

MEKETHATHU ISSUE: Tamil Nadu government's separate resolution passed unanimously

Chennai The Tamil Nadu government's separate resolution condemning the Karnataka government over the Meghedathu issue was unanimously passed in the Legislative Assembly. The second day of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly session began at 9.30 am today. First, a resolution was passed expressing condolences to the deceased senior leaders, film celebrities, former MLAs and others. Following that, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay proposed a separate government resolution opposing Karnataka's action in the Meghedathu issue. Chief Minister Vijay continued, "It is in no way acceptable for the Karnataka government to arbitrarily attempt to build a dam across the Cauvery River at Mekethatu without respecting the final verdict of the Cauvery Tribunal on 5-2-2007 and the Supreme Court verdict on 16-2-2018, without obtaining the consent of the concerned basin states, and without obtaining any permission from the Central Government. Therefore, this assembly expresses its strong opposition to this



action of the Karnataka government. This assembly urges the Central Government not to grant any technical or environmental clearance to the Karnataka government's Meghedathu Dam project. The Cauvery Tribunal and the Supreme Court have both designated the Cauvery basin as a deficit basin, and if the entire water of the basin is distributed to the basin states, it will not be possible to undertake new projects or use additional water in the Cauvery basin. The Cauvery issue is a sensitive issue for the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Therefore, this Council urges the Central Government to instruct the Government of Karnataka not to undertake any dam or any new reservoir project at

Mekethatu or anywhere else in the Cauvery basin without the consent of the other basin states and without the approval of the Central Government. The meeting also urges the Central Water Resources Commission not to consider, take action on or grant permission for the Karnataka government's detailed project report. "This assembly unanimously expresses its support for all the steps taken by the Tamil Nadu government to thwart this attempt by the Karnataka government and protect the welfare of Tamil Nadu farmers," the Chief Minister said. Political party leaders then spoke on the Chief Minister's resolution. Congress Minister Rajesh Kumar, who was the first to speak on the

resolution, supported the resolution. **Congress was the first to support** Speaking, Minister Rajesh Kumar said, "Congress supports the resolution proposed by Chief Minister Joseph Vijay. Cauvery is not just a river, it is the lifeline of Tamil Nadu farmers. The livelihood of lakhs of farmers depends on it. I condemn the Karnataka government for trying to build a dam in the middle of the Cauvery River without respecting the Cauvery Tribunal and Supreme Court verdicts and without obtaining the consent of the Tamil Nadu government. This is not only against the law, but also a violation of the rights of the people of Tamil Nadu. As per the Supreme Court verdict on the Cauvery water

supply, the Karnataka government must supply 177.25 TMC of water annually through three routes. "The construction of the Mekethatu dam to block the water coming to Tamil Nadu is against the Supreme Court verdict. If this project is implemented, the future of the farmers of the Cauvery Delta will be in question. Many parts of Tamil Nadu will also be affected. The Congress condemns the unilateral action of the Karnataka government," he said. **Premalatha's idea:** "No one is going to oppose this resolution, which is very important for Tamil Nadu. We will all be together. In that sense, DMDK also supports this resolution." But since independence, we have been continuously

talking about the fishermen's issue and the Cauvery river water issues. We keep asking the surrounding states for the rights of the people of Tamil Nadu. Otherwise, Tamil Nadu should become a self-sufficient state. Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, Karunanidhi, and M.K. Stalin have all waged many struggles to assert Tamil Nadu's rights in the Cauvery river water issue. Water is as important as breast milk. The world cannot exist without water. Therefore, just as Tamil Nadu was made an electricity-rich state, we need to develop water management. We need to think about water management before the upcoming monsoon season. "Wherever rivers can be linked in Tamil Nadu, that should be done. All areas should be dredged. Rainwater should be prevented from mixing wastefully with the sea," he said. **Udhayanidhi's request:** Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Opposition Leader Udhayanidhi Stalin said, "The Meghedathu Dam is an attempt to destroy the livelihood of Tamil Nadu farmers. DMK opposes the construction of the

dam. Karunanidhi was the main reason for seeking a stay on the construction of the dam across the Cauvery River in the Supreme Court. Even though our coalition partner was in power in Karnataka at the time, the then Chief Minister Stalin strongly opposed it. The DMK supports the resolution that has now been brought. The then Chief Minister Stalin wrote a letter to the Prime Minister upon coming to power in 2021. The resolution was subsequently passed at an all-party meeting. Similarly, we passed a resolution in the assembly condemning Karnataka's allocation of funds for the construction of the Mekethatu dam. Everyone should come together to uphold Tamil Nadu's rights to the Cauvery. DMK will stand by all the efforts of the Tamil Nadu government on the Mekethatu Dam issue. "A separate resolution should also include a demand to set up a separate arbitration panel for mega-issues. Instead of sending this resolution to the central government through a letter, MLAs and MPs of all parties should come together and directly submit it to the cen-

