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Sunset: 7:21 PM

Saturday, 27.07.2024
Sunrise 5:38 AM (IST)

Next Full Moon
19 Aug 2024
Next New Moon
04 Aug 2024

PM's warning to Pakistan on Kargil Diwas: Will crush terrorism with full force

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Amid a surge in attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued a stern warning to Pakistan on Kargil Vijay Diwas, saying India would defeat every terror challenge. The Prime Minister also carried out the "first blast" for the Shinkun La tunnel in Ladakh, which, at 15,800 feet, will be the highest when completed.

Addressing a gathering at Kargil War Memorial, PM Modi said India not only won the Kargil War 25 years ago, but gave a wonderful example of "truth, restraint and strength". PM Modi said Pakistan had failed in all its nefarious attempts in the past but was trying to keep itself relevant with the help of terrorism and proxy war.

"Pakistan has not learnt anything from its history. Today I am speaking from a place where the masters of terror can hear my voice directly. I want to tell these patrons of terrorism that their nefarious intentions will never succeed. Our soldiers will crush terrorism with full force and the enemy will be given a befitting reply," PM Modi said.

On July 26, 1999, the Indian Army announced the success of "Operation Vijay", reclaiming the positions occupied by Pakistani infiltrators on the Indian side of the LoC in the Kargil sector after a nearly three-month-long battle in Ladakh. The day is observed as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the war.

"Today, this great land of Ladakh is witnessing the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. Kargil Vijay Diwas tells us that the sacrifices made for the nation are immortal," he said.

PM Modi also attacked the opposition for politicising the Agnipath recruitment



KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS

scheme for the Army, saying they were deliberately misleading the youth. He also said his government had made defence reforms the first priority of the defence sector.

"Some people are also spreading the misconception that the government has brought this scheme to save pension money. The question of pension for today's recruits will arise after 30 years. Why would the government take a decision on it today? It should have left it for the governments of that time. We have respected this decision taken by the armed forces because for us, national security is paramount, not politics," he said.

He also underscored that infrastructure development and the tourism sector were also growing rapidly in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

"Be it Ladakh or Jammu and Kashmir, India will defeat every challenge that comes in the way of development. In a few days, on August 5, it will be 5 years since Article 370 was abolished. Jammu and Kashmir is talking about a new future, talking about big dreams," PM Modi said.

Earlier, the Prime Minister laid a wreath at Kargil War Memorial in Ladakh and paid homage to the soldiers who laid down their lives while fighting valiantly during the Kargil War 25 years ago.

Pb Congress MP Raja Warring, here's JP Nadda's reply

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : As cancer cases in Punjab are on the rise, Punjab Congress MP Amarinder Singh Raja Warring today raised the issue in Lok Sabha about the free-of-cost treatment to patients.

Warring said: "The government claims that India is the fastest growing economy in the world. If it is so, why cannot the government provide cancer treatment free of cost to patients rather than lowering the cost of medicines. When someone has cancer in the family, the entire family gets affected, so it is important that the government provide treatment free of cost rather than lowering the cost of medicines."

Union Health Minister JP Nadda -- responding to Warring, said the government had made all efforts to ensure that affordable and accessible treatment is available to the patients. He said, "The number of cancer cases is going up, it is increasing by almost 2.5 per cent every year," adding, "In men, cases of oral and lung cancer are on the up while more women are getting breast cancer."

More than 15.5 lakh cancer cases are being registered every year, said Nadda. "There is a list of 131 essential cancer medicines, which are in Schedule 1, (that) are monitored and (their) pricing is decided by the government. These are the commonly



used medicines," Nadda said. He said patients cumulatively saved around Rs 294 crore due to this price control.

"There are 28 combinations, which are not in this list but the NPPA (National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority) and the government have controlled their pricing as well," he said.

"We have tried to make cancer drugs affordable," he added. In Punjab, maximum cancer patients are women with the breast and cervix uteri being the most common, while in men the most prevalent is oesophagus (food pipe) cancer that is due to alcohol consumption and fat.

As per the data with the Indian Council of Medical Research (National Centre for Diseases Informatics and Research, Bengaluru), the projected incidents of cancer for 2025 in Punjab are 19,991 in males and 23,205 in females totalling 43,196 cases.

Lok Sabha House Committee offers Rahul Gandhi new residence



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi is set to get a new residence with the House Committee offering him bungalow number five on Sunehri Bagh Road, sources said.

The buzz around the residence he is set to get gained traction after his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited the bungalow.

Parliamentary sources said that Gandhi has been offered the bungalow and a response is awaited from his end.

Since Gandhi became an MP, his

residence had been 12, Tughlaq Lane. However, he had vacated that house after he was disqualified from Lok Sabha last year, following his conviction in a defamation case.

Gandhi then moved into the 10, Janpath residence of his mother Sonia Gandhi and has been living there even after his disqualification was revoked.

With Gandhi becoming the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, he is entitled to a Type eight bungalow as he holds the rank of a Cabinet minister.

Government renames Ramanagara district as Bengaluru South



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

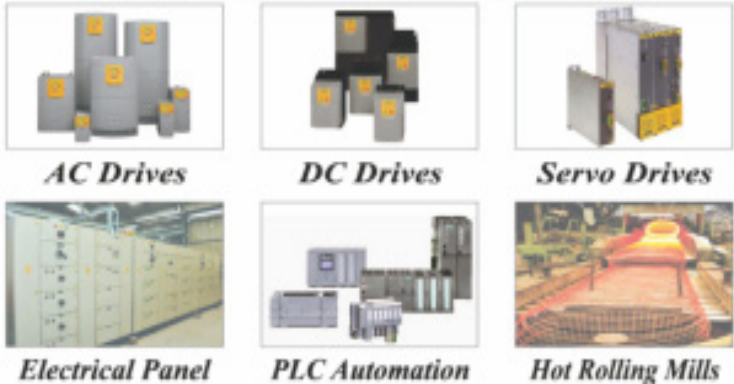
Bengaluru : The Karnataka government today decided to rename Ramanagara district as "Bengaluru South".

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. "We have decided to rename Ramanagara district as Bengaluru South... It is based on the demand of the people there. The Revenue Department will start the process," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil said. Briefing reporters after the

Cabinet meeting, he said: "Only the name of the district will change, remaining all will remain the same."

The proposal to rename neighbouring Ramanagara district, consisting of Ramanagara, Magadi, Kanakapura, Channarayana and Harohalli taluks, as 'Bengaluru South' gained steam recently, with a Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar-led delegation meeting the Chief Minister and submitting a memorandum to raise the pitch.

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Kargil Vijay Diwas 2024

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Kargil Vijay Diwas, observed on July 26 each year, commemorates India's victory in the Kargil War of 1999. This significant day honors the bravery and sacrifice of the Indian soldiers who played a crucial role in Operation Vijay, which successfully expelled Pakistani intruders from the Kargil district in Jammu and Kashmir. The day is marked by ceremonies and memorials across the nation, celebrating the indomitable spirit of the Indian Armed Forces.

This year, as we observe the 25th anniversary of this historic event, here are the top 50 messages, quotes, wishes, and pictures to share on social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram.

Kargil Vijay Diwas serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made to protect India's integrity and sovereignty. The day fosters a sense of national pride and unity, celebrating the resilience and courage of the Indian military. Here are some heartfelt messages and quotes to honor the brave soldiers:

"Remembering the bravery of our soldiers on Kargil Vijay Diwas. Their sacrifice secures our freedom and pride."
"On this Kargil Vijay Diwas, let's salute the indomitable spirit of our armed forces and honor their sacrifice."

"Kargil Vijay Diwas is a tribute to the courage and dedication of our soldiers who defended our borders."
"Let us cherish the heroes of Kargil who fought valiantly and gave their lives for our nation's honor."

"Today we honor the bravery and sacrifice of our soldiers. Kargil Vijay Diwas is a reminder of their unwavering commitment."
"Kargil Vijay Diwas reminds us of the sacrifices made by our soldiers to keep our country safe and secure."

"Saluting the valiant soldiers on Kargil Vijay Diwas who fought for our freedom and dignity."
"The heroes of Kargil will always inspire us with their courage and selfless service. We remember them with pride."

"On Kargil Vijay Diwas, we pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation."
"Their courage was unmatched, their sacrifice priceless. We honor the Kargil

heroes on this special day."
"Kargil Vijay Diwas is a day to celebrate the valor and sacrifice of our soldiers who made history with their bravery."

"Remembering the brave souls of Kargil who stood their ground with unparalleled courage. We owe them our freedom."
"The victory of Kargil is a testament to the strength and determination of our armed forces. We honor them today."

"On this Kargil Vijay Diwas, let us pledge to uphold the values and spirit of our brave soldiers."
"Their sacrifice secured our peace. We salute the Kargil heroes and remember their bravery on this day."

"Kargil Vijay Diwas reminds us that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance and sacrifice."
"Honoring the brave warriors who fought in Kargil. Their valor continues to inspire us every day."

"Today we remember the heroism of our soldiers in Kargil. Their legacy of bravery lives on."
"Kargil Vijay Diwas is a tribute to the strength and sacrifice of our armed forces. We are forever grateful."

"To the heroes of Kargil: your sacrifice will always be remembered and celebrated."
"On Kargil Vijay Diwas, let us remember the courage of those who defended our nation with valor."

"The bravery displayed in Kargil reminds us of the strength of our armed forces. We honor them today."
"Kargil Vijay Diwas is a day to reflect on the sacrifices made by our soldiers for our nation's security."

