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Sunset: 6:25 PM

Thursday, 19.09.2024
Sunrise 6:09 AM (IST)

Next Full Moon

17 Sep 2024

Next New Moon

02 Oct 2024

Political stunt. Flop: Opposition after One Nation One Election gets Cabinet nod

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Several opposition parties today slammed the government over the Union Cabinet's approval of One Nation One Election, aimed at conducting simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, and called it a "political stunt" while asserting that the measure would "flop".

The One Nation One Election proposal got approval after the report of the high-level committee, which was headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, was placed before the Union Cabinet earlier today.

AAP leader Sandeep Pathak called One Nation One Election a 'jumla' (false promise) and took a jibe at the BJP for not being able to conduct elections in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir together.

"This is yet another jumla of the BJP and is destined to flop. They were not able to conduct elections in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana together. Like the three farm laws, One Nation One Election was brought in without consultation," he said.

"We are asking them to hold Delhi polls with Maharashtra and Jharkhand. Prove yourself first. If the government collapses in any state in the middle of its tenure, will the BJP run the state through its gundagardi, he alleged.



Voicing similar sentiments, RJD leader Mrityunjay Tiwari said the One Nation, One Election was a political stunt and alleged that the BJP was hatching a conspiracy to finish off regional parties through the proposed measure.

"This is a political stunt, but this is not practical. Several experts have given their views on this. However, the government wants to destroy the regional parties and this will create a constitutional crisis," Tiwari said.

"Any such decision done without prior consultation with the stakeholders concerned is destined to lack merit," adding that the BJP was attempting to "tamper" with the Constitution.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said One Nation One Election "cannot work in a democracy".

"We don't stand with this. One Nation One Election cannot work in a democracy. Elections need to be held as and when required if we want our democracy to survive," he said.

Delhi Lt Governor proposes September 21 for Atishi's swearing-in

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena has proposed September 21 as the date for the swearing-in of Chief Minister-designate Atishi in a written communication to President Droupadi Murmu.

This came after Arvind Kejriwal tendered his resignation as the Delhi Chief Minister to the Lt Governor and Atishi staked claim to form a new government in Delhi. India Today has exclusively accessed copies of Arvind Kejriwal's resignation letter from his post as Delhi Chief Minister, as well as Atishi's letter staking her claim to form the new government.

Arvind Kejriwal's resignation letter was addressed to President Murmu rather than the Lt Governor. "I, along with my Council of Ministers, hereby tender our resignation. The same may kindly be accepted," the letter read. This one-sentence letter underscored the strained ties between Kejriwal and the Lt Governor. Interestingly, Arvind Kejriwal met VK Saxena in person to tender his resignation.

According to sources, the Lt Governor has moved outgoing Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's resignation to President Murmu.

In her letter to the Lt Governor, Atishi formally staked her claim to form the government without specifying a preferred date for her swearing-in. She requested the Lt Governor to fix the date. Following this, the Lt Governor proposed September



21 as the date for the swearing-in. Atishi's letter also touched upon her future Cabinet, though she did not disclose any names yet. "I will intimate the names of other ministers who would be sworn in in due course," she wrote. This means that as of now, the Cabinet remains undecided, and Atishi is likely to take the oath alone on the appointed day.

On September 15, Arvind Kejriwal, who was granted bail by the Supreme Court in the Delhi liquor policy case, announced that he would resign as the Chief Minister in the next two days.

He proposed Atishi's name at the AAP Legislature Party meeting, which was unanimously accepted by the party's MLAs. Sources said there would be no Deputy Chief Minister.

The AAP has 62 MLAs and BJP eight in the 70-member Delhi Assembly.

After Atishi was announced as the Chief Minister, the AAP MLA from Kalkaji Assembly constituency thanked Arvind Kejriwal, whom she called a 'guru' and said that the AAP chief would return as the Chief Minister soon.

Shinde Sena MLA who announced prize to cut Rahul Gandhi's tongue stirs fresh row

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Days after announcing a reward of Rs 11 lakh to anyone who will "chop off the tongue" of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad again sparked a fresh row, saying he will "bury any Congress dog" if they come to a government programme in his area.

Talking to reporters on September 16, Gaikwad said that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde - who heads the Shiv Sena - will attend a programme about the government's flagship 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana' for women in his district and he will "bury Congress dogs" if they try to enter the programme.

"If any Congress dog tries to enter my programme, I will bury them then and there," Gaikwad said.

Earlier, the MLA had announced a Rs 11 lakh reward to anyone who "chops off" Rahul Gandhi's tongue for his remarks on scrapping the reservation system.

"I have made the statement. If I have not apologised, why should the Chief Minister do so? Of the 140 crore people in the country, 50 per cent of the population gets reservation. And I



am firm on the statement I made about the person who spoke about removing reservation," Gaikwad said, when asked about the controversy. The Maharashtra Police registered a case against him over the remarks about the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.

In August, a video of a policeman washing his car went viral on social media. Gaikwad later claimed the policeman cleaned it on his own after vomiting inside.

In February, Gaikwad claimed to have hunted a tiger in 1987 and said he wore its tooth around his neck. The forest department then sent the tooth for forensic identification, and charged the MLA under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

J&K polls: 20 pc candidates in 2nd phase face criminal cases

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Srinagar : A notable 20 per cent of the candidates in the second phase of the J&K Assembly elections have criminal cases pending against them, including murder, rape and other charges, as per the affidavits filed by them before the Election Commission of India (ECI). The self-sworn affidavits were filed by the candidates along with the nomination papers as per the set rules of the Commission.

These candidates are in the electoral fray since the law on this clearly states that unless charged and proven guilty in a court of law, every citizen is to be deemed innocent.

Those facing criminal cases include four from the BJP, four from the PDP, two from Congress, and one from the National Conference.

Of the 238 candidates in the electoral fray for the second phase of J&K elections, 47 candidates are facing criminal cases. Of these seven candidates are accused of crimes against women, including one who faces a case of rape. 37 candidates have other criminal cases against them while three have murder cases registered against them.

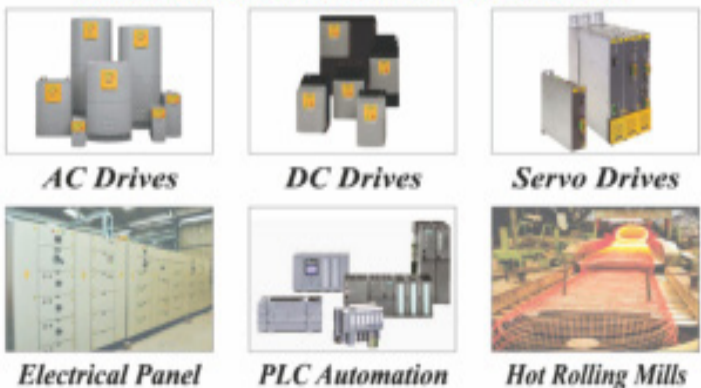
It is because of the presence of these candidates with cases of criminal record against them, that the ECI has



declared eight constituencies as red alert constituencies. The ECI stipulates that a constituency where three or more contesting candidates have criminal cases against them needs to be declared as a red-alert constituency.

Interestingly, the contesting candidates have below-average educational qualifications. On average, contesting candidates have educational qualifications between 5th and 12th classes while one of them has declared himself as illiterate. A total of 114 candidates are graduates or above while six others are Diploma holders. Among all the candidates, 84 are in the age group of 25-40, 105 in 41-60 and 49 are in the 61-80 age group. There are only three female candidates in the fray for the second phase of J&K Assembly polls.

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Delhi's groundwater has very high salt content: How bad is it for the kidneys?

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Delhi's groundwater is high in salt content, according to a report by the Central Ground Water Authority. One out of four groundwater samples taken from the capital city had very high electric conductivity (EC), and more than 25% of water samples analysed in Delhi are saline.

