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2-day refresher training Speaker J.C.T. Prabhakar informs

Chennai
 A two-day Buddhist training course will be provided to Tamil Nadu MLAs in Chennai. Legislative Assembly Speaker J.C.T. Prabhakar said that everyone should participate in it. In the recently concluded Legislative Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, the Tevaga party emerged victorious in the most seats and formed the government. Out of the current 229



MLAs, about 145 (60%) are new faces. Of these, only 101 are first-time MLAs. Meanwhile, the first session of the Legislative Assembly will begin on June 18 with the Governor's address. Prior to that, the MLAs will be given

a 2-day training on the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. In this regard, Legislative Assembly Speaker J.C.T. Prabhakar told reporters: It is customary for all the elected MLAs to undergo training before the Legislative Assembly convenes after the elections. Accordingly, this time too, a two-day training camp for all the MLAs elected for the 17th Legislative Assembly will be held at the Kalaivanar Arangathi in Chennai on June 16 and 17 from 10 am to 5.30 pm. The Chief Minister will inaugurate it. He said that the training will explain to the members how they should behave according to the council rules.

Government is creating an environment conducive for women to unleash their full potential: PM Modi

New Delhi

"In the last 12 years, the National Democratic Alliance government has worked hard to create an environment conducive to women realizing their full potential," Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has completed 12 years as the Prime Minister. Modi recently became the longest-serving Prime Minister elected by the people. In this context, he said that in these 12 years, the government under his leadership has worked



hard to create an environment conducive to women realizing their full potential. In his tweets, he said, "The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has worked hard to advance women-led development in the last 12 years. This is evident in various sectors. Women are playing a key role in various sectors, from econom-

ic inclusion and entrepreneurship to education, health, sanitation, housing, sports, science, and administration. The efforts of the National Democratic Alliance government are based on dignity, opportunity and empowerment. These efforts have helped create an environment conducive to women realizing their full po-

tential and making a stronger contribution to nation building. I am happy to see India's women powering the field in fields like science, space, and innovation. The increasing participation of women in emerging sectors like drone technology is creating new opportunities and reshaping the development trajectory across the country. "Our government is providing strong support to self-help groups, which are playing a major role in making women financially independent," he said.

Mango festival begins in Chennai: More than 25 varieties from different states on sale Minister Vinoth inaugurated and inspected

Chennai
 The theme 'Let's celebrate India's mango tradition', NABARD Bank and its subsidiary Nabkisan Finance launched the 'Mango Festival - 2026' at the Express Avenue Mall in Royapettah, Chennai yesterday, to provide delicious mangoes harvested from the groves of various states of the country directly to the people of Chennai. More than 25 mango varieties, including Alphonso, Malkow, Imambasant, Banganapalli, Sentura, Rumani, Mallika, Neelam, Raswali, and Bengaluru, from the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, are displayed in 16 stands. The exhibition will be held from 10 am to 11 pm for 3 days till June 14. Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister R. Vinoth, who inaugu-



rated the Mango Festival, provided loans worth Rs. 2.25 crore to 8 farmer producer institutions from various districts at the event. Later, he spoke as follows: Mango is cultivated in 1.45 lakh hectares in Tamil Nadu and 9.49 lakh tonnes are produced. In this regard, under the National Directorate of Agriculture, farmers who plant new mangoes are being provided with a subsidy of up to Rs. 30,000 per hectare, farmers who plant more mangoes at short intervals are being provided with a subsidy of up to Rs. 48,000 per hect-

are, and farmers who plant more mangoes at short intervals are being provided with a subsidy of up to Rs. 20,000 per hectare for renovating old mango plantations. Subsequently, arrangements have been made to form 'Maa' Special Committees in Krishnagiri, Dharumapuri, Dindigul, Theni, Vellore, Thiruvallur and Salem districts in collaboration with various departments to improve the infrastructure facilities for 'Maa'. He said that they have decided to increase the mango production, which is currently 162

tons, to 1,000 tons in the next 5 years, and the production of processed mango products from 75,000 tons to 1.46 lakh tons. The event was attended by Director of the Department of Agriculture J. Vijaya Rani, General Manager of NABARD S.S. Vasekaran, Deputy General Manager H. Manoj, General Manager of Reserve Bank of India Subramanian, Senior Vice President of NAB Kisan Mohan Karthik, and Deputy Chief Financial Officer R.K. Suresh Ramalingam.

61-day ban ends tomorrow Fishermen prepare to return to fishing

Chennai

In order to increase the fish population in the sea and to ensure its breeding season, the central government has banned fishermen from going to sea for fishing in the Bay of Bengal, which borders the states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, located on the eastern coast of the country, for 61 days from April 15 to June 14. Similarly, a fishing

ban has been announced in the Arabian Sea for 61 days from June 1st along the western coast, including Kerala. Due to the fishing ban in the Tamil Nadu coast, powerboat fishermen are not allowed to fish in the deep sea. During this ban, fishermen have been busy repairing their boats, nets, and other machinery. In this situation, the fishing ban ends tomorrow (June 14)

night. Therefore, the powerboat fishermen are getting ready to fish in the deep sea. Accordingly, more than 1 lakh fishermen in over 15,000 power boats from the coastal districts of Chennai, Kasimedu, Thiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Pudukkottai, Karaikal, Pudukkottai, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Ra-

manathapuram and Kanyakumari are getting ready to go to sea. The fishermen were engaged in tasks such as lowering the repaired boats into the sea, folding and hoisting nets on them, carrying ice boxes, fitting engines, filling with diesel, and buying groceries for cooking from shops. They are set to set out for the deep sea at 12 midnight tomorrow.