"Let us never forget the bravery and sacrifice of our Kargil heroes. They are the true guardians of our freedom."
"On this Kargil Vijay Diwas, we honor the indomitable spirit and courage of our soldiers who fought for us."

"The victory at Kargil is a symbol of our nation's strength and resilience. We honor our heroes today."
"Kargil Vijay Diwas is a reminder of the sacrifices made by our soldiers to preserve our freedom and sovereignty."

"Saluting the brave hearts who made the ultimate sacrifice in Kargil. Their courage will always be remembered."
"On this day, we celebrate the valor and dedication of our soldiers who secured our borders in Kargil."

"Kargil Vijay Diwas honors the brave souls who stood firm against adversity. Their legacy of courage endures."
"Today we pay tribute to the heroes of Kargil, whose bravery and sacrifice secured our nation's future."

"The victory in Kargil was achieved through the courage of our soldiers. We remember and honor their sacrifices."
"Kargil Vijay Diwas is a tribute to the heroism and sacrifice of our armed forces. We stand united in gratitude."

"On this day, we honor the brave soldiers who defended our nation with unparalleled courage and determination."
"Kargil Vijay Diwas keeps the memory of the conflict alive, ensuring the legacy of courage and patriotism."

National Unity
"Kargil Vijay Diwas brought the nation together in support of our armed forces."



when Pakistani soldiers and militants crossed the Line of Control (LoC) into India, occupying strategic high-altitude positions. Over two months of intense battles, the Indian Army launched Operation Vijay, successfully recapturing the peaks and restoring peace by July 26, 1999. This operation was a major military achievement, showcasing the resilience and bravery of the Indian soldiers.

Several soldiers displayed extraordinary bravery during the Kargil War.

Captain Vikram Batra (13 JAK Rifles): Led his team to recapture Point 4875, famously declaring, "Ye dil mange more!" He was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra.

Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey (1/11 Gorkha Rifles): Played a crucial role in clearing enemy positions and received the Param Vir Chakra posthumously.

Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav (18 Grenadiers): Fought valiantly at Tiger Hill despite severe injuries, earning the Param Vir Chakra.

Rifleman Sanjay Kumar (13 JAK Rifles): Displayed immense bravery at Point 4875, awarded the Param Vir Chakra.

Major Rajesh Adhikari (18 Grenadiers): Led a mission to capture a bunker at Tololing, awarded the Maha Vir Chakra posthumously for his courage.

These heroes exemplify the extraordinary courage and dedication of Indian soldiers, their actions ensuring the safety and security of the nation.

In 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Drass in Ladakh on July 26 to honor the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas.



Atul Sharma

Astro Speak by:
Rajesh KumarBirth Date
27 th July

Born on 27 th July: 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.










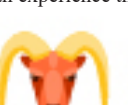
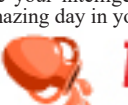

The people born on this date are worriers and often suffer from worrier's ailments: headaches, backaches, upset stomach, and sleeping disorders.

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 Aries (March 21 - April 19) July 27 th 2024 : Take proper care about your diet especially migraine patients who should not miss their meal otherwise it could give them undue emotional stress. Do not take any step or act in such a manner which can cause financial loss today without the advice an experienced person.	 Taurus (April 20 - May 20) July 27 th 2024 : Try to put your high energy to good use today. Invest wisely. Your witty nature will make you popular at social gatherings. Avoid being forceful in love affairs. Today there will be lot of issues- which need immediate attention. You might feel troubled due to your spouse today.	 Gemini (May 21 - June 20) July 27 th 2024 : It is high time for you to cure your fear. You must realize that it not only wears down physical vitality but and shortens life. Today, you are likely to attain benefits from the help of your brother or sister. A wonderful day to enjoy the company of guests. Plan something special with your relatives.
 Cancer (June 21 - July 22) July 27 th 2024 : Your rash behaviour may spoil the relationship with wife. Think the repercussions of your behaviour before doing anything silly. If possible go away to change your mood. Speculation will bring in profits. Evenings with friends will be highly entertaining and filled with pleasure.	 Leo (July 23 - Aug 22) July 27 th 2024 : Meditation and self-realization will prove to be beneficial. Wise investments will only fetch returns- therefore be sure where you put your hard-earned money. Children can cause some disappointment at school due to their lack of interest in studies.	 Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) July 27 th 2024 : You will remain very active and agile today. Your health will fully support you today. All the money you had invested in the past to make your future prosperous will reap fruitful results today. Unexpected good news later in the day brings happiness and cheers for the entire family.
 Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22) July 27 th 2024 : Involve yourself in paying some sport as it is the secret of perpetual youth. Money position improves as delayed payments are recovered. You will make favorable changes in your home environment. You can experience the pain of love.	 Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) July 27 th 2024 : Today you need to relax and try to find happiness amongst close friends and family members. Simply ignore those who approach you for temporary loans. You can get your own way with people if you turn on your charms and use your intelligence. It is going to be an amazing day in your love life.	 Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) July 27 th 2024 : Suffering from a body pains is high on the card. Try to avoid any physical exertion that would put more stress on your body. Remember to take sufficient rest. Your idea of saving money for yourself can be accomplished today. Today you will be able to save appropriately.
 Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) July 27 th 2024 : Your energy level will be high. Money gains will not be to your expectations. Gracefully accept the invitation- if you are invited to somewhere you haven't been. Romance rules your heart. You can spend most of your time sleeping at home. However, you'll come to realize the importance time in the evening.	 Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18) July 27 th 2024 : For a contented life improve your mental toughness. Be secretive about your investments and about your future goals. Joyful time with family and friends Sudden romantic encounter are foreseen today. Travel undertaken for business purpose will prove to be beneficial in the long run.	 Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20) July 27 th 2024 : Children will brighten your evening. Plan a nice dinner to adieu a dull and hectic day. Their company would recharge your body. If you had invested in any land overseas, then it can be sold today at a good price, which will help you earn profits. Family function would make new friends.

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Awareness camp regarding women centric laws under "Sankalp" campaign

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : 5 mango plants were planted with efforts of President Jasdev Brar Secretary Swaran Singh Tiwana Joint Secretary Parveen Dahiya Executive Members Bhupeshwar Jaswal and Pritpal Singh Miglani and other Bar Members. Special thanks to Gehna Vaishnavi who brought 5 Mangoes plants and all plants were planted in Kacchi Parking opposite Multilevel Parking today.

With efforts of President Jasdev Brar Secretary Swaran Singh Tiwana Joint Secretary Parveen Dahiya



Executive Members Bhupeshwar Jaswal and Pritpal Singh Miglani and other Bar Members and Special thanks to Gehna Vaishnavi

who brought 5 Mangoes plants and we planted all plants in Kacchi Parking opposite Multilevel Parking today.

Hon'ble Governor Haryana Pays Homage

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on 26th July to mark the historic victory of the Indian Armed Forces over Pakistan in the 1999 Kargil War (Operation Vijay) and to pay homage to our bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. The nation acknowledges the steadfast resolve and unparalleled courage of its soldiers. Hon'ble Governor of Haryana, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen soldiers, acknowledging their supreme sacrifice for the nation in a solemn wreath-laying ceremony organized at Chandimandir Military Station to commemorate the 25th anniversary of



Kargil Vijay Diwas. The ceremony honored the valour and sacrifices of the soldiers, who fought in the Kargil War and laid down their lives in service to the nation. Hon'ble Governor expressed gratitude emphasizing the importance of remembering the bravery and dedication of the soldiers who fought in the Kargil War and urged everyone to draw inspiration from their heroic deeds and to strive

for the honour and security of the country. The ceremony was also attended by Lt Gen Mohit Wadhwa, Chief of Staff, Army Western Command, along with senior army officers, JCOs and soldiers from the Station. Kargil War Veterans and their family members were also present on the occasion demonstrating their respect and commitment to the legacy of the Kargil heroes.

Pb cricketers making waves on international level: 6 players from state now part of Indian team

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : Ms. Shena Aggarwal as part of the 100 days (June 21 to October 4, 2024) awareness campaign launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi under the Hub for Empowerment of Women, Government of India, under the leadership of Director, Social Security and Women and Child Development Department, Punjab, an awareness seminar on women centric laws was organized during the sixth week. District Program Officer with the help of Nodal Officer Baljit Singh appointed by the Education Department, Government Girls Senior Secondary School by SAS Nagar, and Advocate Jasveer Kaur and Advocate Mrs. Arti Sharma (District Legal) at Nursing College Shri



Guru Harkrishna Sahib, Sohana. School and college students/teachers were told about the WOMEN LEGISLATION ACT by the Nodal Officer appointed by the Service Authority. Meanwhile, District Coordinator Miss Rajneet Kaur (DHEW) shared information about Mission Sakti schemes, women's rights, raising voice against violence and increas-

ing the all-round development of women so that they increase in the society. Criminal cases against women can be closed. On this occasion, the staff of Sakhi-One Stop Center also informed about the free facilities being provided in the Sakhi-One Stop Center established under the district to help women affected by any kind of violence.