This is second only to Rajasthan, where 30% of the samples were found to be saline.

The national electric conductivity average is 6%, representing conductivity higher than 3,000 micro siemens per centimetre. The permissible range of electric conductivity for groundwater is between 750 and 3,000 units at 25 degrees Celsius.

However, when the EC is more than 3,000 units, then it becomes unsuitable for drinking, causing several diseases, including kidney-related problems.

"Salt (sodium) is one of the major constituents of the fluid balance in the body. If you have a high salt intake,



your body will retain more water to dilute the salt concentration. This can give you elevated blood pressure which has a negative effect on your kidneys," said Dr Mohit Khirbat, Consultant, Nephrology, CK Birla Hospital, Gurugram. High sodium intake can cause the body to retain water, increasing blood volume and blood pressure. Over time, this increased pressure can damage the blood vessels in the kidneys, reducing their ability to filter

waste effectively. Dr Sanjeev Gulati, Executive Director, Nephrology & Kidney Transplant, Fortis Escorts, Okhla Road, New Delhi, explained, "High salt content increases the amount of calcium in the urine, which can combine with oxalates or phosphates to form kidney stones. These can block the urinary tract and cause severe pain and kidney damage." When salt intake in the body is excessively high, it potentially causes chronic kidney disease, in which the kidneys become overworked trying to filter out excess sodium.

ARE THERE HIGH CASES OF KIDNEY

PROBLEMS IN DELHI? The prevalence of kidney problems in Delhi is significantly higher compared to most other regions in the country, according to Dr Khirbat. He explained, "Drinking water can be of poor quality in Delhi and its surroundings. The water, at certain places, may have more heavy metals and minerals, hence might increase the risk of developing kidney problems." Besides water, lifestyle choices like long working hours, unhealthy diets, and high stress levels, are causing hypertension, diabetes, and obesity in Delhi - all risk

factors for kidney problems. Air pollution has always "remained a negative influence on health". "The functioning of the kidneys is affected as pollutants destroy kidney cells, leading to chronic kidney disease," added Dr Khirbat.

The delay in diagnosis also lies in the lack of awareness about its signs and symptoms.

According to Dr Gulati, one of the reasons why Delhi's groundwater could have high salt content is because of wastewater discharge from industries, particularly those involved in mining, chemical production, or salt extraction, which can introduce high levels of salt into groundwater systems.



Atul Sharma



Astro Speak by:
Rajesh Kumar

Birth Date
19th Sep

Born on 19th Sep : 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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<p>Aries (March 21 - April 19)</p> <p>Sep 19th 2024 : Meditation and yoga should be practiced for spiritual as well as physical gains. Today, your account will be credited with the money from your debtor without any prior notice, which can surprise you and make you happy.</p>	<p>Taurus (April 20 - May 20)</p> <p>Sep 19th 2024 : Try to get out of your office early for some recreation. Today, there is a possibility of gaining monetary benefits, but due to your aggressive nature, you may not be able to earn as expected. Entertainment will be fun if it includes the whole family.</p>	<p>Gemini (May 21 - June 20)</p> <p>Sep 19th 2024 : Religious feelings will arise making you visit a religious place to seek some divine knowledge from a holy person. Financial position will improve through speculation or unexpected gains. Behave properly while going out with your mate.</p>
<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 22)</p> <p>Sep 19th 2024 : The loyal heart and brave spirit of your spouse may give happiness. Money will help you remain afloat during dark times in life. Hence, consider investing and saving your money from today, or else troubles can occur. Friends will brighten up your day as they plan out something exciting for the evening.</p>	<p>Leo (July 23 - Aug 22)</p> <p>Sep 19th 2024 : Your generous attitude would be a blessing in disguise as you are likely to be liberated from many vices like doubt, disloyalty, depression, lack of faith, greed, attachment, egoism, and jealousy. Your beloved will do things to keep you happy. Everything seems in your favor today at work.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)</p> <p>Sep 19th 2024 : Only you know what is best for you- so be strong and bold and take quick decisions and be prepared to live with the results. Improvement in finances is certain. Children might seek your help to complete school projects. If you were feeling cursed since long, this is the day when you will feel blessed.</p>
<p>Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)</p> <p>Sep 19th 2024 : Lovely mood of your spouse may brighten your day. You know the importance of money very well, which is why the money you save today will be useful in the future and get out of any major difficulty. Chances of someone proposing on the cards.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)</p> <p>Sep 19th 2024 : You need to sit back and relax today- and get involved in hobbies and things that you enjoy doing the most. You will make good money today- but try not to let it slip through your fingers. Try to be reasonable especially with people who love and care for you.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)</p> <p>Sep 19th 2024 : You will find it hard to concentrate on your work-as your health would not be perfect today. People who had invested their money in the past are likely to benefit from that investment today. Friends will interfere more than required in your personal life.</p>
<p>Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)</p> <p>Sep 19th 2024 : Harboring of ill-will against others will give mental tension. You should avoid these kinds of thoughts as these are life wasters and kill your efficiency. Investment in stocks and mutual funds recommended for long-term gains.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)</p> <p>Sep 19th 2024 : Work pressure might bring some stress and tension today. Perfect day to purchase items that would grow in value. Those seeking emotional reassurances may find their elders coming to their aid. Don't take your partners for granted.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)</p> <p>Sep 19th 2024 : Tension at home would make you angry. Suppressing them would only increase physical problem. Get rid of it with physical activity. It is better to leave the irritating situation. Your charms and personality will help you make few new friends.</p>

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Large number of Congress Akali leaders joined Aam Aadmi Party

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : Aam Aadmi Party got a big boost today in Mohali Vidhan Sabha constituency, when a large number of people dedicated to social service, saying goodbye to Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal, announced to join Aam Army Party along with their families. Mohali MLA Kulwant Singh welcomed them at the office of Aam Aadmi Party in Sector-79 and said, that a large number of people dedicated to social service across Punjab, while appreciating the policies and the work AAP government are joining Aam Aadmi Party. Today large number of leaders from the Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal alongwith office bearers and workers of village Kurdi in Mohali assembly constituency joined the Aam Aadmi Party along with their families and said they said that



people who need to do something for the society are eagerly joining AAP. MLA Kulwant Singh said that this campaign has been going on on a large scale across Punjab that active leaders of various parties are saying goodbye to their political parties and joining the Aam Aadmi Party. He said that many leaders and workers of other parties are going to join the Aam Aadmi Party in the coming days. He said that the organizational structure of Aam Aadmi Party is

getting stronger day by day as compared to earlier. He said that the Aam Aadmi Party government led by Bhagwant Singh Mann is providing employment to the youth of Punjab on a large scale. A large number of Aam Aadmi Party workers and supporters including Chhaja Singh Kurdi, Aam Aadmi Party senior leaders- Kuldeep Singh Samana, Satnam Singh, Gurdev Singh, Gurmel Singh, Navrinder Singh were also present.

Pb: District-level camps to be organized to raise awareness on welfare schemes of SCs and BCs

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : District-level camps will be organized to raise awareness about the schemes run by the Department of Social Justice, Empowerment, and Minorities for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, so that maximum benefits can be provided to them. This announcement was made by the Minister for Social Justice, Empowerment, and Minorities, Dr. Baljit Kaur, during a meeting with the SC/BC Teachers' Union Punjab at the Civil Secretariat today. During the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of Social Justice, Empowerment, and Minorities D.K. Tiwari, Director Amrit Singh, Director-cum-Joint Secretary Raj Bahadur Singh, and Deputy Director Ravinderpal Singh participated in discussions regarding the union's demands. The SC/BC Teachers' Union,



Punjab, informed Dr. Baljit Kaur about their demands, which include implementing reservations as per population, ensuring that open merit reserved category candidates (all reserved category candidates who achieve the general category merit) are not counted against the reservation points during departmental recruitments and promotions, giving reserved category candidates the necessary relaxation

in marks and application fees during departmental recruitments, implementing reservations during admissions to meritorious schools and ensuring that the Social Justice Department pays the examination fees for SC and BC students. Dr. Baljit Kaur carefully listened to the union's demands and assured them that every legitimate demand would be fulfilled. Dr. Baljit Kaur stated that the Punjab Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, is consistently striving for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, minorities and economically weaker sections. She mentioned that the state government aims to improve the social and economic status of the youth from Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. Continuous efforts are being made by the department to achieve this goal.

