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Actor and director K. Bhagyaraj passes away

Chennai
 Famous actor and director K. Bhagyaraj passed away due to a heart attack. He was 73. The Tamil film industry is in mourning due to the loss of Bhagyaraj, who attracted a lot of attention in Tamil cinema with his unique style of screenwriting and entertained the audience with his humorous acting skills. It has caused great sadness. Due to his interest in the cinema industry, he worked as an assistant director to directors G. Ramakrishnan and Bharathiraja. He began his film career in 1977. He worked as an assistant director with Bharathiraja in films including '16 Vayathinile' and 'Kezhakaye Pogum Rail'. He co-wrote the stories for the films Kezhakaye Pogum Rail and Tik Tik Tik with Bharathiraja. He wrote the dialogues for the film Sigappu Rojakkal and also acted in supporting roles. He made his directorial debut with the film Swar Ela Chithiragal.



Bhagyaraj is the unrivaled screenwriter of Indian cinema" EPS tribute

Chennai
 AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi Palaniswami has said that the passing away of Bhagyaraj, who is considered to be an unrivaled screenwriter in the Indian film industry, is an irreparable loss. Regarding this, he wrote on his X site, "I was deeply shocked and saddened to hear the news that K. Bhagyaraj, a multi-talented film director, screenwriter, actor, and music composer, had passed away. The late Bhagyaraj was a great admirer of revolutionary leader MGR. He adapted scenes from the revolutionary leader's unfinished film "Anna Nee En Deivam" and adapted a new screenplay accordingly, making it a film called "Avasara Police 100" and achieving success. MGR also had great love for Bhagyaraj. The demise of the unrivaled screenwriter of the Indian film industry is an irreparable loss. I express my deepest condolences to his family, the film industry and fans who are grieving his loss. I pray to the Almighty God that his departed soul rests in the shade of the Lord." He said this.

He has directed various films and has also acted as the protagonist in his films. He has directed and acted in films including Idna Poi Naalai Vaa, Antha 7 Dhanthi, Thooral Ninnu Bochu, Darling Darling Darling, Munthanai Mudichu, Thavani Kanavugal, Chinna Veedu, Aasaara Police 100, Rasukutty, Oru Oorla Oru Rajakumari, Sokkathangam, Sidhu +2. He has also composed background music for films and sung songs. He was the editor of a weekly magazine called 'Bhagya'. Bhagyaraj, who is hailed as the 'King of Screenplays',

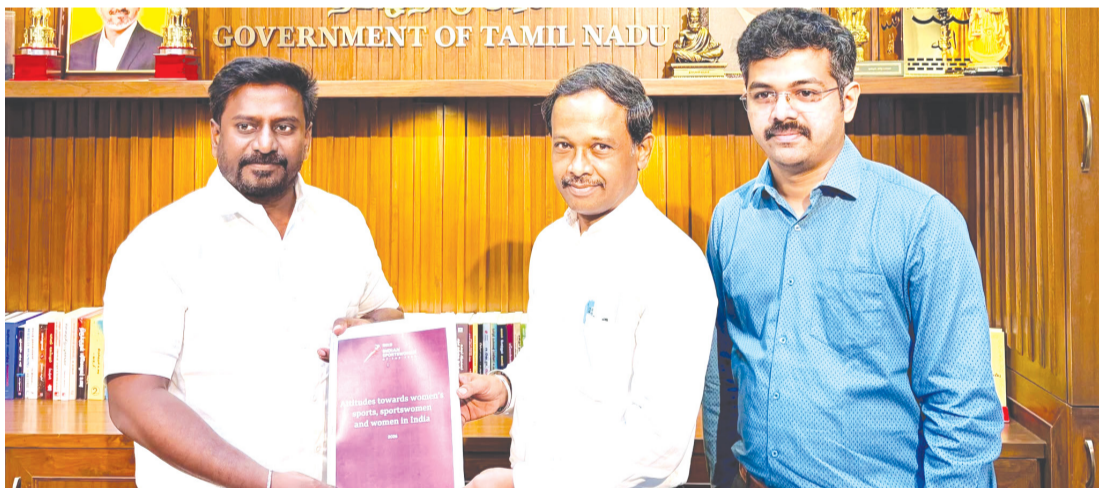
State honours to be paid to director Bhagyaraj's body Chief Minister Vijay announces

Chief Minister Vijay has said that state honours will be accorded to K. Bhagyaraj on his final journey as a tribute to his contribution to the film industry. Regarding this, he wrote on his X website, "I was deeply shocked and deeply saddened to hear the news of the passing of K. Bhagyaraj, who left his mark on the Tamil film industry with his multifaceted talent as a great director, actor, screenwriter, dialogue writer, and music composer. K. Bhagyaraj's contribution to the Tamil film world is immense, as he has made a lasting impression on the minds of Tamil people through his unique storytelling, comedic acting, and films that reflect the deep feelings of rural life and family relationships. Each of his works, along with entertaining, will remain as timeless memories that speak of humanity and social values. His demise is an irreparable loss to the Tamil film industry. I express my deepest condolences and sympathies to the family, relatives, friends, film industry and fans who are grieving the loss of K. Bhagyaraj. "I pray that his soul rests in the eternal peace of God. In appreciation of K. Bhagyaraj's contribution to the film industry and to pay tribute, state honors will be accorded to his final journey," he said.

