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Sunset: 5:47 PM

Saturday, 19.10.2024

Sunrise 6:28 AM (IST)

Next Full Moon

15 Nov 2024

Next New Moon

01 Nov 2024

SC order paves way for Gurmeet Ram Rahim's trial

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Supreme Court today lifted the stay imposed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court on the trial against Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in three sacrilege cases dating back to 2015. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan also issued a notice to Ram Rahim, requiring his response within four weeks.

The court was hearing an appeal by Punjab against a ruling of the High Court that stayed proceedings against Ram Rahim in the sacrilege cases involving the desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of the Sikhs.

The cases relate to the theft of a copy of the Guru Granth Sahib in Bargari, Faridkot district, in 2015. The torn pages of the holy book were later found in Bargari, triggering widespread protests in Faridkot. As the protests turned violent, the police opened fire, killing two people in Behbal Kalan. Several others were injured in Kotkapura.

In February 2023, the Supreme Court transferred the trial against Ram Rahim and seven Dera Sacha Sauda



followers from a court in Faridkot to Chandigarh. The move came after a Dera follower, an accused in the case, was shot dead.

In December 2021, Ram Rahim moved the High Court demanding that the CBI probe the three sacrilege FIRs of 2015.

The sacrilege issue, along with police firing on protesters, became major election issues in Punjab in the 2017 Assembly polls, which saw the Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP failing to return to power.

Ram Rahim is already serving a 20-year sentence after being convicted of murder and rape. He remains lodged in Sunaria jail in Rohtak even though he has been granted paroles and furloughs on several occasions.

Notification issued for 1st phase of Assembly polls

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Ranchi : The Election Commission of India (ECI) today issued notification for the first phase of Assembly elections in Jharkhand, marking the beginning of the nomination process.

In the first phase, elections will be held in 43 Assembly constituencies.

Candidates can now submit their nomination papers both offline and online. Nomination papers will be accepted at the Returning Officer's (RO) office between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

A maximum of four persons, including the candidate, can enter the RO chamber. If the candidate belongs to a registered party, only one voter is required to propose their candidacy. However, independent candidates and those from non-recognised political parties will need ten proposers.

The candidate's name must be listed in any voter roll within the state. They can also submit their nomination forms online through the Election Commission's Suvidha App.

While submitting the nomination form, the candidate must provide three recent passport-size photos, a copy of their educational qualification certificates, a copy of the new bank account opened for election purposes, and an affidavit (Form 26) which must detail the candidate's movable and immovable assets, loans, liabilities, and any criminal record.



To keep a tab on expenses, a register will be maintained by both the candidate and the election office. Candidates are permitted to spend up to Rs 40 lakh in this election. For the nomination, general category candidates must pay a fee of Rs 10,000, while candidates from Scheduled Castes/Tribes need to pay Rs 5,000.

The seats going to polls in the first phase are Kodarma, Barkatha, Barhi, Barkagaon, Hazaribagh, Simaria, Chatra, Baharagora, Ghatshila, Potka, Jugsalai, Jamshedpur East, Jamshedpur West, Ichagarh, Seraikela, Chaibasa, Majhgaon, Jagannathpur, Manoharpur, Chakradharpur, Kharsawan.

Polling will also be held in Tamar, Torpa, Khunti, Ranchi, Hatia, Kanke, Mandar, Sisai, Gumla, Bishunpur, Simdega, Kolebira, Lohardaga, Manika, Latehar, Panki, Daltonganj, Vishrampur, Chhatrapur, Hussainabad, Garhwa, and Bhawanathpur in the first phase.

Cabinet passes resolution for restoration of statehood

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Jammu & Kashmir Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has passed the resolution for restoration of statehood.

Official sources said that during its first meeting, the J&K Cabinet passed a resolution urging the Central government to restore statehood.

"The draft of the resolution has been prepared and the Chief Minister will travel to New Delhi in a couple of days to hand over the draft of the resolution to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to restore statehood to J&K," sources said.

The meeting was presided over by the Chief Minister and was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and ministers Sakeena Masood Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana, Javid Ahmad Dar and Satish Sharma.

Congress JKPC president Tariq Hameed Karra had told reporters that the party would not join the J&K Cabinet unless statehood was restored.

NC president, Farooq Abdullah has expressed confidence that the Centre would soon restore Statehood to J&K.

"We have talked about statehood before and even today, the Supreme Court has agreed to hear an application seeking restoration of Statehood within two months. I am sure the Government of



India will soon restore it," Abdullah said. When asked whether the National Conference would raise the issue of Article 370 or pass a resolution against it in the Assembly, Abdullah said that they would need to return to court to present their arguments.

During his visit to the city centre Lal Chowk, Abdullah said that there would be no VIP culture on the roads, asserting that people would be relieved from the annoying sound of sirens. "There will be no more sirens that irritate the ears of the public. Everyone is equal here, whether locals or politicians; there are no VIPs," he said.

The erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh on August 5, 2019, when Article 370 was abrogated by the Indian government.

Terrorists kill non-local, security forces on spot



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : A non-local was shot dead by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian area day. The body of the victim was shifted to the hospital.

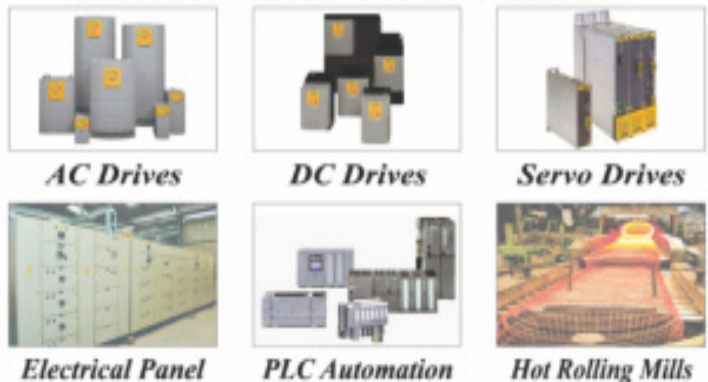
The security forces reached the spot to begin the probe into the matter.

Earlier this month, an Indian Army soldier was found dead, with bullet injuries on his body, after being kidnapped by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag

district, police sources said, October 9.

Two soldiers, belonging to the 161 unit of the Territorial Army, were kidnapped from the forest area in Anantnag during a joint anti-terror operation that was launched on October 8 by the Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police. But, one of them managed to escape, even after suffering two bullet injuries.

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What made 2024 monsoon season unpredictable???

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

In a comprehensive study of the 2024 monsoon season in India, Climate Trends, a prominent weather and climate monitoring agency, has revealed the profound impacts of climate change on rainfall and temperature patterns across the nation.

The analysis points to the increasing extremity in weather events, reflecting the tangible effects of global climate change.

MAJOR DISCREPANCIES IN RAINFALL PATTERNS

The study, covering 729 districts, reveals a staggering diversity in rainfall patterns. Of these, 340 districts experienced normal rainfall. However, there were significant deviations at both ends of the spectrum, with 158 districts witnessing excess rainfall and 48 districts facing large excess rainfall. On the other hand, 178 districts, including 11 with large deficits, suffered from inadequate rain.

Notably, the 2024 monsoon recorded the highest number of heavy rainfall events in the past five years, highlighting a worrying trend of intensifying weather events.

June 2024 saw the second-highest occurrences of very heavy rainfall events in the last five years. July followed this trend, reporting the second-highest number of extremely heavy rainfall events.

In August, 753 stations recorded very heavy rainfall—the highest since 2020. September further marked a new record, with 525 stations logging significant rainfalls.

THE ROLE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Traditionally, monsoon dynamics



have been understood as a result of the heat capacity differences between land and the upper ocean. This difference causes a seasonal reversal of winds, primarily because land experiences much greater temperature changes compared to the ocean.

