in direct contact with a Pakistan-based smuggler who used drones to transport heroin across the International Border. Acting on specific intelligence, CI teams intercepted the suspects near the Amritsar-Attari bypass, recovering 5 kg of heroin and two motorcycles used for transport. Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav said the accused were planning to deliver the consignment near Kala Ghanupur area, and investigations are ongoing to trace the full network.

In a separate operation, Amritsar Rural Police arrested four more alleged smugglers and recovered 4.168 kg of heroin along with five mobile phones. Rohit, Vishal Singh, and Gurditt Singh from Rorawala Kalan village were caught in the first raid with 2.010 kg of heroin and two phones. In the second case, Sahildeep Singh of Dande village was apprehended near the joint check post close to Attari with 2.158 kg of heroin and three phones.

Both cases have been registered under provisions of the NDPS Act at Gharinda police station.

Police are probing the forward and backward links of the smuggling network and have warned of strict action against anyone involved. These operations highlight Punjab police's ongoing efforts to curb cross-border drug trafficking and dismantle networks threatening public safety.

Kishan Set to Open After Blazing Knock Says Aakash Chopra

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mumbai : Former India cricketer Aakash Chopra believes Ishan Kishan has virtually sealed the opener's slot for the upcoming T20 World Cup following his explosive performance in the warm-up match against South Africa. Chopra said Kishan's blistering knock has decisively tilted the contest in his favour, leaving Sanju Samson trailing in the race for the opening berth.

India, playing their second warm-up game at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, experimented with their batting order as captain Suryakumar Yadav confirmed at the toss that Kishan would open alongside Abhishek Sharma. The move paid immediate dividends as Kishan smashed a breathtaking 53 off just 20 deliveries, hammering seven sixes in a dazzling display of power-hitting.

He retired out in the sixth over to allow Tilak Varma some valuable time in the middle, underlining the team's focus on preparation ahead of the tournament.Chopra remarked that there was little doubt Kishan's performance had strengthened his case significantly. In contrast, Samson's recent form has raised concerns. During the T20I series against New Zealand, Samson managed just 46 runs across five matches at an average of 9.20, with a highest score of 24.

Meanwhile, Kishan had earned his opportunity with a sensational series against the same opposition, amassing 215 runs at a staggering strike rate of 231.18, including a blistering 42-ball century in Thiruvananthapuram. While acknowledging Samson's talent, Chopra noted that the wicketkeeper-batter may have to adapt to a floating role in the squad. He suggested that Samson could be drafted into the playing XI if injuries, illness, or loss of form affect other players.

However, he also pointed out that Samson might not necessarily bat in his preferred position if called upon. India secured a comfortable 30-run victory in the warm-up fixture, gaining valuable match practice. With Kishan in red-hot form and momentum firmly on his side, he appears poised to open the innings when India take on the United States on February 7 at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

Arijit Singh's Exit Sparks Playback Pay Royalty Debate

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : Arijit Singh's recent announcement that he is stepping away from playback singing has reignited a long-standing debate over remuneration and royalty structures in the Indian film music industry. His decision has not only surprised fans but also raised questions about how even the industry's most celebrated voices are compensated—and what the system means for emerging singers with far less bargaining power. The discussion gained momentum after singer Abhijeet Sawant addressed the issue in a recent interview with Pentarise Studios' YouTube channel.

Speaking candidly about the financial realities of playback singing, Abhijeet suggested that the system is designed to ensure singers do not overshadow films or actors. "People don't want singers to become bigger than the film itself. That's why they are paid a certain amount," he said. He also pointed out that many musicians do not receive substantial royalties from film songs. Drawing a comparison, he cited composer Biddu's experience in the West, claiming that royalties from just a few international tracks were enough to sustain him for life. "We don't even get enough money to sustain our livelihood," Abhijeet added.

He further stated that singers often accept low fees because opportunities in the industry are highly competitive. "If we don't do it, someone else will. We get exploited a lot," he remarked, adding that many artists prioritize visibility and association with big stars over financial gain. Arijit Singh, in a social media post dated January 27, thanked listeners for their love and support before announcing that he would not take up new playback assignments. "It was a wonderful journey," he wrote, days after releasing Maatrubhumi with Shreya Ghoshal for the upcoming film Battle of Galwan.

While Arijit has not cited specific reasons for his decision, his exit has intensified scrutiny of the industry's payment practices, potentially prompting a broader conversation on fair compensation and sustainable careers for playback singers.