tral government," he stressed. The separate resolution brought by the Tamil Nadu government on the Meghedathu issue was unanimously supported by all parties, including the Congress, VVIP, Communist of India, Communist of India (Marxist), CMDK, MDMK, DMDK, PMK, AIADMK, and DMK. Following this, the Speaker announced that the separate resolution brought by the Tamil Nadu government on the Meghedathu issue was passed unanimously. **Chief Minister Vijay accepts Udhayanidhi's request:** Chief Minister Vijay continued, "Thank you to the members of the assembly who supported the separate resolution brought by the Tamil Nadu government. Necessary legal steps are being taken to set up a separate arbitration panel under my leadership on 26.05.2026 for the Mekethatu issue, in consultation with legal experts. "Therefore, the point put forward by Opposition Leader Udhayanidhi Stalin can be added after the 4th paragraph of the resolution," he requested. The amended resolution was then passed unanimously

Chief Minister Vijay wishes Rahul Gandhi a happy birthday

Chennai "I wish my dear brother success in all his endeavors and excellence in public life," Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay has said, wishing Lok Sabha Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi on his birthday. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay has posted a post on social media wishing Lok Sabha Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi on his birth-



day. In it, he wrote, "Happy birthday to my dear brother, Lok Sabha Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi. "I wish you, who have been continuously speaking out

for the progress of the Indian nation, upholding the values of democracy, and for the welfare of all sections of the people, good health and long life, success in all

your endeavors, and excellence in public life," said Chief Minister Vijay. When the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections saw the emergence of the largest party in the state and the formation of a government, the Congress party was the first to extend its support. It is noteworthy that only later did the Communists, VVIP and IUML extend their support.



In the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, condolence messages were recorded regarding the demise of former members of the House, and condolence resolutions were passed—followed by the observance of a silent tribute—on the passing of veteran Communist Party of India leader Comrade Thiru Nallakannu, former Assembly Secretary Thiru C.K. Ramasamy, renowned film producers Thiru R.B. Choudary and Thiru K. Rajan, and acclaimed film director Thiru Bharathiraja.



On June 17, 2026, at the Secretariat, the Honorable Minister for Social Justice, Thiru. Vanni Arasu, presented training certificates to and commended 16 tribal youths. These individuals had completed heavy motor vehicle training under the "Tholkudi Thoduvanam" scheme, obtained their driving licenses and public service badges, and secured contract-based employment with State Transport Corporations.



In accordance with the orders of the Honorable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, a review meeting of the Handlooms Department was held at the conference hall of the Directorate of Handlooms, presided over by the Honorable Minister for Handlooms, Textiles, and Khadi, Thiru M. Vijay Balaji.

IT Delhi and IIT Madras Climb in Global University Rankings



Delhi IIT Delhi has achieved a remarkable feat by climbing five spots to secure the 118th position in international university rankings. According to the QS World University Rankings 2027, IIT Bombay which held the top spot among Indian institutions last year has slipped five places to rank 134th, while IIT Madras has risen ten places to reach the 170th position. Globally, MIT (USA) retains the top spot for the 15th consecutive year.

CBSE Three-Language Refuses to Grant Interim Stay



New Delhi The plan to make the study of three languages mandatory for Class 9 students in CBSE schools, starting from the 2026-27 academic year, is set to come into effect on July 1. A petition regarding this matter came up for hearing yesterday before a bench com-

prising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana. Refusing to grant an interim stay, the Chief Justice ordered that this petition be tagged with other related petitions for a joint hearing. He directed that the petition be taken up for hearing on July 14, alongside other pending petitions.

Farmers to Receive PM-KISAN 23rd Installment Tomorrow



New Delhi The 23rd installment under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan (PM Kisan) scheme is set to be released to 9.44 crore farmers tomorrow. Speaking on this, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan stat-

Indian Banks Spent ₹3,877 Crore on Pens and Paper!



Delhi In the 2025-26 financial year alone, India's leading banks spent ₹3,877 crore on pens and paper. According to data from Groww, SBI topped the list by spending ₹986.4 crore on printing and stationery, while HDFC ranked second with an expenditure of ₹922.5 crore. IDFC First was the bank that spent the most on paper, 8.05% of its total net profit on these items.

