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## Changes needed in 125-day work plan

# Additional financial burden of Rs 5,000 crore Chief Minister Vijay's letter to Prime Minister Modi

Chennai  
 Chief Minister Vijay has written a letter to Prime Minister Modi, stating that the state government will face an additional financial burden of up to Rs. 5,000 crore, and that changes should be made to the VP-GRAMJI scheme, including continuing 100% central government funding for salaries and administrative expenses. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, a 100-day employment scheme to improve the livelihood of rural people across the country, was implemented by the Central Government. In contrast, the Central Government has introduced a new scheme called Bharat

- Gram Employment Guarantee and Livelihood Scheme (VB-G Ram Ji), which has been developed with some changes. Through this, 125 days of employment will be available. This scheme came into effect yesterday across the country, including Tamil Nadu. A fund of Rs. 12,642 crore has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme in Tamil Nadu. Of this, the Central Government's contribution is Rs. 7,585 crore. In this situation, Chief Minister Vijay has written a letter to Prime Minister Modi regarding this project. In it, the Chief Minister said: The financial sharing mechanism and operational rules of



the VP-GRAMJI scheme will cause an additional financial burden of more than Rs. 5 thousand crores to the state government and will have operational implications. However, major changes and relaxations are needed in the rules of the scheme. Failure to do so will seriously affect the smooth and effective functioning of the scheme at the field level. This will

also affect the rural people who depend on the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Further, as far as the method of financial sharing is concerned, the current guidelines stipulate that salaries, fixed assets and administrative expenses will be shared between the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 60:40. This change will impose a huge fi-

financial burden on the state exchequer as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been operating under a different structure for the last two decades. This is likely to result in a reduction in wages and working days. The allocation for other essential welfare schemes may also be reduced. Therefore, 100 percent finan-

cial assistance from the Central Government should continue to cover the salary and administrative expenses. The cost of essential items should be shared between the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 75:25. The proposed mechanism for classifying rural municipalities and distributing state-level financial allocations in this scheme, which will bring in a more streamlined administrative management, and a uniform cost-based approach across the country, will allow state governments to formulate a separate mechanism for distributing funds based on the local and field-level needs of the respective state.

The Act requires the State Government to declare a period of 60 days in each financial year, including the main sowing and harvesting seasons, as permanent. It would make it mandatory to temporarily suspend work during that period. The District Magistrates would be empowered to declare a period of 60 days as permanent in case of unforeseen circumstances like 'El Niño'. The inclusion of state housing schemes under the VP-Jiramji Act will significantly accelerate the achievement of these welfare scheme goals and ensure housing for all. Each of the Central, State or Local Government Schemes will have to be notified separately by

the Central Government. It would be most beneficial to give the State Governments the power to consolidate the schemes and give notification and approval. This project should continue to be implemented in the name of Mahatma Gandhi, in a manner that honors his dignity. Tamil Nadu has been a national leader in implementing rural employment schemes. With these major changes, the scheme can be implemented in a more targeted manner, benefiting the rural masses and with a strong focus on rural development. These proposals will be considered, the Chief Minister said in the letter

## Volunteers happy as traitors leave

# Palaniswami's comments at AIADMK women's wing meeting

Chennai  
 Party General Secretary Palaniswami has said that the party's volunteers are happy that traitors are leaving the AIADMK. A consultative meeting on the role of women in AIADMK development work was held yesterday at the party headquarters in Royapettah, Chennai, under the chairmanship of General Secretary Palaniswami. Palaniswami said: AIADMK is a movement that runs with democracy. People from different castes and religions are united and working for the people. AIADMK, which has been working for the people for half a century, cannot be destroyed or eradicated. People who voted for AIADMK



People voted for AIADMK and made them MLAs. But those who won under the two leaves symbol are resigning and joining Thaweka. What qualifications does Chief Minister Vijay have to run this government? Winning and losing elections are normal. Our vote percentage in the assembly elections is higher than in the last Lok Sabha elections. Vijay has come to power without doing anything for the people. Even after coming to power, he has been

ruling by forcing AIADMK MLAs to resign without doing anything for the people. The workers are happy and excited as traitors are leaving the AIADMK. Everyone should work to strengthen the AIADMK. Mahila Raniya should immediately start the Thingnai campaign and tell the people, especially women, about the achievements made during the regime led by MGR, Jayalalithaa and myself. He said this. At the end of the program, party Dep-

uty General Secretary K.P. Munusamy told reporters, "They are leaving the party after enjoying all the comforts and conveniences of office. "What do we care if the traitors go where they have faced many cases? They have betrayed us at a time when they should have supported and held the party in defeat," he said. Women's wing leader P. Valaramathi says, "The AIADMK has survived many trials. As traitors are leaving, the party is becoming pure." "The new executives have started working with enthusiasm," he said. The meeting was attended by party chairman Tamil Magan Hussain and treasurer Dindigul Srinivasan.