Harsimrat Badal to Amit Shah on former BJP MLA being pardoned from life sentence

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Questioning the move of the government on pardoning former BJP MLA Udaybhan Karwariya who was serving a life sentence in MLA Jawahar Yadav's 1996 murder case, Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal raised questions on social media. "Will the home minister @ AmitShahof the country answer that on what compassionate grounds BJP leader Udaybhan Karwariya, accused of three murders including :- MLA Jawahar Yadav, has been released despite his life imprisonment? Do we have two laws in our country, one for the likes of BJP and the other for the minorities especially the Sikh community? Earlier the punishment of the killers of Bilquis Bano was



pardoned and now the former BJP MLA has been released. Our Bandi Singhs who have completed their sentences have been illegally locked up in jails for many years, why is their release being blocked by the central government? Is this

not an attack on the minority Sikh community? Such a discriminatory policy of the central government makes the minority Sikh community, who made great sacrifices in the freedom struggle and staunchly defended their country during the war with the enemy countries after independence, feel alienated. I demand that our captive Singhs who have completed their sentences keeping human rights as the priority should be released immediately so that the faith of the Sikh community towards the government of the country can be restored," wrote Harsimrat Kaur Badal on social media.

PIC OF THE DAY

WHO CARES...?

Open threat to lives of people



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : Damaged /open manholes are posing a threat to commuters in city. Many of them are not properly closed and can cause serious accidents. Passers by are at a high risk of facing mishaps while crossing these manholes which are either damaged or kept open by the sanitation workers. The several open manholes in city are posing a serious threat to the lives of the people. Open manholes can be seen everywhere. Despite several incidents in the past where people have fallen in these manholes and suffered injuries, the concerned authorities has never paid heed to cover them up. It is sad that municipal authorities have learnt no lesson from the past incidents. These are dangerous death traps lying open. The Aman Sandesh Times team conducted a survey of a few localities in Mohali and found that open manholes were not even barricaded or demarcated by the authorities concerned. The locals instead had placed bamboo sticks to alert commuters. Such open manholes exist in areas like Shahi Majra Phase 5, Industrial Area Phase 7, to name a few. The Municipal Corporation (MC) authorities have failed to take notice of these danger traps. Some of the damaged manholes can be seen on the

busiest roads of the city too. These pits can lead to accidents during daytime itself but they become all the more dangerous during the night time. "One has to remain alert while driving during night hours otherwise an accident is guaranteed due to open manhole. A two wheeler can get stuck up in a large uncovered manhole if its driver is unable to see it. Even the wheel of a car can get stuck up in the pit. Therefore, municipal authorities should ensure that such manholes are covered, said, one of the residents. Several residents expressed anger over the ill-prepared Mohali Municipal Corporation and said, "During rainy season water-logging takes place on roads and then it is all the more difficult to see an open manhole or dug-up road or a pit. The chances of the accident causing life threat runs high. Residents demanded that the concerned Authorities should ensure that the open manholes should be covered well and not left unattended as during the rains, the situation becomes precarious as the manholes are submerged under water and can't be seen, thus increasing the danger of harming the passerby. **But Who Cares?**

6 players from Punjab now part of Indian Cricket team



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) is on a roll. Be it in the Indian cricket men or women teams or BCCI T20 leagues (Indian Premier League and Women's Premier League), Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) cricketers are hogging the limelight with their talent and inspiring others to go big. Not only the cricketers, even the dynamic 33-year-old PCA secretary Dilsher Khanna, who joined the state unit almost two years ago, made it to the headlines and hogged the limelight by being part of the victorious T20 World Cup-winning Indian team contingent. He handled the Indian team brilliantly and contributed to the World Cup victory. He said that this work was not easy, but the responsibility was given to me by BCCI. I want to thank Board Secretary Jay Shah for this. He always tries to take cricket forward. It is a good fortune for us that we are a part of his vision and can contribute in taking Indian cricket forward. Punjab has always served Indian cricket on the field, I am happy that I was able to do the same off the field in the T20 World Cup. Punjab's Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh from Kharar was hailed by Indian fans across the globe for his brilliant bowling in the recently concluded T20 World Cup held in the United States of America and the West Indies, especially, in the final where the 25-year-old -old grabbed two wickets against South Africa at Bridgetown to help India clinch the trophy. Arshdeep became part of history with this achievement and received a hero's welcome back home. Riding on his red-hot IPL form, left-hand batter Abhishek Sharma also made a successful T20 debut for India against Zimbabwe and also

notched up his first-ever century for India in 46 balls. The India opener also shattered Rohit Sharma's record in the 2nd T20I. Amritsar-born Abhishek played a whirlwind knock to shatter multiple records in the 2nd T20I against Zimbabwe to hit the headlines. He hit his 100 off 46 balls to announce his arrival at the international arena with a bang. 23-year-old Abhishek made his debut for India under another Punjab lad Shubman Gill, who has been India's top-order mainstay in recent years. Shubman led India to a series win against Zimbabwe. Someone who has broken many records playing for Punjab in junior cricket and then doing well for India U-19 team at the Asia Cup and the youth World Cup, Shubman is known to have a great cricket mind which is combined with immense skill along with talent. It would be hard to keep Abhishek and Shubman out of the India T20 team now that Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja have quit T20I cricket. "PCA is backing its players and aiming to provide better structure and platform in the coming season. Seeing Arshdeep do well in the World Cup final was so thrilling. He has worked hard on his bowling in the past which paved for results. It was a proud moment as I was also present there seeing Arshdeep do well along with others," said PCA secretary Dilsher Khanna, who was manager and BCCI representative with the victorious Indian team in the T20 World Cup and played a pivotal role in shaping up. the PCA's Mullanpur Stadium which hosted IPL matches a few months ago. Meanwhile, Moga-born Harmanpreet Kaur has been leading India women's team in all formats. Recently, she led India to an ODI series and Test win against South Africa.

BJP strength in Rajya Sabha goes up to 87 as nominated member Satnam Sandhu from Pb joins party



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The BJP's strength in Rajya Sabha has gone up to 87 following nominated member Satnam Singh Sandhu joining the party.

The Rajya Sabha bulletin published last night announced that Sandhu is now a part of the BJP in the House.

"Now, Satnam Singh Sandhu has joined the BJP on July 22 before the expiry of six months from the date of taking oath on January 31. Therefore, he shall be deemed to belong to the BJP, in terms of the Explanation [(b)(ii)] to paragraph 2 (1) of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution", the Rajya Sabha bulletin said.

Joining the BJP by the Punjab educationist has pushed up the number of the BJP members in Rajya Sabha to 87. The BJP is still short of majority and will require outside support for passing a Bill.

Terms of four nominated Rajya Sabha members affiliated to the BJP expired recently bringing down the strength of the party in Rajya Sabha to 86.

One hundred and thirteen members are needed to attain majority in Rajya Sabha, which has a current strength of 225.

The BJP-led NDA also falls short of that number as it has 101 seats only. In the past, the BJD of Odisha and YSRCP of Andhra Pradesh had come to the aid of the BJP when the ruling party needed outside support. However, the BJD has this time announced that it would play the role of an opposition party.

The Congress-led INDIA bloc has 87 seats in Rajya Sabha with the Congress having 26, Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress 13, and the AAP and the DMK, which govern Delhi and Tamil Nadu respectively, having 10 seats each.

Satnam's brother Furman Singh Sandhu is the president of Bharti Kisan Union, Punjab, which is a member of the SKM, that led the farmers' protest and forced the Modi government to repeal the three farm laws in 2021.

An elated Furman Sandhu had earlier said that all 32 farmer unions under the SKM congratulated him after his brother was nominated as an MP by the President.

Satnam has been welcomed to the BJP by party president JP Nadda.

Manish Tewari gives notice for adjournment motion in Lok Sabha to discuss border situation with China

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Congress MP Manish Tewari today gave an Adjournment Motion Notice in Lok Sabha and demanded a discussion on "border situation and huge trade deficit with China".

The issue of adjournment notices has agitated Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, who gave a ruling in the Upper House two days ago against indiscriminate use of adjournment motion tool which has been used sparsely through parliamentary history — just about six times.



Dhankhar rapped opposition MPs in Rajya Sabha for repeatedly moving adjournment notices on a daily basis following which no such notice was received.

In Lok Sabha, however, the trend continues with Tewari asking for all house business to be halted to discuss the border situation with China.

PAU concludes training course on bakery and confectionery for women's skill development

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Ludhiana : The Department of Food and Nutrition, College of Community Science, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, concluded a five-day specialized training course on Bakery and Confectionery. Organized under the aegis of the Directorate of Extension Education, the course aimed to empower women by enhancing their culinary skills in baking.

The training attracted 34 participants, including professionals, students, and homemakers from diverse backgrounds.

Throughout the training, participants received hands-on experience in baking, including cake baking and decoration, bread and muffin making, and preparing sweet and savory biscuits, multigrain cookies, doughnuts, chocolates, puddings, and more. They were introduced to a wide range of ingredients, tools, and equipment commonly used in bakeries and taught essential techniques for creating delicious treats. Emphasis was also placed on promot-



ing hygiene and safety practices in the kitchen.

During the concluding session, Dr. M.S. Bhullar, Director of Extension Education, commended the department's efforts in providing valuable insights into baking techniques. He encouraged participants to apply their newly acquired skills in personal and professional settings, emphasizing the potential for self-reliance. Dr. Kiran Bains, Dean of the College of Community Science, highlighted that starting a

small-scale bakery unit requires minimal investment and can be profitable for beginners.

Dr. Kiran Grover, Head of the Department of Food and Nutrition, noted the increasing demand for value-added, healthy, and functional bakery products. She emphasized that specialized bakery courses offer significant opportunities for income generation, instilling a sense of

hope and optimism in the audience.

The bakery business, she pointed out, is a year-round venture compared to seasonal employment. Dr. Grover also expressed the department's commitment to continuing such skill-enhancing initiatives in the future.

The training course was well-received by all participants, who expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn from esteemed experts and enhance their baking and confectionery skills.