Should I enter politics? Actor Raghava Lawrence asks opinion

Chennai

Actor Raghava Lawrence has sought public opinion, saying, "I have received my mother's permission to enter politics. You, the people, should decide whether I should enter politics or not." Speaking about this yesterday via video conferencing, he said: "If I want to contest in the Trichy East constituency, I must first enter politics." I have always done whatever social service I could, such as rais-



ing children in my home, helping the disabled, performing heart surgeries, and providing educational assistance. When Rajinikanth announced his entry into politics, I wanted to support him. But my mother did not agree to it. In this situation, after

seeing the public support my friend Vijay received in the current election, my mother's opinion changed. "People have come to believe that if good people enter politics, they will make them successful. Go into politics," he has now given the green

light. "Should I enter politics? Do I have the qualifications for it? My fans and the people, who are like mothers, should answer. I am waiting for your decision," he said. Furthermore, in his X-site post, he said, "My only intention was to support someone close to me and serve the community if they entered politics." But today, circumstances have brought me to a point where I have to get involved in politics," he said.

Deal with US very close to being finalized: Iran

Tehran

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araqchi has said that the agreement with the United States is nearing completion. In his tweet, he said, "The Islamabad MoU is very close to being finalized. Until it is finalized, the media should refrain from speculating about its content. In line with our responsible and transparent approach, all details will be shared with the public in due course." Earlier, US President Donald Trump announced that he



was canceling airstrikes against Iran that were scheduled for Thursday night. He announced the decision after significant progress was made in talks with Iran's top leaders. Trump posted on his Truth Social media page, "Based on the discussions

with the Islamic Republic of Iran that have been taken to and approved by the highest levels of that country's leadership, I, as President of the United States, have canceled the airstrikes and bombings planned for today against Iran." These discussions and final points, both in basic concept and in the most detailed details, have been agreed upon by all parties involved, including the United States, Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Turkey, Paki-

stan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, and other countries. "Until this agreement is fully finalized, the naval blockade will continue in full force without any changes. An announcement regarding the time and place of the official signing will be made very soon," he said. It is noteworthy that this dramatic announcement somewhat alleviated the fears of war that had been prevailing in the global crude oil market and in the international political arena.

Verdict on bail application of 3 including Ponnai Balu in Armstrong murder case postponed

Chennai

Armstrong, the state president of the Bahujan Samaj Party, was murdered in Perambur on July 5, 2024. Ponnai Balu, Manikandan, and Santosh, who were arrested in this case, had filed a petition for the third time in the Madras High Court seeking bail. The hearing on these peti-



tions was held before Justice C. Kumarappan. At that time, lawyer M. Sridhar, appearing for the petitioners, said, "The petitioners have been

in jail for more than 700 days. The other accused were granted bail. The High Court issued an order quashing the charge sheet in the case and transferring it to the CBI for investigation. "Even after the change of government, the government has not taken any stand on the CBI investigation," he said. Government

lawyer Ganesh Kumar, appearing for the police, objected, saying, "Bail cannot be granted to these people as there is a possibility of intimidation of witnesses." After hearing arguments from both sides, the court adjourned the verdict on the bail applications of the three without specifying a date.

Minister P. Rajkumar instructs officials to act with honesty and integrity while serving the public

Cuddalore, June 12

A review meeting involving all officials was held at the Thittakudi Municipality. The meeting was presided over by the Honorable Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Rajkumar. Officials from various departments participated, discussing ongoing schemes and development works specific to their respective departments. Addressing the gathering, Minister Rajkumar stated, "You must all function with honesty and integrity. There will be no political interference from the TVK (Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam) side. Should any such interference occur, you may bring it directly to my attention." He further instructed officials to ensure immediate repair of electrical faults and



uninterrupted power and water supply to the public. Regarding the issuance of free housing site pattas, he directed officials to conduct field inspections and issue them only to eligible beneficiaries, emphasizing that they should not bend the rules or yield to pressure from the ruling party. He warned that action would be taken against any official found violating these directives. Following this, petitions were received from the public. The meeting was attended by numerous TVK functionaries, including Thittakudi constituency District Treasurer Kannadasan,

Joint Secretary Shankar, Town Secretary Ashok Kumar, Union Secretaries (Senthil, Neelakandan, Vijayakumar Anand, Prashanth, Isaithamilan, Surya, Aravind), Town Panchayat Secretary Rajesh, District Executive Committee members (Muthusamy, Santhoshkumar, Saroja), District Youth Wing member Venkatesan, Student Wing members (Prakash, Manimaran), Advocate Abibathmavathi, Umakanth, Town functionaries (Kannan, Santhoshraj, Sarath, Balaji, Dilip, Vishnu), and various other district and town-level office bearers.