Tractor-Based Sand Smuggling Continues at Karaiyur Lake

Cuddalore, June 18 –

Social activists allege that the illegal smuggling of silt/sand is proceeding unchecked at the Karaiyur village lake near Pennadam in Cuddalore district. It is reported that a man named Arjun, son of Srinivasan from Pe. Poovanur village, is involved in this illicit activity. Specifically, sand is smuggled out using JCBs and tractors—often at night—and sold in villages surrounding Pennadam. Furthermore, the smuggling continues during the day as well. Local farmers and social activists accuse the Pennadam police and the Revenue Department of negligence in failing to curb this activity. Such smuggling neg-



atively impacts the groundwater levels in agricultural wells and poses a risk of drinking water shortages in the panchayat. Consequently, the public and social activists have urged the district administration to take action. It remains to be seen whether the district administration will intervene. Farmers have urged the authorities to take swift action to stop this sand smuggling.

Arjun (son of Srinivasan) from Pe. Poovanur village is smuggling sand—under the guise of silt—from the Karaiyur lake in the Thittakudi Taluk of Cuddalore district and selling it at high prices. Farmers demand that the Tamil Nadu government and Cuddalore district officials take appropriate action against him for this illegal trade.

34th SP Jayakumar Takes Charge in Dindigul



Dindigul Speaking to the press subsequently, SP Jayakumar stated that strict action would be taken against sexual offenses targeting women and children, as well as against the drug menace. He emphasized that an "iron-fist" approach would be adopted against those involved in il-

legal activities, such as cockfighting and gambling. He further added that inspections would be conducted to ensure the presence of adequate police personnel and functional CCTV cameras at check-posts along the district borders, and appropriate measures would be taken based on these assess-



Ranipet District Collector N. Priya, IAS, received petitions and listened to grievances from the public during the Revenue Settlement (Jamabandi) proceedings for the Fasli year 1435 at the Arcot Taluk Office on June 18, 2026. She was accompanied by Personal Assistant (General) Mrs. Geethalakshmi (in-charge), Tahsildars Mr. Shanmuga Sundaram and Mr. Bakkiyanathan, and Revenue Department officials.



Tiruvannamalai District Collector and Revenue Settlement Officer Mrs. Vandana Garg, IAS, inspected the assistance center set up for farmers regarding government welfare schemes at the Polur Taluk Office (18.06.2026), marking the third day of the Fasli 1435 Revenue Settlement (Jamabandi) proceedings.



Ranipet District Collector Mrs. N. Priya inspected the process of storing the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)—brought from BHEL for use in municipal, town panchayat, and local body elections—in the strong room at the District Collector's office, in the presence of representatives from various political parties.

Annual Academic Inspection Conducted at Rasipuram GHSS

Chief Educational Officer Mr. E. Madhavan presided over the inspection, with District Educational Officer (Secondary) Mr. K.S. Purushothaman in attendance. School Deputy Inspector Mr. K. Periyasamy made excellent arrangements for the event. The inspection team included District Physical Education Inspector Mrs. Gandhimathi, School Deputy Inspector Mr. Krishnamoorthy, and Environmental Officer Mr. Thirugnanam. School Headmasters Mr.



Vasu and Mr. Manikandan (Headmaster of Parsal School) also participated. The inspection covered the school's pass percentage, student enrollment, entrance and competitive exams, the school campus, library, restrooms, and teaching-learning activities. Guidance was provided to rectify any shortcomings identified during the inspection. Earlier, students newly admitted to the sixth grade were warmly welcomed and presented with copies of the *Thirukkural*. Students who secured the top three ranks in the school during the previous year's SSLC public examination were honored with prizes and appreciation.

Chain-reaction accident near Thambis Theatre in Cumbum multiple vehicles damaged

Cumbum

Today, being an auspicious day for weddings, a large number of vehicles were parked along the roadside near the wedding hall close to Thambis Theatre in Cumbum. A minivan, driven by someone attending a function, collided with a car parked in front of it. The impact caused that car to crash into other vehicles parked in a row, resulting in



a chain-reaction accident. More than two or three cars were damaged in the incident. Specifically, the windshields of some vehicles were shattered, and damage occurred to both the front and rear sections. Fortunately, reports indicate that there were no casualties or injuries. The incident caused a brief stir in the area.

Executive Committee Meeting Held Near Thittakudi to Mark Kakkan Ji's Birthday

Cuddalore, June 18

An executive committee meeting took place at the office of the Kakkan Memorial Trust, located on Avatti Road near Thittakudi in Cuddalore district, to mark the birth anniversary of former Minister Kakkan. The meeting was presided over by the Trust's founder, Dr. Saravanakumar, with Vice-President



Deena and Secretary Mathialagan in attendance. Several resolutions were unanimously passed during the meeting, including calls for

the new Tamil Nadu government to include the biography of the noble patriot Kakkan Ji in the school curriculum, to observe Kakkan Ji's birthday as an official state function, and to institute a state government award in his name. Office bearers Balusamy, Udahaya Adhithan, and Venkatesan, among others, participated in the event.

