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CM warns ministers that they will be stripped of their positions immediately if they are caught in a corruption scandal

Ban on publishing 'reels' to conduct inspections in schools and hospitals

Chennai

I will not hesitate to remove ministers from office if they are caught in corruption allegations. Chief Minister Vijay has strictly instructed the cabinet meeting that action will definitely be taken if anyone is found guilty. He has also ordered that unnecessary inspections should not be carried out in schools and hospitals. Reels should not be released. The first cabinet meeting of the TDP government led by Chief Minister Vijay in Tamil Nadu was held on June 5. In it, a target was set to implement 436 visionary projects de-

partmentally. After that, the Governor addressed the Legislative Assembly. Following this, the budget for the current financial year 2026-27 is to be presented in the first week of August. Since it is the first budget of the TDP government, there is an expectation that there will be many projects that will appeal to the people. Meanwhile, preparations for the budget preparation are in full swing. In this context, the 2nd meeting of the Tamil Nadu Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Vijay, was held at the Chennai Secretariat yesterday. In this, various as-



pects including new industrial investments, announcements to be included in the budget, election promises that can be fulfilled immediately, and women's rights were discussed in detail. It has also been reported that some projects have been approved. Chief

Minister Vijay gave important instructions in the meeting that lasted for about 50 minutes. 'The government should be a corruption-free government. The administration should be strengthened so that there are no complaints of bribery and malpractice in all de-

partments. The ministers should be firm in this and continuously monitor the activities of the officers working under them. Even minor irregularities should not be allowed. If any complaints of corruption or irregularities are received against ministers or their depart-

ments, immediate action will be taken. If irregularities are confirmed, I will not hesitate to remove the minister concerned from office. I will not look at those who are known or unknown. Whoever is at fault, action will definitely be taken. My aim is that the government should function with complete transparency. Ministers can conduct inspections in their departments and in-charge ministers in districts. At the same time, ministers should not conduct unnecessary inspections in public places including schools and hospitals. They should avoid visiting schools in the name

of inspection and posting promotional posts including 'reels' on social media. Ministers should behave responsibly and respectfully towards the public when visiting districts. They should not engage in activities that cause unnecessary controversies. Ministers, people... If I ask who is more important, I will say that the people are more important to me. The people have trusted me and elected me and sent me here. I have come to serve them. You should also follow me. It is important to show it in action. We did not come to power just to say on

stage, 'We will do good for the people' and then leave. Nothing should be in words. It is important to show it in action. Ministers should ensure that officials do what the people need without taking bribes. Our government should be a 'clean government', Chief Minister Vijay is said to have strictly advised. Sources in the Chief Secretariat said that the Chief Minister issued these instructions in the backdrop of controversies that arose during the recent inspection of some ministers and complaints regarding some events held in schools.

Tamil Nadu government considering granting permission to resto bars

Chennai

Reports have emerged that the government is considering allowing resto bars in hotels in Tamil Nadu, like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka. Over 4,000 TASMAC shops in Tamil Nadu generate revenue worth crores every day. In this situation, the newly-elected Thaweka government has decided to close 717 TASMAC shops near churches, bus stands and places of worship across Tamil Nadu. Subsequently, various regulations are being imposed on TASMAC shops. In this situation, it has been reported that the government is considering granting permission to operate resto bars in



hotels in major cities of Tamil Nadu, like neighboring states like Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. TASMAC officials have said that this announcement will be made in the upcoming budget session of the Legislative Assembly. Currently, separate licenses are not issued to resto bars. A senior TASMAC official said: In Tamil Nadu, FL-1 licenses are issued to TASMAC shops, FL-2 licenses are issued to clubs, and FL-3 licenses are issued to

star-rated private hotels. In many places, some private clubs with FL-2 licenses have been accused of serving alcohol along with food to the general public, even though they are only allowed to serve alcohol to members. This could result in a loss of revenue to the government. In order to regulate this, instead of allowing such services under the Entertainment Association license, the government is planning to issue a separate license to resto bars. Accord-

ingly, a FLA license will have to be obtained to set up resto bars. Similarly, there are licenses called FLAA and FLA. Therefore, resto bars are operating on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Tourism Department for the convenience of tourists. Recently, the annual special tax for clubs with FL-2 licenses in Chennai city was increased from Rs. 15 lakh to Rs. 30 lakh. Similarly, there are possibilities of imposing a tax on new resto bar licenses. Also, the government is considering the possibility of gradually reducing the number of bars affiliated to TASMAC outlets and promoting licensed resto bars instead. He said