Bhagyaraj is a real hero and a powerful writer M.K. Stalin's tribute

Chennai
 Former Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has paid tribute to the famous actor and director K. Bhagyaraj, saying, "He was an uncrowned king of screenplays, a realistic hero who captivated everyone, and a writer who had the ability to convey complex situations in short sentences, and an extraordinary director who succeeded in everything." Regarding this, he wrote on his X site, "The Tamil film industry has lost its student within a few weeks of the teacher's passing. Bhagyaraj was an incredible director who succeeded in everything, being the uncrowned king of screenplays in Indian cinema, a realistic hero who captivated everyone, and a writer who had the ability to convey complex situations in short sentences. He is proud to have nurtured many others like him as directors. Just a few months ago, I attended the function to mark Bhagyaraj's 50th anniversary in the film industry and spoke at the function not only as the Chief Minister but also as his fan. Those memories are still fresh. "It is a great loss that he has completed his life, having had the opportunity and potential to contribute to the film industry for many more years. My deepest condolences to the family, including Poomima Bhagyaraj, Shanthanu, Saranya, and friends in the film industry, who are grieving the loss of him. Through his works, Bhagyaraj will forever continue to live as an inseparable part of the people of Tamil Nadu," he said.

will be popular. His films will attract attention with their story, dialogues, and comedy. He is known as a great screenwriter. He has received various awards for his work in cinema. He has worked with major political parties in Tamil Nadu. It is noteworthy that directors Parthiban and Pandiarajan worked as assistant directors to Bhagyaraj. Following the passing of director Bharathiraja on the 10th, the passing of director Bhagyaraj today (June 27) due to a heart attack has left the film industry in deep sorrow.



Mr. Thangavel Appachi, a BBC Tamil journalist, met Mr. Rajmohan, the Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Tamil Official Language & Tamil Culture, Information and Publicity, as a courtesy call.

Why was a person with a Karnataka background made the Delhi representative of Tamil Nadu?

Chennai
 The appointment of a person with a Karnataka background as Tamil Nadu's Delhi representative raises various questions among the public. The Tamil Nadu government should explain why this appointment was made. Therefore, the Tamil Nadu government should reconsider this appointment and withdraw the appointment of Venkata Narayana," DMDK General Secretary Premalatha Vijayakanth has urged. In a statement issued on this, he said: "On behalf of the DMDK, we strongly condemn the appointment of Venkata Narayana

Premalatha demands explanation

dam construction. In such a context, the appointment of a person with a Karnataka background as Tamil Nadu's representative in Delhi raises various questions among the public. This creates a feeling of "sticking a stick to a sore throat". The Tamil Nadu government should explain why this appointment was made when there are many qualified people from Tamil Nadu. Therefore, we urge the Tamil Nadu government to reconsider this appointment and withdraw the appointment of Venkata Narayana," said Premalatha Vijayakanth.

Nadu and Karnataka has been ongoing for many years, the struggle to protect Tamil Nadu's rights regarding the Megedhattu Dam is also ongoing. Despite the Supreme Court and Cauvery management bodies issuing legal and administrative guidelines on the issue, the Karnataka government continues to maintain its commitment to the

I am 100 percent certain of resigning: Selvaperunthakai's plan

Chennai
 Tamil Nadu Congress President Selva Perundrakai has said that he is 100 percent sure of stepping down. There was strong opposition among party members against Tamil Nadu Congress leader Selva Perundrakai. In this situation, they also criticized the alliance with DMK in the last legislative assembly elections as a mistake. In this situation, Selva Perundrakai had announced that he would step down from the post of the



party's state president after the election. In response to a question raised by reporters yesterday, he said: Before the election, I had given an oath to the voters and the press that "I will not continue as the president after the election." What is the doubt in this? I am 100 percent sure about resigning. Everyone has the desire to serve as the Congress state president at some point. After getting the post, one should resign with satisfaction. I have announced this with satisfaction before the election. Because of that, there are some doubts and

bitterness. When the opportunity arises, I will speak openly about it. Therefore, I am not a person who criticizes anyone, is embarrassed, or speaks. When I met national leader Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday last week, I made a request to him to relieve me of the post of state leader. There is no pressure on me to resign. I would be happier not being in office than being in office. The next state president will be decided by the All India Presidency. He said



On the occasion of the 121st birth anniversary of 'Silambuchelvar' Ma.Po. Sivagnanam, Honorable Ministers paid their respects by garlanding his statue and showering it with flowers.