First-Ever CM Vijay Birthday Celebration Held in Dindigul

Dindigul

The event, organized to distribute welfare assistance in honor of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay's birthday, was held at a private hall in the Thadikombu Town Panchayat. It was conducted under the leadership of Reddiarchatram North Union Secretary Siva Karuppan, Thadikombu Town Secretary Ambeth Raja, and Agaram Town Secretary



Sangeethkumar. Dindigul Central District Secretary M.L. Vasudevan attended as the special guest and distributed welfare assistance to over 500 people, including women, school students, and the general public. It is noteworthy that this was the

first celebration of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay's birthday to be held in the Dindigul district. More than a thousand people including party functionaries at all levels, branch secretaries, key office-bearers, and cadres participated in the event.

TB Awareness Program and Special Dental Camp Held in Coimbatore

Coimbatore

K.S. Sri Giri Prasad, MLA of the Singanallur constituency, inaugurated the event—held at Maduraiveeran Kovil Street in Neelikonampalayam, Coimbatore—by lighting the traditional lamp. Project Coordinator Haskar Ali Kokkaratt presided over the event. Gayathri, who participated in the program, raised public awareness regarding the symptoms of tuberculosis, preventive measures, the necessity of early diagnosis, and the importance of completing the full course of treatment. Following this, a special dental camp was conducted where



of the public participated in and benefited from the event. Organized with the aim of bringing disease prevention, health awareness, and quality medical services to the community, the program was well-received by the public. Social activists, local dignitaries, and a large number of residents attended the event.

Fraud in the Civil Services Exam EWS Category

It has come to light that fraud has occurred within the EWS (Economically Weaker Section) category of the Civil Services examination. In the Civil Services exam, 104 students from the "poor" upper-caste category qualified under the EWS quota. Shocking details regarding the backgrounds of these successful candidates have emerged. Of the 104 successful candidates from the poor upper-caste category, 67 had studied at top-tier coaching centers. These 67 individuals attended renowned institutes that charge fees of up to ₹2.65 lakh per year. Eligibility for EWS benefits is restricted to those with an annual income of less than ₹8 lakh. However, investigations have revealed that the EWS quota was utilized by the children of individuals who studied at popular coaching centers, employees



of multinational corporations, private school owners, and businesspeople earning crores in revenue. Among the 104 successful candidates, 28 have parents who are industrialists or business owners. Children of families running businesses or shops also qualified under the poor upper-caste category. Academicians are questioning whether the children of industrialists and business owners can truly be classified as "economically weaker. Ten candidates were previously employed at private firms—including multinational corporations—earning high salaries. Furthermore, 14 candidates were found to be alumni of

premier institutions like IITs and NITs. Information has also surfaced indicating that 46 candidates attended schools that charge annual fees of up to ₹1 lakh. Questions are being raised as to how individuals who have paid school fees running into the hundreds of thousands can qualify under the 'poor among the upper castes' category. It is shocking that fraud has occurred within the EWS (Economically Weaker Section) category, which was intended to alleviate poverty. Consequently, educationists are urging for the constitution of an inquiry commission to investigate this EWS fraud and are demanding immediate action.

Indian funds in Swiss banks drop by 8%; individual deposits rise by 50%

Amidst allegations regarding the hoarding of black money in Swiss banks, the Swiss central bank regularly releases data on funds held by Indians. The annual report for 2025 has now been released, revealing that the total funds held by Indians in Swiss banks have fallen by over 8 percent to 3.25 billion Swiss francs (Rs 36,793 crore). At the same time, funds held in accounts belonging to individuals and subsidiary clients have risen by more than 50 percent,



reaching Rs 6,000 crore. Indians hold Rs 218 crore through trusts and Rs 1,241 crore through financial instruments such as bonds. In 2024, Indian funds in Swiss banks had tripled to Rs 37,600 crore; the Swiss National Bank attributes the 2025 decline to this previous surge. The highest

level recorded was Rs 68,912 crore in 2006. Regarding funds held by foreign clients in Swiss banks, the UK ranks first (Rs 22.5 lakh crore), followed by the US (Rs 8.8 lakh crore) in second place and France (Rs 7.4 lakh crore) in third. India has moved up from the 48th to the 46th position.

To be credited this month PF interest rate at 8.25% Union Government approves

The Union Government has approved an interest rate of 8.25% on Employees' Provident Fund (PF) deposits for the 2025-26 financial year. This move will benefit over 7 crore members. The amount is expected to be credited within this month itself. The Central Board of Trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), which deter-

mines the PF interest rate, decided to maintain the rate at 8.25% for the 2025-26 financial year during a meeting held on March 2. The Union Ministry of Finance has now approved this recommendation. Consequently, the 8.25% interest rate continues for the third consecutive year; the same rate was provided for the 2024-25 and 2023-24 financial years. EPFO sources have stated that,

thanks to a new digital system, the interest amount will now be credited to members' accounts more quickly. Previously, for the 2021-22 financial year, the Union Government had reduced the PF interest rate to 8.10%—the lowest rate in nearly 40 years. The announcement that the current interest rate will be credited this month has brought cheer to employees who rely on the PF fund.