Himachal Cabinet meeting: 99 schools with zero enrolment to be shut



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Shimla : In a significant move aimed at rationalisation of government schools with low enrolment, the Cabinet today decided to close 99 schools with zero student strength apart from deciding to order transfers of teachers in the Education Department annually at the end of the academic session.

The decision was taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held here today under the chairmanship of Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The schools with zero enrolment which will be closed include 89 Government Primary Schools and 10 Middle Schools. The Cabinet also approved the merger of Government Primary Schools within a two-km radius and Government Middle Schools within a three km radius, if they have five or less students.

The decision to order transfers of teachers only once a year at the end of the academic session has been taken to put an end to mid-session transfers as this was adversely impacting the studies of the students.

Education Minister Rohit Thakur said these decisions have been taken to ensure quality academic standards in the government schools. "Our priority is to impart qualitative education as Himachal, which was ranked among top three states in the country, had slid down to 18th position, which is worrisome," he stated. The total enrolment in government

schools from Class I to Class XII in Himachal which was 10.50 lakh 20 years back has now dipped to 7.50 lakh. Similarly, the number of students in Class I, which was 1.32 lakh now stands at a mere 49,000 in Himachal.

Thakur said the Education Department is in the process of recruiting 1,200 JBT teachers. "Priority in appointment will be given in the 322 primary schools without any teacher. Apart from this, 3,400 out of 10,500 primary schools have single teachers. The newly recruited teachers will be posted in these schools also," he said. He said efforts would be made to appoint teachers and fill up vacancies in the tribal, remote and difficult areas.

The Cabinet also made it mandatory for all teachers, including Head Teachers, Centre Head Teachers, Headmasters and Principals, to teach the students and take classes. He said residential schools will be set up in Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti for which sites will be selected.

The Cabinet mandated all schools to hold morning assembly with the national anthem and that High and Senior Secondary Schools unfurl the national flag daily. Physical education will be a compulsory daily period in all schools and training in CPR and First Aid will also be provided in collaboration with the Health and Ayush departments.

Pb and Hry HC permits US resident to travel abroad to revalidate Green Card

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has allowed a permanent resident of the US to travel abroad for revalidating his Green Card. The decision by Justice Harpreet Singh Brar comes despite the pendency of a trial against him in a matrimonial dispute and the initial refusal to release his passport by Dasuya Judicial Magistrate First Class.

Gurpreet Singh had moved a petition challenging the order dated July 16, which denied his request to release his passport and permit travel to the US.

A qualified commercial taxi driver in New York since 2016, he argued that his livelihood and permanent residency were at stake. According to the conditions of his Green Card, he must return to the US within six months of departure, failing which his permanent residency could be revoked.

He cited his clean legal record and deep roots in society, including aged parents residing in India, to bolster his claim that he posed no flight risk.

The petitioner's counsel submitted that denying him the opportunity to travel would result in the loss of his Green Card, which he had secured after considerable effort. The counsel also emphasised that he had con-



sistently cooperated with the investigating agencies and had no intention of evading the law.

On the other hand, the state's counsel opposed the petition, suggesting the possibility of him absconding.

Justice Brar noted the Supreme Court's stance in similar cases, particularly citing the judgment in "Parvez Noordin Lokhandwalla v State of Maharashtra" where travel abroad was permitted despite ongoing legal proceedings.

The court stressed that the right to travel is an integral part of personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, as underscored in the landmark Maneka Gandhi

case. Justice Brat asserted, "In the present case, the petitioner is an Indian citizen and holds an Indian passport. If he is not allowed to travel, it would have a truly detrimental effect with respect to the resumption of his Green Card."

Justice Brar also referred to the Supreme Court's view that conditions imposed by courts should balance public interest in criminal justice enforce-

ment with the rights of the accused. Justice Brar set aside the impugned order and directed the trial court to release the passport. He was permitted to travel to the US under stringent conditions.

Among other things, he was directed to appear before the trial court within six months of the order and surrender his passport. He was required to deposit Rs 5 lakhs with the trial court as a security measure.

The judgment is significant as it makes it clear that legal constraints should not infringe upon fundamental rights, especially when compliance with the law and cooperation with legal processes are evident.

Pay more for power from Aug 1, average hike of 9.40% in tariff

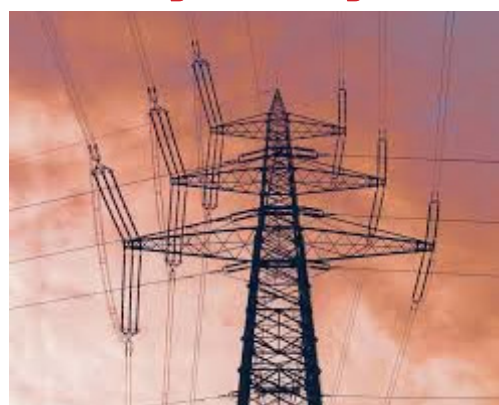
THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Now residents will have to pay more for power in Chandigarh.

On a petition submitted by the UT Electricity Department, the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) has revised the fixed and power tariff rates in different domestic and commercial categories for the financial year 2024-25. However, the revised tariff will be applicable from August 1.

On an average, the commission has approved an increase of 9.40% in the power tariff. The Electricity Department had proposed an average increase of nearly 19.44% in the existing power tariff of all categories. According to the order, in the domestic category, the JERC approved a hike of fixed charge from Rs 15 to 30 per month.

In the slab of 0-150 kWh (unit), the tariff per unit will continue to remain Rs 2.75. But in the slab of 151-400 kWh per month, the tariff



will increase from Rs 4.25 per unit to Rs 4.80 per unit.

Above 400 kWh per month, the tariff approved is from Rs 4.65 per kWh to Rs 5.40 per unit. In the HT domestic category, the tariff will increase from Rs 4.30 per unit to Rs 4.90 per unit.

For commercial and non-residential building category, the major tariff change is in the slab above 400 kWh per month where the tariff has been

approved from Rs 5 per unit to Rs 5.90 per unit. As per the proposal put up by UT, in the domestic category, the department had proposed a hike in fixed charge from Rs 15 per month to Rs 40 per month.

The department had proposed a hike from Rs 4.25 to Rs 4.90 per unit in the slab of 151-400 units and an increase from Rs 4.65 to Rs 5.50 in the slab 401 units and above. In the domestic

high tension category, hike from Rs 4.30 to Rs 5 per unit was proposed. According to the order, in the domestic category, the JERC approved a hike in fixed charge from Rs 15 to 30 per month. In the slab of 0-150 kWh (unit), the tariff per unit will continue to remain Rs 2.75. But in the slab of 151-400 kWh per month, the tariff will increase from Rs 4.25 per unit to Rs 4.80 per unit.

Rahul Dravid's son Samit Dravid joins Mysuru Warriors for KPL 2024

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Bengaluru : Samit Dravid, son of former India head coach and captain Rahul Dravid, was signed by Mysuru Warriors during the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 player auction. The last season's runner-up, Mysuru Warriors, secured the services of Samit, a middle-order batsman and seamer, for Rs 50,000. Samit is an 18-year-old all-rounder, he can bowl medium pace and can bat in the battle order. He was also part of the Karnataka Under-19 team that won the 2023-24 Cooch Behar Trophy. He also represented Karnataka State Cricket Association XI in a three-day game against the visiting Lancashire side in Alur. Samit will be under the leadership of Karun Nair at the Mysuru Warriors, who was retained as a captain by the team. The Mysuru team also picked up allrounders like K Gowtham and J Suchith for Rs 7.4 lakh and Rs 4.8 lakh respectively. Pacer Prasidh Krishna, who recently underwent surgery on his left proximal quadriceps tendon, was sold for Rs 1 lakh. The most expensive player at the auction was the wicket-



keeper, batter LR Chethan, who represented the Gulbarga Mystics last season. He joined the Bengaluru Blasters for Rs 8.2 Lakh. Mayank Agarwal will be leading the Bengaluru Blasters, who was retained by the team alongside Suraj Ahuja, Shubhang Hedge and Mohsin Khan. Leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal was sold to Mangaluru Dragons for Rs 7.6 lakh. The Mystics retained Devdutt Padikkal, who missed the last season due to an injury. Vijaykumar Vyshakh was also retained and the Mystics acquired the services of Luvnith Sisodia for Rs 7.2 lakh. The defending champions Hubli Tigers secured the services of KC Cariappa for

Rs 4.2 lakh. The Tigers will be led by Manish Pandey and also have fast bowler Viswath Kaverappa in their ranks. Mysore Warriors: Karun Nair, Karthik CA, Manoj Bhandage, Karthik S U, Suchith J, Gowtham K, Vidyadhar Patil, Venkatesh M, Harshil Dharmani, Goutham Mishra, Dhanush Gowda, Samit Dravid, Deepak Devadiga, Sumit Kumar, Smayan Srivastava, Jasper EJ, Prasidh Krishna, Mohammed Sarfaraz Ashraf. The 2024 season of the Maharaja Trophy is likely to be held from September 15 to October 1 with all the matches at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.