It's Story TIME

The Farmer and the Well

A farmer bought a well from his neighbour to water his farm. The neighbour sold him the well but did not allow him to draw water from it. The farmer went to the emperor for justice. His courtier questioned the neighbour, who said that he had sold the well but not the water within it. The neighbour was told to either pay rent for the water to remove it all immediately. Realising that his trick didn't work, he apologised and went home.



Mirzapur The Movie to Release in Theatres on September 4 2026



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mumbai : One of India's most successful OTT franchises, Mirzapur, is all set to make its much-anticipated leap to the big screen. The makers officially announced today that Mirzapur: The Movie will release in theatres worldwide on September 4, 2026. The project marks the first cinematic adaptation of the gritty crime drama universe that became a cultural phenomenon in the digital entertainment space.

Since its debut, Mirzapur has cultivated a massive and loyal fan base with its raw portrayal of crime, politics, and power struggles set in the Hindi heartland. The series became synonymous with intense storytelling, layered characters, and sharp, hard-hitting dialogues. Its gripping narrative, shocking twists, and morally complex characters redefined the crime-thriller genre on Indian streaming platforms. Over multiple seasons, the show not only earned critical acclaim but also emerged as one of the most-watched and widely discussed web series in the country.

The transition to cinemas signals a significant expansion of the franchise's scale and ambition. Moving from OTT to the big screen offers an opportunity to present the high-stakes drama and violence of the Mirzapur universe on a grander, more immersive canvas. The theatrical format is expected to amplify the action, intensify emotional confrontations, and deliver a larger-than-life cinematic experience to audiences.

The film will be directed by Gurmmeet Singh, who has been closely associated with the series and understands the tone, rhythm, and gritty texture that define the Mirzapur world. It is produced by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar under their banner Excel Entertainment, with Kassim Jagmagia and Vishal Ramchandani serving as co-producers. The screenplay has been penned by Puneet Krishna, the creator and writer who played a pivotal role in shaping the original series' compelling narrative and distinctive voice.

Announcing the release date on social media, the makers teased fans with the promise of a grand cinematic spectacle. "Ab dekhiye bhaukaal bade parde par. Watch #MirzapurTheMovie releasing at your nearest theatres on 4th September," read the caption accompanying the announcement. The message hints that the film will retain the signature intensity, gritty realism, and high-voltage drama that fans associate with the franchise while elevating it for the big screen. While specific plot details are being kept tightly under wraps, the film is expected to explore an untold chapter from the Mirzapur universe. This opens the door to deeper character arcs, new alliances, shifting power equations, and unexpected betrayals. Industry observers believe the cinematic version could delve further into the psychological and political layers of its central characters.

The move also reflects a growing trend in the entertainment industry, where successful digital properties are transitioning into theatrical ventures. By bringing Mirzapur to cinemas, the makers are banking on its strong brand recall and devoted audience base. With anticipation already building, Mirzapur: The Movie is shaping up to be one of the most awaited releases of 2026, as fans eagerly await the return of its lawless and explosive world on the silver screen.



PM Modi to Visit Malaysia on February 7-8 Anwar Ibrahim

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake an official visit to Malaysia from February 7 to 8, 2026, at the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, the government announced.

This will be PM Modi's third visit to Malaysia and his first since India and Malaysia elevated their bilateral relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in August 2024. The visit is expected to further consolidate ties between the two nations and provide momentum to ongoing cooperation across multiple sectors. During the two-day visit, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim will hold bilateral discussions covering the entire spectrum of India-Malaysia relations. The talks are expected to focus on enhancing collaboration in trade and investment, defence and security, maritime cooperation, digital and financial technology, energy, healthcare, education, culture and tourism. Officials said the leaders will also review progress made under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership framework and explore new avenues of cooperation for mutual benefit.

Strengthening people-to-people ties and expanding economic engagement are likely to feature prominently in the discussions. The Prime Minister is also scheduled to interact with members of the Indian community in Malaysia, which comprises around 2.9 million people and represents the third-largest Indian diaspora globally. The diaspora has played a significant role in fostering closer cultural, economic and social ties between the two countries. In addition, PM Modi will engage with representatives from industry and business.

The 10th India-Malaysia CEO Forum will be held alongside the visit, providing a platform for business leaders from both sides to explore new partnerships and investment opportunities. India and Malaysia share deep-rooted historical, civilisational and cultural connections that span centuries. The upcoming visit is expected to reinforce these longstanding ties while charting a forward-looking agenda for cooperation in key strategic and economic sectors.