However, with global temperatures constantly rising, monsoon patterns have seen significant shifts, becoming particularly evident in the past decade.

Dr. K J Ramesh, former Director General of the India Meteorological Department, notes that in recent years, weather systems have traveled through Central India instead of their usual northward path.

This shift is attributed to global

warming and phenomena like El Niño, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), and the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO). High-intensity, short-duration rainfall events are increasingly driven by climate change, while the longevity of monsoon systems is extended due to back-to-back systems saturating soil moisture.

Additionally, Dr. Akshay Deoras, a research scientist at the National Centre for Atmospheric Science, University of Reading, emphasizes the increasing variability of monsoons as the planet warms. He notes that when conditions are favorable for rain, the probability of intense rainfall events is now higher than it was several years ago. This leads to longer dry spells and more intense periods of rainfall, with significant variations observed across different districts.

Aarti Khosla, Founder & Director of Climate Trends, stresses the importance of tracking spatial

rainfall distribution across the country. She emphasizes that the rise in extreme weather events—whether drought in 2023 or above-normal rains in 2024—is driven by persistently rising average temperatures. Khosla calls for a comprehensive adaptation strategy to safeguard lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems from the overlapping impacts of climate change on India's diverse geography.

UNPREDICTABLE MONSOON AND ITS SIDE EFFECTS

The summer monsoon, once a reliable and predictable phenomenon, is undergoing unsettling transformations due to climate change. Historically, the Indian monsoon season, spanning June to September (JJAS), has been vital for agriculture, water supply, and maintaining ecological balance. However, recent studies indicate these patterns are becoming increasingly erratic, creating new challenges for millions who depend

on their consistency.

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Emerging research highlights a trend towards extended summer-like conditions during monsoon months, fundamentally altering traditional climatic norms.

This has led to an alarming shift where monsoons are now alternately characterised by inconsistent and intense patterns. Regions are experiencing more pronounced extremes—dry years are becoming drier, and wet years are becoming wetter—further intensifying weather volatility.



Atul Sharma



Astro Speak by:
Rajesh Kumar

Birth Date
19th Oct

Born on 18th Oct : 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) Oct 19th 2024 : Too much travel will put you on frenzy Today, you may remain worried due to money-related problems. For this, you should consult your trusted confidant. Children may bring in some overwhelming news It will be very hard to stay away from your lover.	 Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Oct 19th 2024 : Creative hobbies will keep you relaxed. People who had bought land and now want to sell it can come across a good buyer today and acquire a good amount for it. Friends will come to your aid if needed. Although you won't be able to succeed in your planning.	 Gemini (May 21 - June 20) Oct 19th 2024 : Sheer pleasure and enjoyment for those venturing out to have fun. Today, you can spend a lot of money on a party with friends, but despite this, your financial side will remain strong today. Sharing food with beloved in candlelight.
 Cancer (June 21 - July 22) Oct 19th 2024 : You will have to make important decision today- which will make you tensed and highly nervous. You can acquire money from an unknown source today, which will resolve many of your financial troubles. You will make favorable changes in your home environment.	 Leo (July 23 - Aug 22) Oct 19th 2024 : Try to get out of your office early and do things that you really enjoy. Financially, you will remain strong. Due to the benefic placement of planets and nakshatras, you'll come across numerous opportunities to earn money today.	 Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) Oct 19th 2024 : You would get relief from the tensions and strains of life which you have been experiencing for long. It is right time to change your life style to permanently keep them a bay. Unexpected bills will increase financial burden.
 Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22) Oct 19th 2024 : Day of special care for expectant mothers. You do not understand the importance of money in life, but today, you'll realize its significance as you'll be in need of finances but won't have enough to carry out. Your charms and personality will help you make few new friends.	 Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Oct 19th 2024 : For a contented life improve your mental toughness. You will be in the mood to travel and spend money- but you will be sorry if you do. Don't reveal information that is personal and confidential. But today, you will experience it.	 Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) Oct 19th 2024 : Unexpected travel can be tiring which would make you frenzy. Massage your body with oil to give relief to muscles You are very likely to attain monetary benefits from your mother's side today. Auspicious day for giving and receiving gifts from those you love.
 Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) Oct 19th 2024 : Maintain your mental health-which is prerequisite for spiritual life. Mind is the gateway of life because everything whether it is good/bad comes through mind. It helps in solving life problems and endows one with requisite light.	 Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18) Oct 19th 2024 : Keep your disruptive emotions and impulses in check. Your orthodox thinking/old ideas hamper your progress-throttle development and create barriers to move further. You will be able to clear all outstanding family debts.	 Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20) Oct 19th 2024 : You can start your day with Yoga and Meditation. Doing this will be beneficial for you and you will maintain your energy levels throughout the day. You may witness tremendous profit in business today. You can give new heights to your business today.

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Punjab CM flag off first batch of teachers for training to Finland

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann today said that for the first time since independence his government is investing in teachers, schools and students for ushering in an era of education revolution in the state.

Addressing the gathering here while flagging off first batch of teachers for training to Finland, the Chief Minister said that today marks a significant milestone in Punjab's education system as we gather to see off 72 of our brightest primary teachers who will embark on a journey to Finland for professional training. He said that this is not merely



a journey to a new country but it is an opportunity to explore new pedagogical techniques, best practices, and innovative ways of shaping the future of education in Punjab. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that Education forms the

backbone of any society and in Punjab, the state government been striving to continuously improve the education system, to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, gets access to high-quality learning.

The Chief Minister said that Today's initiative, where 72 teachers from Punjab are being sent to Finland, exemplifies the state government's commitment to this cause. He said that Finland has been chosen because it is globally renowned for having one of the most effective education systems.

Nayab Singh Saini takes charge as CM Haryana

"Will tirelessly serve state" - CM Nayab Saini

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Nayab Singh Saini today took charge as the Chief Minister of Haryana at the Haryana Civil Secretariat in Chandigarh. "Taking a vow to tirelessly serve his 2.80 crore family members of Haryana state, he has assumed charge as the Chief Servant of the state. I am emotional and bowed down.

The resolve of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas is paramount. We will leave no stone unturned in making Haryana the best, prosperous and self-reliant state. Under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Shri @ narendramodi ji, our full majority government will be dedicated to service, good governance, equality, prosperity and welfare of the poor," Haryana CM wrote on X.

CM Saini received a guard of honour at the Haryana Civil Secretariat in Chandigarh. "We had promised in the manifesto that we will provide free treatment to kidney patients. We have signed the file regarding that... Haryana government will bear the expense of kidney dialysis... I thank the people of Haryana for giving a huge mandate for the third time and approving PM Modi's policies... The people of Haryana destroyed the Opposition's narrative... Congress tried to instigate the



farmers... They created a doubt amongst the youth... They used the athletes of Haryana. Athletes are the pride of our country... PM Modi has taken historic steps for the farmers in the last 10 years... The people of Haryana have approved PM Modi's policies and destroyed the narrative of the Congress," the CM said in his first cabinet briefing. The chief minister along with the newly inducted ministers held the first cabinet meeting of the government. Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as Chief Minister of Haryana for the second time under the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government. Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath of office to Nayab Saini and his council of ministers at a ceremony held at Dussehra Ground in Sector 5, Panchkula. Several prominent leaders attended the event, including Prime Minister Modi, Union Home Minister Amit

Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Union Ministers Nitin Gadhari and Rajiv Ranjan Singh. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, and other CMs from BJP-ruled states were also present.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Anil Vij, along with MLAs such as Shruti Choudhary, were inducted as ministers in CM Saini's Cabinet on Thursday. BJP MLAs, including Arti Singh Rao from Ateli, Rajesh Nagar from Tigaon, Gaurav Gautam from Palwal, Arvind Kumar Sharma from Gohana, Shyam Singh Rana from Radaur, Ranbir Singh Gangwa from Barwala, and Krishan Bedi from Narwana, also took their oaths as ministers in the Haryana government. MLAs Krishan Lal Panwar from Israna, Rao Narbir Singh from Badshahpur, Mahipal Dhanda from Panipat, Vipul Goel from Faridabad, Shruti Choudhry from Toshan, and former Deputy CM Anil Vij from Ambala Cantt were sworn in as cabinet ministers. The BJP is forming its third consecutive government in Haryana after winning 48 out of 90 seats in the assembly elections, while the Congress secured 37 seats.