Gill on first impressions of Gautam Gambhir as head coach



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mumbai : India's newly appointed vice-captain, Shubman Gill, opened up on his first impression of Gautam Gambhir as a head coach, saying that the former Indian opener is very clear about his intent, communication and player roles with the team. India's tour of Sri Lanka begins with a T20I and consists of three T20Is and three ODIs each. Gill will be the deputy to Suryakumar Yadav and Rohit Sharma in the short format and 50-overs, respectively. This is Gambhir's first assignment as head coach after being appointed to the position earlier in July after Rahul Dravid vacated the post following ICC T20 World Cup win in West Indies. Speaking ahead of the first T20I in Pallekele in the pre-match presser, Gill said, "We have had just two net sessions together, and this is the first time I am working with him. But whatever he has told me during these two sessions, his intent and communication have been very clear - he knows what he wants from which player, and what he thinks will work for each player." Gill also opened up on his equation with the newly-appointed T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav, saying that they are "alike". "We think alike. I have played under Surya bhai's captaincy in the South Africa tour," he said. "Our communication and understanding are alike. You can see this in the upcoming games," he added. India's tour of Sri Lanka will kick-off with a three-match

T20I series, followed by a three-match ODI series. The Pallekele International Stadium will be hosting the T20I leg of the series while the R Premadasa is getting to host the 50-over matches. The three ODIs will be held on August 2, August 4, and August 7. Both teams will be taking to the field with new head coaches. While legendary all-rounder Sanath Jayasuriya has been named as the interim head coach for Lankan Lions, this will also be the first assignment for former Indian opener Gautam Gambhir as the head coach, succeeding the T20 World Cup-winning coach Rahul Dravid. India's last tour of Sri Lanka for a bilateral white-ball series came back in July 2021, with Dravid coaching the Shikhar Dhawan-led side. India won the ODI series 2-1, while Sri Lanka secured the T20I series by the same margin. T20I Squad for Sri Lanka series: Suryakumar Yadav (c), Shubman Gill (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh, Riyan Parag, Rishabh Pant (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Khaleel Ahmed, Mohammed Siraj. ODI Squad for Sri Lanka series: Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill (vc), Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (WK), Rishabh Pant (wk), Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Riyan Parag, Axar Patel, Khaleel Ahmed, Harshit Rana.

Dilip Kumar's Bandra bungalow-turned-apartment sold for Rs 155 crore

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mumbai : A triplex in the building where Dilip Kumar's Bandra bungalow stood, measuring 9,527.21 sq ft, has been sold for Rs 155 crore. It has been sold by Blackrock, while Apco Infratech Private Limited made the purchase. According to the real estate portal SquareFeatIndia.com, the triplex is spread over three floors - 9th, 10th and 11th. The per sq ft rate comes close to Rs 1.62 lakh. The stamp duty paid for the registration of the apartment is Rs 9.30 crore. It was last year that Dilip Kumar's family reached



an agreement with realty developer Ashar Group to develop a luxury residential project on the Pali Hill plot, which was previously the location of the legendary actor's bungalow. In addition to the residential project, a museum dedi-

cated to Dilip Kumar's life and significant milestones was also to be established. The museum, showcasing Dilip Kumar's legacy, will be located on the ground floor of the tower, featuring a separate entrance for easy access.

It's story TIME

The Frog & the Mouse

A young Mouse in search of adventure was running along the bank of a pond where he

lived a Frog. When the Frog saw the Mouse, he swam to the bank and croaked: "Won't you pay me a visit? I can promise you a good time if you do." The Mouse did not need much coaxing, for he was very anxious to see the world and everything in it. But though he could swim a little, he did not dare risk going into the pond without some help. The Frog had a plan. He tied the Mouse's leg to his own with a tough reed. Then into the pond he jumped, dragging his foolish companion with him. The Mouse soon had enough of it and wanted to return to shore; but the treacherous Frog had other plans. He pulled the Mouse down under the water and drowned him. But before he could untie the reed that bound him to the dead Mouse, a Hawk came sailing over the pond. Seeing the body of the Mouse floating on the water, the Hawk swooped down, seized the Mouse and carried it off, with the Frog dangling from its leg. Thus at one swoop he had caught both meat and fish for his dinner. Those who seek to harm others often come to harm themselves through their own deceit.



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INDIA protest on July 30 over Kejriwal's 'declining health' in jail

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Opposition-led INDIA bloc will hold a rally on July 30 at Delhi's Jantar Mantar to raise the issue of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's declining health inside Tihar Jail, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said. The AAP chief is currently lodged in jail in the now-scrapped liquor policy case.

The AAP has been accusing the BJP of "conspiring to kill" Kejriwal in jail, citing his medical report to show that his sugar levels had fallen 26 times between June 3 and July 7.

"The INDIA bloc will hold a big rally at Jantar Mantar on July 30 to raise the issue of Kejriwal's falling health."

The ruling party in Delhi has accused the BJP-led Centre and Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena of playing the Chief Minister's life.

During a press conference on Thursday, Delhi Minister Atishi was asked about the rally and she said that the BJP was conspiring against the people of the national capital.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party is conspiring against the people of Delhi in every way. It is stopping the work of the people of Delhi. It is stopping the money of the people of Delhi. The BJP got Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain who



worked for the people of Delhi arrested," she alleged.

Atishi also claimed that when the BJP learnt about Kejriwal's possibility to get bail from the Supreme Court, they got him arrested by the CBI.

"They know that Kejriwal has diabetes for the last 30 years. His weight has gone down by 8.5 kg in custody. A glucometer monitors his sugar levels during the entire day. The data of this device is shared with LG and the Centre. They know that Kejriwal's sugar levels have declined to dangerous levels," the Delhi Minister claimed.

She alleged that Arvind Kejriwal's sugar levels have dipped a total of 34 times in custody.

"BJP knew this and got him arrested by CBI. (The) BJP wants his health to be permanently damaged. All the INDIA bloc parties will protest against Kejriwal's custody and the prevailing danger to his health," Atishi said.

Last week, VK Saxena wrote to the Delhi Chief Secretary underscoring Kejriwal's health condition, saying reports provided by the Tihar Jail superintendent flagged that the Chief Minister was intentionally consuming fewer calories than medically recommended. The Lt Governor sought urgent action and implementation of strict protocols for monitoring Kejriwal's blood sugar levels. A day later, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh claimed that Kejriwal's medical reports showed that "anything can happen to him anytime".

Arvind Kejriwal is lodged at Delhi's Tihar Jail after being arrested by the CBI in a corruption case related to the Delhi liquor policy scam. The AAP chief, however, has been granted interim bail in the Enforcement Directorate case. He was arrested on March 21 by the ED in a money laundering case linked to the liquor policy case.

President Murmu, PM Modi lead nation in commemorating Kargil Vijay Diwas

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi today led the nation in paying tributes to the armed forces personnel who fought valiantly in extremely harsh conditions to defend India's territory during the Kargil conflict 25 years back.

The prime minister laid a floral wreath at the Drass War Memorial to pay tributes to officers and soldiers of the armed forces who made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation.

On July 26, 1999, the Indian Army announced the successful culmination of Operation Vijay, declaring victory after a nearly three-month-long battle on the icy heights of Kargil in Ladakh.

The day is observed as Kargil Vijay Diwas to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the war.

"Kargil Vijay Diwas is an occasion for a grateful nation to pay tribute to the courage and extraordinary valour of our armed forces. I pay tribute to each soldier who made the supreme sacrifice while protecting Mother India on the peaks of Kargil in 1999 and bow in reverence to their sacred memory," the Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a post on X. "I am sure that all countrymen will draw inspiration from their sacrifice and valour," it said quoting Murmu.

The President is the Supreme Commander of the armed forces.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, too, paid rich tributes to the soldiers who made supreme sacrifices in the war.

"Today, on 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, we remember the indomitable spirit and courage of the brave soldiers who fought valiantly in 1999 war," Singh said in a post on X.

"Their unwavering commitment, valour and patriotism ensured that our country remained safe and secure. Their service and sacrifice will continue to inspire every Indian and our coming generations,"



he said.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan and all ranks of the armed forces also recalled the supreme sacrifice of the bravehearts.

"We draw inspiration from the heroes of Kargil, and we will continue to honour their legacy by defending our nation with courage, honour and sacrifice," the headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff said.

Various events were organised across the country, including at Kargil War Memorial in Drass, to mark the occasion. Over 500 soldiers made the supreme sacrifice in the conflict.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also paid tributes to the brave soldiers who defended the nation's territory during the conflict.

"On Kargil Vijay Diwas, salute the valour and dedication of our brave soldiers. The legacy of their courage and patriotism acts as a guiding light for all Indians," he said.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also paid tributes to those killed in the Kargil war.

"On the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, I pay my humble tributes to brave armed forces personnel, who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the motherland during India's victory in 'Operation Vijay'," Sinha posted on X.

Income tax: Old or new regime? Check which one will help you save more tax

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

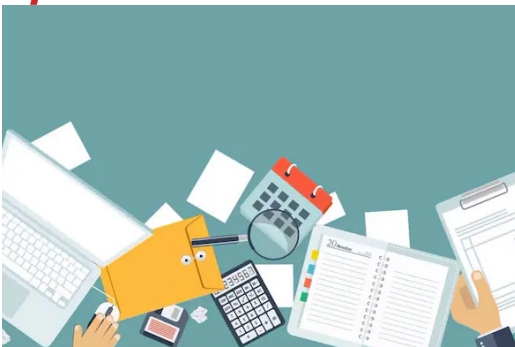
New Delhi : The first full budget of the Modi 3.0 government, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, introduced some key amendments to the new income tax regime. The changes to the new tax regime were aimed at benefiting middle-class taxpayers.

The changes included incremental revisions to some tax slabs under the new regime, in addition to a hiked standard deduction limit of Rs 75,000, up Rs 25,000 from the previous Rs 50,000. Standard Deduction: Increased to Rs 75,000 from Rs 50,000.