Lok Sabha Disruptions Escalate as Rahul Gandhi Barred



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Lok Sabha witnessed unprecedented disruptions today as Opposition protests escalated following Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi being barred from reading excerpts from an unpublished memoir of former Army chief Gen MM Naravane. The row forced multiple adjournments, including the cancellation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned reply to the Motion of Thanks.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla expressed deep concern over the chaos, stating he had advised the Prime Minister not to attend the House due to credible information that some Opposition MPs might approach the Prime Minister's chair, potentially causing an incident. "Historically, political disagreements have not been brought to the floor of Parliament. What happened yesterday is a black spot in the history of Parliament," Birla said, condemning the misbehavior of certain MPs.

The uproar began when Rahul Gandhi was prevented from quoting Naravane's unpublished book, a move opposed by senior ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah. Later, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey stirred further controversy by citing books critical of former Prime Ministers, including Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi. TDP MP Krishna Prasad Tenneti, presiding in the Chair, invoked Rule 349, which restricts members from quoting from books, newspapers, or letters except in connection with House business, to restrain Dubey. Dubey's references prompted Congress and other Opposition MPs to enter the Well of the House in protest, forcing an adjournment till 5 pm. Congress members later met Speaker Birla, alleging a double standard in allowing Dubey to quote publications while denying the same opportunity to Rahul Gandhi. The House had already faced three earlier adjournments at 11 am, 12 noon, and 2 pm over issues including the Naravane memoir and the India-US trade deal. Protests intensified when women MPs, led by Congress's Varsha Gaikwad, marched toward the Prime Minister's seat in the Chair. BJP MP Sandhya Rai eventually adjourned the proceedings for the day.

Speaker Birla stressed that such incidents damage the dignity of the nation and urged Members to uphold parliamentary decorum. Government floor managers had initially planned for the Prime Minister to respond to the Motion of Thanks at 5 pm, but repeated disruptions have delayed proceedings.

The events underline growing political friction in Parliament, with Congress accusing the government of censorship and BJP citing procedural rules. Tensions are expected to continue as the House navigates the debate on the President's address, highlighting a larger struggle over free speech and parliamentary conduct. The day's events mark one of the most chaotic sessions in recent parliamentary history, raising concerns about the decorum and functioning of India's lower house.

HC Acquits 100 Year Old in 1982 Murder Case After 40 Year Delay

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Lucknow : In a significant ruling highlighting the consequences of prolonged judicial delays, the Allahabad High Court has acquitted a 100-year-old man in a 1982 murder case, granting him the benefit of the doubt and noting the extraordinary delay in deciding his appeal. A division bench comprising Justices Chandradhari Singh and Sanjeev Kumar set aside the conviction of Dhaniram, who had been sentenced to life imprisonment by a sessions court in Hamirpur in 1984.

His appeal against the conviction had remained pending before the High Court for more than four decades. The case dates back to August 9, 1982, when a man named Gunwa was fatally shot in Hamirpur district, allegedly over a land dispute. According to the prosecution, the main accused, Maiku, fired the fatal shot, while Dhaniram and another man, Sattidin, were accused of instigating the attack. The trial court convicted Dhaniram and Sattidin under charges of murder with common intention. Both convicts challenged the verdict in the High Court and were granted bail during the pendency of their appeals.

However, the case remained unresolved for decades. During this prolonged period, Sattidin passed away, leaving Dhaniram as the sole surviving appellant. In its judgment, the High Court noted that the principal accused, Maiku, who allegedly fired the shot, was never apprehended.

The bench observed that such a long delay in hearing the appeal, combined with the advanced age of the surviving accused, were significant factors that could not be overlooked. The court also pointed to gaps in the prosecution's case and extended the benefit of the doubt to Dhaniram. Setting aside the conviction, the bench acquitted him of all charges and ordered that his bail bonds be discharged.

The ruling is expected to reignite debate over delays in the criminal justice system, especially in older cases that remain pending for decades, affecting not only the accused but also the victims' families awaiting closure.

Woman Uses Rapido Porter to Deliver Garbage Sparks Debate

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Lucknow : A woman's unusual use of a Rapido porter service has triggered widespread discussion on social media after a delivery executive discovered that the sealed package he was assigned to transport contained nothing but garbage. The incident came to light through a now-viral post on X shared by Hindu Pride. According to the account, the Rapido delivery boy arrived at the pickup location where the woman handed him a sealed cardboard box.