Rotary Mohali Midtown hands over 20 RO systems to government Schools

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : Rotary Club of Mohali Midtown donated 20 RO systems at a function held at Government Primary School Naraingarh Jhugia to improve drinking water quality for students of government schools. The event was graced by SDM Mohali Deepankar Garg as Chief Guest, along with DEO Prem Kumar Mittal and Tehsildar Arjun Singh Grewal, who applauded the initiative. The President Rtn Dilpreet Singh Boparai handed over the ROs to the District Education Officer supported by the members of Rotary Club Mohali Midtown Rtn Kuldeep Singh Dhodhy Vice President, Rtn Jagdeep Singh Director Club Service, Rtn Iqbal Singh Director Community Service, Rtn Harjeet Singh sergeant



at arms, Rtn Prabhjot Kaur Club Secretary, Rtn Hardeep Singh, Rtn Ankit Beri and President-Elect Rtn Aameep Sinha were present at the occasion. About 20 Government schools in rural areas were identified by the screening of DEO Prem Kumar

Mittal, keeping in view that the school is rural, with a headcount of more than 200 students, and does not have an RO installed previously in the school. Rotary Club of Mohali Midtown also honored 14 teachers from government schools with the Nation Builder Award on 16th September 2024 recognizing the outstanding contributions of teachers in the field of education. The teachers were selected by the Education department for the exemplary work done by the teachers in various fields of education and social development of the students.

Comprehensive strategy to curb stubble burning-Ludhiana DC

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Ludhiana : Deputy Commissioner Jitendra Jorwal on Wednesday stated that the district administration will take a comprehensive approach to address the issue of stubble burning. This will involve effectively managing crop residues through in-situ and ex-situ management, as well as conducting a widespread awareness campaign in the villages. During a meeting to assess the readiness for preventing and controlling paddy stubble burning in 2024, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that the administration has already made intensive planning to manage approximately 16.53 lakh MT of paddy stubble this season. Out of this, 12.69 lakh MT of stubble will be managed through



in-situ and 3.32 lakh MT by ex-situ management. The remaining stubble will be utilized in brick kilns, boilers, and other efforts, including using it as fodder. Jorwal also revealed that 8978 machines, including balers, rakes, super seeders, smart seeders, surface seeders, zero drills, RMB ploughs, mulchers, straw choppers, super SMS, crop reapers, rotary slashers,

and tractors, have been provided to farmers through custom hiring centers, societies, and groups. The administration has also appointed 211 nodal officers, and 90 cluster officers will closely monitor their respective areas to prevent stubble burning. The Deputy Commissioner mentioned that the administration has identified 30 hotspots, and Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) of concerned areas have been instructed to closely supervise the work of nodal officers and cluster coordinators to ensure zero stubble burning. He emphasized that an ongoing awareness campaign is urging farmers to refrain from stubble burning, which is harmful to the environment and human health.

PIC OF THE DAY

Who CARES...?

No end to road side Encroachments in Mohali



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : Illegal encroachments on roadsides, outside showrooms and at marketplaces have become a common affair in Mohali. It has been noticed that roadside encroachments are leading to regular traffic congestion. The traffic near Phase 4 Entry and in Phase 1 moves at a snail's pace during the morning and evening rush hours, moreover several vital roads turned from residential areas into a commercial hub over the past few years. Resident said, "The district administration had constructed footpaths for the safe movement of pedestrians, but roadside vendors have illegally encroached upon the roads as well as the footpaths and cause traffic congestion." Residents/Commuters while talking to The Aman Sandesh Times said, ever-increasing encroachments in different localities of the city have become a permanent source of nuisance for commuters with roadside bazaars, street hawkers and push up carts, prop up almost along every main or connecting road.

Residents added, "Seeing them doing all this bravely also raises doubt of alleged involvement of some officials who could provide them shelter." The Aman Sandesh Times team found that the numbers of street vendors is multiplying, choking the busy stretches and slowing down traffic. Even National Highway on International Airport Road has not been spared, with the number of carts on its wide pavements going up every week. The encroachers range from food vendors to vegetable sellers, nurseries, and fruit, furniture shops. Road is further eaten up by illegal parking that makes traffic chaotic in many parts of the city, squeezing moving vehicles into one lane and in They are everywhere encroaching busy roads, pavements and footpaths leaving no space for pedestrians. Most of such roadside businesses Mohali areas have been set up without permission from relevant authorities, encroaching space illegally cannot be acceptable. **But Who Cares???**

Punjabi diaspora lauds and enjoys PAU Kisan Mela via online mode



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Ludhiana : The Kisan Mela of the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) has not only been a big attraction for the farmers of Punjab and neighboring states but also for the Punjabi diaspora. This year, the mela witnessed large-scale participation of farmers and farm women from Canada, Italy, Pakistan, the US, etc. through the Facebook and YouTube channels of the University. Dr MS Bhullar, Director of Extension Education, lauded the rising interest and footfall of the farmers for participation in the mela via online and offline modes. "The growing number of

participating farmers in the mela is a testament to their deep-root connection with their roots as well as faith in PAU-developed crop varieties and agri-technologies," he observed. Later, Dr Bhullar appreciated the efforts of PAU's electronic media team to expand its outreach across the world. Dr TS Riar, Additional Director of Communication, said that PAU social media links are escalating abroad as it highlighted seed sales, experimental areas, live demonstrations, farmers-scientists' interaction and other stalls at the mela, which benefited Punjabis enormously with one click.

Hry CM Saini slams Congress. dismisses claims of BJP infighting



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Ladwa : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, while addressing a jansabha (public gathering) in Sanghour of the Ladwa assembly on Wednesday, slammed the Congress ahead of the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections.

He dismissed their allegations of infighting within the BJP and Congress claims of winning more seats than in 2005. He accused the party of corruption and losing touch with the public.

Saini said, "Congress is dreaming. People are thinking about their corruption, the way they tortured people, the way they made people stand in queues." The CM added People used to get gas cylinders after three days. How are they claiming this? They are going to be wiped out."

Saini also attacked the Congress for focusing more on internal matters than serving the people. "They get busy pleasing their son-in-law. They don't please people; they please their son-in-law," he added.

He expressed confidence that the BJP would win a historic number of seats and form the government for the 30th time. Responding to Congress' allegations of infighting within the BJP, Saini

stated, "There is conflict in Congress. No one is angry with the BJP. Everyone should work for the lotus flower."

Regarding former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's resignation and Atishi Marlena's appointment, Saini congratulated Atishi but urged her to prioritise the people of Delhi over her predecessor.

"I would like to tell Atishi to take decisions in the interest of the people of Delhi and not in the interest of Kejriwal. Kejriwal has done the opposite of what he promised. He has taken votes by deceiving people," Saini added. Addressing a gathering earlier in Ladwa, Saini urged people to support the BJP in the upcoming elections. He praised the government's development work in the region, highlighting efforts over the past decade.

"I am thankful that you all came to give your blessings; I am grateful for that. On October 5, press the button in front of the lotus symbol to take blessings for this state," Saini said. He assured people that their issues would be addressed without any obstacles. The CM also visited the nearby Balmiki temple.