Revised Tax Slabs: Up to Rs 3 lakh: Nil, Rs 3 lakh to Rs 7 lakh: 5%, Rs 7 lakh to Rs 10 lakh: 10%, Rs 10 lakh to Rs 12 lakh: 15%, Rs 12 lakh to Rs 15 lakh: 20%, Above Rs 15 lakh: 30%

On the other hand, there were no changes introduced to the old income tax regime. Up to Rs 2.5 lakh: Nil, Rs 2,50,001 to Rs 5 lakh: 5%, Rs 5,00,001 to Rs 10 lakh: 20%, Above Rs 10 lakh: 30%

Standard deduction: Enhanced from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000 in the new tax regime.



Rebate under Section 87A: Salaried individual taxpayers earning up to Rs 7.75 lakh can utilise the standard deduction of Rs 75,000 and claim a rebate of up to Rs 25,000, effectively reducing their tax liability to zero.

Concessional Surcharge Rate: For individuals earning over Rs 5 crore, the surcharge rate is reduced to 25% under the new regime from 37% under the old regime, lowering the effective tax rate from 42.744% to 39%.

While the old income tax regime continues to offer benefits of deductions, the illustrations above show that sala-

ried individuals earning up to Rs 7,00,000 per annum, up to Rs 10 lakh per annum and up to Rs 12 lakh per annum get the benefit of lower tax slabs after the changes.

Moreover, salaried individuals earning Rs 7.75 lakh are exempt from paying tax under the new income tax regime, given the increased standard deduction of Rs 75,000 and the rebate under section 87A of up to Rs 25,000. This effectively makes their tax liability zero. Simply put, the new tax regime has been made more attractive for taxpayers earning up to Rs 12 lakh per annum, but at the same time, it depends on the taxpayer's investments. In case of more investments, deductions under the old income tax regime can still make it more attractive.

Therefore, it is ideal for taxpayers to consult tax professionals to get clarity on which tax regime will help them save more tax.

Tax department explains new capital gains tax for properties bought before 2001

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Income Tax Department has addressed a critical issue related to the new capital gains taxation regime, particularly concerning the cost of acquisition for properties purchased before April 1, 2001.

The clarification is crucial for taxpayers looking to understand how their capital gains will be calculated under the updated rules.

For properties, including land and buildings purchased before April 1, 2001, the cost of acquisition as of that date can be determined in one of two ways:

Original Cost of Acquisition: Taxpayers can choose to use the original cost of acquisition of the asset. Fair Market Value (FMV) as of April 1, 2001: Alternatively, taxpayers can opt to use the Fair Market Value (FMV) of the property as



of April 1, 2001. However, this value must not exceed the stamp duty value, wherever applicable.

This choice is provided under Section 55(2)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, giving taxpayers the flexibility to select the more advantageous option for calculating their capital gains.

The introduction of this new capital gains taxation regime, which

eliminates the benefit of indexation for properties purchased after April 1, 2001, has led to significant changes in how capital gains are computed.

By allowing taxpayers to use the FMV as of April 1, 2001, the Tax Department aims to offer some relief and ensure a fair assessment

of long-term capital gains for properties held for an extended period.

Taxpayers need to carefully evaluate both options to determine the most beneficial approach, especially given the removal of indexation benefits. This choice can have a substantial impact on the taxable amount and, consequently, the tax liability for property transactions.

Heavy rain lashes parts of Delhi. alert for more showers today

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Several areas in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) received moderate to heavy rain today morning, leading to waterlogging in some locations.

A thick blanket of clouds also covered the national capital and adjoining areas, reducing visibility in certain pockets. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has also issued an 'orange' alert for the national capital, amid a forecast that rain will continue to lash the national capital till July 28.

Areas such as Nauroji Nagar, Bhikaji Cama Place, Shanti Path, Ashram, Anand Vihar, and Malai Mandir area in Delhi and several locations in Noida experienced a fresh spell of rain early in the morning. This is the third consecutive day



In a post on X, the IMD said, "A cloud mass is passing through Delhi. Movement is slow, spell of moderate to intense spell may persist during next 2 hours [sic]."

As a result of the heavy downpour, Delhi Traffic Police issued advisories, asking commuters to avoid the Ch. Fateh Singh Marg and the area near Minto Bridge due to waterlogging.

This is the third consecutive day

that parts of Delhi and NCR have received rain. The weather department also forecast a possibility of rain in several areas of Western Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

After the fresh spell of rainfall, the Air Quality Index (AQI) of the national capital was recorded in the "good" category with a reading of 50, according to the Central Pollution Control Board.

"Light rainfall/ drizzle is very likely to occur in Hindon AF Station, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, Ballabgarh, Meham (Haryana), Saharanpur, Deoband, Muzaffarnagar, Sadabad (UP) during next 2 hours," the weather department said.

How half-burnt NEET question papers led to a break in case for CBI

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Half-burnt question papers of the NEET-UG 2024 exam, recovered by the CBI, provided a crucial clue to the probe agency and assisted them in unravelling the paper leak case.

In its first official statement regarding the NEET paper leak case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) revealed crucial details about the crime.

According to the CBI, the NEET UG 2024 question paper was illicitly accessed on May 5, 2024, from the Oasis School in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand.

Pankaj Kumar, also known as Aditya or Sahil, identified as one of the masterminds behind the leak, along with the school's principal, vice principal, and an associate, were involved in the unauthorised access to the exam papers, the probe agency said. "The recovered pieces of half burnt question papers enabled CBI to reach the designated NEET examination centre from where it leaked," the probe agency said. The trunks carrying the NEET question papers were brought to school and kept in the control room on May 5 morning. Minutes after the trunks arrived, the school principal and vice principal allowed the masterminds of the paper leak to access the room, CBI said.

The group reportedly used sophisticated tools to open the trunk containing the question papers and accessed the contents



without authorisation.

After gaining access to the question paper, it was solved by a group of MBBS students, referred to as "solvers," in Hazaribagh. The solved papers were then shared with selected students who paid for the answers.

The CBI has identified and arrested most of the solvers involved in the operation. The investigation has also uncovered that the accused were supported by a network of individuals who arranged for housing the candidates and managing their transportation.

Efforts are currently underway to trace all students who received the leaked question papers, with appropriate actions being taken against them.

The CBI investigation, which has been underway since June 23 this year, has led to 36 arrests, including 15 individuals apprehended by the Bihar Police.

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Quit to save democracy: Biden: Trump blasts Kamala as 'radical'

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES
Washington : US President Joe Biden addressed the nation for the first time since dropping his reelection bid, saying he decided to forgo personal ambition to "save democracy" in a sedate Oval Office speech that contrasted with the rough-and-tumble campaign. Shortly before the speech, Republican Donald Trump laid into Democratic rival Kamala Harris in his first rally since she replaced Biden atop the ticket, signalling a bare-knuckled campaign ahead of the Nov 5 election.



Trump branded Harris a "radical left lunatic" after she had dominated the campaign the two previous days with withering attacks on him that pointedly raised his felony

convictions, his liability for sexual abuse, and fraud judgments against his business, charitable foundation and private university. Momentum grew for the Harris campaign as NBC News said that former President Barack Obama planned to soon endorse Harris as the Democratic presidential candidate.

Old clip shows JD Vance vouching for less voting rights for childless people

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES
New Delhi : Republican Vice Presidential nominee JD Vance, who has already been embroiled in controversy over his 'childless cat ladies' remark, has stirred up a fresh row after another old clip of him giving an unusual suggestion went viral. In the latest clip, from 2021, in his address to a conservative organisation, Vance proposed that people with children be given more voting rights than non-parents. The video is from Vance's address to an organisation called 'Intercollegiate Studies Institute', in which he said people with no children have no "investment" in the future of America and "maybe shouldn't get nearly the same voice". "Let's give votes to all children in this country, but let's give control over those votes to the parents of those children. When you go to the polls in this country as a parent, you should have more power - you should have more of an ability to speak your voice in our democratic republic - than people who don't have



kids. Let's face the consequences and the reality: If you don't have as much of an investment in the future of this country, maybe you shouldn't get nearly the same voice," he said. The Republican Vice Presidential nominee, who was at the time a US Senator, further said that he is aware his comments may draw criticism from several media agencies. "Doesn't this mean that non-parents don't have as much of a voice as parents? Doesn't this mean that parents get a bigger say in our democracy func-

tions? Yes absolutely," JD Vance said to loud cheers. Vance, the running mate of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, has been facing public condemnation after his 'childless cat ladies' remark, degrading Democratic leaders, went viral. The comment, also from 2021, was an attack against Vice President Kamala Harris, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and US Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. In the interview with Fox News host Tucker Carlson, dated July 29, 2021, JD Vance claimed that the US was governed by a "dastardly deep state comprised of cat lovers". Kamala Harris, who was pitched for the US Presidential race by President Joe Biden - after he dropped out of the race - has gained the confidence of Democrats who see her as a "burst of energy" and capable of beating Donald Trump.

How Indian-origin clerk in US tried to be millionaire with stolen lottery ticket

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES
New Delhi : A 23-year-old Indian-origin man has been accused of stealing a \$1-million lottery ticket from its rightful owner. Investigators found that the victim, a father who wishes to remain anonymous, bought two lottery tickets on July 13 at a Shell gas station in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The father handed both tickets to Meer Patel, who gave him cash for the lottery ticket with the lesser amount and kept the other ticket, which had won the \$1 million prize, and pretended to discard it in a wastebasket. Patel, 23, who has been working as a clerk in a Tennessee store in the US, has been arrested and charged with theft over \$250,000, according to the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office.