PIC OF THE DAY

Who CARES...?

Roads Continue in poor state



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : Residents, commuters and Industrialists in Mohali have expressed concern over the deteriorating condition of roads in different parts of the city including Industrial Area Phase 7 and 8B. Commuters said majority of the roads in Mohali, had developed more severe deep pits and added that everybody was aware of the poor condition of the road as it is frequented by officials

of the administration. and also said that the officials concerned were aware of the fact that these pits caused more accidents. Most of the cuts in the road are found at the centre, forcing drivers to stick to the sides even on narrow lanes. Neither the main nor interior roads have been spared, making for bumpy rides and forcing residents to learn to circumvent potholes and uneven patches. **But Who Cares???**

ECI announced media awards for 'Best Voter Education and Awareness Campaign-2024'



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The Election Commission of India has announced special media awards to recognize the outstanding efforts of media houses in promoting voter education and election awareness during 2024. The awards will be given to campaigns that have made a significant contribution to increasing voter participation by creating awareness about the voting process, election-related IT applications and other key election topics. The awards, in the form of a citation and a memento, will be presented on National Voter's Day, January 25, 2025. Punjab Chief Electoral

Officer Sibin C said that the awards will be given in four categories, print media, television, radio and online/ social media. He emphasized that the evaluation of these awards will be based on the quality of the voter awareness campaigns, the credibility of the information presented and the scope covered by the campaign. According to the Election Commission of India letter, "We are looking for campaigns that will effectively highlight the importance of fair elections, I.T. Effective use of innovations and countering misinformation as well as having a positive impact on public awareness.

Corruption charges against cop. FIR registered

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mohali : An FIR of fraud and forgery has been registered in the Punjab State Crime Police Station against DSP Gursher Singh Sandhu, who is believed to be an encounter specialist of the Mohali police. A case has been registered under various sections of the Corruption Act. According to the FIR, DSP Sandhu is accused of buying the disputed land at a cheap price and selling it at a high price and extorting money from people by making false complaints through his own acquaintances. After this dispute, the informer with whom Sandhu had made false complaints against various people, the same informer filed a complaint against Sandhu in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. It was only after this that the corruption was exposed.



Baljinder Singh alias Tahla complained in the High Court that he had very good relations with DSP Gursher Singh Sandhu. On the instructions of the DSP, he filed false complaints against various persons. The investigation of those cases was also handed over to DSP Sandhu. In those cases, Sandhu collected lakhs of rupees from the parties in return

for settlement. In the complaint given in the High Court, Tahla has also said that there is danger to life and property from Sandhu. On this, the High Court asked the DGP Punjab to investigate the matter and submit a report.

An FIR has been registered at the State Crime Police Station, Mohali on serious charges against former DSP Kharar CIA Gursher Singh Sandhu, who was allegedly involved in illegal activities during his posting in Mohali. In FIR No. 33, a case has been registered against Sandhu under Sections 417, 465, 467, 468, 471 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 13/2 of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

BJP has culture of working- Anil Vij



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Haryana's third-time Cabinet minister Anil Vij today said the state's BJP government has been formed for the third consecutive term and "this proved that we are people of a working culture".

"This is the first time a government has worked based on positivity and that has been appreciated by the people. Also, it is a historic moment that the BJP has formed the government in Haryana for the third time," he stated.

The senior-most Cabinet minister was responding to questions by the media here after assuming his duty as a Cabinet minister.

"We are people of such a party where, just like a grandmother gives a tonic to a child on the first day of birth when someone joins our party, they are also given a tonic that if you join this party, you will have to work. We are people of that culture," Vij said.

"We have proven it by creating history in Haryana, forming the BJP government for the third time. Usually, governments change based on negativity, when one government makes mistakes, another comes in and does the same, leading to another change. But this is the first time a government has worked based on positivity, and it has been appreciated by the people, creating a historic moment where the BJP has formed the government for the third time in Haryana," the seven-time lawmaker

said. In response to a question about his portfolio, Vij, who has been a Cabinet minister multiple times, handling key portfolios like home, health and medical education, said the portfolio does not matter much to him.

"I am a minister, and even if I were not, I would be an MLA, and if not an MLA, then a BJP worker. When a BJP government comes to power, it is the duty and responsibility of every BJP worker to work for the state's upliftment and the welfare of the people."

In response to another query, he said, "Today in the first meeting of the cabinet we discussed several important subjects such as the ongoing procurement of paddy and ensuring that it is managed properly so that farmers receive payments for their crops promptly without any inconvenience.

"Similarly, we discussed the supply of DAP fertilizer to ensure that there is no shortage and that it remains available to farmers. Additionally, we discussed the Scheduled Castes and Backward Class Commission's proposal related to reservations, ensuring that there is no discrimination among any caste and that equality is maintained," said Vij, whose political journey started in 1990 when he won a by-election from the Ambala Cantonment constituency. He has since been elected seven times from this constituency.

NDA committed to empowering poor. national progress: PM Modi

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasized the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) dedication to fostering national development and uplifting the marginalized and impoverished segments of society.

Following a meeting with NDA Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers in Chandigarh, Modi shared on social media that the discussions were extensive, focusing on effective governance and strategies to enhance the quality of life for citizens.

The meeting was also attended by BJP President JP Nadda, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Home Minister Amit Shah, and it centered on issues related to national development. Among the topics discussed was the celebration of the Samvidhan Ka Amrut Mahotsav. A total of 17 chief ministers and 18 deputy chief ministers from the NDA alliance were present.

BJP National President Nadda remarked that this gathering



marked the first meeting of a non-Congress government that included representatives from all parties, resulting in the passage of six resolutions.

In comments to the media, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar

Singh Dhama, who participated in the meeting, stated that they received valuable guidance from the Prime Minister on various matters aimed at realizing the vision of a developed India.

'Shiksha Par Baat' introduced to involve parents in education policy

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has launched a new initiative, led by senior leader and former education minister Manish Sisodia, to involve parents in shaping Delhi's education policy. The programme, titled "Shiksha Par Baat, Manish Sisodia Ke Saath," aims to gather feedback from parents across Delhi on the city's education system and discuss the future direction of government schools.

In the first session, held in Patparganj, over 500 parents participated in discussions with Sisodia. The event focused on the strides made in Delhi's public education under his leadership, including improved government school results, surpassing those of private schools for the last seven years.

Parents expressed their appreciation



for initiatives such as modern school infrastructure, enhanced teacher training, and free coaching for competitive exams like NEET, JEE, and CUET.

In a personal message to parents, Sisodia emphasised his commitment to providing quality education to every child in Delhi, drawing a comparison between the opportunities provided to the children of both privileged and

economically disadvantaged families. He highlighted AAP's efforts in establishing top-notch schools, sending educators for world-class training, and keeping parents informed through Mega PTMs. The 'Shiksha Par Baat' initiative is designed

to encourage a dialogue between policymakers and the community, focusing on critical areas like technology integration, skill development for future job markets, and creating an inclusive, equitable education system. Future sessions will be held across Delhi constituencies, ensuring every parent has a say in shaping the future of education in the city.

PAU celebrates World Food Day, holds panel discussion on food as medicine



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Ludhiana : The College of Community Science, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), in collaboration with the Nutrition Society of India (NSI), Ludhiana Chapter, commemorated World Food Day with an enlightening panel discussion titled "Food as Medicine: Does What You Eat Impacts Your Well-being."