Union Cabinet approves One Nation, One Election proposal

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the government's 'One Nation, One Election' proposal which proposes simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, with urban body and panchayat polls to be held within 100 days. The recommendations were made in a report of a high panel committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

Addressing a press conference in the national capital, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said, "The Union Cabinet has accepted the recommendations by the high-level committee on 'One Nation, One Election. Cabinet approved the proposal unanimously." The Union Minister further said that the proposal will be implemented in two phases. "In the first phase, Lok Sabha elections and Assembly elections will be held and in the second phase, local bodies elections (Gram Panchayat, Block, Zila Panchayat) and urban local bodies (municipality and municipal committees or municipal corporations)," the Minister said. Vaishnav said that recommendations of former President Ram Nath Kovind's panel will be discussed across India on various forums. "Implementation group to be formed to take forward recommendations of Kovind panel on simultaneous polls," the Minister said. Vaishnav further said that a large number of parties across the political spectrum have actually supported the One Nation, One Election initiative.

"When they interact with high-level meetings, they give their input in a very succinct manner and with a lot of clarity. Our government believes in creating a consensus on items that affect democracy and the nation in the long run. This is a subject, a topic



that will strengthen our nation," the Union Minister said.

The Kovind-led High-Level Committee on 'One Nation-One Election' led by former President Ram Nath Kovind in its report stated that frequent elections create an atmosphere of uncertainty and impact policy decisions, adding that holding simultaneous elections would bring enhanced certainty in policy making. The report, comprising 18,626 pages, is an outcome of extensive consultations with stakeholders, experts and research work over 191 days, since the constitution of the High-Level Committee on September 2, 2023.

While highlighting the advantages of simultaneous elections, the committee stated that 'One Nation One Election' ensures ease and convenience to voters, avoids voters' fatigue, and facilitates greater voter turnout. The Committee was briefed by these bodies that intermittent elections had adverse consequences on economic growth, quality of public expenditure, and educational and other outcomes, besides upsetting social harmony. The panel headed by former president Kovind had submitted the report in March ahead of the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections. The proposal will now be tabled in Parliament and must be cleared in both houses the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha - before it becomes the law.

1031 candidates to contest Hry Assembly polls

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Haryana's Chief Electoral Officer, Sh. Pankaj Agarwal has announced that for the Haryana Assembly elections scheduled to be held on October 5, there are a total of 1031 candidates. Among them, 930 are men and 101 are women.

He further informed that out of these candidates, 462 are independent. This includes 421 men and 41 women.

Voting for the 90-member Haryana legislative assembly will be held on October 5, with the last date for filing nominations being



September 12. The counting of votes will take place on October 8.

In the 2019 assembly polls,

the BJP emerged as the single largest party with 40 seats, while Congress secured 30 seats.

Hire staff through Employment Exchange: Chandigarh Mayor

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : To ensure transparency and corruption-free recruitment of outsourced/contract employees, Mayor Kuldeep Kumar Dhalor has directed officials to hire staff through the Regional Employment Exchange here.

The Mayor said through the employment exchange, the civic body would be able to hire employees as per the eligible qualification. The existing practice of hiring staff, which, in many cases, is allegedly done through connections or by bribing contractors, could be put to an end by adopting this new model.

According to sources, the recruitment nexus is so deep that aspirants allegedly have to shell out from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakh for getting posts of driver, gardener, sanitation worker and others in the corporation. Many employees had raised loans to pay bribes. Employees hired through outsourcing complain of being asked



for additional annual charges from their salaries when a new contractor takes over.

"Why cannot we have a transparent system? I have asked officials to hire staff through the employment exchange. This way we will be able to provide employment to local residents. We will also be able to prevent unnecessary exploitation of

poor workers who struggle to make ends meet," said Dhalor.

The sources said there were bleak chances that the directions would be complied with by the officers concerned as previous such attempts had been futile. A Mayor has no administrative powers.

Initially, staff used to be hired through the employment exchange. The exchange has a large number of job applications pending with it.

This issue is also expected to be taken up in the MC House. According to officials, there are a total of 7,172 posts in the MC and all of these are shown to have been filled in the budget for this fiscal. Many regular posts are lying vacant, while recruitment of outsourced staff has exceeded the required strength.

Postponement of meeting with Finance Minister irks Pb Vets

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Vets for pay parity, has strongly condemned the postponement of meeting with the Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema to discuss the demand of restoration of Pay parity of Vets with medicos, which was scheduled to be held on September 17.

The convener of JAC Dr. Gurcharan Singh and Co conveners Dr. Puneet Malhotra, Dr. Abdul Majid, Dr. Gurdeep Singh, and Dr. Harmandeep Singh, strongly flaying the Punjab government for delaying the restoration of the pay parity of Veterinary Officers with their counterparts



in health department, alleged that the government was deliberately using delaying tactics which reflected the non-seriousness on the part of government to resolve the issue, in public interest.

They said that they have been attending cases of livestock at the respective hospitals and Polyclinics and even the dharna held at Livestock

Complex Mohali was intentionally held on 1st September.

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Vets staged a dharna in Mohali on

September 1 to protest against the alleged inaction of the Punjab on restoring pay parity with medical officers.

The executive committee members said that the government had not restored the scale of veterinary officers despite assurances time and again by the Punjab government.

NIT Jalandhar faculty members globally selected among the top 2% Scientists

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Jalandhar : 16 faculty members of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (NIT) Jalandhar, along with Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, Director NIT Jalandhar, have been ranked among the top 2% of scientists in the world for the year 2024.

This global survey is conducted annually based on a scientist's research credentials jointly by Stanford University, United States and Elsevier, which is a global information analytics company for institutions and professionals. The ranking includes Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, Director NIT Jalandhar and faculty members of NIT Jalandhar Dr. J.N. Chakraborty, Dr. Balbir Singh Kaith, Dr. Vishal S. Sharma, Dr. T Srinivas, Dr. Uma Shanker, Dr. Balwinder Raj, Dr. Vijay



Kumar, Dr. Samayveer Singh, Dr. Karanveer, Dr. Mohit Kumar, Dr. Arvind Kumar, Dr. Harsh Kumar, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Dr. Mahendra Kumar and Dr. Afzal Sikandar. This achievement is a testament to the exceptional contributions by these scientists and researchers in various fields. Prof. Kanaujia appreciated the remarkable achievements

and outstanding contributions of these scientists to high-quality research. Last year, six faculty members were listed, while this year, sixteen scientists were cited, highlighting the excellent research potential of NIT Jalandhar.

He congratulated the faculty members on this remarkable achievement, attributing it to their hard work and dedication.

The scientists expressed their gratitude to Prof. Kanaujia for his constant motivation, and support, and for nurturing a conducive research atmosphere on campus, which contributed to this outstanding result.

'Stree 2' makes history, becomes "highest-grossing" Hindi film ever

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mumbai : The film 'Stree 2', featuring Shraddha Kapoor and Rajkumar Rao, has secured its place in cinematic history as the highest-grossing Hindi film of all time, exceeding the total earnings of Shah Rukh Khan's 'Jawan'. Trade analyst Taran Adarsh confirmed the news on his official X handle. #Stree2 scripts HISTORY... Becomes the HIGHEST-GROSSING HINDI FILM EVER... Crosses lifetime biz of #Jawan [#Hindi version]... Next stop: Inaugurating the Rs 600 cr Club. [Week 5] Fri 3.60 cr, Sat 5.55 cr, Sun 6.85 cr, Mon 3.17 cr, Tue 2.65 cr. Total: Rs 586 cr. #India biz. #Boxoffice," he wrote. As of this week, the horror-



comedy has garnered an impressive Rs 586 crore at the Indian box office, highlighting its remarkable appeal to audiences. The film, featuring Shraddha Kapoor and Rajkumar Rao in the leading roles, maintains its draw for moviegoers in its fifth week of release.