Patel allegedly tried to claim the \$1 million prize at the Tennessee lottery office, but staff members became suspicious. Surveillance footage from the store, obtained by investigators, showed Patel allegedly taking out the trash, removing the winning

ticket, and placing it in his pocket. "Mr. Patel is then seen later in the video celebrating in the store after scratching off the front of the ticket and learning it was a \$1 million winner," authorities said in a news release, as reported by Fox 29 News. Detectives used the same surveillance video to identify the father as the legitimate owner of the tickets. The father was informed of the incident by the investigators. "The feel-good side of this story is that the father never knew he was the winner until we made contact with him," a detective shared. "That is absolutely life-changing money."

Typhoon Gaemi slams China after Taiwan, thousands evacuated, floods feared

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES
Beijing : Typhoon Gaemi roared into southeastern China after churning across the Taiwan Strait, prompting warnings of swelling rivers, flash floods and waterlogging in cities and provinces that were hit by extreme rains just several weeks ago. Gaemi, the third and most powerful typhoon to hit China's eastern seaboard this year, made landfall in Fujian province at 7:50 p.m. (1150 GMT) after whipping Taiwan with gusts of up to 227 kph (141 mph), some of the strongest winds recorded in the Western Pacific Ocean. Ahead of its arrival, 240,800 people in Fujian were evacuated. Despite slightly weakening since its landfall in Fujian's Putian, a city of over 3 million, Gaemi and its giant cloud-bands are forecast to unleash intense rainfall in at least 10 Chinese provinces in the coming days. The arrival of Gaemi has drawn comparisons with Typhoon Doksuri last year, which triggered historic flooding as far north as Beijing and caused nationwide losses of nearly \$30 billion. Authorities said water levels in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River as well as the vast freshwater lakes of Poyang and Dongting in central China could rise, returning to dangerous levels seen in early July after intense summer rains. Due to its high vapour content, Beijing cautioned that Gaemi could spawn strong



rainfall in the Chinese capital, about 2,000 km (1,242 miles) north of Putian, even as the storm weakens into a tropical depression. Gaemi's rains could cause flash floods and waterlogging, particularly in parts of northern China where the soil remains saturated after being lashed by a passing system of storms earlier this week, authorities warned. In Taiwan, Gaemi killed three people, triggered flooding and sank a freighter after the strongest typhoon to hit the island in eight years made landfall on Wednesday night. Some parts of southern Taiwan are expected to have recorded rainfall of 2,200 mm (87 inches) since Tuesday. The storm cut power to around half a million house-

holds, though most are now back online, utility Taipower said. Apart from the three fatalities, 380 were injured by the typhoon in Taiwan, the government said. Taiwan's fire department said a Tanzania-flagged freighter with nine Myanmar nationals on board had sunk off the coast of the southern port city of Kaohsiung. Three of them have since been found alive on the shoreline, Taiwan's coast guard said. Taiwanese television stations showed pictures of flooded streets in cities and counties across the island. Li Li-chuan, 55, saw the roof of her restaurant blow off in the northeastern Taiwanese city of Suao. "I was frightened," she told Reuters. "It was the strongest in years. I was worried that the roof would hit other people." Offices and schools as well as the financial markets closed for a second day on Thursday, while trains were stopped until 3 p.m. (0700 GMT) and all domestic flights and 195 international flights were cancelled.

S Jaishankar meets China's Wang Yi, suggests urgency to stabilise ties



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES
New Delhi : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar underlined the need for "full respect" for the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and said that it is in the "mutual interest" of both India and China to "stabilise" diplomatic ties as he met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Laos. The two leaders met in Laos's capital Vientiane to participate in the meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It was the second meeting between Jaishankar and Yi within a month. Jaishankar and Yi also agreed on the need to give "strong guidance" to fulfil the disengagement process following the military standoff in eastern Ladakh in May 2020. "Met with CPC Politburo member and FM Wang Yi in Vientiane today. Continued our ongoing discussions about our bilateral relationship. The state of the border will necessarily be reflected on the state of our ties. Agreed on the need to give strong guidance to complete the disengagement process. Must ensure full respect for the LAC and past agreements. It is in our mutual interest to stabilise our ties. We should approach the immediate issues with a sense of purpose and urgency," Jaishankar tweeted. Wang Yi hoped that the two nations would work together to "actively explore" for the two neighbours to get along with each other, and guide all communities to develop positive perceptions of each other, according to an official statement. The Chinese Foreign Minister further stated that having the China-India relationship back on track would also be in the interest and "shared aspi-

rations" of countries of the 'Global South'. India has been maintaining that its relations with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border regions. The Jaishankar-Wang Yi talks came amid the dragging border row in Ladakh that entered its fifth year. The two leaders last met on July 4 in Kazakhstan's capital of Astana on the sidelines of the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). After meeting, the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement that the talks gave both Jaishankar and Wang Yi an opportunity to review the border situation since their Astana meeting. Also, both sides will hold an early meeting of the Working Mechanism on Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) to take discussions forward, the statement added. Both sides must fully abide by relevant bilateral agreements, protocols, and understandings reached between the two governments in the past, the Ministry said in the statement. India and China have so far engaged in 21 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks to resolve the Ladakh standoff, which marked the most serious military conflict between the two neighbours in decades. India has been pushing for China to disengage from the Depsang and Demchok areas. The last round of high-level military talks was held in February. Though no breakthrough was reached, both India and China agreed to maintain "peace and tranquillity" on the ground and continue communication on the way ahead.

Climate change intensifies Rainfall Patterns. Typhoons. Warn Scientists



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES
Singapore : Climate change is driving changes in rainfall patterns across the world, scientists said in a paper published today, which could also be intensifying typhoons and other tropical storms. Taiwan, the Philippines and then China were lashed by the year's most powerful typhoon this week, with schools, businesses and financial markets shut as wind speeds surged up to 227 kph (141 mph). On China's eastern coast, hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated ahead of landfall. Stronger tropical storms are part of a wider phenomenon of weather extremes driven by higher temperatures, scientists say. Researchers led by Zhang Wenxia at the China Academy of Sciences studied historical meteorological data and found about 75% of the world's land area had seen a rise in "precipitation variability" or wider swings between wet and dry weather. Warming temperatures have enhanced the ability of the atmosphere to hold moisture, which is causing wider fluctuations in rainfall, the researchers said in a paper published by the Science journal. "(Variability) has increased in most places, including Australia, which means rainier rain periods and drier dry periods," said Steven Sherwood, a scientist at the Climate Change Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, who was not involved in the study. "This is going to increase as global warming continues, enhancing the chances of droughts and/or floods." Scientists believe that climate change is also reshaping the behaviour of tropical storms, including typhoons, making

them less frequent but more powerful. "I believe higher water vapour in the atmosphere is the ultimate cause of all of these tendencies toward more extreme hydrologic phenomena," Sherwood told Reuters. Typhoon Gaemi, which first made landfall in Taiwan on Wednesday, was the strongest to hit the island in eight years. While it is difficult to attribute individual weather events to climate change, models predict that global warming makes typhoons stronger, said Sachie Kanada, a researcher at Japan's Nagoya University. "In general, warmer sea surface temperature is a favourable condition for tropical cyclone development," she said. In its "blue paper" on climate change published this month, China said the number of typhoons in the Northwest Pacific and South China Sea had declined significantly since the 1990s, but they were getting stronger. Taiwan also said in its climate change report published in May that climate change was likely to reduce the overall number of typhoons in the region while making each one more intense. The decrease in the number of typhoons is due to the uneven pattern of ocean warming, with temperatures rising faster in the western Pacific than the east, said Feng Xiangbo, a tropical cyclone research scientist at the University of Reading. Water vapour capacity in the lower atmosphere is expected to rise by 7% for each 1 degree Celsius increase in temperatures, with tropical cyclone rainfall in the United States surging by as much as 40% for each single degree rise, he said.

India pays taxes like England to get facilities like Somalia: Raghav Chadha



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Intensifying his criticism of the Budget 2024-25, AAP MP Raghav Chadha launched a scathing attack at the government in Rajya Sabha, saying India "pays taxes like England to get services like Somalia".

Speaking on the Budget in the Rajya Sabha, he urged the government to do a comprehensive review of the tax framework by making eight suggestions for it. "In the last 10 years, the government has sucked the blood of the common people of the country by imposing taxes," he said.

"And what does the government give us in return for the so much tax it takes from us, what international services, world-class health care, education, transport facilities does the government give to the people in return? That is why today I have no hesitation in saying that we in India today pay taxes like England to get services like Somalia," Chadha said. Here are eight suggestions made by the AAP MP:

Index minimum wages with inflation. Rework the agricultural pricing formula, that is, when a farmer goes to sell his crop in the open market, there should be a minimum reserve price.

Legal guarantee to MSP in accordance with the Swaminathan Commission report.

Restore indexation on long term capital gains.

Incentivise financial savings in debt, equity, mutual funds, bank deposits and financial investments.

Review, revise and simplify GST and also reduce GST in export-oriented sectors.

Discriminatory federalism, not cooper-

ative federalism and giving more to all states.

GST compensation stopped for the states to be given for at least for five more years.

Raghav Chadha also claimed that all sections of society were displeased with the Budget, including the supporters of BJP. Holding the economic policies of the government responsible for its significantly reduced number of seats in the Lok Sabha, the AAP MP said, "The BJP's seat share had dropped from 303 in 2019 to 240 in 2024 as the people had imposed 18 per cent GST on the seats".