The event, which highlighted the crucial connection between nutrition and health, was graced by Dr Satbir Singh Gosal, Vice-Chancellor, PAU, as chief guest.

In his keynote address, Dr Gosal elaborated on this year's World Food Day theme, "Right to Food for a Better Life and a Better Future."

He emphasized the importance of addressing barriers to food access, such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation, notably highlighting the impact of climate change on food security.

Dr Gosal further highlighted that PAU played a pivotal role in tackling these challenges by fostering innovation, promoting sustainable practices, and advocating for policies that prioritized food security.

Dr Kiran Bains, Dean of, the College of Community Science, welcomed the participants and provided insights into the functioning and history of the NSI.

She highlighted the achievements of the Ludhiana Chapter which had received the Best Chapter Award among 36 chapters across India in recognition of extensive efforts to promote nutrition science among masses.

Expert panelists included Dr. DS Pooni, Chief Medical Officer, PAU Ludhiana; Dr Shibba Takkar Chhabra, Professor of Cardiology at DMC&H Ludhiana; Dr Nancy Sahni, Chief Dietician and Head, Department of Dietetics at PGIMER Chandigarh; and Dr Ritu Sudhakar, Chief Dietician at DMC&H Ludhiana, who brought valuable insights into the intersection of diet and health.

Sharing his experience as a Chief Medical Officer at PAU, Dr Pooni shed light on the public health challenges and initiatives, while Dr Chhabra's specialization in cardiology underscored the role of diet in cardiovascular health. Meanwhile, Dr Sahni and Dr Sudhakar as leading dieticians provided invaluable insights into nutritional science and practical dietary recommendations.

The panel discussion addressed common misconceptions about nutrition and offered guidance on how to make better food choices. A key takeaway from the discussion was the mantra for healthier living: "Buy smart, eat smart, live smart, and stay close to nature with home-cooked food."

Indians and Punjabis in Canada should not face any hurdles

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Kapurthala : Concerned over the ongoing standoff in relations between India and Canada, Punjab's Member of the Legislative Assembly from Kapurthala constituency Rana Gurjeet Singh today made an emotional appeal for easing of relations so that a large population from India, particularly Punjab living in the North American country can live and earn livelihood without any fear and apprehension.

"There are millions of people from across India who are living in Canada, as citizens, permanent residents, as students, and on work permits the relations getting bitter is a cause of worry for them and their families back home," said the legislator.

As per a report 1.86 million Indians live in Canada which constitutes 5% of the country's total population. For many years in the past, the two nations enjoyed friendly terms.

Representing a constituency in Doaba belt of Punjab which has highest number of immigrants in different foreign countries and a large chunk in Canada, Rana Gurjeet Singh said that he is touch



with a number of Punjabis as well as Indians living in Canada and they are worried about their visas and travel to the two nations.

"Sometimes due to family functions or any other emergency reasons the immigrants had to travel at short notice for which they have a very short window for visas and processing of travel documents and

if the high commissions have scaled down the functioning it might cause lots of problems for the travelers," apprehended Rana Gurjeet Singh and suggested that the visa facilities should not be disrupted.

The security of the two nations is of foremost significance and the interest of the immigrants is no less essential, said the legislator while issuing a vehement call to the lawmakers and policy crafters in Canada and India to also keep the interests of immigrants as a priority.

"India and Canada is engaged in annual business worth \$10 billion and in the eventuality of a frozen relationship, the businesses and trade will suffer adversely impacting the financial position of traders and business houses. In my opinion, business should not suffer, said Kapurthala MLA, hoping the relations between the two nations will be normal sooner than expected and all issues are resolved cordially," MLA expressed.

PGI contract employees ended their strike

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Chandigarh : After a week-long strike, the contract employees of PGI today ended their strike following the orders of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The cleaners were the first to return to work. Soon, the officers and cooks of the diet department put on their uniforms and started cooking for the patients of different departments. PGI offices are closed due to a holiday but registration of follow-up patients is going on in OPD.

For the last seven days, the system at the PGI has been disrupted due to the strike of hospital attendants, kitchen staff, cleaners and office bearers. The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday, taking a strict stance, ordered the contract workers to return to work immediately and stayed the strike. Also



ordered the UT administration and PGI management to take action against those employees who do not report for work. PGI Chandigarh filed a petition and told the High Court that the PGI Attendant Contract Workers Union had given them a notice on September 16 that

the work should be given to contract workers as per the orders issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in February 2020. Salary as regular employees, along with the arrears of this salary should be released and no deductions made.

The notice said that if this amount along with the dues is not released by October 10, then a strike will be started.

After the strike started, other unions of PGI also supported them and left the work. On behalf of PGI, it was said that the High Court had stayed the strike orders of the PGI employee unions on August 9, despite this, the strike is being conducted.

Pay Rs 5 crore or it'll be worse than Baba Siddique's

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mumbai : An alleged member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang has sent a threat message to Mumbai Traffic Police, demanding Rs 5 crore from actor Salman Khan to settle the long-standing feud with the gangster. The message warned that if Salman failed to pay, his fate would be worse than that of former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique, who was recently shot dead.

"If Salman Khan wants to stay alive and wants to end the enmity with Lawrence Bishnoi, then he will have to pay Rs 5 crore. Do not take this lightly, otherwise Salman Khan's condition will be worse than Baba Siddique," the message read.

NCP leader Siddique (66), a close friend of Salman Khan, was shot dead on October 12 outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office in Mumbai's upscale Bandra. Police have so far arrested four people.

Shubham Lonkar, suspected to be the key conspirator, wrote on social media that the Lawrence Bishnoi gang was behind



Siddique's murder.

Over the past few months, Salman has faced repeated threats from the Bishnoi gang. Baba Siddique's killing comes months after two shooters fired five rounds outside the actor's residence in Bandra on April 14. At the centre of the conflict is the hunting and killing of two blackbucks in 1998 allegedly by Salman. Although the matter is in court, Lawrence Bishnoi, who belongs to a community that holds the blackbuck sacred, has sworn revenge against the actor. Despite being lodged in prison,

Bishnoi has allegedly managed to execute the murders of many high-profile people, including Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, through his vast network.

Amid the developments, Salman Khan has been granted Y+ security and a heavy police deployment has been made outside Galaxy Apartments. The Mumbai Police have also installed AI-enabled high-resolution CCTV cameras equipped with facial recognition technology.

ED questions actor Tamannaah Bhatia in case linked to Bitcoin mining scam



THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Actress Tamannaah Bhatia was questioned by the ED in Guwahati in connection with a money laundering case probe linked to the 'HPZ Token' mobile app in which several investors were allegedly duped on the pretext of mining Bitcoins and some other cryptocurrencies, official sources said.

The actress had appeared at one of the events of HPZ token for which she was paid an appearance fee, but there were no "incriminating" charges against her, sources further stated.

In a significant development, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed a charge sheet in March accusing a total of 299 entities in a money laundering case linked to a cybercrime operation.

Among these, 76 entities are controlled by Chinese nationals, with ten directors identified as being of Chinese origin. Additionally, two entities are managed by other foreign nationals.

The case originated from a First Information Report (FIR) filed by the cyber crimes unit of the Kohima

Police. The FIR alleges that various individuals duped unsuspecting investors by promising extraordinary returns through Bitcoin mining and other cryptocurrency ventures.

According to the ED, the accused utilised the 'HPZ Token' mobile application as a tool to defraud investors. The agency revealed that numerous "shell entities" were created with "dummy" directors to facilitate the "layering" of illicit funds.

These accounts were reportedly opened to funnel money obtained from illegal online gaming, betting, and cryptocurrency investments. Investors were promised substantial returns — specifically, an investment of Rs 57,000 was said to yield Rs 4,000 per day for three months. However, payouts were made only once, after which the accused began soliciting additional funds from investors.