The Honorable Minister for Forests, Thiru R.V. Ranjithkumar, inaugurated the use of 250 modern weapons procured under the Tamil Nadu Forest Force Modernization Scheme today and flagged off new security patrol vehicles for frontline forest staff.

## Communist leaders meet with Chief Minister despite Thaweka not participating in meeting of allied parties

Chennai  
 Leaders of communist parties met Chief Minister Vijay, despite not participating in the meeting of allied parties hosted by the Tevaga. The consultative meeting of allied parties was held in Kovalam yesterday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Vijay. Although leaders of allied parties were invited to the meeting, the communist parties did not participate. In this situation, Marxist Communist State Secretary P. Shanmugam and Communist Party of India State Secretary M. Veerapandian met Chief Minister Vijay at the Secretariat yesterday morning. They later told reporters: M. Veerapandian: We presented various demands to Chief Minister Vijay, such as job security for sanitation workers and work-



ers from other states working on a contract basis. The Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India-Marxist did not participate in the meeting of the TDP's allied parties. We are not part of the government. We are not in the alliance with the ally party either. We are supporting it from outside for political reasons so that the people's power should not be passed on to the Governor. We met the Chief Minister only so that we would not spoil the good atmosphere there when

we had a tea party for the ally parties. P. Shanmugam: We have already openly announced that we have external support for the formation of this government and that that support will continue. There will be no problem with that. We don't see it as strengthening the government if it participates in the tea party, otherwise it weakens it. There are reports that a new alliance is being formed under the leadership of Thaweka. Neither the Chief Minister nor the ministers have spoken to

us about this. It is not appropriate for DMK leader M.K. Stalin to say that this government will soon fall. No such situation has arisen in Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister has said that the budget may be presented by the end of this month. This is what they said. Ministers N. Anand, Adhav Arjuna, Communist Party of India State Deputy Secretary N. Periyasamy, and former Communist Party of India (Marxist) State Secretary K. Balakrishnan were present at the event.



Thiru P. Venkataramanan, the Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, inaugurated a free eye screening camp for school students, teachers, and parents—organized by Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital at the Government Higher Secondary School in Ward 123, Teynampet (Mylapore constituency, Chennai) to mark the 52nd birthday of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu—and interacted with the students.

## District Collector Durgamurthy, IAS, Launches VB-GRAM G Awareness Drive

Dindigul

An awareness meeting regarding the key features and benefits of the 'Viksit Bharat – Rural Employment and Livelihood Guarantee Scheme' (VB-GRAM G) was held at Thattarapatti Panchayat in Vedasandur Panchayat Union, Dindigul District, on 01.07.2026, in the presence of Mrs. S. Gangadharani, Project Director of the District Rural Development Agency. Speaking on this occasion, the District Collector stated: The Viksit Bharat – Rural Employment and Livelihood Guarantee Scheme' (VB-GRAM G) has officially come into effect today across the country, replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. To facilitate the seamless transition of rural beneficiaries from the old scheme to the new one and to highlight the additional benefits of the new scheme, the Dindigul district administration has launched intensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) awareness campaigns in all village panchayats



starting today. The primary objective of this awareness drive is to ensure that every rural family clearly understands the new rights available to them under the 'VB-GRAM G' Act, which has been formulated with a focus on rural populations. Unlike the previous 100-day work limit, the 'VB-GRAM G' scheme legally guarantees 125 days of wage employment per financial year to eligible rural families. Furthermore, a dedicated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will be formulated under this scheme for beneficiaries such as women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and transgender individuals. To foster the development of village panchayats, approval has been granted to undertake 318 types of works across categories including water conservation, basic rural infrastructure, rural livelihoods,

and disaster management. Accordingly, an awareness meeting regarding the scheme's operations was held today in areas falling under the Vedasandur Panchayat Union, in the presence of the Project Director of the District Rural Development Agency. District Collector Durgamurthy, IAS, stated that departmental measures have been initiated to conduct similar awareness meetings about the scheme across all rural areas of the district. Officials from the relevant departments participated in the awareness meeting held at Thattarapatti Panchayat, including Assistant Project Officer (Wages & Employment) Prakash, Vedasandur Block Development Officers Karpagam (Village Panchayat) and Kumaran (Block Panchayat), and Vedasandur Panchayat Union Assistant Engineer Balan.