"Many reasons are given for this. Some say that the religion card did not work, some say caste is the reason, while some say that there was a lack in ticket distribution. These are all superficial reasons. I tell you three reasons due to which the BJP has faced this plight: the first reason is economy; the second reason is economy, and the third reason is also economy," Chadha said.

"Due to rising rural inflation, rural unemployment, low crop yield, income inequality, farmer debt, high input cost, low income, no MSP and crop losses, rural income growth is at a decadal low in the financial year 2023-24," he said.

"Along with this, there was a promise to double the income of farmers, there was a promise to give MSP as per the Swaminathan Commission. As those promises were not fulfilled, the rural wages have been on the decline continuously since the last 25 months," Chadha added.

He further said that the decline in income and rise in inflation in the last decade during the BJP regime has resulted in the fall of its vote share in rural India.

Why Bengal BJP chief's north Bengal-Northeast merger plan has hit a raw nerve

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Kolkata : Bengal BJP president Dr Sukanta Majumdar's request to the Centre to "include" the northern part of West Bengal with the "North East" has sent shock waves within political circles in West Bengal. Historically, there has been a perception among residents in north Bengal that the region has been neglected in terms of development and infrastructure compared to Kolkata and adjoining areas in the southern part of the state. Majumdar's request is being seen as reinforcing that very sentiment. "I have handed over a presentation to the Prime Minister highlighting the similarities between north Bengal and the North East and how north Bengal can be included into the Northeast," Majumdar said.

"In the future, if north Bengal can be included with the Northeast as part of West Bengal, then the region will get more funds as part of various central schemes. The area is backward and it will help develop the region. I don't think the state government will have any objections and that they will also cooperate," Majumdar, who is also the MoS for Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, said after a meeting with PM Modi. The development is being seen by some as Majumdar trying to consolidate the BJP's core support in the state, one that has given



en electoral dividends to the party. After all, he was re-elected from the Balurghat Lok Sabha seat in South Dinajpur, an impoverished north Bengal district.

While most would agree to Majumdar's theory that the northern parts of Bengal (comprising Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur and Malda) have remained impoverished, lagging behind in development as compared to the plains of south Bengal, any suggestion of a possible division of the state is fraught with major risk of a political backlash.

The proposal has prompted many to ask if Majumdar has touched a raw nerve in Bengal?

The ruling Trinamool Congress has gone all out to attack the BJP as "anti-Bengal",

accusing the saffron party of trying to divide the state. In damage-control mode, the Bengal BJP is clearly a divided house.

While some leaders have rallied behind the state president, alleging that his words have been twisted out of context, others have spoken out openly in favour of Bengal's bifurcation.

Terming it a "false propaganda", Rajya Sabha MP Samik Bhattacharya said the party does not seek division of Bengal. "The BJP firmly believes in the overall development of West Bengal by keeping its geographical boundary intact," Bhattacharya said while citing the deep emotional connect that the founding father of BJP, Dr Shyamaprasad Mookherjee, has with the state. However, Darjeeling MP Raju Bista said Majumdar's comment was a reflection of the "voice of the people". "Our culture and language is very similar to the North East. Geographically also, we are aligned to the North East. We have been historically deprived in the state budget. I think this demand should be seriously considered. The TMC has always looted north Bengal," he said.

Kanwar Yatra order to shops to ensure peaceful pilgrimage: UP to SC

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Uttar Pradesh government has told the Supreme Court that the order to shops along the Kanwar Yatra route to display the names of owners was to ensure that the religious sentiments of Kanwariyas aren't hurt, "even accidentally", and also for "peace and tranquillity".

The state government further explained that the directive was issued in response to complaints received from Kanwariyas regarding confusion caused by the names of the shops and eateries.

"Past incidents have shown that misunderstandings regarding the type of food being sold have led to tensions and disturbances. The directives are a proactive measure to avoid such situations," it said.

The state government added that the order doesn't impose any ban on the trade or business of food sellers - barring restrictions on the sale of non-veg food - and that shopkeepers are "free to conduct their business as usual". The directive to display the names of owners is "merely an additional measure" to ensure transparency and keep any potential confusion at bay.

The top court was also told that even "small confusions" related to the food Kanwariyas are served has the potential to "hurt their religious sentiments and can lead to flare-ups,



especially in a communally sensitive region like Muzaffarnagar.

"It is to be noted that the directive does not impose any discrimination based on religion, caste, or community. The requirement to display the names and identities of the owners applies uniformly to all food sellers along the Kanwar Yatra route, irrespective of their religious or community affiliations," the Uttar Pradesh government said.

It added that the order was aimed at ensuring public safety and order during the Kanwar Yatra, considering the large number of participants in the pilgrimage.

"It is imperative to take preventive measures

that ensure a peaceful and harmonious pilgrimage," the state government told the top court.

The Supreme Court issued an interim order, pausing the Kanwar Yatra 'nameplate' order, saying that the owners of shops would only display the kind of food served in their eateries.

A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti issued notice to the governments of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh that issued the 'nameplate order'. The bench was hearing a plea filed by an NGO, the Association of Protection of Civil Rights, challenging the Uttar Pradesh government's order.

Last week, the Muzaffarnagar Police mandated all eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display the names of owners. Later, they made the order voluntary. However, a day later, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath mandated the 'nameplate' order for all eateries across the state. Then, the Uttarakhand government followed suit, and so did the Ujjain administration in Madhya Pradesh.

Cops ask people to 'remain indoors', red alert



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Several agencies have been put on alert as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted "very heavy" rainfall across several parts of Maharashtra in the coming days.

In its bulletin, the weather department said that "isolated heavy rainfall" will likely be over parts of Central Maharashtra, the Konkan region, and other areas of the state on July 26 and 27.

The situation in Mumbai and Pune also remained grim as the weather body issued a 'red alert', predicting spells of intense rainfall.

However, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said that all schools and colleges will remain open today.

"The weather and rainfall in Mumbai are normal at present, allowing life in the metropolitan city to proceed smoothly. As a result, all schools and colleges in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) area will remain open on a regular basis tomorrow, Friday, 26th July 2024. Parents are humbly requested not to believe any other information or rumors regarding school and college holidays and to rely only on official information from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. The civic administration urges citizens to stay in touch with the management of the concerned schools and colleges for more," the civic body said in a post on X.

Earlier, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde convened a high-level meeting with Deputy Chief Ministers Ajit Pawar and Devendra Fadnavis to review the relief and rescue operations.

After the meeting, the Chief Minister said that teams of NDRF, SDRF units, Army, Navy, police, fire brigade and doctors have been mobilised across the state to speed up the relief operations and to provide help.

"I have spoken to the Army and Navy officials related to Pune. I have asked for deploying helicopters to rescue people trapped in various places due to floods," Shinde said.

"The units of NDRF, SDRF, Army, Navy, Police, Fire Brigade, Health System have been directed to coordinate with each other and lend help," said CM Shinde, adding that these agencies need to work as a team and shift the flood affected people safely, provide them with food packets, arrange medicines and water. Instructions have been given to take the help of NDRF, Army, and Navy," he added. "Pune, Maval and Mulshi have received heavy rainfall in the dam area, therefore Pune has been affected. There is also heavy rain in Mumbai city and suburbs. The administration is fully alert to deal with any calamity in Mumbai and I am in touch with Pune, Raigad, Mumbai Collectors and Municipal Commissioners," he said.

Work on world's highest tunnel in Ladakh begins in PM Modi's presence

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Work on the strategic Shinkun La Tunnel, the world's highest, in Ladakh commenced today in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The development work began with the first explosion when PM Modi visited the key site after addressing the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations in Kargil.

The tunnel between Manali and Leh along the Nimu Padam Darcha road will be built by the Border Roads Organisation at a height of 4,800 metre.



It will be the world's highest tunnel and a major strategic push to the BJP government's border area development plans in the wake of ongoing tensions with China along the LAC.

The 7.1-km-long tunnel will

bypass the area which remains covered under 15-20 feet of ice for around five months hampering connectivity. The twin tube tunnel with cross passages at every 500 metre

will be an all-weather tunnel which will reduce the travel time across the Shinkun area to 30 minutes and will boost social and economic development of Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.

50 pilgrims stranded in Uttarakhand after heavy rain triggers landslides

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Dehradun : At least 50 pilgrims and locals were stranded near the Madmaheshwar Temple in Uttarakhand after the yatra to the shrine was stopped due to heavy rain and landslides on the trekking route.

According to officials, a temporary wooden bridge, built over the Markanda River, was washed away amid incessant rainfall in the area, disrupting the yatra to the temple even more.

The shrine, which is part of the Panch Kedar group of temples in Uttarakhand, is located at an altitude of 11,473 feet. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an 'orange alert' for Dehradun and Bageshwar, predicting moderate to heavy rainfall in the area.

After the advisory, the local ad-



ministration decided to close all schools and Anganwadi centres in the city for today (July 26).

"All government and private schools from class 1 to 12 and Anganwadi centres in Dehradun will remain closed on Friday in view of an 'orange' alert issued by the NDMA's National Disaster Alert Portal for heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning in the

district," an order by the Dehradun DM said. The decision was made to prevent any untoward incidents as "rain increases the vulnerability of many areas in the district to landslides", it added.

Meanwhile, last year too, the trekking route to the Madmaheshwar Temple saw a bridge collapse in the Rudraprayag district. At the time, the rescuers safely evacuated nearly 300 pilgrims who were stranded on the route.

According to the Rudraprayag District Disaster Management officials, the rescue operation concluded with the evacuation of 293 devotees.