As the film approaches the possibility of surpassing the Rs 600 crore mark, the anticipation for 'Stree 2' continues to escalate. In addition to Shraddha Kapoor and Rajkumar Rao, the cast features Pankaj Tripathi, Abhishek Banerjee, and Aparshakti Khurana.

Right-wing group calls for cancellation of India-Bangladesh cricket match

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Bengaluru : A Goa-based right-wing outfit has called for the cancellation of the upcoming cricket match between India and Bangladesh, citing ongoing atrocities against Hindus in the neighbouring country. The organisation, Hindu Janajagruti Samithi, urged the cricket regulatory body, BCCI, to postpone the match, scheduled to take place in Chennai on Thursday, until these issues are resolved. "The Hindu Janajagruti Samithi has strongly condemned the organisation of cricket matches between India and Bangladesh, calling it a disgraceful act that deepens the wounds of Hindus while atrocities against them in Bangladesh persist," the group said in a statement. It added, "the Samithi has urged the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to immediately cancel all India-



Bangladesh cricket matches, as well as cultural programs featuring Bangladeshi artists, until these attacks on Hindus are halted". Since the resignation of Sheikh Hasina as Bangladesh Prime Minister on August 5, Hindu citizens, along with their residences, temples, and endowments, have been targeted in the country. "...The Hindu community in Bangladesh continues to face relentless attacks, with 230 reported deaths and incidents

of anti-Hindu violence across 52 of the 64 districts. Following the resignation of the Sheikh Hasina government, these attacks have intensified, especially in rural areas where Hindus live in constant fear," the outfit said. India is set to host two Test matches and three T20Is against Bangladesh from September 19 to October 12, across venues in Chennai, Kanpur, Gwalior, Delhi, and Hyderabad.

Image of Titan submersible, chilling 3-word message before implosion revealed



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The first picture of the Titan submersible that imploded in June last year during its descent to the Titanic wreckage site was revealed by the US Coast Guard at a public hearing into the deaths of five people onboard the vessel.

A text conversation between the Titan's crew and the Polar Prince, a nearby support ship, was also revealed during the hearing. When asked if it was visible on Polar Prince's informational display, a chilling three-word text from the Titan's crew came, saying, "All good here," even as the sub descended further, The Guardian reported.

The image of the ill-fated Titan, captured during the frantic search for the vessel last year, showed the sub's broken tail cone resting on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean at a depth of 12,500 feet, giving a chilling reminder to the viewers about the aftermath of the implosion.

Fragments of the sub were also visible on the ocean floor -- the debris that was found by the search teams that confirmed the sub's implosion.

According to the Marine Board of Investigation, the Titan's detached tail cone and other debris gave "conclusive evidence" that the sub suffered a "catastrophic implosion".

In a final message, Titan's crew informed Polar Prince that it "dropped two wts", meaning that the sub had lost two measures of weight in an attempt to ascend back to the ocean's surface. Following this, the vessel ultimately lost contact with the support ship and imploded.

OceanGate, the company that developed the Titan, had come under intense scrutiny as former employees and whistleblowers expressed concerns over the design of the vessel.

Tony Nissen, the former engineering director, spoke about the pressure to expedite the Titan's launch despite his reservations. Another contractor, Tym Catterson, expressed his doubts about the suitability of the materials -- carbon fibre and titanium -- used in the submersible's construction, according to The Guardian.

"I don't believe that the composites are the correct material for a pressure vessel that's experiencing external compression," Catterson said, adding that he had "doubts" and had expressed his worries to several OceanGate employees.

The hearing also included an animated video recreating the Titan's final moments. The hearing, which is set to last two weeks, aims to uncover the facts surrounding the tragedy and determine any misconduct or negligence that may have contributed to the implosion.

On June 18, five people -- British explorer Hamish Harding, British-Pakistani businessman Shahzada Dawood and his son Suleman, Stockton Rush, the CEO of OceanGate and French diver Paul-Henri Nargeolet -- died after the Titan imploded due to intense ocean pressure off the coast of Newfoundland in Canada.

The passengers were on their way to view the wreck of the Titanic, which was once described as "practically unsinkable" but hit an iceberg and sank in 1912, claiming over 1,500 people.

It's story TIME

The Tortoise And The Bird

A tortoise was resting under a tree. On this tree, a bird had built its nest. The tortoise mocked the bird for having a home built with broken twigs, which it had to build itself. He bragged about his own shell and said the bird must be jealous. The bird told the tortoise that its nest might be shabby, but it had space for its friends and family. At the same time, the tortoise's shell could never accommodate anyone else except the tortoise himself.



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PIL filed in Delhi HC against Ravneet Bittu for his remarks on Rahul Gandhi

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Delhi High Court against Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu.

The petition submitted by Surjeet Yadav, President of Hindu Sena (S), alleged that Bittu used derogatory language towards Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

This Public Interest Litigation (PIL) calls for action against Bittu, asserting that his statements could incite significant violence and disorder.

The petitioner has requested the court



to implement appropriate measures to mitigate the situation, as the PIL argues that Bittu's remarks may

endanger public peace and social harmony.

The Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeks intervention against Bittu, contending that his statements may incite significant violence and disorder.

The petitioner has urged the court to implement measures to mitigate the situation and avert possible risks to public order and societal harmony stemming from Bittu's remarks.

Congress filed a complaint against Ravneet Bittu

Congress leader Ajay Maken today arrived at the Tughlaq Road Police Station here to file a complaint against the Union leader Ravneet Singh Bittu over his remarks on the Lok Sabha leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi.

Bittu had made these comments in response to Rahul Gandhi's claim that Sikhs were not being able to wear the kada or the Turban in the country.

Governor seeks report on prosecution of officials over corruption

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Bengaluru : In the ongoing tussle between the Karnataka government and Raj Bhavan, the Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot has fired a fresh salvo against the Siddaramaiah government by seeking information on prosecution cases against government officials in the Lokayukta since May 2023.

The Lokayukta is a state-level authority in India that deals with complaints of corruption and maladministration against public servants.

In a letter to the Chief Secretary Shalini Rajanesh on September 5, the Governor sought to know about the prosecution sanction granted by the government based on the request of the Lokayukta that is investigating the corruption charges against the officials.

The letter asked for detailed information on the investigation of corrupt officials and employees since the Congress government came to power in the state.

The Governor has called for a comprehensive report on the proposals submitted regarding Lokayukta prosecutions, emphasising a detailed breakdown of key points. Specifically, the governor seeks clarity on the timeline, requesting the exact dates when the



proposals were submitted for review. It is also necessary to outline the Cabinet's decisions in each case, specifically focusing on the approval or rejection of the proposals. In instances of approval, the governor expects precise information on the nature of the punishment recommended. Conversely, for proposals that were rejected, the reasons behind such decisions are to be thoroughly explained. In response to the governor's letter, the vigilance cell in the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms on September 10 asked all departments to provide information of Lokayukta's request for prosecution sanctions "urgently." The departments have been asked to provide all the details in a week.

This move comes after the Congress government had asked for sanctions to probe against the opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) leaders, including Union Minister for Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy, former Ministers and BJP leader G Janardhan Reddy, and others that were pending before the Governor.

Earlier on August 17, the Governor granted approval and sanction to a probe against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in connection with the irregularities in the allotment of alternative sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

The MUDA scam centres on a 3.16-acre parcel of land in Kesaru village owned by Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi. This land was acquired by MUDA for the development of a layout, and Parvathi was allocated 14 premium sites in Vijayanagar in 2022 as compensation under a 50:50 scheme. Siddaramaiah's brother-in-law, Malikarjuna Swamy Devaraj, is also accused of involvement in the alleged land scam. The case involves allegations against top officials of MUDA as well.