## Prizes for Students Excelling in Book Reading During Summer Vacation

Reading is the Foundation for Success

Advice from Devakottai Treasury Officer Karunanidhi

Devakottai, July

A prize distribution ceremony was held at the Chairman Manickavasagam Middle School in Devakottai, Sivaganga district, to honor students who had read books and provided excellent feedback during the summer vacation. School teacher Vinodha delivered the welcome address, and Headmaster Le. Chockalingam presided over the event. Devakottai Sub-Treasury Officer Karunanidhi attended as the special guest; he presented prizes to the students who excelled in reading and commended their efforts. Speaking on the occasion, he said: "It is important not only to read a book but also to reflect on and record what we have learned from it. Reading helps make productive use of time while enhancing memory, communication skills, critical thinking, and general knowledge. Good books help shape a person's character. Achievers across various fields worldwide have reached great heights largely be-



cause they cultivated the habit of reading. Therefore, students should make reading an integral part of their lives. One should also cultivate the habit of sharing the ideas gained through reading with others. This practice boosts self-confidence, language proficiency, and the ability to express oneself effectively. In addition to books, one should read newspapers daily. Reading both Tamil and English newspapers, in particular, improves language skills and raises awareness of current affairs. Knowledge of current events is crucial for success in competitive examinations. Even if one does not succeed in a particular exam, one should not lose heart; there are many more opportunities ahead. Success is certain if one persists in their efforts. Life offers abundant opportuni-



District Collector Mrs. P.S. Leela Alex, I.A.S., inaugurated a Foot-and-Mouth Disease vaccination camp for livestock today (01.07.2026) at Somanathapuram village, Melpadi Panchayat, Katpadi Panchayat Union, Vellore District, under the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NAD-CP). Katpadi Union Council President Mr. V. Velmurugan, Zonal Joint Director (Animal Husbandry) (In-charge) Dr. Anthuvan, Assistant Directors Dr. S. Raghunath and Dr. T. Rajavelu, and Melpadi Panchayat Council President Mr. Nithyanantham, among others, participated in the camp.



At a special Gram Sabha meeting for adolescent girls held today (01.07.2026) at Vallimalai Panchayat, Katpadi Panchayat Union, Vellore District, District Collector Mrs. P.S. Leela Alex, I.A.S., presented certificates of appreciation to students who excelled in various competitions—such as speech and essay contests—focused on women's safety, held at the Vallimalai Government Higher Secondary School. The meeting was attended by several officials and dignitaries, including Mr. V. Velmurugan (Katpadi Union Council Chairman), Mrs. R. Premalatha (District Chief Educational Officer), Mrs. R. Uma (District Social Welfare Officer), Dr. Renuka (District Maternal Health Officer), Mr. K. Ashwin Prasad (District Child Protection Officer), Mrs. P. Sujatha (Child Development Project Officer, Katpadi), Mr. M. Kamaraj (Lawyer, District Legal Services Authority), Mrs. Surya (Sub-Inspector, 'Singappen' Task Force), Mr. N. Prakash (Assistant Director, Panchayats), Mrs. S. Selvi (Block Development Officer), Mrs. S. Vasuki (Panchayat Council President), and Mr. K. Saravanan (Panchayat Council Secretary).

## Palani Arulmigu Koonakkali Amman Temple Festival: Procession Featuring Over 200 Mulaipparis!

Palani

The festival at the renowned Arulmigu Koonakkali Amman Temple, located on Kacheri Pudhu Street in Palani, Dindigul district, is currently being celebrated with great grandeur. The Mulaippari procession—considered a highlight of the festival's second day—was conducted magnificently. Mr. Palanivel, proprietor of Palani Sidhanathan & Sons, formally inaugurated the procession, which commenced from the temple



premises. More than 200 participants, including women and children, carried the \*Mulaipparis\* (sprouted grain pots) with deep devotion. Accompanied by the sounds of traditional drums and music, and punctuated by spectacular fireworks, the procession wound its way through the town's

main streets before finally returning to the temple complex. A large number of devotees, youth, and members of the public gathered to witness this captivating procession and offer prayers to the deity. The temple administrators and local residents had made excellent arrangements for the festival.

## Protest for temple worship rights near Thiruchuli Former CPI(M) MLA Balabharathi arrested

Virudhunagar

A continuous protest was planned for today in Thoppalakkara village, near Thiruchuli in Virudhunagar district, demanding permission for people from all sections of society to worship at the local temple without discrimination. Balabharathi, a senior leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and a former Member of the Legislative Assembly

(MLA), arrived at the village to support and participate in this protest. However, the police stopped her at the village outskirts, preventing her entry, and arrested her following a heated argument. As the incident caused a stir in the area, the police issued stern warnings to the villagers to abandon the protest. Nevertheless, remaining steadfast in their resolve not to back down until their legitimate right was secured, the villagers defied the police warning and staged a sudden road blockade protest. With traffic brought to a standstill and a tense atmosphere prevailing, the police arrested all the protesting villagers and detained them in a private wedding hall in Mandakasalai. Following this incident, heavy police security has been deployed in Thoppalakkara and surrounding areas, and a state of high tension persists.