Women Protest with Empty Pots Demanding Access to Cauvery Joint Drinking Water Scheme

Ramanathapuram, June 12

More than 150 families reside in Thattanenthal village, which falls under the Keelakoondalur Panchayat near Mudukulathur in Ramanathapuram district. While the villagers have struggled for drinking water for the past 20 years, they came together in September 2025 to construct a small storage tank to meet their needs; however, the water supplied to it was merely nominal. Residents reported that they often have to fetch water from nearby villages using motorcycles or bicycles, leaving women who do not own two-wheelers unable to access water. They also stated that they purchase water brought by tractors at ₹10 per pot—water that allegedly causes ailments such as kidney stones, fevers, and cancer. They alleged that whenever they informed the Water Board officials and



the Panchayat administration, water would be released for only about five minutes—just enough to fill a single pot—before being shut off again. Consequently, women from Thattanenthal village gathered near the storage tank built for the Cauvery water scheme, waiting with empty pots. For two decades, the villagers have been misled by politicians who promise to resolve the drinking water crisis during elections. Despite making repeated visits to the Ramanathapuram District Collector's office and filing complaints—after which officials would inspect the site and promise immediate rectification—the residents of Thattanenthal remain left longing for a reliable water supply. Al-

though pipeline infrastructure for household drinking water supply was installed last year under the Jal Jeevan Mission in this village—which otherwise lacks a water supply—the pipes remain unused and have fallen into disrepair, serving merely as ornamental fixtures in front of each home. Like the parched land itself, the water pipes here have remained dry for years. Residents have requested the provision of a drinking water facility for the village through the construction of an overhead tank under the Cauvery Combined Drinking Water Scheme. Furthermore, the local people sustain themselves through daily wage labor and by cutting *Karuvelam* (Prosopis juliflora) trees.

Jamabandi at Rajapalayam Taluk Office

District Adi Dravidar Welfare Officer and Tahsildar Receive Petitions from the Public

The 'Jamabandi' (annual revenue settlement) event was held today at the Rajapalayam Taluk office in Virudhunagar district. Mrs. Shanthi, the District Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Officer, presided over the event and received petitions containing various requests from the public.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the Rajapalayam Tahsildar, was also present. Residents from various villages within the Rajapalayam block participated in the meeting and submitted petitions to the officials seeking free house-site pattas, patta transfers, old-age pensions, and basic amenities. District Welfare Officer Mrs.

Shanthi instructed the concerned revenue officials to examine the petitions received from the public and take prompt, appropriate action on eligible ones. Many members of the public, along with revenue inspectors, Village Administrative Officers (VAOs), and taluk office staff, participated in this Jamabandi event.

Protest Erupts as Women's Federation Calls for Arrest in Relationship Deception Case

Kumbakonam, June 12

A protest was held in Kumbakonam by the National Federation of Indian Women, demanding the immediate arrest of a young man from Trichy who is accused of deceiving a young woman from Kumbakonam after promising to marry her. Vijay, a resident of the Karumadapam area on the outskirts of Trichy, reportedly worked at a private bank in Kumbakonam a few years ago. During that time, he became acquainted with a young woman from Kumbakonam. Their acquaintance eventually blossomed into a romantic relationship, and they reportedly became intimate. Vijay promised to marry the woman and lived with her for an extended period; however, the victim has filed a case alleging that he deceived her by repeatedly delaying and ultimately failing to fulfill his promise of marriage. Previously, a few months



ago, the victim had lodged a complaint at the Kumbakonam All-Women Police Station, alleging that Vijay had deceived her after promising marriage. Allegations have arisen that the All-Women Police Station showed negligence by failing to take appropriate action on the complaint; it is further alleged that they allowed the accused to go into hiding and subsequently advised him on how to secure anticipatory bail through the Integrated Court complex. Concluding that relying on the local police was futile and seeking justice, the victim—with the help of her relatives—approached

the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court. She filed a petition detailing the events and initiated legal proceedings to ensure appropriate action is taken against the man who deceived her. The Honorable Judge hearing the case cancelled the anticipatory bail previously granted to Vijay—a resident of Karumadapam, Trichy, and the accused in Crime No. 29/2025 registered at the Kumbakonam All Women Police Station—via an order passed by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on June 9 (in CRL MP (MD) No. 13917 of 2025 in CRL OP (MD) No. 13068 of 2025). Fur-

thermore, the court ordered the immediate implementation of this directive, mandating the arrest and imprisonment of the accused, Vijay. Amidst concerns regarding the delay in securing justice for the victim, the National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) organized a massive protest demonstration on Friday, June 12, in front of the Kumbakonam Head Post Office, demanding immediate justice for her. The protest was led by P. Saranya, the Thanjavur North District Secretary of the NFIW. District President P. Thamaraiselvi addressed the gathering, highlighting the injustices

and sexual harassment faced by women, and spoke about the broader issues women encounter in society. Many other female office-bearers and members participated in the event, including District Deputy Secretary M. Priya, Deputy Presidents K. Kalaiselvi and J. Chandra, and District Treasurer M. Rajalakshmi. During the protest, slogans were raised demanding justice for the victim and the immediate arrest and imprisonment of the accused, Vijay. Additionally, slogans condemning the police were raised, alleging that they were delaying action to arrest Vijay despite the High Court's order and were acting in a biased manner regarding the case. At the conclusion of the protest, City Secretary M. Kavitha delivered the vote of thanks. More than 50 female office-bearers from the Thanjavur North District unit of the National Federation of Women participated in the event.