Rahul Gandhi: The 'Leader of Tourism and Celebrations' – BJP Criticizes His Foreign Trip

New Delhi

In a video released by BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla, it was stated that Rahul Gandhi should change his designation from 'Leader of the Opposition' to 'Leader of Tourism and Celebrations,' as that is precisely what he is always engaged in—celebrations, tourism, and travel. He does not prioritize the people, the Parlia-



ment, or the nation; instead, he prioritizes tourism. He absents himself during critical periods when the party requires organizational support. Rahul Gandhi is perpetually in a holiday mindset. On one

hand, Prime Minister Modi has become the longest-serving elected Prime Minister in the country's history. He has served as Chief Minister, Prime Minister, and Head of Government for over 9,000 days without taking a single day of leave. On the other hand, since Rahul Gandhi is constantly on vacation, he might well become the longest-serving Leader of the Opposition.

Appointment of VCK Office Bearers for Virudhachalam Constituency



Virudhachalam appointments—at his residence in Sethuvarayankuppam to offer their congratulations and express their gratitude. The meeting was presided over by Ko. Kothanoor P. Suresh, the Nallur North Union Secretary. He was accompanied by Union Deputy Secretaries Pazhakkadai Prakash, A. Sithur Sathguru, Sirunesalur Siva, and Thirupperiyar Sathyakala, all of whom met District Secretary Veera Dravida Mani to convey their best wishes. Also present at the event were Nallur West Union Secretary Genga.

Muthuvalavan, Aivathukudi V.C. Mani (District Organizer of the Land Rights Recovery Movement), District Deputy Secretary Naraiyur Periyasamy, and Women's Wing functionary Durgadevi. Additionally, party functionaries such as Saathiyam Ilaiyaraaja, Thirupperiyar Sehswag, Ko. Kothanoor Aravind, Sasikumar, and Rahul participated in the event. The functionaries expressed confidence that the appointment of these new office bearers would further strengthen the party's organization in the Virudhachalam constituency

Thol. Thirumavalavan, President of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and Member of Parliament for Chidambaram, recently announced the appointment of new district office bearers with the aim of further strengthening the party's organizational structure in the Virudhachalam constituency. These appointments have generated enthusiasm among party cadres and functionaries. Party functionaries visited District Secretary Veera Dravida Mani—who had recommended the new

Minister Vinoth Ravi inaugurates MLA office by lighting a traditional lamp alongside sanitation workers

Kumbakonam, June 26

A newly renovated MLA office in Kumbakonam, Thanjavur district, was inaugurated on Friday and opened for public use. At the inauguration ceremony held near the Kumbakonam Old Bus Stand, Minister Vinoth Ravi drew attention by prioritizing sanitation workers; he inaugurated the office by lighting a traditional lamp alongside them. Vinoth Ravi, who won the Kumbakonam constituency—contesting under the banner of the Joseph Vijay-led *Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam* (TVK) which formed the government following the 2026 Assembly elections—currently serves as the Minister for Agri-



culture and Farmers' Welfare. The office previously used by former MLA Chakkottai Anbalagan has been renovated and reopened. Following the event, the Minister met with the public in person and received various petitions outlining their requests. Speaking to reporters later, he noted that states like Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana lead the country in food production. He stated that similar strategies are being devised to advance

Tamil Nadu's Delta districts. He further mentioned that it has been only 40 days since he assumed office and that they are currently studying the agricultural practices and soil conditions of other states. The government is working with the aim of transforming Tamil Nadu's farmers into "pioneering farmers" and increasing their income. Minister Vinoth Ravi affirmed that various schemes for the welfare of farmers would be implemented in the future.



District Collector Durga Moorthy flagged off an awareness marathon in Dindigul, organized by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse. Subsequently, the District Collector and Dindigul Member of Parliament R. Sachidanandam distributed awareness pamphlets to the public inside the Kamarajar Bus Stand.



A 'Brahma Kamal'—a miraculous plant that blooms only once a year—has flowered at the home of Karthik, a farmer in Kolar village, Paramathi Velur Taluk, Namakkal district; local residents are marveling at the sight and admiring the flower.

Mayiladuthurai Marks International Day Against Drug Abuse with Awareness Pledge

Marking the "International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking," around 300 college students—including members of the Anti-Drug Club and the National Service Scheme (NSS) from A.V.C. College—along with government officials, took an anti-drug pledge at the Mayiladuthurai District Collector's office complex under the leadership of District Collector Srikanth. Speaking at the event, the District Collector highlighted the severe consequences of using narcotics and illicit liquor, such as loss of appetite, health deterioration, memory loss, vision impairment, organ damage, nervous system disorders, permanent disability, and sudden death. He also noted the social and personal repercussions, including the loss of respect within the community and family, as well as road accidents—resulting in property



loss and fatalities—caused by driving under the influence. He mentioned that rehabilitation centers in Mayiladuthurai district provide appropriate psychiatric counseling and medical assistance to help those affected by substance abuse break free from the habit. Furthermore, District Collector Srikanth urged students to share this awareness with those in their localities affected by substance abuse to help them recover. He encouraged students to lead healthy, drug-free lives—along with their families and relatives—and to prioritize education so they could assume responsible roles in society. He also informed them that complaints regarding drug use and sales could be lodged

anonymously via the toll-free number 10581. Subsequently, District Collector Srikanth flagged off an awareness rally against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, which proceeded from the Mayiladuthurai District Collector's office to the A.V.C. Arts and Science College in Mannampandal. District Revenue Officer Poongodi, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Prohibition Wing) Jayaraj, Mayiladuthurai Divisional Excise Officer Vijayarani, Assistant Commissioner and Excise Superintendent Tamilvendhan, coordinators of the A.V.C. College Anti-Drug Club, college students, government officials, and many others participated in the event.