## Aadivelu Returns as Puliyaugudi Police Inspector; Sahul Hameed

Tenkasi, July 2

Aadivelu, previously serving at the Alangulam police station, has assumed charge as the Inspector of the Puliyaugudi police station (part of the Puliyaugudi sub-division in Tenkasi district). It is noteworthy that he had previously served as the Inspector in Puliyaugudi. Following Aadivelu's transfer from Alangulam to Puliyaugudi, Sahul Hameed took over as the Inspector at the Alangulam station. Aadivelu has a distinguished service record in the region; he began his career as a Sub-Inspector in



Puliyarai and subsequently served as an Inspector in areas including Tenkasi, Puliyaugudi, Kadayanalur, Sendamaram, as well as in the Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga districts (specifically Kalayarkoil). He was previously appointed as a Special Inspector to apprehend the gang responsible for a burglary at the home

of a private school owner in Adaikkalapattanam (near Alangulam); following that assignment, he has now assumed the role of Inspector at the Puliyaugudi station. As he takes charge of the Puliyaugudi station for the second time, he is receiving congratulations from political figures, social activists, journalists, and friends.

## Road Roko in Oddanchatram

### Differently-Abled Association Condemns Government Policies

Oddanchatram

A road blockade protest was held in Oddanchatram by the 'Tamil Nadu Association for the Rights of All Types of Differently-Abled and Caregivers' to condemn the Central Government. Led by J. Sivakumar, the Union Secretary of the association, a protest involving a road blockade, the burning of a copy of the legislation, and the wearing of black badges took place near the Oddanchatram railway station in Dindigul district. Union President Dandapani and Treasurer Shanmugaraj were also present as partic-



ipants condemned the Central Government, wore black badges, tore up copies of the legislation, and staged the blockade. Over a hundred people participated in the protest, raising slogans to press for various demands, including: Not renaming the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to the 'V.P.G. Ramji Rural Employment Scheme'; Not depriving differently-abled persons of employment opportunities through biometric requirements like iris and fingerprint scanning; Not imposing a financial burden on states by reducing Central Government funding for the 100-day employment scheme; Providing the full 100 days of work without discrimination to all holders of differently-abled identity cards; and Providing employment to everyone who applies for the 100-day scheme.

## Special Public Grievance Redressal Camp at SP Office



Dindigul

Under the orders of Tamil Nadu Director General of Police (DGP) Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal, a special public grievance redressal camp is being held at the office of the Dindigul District Superintendent of Police (SP),

District SP Jayakumar. Police officials stated that immediate action would be taken if members of the public submit their grievances via petitions at this special camp. This special public grievance redressal camp is being conducted from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.



District Revenue Officer Mrs. S. Madhuranthagi paid final respects to the mortal remains of the late 'Vaambadi' poet Puviyarasu on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government.

**PETROL & DIESEL PRICE**

**PETROL** ₹ 102.63 PER LITRE

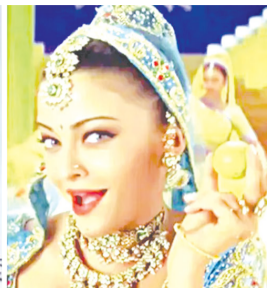
**DIESEL** ₹ 94.24 PER LITRE

# Controversy over Hindi song from actress Aishwarya Rai's film in Odisha's 5th grade textbook

Bhubaneswar

The inclusion of a song from a Hindi film starring actress Aishwarya Rai in the Class 5 textbook of Odisha has sparked controversy. The inclusion of a film song in the school textbook has sparked strong criticism. The government textbooks for Class 5 students in Odisha were recently released. In this situation, a song from the 1999 film "Hum Dil Te Suke Sanam" starring actress Aishwarya Rai was included in the textbook. This has led to strong criticism on social media. Many people, including educators, have been raising questions about how a film song can be included in the textbook used by school students. It is a mystery as to how this song, which

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କା ଖେତ ସେ ହରିଯାଇଲ ନିମ୍ବୁଦା-ଲାଢ଼ି



begins with 'Nimbuda Nimbuda', ended up in the textbook. Therefore, an investigation is underway to determine whether the missing pages were added by mistake while compiling the textbook. This is a very popular song, a national song of Rajasthan. This song 'Nimbuda Nimbuda' is sung as such in the songbook. It is believed that this huge mistake may have occurred due to a major carelessness in the publication of the song. Meanwhile, more than 1,600 errors were found in the textbooks of the

Odisha State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). Following this, these books were subjected to intensive scrutiny. In particular, the textbooks of Class 8 contained the highest number of errors, with 705 errors. Odisha State School and Human Resource Education Minister Nityananda Gond announced that the textbooks will be revised and distributed to students. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced that an inquiry committee has been formed in this regard.

# Case registered against 20 members of Kannada organization for damaging Hindi nameplate in Bengaluru

Bengaluru

A case has been registered against 20 people in connection with the vandalism of a Hindi nameplate in Bengaluru. The nameplate of the Bharat Electronics Corporation, a central government-owned company in Bengaluru, was inscribed in Hindi on a square in the city. The Kannada Rakshana Vedike, who protested against this, last week submitted a request to the B.E.L. management to remove the nameplate. After the B.E.L. company re-



jected the request, more than 20 people from the Kannada Rakshana Vedike organization went to the place yesterday and broke the Hindi name board. They also raised slogans against the imposition of Hindi and the central government. Meanwhile, Bengaluru City Police

Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh has directed the Vidyanarayana police to register a case against the Kannada activists who broke the Hindi nameplate. Following this, the police have registered a case against 20 people from the Kannada Rakshana Vedike Association.