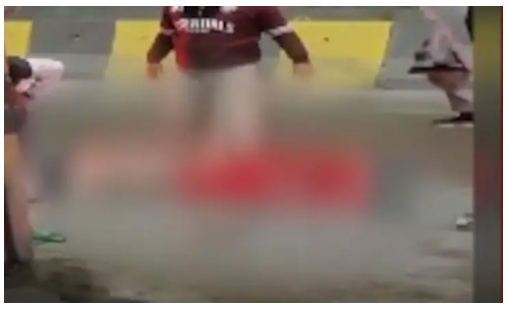
Before setting off, he politely confirmed whether the payment would be made online or in cash. The woman informed him that the payment had already been completed digitally. The confusion began when the delivery executive reached the drop location. Instead of finding a recipient waiting to receive the package, he reportedly saw a heap of garbage. Unsure about the situation, he called the woman to clarify whom he should hand over the parcel to. Her response left him stunned. She casually told him to simply throw the box there, revealing that it was filled with trash.

Surprised by the revelation, the delivery boy reportedly burst into laughter and remarked, "So this is where we've reached — now we're delivering other people's trash!"The anecdote quickly gained traction online, drawing mixed reactions from social media users. While some found humor in the irony of using a delivery platform to dispose of waste, others raised concerns about the dignity of labour and the treatment of gig-economy workers. One user commented that although the situation appeared funny on the surface, it reflected a lack of basic courtesy toward service workers.

Another pointed out that the woman had effectively turned a delivery service into a "trash transport service," highlighting how unconventional uses of such platforms could blur ethical boundaries. The discussion soon broadened into a larger debate about how gig-economy services are being utilized and whether clearer guidelines or greater social awareness are needed to ensure respectful and appropriate treatment of workers in the rapidly expanding on-demand service sector.

Man Thrashed for Stopping Woman's Harassment 4 Arrested

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : A 35-year-old man was allegedly beaten up by four youths after he tried to stop them from harassing a woman in south Delhi's Saket area in the early hours of today, police said. The incident took place around 4 am when a 27-year-old woman, employed in the private sector, stepped out of her residence for her morning shift and was waiting for a cab.

According to police, four men riding on two scooters, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, began harassing the woman. A man present at the spot, later identified as Mukesh, a resident of Sangam Vihar, noticed the woman in distress and objected to the men's behaviour. Enraged by his intervention, the accused allegedly turned violent and assaulted him. Police said Mukesh was punched and kicked repeatedly and beaten on his face, chest and abdomen. He was also attacked with bricks during the assault.

A video of the incident, which has since gone viral on social media, shows the accused slapping and kicking the victim, dragging him by his shirt and continuing to thrash him. At one point, one of the attackers is seen picking up two bricks and attempting to hurl them at Mukesh, but he is stopped by others present at the scene. Mukesh sustained injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital. He was later referred to AIIMS Trauma Centre for advanced treatment and has since been discharged, officials said.

Based on the woman's statement and the viral video, an FIR was registered at the Mehrauli police station. A police team analysed CCTV footage from the surrounding area and conducted local verification to identify the suspects. The four accused — Vishal Rawat (26), Jatin (20), Sonu (25) and Vivek (20) — have been arrested. Further investigation into the case is underway.

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Trump Signals 'Softer Touch' on Immigration Enforcement

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Washington: US President Donald Trump indicated that a "softer touch" may be needed in handling immigration enforcement, even as his administration reaffirmed that mass deportations would continue nationwide. His remarks came as federal authorities announced the withdrawal of 700 officers from Minnesota following weeks of unrest over the fatal shootings of two protesters in Minneapolis.

In an interview with NBC's Nightly News, Trump said he had reflected on the situation in Minneapolis. "I learned that maybe we could use a little bit of a softer touch. But you still have to be tough," he stated. Despite the conciliatory tone, Trump reiterated his support for immigration enforcement agencies and maintained that deportation efforts would not slow down.

Border chief Tom Homan confirmed that while 700 federal officers would be pulled out of Minnesota, approximately 2,000 agents would remain in the state. He emphasized that immigration operations, including large-scale removals of undocumented migrants, would persist. "Mass deportations are here, they're coming, we're already breaking records, and we're not going to stop," Homan said in an interview with Fox News.

The reduction follows widespread protests sparked by the fatal shootings of two US citizens during encounters with federal immigration agents. Renee Good, 37, was shot while attempting to drive away from ICE officers, and two weeks later, intensive care nurse Alex Pretti, also 37, was beaten and shot during an arrest. The incidents drew national and international criticism, particularly after authorities were accused of initially providing inaccurate accounts. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, both Democrats, described the withdrawal as "a step in the right direction" but called for a faster and broader drawdown.