Arulmigu Rudra Kaliyamman and Bhagavathiamman Festival – Karisalpatti

A buttermilk distribution stall was inaugurated in Karisalpatti Panchayat—part of the Reddiarchatram Panchayat Union in Dindigul district—to coincide with the *Utsava* festival of Arulmigu Rudra Kaliyamman and Bhagavathiamman. Recognizing the impact of the summer heat, the *Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam* (TVK) set up and inaugurated this buttermilk stall for the benefit of devotees and the general public. The event was graced by M.L. Vasudevan (Dindigul Central



District Secretary, Tamilarasan (Reddiarchatram Central Union Secretary), Karnan (Karisalpatti Panchayat Secretary), along with union-level office bearers, party functionaries, and Karisalpatti branch executives. Additionally, Divya Suresh (Reddiarchatram Deputy Sec-

retary and Women's Wing Secretary), Joel Ellison (Executive Committee Member), and Santhosh Raja (Party Functionary) played a key role in successfully organizing the buttermilk stall. Buttermilk was distributed to the devotees and members of the public who attended the event



The Honorable Minister for Public Works and Sports Development, Thiru Aathav Arjuna, inspected the swimming pool at the Tiruvannamalai District Sports Stadium today (12.06.2026). He was accompanied during the inspection by Thiru Sandeep Nanduri, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Youth Welfare and Sports Development, and Tmt. Vandana Garg, I.A.S., District Collector of Tiruvannamalai.



The Honorable Minister for Public Works and Sports Development, Thiru Aathav Arjuna, inspected the Tiruvannamalai District Sports Stadium today (12.06.2026) and interacted with female athletes. Thiru Sandeep Nanduri, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Youth Welfare and Sports Development, and Tmt. Vandana Garg, IAS, District Collector of Tiruvannamalai, accompanied him during the inspection.



Yesterday, the Minister for Handlooms, Textiles, and Khadi, R. Gandhi, inspected the small-scale handloom park located in the Pichanur area of Gudiyatham Taluk, Vellore District. District Collector P.S. Leela Alex, Members of the Legislative Assembly A. Thendrakumar, K. Sindhu, M.M. Vinoth Kannan, and Dr. Sudhakar, along with Gudiyatham Revenue Divisional Officer Subalakshmi, Handloom Department Zonal Manager Dalin, Assistant Director Vijayalakshmi, and others, accompanied him during the inspection.

Aayappadi Mujibur Rahman Joins TVK in the Presence of Minister Venkataramanan

Tharangambadi, June 13

Aayappadi Mujibur Rahman, a social activist and former independent candidate for the Poompuhar Assembly constituency, has joined the *Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam* (TVK), led by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay. Venkataramanan, the Minister for Food and Consumer Protection and the Minister in-charge of Mayiladuthurai district, has been inspecting various government welfare projects in the district over the past two days. As part of this visit to Tharangambadi, Aayappadi Mujibur Rahman met Minister Venkataramanan in person and joined the TVK in his



presence. Party functionaries, including TVK Mayiladuthurai district administrator Vaithi, were present at the event. Mujibur Rahman, who held a state-level position in the *Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi* (VCK) for 18 years, had previously sought a ticket to contest from the Poompuhar and Mayiladuthurai Assembly constituencies. It is noteworthy that party and