In a nationwide operation, the ED conducted searches that resulted in the seizure of immovable assets and bank deposits totalling Rs 455 crore, highlighting the scale of the alleged fraud.

Year's largest and brightest supermoon dazzles the night sky

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The mesmerising view of the Hunter's Moon, the year's largest and brightest moon, was witnessed from different parts of India on October 17. A supermoon occurs when the Moon is at its closest point to Earth.

The celestial event coincided with the auspicious night of Sharad Purnima on October 17. On Last night, the moon was just 351,519 kilometres away from Earth, appearing about 14% larger and 30% brighter than usual.

Several social media users took to X to post pictures of the supermoon as it dazzled the night sky.

This multiple exposure image captures the supermoon above India Gate, as seen from Kartavya Path in New Delhi.



The supermoon was also witnessed in Madhya Pradesh's Raipur city from its clock tower. This phenomenon was also observed in other parts of the world, including New Zealand, Japan, and Australia.

WHY IS IT CALLED THE HUNTER'S MOON?

The supermoon seen on Thursday is known as the Hunter's Moon as

it is the time of year when leaves start to fall, heralding the onset of winter. Ancient communities would increase hunting at this time of year.

The next full moon on 15 November is the 'Beaver Moon' as it is linked to the time that beavers start to take shelter ahead of winter. This will also happen to be a supermoon.



The Lion and the Poor Slave

There was once a slave who was treated cruelly by his master. One day, he couldn't take it anymore and ran to the forest to escape. There, he chanced upon a lion who couldn't walk because of the thorn in its paw. Although scared, the slave mustered his courage and took out the thorn in the lion's paw. When the lion was finally free of the thorn, he ran into the forest and didn't harm the slave. Sometime later, the slave was caught by his master along with some animals in the forest. The master then ordered the slave to be thrown into the lion's den. When the slave saw the lion, he recognized it as the lion he helped in the forest. The slave was able to escape the den unharmed, and he freed all the other animals.



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Central agencies to rope in VPN providers in probe into bomb threats to flights

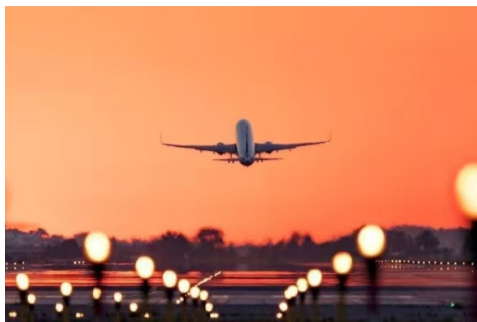
THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Central agencies in India are set to approach VPN service providers in an effort to trace the origins of recent bomb hoax calls targeting Indian flights. Sources from the Civil Aviation Ministry revealed that many of these threatening calls have utilised virtual private networks (VPNs), complicating the tracking process.

The agencies have expressed concern over the increasing frequency of these hoax threats, which have reportedly been linked to IP addresses located in countries such as London and Germany.

This trend has prompted authorities to seek cooperation from VPN providers to help identify the original source of the calls.

This comes after 20 flights of Indian carriers — both domestic and international — received bomb threats this week. On Monday, three international flights were threatened, followed by 10 more on Tuesday, and at least six additional threats were reported the following day. All threats were later declared false after thorough security checks.



In the wake of multiple bomb threats to Indian flights, authorities have identified a suspect linked to an X handle, 'schizobomber777'. The handle was created just days ago and has since been suspended after posting seven hoax messages that triggered significant air security alerts. The suspect allegedly used VPN services to obscure their location, with IP addresses traced back to London and Germany. This routing made it challenging for investigators to pinpoint the exact origin of the threats, as the IP addresses "bounced off" various countries.

Multiple agencies, including the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), are collaborating to identify the individual behind the X handle. They are also exploring connections to other recent hoax bomb threats that have targeted flights.

NEW LEGISLATION TO PENALISE HOAX CALLERS SOON?

The government is reportedly working on new legislation to deter people from making hoax calls and penalise those found guilty. Concerned over an alarming rise in the number of bomb hoaxes, the government is discussing multiple solutions, including adding the accused to a 'no-fly list'.

The Civil Aviation Ministry is studying the best model available globally, and it's also in talks with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to strengthen the Indian model of handling such cases, said top government officials.

India become largest two-wheeler market globally

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mumbai : India has surpassed China to become the largest two-wheeler market in the world, driven by rising demand in rural areas, supported by favourable monsoon conditions and government initiatives for rural development, a report showed today. Globally, two-wheeler sales grew 4 per cent (year-on-year) in the first half of 2024, according to Counterpoint Research.

Although India, Europe, North America, Latin America, and the Middle East and Africa saw growth, China and Southeast Asia (SEA) experienced a decline.

Senior analyst Soumen Mandal said that India's two-wheeler market saw a remarkable 22 per cent YoY growth in the first half this year.

"This strong performance allowed India to surpass China and become the world's largest two-wheeler market," he mentioned.

Two-wheelers saw strong double-digit growth (year-on-year) in the second quarter of this fiscal in India.

In China, two-wheelers under 125cc remain popular, but consumers are increasingly opting for e-bicycles over motorcycles and scooters for daily commuting. This shift has led to a temporary slowdown in the Chinese two-wheeler market, particularly in the electric segment.

In South East Asia, major markets such as Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand, and Malaysia saw a decline in two-wheeler sales due to geopolitical trade tensions, stricter lending criteria,



and cautious consumer spending amid economic uncertainty.

The top-10 global two-wheeler manufacturers captured over 75 per cent of sales during H1 2024.

Honda maintained its leading position in the global two-wheeler market, followed by Hero MotoCorp, Yamaha, TVS Motor and Yadea.

TVS Motor was the fastest-growing brand (up 25 per cent YoY) among the top-10 brands while Yadea declined the most (down 29 per cent YoY), slipping to fifth position.

Neil Shah, Vice President of Research, said that electrification is on the rise, and by 2030, we expect four out of 10 two-wheelers sold to be electric.

"This shift is also accelerating the adoption of embedded cellular connectivity in the two-wheeler segment. As the automotive industry advances toward C-V2X technology, the two-wheeler segment will follow suit," he noted.

ED raids IAS officer's residence in disproportionate assets case

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Patna : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted a raid today at the home of IAS officer Sanjiv Hans as part of an investigation into a case involving disproportionate assets.

He previously served as the Chief Secretary of the Bihar Energy Department.

Earlier this week, the ED executed searches at 20 different locations, including Ranchi, Jharkhand, targeting



IAS officer Manish Ranjan, Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Mithlesh Thakur, along with their associates, in relation to alleged irregularities associated with the Jal Jeevan Mission, according to sources.

The investigative agency is said to have carried out searches at the residences of IAS Manish Ranjan, Vinay Thakur — brother of Mithlesh Thakur — his personal secretary Harendra Singh, and others in various locations within Ranchi.

India's Growth Rate among Shiniest in Global Economy: World Bank Chief

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Washington : India's growth rate is the shiniest part in the global economy, World Bank president Ajay Banga said today, noting that a lot of this is driven by the domestic market.

"There is no doubt that India's growth rate is among the shiniest parts in the world economy. I think being able to grow at six, seven per cent and more in this kind of environment shows you that they've done a number of things to get there," Banga told reporters ahead of next week's annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"A lot of that growth is in India, is driven by the domestic market as well, which actually is a healthy sign, in some ways. What India needs to work on as the prime



minister laid out is things on quality of life, like air and the quality of water and the like," he said.

"We are actively engaged with them on a

number of topics to do with these, and I think we will see more results of those coming out in the coming months in terms of projects," Banga said in response to a question.

World Bank Managing Director for Operations Anna Bjerde said the bank is supporting the government turning the growth into jobs and also sustainable development.