MK Stalin hopeful of winning 2026 Tamil Nadu polls: Have trust in party workers

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chennai : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) chief MK Stalin has urged party workers to work hard and ensure an unprecedented victory for the party in the 2026 Assembly polls, claiming that the services of the Dravidian party are needed for another century to come.

Addressing the party workers on Tuesday, September 17, on the completion of 75 years of DMK, Stalin said, "Our party was in power when we celebrated the 25th, 50th and 75th anniversary. DMK will be in power when we celebrate the 100th anniversary of its establishment."

"I'm saying this due to the trust I have in you and not due to overconfidence. Let us progress towards a 100-year celebration. Our next goal is the 2026 elections....," the DMK chief added.

In his speech, Stalin also highlighted that DMK has worked to empower women, minorities and economically weaker



sections of society. "We still have not accomplished our dreams as there is not a Union Government in rule to provide state autonomy. DMK is still striving to attain it. Today, you can't even question the tab on a cream bun," MK Stalin said while taking a dig at the Central government on Goods and Services Tax (GST). In a veiled attack on the BJP-led government at the Centre, Stalin said despite the meagre funds flow, he was

able to achieve significantly in diverse fields.

"We can make Tamil Nadu the best state in the country if we get a full financial allocation," Stalin said while addressing the "Mupperum Vizha" -- triple celebrations marking the birth anniversaries of rationalist leader Periyar and late Chief Minister CN Annadurai, and the 75th founding anniversary of the DMK.

Recalling his recent US trip to attract investments into Tamil Nadu, Stalin said the financial commitments would facilitate the creation of employment to thousands of people.

"I wish to point out that the party was in power when it celebrated silver jubilee, golden jubilee and now the 75th anniversary. It will remain in power to celebrate the centenary and will last for another century," he said.

'We stand with Palestine' banner seen in Karnataka. BJP writes to officials

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Bengaluru : A banner proclaiming "We stand with Palestine" was put up in Karnataka's Shivamogga district, causing a stir within the local community. The banner, which appeared two to three days ago, quickly became a focal point of political and social debate.

Responding to the situation, former Karnataka Home Minister and BJP leader Araga Jnanendra took swift action. In a letter addressed to district authorities, Jnanendra called for the immediate removal of the banner, referring to it as an act that threatened communal harmony. He stated that the banner was erected during the Eid



procession. "This kind of banner, which goes against the unity of the country, sows seeds of disharmony in our society," Jnanendra stated in his letter. He also referenced the involvement of local residents in past terror incidents, such as the Mangaluru cooker blast case and the Bangalore

Rameshwaram cafe blast, both of which have heightened anxieties in Theerthahalli. "The people are already in fear. Incidents like these only add to the tension," he added. Acting on the letter, the police registered a First Information Report (FIR) against unidentified individuals responsible for putting up the banner. While the accused are yet to be arrested, authorities swiftly removed the banner the same day it was discovered.

The Shivamogga police confirmed the investigation is ongoing, with officers stating that they are taking "necessary steps" to maintain peace and order in the district.

JPC postpones today's meeting on Waqf Amendment Bill due to technical reasons

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : A meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, scheduled for today has been postponed due to some technical reasons. As per the new schedule, the meeting will now be held on September 19 and 20, 2024.

A meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, was scheduled for September 18, 19 and 20 at the Parliament House Annexe in the capital city of New Delhi. In the meeting, representatives from the Ministry of Minority Affairs had to record oral evidence before the committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee will also hear the views or suggestions of some experts and stakeholders, such as Prof Faizan Mustafa, Vice Chancellor, Chanakya National Law University, Patna; Pasmanda Muslim Mahaaz and All Indian Muslim Personal Law Board, on the bill.

The committee will additionally hear the suggestions of All India Sajjadanashin Council, Ajmer, Muslim Rashtriya Manch, Delhi and Bharat First, Delhi, on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024. Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which addresses the management, preservation,



and misuse of Waqf properties, will be passed in Parliament in the coming days. Addressing a press conference on the first 100 days of the third term of the PM Modi government, Shah said, "Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 is committed to the management, preservation and misuse of Waqf properties. It would be passed in the Parliament in the coming days."

The fourth meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to examine the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024, was held on September 6. During the meeting, senior officials of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) made a presentation before the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Several stakeholders, including the Zakat Foundation of India and the Telangana Waqf Board, put forth their views, suggestions, and oral evidence on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

India recorded second warmest June-August this year since 1970

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Climate Central's seasonal analysis from June to August 2024 offers a striking look into the influence of human-induced climate change on global temperatures, with a detailed focus on India. The report leverages temperature anomalies and the Climate Shift Index (CSI) to illustrate the magnitude of climate change's role in raising temperatures across the region.

India recorded its second-hottest season since satellite data tracking began in 1970. Over this three-month period, temperatures were at least three times more likely to spike due to climate change for 29 days. Approximately 20.5 million Indians faced temperatures influenced by climate change for at least 60 days (CSI 5), underscoring India's vulnerability to extreme heat compared to other Southern Asian nations.

Of India's 1.38 billion population, around 426 million people — almost a third — were exposed to potentially scorching temperatures for at least seven days, exceeding 90 per cent of the local temperature records from the 1991-2020 baseline period. More than 112 million people faced over a month of dangerous heatwaves, raising significant public health concerns.

Several Indian cities bore the brunt of climate change-fueled heatwaves. Thiruvananthapuram, Vasai-Virar, Kavaratti, Thane, Mumbai, and Port



Blair each endured over 70 days when temperatures were at least three times more likely due to climate change. Mumbai alone experienced 54 extreme heat days, while cities like Kanpur and Delhi saw temperatures soar above 39°C for prolonged periods, with climate change making these extremes four times more likely.

What Is The Climate Shift Index (CSI)? The Climate Shift Index (CSI) measures the influence of climate change on daily temperatures. A CSI score between 1 and 5 reflects the probability that a day's temperatures have increased due to human-driven climate change. For example, a CSI of 2 indicates that the temperature on a given day is twice as likely to occur in today's altered climate compared to a world without human-induced changes. This provides a concrete metric to assess the local and global impacts of climate change on heat levels.

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Will meet with PM Modi in US next week- Trump

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Washington : Former US President Donald Trump stated during a campaign event that he will meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the United States next week. The Republican presidential candidate made the announcement while campaigning in Michigan on Tuesday, "He happens to be coming to meet me next week," Trump said terming PM Modi as a "fantastic" leader. "So when India, which is a very big abuser, he happens to be coming to meet me next week. And Modi he is fantastic. I mean, fantastic man. These are a lot of these leaders are fantastic. You have to understand one thing. They're dealing, there are 100 per cent," Trump was cited as saying by the Reuters. "These people are the sharpest people. They're not a little bit backward. They are at the top. You know the expression? They're at the



top of their game and they use it against us. But India's very tough," Trump said. PM Modi will visit the United States from September 21 to 23 and participate in the fourth Quad Leaders' Summit hosted by US President Joe Biden for leaders of the grouping- India, Australia and Japan on September 21 in Delaware. PM Modi will also address the 'Summit of the Future' themed 'Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow' at the United Nations

General Assembly in New York.

The prime minister will also address a gathering of the Indian community on September 22 in New York as per a MEA release. He will also interact with CEOs of leading US-based companies to foster greater collaborations between the two countries in the cutting-edge areas of AI, quantum computing, semiconductors and biotechnology, the MEA statement said. Both PM Modi and Donald Trump last met in February 2020, when the then US President visited India. Trump was welcomed with a 'Namaste Trump' event in Ahmedabad, which also marked the opening of the world's largest cricket stadium. During PM Modi's visit to the US in 2019 he participated in a "Howdy, Modi!" rally in Texas.