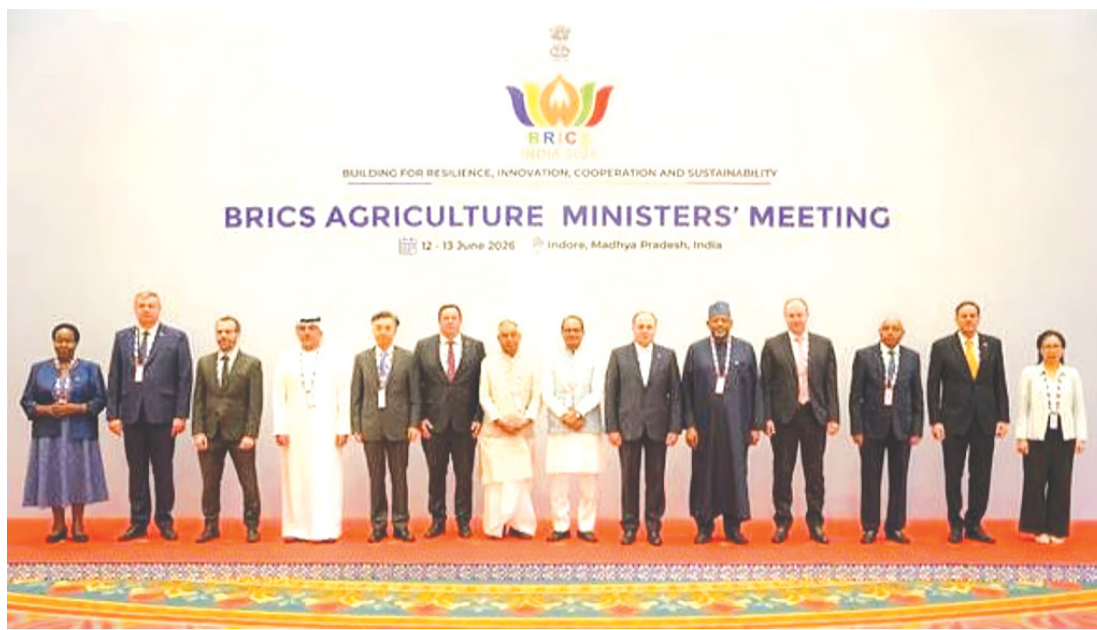
contested as an independent candidate in the Poompuhar constituency during the 2026 Assembly elections. Actively involved in social welfare and humanitarian work, Mujibur Rahman works to bring the basic needs and grievances of the public to the attention of the Tamil Nadu government, the District Collector, government officials, and elected representatives to secure solutions. After joining the TVK, he extended his best wishes for the successful functioning of Minister Venkataramanan, who oversees Mayiladuthurai district for the government led by Chief Minister Vijay.

Indian food production reaches 376 million tonnes says minister at BRICS Agriculture Summit

Indore (Madhya Pradesh)

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that India's food production has reached 376 million tonnes and the growth of the agriculture sector has been recorded at 4.5 percent. The two-day conference of agriculture ministers of BRICS countries began today in Indore, the commercial capital of Madhya Pradesh and known as the cleanest city. In the inaugural address, Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said,

"Aditi Devo Bhava, meaning the guest is the god, is an Indian tradition. I welcome all the guests based on that tradition. India's activities are based on the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which considers the whole world as one family. India has consistently supported the principles of global solidarity, peace and cooperation. India's approach is one of integration, not war; peace, not conflict. These principles will form the foundation for strong and effective global agricultural cooper-



ation in the future. Small and marginal farmers around the world are facing challenges due to

climate change, rising production costs, and uncertainty in agricultural markets. This conference is a

key platform to address these challenges collectively. The interests of small and marginal farmers are

crucial in strengthening global food security and sustainable agricultural development. If small

and marginal farmers are economically and technologically empowered, the world's food security architecture will become stronger and more resilient. Women's participation in agricultural and rural development is crucial. One of the strongest foundations of agricultural transformation is women's empowerment. Crores of women across the country are taking leadership roles in agriculture and allied activities through self-help groups. Initiatives like Drone Didi are becoming symbols

of technological and social change in rural India. The participation of youth in modern agriculture is increasing. Integrating technology with agriculture creates new opportunities and helps create an environment to address emerging global challenges. Greater cooperation is needed among BRICS countries. All member countries must work together to strengthen smallholder farmers, ensure food security, and promote sustainable agricultural development across the world," he said.

Only 170 Constituencies to Be Redrawn? EAC-PM Offers New Delimitation Roadmap

Potential for the number of constituencies in Tamil Nadu to rise to 59

New Delhi

Following the failure of the relevant bill in Parliament, the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council has put forward a new recommendation to delimit only 170 MP constituencies. The 'Constituency Delimitation Bill 2026'—which sought to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 850 based on voter population and to reorganize constituencies according to the 2011 census—failed to secure the necessary majority during the vote in the Lok Sabha. Consequently, the Union Government's plan to immediately implement the 33% reservation for women (passed in 2023) in the 2029 general elections has also faced a setback. Meanwhile, to reform the electoral system, the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council has released a comprehensive study report titled



'Size, Structure, and the Need for Delimitation of Constituencies in the Indian Lok Sabha (2009-2024)'. Under this proposal, a plan has been formulated to increase the total number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 824. To achieve this, the Advisory Council has recommended delimiting—specifically by splitting—only those 170 constituencies that have a high number of voters. It has been advised that 59 of these constituencies be split into two, and 111 constituencies be split into three. This plan ensures that there is no significant shift in the balance of political power among the states. Specifically, the scheme is designed so that the

representation of South Indian states changes only marginally—from 23.7% to 23.6%—while the share of North and West Indian states shifts from 45.6% to 45.2%. Regarding the number of constituencies per state, the seats in Uttar Pradesh would increase from 80 to 120, and those in Tamil Nadu from 39 to 59. Recommendations have been made to raise the seat counts to 72 for Maharashtra, 60 for Bihar, 44 for Madhya Pradesh, 42 for Karnataka, 39 for Gujarat, 38 each for Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, and 30 for Kerala. The report also advocates doubling the number of seats for smaller states and Union Territories such as

Mizoram, Sikkim, Puducherry, and Ladakh. Furthermore, recommendations include setting up exclusive polling stations to boost female voter participation and extending polling hours until evening in metropolitan areas. If the Union Government accepts these recommendations, a new bill is expected to be introduced in the upcoming parliamentary session. Based on the new report, a total of 824 MP constituencies would be created by splitting 59 existing constituencies into two and 111 constituencies into three. Of the 59 constituencies slated to be split into two, 22 belong to Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The states with the highest number of constituencies to be split into three are Uttar Pradesh (17), Maharashtra (12), Bihar (10), and West Bengal (10).