She underscored the need to increase female workforce participation as India has a huge potential to increase the level of participation by women. The World Bank is also working with India on the urban development side as there's so much potential to make cities much more livable whether it comes to air quality, water supply or urban planning.

Did not run away. will return to India- Byju Raveendran

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Byju Raveendran, the founder of troubled edtech giant Byju's addressed misconceptions surrounding his move to Dubai and reaffirmed his commitment to reviving the company, which has been facing severe financial and legal challenges.

Speaking during his first virtual press conference in four years, Raveendran refuted rumours that he had fled India to avoid the ongoing insolvency crisis.

"It's very unfortunate that people think that I ran to Dubai because I had to. I came to Dubai for a year for my father's treatment, which led to our ongoing stay. But let me be clear, I did not run away," said Raveendran said as quoted by Moneycontrol in its report.

In the candid discussion, he spoke about his plans to restore Byju's to its former glory, which once stood as a leader in the edtech industry.

"I'll come to India, and I'll fill stadiums... The timing has not been decided, but it will be soon," he said.

Raveendran expressed optimism, even in the face of the company's current troubles. "I only need to see a 1% chance to make it work. I'm not worried about what order will come. Whatever comes, I'll find a way out," he added.

"If they are willing to work with me, I am willing to give them money back before I take a single rupee out. We paid \$140 million but they wanted the entire \$1.2 billion which we had already committed or invested by then. There is no way we could have given them back for a long time. Most lenders wanted to settle but one or two wanted to make a killing out of it," said Raveendran.

Once valued at \$22 billion in 2022,



Byju's has seen its fortunes take a sharp downturn due to mounting debts and legal disputes. The company is currently embroiled in a significant financial struggle with creditors over \$1 billion in unpaid loans, leading to insolvency proceedings in both India and the United States.

In June 2024, insolvency proceedings against Byju's were initiated after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) alleged that the company had defaulted on a Rs 158.9 crore payment related to a sponsorship deal. US-based financial creditor Glas Trust also objected to a settlement between Byju's and the BCCI, claiming that funds had been misappropriated.

On September 26, 2024, the Supreme Court of India reserved its judgment on a petition challenging the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) decision, which had allowed Byju's to settle its debts. The verdict on whether Byju's will undergo restructuring or liquidation is still awaited.

Raveendran admitted that Byju's is in a challenging position, stating, "We are in a position where the business needs to

be restructured. The burden of debt is too heavy, and we must take decisive action to regain trust."

Byju's rise and subsequent fall have raised questions about its corporate governance and management practices.

Raveendran, however, reassured stakeholders that there were no intentional errors in governance. "We have not done any intentional mistake. There is no fraud, and if there was, I wouldn't have put all my family's money back in. We know what is inside more than anyone else," he said.

He also admitted that the company had lost investor confidence but remained hopeful about restoring it.

"Losing investor confidence is something I never anticipated. The operational missteps have led us to this point, and it's crucial to rebuild that trust moving forward," he said as per the report.

Despite the financial turmoil, Raveendran said that Byju's continues to attract users. "We have more users than any other platform, and that's a huge responsibility. So there is no way we are running away," he said.

However, the company's financial situation remains dire. "At its peak, we were doing Rs 400 crore per month; right now, obviously, nothing is right. We have just kept the platforms running," he admitted.

Looking forward, Raveendran reaffirmed his commitment to making a comeback. "I will make a comeback. It's not going back to a \$20 billion company. The comeback is to continue my mission," he said.

Fire at ESI hospital in Kolkata, one dead

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Kolkata : A patient was killed after a major fire broke out at Sealdah Employees' State Insurance (ESI) hospital in Kolkata today morning.

The deceased was identified as Uttam Bardhan, who was undergoing treatment for cancer at the hospital. He complained of acute uneasiness because of the smoke and was admitted to the critical care unit (CCU) of the same hospital.

However, all attempts of the doctors to treat him failed and he died around 9.30 a.m. The remaining patients were safely evacuated to other wards at the hospital. The fire was first noticed by a hospital staff who saw smoke billowing from the male surgery ward on the first floor and informed the authorities.

At least 10 fire tenders rushed to the spot to put out the fire.

Eighty patients admitted to the male surgery ward of the hospital were safely evacuated by the firemen and the personnel of the State Disaster Management Department.

State Fire Services Minister Sujit Basu rushed to the hospital and supervised firefighting operations and the evacuation of the patients.



"The fire officials and firemen have done an excellent job. They managed to bring the fire under control within a very short period, because of which losses could be averted. Fortunately, the fire broke out when the rush at the hospital was not that high," said the minister.

The hospital authorities have announced that the outdoor unit of the hospital will remain closed for the day.

The cause of the fire was yet to be ascertained, though the fire officials suspected a short circuit to be the reason for the blaze.

After receiving information about the fire, family members of the patients, who were admitted to the hospital, rushed to the spot. However, the Fire Services Department officials assured them everything was under control.



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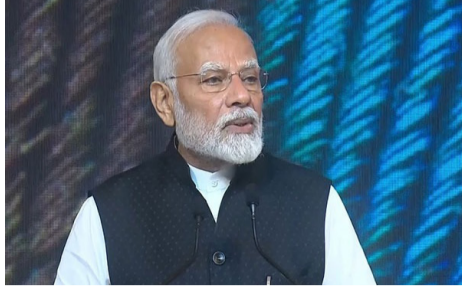
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PM Modi to attend BRICS Summit

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Russia at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin from October 22-23 to attend the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan. The BRICS Summit in Kazan is being held under the chairmanship of Russia, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). During his visit, PM Modi is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from BRICS member countries and invited leaders in Kazan. The MEA said, "The Summit, themed 'Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security,' will provide an important platform for leaders to discuss key global issues." It further said, "The Summit will offer a valuable opportunity to assess the progress of initiatives launched by BRICS and to identify potential areas for future collaboration." The leaders of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) countries met for the first time in St Petersburg in Russia in 2006. After a series of high-level meetings, the first BRIC summit was held in Russia's Yekaterinburg in 2009. BRIC group was renamed as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India,



China, South Africa) after South Africa was accepted as a full member at the BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York in September 2010.

BRICS is an important grouping bringing together the major emerging economies from the world, comprising 41 per cent of the world population, having 24 per cent of the world GDP and over 16 per cent share in the world trade. Earlier in September, Russian President Vladimir Putin extended an invitation to PM Modi, proposing a bilateral meeting on October 22, on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan.

During the invitation, Putin also referred to PM Modi as a "good friend." The remarks by Putin came while he met National

Security Advisor Ajit Doval on the sidelines of the BRICS National Security Advisers' meeting.

Putin had a meeting with Doval at the Constantine Palace in Russia's St. Petersburg. Quoting President Putin, the Kremlin in a statement said, "We will be expecting Mr Modi in Kazan. I also suggest holding a bilateral meeting there on October 22 in order to close the books on our joint work in implementing the agreements reached during his visit to Moscow and outline some prospects for the near future." "Please extend my warmest regards and best wishes to Mr Modi, my good friend," the statement added. It will be PM Narendra Modi's second visit to Russia in 2024 as he travelled to Moscow in July to attend the 22nd India-Russia Annual Summit. During his visit to Russia, PM Modi held a bilateral meeting with Russian President Putin. PM Modi was also conferred with Russia's highest civilian award, the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle at the Kremlin in Moscow. The two leaders visited the Rosatom Pavilion at the VDNKh Exhibition Centre in Moscow.

Mass murderer Yahya Sinwar wore clothes sewn from UN food sacks as a kid

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The 22 years that Yahya Sinwar spent in Israeli jails steered his resolve and transformed him into a leader of Hamas. During his stint in the jail in Ashkelon, he would play table tennis bare foot. Ashkelon is the place from where his parents fled to Gaza during the Intifada in 1948. Sinwar said he wanted his "feet to touch the land of Palestine". Sinwar wasn't just another Palestinian emotional for his homeland. He was the mastermind of the October 7 massacre in which Hamas terrorists killed 1,200 people in Israel. He became infamous as the 'Butcher of Khan Younis' for torturing and killing around a dozen people accused of spying for Israel. He was a mass murderer.