They have also urged state-led investigations into the shootings. Homan said the reduced deployment was partly due to increased cooperation with local authorities, allowing more arrests to occur in jails rather than on the streets. Before the crackdown, only 150 federal immigration officers were stationed in Minnesota.

While expressing sadness over the deaths, Trump defended law enforcement agencies, stating, "If we don't back them, we don't have a country."

US Brokered Ukraine Russia Talks Resume Amid Ongoing Fighting



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Washington : Ukrainian and Russian officials concluded what Kyiv described as a "substantive and productive" first day of renewed US-brokered talks in Abu Dhabi today even as intense fighting continued across the battlefield. The two-day trilateral meetings, facilitated by the United States, mark another attempt to find a path toward ending Europe's largest conflict since World War II. Rustem Umerov, head of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council and Kyiv's lead negotiator, said discussions focused on "concrete steps and practical solutions." A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, also termed the talks productive and confirmed they would continue.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said it was encouraging that technical military teams from both sides were meeting in a forum involving American experts, though he cautioned that dialogue alone does not guarantee progress. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stressed that any negotiations must deliver tangible movement toward peace rather than allow Moscow to regroup. In his nightly address, he said Ukrainians needed to feel that the situation was genuinely shifting toward ending the war.

He also expressed hope that the talks could soon result in a new prisoner exchange. However, the diplomatic efforts unfolded against a backdrop of escalating violence. Zelenskyy accused Russia of exploiting a recent US-backed energy truce to build up munitions, alleging that Moscow launched a record number of ballistic missiles at Ukraine earlier this week.

Shortly after the talks began, Russian forces struck a crowded market in eastern Ukraine using cluster munitions, killing at least seven people and injuring 15, according to Donetsk region Governor Vadym Filashkin. Major differences remain between the two sides. Moscow is demanding that Kyiv withdraw from all of the Donetsk region, including heavily fortified cities, as a precondition for any agreement. Ukraine has rejected unilateral troop withdrawals and insists the conflict should be frozen along current front lines. The fate of the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, also remains a contentious issue. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Russian forces would continue fighting until Ukraine made decisions that could bring the conflict to an end. Russia currently controls about 20 percent of Ukraine's territory, including Crimea and large portions of the Donbas region.

Analysts estimate Moscow has gained roughly 1.5 percent more territory since early 2024. Zelenskyy revealed in an interview with French television that approximately 55,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed since the war began, revising earlier figures. Despite heavy losses, Ukrainian officials maintain that Russia is not achieving decisive victory on the battlefield. Public opinion in Ukraine remains resistant to territorial concessions. Polls indicate most Ukrainians oppose ceding additional land to Moscow.

Residents in Kyiv expressed scepticism that the renewed talks would yield a breakthrough, saying both sides appear unwilling to compromise. Meanwhile, geopolitical dynamics continue to evolve. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin reaffirmed their close ties in a video call ahead of the war's fourth anniversary. Beijing has positioned itself as a potential peacemaker while maintaining strong relations with Moscow.

As negotiations proceed in Abu Dhabi, the gap between diplomatic engagement and battlefield realities underscores the complexity of achieving a durable settlement to the four-year conflict.

US Russia Nuclear Pact Expires Arms Race Fears Rise

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Moscow : The last remaining nuclear arms control agreement between the United States and Russia is set to expire on today, removing limits on the deployment of nuclear warheads and triggering concerns of a renewed global arms race. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, known as New START, was originally signed in 2010 by then US President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

It capped the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads for both countries at 1,550 and included strict verification measures such as on-site inspections and data sharing on missile movements. The treaty was extended for five years in 2021 but now faces expiry amid strained ties over the Ukraine war. The development is significant because the US and Russia together possess about 87% of the world's nuclear weapons. Without New START, both nations are no longer legally bound to limit their nuclear arsenals, raising fears of an unchecked buildup.

US President Donald Trump has indicated little urgency about extending the pact, stating recently that if it expires, it expires. He has also been critical of international arms control arrangements and last year ordered the military to resume nuclear weapons testing.

Russia has similarly said it is no longer bound by the treaty's limits, though President Vladimir Putin has stated that Moscow would act "in a measured and responsible manner." Former Russian President Medvedev has warned that allowing the treaty to lapse could lead to catastrophic consequences.

Efforts to negotiate a new framework have stalled, partly due to US demands that China be included in future agreements. Russia, in turn, has sought the inclusion of France and the United Kingdom.