Veer Savarkar, Vajpayee named for Hindi Academy Awards - Delhi government announces

New Delhi

The names of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Madan Mohan Malviya, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and others have been named for the Delhi government's Hindi Academy Awards. The Delhi Government has been giving awards annually on behalf of the Hindi Academy. However, these awards have not been given for the last four academic years. In view of this, the Delhi Government has invited applications for various awards for the academic years 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26. Under the Hindi Academy's 'Sahityakar Samman Yojana', sixteen types of awards with cash prizes are to be given to Hindi litterateurs, poets and journalists who have worked for the development of the national language. Residents of the national capital and its region can apply for these awards. The Delhi government has asked for applications to be submitted by June 23. Some of the awards have been renamed. The awards will be given in the names of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Deen



Dayal Upadhyaya, Madan Mohan Malviya, late former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and late senior BJP leader and former Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Legislative Assembly Vijay Kumar Malhotra. Vinayaka Damodar Savarkar, known as Veer Savarkar, was one of the leaders who fought for the country's independence. He was imprisoned in the Andaman solitary confinement for many years. He was the president of the Hindu Mahasabha. He was one of the founders of the Jana Sangh, the predecessor political party of the BJP. Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya was an Indian educationist. He founded the Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi. He served as the president of the Indian National Congress for four terms and was a freedom fighter. The 'Hindi Academy Shalaka Samman' award has now been renamed as 'Pandit Deen Dayal Upad-

hyaya Shalaka Samman' and the award amount has been increased from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 7 lakh. The 'Atal Bihari Vajpayee Bharatiya Samskruthi and Jyan Parampara Samman' award carries a prize of Rs 5 lakh. The Rani Akhlyabai Holkar Samman for women writers will carry a prize of Rs 2 lakh. This award for women writers was earlier given in the name of anti-corruption activist Santosh Koli, who died in a road accident, during the Aam Aadmi Party rule. The Chand Ravidas Sahitya Samman and the 'Veer Savarkar Samman' for developing national consciousness will be awarded a prize of Rs. 2 lakh. The other awards will be awarded a prize of Rs. 1 lakh. The list includes the Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya Hindi Sahityakar Samman, the Baba Zorawar Singh Samman for children's literature, and the Swami Vivekananda Yuva Pratibha Samman.

The two awards, the Vidya Niwas Mishra Samman for Hindi journalism and the Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra Hindi Sevi Samman for the promotion of the Hindi language, carry a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh each. The list of Hindi Adami Awards of the Delhi Government includes the 'Nirmal Verma Samman' for Hindi translation and the 'Ramachandra Shukla Hindi Utkarsh Samman'. Along with this, there is also the 'Vasudev Saran Agarwal Samman' for folk literary works. Awards are also given for works in science, economics, political science, history, sociology, and other fields. The 'Devendra Swarup Samman' and 'Mridula Sinha Samman' are awards given to women Hindi writers. The 'Narendra Kohli Samman' is also given to those who have contributed works in various literary forms. After the formation of the BJP government in Delhi under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, its Hindi Academy has been getting a new lease of life. Details of these awards have been uploaded on the academy's website.

NEET re-exam time extended by 15 minutes, number of worksheets increased

New Delhi

The National Testing Agency has issued a notification extending the NEET re-examination time by 15 minutes and announcing several other concessions. The NEET entrance exam for undergraduate medical courses was conducted on May 3. Due to the early leak of the question paper of this exam, the NEET entrance exam was canceled across the country and it was announced that the NEET re-examination will be conducted on June 21. In this, the National Testing Agency has issued a notification with the aim of providing additional facilities to the students. Its details are: The duration of

the exam has been increased from 180 minutes to 195 minutes. This means that the NEET exam, which starts at 2 pm, will end at 5.15 pm. This includes procedures such as signing the attendance register at the beginning and end of the exam. This step has been taken to ensure that the entire time allotted for writing the exam is utilized for the purpose, without wasting time on practical activities. During the examination, the number of rough work papers for checking calculations and taking notes has been increased from two to four. Also, the layout of the rough work pages has been changed to accommodate left-handed

candidates. Earlier, these pages were provided only at the end of the question paper, but now they will be 2 pages before the questions and 2 pages at the end. This will be available in both the English and regional language versions of the question paper. These changes will provide significant benefits to students appearing for this important exam. The National Testing Agency is committed to ensuring that the NEET 2026 exam is fair, secure and student-centric. Efforts will be made every year to improve the exam experience for students appearing for the NEET exam, the National Testing Agency said.