Australia set to launch new Visa ballot for work and holiday visas for India, other two Asian countries

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Australia is set to introduce a new ballot system starting in the 2024-25 program year to manage the demand for Work and Holiday visas for citizens of India, China, and Vietnam. The Work and Holiday visa (subclass 462) is available for individuals between the ages of 18 and 30, permitting them to travel and work in Australia, as stated by the Department of Home Affairs. Applicants are allowed to study for a duration of up to four months, exit and re-enter the country on multiple occasions, and participate in short-term employment to support their travel expenses. The fee for this visa



is AUD 650 (Rs 36,748). The ballot constitutes an electronic process of random selection, through

which chosen individuals are invited to submit their applications for the Work and Holiday visa via the Internet. Starting in the 2024-25 program year, first-time Work and Holiday visa applicants from India, China, and Vietnam will be required to register through a new ballot system, the Department of Home Affairs said. It is worth mentioning that this new system only applies to first-time applicants from these three countries.

Sidhu Moose Wala's song plays at London Fashion Week. internet reacts

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Punjabi rapper and singer Sidhu Moose Wala was honoured with a special tribute at London Fashion Week 2024. During a fashion show by the label Nebojsa, models graced the runway as the late artist's popular song, 47, played. A video of the same is going viral on social media, with fans showering love on it. The label reshared the video on their official Instagram handle and captioned it, "For the culture, big up (sic)." Several social media users reacted to the video and showered love on the



late singer. One fan wrote, "They've got good taste (sic)." A second user shared a gif of the singer in the comment section. A third fan

commented, "We have to big up @steelbanglez for bringing this forward (sic)." "Wasn't she tempted to start dancing?" asked a different user. 47 is sung by Sidhu Moose Wala, featuring British rappers Mist and Stefflon Don. It was released as a single on October 10, 2019 and was produced by Steel Banglez. The music video has gained more than 80 million views on YouTube. Sidhu Moose Wala was shot and killed in Mansa, Punjab, on May 29, 2022.

Italy's FIFA WC '90' hero Salvatore 'Toto' Schillaci dies at 59

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Palermo : Italy football legend Salvatore 'Toto' Schillaci, the topscorer of the 1990 FIFA World Cup, has passed away aged 59 after the striker was admitted in a hospital in Palermo last week. The former Italy and Juventus striker was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2022. Following him being admitted into the hospital, a hospital statement said he was "receiving treatment to stabilise his heartbeat". "We immediately fell in love with Toto. His desire, his story, his being so wonderfully passionate, and it showed in every game he played. We at Juve were lucky enough to get excited about him before, in that incredible summer of 1990, the whole of Italy did, captivated by those wonderfully energetic celebrations of his," read the statement by Juventus. "Because Toto arrived at Juve in 1989, and in that season he scored 15 goals in the league, four in the UEFA Cup and two in the Coppa Italia. Numbers that earned him the Azzurri shirt in the Italian World Cup, which - also thanks to him - became what we all remember as those 'Magical Nights'," it added. Toto's first goal at the 1990 World Cup came against Austria followed by a strike against the United States of America, both of which he scored after coming on as a substitute, saw him earn his place in the starting XI. Goals against Uruguay and Ireland



propelled Italy to the semi-finals where they lost against Argentina, in a game where he scored a goal, on penalties. Despite the exit, Toto's sixth goal, which saw him seal the golden boot and player of the tournament honour, came against England in the third-place match. "Top scorer in the competition and, with the national team, third, for an immense collective dream only stopped by those penalty kicks in Naples. His Juventus story went on for another two years, until 1992, making 132 appearances and scoring 36 goals - thirty-six of those magnificent strikes that we now watch over with a lump in our throats. Ciao, Toto. Thank you," concluded the statement. The striker ended his career having scored 36 goals for Juventus in 132 games whilst scoring seven goals for Italy with 16 appearances to his name. Toto's passing has left the nation in

mourning one of their greatest sporting icons. Many took to social media to acknowledge his passing and pay their respects. "A football icon leaves us, a man who entered the hearts of Italians and sports lovers around the world. Salvatore Schillaci, known to all as Totò, the bomber of the magical nights of Italia '90. Thank you for the emotions you gave us, for making us dream, rejoice, embrace and wave our flags. Have a good trip, champion," said Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. "His irrepressible celebrations, in which his face was a symbol of shared joy, will forever remain the common heritage of Italian football. Totò was a great footballer and a tenacious symbol of will and redemption. He knew how excite the Azzurri fans because his football smacked of passion. And it is precisely this indomitable spirit that has made him appreciated by everyone and will make him immortal," said Italian Football Association (FIGC) president Gabriele Gravina. "His desire to emerge and to reach the highest levels in football has been and continues to be a source of inspiration for the many young people who follow the dream of playing in Serie A," said Lorenzo Casini, Serie A president.

Iranian Foreign Minister speaks to Lebanon counterpart. blames Israel for pager explosions

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Tehran : Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held a telephonic conversation with his Lebanon counterpart Abdallah Bou Habib. During the phone-call, he blamed Israel for a series of pager explosions in Lebanon, labelling it "Israeli terrorism." Araghchi asked about the condition of Iran's ambassador to Lebanon, Mojtaba Amani, who was injured in the explosions, and thanked Lebanon for his treatment, reported. He offered solidarity with victims and expressed willingness to provide aid to victims. In a post to X, Abbas Araghchi stated, "In call with my Lebanese counterpart, strongly condemned Israeli terrorism. Expressed solidarity with victims-including a 10-year-old-and readiness to provide any aid. Also thankful for treatment of our injured Ambassador, emphasizing need for serious follow-up by Lebanese Govt." Araghchi also spoke with Mojtaba Amani's wife, ensuring Iran's support for his recovery and offering assistance for his possible transfer to Tehran. T



sovereignty and stability," according to Jordan's Foreign Ministry statement, reported. Safadi emphasised the need to "stop the dangerous escalation witnessed in the region, through an immediate halt to the Israeli aggression on Gaza." Hamas blamed Israel for the explosions in Lebanon and expressed solidarity with Hezbollah and the Lebanese people, reported. In a statement, Hamas said, "We, in the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), strongly condemn the Zionist terrorist aggression that targeted Lebanese citizens by detonating communication devices in various areas of Lebanese territories, as well as civilian and service facilities."

he phone call between Foreign Ministers of Iran and Lebanon came after at least nine people were killed and 2,800 injured in an attack that targeted pagers held by members of Hezbollah across Lebanon, according to Lebanon's health minister. Hezbollah has blamed Israel for pager explosions and pledged retribution. Meanwhile, Lebanese officials urged people who possess pagers to discard them.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) have refused to comment on the matter. In its first statement after the explosions, the IDF said there were no changes in its advice to people. Following the pager explosions in Lebanon, Jordan on Tuesday expressed willingness to provide "any medical assistance needed by the Lebanese medical sector to treat thousands of Lebanese citizens who were injured." During the telephonic conversation with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati, Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi reiterated "Jordan's support for Lebanon's security,

Over 100 hospitals in Lebanon -- largely in the southern suburbs of Beirut, southern Lebanon and the Beqaa valley -- received injured people. Earlier, the Lebanese Ministry of Health directed health workers to urgently report to work considering the "large number of injured people being transferred to hospitals" after the pager explosions, reported. Officials have also urged people to donate blood in anticipation of increased need.

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India's richest and poorest states: South leads GDP race. West Bengal stumbles

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : A working paper from the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), released, has revealed significant disparities in the economic performance of Indian states.

While the southern states — Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu — have emerged as major contributors to India's GDP, states like West Bengal, once economically strong, have witnessed a puzzling decline.