The United Nations has expressed deep concern, with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warning that the risk of nuclear weapons use is at its highest in decades. Analysts caution that the treaty's expiry could undermine the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and weaken global efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

Russia Says India Free to Diversify Oil Imports Amid US Claims

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



New Delhi : Russia has reiterated that India is free to buy crude oil from any supplier, responding to claims by US President Donald Trump that New Delhi agreed to cease Russian oil imports as part of a recently announced US-India trade deal. Kremlin officials stressed that India has historically diversified its energy sources and there is nothing new about its purchase choices.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov dismissed suggestions that India's energy ties with Moscow are ending. "We, along with all other international energy experts, are well aware that Russia is not the only supplier of oil and petroleum products to India. India has always purchased these products from other countries. Therefore, we see nothing new here," he said in response to Trump's claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had agreed to switch to buying US and possibly Venezuelan crude.

Peskov also noted that Russia has not received any formal communication from India about halting Russian oil imports. Russia's Foreign Ministry echoed this stance, underscoring the mutual benefits of energy cooperation with India. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said India's purchase of Russian hydrocarbons is beneficial for both countries and contributes to global energy market stability, reaffirming Moscow's readiness to continue close cooperation in the sector. Despite the US narrative, independent data show that India's imports of Russian crude have recently declined but remain substantial.

In January 2026, India's Russian oil imports fell to about 1.215 million barrels per day, marking a drop from previous months amid broader diversification efforts, including increased purchases from Middle Eastern sources. However, analysts note that India continues to import significant volumes of Russian crude even as it adjusts to shifting global energy dynamics.

Energy analysts have also highlighted the practical challenges of fully replacing Russian crude with alternatives. Russian Urals crude is heavier and more sulfur-rich, while US shale exports tend to be lighter, requiring blending with other grades, which can raise costs for Indian refiners. Analysts suggest that US and Venezuelan crude cannot easily match the volume and quality of Russian supplies, which has long been a cornerstone of India's energy imports. India's energy relationship with Russia has evolved significantly over the past few years. Before 2022, Russian oil accounted for only a minor share of total imports, but after Russia's invasion of Ukraine and accompanying Western sanctions, India became one of the largest buyers of discounted Russian crude, using it to help meet its growing energy needs while maintaining supply security.

For now, Kremlin statements make clear that India's oil sourcing remains a sovereign decision and that diversification—rather than abandonment of Russian supplies is the ongoing strategy. The differing narratives between Washington and Moscow reflect broader geopolitical competition over energy ties and trade relationships. This positioning leaves India balancing its energy security priorities with evolving global trade pressures as it continues to navigate complex international dynamics.



AIADMK Pledges Interest Free Loans For Minority Women



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chennai : In a strategic move to woo minority voters ahead of the upcoming Tamil Nadu assembly elections, opposition party AIADMK has announced interest-free loans for women from minority communities, including Muslims and Christians, to support self-employment initiatives if voted to power. The party, led by Edappadi Palanisamy (EPS), unveiled this promise today as part of its second list of key poll commitments, which also includes the waiver of educational loans.

The announcement comes as AIADMK seeks to regain support among minorities, a demographic that largely abstained from backing the party in previous elections. In both the 2019 and 2021 polls, the AIADMK allied with the BJP and suffered consecutive defeats, as the DMK swept the elections. Though the AIADMK broke ties with the BJP for the 2024 polls, the DMK retained its winning streak. The party now hopes that a pro-minority stance will help regain lost ground.

Despite the initiative, AIADMK faces multiple challenges. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a recent visit to Tamil Nadu, avoided mentioning the AIADMK, stating only that a "BJP-NDA government will be formed," leaving the state party embarrassed. AIADMK spokesperson Kovai Sathyan clarified that the party leads the alliance in Tamil Nadu and remains unperturbed by the omission. Internal dynamics within the opposition bloc add further complexity. Expelled AIADMK leader O Panneerselvam (OPS) has yet to rejoin the party, while TTV Dhinakaran has returned after earlier setbacks. Other parties, including PMK, are grappling with internal leadership struggles, while the DMDK and Puthiya Thalaimurai have not yet decided their electoral strategy. Despite attempts to court actor Vijay's TVK party, AIADMK has decided to contest independently, declaring the BJP its ideological rival and ruling out any alliance.

EPS, who has led the party through three consecutive election losses following the death of former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, is now facing a critical "now-or-never" election. In addition to minority-focused measures, the AIADMK has announced several populist promises, including three free LPG cylinders annually for ration card holders and free bus rides for men, expanding the free ride scheme currently available only to women under the DMK government.