Amarnath Yatra to begin on July 3: Amit Shah reviews security

New Delhi

The Amarnath Yatra will begin on the 3rd of next month. The 57-day pilgrimage to the cave temple located at an altitude of 3,880 meters in the Himalayas will take place. Devotees will travel via the Pahalgam route and the Baltal route. In this context, a meeting on security arrangements for the pilgrimage was held in Delhi yesterday under the chairmanship of Union



Home Minister Amit Shah. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, and CRPF DGP G.P. Singh, along with other security

and administrative officials, were present. Officials said security agencies are integrating advanced surveillance technology, intelligence-based monitoring, and coordination of multi-sectoral organizations to ensure

a complete security environment for devotees. Jammu and Kashmir Police has also deployed state-of-the-art surveillance and anti-vandalism equipment. The police have introduced a QR code-based "Bahsan App" to digitally verify workers and traders working on the pilgrimage route. This arrangement will help prevent unauthorized persons from entering the pilgrimage area. Furthermore, inspections and intelligence activities at the accommodation centers have been intensified. CRPF DGP Singh reviewed the security arrangements for the Kashmir Valley and directed the officers to take proactive defensive measures. Singh said that co-ordination between various security agencies needs to be strengthened to ensure a smooth pilgrimage.

“Iran’s attack on Indian ships is unacceptable” - Trump’s accusation

Washington
US President Donald Trump has accused Iran of attacking Indian ships trying to leave the Strait of Hormuz, saying it is unacceptable. Recently, it was reported that the US military had attacked three oil tankers with a large number of Indian sailors in the Gulf of Oman. India strongly condemned this. In this attack on one of the ships, three Indian sailors were killed. In this context, Trump has made a contradictory statement. He posted about this on the Truth social media platform. In it, Trump said, “Their (Iran) drone attack on Indian ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz is completely unacceptable.” What happened? The oil tanker ‘Sedebello’, which is based in the Pacific island nation of Palau, is attempting to enter the Iranian port by crossing the Strait of Hormuz. Out of the 28 sailors on board, 24 are Indians. The US mili-



tary has accused the vessel of attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz without following the instructions issued to it. Subsequently, an American fighter jet dropped a bomb on the engine room of the aircraft, disabling it. Indian sailors Aditya Sharma, Shivnand Chaureshia, and Chief Engineer Patnala Suresh were killed. Speaking on the occasion, Indian Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, “It is unfortunate that three Indian sailors lost their lives in the attack on the oil tanker Setopello.” “The Modi government stands by the families of the deceased sailors in this hour of grief. I have directed the authorities to ensure the immediate repatriation of the rescued Indian

does not include any commitment to cede control of the Strait of Hormuz. Negotiations on Iran’s nuclear program will be conducted within the framework of Iran’s fundamental principles. It has been reported that issues such as Iran’s right to enrich uranium and the retention of enriched uranium will be emphasized with a view to being included in the final agreement. The draft statement includes ending the war on all fronts, including in Lebanon, releasing \$24 billion in frozen Iranian assets, and setting a 60-day deadline for negotiations on Iran’s nuclear program. It is reported that this includes the suspension of sanctions on Iran’s oil and petrochemical sales, the complete lifting of the US naval blockade of Iranian ports that has been in effect since April 13, and the US and its allies paying Iran at least \$300 billion in compensation for damages caused by the war.

Unannounced Power Outage in Thirumangalam

Thirumangalam, June 13: Residents of Thirumangalam faced hardship due to a power outage that occurred in various parts of the town last night. Frequent power cuts have become a daily occurrence in Thirumangalam. Areas including Kamakshiamman Kovil Street, Ananthan Street, Kodimara Street, Rajaji Street, Kamarajapuram, and Karpagam Nagar experienced an unannounced power outage lasting more than two hours. Residents were severely inconvenienced by this unscheduled interruption to the power supply.

30 women arrested in Afghanistan for violating burqa rules - UN report

Kabul
More than 30 women have been arrested in Afghanistan for violating burqa rules, according to a UN women’s rights group. In a statement issued by the organization, it said, “More than 30 women were arrested by the Taliban on June 9 for violating orders to wear the burqa and not use perfume. Although some of the arrested women have been released, these actions have increased fear and anxiety among women and girls across Afghanistan.” “During the protest against this action, the Taliban opened fire and used batons to disperse the crowd. At least two people were killed and more than 20



were injured,” it said. Human rights experts appointed by the UN Human Rights Council said in a statement on the incident, “The protesters are accused of throwing stones. However, the use of violence that causes casualties cannot be justified. The Taliban, who are the de facto power in Afghanistan, must abide by international human rights treaties to which Afghanistan is a signatory.” “The fundamental rights of equality, peaceful assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of movement, and protection from detention are essential to restoring public confidence and preventing further deterioration of the situation,” they said. “In Afghanistan, the arrest or detention of a woman carries a high stigma in society, making her vulnerable to domestic and community violence even after her release,” said Georgette Gagnon, the deputy special representative for the UN in Afghanistan.

Hormuz control no longer What does Iran say about the US ‘peace’ treaty draft report?