Hamas, Israel and even Iran. **ISRAELI REFUGEE CAMP, PRISONS STEELED SINWAR'S RESOLVE**

Born in a refugee camp in Khan Younis that Sinwar was born in 1962. Gaza was under Israeli occupation then.

He once said that his mother made clothes from empty UN food-aid sacks, Gaza resident Wissam Ibrahim, who met Sinwar, told Reuters.

An impoverished childhood and the 22 years in Israeli prisons gave him a high tolerance for suffering. He was arrested in 1988 and handed four life terms for the kidnapping and killing of two Israeli soldiers and four Palestinian spies.

"Prison builds you," Sinwar told an Italian journalist, according to a New York Times report. It was in prison that he realised what he believed in and the price he was willing to pay for it, the report said.

In prison, he also penned a semi-autobiographical novel -- The Thorn and the Carnation -- and described Israeli forces bulldozing Palestinian houses "like a monster crushing its prey's bones", according to Reuters.

It was in jail in 1992 that he emerged as a leader by organising a strike of Palestinian inmates, surviving days on just salt and water. He extracted from the Israelis what he sought.

Sinwar married after walking out of jail and has three children.

He has said very little about his family in public except that the first words his son ever spoke were "father", "mother" and "drone".

SMUGGLED PHONES INTO PRISON, CARRIED OUT HAMAS ACTIVITIES FROM JAIL

Sinwar was first arrested in 1982 when he met other Palestinian activists in the Fara prison. When arrested again in 1985, on his release, he tried to find collaborators with Israel in the Palestinian population. This was called the Hamas police.

His ruthless killing of suspected collaborators earned him the title the 'Butcher of Khan Younis'.

In 1988, Sinwar planned the killing of two Israeli soldiers and the murder of four Palestinians who were supposedly collaborating with Israel.

Kamala Harris roasts hecklers with dig at Trump

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Washington : US Vice President Kamala Harris shot down a group of hecklers at one of her campaign rallies in Wisconsin. The incident occurred while she was slamming former President Donald Trump for his stand on abortion policies at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

When addressing the fight for abortion rights and criticising Republican candidate Donald Trump for his "hand-selection" of three Supreme Court Justices who helped end the Constitutional right to abortion in the US in 2022, Harris was interrupted by people in the crowd screaming "that's a lie!"

"Oh, you guys are at the wrong rally," Harris said, drawing roars from the crowd of supporters. "No, I think you meant to go to the smaller one down the street," she added, with a video of her quip surfacing online.

The size of campaign rallies has been a topic of hot debate between the two presidential candidates. Trump has claimed on multiple occasions that the size of his rallies is significantly bigger than that of Kamala Harris's. Trump on several occasions has also claimed that Harris pays citizens to join her rallies. "You will see during the course of his



rallies he talks about fictional characters like Hannibal Lecter. He will talk about windmills causing cancer. And what you will also notice is that people start leaving his rallies early out of exhaustion and boredom," the vice president had earlier said.

"People don't go to her rallies. There's no reason to go. And the people that do go, she's busing them and paying them to be there," Trump had said in response, further calling his campaign rallies the "most incredible rallies in the history of politics".

Harris' stop at La Crosse was part of her campaign blitz in the swing state on Thursday. She also spoke at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee earlier in the day, where she was met with dozens of pro-Palestinian protesters

who were demonstrating against the Vice President's support for Israel.

At another rally, she shared another video criticising Donald Trump for his views on "reproductive freedom".

While criticising the former President, Kamala Harris played a clip in which the Republican Presidential candidate called himself the "father of IVF".

"First of all, no Donald, everybody did not want Roe v. Wade (Constitutional right to abortion) to be overturned. Women are dying of sepsis because they did not get the healthcare they need. It just gets more unbelievable sometimes. And now the man calls himself the 'father of IVF'. I mean, what does that even mean?" she asked. She further said that it has become "increasingly clear" that Donald Trump has no idea what he is talking about when it comes to the healthcare of women in America. Her remark invoked laughter from the crowd, and she also shared a clip of her remark on X. The US Presidential polls are slated to be held on November 5.

Former RAW official charged by US in alleged Pannun assassination plot

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Washington : The United States has formally charge a former Indian intelligence officer in relation to a foiled assassination attempt aimed at a Sikh separatist in New York City last year.

Vikash Yadav, who was formerly associated with India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), is now confronting significant charges following the unsealing of an indictment, as detailed by the Washington Post.

On October 17, the indictment of Vikash Yadav, a former officer of India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), was disclosed, as reported by WP.

This development marks a significant shift in the United States' approach to holding a key ally accountable for alleged violent activities taking place within its borders. Washington has asserted that Indian



agents were involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Sikh separatist leader Gurbatwant Singh Pannun. The report noted that U.S. officials had

been hesitant to charge Yadav, likely to maintain positive relations with India and to push for a thorough investigation by the Indian authorities.

Thousands without power, mining operation disrupted

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Canberra : Thousands of people in South Australia (SA) have been left without power after a severe lightning storm damaged power lines.

Over 130,000 lightning strikes were recorded across SA on last night as the major storm swept across the state, bringing with it heavy rain and severe winds. At its most severe, between 500 and 1,000 lightning strikes were being recorded every minute, news agency reported.

More than 20,000 households and businesses were without power as of 9 p.m. local time on last night. By 6 a.m. today, there were still 53 power outages affecting 5,200 customers.

Miriam Bradbury, a senior meteorologist at the Bureau of Meteorology, said on



Friday that wind gusts of up to 137 km per hour were recorded in SA today. The State Emergency Service (SES) on last night issued a severe weather warning watch and act message for large parts of SA, warning people that their

safety could be threatened and advising them to stay indoors and away from windows.

Local newspaper The Advertiser reported that mining giant BHP will not be able to mine from its site at Olympic Dam -- approximately 500 km north of Adelaide -- for at least five days after up to eight power line towers connected to the site were damaged by the storm.

The Olympic Dam site is one of the world's most significant deposits of copper, gold and uranium. Conditions were forecast to ease in SA today, with the storm front moving east to the state of Victoria.

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Samajwadi Party MLA's 'reminder' to Maha Vikas Aghadi over 12-seat demand

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : After Samajwadi Party MLA Abu Azmi's tweet seeking permission from Akhilesh Yadav to contest as many seats as possible in the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections went viral, he said the post was just a "reminder" not a warning. He said he wanted to remind the NCP (SP), Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress that it was getting late, and it was about time for them to collectively declare the seats the parties of the alliance would be contesting. Furthermore, Abu Azmi claimed his post came amid reports that Congress was about to announce its list of candidates for the Assembly polls. "The meetings in the Maha Vikas Aghadi are taking place only between Congress, NCP(SCP) and the Samajwadi Party. The meetings with the smaller parties are pending," he said. "I heard the Congress was going to announce something. I said it was imperative for them to take us in confidence and speak to us about the number of seats that would be given to us. This is why I tweeted, there's no anger," he clarified. Abu Azmi said his post came at a time when Akhilesh Yadav and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi were in Jammu and



Kashmir for Omar Abdullah's oath ceremony as the Chief Minister. Azmi said he felt his tweet would spark a conversation about the division of seats as several INDIA bloc leaders were present in the union territory. Azmi said he has demanded 12 seats from the alliance for the Maharashtra polls. He said Congress doesn't have a footing in the seats that he has demanded. "In Maharashtra, if any party of MVA, be it Congress, NCP (SP), or Shiv Sena (UBT), releases the list of assembly candidates without talking to Samajwadi Party or taking them into confidence, it means that they do not consider Samajwadi Party as a part of MVA," he said. Maharashtra polls will be conducted in a single phase on November 20. The counting of votes will be held on November 23.