The election is shaping up as a four-way contest, with Director Seeman's NTK also expected to contest independently. The AIADMK's push to regain minority support and its broader welfare promises indicate a high-stakes battle as the state heads into a crucial assembly election, with EPS seeking to reverse the party's recent losing streak. The AIADMK's campaign highlights the importance of minority outreach, welfare schemes, and strategic alliances in the complex political landscape of Tamil Nadu, setting the stage for an intense and competitive electoral season.

TN Minister's Hindi Remark Triggers Fresh Language Row

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Chennai : Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister MRK Panneerselvam has reignited the long-running two-versus-three language debate after controversial remarks about migrant workers from northern states, triggering a fresh political storm weeks before the Assembly elections. Speaking at a recent event, Panneerselvam said that migrants from the north, "having learnt only Hindi", often end up doing menial jobs such as construction work or selling pani puri in Tamil Nadu.

In contrast, he claimed, students in Tamil Nadu benefit from the state's two-language policy — Tamil and English — which enables them to secure high-paying jobs abroad, including in the United States and the United Kingdom.His comments quickly drew criticism, with opponents accusing him of insulting Hindi-speaking migrants. The ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) sought to contain the fallout. Party spokesperson Dr Syed Hafeezullah clarified that there is "dignity in every legal job" and stressed that the DMK has nothing against Hindi speakers or migrant workers. He reframed the minister's remarks as a broader critique of the Centre's three-language policy under the National Education Policy (NEP).

DMK Lok Sabha MP TR Baalu also defended Panneerselvam, suggesting he had been misquoted and that no disrespect was intended toward north Indians. At the same time, he reiterated Tamil Nadu's longstanding opposition to what it perceives as "Hindi imposition". The language issue is expected to be a major campaign theme in the upcoming elections. The DMK, allied with the Congress, is seeking a second consecutive term and faces the AIADMK, which has aligned with the BJP. The BJP-led Centre's NEP, which encourages a three-language formula, has repeatedly drawn resistance from Tamil Nadu, where the two-language policy has been in place for decades.

Historically, attempts to promote Hindi in non-Hindi-speaking states have sparked strong reactions in Tamil Nadu, including violent protests in the past. While the Centre has maintained that there is "no question of imposing any language", the latest remarks have once again brought the emotive language debate to the forefront of state politics.

Industrialist Uses Helicopter Amid Expressway Gridlock

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Mumbai : Dr Sudhir Mehta, Chairman of EKA Mobility and Pinnacle Industries, has sparked a debate on infrastructure preparedness after taking a helicopter to reach Pune when he was stranded for nearly eight hours in a massive traffic jam on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway.

Mehta shared aerial footage of the long lines of stranded vehicles on social media, highlighting the scale of the disruption and calling for urgent improvements in emergency planning along the high-speed corridor. In his post, he noted that lakhs of commuters were stuck for several hours due to a single overturned gas tanker and stressed the need for better contingency measures. He suggested that the expressway should have strategically located emergency exits that can be opened during crises to allow vehicles to turn back. Mehta also proposed the construction of helipads at intervals along the route to facilitate emergency evacuation. According to him, helipads require less than an acre of open land and can be built at relatively low cost, making them a viable addition to emergency infrastructure.

Mehta thanked Nitin Welde, an air veteran and civil aviation consultant, for helping arrange the helicopter that enabled him to return to Pune. His comments drew mixed reactions online. While some users supported the call for improved infrastructure and accountability, others questioned the practicality of helipads in managing large-scale traffic snarls. Several motorists shared their own experiences of being stranded for up to 12 hours, expressing frustration and urging authorities to ensure better crisis management. The traffic chaos was triggered on February 3 around 5 pm after a gas tanker carrying highly flammable propylene overturned near the Adoshi Tunnel in the Khandala Ghat section.

A gas leak from the tanker led police to close traffic towards Mumbai and divert vehicles to the Pune-bound carriageway. However, the continuous leak hampered restoration of normal movement, causing long queues and severe congestion. The 94.5-km Mumbai-Pune Expressway, India's first six-lane, access-controlled concrete highway, connects Mumbai, Raigad and Navi Mumbai with Pune and is among the country's busiest corridors.

Wife Ex Boyfriend Held in Newlywed Murder Plot



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Sri Ganganagar : What initially appeared to be a tragic hit-and-run case in Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar has turned into an alleged premeditated murder, with the victim's wife accused of plotting his killing with her former boyfriend. Police said Ashish and his wife Anju, married barely three months ago, had stepped out for an evening walk on January 30 when they were reportedly hit by an unidentified vehicle. The police were informed around 9 pm that a couple was lying unconscious on the road. Both were rushed to the Community Health Center, where doctors declared Ashish dead.