Three Students Suspended for Ragging at Government Medical College

Allegations arose that second-year postgraduate students at the government-run B.J. Medical College in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, had ragged first-year postgraduate trainees. Based on a report submitted by the anti-rag-

ging committee following an inquiry, the allegations of ragging against the second-year students were substantiated. Consequently, one of the three students was suspended for one year, while the other two were suspended for six months. Similarly, ac-

cusations surfaced that 13 second-year students from the Orthopedics department at the government medical college in Bhavnagar had ragged first-year students; an order has been issued to conduct a detailed inquiry and submit a report on the matter.

Rahul Gandhi Launches New Campaign for Education Reforms

New Delhi

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has been raising his voice against various irregularities in the education sector, including exam paper leaks and the CBSE OSM (On-Screen Marking) system issues. Against this backdrop, he has launched a signature campaign titled 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' (Voice of Students) to highlight the need for educational reforms. In a post on X, Rahul Gandhi stated, "If you have been affected by exam paper leaks or exorbitant fees, if this education system



has shattered your dreams, or if your family has spent their life savings on your education, then this movement—'Voice of Students'—is for you. This is not merely a campaign; it is a platform for students to raise issues such as affordable education, fair examination systems, and dignified employment opportunities. It is a plat-

form to take your demands directly to the government. To join this movement, click the link below, register your name, share your views, and sign the petition. The more students who join, the louder the students' voice will resonate." He also shared the link to the website <https://rahulgandhi.in/chhatron-ki-goonj> for this purpose.

NEET Re-examination Day After Tomorrow Dharmendra Pradhan Holds Consultations

New Delhi

With the NEET re-examination scheduled to take place nationwide the day after tomorrow, Minister Dharmendra Pradhan held consultations with officials yesterday regarding the state of preparedness. The NEET-UG examination for admission to medical courses was originally held on May 3rd of this year. Following the leakage of the question paper, the exam was cancelled, and a re-examination was scheduled for the day after tomorrow across the country. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan convened a review meeting yesterday to assess the readiness for this re-examination. He inquired about the arrangements with senior officials from the Union Ministry of Education, state governments, the National Testing Agency (NTA), and higher education institutions. Speaking at the meeting, Minister Dharmendra Pradhan emphasized the importance of maintaining the highest standards of integrity,



transparency, and efficiency in the examination process. He further instructed all concerned officials to remain vigilant and fully prepared to ensure the re-examination is conducted in a free and fair manner. I so Read: 20 passengers injured after a private bus lost control and tilted onto a bridge near Neelambur!! Fraud in the EWS category of the Civil Services Examination! Prime Minister Modi and Tamil Nadu CM Stalin extend birthday wishes to Rahul Gandhi!! Price of ornamental gold in Chennai drops by ₹3,040 per sovereign; now selling at ₹1,08,560. No immediate reduction in petrol and diesel prices despite the drop in crude oil rates: Union Minister clarifies. Do not believe rumors. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the National Testing

Agency (NTA) stated, "The re-examination will be held on Sunday as scheduled. Do not let your attention be diverted by rumors regarding the postponement of the exam or unnecessary information circulating on social media. Rely only on official announcements from the National Testing Agency." Another student dies in Gujarat. A tragic incident has occurred in Gujarat where a 17-year-old student died by suicide due to anxiety over the NEET re-examination. The 17-year-old boy lived with his mother and younger brother in an apartment complex in the Tragad area of Ahmedabad. Having performed well in the NEET exam held on the 3rd of this month, he was currently preparing for the re-examination. He died by suicide yesterday at 2:55 AM by jumping from the sixth floor.

Shivakumar Seeks Talks with CM Vijay on Mekedatu Project

Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has said that he is ready to hold talks with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay regarding the Meghedatu Dam project. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru yesterday, Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said: The Meghnadu dam project is not only close to my heart. It is also close to the entire South India. As per the final verdict of the Supreme Court, Karnataka is ready to provide 177 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu every year. I am ready to hold talks with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay regarding this project. This project will benefit both



states. Whether we are Kannada or Tamil, we should remember that we are all Indians. Those who have joined Tamil Nadu live in Karnataka and those who have joined Karnataka live in Tamil Nadu. Water is a necessity for all people. The Meghedathu dam is a balanced reservoir. If water is stored there, water can be easily released to Tamil Nadu during droughts. We cannot take even a bucket of water from the water that was sup-

posed to be provided to Tamil Nadu. The dam water can be used for the drinking water needs of the people of Bengaluru. We can also easily provide drinking water to Mandya, Hassan, Samaranagar, and Tumakuru districts. The Central Water Authority should give its approval to this project soon. In the Meghnath issue, all the party MPs in Karnataka, including the Congress, BJP, and JD(S), will work with one voice. He said.