New form to reduce TDS from salary: CBDT issues guidelines

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has introduced a new form, designated as Form 12BAA, to facilitate the implementation of the Budget 2024 announcement concerning the adjustment of Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) and Tax Collected at Source (TCS) from other sources against salary TDS. This form will be utilized by employees to report to their employers the tax deductions from sources other than their salaries, such as fixed deposits, insurance commissions, dividends from equity shares, or tax collected while making purchases, like buying a car or foreign currency. The updated guidelines have been issued to streamline the process for taxpayers, thereby enhancing accessibility and eliminating numerous complexities present in the former guidelines. "The guidelines are anticipated to



assist stakeholders by alleviating the complications stemming from the current array of guidelines, simplifying the compounding procedure, and reducing the associated compounding fees," stated the ministry. A significant modification includes the removal of the classification of offenses, which simplifies the process for taxpayers. Furthermore, there is no longer a restriction on the frequency with which an individual or entity may submit an application for compounding.

LG Sinha assigns charges to newly-inducted ministers

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Srinagar : Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has assigned portfolios to the newly appointed ministers within Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's cabinet. In an order dated October 17, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Secretariat said, "In pursuance of Rule 4 (2) of the Transaction of Business of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, 2019, I, Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, do hereby assign to the charge of the Ministers the Government Business as shown in Annexure." "Any other departments/subjects not allocated to any of the ministers shall remain with the Chief Minister," the order further stated. According to the directive, Surinder Kumar Choudhary (Deputy Chief Minister) has been designated to oversee Public Works (R&B), Industries and Commerce, Mining,



Labour and Employment, as well as Skill Development. Sakeena Masood (Itoos) has been appointed to manage Health and Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education, and Social Welfare, as indicated in the order. Javed Ahmed Rana has been tasked with Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology and Environment, and Tribal Affairs. Additionally, Javid Ahmad Dar has been assigned responsibilities

Annexure		
S. No.	Name of the Minister	Departments Assigned
1.	Mr. Surinder Kumar Choudhary (Deputy Chief Minister)	Public Works (R&B), Industries & Commerce, Mining, Labour & Employment and Skill Development
2.	Ms. Sakeena Masood (Itoos)	Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare
3.	Mr. Javed Ahmed Rana	Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs
4.	Mr. Javid Ahmad Dar	Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election
5.	Mr. Satish Sharma	Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Youth Services & Sports and ARI & Trainings.

Any other departments/subjects not allocated to any of the Ministers shall remain with the Chief Minister.

Sd/-
(Manoj Sinha)
Lieutenant Governor.

for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative, and Elections, as stated in the order. Lastly, Satish Sharma has been allocated duties related to Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science and Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, along with ARI and Training, as mentioned in the order.

Maha Vikas Aghadi yet to form consensus on 28 Maharashtra Assembly seats: Sources

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

Mumbai : The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has formed a consensus on seat-sharing on 260 of 288 seats in the Maharashtra legislative Assembly, sources said. The MVA, comprising the Congress, Sharad Pawar-led faction of the Nationalist Congress Party and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena, has also decided to release a list of the disputed seats to the heads of each party of the alliance to take a final decision on them. Talks are going on to resolve the dispute over 28 seats, including three seats in Mumbai, sources added. "Most of the seats, which are unresolved, belong to Vidarbha region where both Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) have made their claims. There are three major disputed seats in Mumbai, which include Versova, Byculla and Dharavi. The Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) have claimed Versova, Byculla and Ghatkopar (west)", the source said. The sources claimed that the Congress would contest on 15 seats, the Shiv Sena (UBT) on 17 seats, the NCP on three seats including Anushakti Nagar and Ghatkopar (East) Assembly constituencies. Senior MVA leaders held a meeting on Thursday in Mumbai over the seat-sharing formula. The first list of the Congress party is expected to be released on Sunday. The meeting, which was attended by



Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Sanjay Raut, Maharashtra Congress leaders Nana Patole, Vijay Wadettiwar, Satej Patil, senior NCP leader Jitendra Awhad among others, concluded after nine hours. After the meeting, Maharashtra Congress Chief Nana Patole said that they had a positive discussion over seat distribution. "A list of nearly 25 disputed seats will be sent to the high command of each constituent of the MVA. Uddhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar and Mallikarjun Kharge will take a final call on these seats", he said. Opposition leader Vijay Wadettiwar told reporters after the meeting that the first list of the party candidates will be released on October 20. So far, the screening has

been completed on 84 seats. The party will be holding a meeting of the central election committee (CEC) on October 20 to decide the candidates. The candidates will be announced on the same day, Wadettiwar added. Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party state president and MLA Abu Azmi has demanded 12 seats, including four seats of Byculla, Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar, Versova and Anushakti Nagar in Mumbai, the source added. "We don't want to split the INDIA bloc's votes like what happened in Haryana. As we had contested together, we had stopped the BJP from winning 400 seats to 240 seats in the Lok Sabha. We have to remain united to defeat the BJP in the state", Azmi said. The Maharashtra SP chief also said that they are going to speak to the party president Akhilesh Yadav, who will be in Malegaon and Dhule Assembly constituencies in the state on Friday, to discuss the matter with party cadre. Elections to the 288 seats of the Maharashtra Assembly will be held in a single phase on November 20, while the votes will be counted and results will be announced on November 23.

Layer of smog engulfs New Delhi: overall AQI drops to 293

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : A layer of smog engulfed the national capital today as the overall Air Quality Index has dropped to the 'Poor' category standing at 293. AQI at Anand Vihar area of Delhi has dropped to 339, which is categorised as 'Very Poor'. AQI at India Gate and surrounding areas has been recorded at 270, marked as 'Poor'. AQI at Dwarka, Sector-8 has been recorded at 325 putting the area under the 'Very Poor' category. Vivek Vihar area of the national capital has moved to the category 'Very Poor' with AQI standing at 324. As per the Central Pollution Control Board, the AQI when marked under the 'Poor' category can cause breathing discomfort to most people on prolonged exposure, whereas, when under the 'Very



poor' category can cause respiratory illness on prolonged exposure. PWD vehicles sprinkled water in the parts of the national capital to reduce dust pollution in compliance with GRAP-1. Earlier on Tuesday, the Delhi Government

announced the strict implementation of measures under the Graded Response Action Plan-1 (GRAP-1) to improve air quality in the national capital, according to a statement from the Delhi Chief Minister's Office. The announcement followed a high-level meeting chaired by Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, with Environment Minister Gopal Rai and senior officials in attendance. According to the statement, 99 teams have been assigned to inspect construction sites for dust control. The Public Welfare Department (PWD) will deploy 200 anti-smog guns, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) 30, the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) 14, and the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) 80.

Indian Railways reduces advance ticket booking period from 120 to 60 days

THE AMAN SANDESH TIMES

New Delhi : Indian Railways has reduced the advanced ticket booking period by half. In a statement, Railways said that passengers will now be able to book train tickets up to 60 days in advance, instead of the previous 120 days. This change will come into effect from November 1. Until October 31, passengers can continue to book tickets 120 days ahead of their journey.



Benefits of Reducing Reservation Time from 120 to 60 Days

- Reduces cancellations and empty seats.
- Lowers no-show rates.
- Prevents ticket fraud and impersonation.
- Discourages ticket hoarding by non-travelers.
- No effect on general class ticket purchases.
- Improves demand forecasting and train planning.

However, cancellations of bookings made beyond the revised 60-day Advance Reservation Period will still be permitted. Railways said that there will be no change in the case of certain daytime express trains, such as Taj Express and Gomti Express, which already have shorter reservation periods in place. For foreign tourists, however, the time limit for bookings will remain unchanged at 365 days.

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