Anju, 23, told police that a speeding vehicle had struck them and that she had also been robbed of her gold jewellery during the incident. However, investigators soon noticed inconsistencies in her account. According to Superintendent of Police Amrita Duhan, a forensic examination of the scene and the body revealed injury marks inconsistent with a road accident. The medical report suggested Ashish had been brutally assaulted and possibly strangled. Anju, in contrast, had no significant injuries. Call detail records further deepened suspicion, showing that Anju had been in regular contact with her former boyfriend, Sanju, who lived near her hometown. Police investigations revealed that Anju had returned to her parental home shortly after her marriage and had reportedly reconciled with Sanju during that time.Police allege that Anju and Sanju conspired to kill Ashish. On the night of the incident, Anju allegedly took her husband to an isolated stretch of road where Sanju and two accomplices — Rocky alias Rohit and Badal alias Siddharth — were hiding.

The trio allegedly attacked Ashish, assaulted and strangled him, and then staged the scene to resemble a road accident. Anju is accused of handing over her phone and earrings to the attackers to fabricate a robbery and pretending to be unconscious.Investigators said Anju's changing statements and contradictions ultimately exposed the plot. All four accused have been arrested, and further investigation is underway.

Man Assaulted Over Suspected Interfaith Relationship

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Bengaluru : A Hindu man was allegedly assaulted in Karnataka's Koppal district after being suspected of having a relationship with a Muslim woman, police said today. The victim, identified as Venkatesh, was reportedly attacked by a group of men at a local bus stand after they saw him with a woman and her children and allegedly assumed he was involved in an affair with her. According to Venkatesh's police complaint, the incident stemmed from a domestic dispute.

Azmeer and his wife Afia, residents of Basapattana village, had reportedly quarrelled, after which Afia left home with her daughter and son. Azmeer then requested Venkatesh, a neighbour and long-time family friend, to speak to Afia and persuade her to return home. Acting on the request, Venkatesh went to the bus stand where Afia and her children were waiting to travel to her mother's house. However, a group of men noticed him with the family and allegedly misunderstood the situation.

Police said the group confronted Venkatesh and began assaulting him.

Despite locals intervening and clarifying that he was a neighbour who had known the family for years, the attackers allegedly continued to beat him. Authorities confirmed that the two families had known each other for nearly 15 years and described Venkatesh as a family acquaintance. An FIR has been registered against Azmeer, Khajafeer, Indrawali and several others in connection with the assault.

Police said further investigation is underway to determine the exact sequence of events and identify all those involved. Following the registration of the case, tension flared outside the local police station as members of the Muslim community gathered and demanded that a counter-complaint be filed against Venkatesh as well.

Heated arguments reportedly broke out, and visuals from the scene showed a man gesturing angrily at a police officer. Police have urged calm and said appropriate action will be taken based on evidence.

Pan Shop Owner Killed Over Money Dispute in Village

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES



Belagavi : A minor dispute over payment for cigarettes and water bottles turned fatal in a Karnataka village, where a 48-year-old pan shop owner was allegedly beaten to death by a group of men late at night. The victim, Yallappa Naik, was attacked around midnight when four men stopped at his shop while returning from a village fair.

According to police, the men took four to five cigarettes and two water bottles but allegedly refused to pay when Yallappa asked for the money.

The argument quickly escalated into violence. Yallappa's brother, Ningappa Naik, said the accused began assaulting him when he insisted on payment. "Two of them held him while the others thrashed him. When we reached the spot, they tried to run away, but we managed to catch two of them," he said. Family members rushed Yallappa to a nearby hospital. However, doctors advised shifting him to KLE Hospital for advanced treatment due to the severity of his injuries.

He died on the way, leaving his family devastated.Locals alleged that the accused were inebriated at the time and had been creating a nuisance in the area after attending the village fair. They claimed the group was behaving aggressively even before reaching the shop. Yallappa, described by residents as hardworking and soft-spoken, was the sole breadwinner of his family.

His sudden death has triggered anger and grief among villagers, who are demanding strict action against those responsible.

Police have arrested four accused in connection with the case — Prajwal Patil (22), Nikhil Chougale (22), Viveil Chougale and Shridhar Patil.

A case has been registered at the Kakati Police Station. Officials said further investigation is underway to establish the exact sequence of events and determine the role of each accused in the assault.

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