Burial of Unidentified Person Police and Annapoorna Trust

Devadanapatti,

An unidentified person lost their life in a road accident within the jurisdiction of the Devadanapatti Police Station in Theni district (Crime Case No. 272/26). Following a post-mortem examination at the Dindigul Government Hospital and the completion of all legal formalities, the body was laid to rest at the Govindapuram burial ground in Dindigul. The burial arrangements were carried out on humanitarian grounds under the supervision of Devadanapatti Po-



lice Station Sub-Inspector Nagarajan, with the assistance of the Dindigul-based Annapoorna Trust. Members of the public and social activists have expressed their appreciation to the

Devadanapatti police and the management of Annapoorna Trust for performing this humanitarian service by ensuring the respectful burial of the unidentified individual.

Andipatti MLA Urges Tamil Nadu Government to Seek Supreme Court Review on Hill Village Eviction Order

Following the Supreme Court's recent order to evict residents of over 30 hill villages in the Kadamalainkundu-Mayiladumparai Union area from the forest zone, Andipatti MLA Maharajan submitted a petition to Theni District Collector Vaidyanathan, urging the Tam-

il Nadu government to file a review petition against the order. The petition emphasizes that the Tamil Nadu government must immediately file a review petition to reconsider the Supreme Court's directive, thereby safeguarding the livelihoods of farmers who have inhabited these hill regions

for three generations. Andipatti DMK MLA Maharajan was accompanied during the submission of the petition by Kadamalainkundu-Mayiladumparai Union Secretaries (Advocates) Subramani and Thangapandi, as well as District Farmers' Wing Organizer Valiparai Jayapal, among others.



A certificate distribution and appreciation ceremony was held for students who completed a two-month summer computer training course at the CSC Computer Training Center in Periyakulam, Theni district. During the event, the center's proprietors, Sundararaj and Lakshmi, spoke to the students about the importance of learning computer skills and explained their practical applications. Notably, S. Sadhana Sri, an eighth-grade student, received a certificate for passing the Python course (covering web development, artificial intelligence, and data analysis) with a first-class distinction ('A' grade). Teachers and parents commended Sadhana Sri for completing this training at such a young age.



Theni District Collector R. Vaidyanathan, along with Cumbum MLA PLA Jaganath Misra and Periyakulam MLA Sabari Ayyangan, met Praveen Gautam, IPS—who has assumed charge as the Superintendent of Police for Theni District—in person to offer their congratulations.



A 14-year-old girl studying in the ninth grade, hailing from Melasokkanathapuram in Bodinayakanur Taluk, Theni district, reported that an unidentified individual had sexually harassed her on June 18, 2026, while she was returning home from school. Acting on this complaint, a team from the Theni District 'Singappenn' Special Task Force—led by Sub-Inspector Pandiselvi and comprising Anusuyadevi and Subbulakshmi Ranjith—visited the scene today (June 25, 2026). They interviewed the girl privately, and she recounted the incident in the presence of her mother. Subsequently, she was brought to the Bodinayakanur All-Women Police Station and handed over to Inspector Ayyammal Jothi in her mother's presence; a case has been registered, and an intensive search for the perpetrator is underway.



Acting under the orders of Dindigul District Superintendent of Police S. Jayakumar, IPS, the 'Singappenn' (Lioness) Special Task Force conducted an awareness drive in Dindigul. They engaged with female employees at a private textile shop and members of the public at the Kottai Mariamman Temple, educating them on the safety of women and children and informing them about the dedicated helpline numbers—181, 1098, and the 'Singappenn' helpline 1091.

FORECAST							RAIN FORECAST	
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	NEXT 5 DAYS	
SUNNY	SUNNY	RELAYD SHYR	RAIN	PARTLY CLOUDY	SUNNY	PARTLY CLOUDY		
28°C	30°C	27°C	25°C	26°C	29°C	28°C	0-5 5-10 10-15 15-20 20-25 25-30 30-35 35-40 40-45 45-50	
18°C	19°C	18°C	17°C	17°C	18°C	19°C	AVERAGE HIGH: 27°C AVERAGE LOW: 18°C WIND: NE 10 km/h	

Heat wave sweeping across European countries unquenchable sorrow and background

Paris, Major cities around the world are struggling with a common problem today: a severe heat wave that is suffocating people! Temperatures in many parts of Europe have crossed 40 degrees Celsius by the end of June. Many countries, including Spain, France, Italy, and Germany, have been gripped by a severe heat wave. According to data from meteorological agencies, more than 380 million people are directly affected by this heat wave. The heat wave is being blamed on an atmospheric system known as the 'Omega Block'. The phenomenon is warning that Europe is becoming the fastest-warming continent in the world.