TODAY'S GOLD & PETROL PRICE

19 JUNE 2026 | FRIDAY

GOLD PRICE		
22K	22 CARAT GOLD	₹13,934 / gram
24K	24 CARAT GOLD	₹15,212 / gram
	SOVEREIGN (22K) (8 gram)	₹1,11,472

GOLD PRICES MAY VARY ACROSS CITIES

PETROL & DIESEL PRICE	
PETROL	₹107.77 / LITRE
DIESEL	₹99.55 / LITRE

TODAY RASIPALAN

19 JUNE 2026, FRIDAY

	ARIES	A promising day ahead. Your efforts at work will be recognized. Financial gains are likely. Spend time with family and stay positive.
	TAURUS	You may face minor challenges, but patience will help you overcome them. Good time for financial planning. Avoid unnecessary expenses.
	GEMINI	Your communication skills will bring success. New opportunities in career may arise. Maintain health and avoid stress.
	CANCER	A good day for new beginnings. You will receive support from friends and family. Focus on your goals and stay determined.
	LEO	Confidence will be high and you will take the lead in important matters. Financial position strengthens. Good news from loved ones.
	VIRGO	Be careful in your dealings and avoid arguments. Focus on completing pending tasks. Health needs attention.
	LIBRA	Day brings balance and harmony. Good time for partnerships and business deals. Financial gains and happiness at home.
	SCORPIO	You may achieve a significant milestone. Be discreet in personal matters. Opportunities for growth are strong.
	SAGITTARIUS	A day filled with positivity and progress. Travel or learning opportunities are possible. Financially, you will do well.
	CAPRICORN	Hard work will bring good results. Avoid taking risks in investments. Family support will keep you motivated.
	AQUARIUS	Creative ideas will bring recognition. Good day for networking and social activities. Manage your time wisely.
	PISCES	A peaceful and prosperous day. You may receive financial benefits. Focus on your health and maintain a positive outlook.

3 Crore Additional Ration Cards Union Minister's Statement

New Delhi

Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurated a smart warehouse system in Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Pralhad noted that certain state governments have removed 2.21 crore ineligible beneficiaries from the Public Distribution System (PDS) list—a move made possible by



the digitization of the system. He added that states are permitted to enroll eligible beneficiaries, and various state governments can issue an additional 3 crore ration cards to deserving people.

No immediate reduction Union Minister clarifies



Thrissur

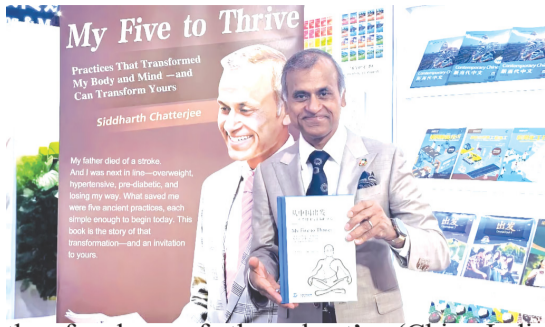
Questions arose regarding whether petrol and diesel prices would decrease following the drop in crude oil rates after the resolution of the US-Iran conflict. Addressing this, Union Minister of State for Petroleum Suresh Gopi said, "Fuel prices in India have risen by only

₹3.94 per litre. Prices that were raised cannot be immediately reduced simply because international crude oil rates have fallen. Oil companies were affected from the moment the conflict began, and the Union government absorbed that impact, resulting in a loss of ₹12,000 crore to the government."

Yoga demonstrates India-China connection China Development Agency chief proud

Beijing

International Yoga Day is celebrated across the world on June 21. In this context, former UN official Siddharth Chatterjee's book "My Five to Thrive" on meditation and yoga was released in Beijing by Luo Zhaohui, head of the China International Development and Cooperation Agency, the day before yesterday. Chatterjee, who was the UN coordinator for China, worked closely with the Chinese government, education sector, and media. Chatterjee practiced meditation and breathwork. Through physical movements and his unique training, he sought to purify his mind and discover



the freedom of the inner mind. This reflects the Indian philosophical concept of the 'oneness of Brahman and the soul', and is also similar to the Chinese doctrine of 'the universe and humanity are one'. India's spiritual and physical practice of yoga, combined with China's acupuncture and martial arts, is demonstrating the civilizational connection between the two countries, such as the 'Dance of the Dragon and the Ele-

phant' (China-India collaboration), he said. Breathing exercises. Speaking at the event, Chatterjee said, "Breathing is an important part of human life, and breathing exercises help in living a better life. Every moment of our life moves with a breath. When we are born, we take our first breath, and when we leave this world, we take our last breath. It is between those two moments that the entire story of our life unfolds."