# IPS officer arrested for demanding Rs 3 crore bribe

New Delhi

The CBI has registered a case and is investigating a gang involved in manufacturing and selling fake medicines in Puducherry. In this case, a businessman from Puducherry named N. Raja has been brought into the CBI ring as a key point. To escape the CBI investigation against him, businessman Raja has approached Delhi Police Crime Branch Inspector Pradeep Singh. Out of this, Rs. 50 lakh was given to IPS officer Deepak Kehlawat through an intermediary by Pradeep Singh. CBI officials, who got information about this, arrested 5 people including the

met in person, CBI IPS officer Deepak Gehlawat demanded a bribe of Rs. 3 crore from businessman Raja, claiming that he would use his personal influence to obtain a favorable outcome in the investigation. In the first phase, businessman Raja prepared Rs. 1 crore through hawala money transfer system and gave it to Inspector Pradeep Singh. Out of this, Rs. 50 lakh was given to IPS officer Deepak Kehlawat through an intermediary by Pradeep Singh. CBI officials, who got information about this, arrested 5 people including the IPS officer.

# Delhi High Court refuses to lift interim stay in Ilayaraja-Sarigama copyright case

New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has refused to lift the interim ban imposed on Ilaya Raja on using the songs of Sarigama Niruvana in the Kapurimai Vivakaara. In this regard, the Sarigama Foundation filed a petition, stating that "when they have copyrights for 134 film songs including Annakkili, 16 Vayathinile, Kavikkuyil, Muklum



Malarum, Rajaparvai, Netrikan, and Kalyanaraman, Ilayaraja's use of them is an act of violation of copyright." Hearing this petition, Delhi High Court Justice Tushar

Rao Ketilla imposed an interim ban on music composer Ilayaraja on February 16th from using film songs released on behalf of the Sarigama Foundation. Subsequently, music composer Ilayaraja approached the Delhi High Court seeking lifting of the interim ban. Hearing the petition, Delhi High Court Justice Tushar Rao Ketilla refused to lift the interim ban.

# Chief Minister Vijay holds talks with allied parties New alliance emerges under Thaweka leadership

Chennai

Chief Minister Vijay held a meeting with the coalition parties supporting the Thaweka government at the Taniyar Natchathira Hotel in Kovalam, near Chennai, yesterday. On the Teva side, top officials including Ministers N. Anand, Adhav Arjuna and Nirmal Kumar participated. On behalf of the alliance parties, Tamil Nadu Congress President Manickam Thakur, VVIP President Thirumavalavan, MDMK General Secretary Vaiko and IUMML President Kader Moideen participated. Also present were MPs P. Chidambaram, Praveen Gandhi, Jyotimani, Robert Bruce, Durai Vaiko, Nawaz Gani, ministers Viswana-



than, Rajesh Kumar, Vanniyarasu, Shahjahan, IUMML general secretary Mohammed Abubakkar, VKC deputy general secretary Chintanai Selvan and many other executives. Communist parties did not participate in this meeting. The consultation meeting will be held from 4 pm to 5 pm. At that time, the pro-Tawaka parties should be formed into a formal coalition.

The leaders stressed that a name should be given to this coalition and a coordination committee should be appointed for it. It was also discussed that coordination committees should be formed in all districts to establish harmony among the coalition parties. Furthermore, the alliance discussed working together to ensure victory in the upcoming local elec-

tions and by-elections. Chief Minister Vijay then consulted the leaders about the name he has chosen as his partner. He also said that the Thaweka-led government will be committed to the policy of secularism. Vijay assured that there will be no compromise in continuing to provide a transparent government free from bribery and corruption. After the

meeting, Tamil Nadu Congress President Manickam Thakur, on behalf of the coalition parties, said: A coordination committee will be formed to specifically guide the alliance. A common action plan will be formulated for the alliance. Discussions were held on naming the alliance. In the next meeting to be held very soon, final decisions will be taken on the above three issues. The name of the alliance will be announced as soon as possible. He said this. Speaking at the gathering, Chief Minister Vijay said, "They say the Thaweka government will not last even for 2 months or 6 months. But this government will last for 5 years."