Navodaya Schools case: Supreme Court gives 3 weeks to Tamil Nadu government

Chennai

The Supreme Court has ordered the Tamil Nadu government to inform the government of its position on the establishment of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya schools in every district of Tamil Nadu within 3 weeks. A case was filed in the Madras High Court on behalf of an organization called Kumari Mahasabha, seeking an order to the Tamil Nadu government to establish a 'Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya' school in every district of Tamil Nadu. The Madras High Court, which heard the case, ordered the Tamil Nadu government to grant permission to open Jawahar Navodaya schools. The Tamil Nadu government appealed against this in the Supreme Court in 2017. Following this, when the case came up for hearing on December 11, 2017, the Supreme Court stayed the Madras High Court order and adjourned the case. Meanwhile, the previous DMK government had stated in an affidavit filed last March that 'the quality of education in Tamil Nadu is excellent even without Navo-



daya schools in the state.' Therefore, instead of opening new schools like Jawahar Navodaya, the central government should immediately release the outstanding education funds of Rs. 3,548.22 crore due to Tamil Nadu under the Samagra Shiksha Yojana. But the Supreme Court had instructed the Tamil Nadu government to identify and inform about the locations for establishing Navodaya Schools in Tamil Nadu. In this situation, the case came up for hearing again yesterday in a bench comprising Supreme Court Justices P.V. Nagaratna and R. Mahadevan. Additional Chief Advocate Haripriya, who was present at the time, stated that the Tamil Nadu government was holding consultations regarding the Jawahar Navodaya School issue. To this, Justice P.V. Nagaratna raised questions, "Are we asking you to iden-

tify land for the construction of schools, or are we asking you to immediately establish Navodaya schools?" In response, the Additional Advocate General of the Tamil Nadu government requested that the Tamil Nadu government be given 12 weeks to respond regarding Navodaya schools. Priyadarshini, the lawyer for the respondent Kumari Mahasabha, argued further, "There are already 1500 CBSE schools operating in Tamil Nadu, but the Tamil Nadu government is citing the three-language policy as the reason for establishing Navodaya schools only. "Three languages are already being taught in many schools, and Hindi is also being taught, but the Tamil Nadu government is refusing to establish Navodaya schools, citing opposition to Hindi," he argued. At that time, Justice R. Mahadevan interrupted and said, "As

far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, they are not opposing Hindi; they are opposing the imposition of Hindi." Speaking further, Justice P.V. Nagaratna said, "The three-language policy is not limited to Hindi. Any other language can be chosen." At that time, the Tamil Nadu government's lawyer interrupted and pointed out, "Now the central government has introduced a trilingual policy, and it has been made mandatory for 9th grade students." Responding to that, Justice P.V. Nagaratna said, "There may be a three-language policy, but it is from the 6th grade onwards." "It should be implemented. At the same time, making the three-language policy mandatory for 9th grade students will cause a lot of stress," he said. Following this, the judges issued an order, saying, "The Tamil Nadu government's position regarding the identification of locations for setting up Jawahar Navodaya schools in Tamil Nadu should be clarified and reported to the court within 3 weeks. The next hearing will be held on August 11."

Let us create a new society with humanity and patriotism Chief Minister Vijay's call on Martyrs' Day

Chennai

On the occasion of Martyrs' Day, Chief Minister Vijay has emphasized that we will adopt their noble qualities as a way of life and create a new society with humanity and patriotism. Martyrs' Day is observed by the Tamil Nadu government on July 17 every year to commemorate the sacrifices of martyrs Arya (A) Bhashyam, Shankaralinganar and Chenbagaraman, who played a key role in the Indian freedom struggle.