India-France partnership crucial for global progress: PM Modi in Paris

Paris

Prime Minister Modi, who is in Paris, said that the India-France partnership is important for global progress. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a two-day visit to France and Slovakia. Modi, who is on the second leg of his visit to France, will be the guest of honour at the G-7 summit in Evian-les-Bains. Speaking here, Prime Minister Modi said, "The G7 countries should create a framework to enhance connectivity and trade by combining the strengths of India and the countries of the South. The long-term impact of the Iran war on developing countries is worrying." On the sidelines of the G7 summit, he met with US President Donald Trump, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Ukrainian President Zelensky, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, German



Chancellor Friedrich Merz, United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney for bilateral talks. Prime Minister Modi, who returned to Paris after the G7 summit, was warmly welcomed by the Indians there. Regarding this, Prime Minister Modi wrote on X-Site, "The Indian community gave me a special welcome in Paris. I am proud of their efforts in bringing India and France closer. India-France partnership is very important for the progress of the world. In Paris, Prime Minister Modi will participate in the 'VivaTech 2026' event, Europe's premier

technology and innovation event, along with French President Emmanuel Macron. India's presence at this year's VivaTech event is set to be the largest, reflecting the growing collaboration between Indian and European innovation institutions. Meeting with business leaders Prime Minister Modi met business leaders in Paris yesterday and discussed investment opportunities and expansion plans in India. Business leaders from sectors including construction, rail transport and artificial intelligence participated in the meeting. Among them are Benoit Bassin, chairman of Saint-Gobain, Martin Scion, CEO of Alstom, and Arthur Mensch, CEO of Mistral AI.

Indian becomes billionaire as Elon Musk buys Cursor AI company

San Francisco

Cursor is an artificial intelligence (AI) coding platform that programmers use to write code for their projects using AI. Entrepreneur Elon Musk's SpaceX partnered with Cursor in April this year. SpaceX used Cursor's computing resources to train its AI models. Elon Musk is currently buying Cursor's parent company, Enisphere, for \$60 billion (Rs. 5 lakh crore). This will net Aman Sangkar,



a young Indian-origin man who is one of the founders of the Cursor company, \$2.7 billion (Rs. 22,500 crore). Similarly, one of its shareholders, Suleh Asif (28), a young Pakistani man, will also get Rs. 22,500 crore. Aman Sanger (25) was born in New York, USA. Aman's father,

Arvind Sanger, is an alumnus of IIT Bombay. Aman's mother, Shilpa Sanger, is a dentist. Aman met technology experts Suleh Asif, Truel, and Lunnemark at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and later joined them to start Cursor in 2022.

US-Iran peace deal signed long tension completely eased

Washington

The US-Iran peace deal was signed yesterday. US President Trump and Iranian President Masoud Bashar al-Assad signed the nuclear deal electronically. According to it, both sides have pledged to implement a 14-point plan, including the opening of the Strait of Hormuz. The war between the United States and Iran began on February 28. On April 8, the two sides jointly implemented a temporary ceasefire. But in the name of self-defense, both sides have engaged in serious attacks from time to time. Countries including Pakistan and Qatar have been involved in mediation efforts between the two sides. As a result, a peace agreement was reached between the United States and Iran. It was announced that the peace treaty would be signed on June 19 in Geneva, Switzerland. In this context, the peace treaty was signed a day earlier. Yesterday, a banquet was hosted for US President Trump at the Palace of Versailles near the French capital, Paris. At that time, he signed the nuclear



peace treaty electronically. Similarly, Iranian President Masoud Peshmerga signed the nuclear peace treaty electronically in Tehran. Iranian President Masoud Bessakhian said in a post on social media, "I have signed a historic peace agreement. Iran is committed to maintaining world peace and regional peace." Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also signed the US-Iran peace agreement electronically, acting as a peace envoy. He said in a social media post: Thank you to US President Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance, Special Envoy Steve Whitcap, Jared Kushner, Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalib, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, and Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni for their active participation in the signing of the peace agreement. "I would like to ex-

press my gratitude to the leaders of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Egypt, as well as to Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir, who have been involved in the reconciliation efforts," he said. Amicable resolution to issues: "The 111-day-long standoff between the US and Iran has now completely subsided. The people of the Gulf countries, especially Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, are breathing a sigh of relief. The war has cost them Rs. 122 lakh crore so far. The entire world is facing severe shortages of crude oil, gas, and fertilizers. The economies of many countries are completely disrupted. Stock markets have plummeted. The fertilizer shortage is also threatening food shortages in many countries. International economists say that all these problems can be resolved amicably due to the peace agreement.