# a large portion of the Ram temple offerings during the Kumbh Mela

Ayodhya

The Special Investigation Team investigating the Ram Temple donation scam has arrested 8 people. Among them are Lavkush Mishra and Anukalp Mishra, who are brothers-in-law. The two of them worked together to steal a huge amount of money from donations and amassed properties in several places. The ordinary employees suddenly bought new vehicles. The Ayodhya police have taken the help of the Income Tax Department to examine their money transactions and assets. During the interrogation of the eight arrested persons, it was revealed that during the Kumbh Mela last year, a large number of offerings and dona-



tions were made to the Ram temple, and that temple employees and bank employees, with the help of them, took a lot of money. The task of counting the temple offerings was entrusted to the State Bank of India. They appointed a private firm for this. A team of 14 people counted the donations made by devotees in the four panchayats of the Ram Temple. Of these, 11 are bank employees and 3 are employees of the Ram Temple Trust. One of the arrested accused, Avinash Shukla, kept

the stolen money at a yoga centre owned by his brother Abhishek in Kaushalpur. Police conducted a raid there and seized Rs. 89 lakh hidden in four boxes. Cash was also seized during a raid at the house of Dinu Yadav, driver of Ram Temple Trust general secretary Sampath Roy. 15-day extension The UP government has granted a 15-day extension to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) as the investigation into the Ram Temple donation and donation scam expands.

# Village Assistant Post High Court issues important order

Madurai

The High Court has ordered that those selected for the post of village assistant do not have to be residents of the same village. It is sufficient for them to be from that taluka. A petition was filed by one Vellaiyappan in the Madurai Session of the High Court seeking to quash the notification issued by the Natham Taluk Officer on 9.5.2022 regarding the filling of vacant posts of Village Assistant in various villages in Dindigul district and to cancel the appointment order issued to Subbaraj. The order issued by Justice Mumminiyeen Sudhirkumar on the petition: The petitioner has participated in the recruitment process for the post of Village Assistant. He was not selected. Subsequently, he has filed a case against the selection notification. After participating in the recruitment process based on the recruitment notification, a

case cannot be filed against that notification and the conditions. The petitioner has stated that the person selected as the Village Assistant in Chellappanayakanpatti is not from that village. The person selected for the post of Village Assistant should be from the same village. Therefore, he is not eligible for the post of Village Assistant and only if no suitable candidate is available in the particular village, people from neighboring villages can be appointed. The Revenue Department has issued a government order in this regard on 17.06.1998. In that government order, it is stated that the person appointed to the post of Village Assistant should be a resident of the village to which he is appointed or, if there is no eligible applicant in that village, a resident of a nearby village. In the same Government Order issued on 19.10.2015 by the Revenue Department, it is stat-

ed that the person selected for the post of Village Assistant should belong to the same taluk. The condition of being a resident of the same village mentioned in the previous Government Order has been amended and removed in the second Government Order. Therefore, the petitioner's argument that a person from the same village was not selected as Village Assistant cannot be accepted. Another argument is that the petitioner is a differently abled person and that reservation has not been given to that category. This cannot be accepted. The post filled is for the most backward classes. The person who has been selected now belongs to the same category. Therefore, there is no reason to interfere with the appointment of the 3rd respondent as the village assistant of Chellappanayakanpatti village. The judge said in the order that the petition is dismissed.

**TODAY RASIPALAN**

	<b>ARIES</b>	A positive day with good opportunities. Your confidence will help you achieve success. Pay attention to your health and stay calm.
	<b>TAURUS</b>	Financial gains are possible today. Your hard work will bring good results. Spend time with family and enjoy the moments.
	<b>GEMINI</b>	Communication will be the key to success. New opportunities may come your way. Avoid unnecessary stress and stay focused.
	<b>CANCER</b>	A day for emotional balance and peace. You may receive good news from family. Trust your intuition in important matters.
	<b>LEO</b>	Your leadership skills will be noticed today. Good time for career growth and recognition. Be generous and help those in need.
	<b>VIRGO</b>	Focus on your goals and stay organized. A disciplined approach will bring success. Take care of your health and avoid overthinking.
	<b>LIBRA</b>	Harmony in relationships will bring happiness. Good time for planning and making decisions. Financial situation looks stable.
	<b>SCORPIO</b>	You may overcome an old challenge today. Stay patient and trust the timing. Positive changes are on the way.
	<b>SAGITTARIUS</b>	A favorable day for learning and travel. New experiences will bring joy and growth. Stay optimistic and keep moving forward.
	<b>CAPRICORN</b>	Hard work will bring long-term benefits. You may receive appreciation from others. Avoid risky decisions and stay practical.
	<b>AQUARIUS</b>	Creative ideas will help you stand out. Good day for teamwork and social connections. Keep your emotions balanced.
	<b>PISCES</b>	Trust your inner wisdom and follow your heart. A peaceful day with chances for spiritual growth. Good news may come from unexpected places.

Vellore District Collector Mrs. P.S. Leela Alex, I.A.S., inspected the new Box Cricket center (turf) currently under construction at the District Sports Stadium in Katpadi today (01.07.2026). District Sports Officer Dr. V. Sethurajan, Katpadi Tahsildar Mrs. Maheswari, and others accompanied her during the inspection.



A massive protest demonstration was held by the Dindigul East District unit of TMMK to condemn the verdict delivered by Justice G.R. Swaminathan, which denied reservation benefits to backward-class individuals who have embraced Islam.