In this regard, the Chief Minister posted on social media, "My heroic salutes to martyrs Arya (A) Bhashyam, martyr Shankaralinganar and martyr Senbagaraman, who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of India and the rights of the people, on the occasion

of Martyrs' Day." The tireless work and selfless sacrifice of martyr Arya (A) Bhashyam, who lowered the British Union Jack flag flying on the ramparts of Fort St. George in Chennai and hoisted the Indian tricolor flag to uproot the British rule, martyr

Shankaralinganar, who sacrificed his life for the noble cause of naming our state 'Tamil Nadu', and hero Shenbagaraman, who gave the slogan 'Jai Hind' to the freedom struggle and mobilized international support for India's independence, are forever worthy of praise. "Let us adopt the noble qualities of such martyrs as our code of life and create a new society with humanity and patriotism," said Chief Minister Vijay.

₹1 Lakh Endowment Launches T. Kanna Karuppiah Research Trust

DINDUGAL

The ‘Professor T. Kanna Karuppiah Research Scholars Trust’ has been established at the Department of Tamil, Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed University, under the auspices of the Ammayanaickanur Nagarathna Educational Trust. The founder of the trust, Professor T. Kanna Karuppiah, handed over a cheque for ₹1 lakh—representing the trust’s endowment fund—to the University Vice-Chancellor, Dr. N. Panchanatham, and the Registrar (i/c), Professor K.S. Pushpa. His research scholars—Dr. Ayyappan, Dr. M.S. Elangomani, and Dr. M. Selvatharasi—along with the Head of the Tamil De-



partment and Trust Coordinator, Dr. P. Anandakumar, were present on the occasion. Speaking about the trust, Professor P. Anandakumar said, “Professor T. Kanna Karuppiah is a retired Professor of Tamil from Thirunelveli Thiraviyam Thayumanavar Hindu College and a former doctoral research scholar of the Department of Tamil at Gandhigram Rural Institute. He currently serves as a Visiting Expert in the Department of

Tamil. Established by his research scholars under the banner of his Nagarathna Educational Trust, this foundation aims to organize an annual lecture on the worship of folk deities. Special lectures will be conducted annually in the Department of Tamil using the interest accrued from the endowment fund he has provided. This initiative will pave the way for students to gain knowledge about folklore-related research.”

Husband of AIADMK Ward Councilor Arrested by Railway Police

Land was acquired by the Railway Department near Vedasandur in Dindigul district for the expansion of rail operations at the Vadamadurai railway station. It is reported that compensation was paid based on square footage to some individuals and by the acre to others. While some landowners accepted the compensation, an individual named Saravanan refused the government’s offer; he appealed to the railway administration, arguing that the



compensation should be calculated properly and paid at a higher rate. When the railway administration did not accept this demand, he obstructed railway workers from carrying out their duties on the land. Work on laying the railway track on the acquired land commenced to-

day, following an order from the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO). When he caused a disturbance again as work began, the Railway Protection Force arrested Saravanan. They advised him to address the issue through legal channels and subsequently released him on his own recognition. It is noteworthy that Saravanan is an AIADMK functionary and the husband of Kavitha, the AIADMK councilor for Ward 7 of the Vadamadurai Town Panchayat.

A rally focused on Dengue eradication was held today in Vadamadurai

Vadamadurai

Participants highlighted the need to eliminate Dengue-breeding mosquitoes at an early stage to prevent the spread of disease and emphasized the importance of maintaining a clean environment. Chanting slogans such as “Let us eradicate Dengue and safeguard public health,” the procession moved along the Railway Station Road. A large number of sanitation workers, health department staff, and town panchayat employees participated



in the event. Notable attendees included Vadamadurai Town Panchayat Chairperson Niruparani, Vadamadurai DMK Town Secretary ‘Medical’ Ganesan, Block Development Officer Seethalakshmi, Vadamadurai Block Medical Officer Dr.

Nagendran, Vadamadurai Town Panchayat Executive Officer Padma Latha, Ayyalur Town Panchayat Executive Officer Susai Inba Rajesh, and Vadamadurai Health Inspector Porappan. The rally concluded after passing through the bus stand.

Kamarajar’s Birthday Celebration in Palani Organized by TVK

Palani

To mark the 124th birth anniversary of the ‘Benefactor of Education,’ Kamarajar, a celebration was held near the Palani bus stand (at Mayil Iravundana) by the Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). A portrait of Kamarajar was displayed, adorned with garlands, and honored with floral tributes to cele-



brate the legacy of the leader. Presided over by senior TVK functionary Maheswaran, the event saw the participation of over 50 party members—including Sanjay, Suresh, Victor, Sirajudeen, Nivas, Thowfiq,

Ashiq, Prasannakumar, Rahul, Shaneshkar, Siva, Dinesh, Gowtham Kannan, and Anas. Together, they raised slogans praising Kamarajar and paid their respects by showering flowers on his portrait.