Tehran
Iran’s official news agency has published information about the features included in the draft report on the agreement to be concluded with the United States. It has been reported that no commitment has been made regarding giving up control of the Strait of Hormuz. The United States and Israel launched joint attacks on Iran on February 28. In this, Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the country’s army commander were killed. Following this, Iran launched attacks on Israel and American positions in Arab countries. Following this, Lebanon’s Hezbollah militants attacked Israel, and Israel launched a retaliatory attack. Following this, Iran im-



posed restrictions on the passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz. This led to an increase in the shortage of crude oil and gas in many parts of the world. In response, the United States blockaded the Strait of Hormuz with its navy. Due to this, the United States made it impossible for Iranian ships to enter and exit. It also brought Iran’s ports under its control. Despite the fighting between the two sides, reconciliation talks continued. Following the agreement, US President Donald Trump announced on Thursday

issues such as Iran’s right to enrich uranium and the retention of enriched uranium will be emphasized with a view to being included in the final agreement. Another Iranian news agency, Mehr, reported: The draft statement includes ending the war on all fronts, including in Lebanon, releasing \$24 billion in frozen Iranian assets, and setting a 60-day deadline for negotiations on Iran’s nuclear program. It is reported that this includes the suspension of sanctions on Iran’s oil and petrochemical sales, the complete lifting of the US naval blockade of Iranian ports that has been in effect since April 13, and the US and its allies paying Iran at least \$300 billion in compensation for damages caused by the war.

India is being attacked by European weapon: Jaishankar

Helsinki
Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar has said in Finland that “India is being attacked with weapons sold by European countries.” External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has travelled to Finland, where he participated in a discussion on the international environment with the Finnish Foreign Minister and



the UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. In it, he said “I would like to make two important points here. India’s purchase of crude oil is based on its reserves and price. In that sense, we bought oil from Russia. Usually, European countries buy crude oil from Russia. They bought oil from Middle Eastern countries. So India bought oil from

Russia at that time. India acts on this issue depending on the situation. Similarly, no European country is attacked with Indian weapons. But India is being attacked with weapons sold by European countries. It is not just now. This has been happening for many years. Indians do not engage in activities that endanger Europe,” he said.

2 people sentenced to death in Bangkok

Bangkok
The Erawan Shrine in Bangkok, Thailand, is a popular tourist destination for Chinese tourists. On August 17, 2015, a powerful bomb exploded at the shrine, killing 20 people and injuring more than 120. Shortly after the bombing, two men from China’s Uyghur Muslim community, Yusuf Miareili and Bilal Muhammad, were arrested. Based on video footage, fingerprints and other evidence, they were suspect-



ed of being involved in the bombing. In this case, the South Bangkok Criminal Court sentenced the two men to death yesterday. The court said that there was strong evidence against them, but that they could not provide sufficient ev-

Sabarimala temple ghee sale irregularities Order to submit report within 4 weeks

Koch
An allegation of financial irregularities has been raised in the anointing oil sold at the Sabarimala Dharma Sastha (Ayyappan) Temple in Kerala between November 17, 2025 and December 27, 2025. In particular, 43 employees of the Thiruvithangur Devaswom Board were accused of being involved in financial irregularities out of 16,628 packets of ghee sold to devotees at the temple. It was also alleged that the sale amount of the ghee packets was not credited to the Thiruvithangur Devaswom Board, resulting in a huge loss of Rs. 17 lakhs. Following a complaint filed by the Anti-Corruption Department of the Thiruvananthapuram Devaswom



Board, the Kerala High Court has suo motu ordered an immediate criminal investigation. In this situation, the hearing of this case was held yesterday before a bench of Kerala High Court Justices V. Raja Vijayaraghavan and K. V. Jayakumar. The bench, which heard the petition, said: This will be registered as an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita. It will examine whether any offences punishable under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, have

been proven against the accused persons and submit a report to the court within 4 weeks. We are of the view that the documents and information collected during the investigation should be independently reviewed by the officer. In such circumstances, this situation cannot be viewed as mere administrative negligence or defective record keeping. We are of the view that a detailed investigation should be conducted and the same should be filed as a report. Thus, the judges said.

Investigation into fraud in Ram Temple donation: Trust chairman Mahant insists

Ayodhya
Temple Trust Chairman Mahant Kamal Niyayan Das has urged that an impartial inquiry should be conducted into the allegations raised in the Ram Temple donation case. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has alleged that crores of rupees have gone missing from the donation made to the Ayodhya Ram temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. He also urged the Justice Ministry to take cognizance of the matter and investigate it. Meanwhile, Sampath Roy, general secretary of the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, said that this is unconfirmed information and that verification work is currently under-

way. Meanwhile, yesterday, temple trust chairman Mahant Kamal Nyaya Das told the participants: There was no irregularity in the donations made by devotees to the Ram temple. Accordingly, if any irregularity is alleged in the donations to the Ram temple, an impartial inquiry should be conducted into it. He said this. Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Piyush Goyal said, “People are not ready to believe the false claims made by Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav on the Ram temple donation issue. The state suffered greatly due to lack of development during the previous Samajwadi Party rule in UP.”



14-year-old boy in critical condition and a coma following medical negligence at the Periyakulam Government District Headquarters Hospital. Relatives and lawyers staged a protest, laying siege to the hospital to condemn Dr. Hariharan, who administered the erroneous treatment.