Ghana Shines in Extra Time After Panama Misses Key Opportunity

Toronto

In a match held early yesterday morning (4:30 AM) at a stadium in Toronto, Group L teams Ghana and Panama faced off. Although both teams were eager to score, neither managed to find the net during the first half. Two yellow cards were issued to each team during the match; consequently, players from both sides played with a degree of caution to avoid receiving a red card. Amidst this tense atmosphere, Panama missed a



golden opportunity to score. As neither team had scored by the end of regulation time, extra time was added after the initial 90 minutes. Ghana capitalized on this opportunity; Caleb Irenki scored in the fifth minute of extra time, putting his team in

the lead. During extra time, Panama's Carlos Harvey received a yellow card after stepping on the Ghana goalkeeper while attempting to score. With Panama failing to score by the end of the match, Ghana emerged victorious with a 1-0 win.

Colombia Defeats Uzbekistan

Mexico

The Group K match between Colombia and Uzbekistan took place in Mexico. Colombia's Daniel scored a goal in the 40th minute, giving the team a 1-0 lead at

halftime. In the 60th minute of the second half, Uzbekistan's Abbosbek Fayzulla scored to level the match at 1-1. Five minutes later (65th minute), Colombia's Luis Diaz scored to

put his team ahead 2-1. In stoppage time—specifically the 99th minute—Colombia's Jamin-ton Campaz scored a goal, resulting in a final 3-1 victory for Colombia over Uzbekistan.

Stunning Victory in 2nd ODI Against Afghanistan Team India Sets Record by Amassing 402 Runs

Lucknow

India won the first match of the three-game ODI series against Afghanistan. The second match took place yesterday in Lucknow. Batting first, Indian opener Jaiswal was dismissed for 4 runs. The other opener, Rohit Sharma, played impressively, scoring 48 runs—including 6 boundaries and 2

sixes—before being bowled. Captain Shubman Gill and Ishan Kishan then joined forces, playing aggressively and dazzling the crowd by scoring consecutive centuries. Afghan bowler Karote eventually broke this partnership; Ishan Kishan fell for 125 runs, and Shubman Gill for 154. Subsequently, K.L. Rahul (0), Shreyas

Iyer (26), Gurnoor Brar (3), Arshdeep Singh (3), Washington Sundar (19), and Prince Yadav (5) were dismissed in quick succession and India was eventually bowled out for 402 runs in 49.5 overs. This marked the first time India crossed the 400-run mark against Afghanistan and the eighth time overall in ODIs. With this achievement, India

SPORTS NEWS

Portugal Held by Debutants Congo Scores Historic First Goal



Texas

In a Group K league match of the 2026 FIFA World Cup held last night, the debutant team, the Republic of the Congo, faced the formidable Portugal squad led by Cristiano Ronaldo. Just six minutes into the match, Portugal's João Neves scored the opening goal with a header. Neves, who played wearing a black armband in memory of the recently deceased Diogo Jota, dedicated the goal to him. As the match progressed intensely, Congo's Yoane Wissa equalized the score at 1-1 with a header during stoppage time of the first half (45+5 minute). This marked the first goal and the first point ever secured by the Congo team in World Cup history. In the second half, while Portugal continued to press, the underdog Congo team successfully thwarted the Portuguese players' attempts to score through a resilient defensive wall. João Cancelo did manage to score a goal, but it was disallowed by the referees due to an offside ruling. Star player Cristiano Ronaldo, who was highly anticipated to shine, struggled to find the net in this match. Consequently, he extended an unwanted record of failing to score in his last 10 matches across the major international

tournaments like the World Cup and the Euros. Over these 10 matches, he attempted to score 33 times but failed to convert a single chance. This marks the sixth World Cup tournament for the 41-year-old Ronaldo. Although he has scored 143 international goals in 229 appearances for Portugal, Ronaldo has netted only eight goals in World Cup matches so far. While star players from other teams—such as Messi, Mbappé, and Haaland—scored goals in their opening matches of the tournament, the fact that Ronaldo has yet to open his account has caused significant disappointment among his fans. This setback is particularly concerning for his fans, especially given that Messi has secured the top spot in World Cup history with 16 goals—having scored a hat-trick against Algeria. Furthermore, netizens continue to post criticisms and memes on social media comparing Ronaldo and Messi. New Record for an Outfield Player: Ronaldo has set a new record as the oldest outfield player (41 years and 132 days) to start a match in World Cup history. With this feat, he has surpassed the record previously held by Canadian player Atiba Hutchinson, set during the 2022 World Cup.

US Hits Back at Israel Over Criticism of Iran Deal

US Vice President J.D. Vance has sharply remarked that killing everyone is not the sole solution for security and that Israel must grasp the reality of the situation. He stated that Israel should not cross the line regarding the Lebanon issue, noting that Trump is the only powerful leader



who supports Israel. He further pointed out that two-thirds of Israel's weaponry was produced using American tax dollars.