Why isn't the heat going out?

Normally, the jet stream moves weather systems from one area to another. But sometimes, a high-pressure area in the atmosphere becomes fixed in one area. It is called the 'Omega Block' because it resembles the Greek letter 'Ω'. Once this structure forms, cold air cannot enter, and at the same time, the



heat inside cannot escape. This results in a large heat ring, which can last for days or weeks. This time, researchers say that warm air from the Sahara Desert in North Africa was trapped in this atmospheric system that formed over Europe. This is not the first time this has happened. Europe has experienced such heat waves before. In particular, the 2003 heat wave was considered one of the worst climate disasters in modern European history. Studies suggest that more than 70,000 people died in that heat wave. Severe heat waves were then recorded in 2019 and 2022. Studies indicate that more than 60,000 heat-related deaths were recorded in Europe in 2022 alone. The heat wave is intensifying in

2026, breaking several temperature records. Temperatures have been recorded in parts of France above 44 degrees Celsius. Countries including Spain, Switzerland, and the UK are also breaking previous records for June temperatures.

Is the shadow of 2003 the reality of 2026?

The heat wave that shocked Europe in 2003 was considered a rare event that would happen once every few decades. But today the situation has changed. According to climate scientists, events like the current heat wave are increasing by 100 to 200 times due to human-induced climate change. Studies show that daytime temperatures in current heat waves are about 3.5 degrees Celsius

higher and nighttime temperatures are 1.3 degrees Celsius higher than in 2003. This means that the human body, which struggles with heat during the day, does not get enough rest at night.

Spain in the lead

Spain has been one of the countries hardest hit by this heatwave, with more than 200 heat-related deaths reported in just four days. Even in the normally cool northern regions, temperatures have exceeded 42 degrees Celsius. Drought, water shortages and the risk of forest fires have further complicated the country. Many areas that were once considered a tourist paradise are now under heat warnings. France declares public health emergency France has become

the epicenter of the 2026 heat wave. Most parts of the country have been put under red alert. The southwestern city of Pisos recorded a temperature of 44.3 degrees Celsius. Several deaths were also reported as people sought refuge in bodies of water to escape the heat. The heat has also affected electrical infrastructure. In some areas, thousands of homes are without electricity. Agricultural organizations also report that there have been heavy losses in livestock and poultry farms.

Italy in the grip of heat

The Italian government has issued the highest heat warning for 16 major cities, including Rome, Milan, Florence, and Venice. According to satellite data, surface temperatures in Rome have reached 44 degrees Celsius, with increasing impacts on roads, public transport and urban infrastructure. Reports indicate that the number of people requiring heat-related emergency treatment in hospitals is also increasing. Veluniva The question arises here: 'Is Europe be-

coming the fastest warming continent in the world?' According to climate scientists, Europe has been warming at twice the global average since the 1980s. This is why scientists refer to Europe as the 'fastest warming continent in the world'. There are many reasons for this. The main reasons are the rapid melting of glaciers in the Arctic, the decline of natural systems that reflect solar heat, and atmospheric changes. Europe, once known for its winters, is today becoming the new address for heat waves. Doctors say the greatest danger from a heatwave is at night, not during the day. The body, which is exposed to high temperatures during the day, only returns to normal when the temperature drops at night. But now, temperatures are still high

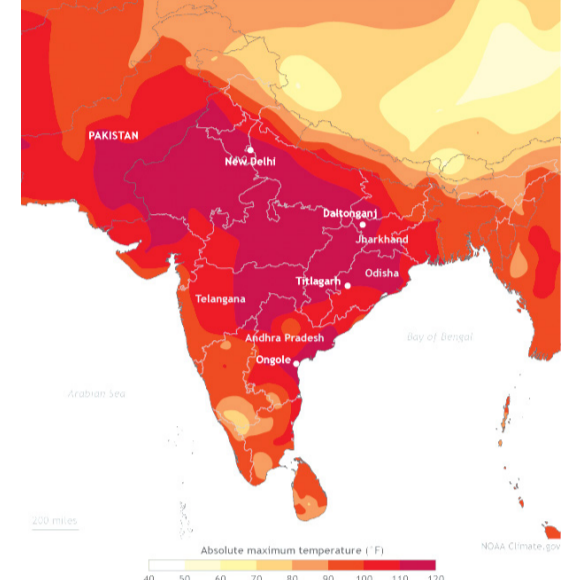
at night in many European cities. This deprives the body of rest. The elderly, children, heart patients, and those who live alone are especially at risk. That is why heat is also referred to as the 'silent killer' by many health organizations.

The situation where houses themselves become heat traps

Summer heat is not new in India. So

people are used to fans and air conditioning. But most houses in Europe are built to withstand the winter. They are designed with thick walls and construction methods that retain heat inside. That has become a problem with the current heat wave. In many countries, air conditioning facilities are also not widespread in homes. As a result, many houses become heat traps.

Heat wave (May 24-30, 2015)



A warning for India?