Southern states make up 30% of India's GDP

In 1991, the per capita income of the five large southern states was below the national average. However, the liberalisation of India's economy brought rapid growth, allowing these states to surge ahead.

By March 2024, these states accounted for 30% of India's GDP. Karnataka, with its booming tech sector, and Tamil Nadu, with its industrial hubs, have been pivotal in this growth.

Telangana, India's youngest state formed in 2014, has also shown impressive economic performance, becoming a major player in India's economy.

West Bengal's sharp economic decline

In stark contrast, West Bengal, once a top contributor to India's GDP with a share of 10.5% in 1960-61, now accounts for only 5.6%.

The state's per capita income, which was once 127.5% of the national average, has dropped to 83.7%. This decline places it below states like Rajasthan and Odisha, which have traditionally lagged behind.

"West Bengal has experienced a continuous decline in its relative economic performance over several decades," the report said.

Despite its strategic maritime location and historical advantages, West Bengal's economic trajectory has been one of steady decline.

Experts are puzzled by the state's inability to maintain its early economic strength. The report highlights West Bengal as an anomaly among maritime states, most of which have prospered.

The question of what went wrong in West Bengal, particularly with its industrial policies, has been a subject of debate. The state's political climate, which shifted drastically after liberalisation, may have played a role in its economic stagnation.

Punjab's and Haryana's contrasting



paths

Punjab, once a beneficiary of the Green Revolution, has also experienced a flattening of economic growth since 1991. The state's per capita income, which had risen to 169% of the national average by 1971, has now declined to 106%.

In contrast, Haryana has seen a sharp rise in per capita income to 176.8%, with much of this growth occurring after 2000.

The divergence between Punjab and Haryana is striking, as Haryana, once economically behind Punjab, has now overtaken it in key economic metrics.

Maharashtra still tops GDP but faces challenges

Maharashtra remains India's largest contributor to GDP, though its share has declined from over 15% to 13.3% in recent years. Home to the financial capital, Mumbai, the state's per capita income grew to 150.7% of the national average by 2024. However, the state no longer ranks among the top five in terms of per capita income.

Poorest states struggle to keep pace

The report also highlights the challenges faced by the poorest states. Uttar Pradesh, once contributing 14% of India's GDP in 1960-61, now accounts for 9.5%.

Bihar, despite being the third-most populous state, contributes only 4.3% to the national economy.

While Odisha has shown marked improvement, shedding its image as a laggard, Bihar remains far behind other states in terms of economic growth.

The report suggests that states have taken dramatically different economic paths since liberalisation.

The southern states have capitalised on the reforms, driving national growth. However, the case of West Bengal stands out as an unresolved economic puzzle, as the state continues to fall behind despite its early promise.

With these regional disparities widening, the report calls for deeper investigation into the policies and factors influencing state-level economic growth.

J&K: PM Modi urges voters to exercise their right to vote

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Jammu : As the first phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections begins today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have urged voters in the state to come out in large numbers and exercise their right to vote.

In a social media post, Modi urged everyone in those constituencies going to the polls today to vote in large numbers and strengthen the festival of democracy.

He particularly called upon young



and first-time voters, encouraging

them to exercise their franchise. Home Minister Amit Shah emphasised that only a government with strong will can establish a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir, protect the rights of the citizens there, and speed up development work.

Shah called for electing a government committed to work for education of the youth, employment, empowerment of women, and ending separatism and nepotism in the region.

Arvind Kejriwal to vacate Delhi CM's residence in a week: AAP

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Former Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal will vacate his official residence within a week and will also give up all facilities, party MP Sanjay Singh said today.

Singh further added that after leaving his official residence, Kejriwal and his family will stay in Delhi and a search for suitable accommodation for them is underway.

"Arvind Kejriwal will vacate his bungalow within a week. We are worried about his security. The present house was important from a security perspective, but he decided to vacate it. He will live with people of Delhi," the AAP Rajya Sabha MP said.



"The people of Delhi are angry over Arvind Kejriwal's resignation. They are questioning why there was a need for him to resign. The BJP has been trying to defame Arvind Kejriwal for the past two years by calling him corrupt and questioning his honesty. If he were a thick-skinned leader, then why he would have resigned

from the chief minister's office? In a case where getting bail is nearly impossible, the Supreme Court granted bail to Arvind Kejriwal," Sanjay Singh added.

Notably, Arvind Kejriwal, a former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, was granted bail by the top court earlier this month in a case

linked with the alleged liquor policy scam.

September 17, Arvind Kejriwal resigned from the Chief Minister's post, a move which has been seen as a bold gambit to seize the initiative ahead of Assembly elections scheduled early next year.

More Trouble For Kangana Ranaut Amid Controversy Over 'Emergency'

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mumbai : A district court in Chandigarh has issued a notice to actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut over her controversial film 'Emergency'. Advocate Ravinder Singh Bassi, former president of the District Bar Association, filed an application claiming the actor tried to tarnish the image of Sikhs in her film.

Besides showcasing a wrong image of Sikhs, the film features several false allegations against the community, the advocate said, seeking to register a case against Ms Ranaut.

The court will take up the matter again on December 5.

Ms Ranaut's directorial venture "Emergency" has been embroiled in a massive controversy after Sikh organisations, including the Shiromani Akali Dal, accused it of misrepresenting the community and twisting historical facts.

She recently said she was forced to



sell off her property in Mumbai after the movie's release was postponed due to delay in getting a censor certificate. There have been reports that the actor sold her bungalow at Pali Hill in Bandra for ₹ 32 crore. "I had staked my personal property on this film, which was supposed to come in theatres. Now it is not releasing, so the property is there, to be sold off in difficult times," said the actor who essays the role of former prime minister Indira Gandhi in the movie.

The political drama, written by Ms Ranaut and co-produced by Zee Studios and the actor's Manikamika films, is based on the Emergency imposed by the Indira Gandhi government in 1975. It also features Anupam Kher, Shreyas Talpade, Vishak Nair, Mahima Chaudhry and Milind Soman in pivotal roles.

The film was set to release last year, but it was postponed to June this year. It was postponed again to September 6 due to Lok Sabha elections. But with no approval from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), it is not clear when the movie will hit the screens. Zee Entertainment Enterprises approached the Bombay High Court earlier this month, seeking its intervention to clear the film for release. But the court refused to grant any urgent relief.

Karnataka literary body calls for flight announcements

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Bengaluru : Top officials of Kannada Sahitya Parishad (KSP) and the Kannada Development Authority (KDA) met with Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) Managing Director Hari Marar on Monday to discuss possible initiatives to promote Kannada language and the art and culture of the state at the airport.

The move comes as part of the airport's collaboration with the Kannada Sahitya Parishad for the 87th edition of the Akhila Bharatha Kannada Saahitya Sammelana in Mandya, scheduled to take place from December 20-22.

The organisations requested Marar to make the first announcements on every flight landing or taking off from Bengaluru in Kannada. However, BIAL officials informed KSP that making the first announcements in Kannada would require a nod



from the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Following this, KSP Chairman Mahesh Joshi stated that he would write a letter to the ministry to make his case.

The organisation also requested the airport to include Kannada during in-flight announcements. However, a final decision regarding this matter will be left to the airline operators. Another idea put forward by the KSP and KDA was the installation of Kannada book stalls at the

airport. KDA Chairman Purushottama Bilimale claimed that the airport authorities, while reacting to the proposed initiative, raised the issue of a lack of buyers for such books.

The third request made by the organisations to promote the culture of Karnataka was the installation of caricatures and statues representing the Kannada heritage.

BIAL has agreed to increase the number of statues representing the culture of the state. The airport authority will also set up reception desks and photo booths to welcome the delegates arriving for the event. Furthermore, the airport will use digital media to display information about the event and engage with passengers through on-ground activities to promote the Kannada language.

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