## Cooperation with India has become increasingly important

Tokyo

Amidst the uncertainty at the international level, cooperation with India has become increasingly important, said Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is visiting India. Speaking to reporters in Tokyo ahead of his visit to India, Takaichi said, "As the international environment becomes increasingly uncertain, cooperation with India, which shares core values and the benefits of friendship, is becoming increasingly important. I plan to pursue solid cooperation with Prime Minister Modi, taking into account the current international situation." My visit will focus on three



aspects: strengthening Japan-India relations, promoting cooperation in economic security, and fostering cooperation between companies from both countries towards investment and innovation. As part of this visit, we plan to host a Japan-India Economic Forum with the participation of over 150 members of the Japanese business community. We plan to broaden the scope

of Japan-India cooperation and build a stronger economy by bringing together the public and private sectors. India, one of Asia's leading democracies, shares Japan's responsibility for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. In that regard, I plan to discuss with Prime Minister Modi efforts to realize the vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific, a partnership that includes Japan, the United States, Australia, and India. "Since this visit is being undertaken at the invitation of Prime Minister Modi, I see it as an opportunity to further strengthen the relationship based on personal trust with him," he said.

## US Supreme Court rejects Trump's order to end birthright citizenship

Washington

The US Supreme Court has abruptly rejected President Donald Trump's executive order seeking to restrict the automatic birthright citizenship granted to children born on US soil. Under the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, most children born on U.S. soil have been automatically granted citizenship since 1868. President Trump has issued an executive order seeking to change this practice. Trump has criticized



the current citizenship policy as a disgrace. Similarly, US Vice President J.D. Vance had previously called it the most stupid immigration policy in the world. Amid strong legal opposition, a case was filed in the Supreme Court and was heard. At the time, the Trump administration argued to the Supreme Court

that the long-standing interpretation of the 14th Amendment was incorrect. Donald Trump's side argued that children born to non-citizens did not come within the jurisdiction of the United States and therefore did not automatically have the right to citizenship. However, the Supreme Court rejected the Trump administration's argument and ruled by a 6-3 majority that birthright citizenship is granted to all people born on American soil.

## Attempt to add Pakistan to terrorist list

New Delhi

The Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF) organization is operating in the French capital, Paris. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) of the watchdog is scheduled to meet in October. It will decide whether to add countries that support extremism to the 'Grey List' and then exempt countries from this



list based on their performance. Pakistan, which has been promoting extremism, was already in the grey zone. However, Pakistan was removed from the 'grey zone' in October 2022. In this situation, India is

trying to bring Pakistan back into the 'grey zone'. Accordingly, India plans to present videos and other evidence of Pakistan's continued support for terrorist organizations at the FATF meeting to be held in October.

## US Plans to Operate Supersonic Aircraft: Lifting a 53-Year-Old Ban

Washington

The United States has decided to lift a 53-year-old ban on the operation of supersonic aircraft—planes capable of flying faster than the speed of sound (Mach 1, or 1,234 km/h). However, the noise generated by such aircraft during takeoff and landing can cause significant issues. The resulting sonic vibrations can shatter windowpanes and pose a risk of structural damage to buildings. Consequently, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) imposed a ban on



supersonic aircraft in 1973. With technological advancements, NASA recently successfully tested the X-59 aircraft, which is capable of supersonic flight. A key feature of this aircraft is its ability to fly at high speeds without generating excessive noise or shockwaves. Following this development, the FAA has decided to relax the

53-year-old ban and instead implement noise limits. The FAA also plans to introduce another regulation later this year regarding the takeoff and landing of supersonic aircraft. Both rules are expected to be finalized by mid-2027. Most current passenger aircraft fly at speeds of approximately 900 km/h (Mach 0.85).

## Modi is like me he can't sleep US President Trump praises

Washington

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gore said that US President Trump has praised Prime Minister Modi, saying that he will never be disappointed if he is like him. The US-India Strategic Partnership Summit was held in Washington. Speaking at the event, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gore said: Two months ago, I was participating in an event in Miami with President Trump. At that time, he immediately called me and asked me to call Prime Minister Modi. I hesitated a bit and said that it was 6



am in India. To this, President Trump said, Prime Minister Modi never sleeps. He is like me. He would have gotten out of bed at any time, he said. This incident shows the special bond between President Trump and Modi. We have meetings with some leaders because they do not give the same respect that he gives to Prime Min-

ister Modi. The next two years will be crucial in shaping the future of the US-India relationship. The next two years will set the course for this relationship for decades to come. The two governments are focused on delivering concrete results in areas such as trade, investment, security and technology, he said.

## 105th Anniversary of the Communist Party of China

Beijing

President Xi Jinping attended the event marking the 105th anniversary of the ruling Communist Party in Beijing, China. President Xi, currently in his 14th year of leadership, noted that China has achieved in just a few



decades what wealthy nations took centuries

to accomplish. "The world has entered a new era of turbulence and transformation, placing humanity at a critical juncture. I urge the advancement of a new type of international relations that fosters global peace and development," he said.