This is not just a European problem. India has also been experiencing severe heat waves in the past few years. Cities like Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru have been issuing warnings about the effects of rising temperatures. Europe's current experience is a reminder of the need for countries around the world to think about future urban planning, water resource management, and public health preparations. The heat wave that is circling Europe today is not just a climate news story. It is also seen as a warning that the impact of climate change will not spare any corner of the world. This heat, which is scorching the cities of Paris, Rome, and Madrid, could knock on the door of any other city in the world tomorrow.

Clash between Marxist and BJP Councilors in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Cases Registered Against Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Two Former Ministers

Thiruvananthapuram Police have registered cases against 12 individuals—including Mayor V.V. Rajesh, Deputy Mayor Asha Nath, and two former CPM ministers—following a clash between BJP and Communist councilors at the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation. The Kerala High Court had previously annulled the swearing-in of 20 BJP councilors (including Deputy Mayor Asha Nath) because they had taken their oaths in the name of various deities. Subsequently, on the 24th—just hours after the High Court order was issued—19 BJP councilors, including Deputy Mayor Asha Nath, took their



oaths again in the presence of Mayor V.V. Rajesh. All of them took the pledge in the name of God. However, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] strongly objected to the swearing-in ceremony being conducted without informing the other councilors. Against this backdrop, Mayor V.V. Rajesh arrived at the Corporation office as usual the day before yesterday. Councilors from the CPI(M) and

the Communist Party of India (CPI) gathered there and staged a protest, blocking the Mayor from entering his office. BJP councilors rushed to the scene, leading to a violent scuffle between the two groups. During the altercation, several councilors, including Mayor V.V. Rajesh and Deputy Mayor Asha Nath, fell to the ground. Twenty people—including the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, and a policewoman—

sustained injuries in the incident. Both the BJP and the CPI(M) lodged complaints with the Thiruvananthapuram Museum Police regarding the matter. Following this, the police registered four cases. Based on a complaint filed by the BJP, cases were registered against former CPM ministers Kadakampally Surendran and Sivankutty; conversely, based on a complaint filed by the CPM, cases were registered against Mayor V.V. Rajesh and Deputy Mayor Asha Nath. In total, cases were registered against 12 individuals, including these leaders. No-Confidence Motion There are 101 councilors in the

Thiruvananthapuram Corporation. The party-wise breakdown is as follows: BJP (50 members), Left alliance (29 members), Congress alliance (20 members), and 2 independents. The BJP secured control of the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation with the support of one independent councilor. Against this backdrop, the Left alliance is considering moving a no-confidence motion with the support of the Congress. The Left alliance is also making concerted efforts to secure the support of the two independent councilors to defeat the BJP. Mayor Rajesh stated that he is prepared to face the no-confidence motion.

Lava Smart 4 Plus smartphone launched in India: Price, special features

Chennai

Lava Smart 4 Plus phone has been introduced in the Indian smartphone market at a budget price. Let's take a detailed look at the special features of this phone. Lava International is an international electronics company headquartered in India. The company manufactures and sells smartphones and feature phones under the Lava brand. In this situation, the Lava Smart 4 Plus smartphone has been launched in the Indian market. This phone has been released in Lava's Smart series. This phone is considered to be the right choice for those who want to buy a smartphone for less than ten thousand rupees. Lava Smart 4 Plus: What are the special features?



- 6.75 inch HD+ display
- Android 15 Go Edition
- Unisoc SC9863A chipset
- 4 GB RAM
- 64 GB storage
- 13 megapixel rear camera
- 5,000 mAh battery
- 10 watts charging support
- Type-C USB port

This phone is available in two colors: blue and white. 4G network

The price of this phone has been announced as Rs. 9,999.

60 Million Names Removed in a Single Year During SIR

New Delhi A pilot project for the special intensive revision of electoral rolls was launched in Bihar on June 24 of last year. Following this exercise, approximately 6.5 million names were removed from the voter list in the state. At the time, opposition parties and social activists alleged that the Election Commission was acting at the behest of

the BJP to strip citizens of their voting rights by citing a lack of documentation. A year has passed since the launch of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls. The exercise is currently underway across 19 states and Union Territories. So far, the names of approximately 60 million voters have been removed. Furthermore, this initiative has sparked disagree-

ments between opposition parties and the Election Commission. In the second phase of the exercise—announced on October 27 of last year—the electoral rolls in states such as West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Goa saw a reduction of 10.2 percent.

Prior to the revision, the total number of voters in these states and Union Territories stood at 509.9 million; following the exercise, the figure stands at 458.1 million. More than 51.8 million names have been removed.

SIR Scheme in NCERT Textbook

A lesson regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) scheme for electoral rolls has been

included in the Class 9 Social Science textbook published by the NCERT. The scheme is described as a measure to ensure that no eligible citizen is left out of the electoral roll and that no ineligible person is included. The book commends the Election Commission of India for conducting impartial elections amidst challenges such as fake news, misinformation, and threats.

Air Suvidha Reintroduced for International Travelers

New Delhi

Amidst the spread of the Ebola virus in certain parts of Africa, the Union Government has relaunched the upgraded 'Air Suvidha 2.0' portal to enhance public health surveillance. The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation and DIAL (Delhi International Airport Limited),

AIR SUVIDHA 2.0



the operator of Delhi Airport, jointly reintroduced Air Suvidha 2.0. Under this initiative, it has become mandatory for all international travelers arriving in India to submit

their details via this portal. Travelers are required to provide information such as their travel history for the past 21 days and details regarding any viral infection or associated symptoms. The Air Suvidha self-declaration form can be filled out up to 24 hours prior to arrival in India.

Protecting children's rights is the government's responsibility those who attack schools and children must be punished

UN

India has urged at the United Nations that those who attack schools and children must be punished. A debate was held at the UN Security Council the day before yesterday under the theme, "Protecting education for children affected by armed conflict and strengthening preventive measures: From policy commitments to effective action." India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Harish Parvathaneni, participated in the discus-

sion. Speaking on the occasion, Harish Parvathaneni stated, "Protection without accountability is incomplete. Accountability must be ensured for those who, undeterred by the prospect of punishment, target schools and children in their attacks. A recent report by the UN Secretary-General on children and armed conflict reveals that violations against children during armed conflicts have reached

India asserts at the UN



alarming levels. Children have been affected to an unprecedented degree. The UN has verified 38,558 grave violations affecting

24,174 children. This figure represents the highest number of children affected by such grave violations since the monitoring

mechanism was established. Globally, more than one in six children—amounting to 473 million—live in or are displaced from conflict zones. Of these, over 85 million children have no access to education. No leniency should be shown to those who target schools and children; they must be brought to justice and severely punished. Education is a right that must be upheld even during times of conflict. Ensuring this right is one of the most significant contributions toward establishing lasting peace. India maintains a firm stance on protecting children during armed conflicts and upholding their right to learn, grow, and realize their full potential. Safeguarding a child's education is tantamount to safeguarding a nation's future. Governments bear the primary responsibility for fulfilling the obligations to protect and promote the rights of children."

TODAY RASI PALAN

	ARIES	You may feel energetic and confident today. Good time to start new tasks. Avoid anger and unnecessary arguments.
	TAURUS	Financial gains are indicated. You may buy something useful. Family life will be peaceful. Take care of your health.
	GEMINI	Your efforts will bring good results. You may get support from friends. Be careful while travelling.
	CANCER	Today is favorable for important work. Avoid stress and overthinking. Spend time with your loved ones.
	LEO	You will gain respect and recognition. Good time for studies and career growth. Stay calm and positive.
	VIRGO	You may get new opportunities. Hard work will pay off. Manage your time and responsibilities well.
	LIBRA	Financial situation will improve. You may clear pending works. Avoid unnecessary expenses.
	SCORPIO	You may overcome challenges. Be patient and control your emotions. Good time for spiritual activities.
	SAGITTARIUS	Day is good for learning and growth. You may receive good news. Maintain confidence and focus.
	CAPRICORN	Work progress will be satisfactory. You may get support from seniors. Take care of your health.
	AQUARIUS	New ideas will bring success. Time is good for investments. Avoid ego and be humble.
	PISCES	You may spend time on creativity and hobbies. Family support will be there. Stay positive and happy.

★ Have a great day ahead! ★

Small Aircraft Crashes into China's Tallest Building

Beijing

Panic ensued after a small aircraft crashed into one of China's tallest buildings. The 'CITIC Tower' is a towering commercial building located in the Chinese capital, Beijing. Yesterday evening at 6:00 PM, a Chinese-made small passenger aircraft collided with this 1,732-foot-tall structure. There has been no information



regarding any casualties resulting from the incident. However, wreckage from the aircraft was found scattered across the building. Videos of the crash circulated

rapidly on social media but were quickly removed. Furthermore, Chinese authorities have not released any official statement regarding the accident.

Missile Attack Warning Sparks Alarm in Dubai

Dubai

Amidst the backdrop of a ceasefire agreement between Iran and the United States, an alert message was sent yesterday to the mobile phones of the public in Dubai via the UAE government's emergency warning system. The message advised people to move to safe buildings and stay away from



doors and windows. This caused panic and shock among the residents. However, within minutes of the alert, a follow-up

message was issued asking people to disregard the previous warning; it appears the alert had been sent in error.

Bodies Recovered from Rubble Venezuela Earthquake Death Toll Rises to 589 3,000 Seriously Injured

La Guaira

The death toll from the earthquake in Venezuela has risen to 589, with 2,980 people seriously injured. Personnel from various countries have arrived in Venezuela to assist with rescue operations. Two powerful earthquakes struck the northern part of the country in quick succession last Wednesday. Initially, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake was recorded near San Felipe, followed by another measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale. Areas including Caracas and the port city of La Guaira have been devastated by this earthquake—the worst to hit the country since 1900. Venezuela's Interim President, Delcy Rodríguez, stated, "We are making intensive efforts to rescue people trapped in the rubble of buildings following this catastrophic earthquake.