## Exchange of Prisoner Lists Between India and Pakistan

Islamabad

The Ministry of External Affairs has announced that India and Pakistan have exchanged lists of prisoners held in their respective custody. Under the Agreement on Consular Access signed between India and Pakistan on May 1, 2008, both nations are required to exchange lists of prisoners held in their jails on January 1 and July 1 of each year. In accordance with this agreement, both countries have exchanged their prisoner lists. A state-



ment issued by the Ministry of External Affairs notes that the Government of Pakistan handed over a list to the Indian High Commission containing the details of 250 Indian prisoners—comprising 52 civilians and 198 fishermen—held in Pakistan. Simultaneously, the Government of India provided a list of 439 prisoners held in Indian jails who are Pakistani nationals or believed to be Pakistani. Furthermore, the Ministry stated that a request was made to the Indian government to release and repatriate 97 Pakistani prisoners who have completed their sentences and whose nationality has been confirmed.

## Nepal Resumes Tea Exports to India After Two-Month Hiatus

Kathmandu

Nepal has resumed tea exports to India after a gap of two months. India is a major market for tea produced in Nepal. On May 1, the Tea Board of India had introduced a mandatory 100% inspection requirement for all tea consignments arriving from Nepal, in accordance with new quality control regulations. However, due to the lack of international-standard testing facilities



in Nepal, tea samples had to be sent to Kolkata, West Bengal, for testing. This resulted in tea-laden trucks being held up

at the border and adversely affected tea production in Nepal. Subsequently, the Nepalese government sought to have the regulations for tea exports to India relaxed. In response, India reviewed its policies regarding the import of Nepalese tea. As a result, tea exports from Nepal to India resumed the day before yesterday. This information was announced by Nepal's Foreign Minister, Shishir Khanal.

## Earthquake – Death Toll Exceeds 1,700

Caracas

The death toll from the earthquake in Venezuela has surpassed 1,700. The number of fatalities from the twin earthquakes that struck the South American nation last week has risen to 1,719, with 5,034 peo-



ple injured. Fears remain that the death toll could climb further, as more than 46,000 people are reported missing. An analysis by the US space agency, NASA, indicates that approximately 58,870 buildings may have been damaged.

## Footballer Neymar extends a helping hand to earthquake-hit



Brazil

Brazilian footballer Neymar has donated \$250,000 (₹2.4 crore) for medical aid and emergency relief operations in Venezuela following the earthquake. More

than 1,400 people have lost their lives in the devastating earthquake that struck the country, and thousands of buildings have been razed to the ground or severely damaged.

## US Lifts Sanctions on 4 Indian Companies



Washington

The United States has lifted the sanctions previously imposed on four Indian companies for trading with Russia. The US had taken various measures to exert pressure on Russia following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine in 2022. The US alleged that Russia was using proceeds from the sale of commodities—including crude oil—to purchase weapons required for the war. Consequently, Hyderabad-based RRG Engineering Technologies Private Limited and Lokesh Machines Limited; Ahmedabad-based Galaxy Bearings Limited; and Delhi-based Shaurya Aeronautics Private Limited.

economic sanctions were levied against 21 Indian entities, comprising 19 companies and two individuals. Now, the US has revoked the sanctions imposed on four of these Indian companies. It is noteworthy that, following efforts by the Central Government, the sanctions have been lifted after two years for the following companies: Hyderabad-based RRG Engineering Technologies Private Limited and Lokesh Machines Limited; Ahmedabad-based Galaxy Bearings Limited; and Delhi-based Shaurya Aeronautics Private Limited.

## Cooperation with India is becoming more important Japanese Prime Minister



Tokyo

The international political landscape remains increasingly uncertain. Against this backdrop, the Japanese Prime Minister has stated that the relationship with India is now more crucial than ever for Japan. As a leading democracy in Asia, India shares a significant joint responsibility with Japan in maintaining peace within the Indo-Pacific region. The Japanese Prime Minister is arriving in New Delhi this evening for a three-day visit. This marks his first official state visit to India, with Japan in maintaining peace within the Indo-Pacific region. The Japanese Prime Minister is arriving in New Delhi this evening for a three-day visit. This marks his first official state visit to India, with Japan in maintaining peace within the Indo-Pacific region. The Japanese Prime Minister is arriving in New Delhi this evening for a three-day visit. This marks his first official state visit to India, with Japan in maintaining peace within the Indo-Pacific region.

focus on three key priorities: further strengthening the strategic partnership between the two nations, enhancing cooperation on economic security, and fostering collaboration between business enterprises to boost investment and innovation. These remarks, made prior to his three-day official state visit to India, are considered highly significant. It is noteworthy that cooperation between the two nations continues to strengthen across various sectors—including trade and investment, economic security, defense and military affairs, science and technology, culture, and people-to-people ties—as the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan approaches.