The death toll has risen to 589, and 2,980 people have sustained serious injuries. Personnel from various countries have arrived in Venezuela to assist with rescue operations." Simón Bolívar International Airport has been closed due to severe damage, causing difficulties in the arrival of foreign aid. Rescue operations have been hampered by the complete disruption of electricity and mobile communication services across several states. While special teams have been deployed for rescue operations, Starlink is providing free mobile and internet services for one month. Search operations for the missing are continuing around the clock. It is feared that the death toll could rise further, as hundreds of people may still be trapped alive beneath the rubble. * Infant Rescued

Unharmed in the La Guaira region of Venezuela, the rescue of an infant found alive and uninjured amidst the rubble deeply moved the rescue teams. Similarly, a 12-year-old boy and a woman were also rescued alive after a struggle lasting several hours. A video showing a dog being rescued alive from the debris and given water is currently going viral on social media. 50,000 People Missing? Shocking reports indicate that 50,000 people are missing following the earthquake. This earthquake—the most severe in a century—has devastated Venezuela. Areas including the capital, Caracas, and La Guaira have suffered extensive damage. While the bodies of 188 victims have been recovered, reports suggest that approximately 50,000 people remain missing.

A foolish violation!" - Trump strongly condemns Iran for drone attack in the Strait of Hormuz

Washington

US President Donald Trump has accused Iran of carrying out a drone attack on a cargo ship traveling in the Strait of Hormuz, violating a temporary ceasefire agreement reached between the United States and Iran. He also strongly criticized Iran's move as a foolish violation of the bilateral peace agreement. In a post on his Truth Social media page, Trump said, "The Republic of Iran has launched at least four suicide drones targeting ships attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz. One of the drones struck the upper deck of a large and very valuable cargo ship with pinpoint accuracy. The



ship has sustained damage but is continuing its journey." "The remaining three drones have been shot down by our security forces. This certainly shows that Iran has foolishly violated our ceasefire agreement." While Trump did not explicitly name the ship in his post, Taiwan-based shipping company Evergreen Marine

has issued an official statement. The company confirmed that its Singapore-flagged container ship, Ever Lovely, was struck by an unidentified object while passing through the Strait of Hormuz near the Strait of Oman. Although some windows on the ship's upper deck were damaged in the attack, the 21 crew members on board

and the cargo inside were not harmed, and the ship is continuing its journey safely. The United States and Iran signed a temporary 60-day ceasefire agreement last week. This is the first attack on a commercial vessel since the agreement, and the UN's International Maritime Organization, which was working to safely evacuate more

than 600 ships stuck in the Strait of Hormuz, has announced that it is temporarily suspending its rescue operations. On the other hand, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Qasem Garibaldi has warned on the X side that they cannot guarantee the safety of any ship passing through the Strait of Hormuz without Iran's guidance and permission. The drone strike is feared to have a significant impact on the final peace talks between the two countries, as US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has warned that "Iran will face significant consequences if it continues to threaten shipping."

Sudden Price Hike for Apple Products in India

Delhi

Prices of Apple products in the Indian market have risen by up to 42%. Global prices for memory chips (RAM) and storage components have surged sharply due to the growing demand for Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure. Consequently, Apple has increased the prices of products such as MacBooks and iPads

in India by 20% to 42%. Senior Apple officials stated that the price hikes were necessitated by the severe and unprecedented global rise in memory chip costs driven by the rapid expansion of AI technology. They further confirmed that these price adjustments have already been implemented and are now in effect at Apple Stores and on the Ap-

ple India website. For the past few months, Apple had absorbed the increased costs of components like RAM and storage chips to shield consumers, holding off on price hikes for at least two quarters. However, reports indicate that the company was compelled to raise prices as the mounting costs became unsustainable

GOLD - 22 CARAT	
	1g ₹13,301 / gram
	10g ₹1,33,010 / 10 grams
	PETROL ₹107.64 / litre (Chennai)
	DIESEL ₹99.76 / litre (Chennai)

Sharp Drop in Crude Oil Prices: Will Petrol and Diesel Prices Fall in India?

Delhi

With crude oil prices plummeting in the international market, expectations have arisen regarding a potential reduction in petrol and diesel prices in India. Crude oil prices have dropped to levels not seen in the last four months, driven by easing war tensions in the Middle East and market optimism regarding increased supply. The price of a barrel of Brent crude oil has fallen below



\$73, reaching its lowest point since February. Similarly, the price of US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil has dropped to around \$69 per barrel. Crude oil prices have fallen by

approximately 8% to 24% in recent weeks due to factors such as a peace agreement between the US and Iran, increased supply resulting from the US easing oil export sanctions on Iran,

and the normalization of commercial shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. However, experts state that despite the sharp decline in international crude oil prices, there is unlikely to

be an immediate reduction in petrol and diesel prices in India. This is because Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are currently refining and selling crude oil that was purchased at higher prices. Furthermore, when global crude oil prices were at their peak, these companies absorbed losses rather than raising prices in India; experts note that the companies are now using the current price drop to offset those earlier losses.