7-Hour Power Cut Sparks Protest in Old Vaniyambadi

Vaniyambadi, July 17

Protesting against a power outage that lasted over seven hours near Vaniyambadi in Tirupattur district, youths from the Old Vaniyambadi area laid siege to the substation at Perumalpettai. Residents faced severe hardship due to a sudden disruption in power supply across various areas, including Devasthanam, Old Vaniyambadi, Chettiyappanur, Janathapuram, Vanni Adigalar Nagar, and Indira Nagar. Highlighting the suffering of children, the elderly, and the general public, the youths visited the substation to



demand an explanation from the officials. An argument ensued when the youths felt the officials failed to provide a satisfactory response. Upon learning of the situation, town police personnel and Electricity Board Assistant Executive Engineer Iqbal arrived at the scene and held talks with the protesters. The youths called off the siege and dispersed after officials assured them that

the power supply would be restored to all areas shortly. Explaining the situation, Assistant Executive Engineer Iqbal stated, “The power disruption was caused by a technical fault in the substation’s transformer and minor damage to electric poles in the Old Vaniyambadi area. Repairs have been carried out, and power supply is being restored to all areas in a phased manner.”

Congress-Led Awareness Campaign Against Corruption and Bribery in Sholavandan

Sholavandan, July:

To mark the 124th birth anniversary of freedom fighter ‘Karmaveerar’ Kamarajar, the Indian National Congress organized a tribute event in Sholavandan. District President Noor Muhammad, Block President Palanivel, and Town President Muthupandi paid floral tributes to the full-size statue of Kamarajar. Subsequently, a procession was held, concluding at the statue of freedom fighter V.O. Chidambaranar (known as ‘Kappalottiya Tamilan’). There, a signature and thumbprint registration drive was conducted—supporting the Tamil Nadu Congress’s movement against corruption and bribery—near the V.O.C. statue in front of the Sri Jenagai Mariaman Temple. Madurai North District Congress President Noor Muhammad presided over the event and inaugurated it by registering his own signature and thumbprint.



Following this, a large number of people—including Congress office-bearers, party cadres, the general public, and social activists—registered their thumbprints and signatures. Sholavandan Town Congress President Muthupandi, Block President Palanivel, Mahila Congress leader Chellappa Saravanan, and Scheduled Castes (SC) Wing State Vice-President Santhapandi were present at the forefront of the event. Many others participated, including office-bearers Mani, Sonaimuthu, S.

Raman, Aladi Bose, Alanganallur Royal, Vadipatti Muruganandam, Senthil, Sekaran, ‘Tailor’ Ravi, Paramasivam, Narayanan, Suresh, Melakkal Alagumalai, Paramasivam, Srinivasan, as well as SC Wing Madurai North District President Raja and Kuruvithurai Srinivasan. Congress leader Chellappa Saravanan delivered the vote of thanks. Afterward, awareness was raised among the public across various parts of Sholavandan through the distribution of pamphlets against corruption and bribery.

Give CM Vijay More Time Says Actor Saravanan

SALEM

Actor Saravanan, Director Tamilselvan, debutant lead actor Raja Singh (who is also producing the film), debutant heroine Anukrishna, and supporting actresses participated in the ceremony. The priest offered prayers and blessings, wishing for the film’s success. Following this, actor Saravanan spoke to the press. He mentioned that Director Tamilselvan had invited him as a special guest for the film ‘En Manaivi Rubina’ and expressed his heartfelt wishes for the movie’s success, noting that he is also acting in it. When asked by a reporter about the Chief Minister Vijay, Saravanan stated that it has been two months since he assumed office and that



he needs more time to set things right; if given eight, ten, or twelve months, he would resolve all issues. He pointed out that the public is aware of the reforms being implemented in sectors such as property registration, the police force, and the transport department. Saravanan expressed great confidence that Vijay—who

has a background in the film industry and understands the challenges faced by theaters and distributors—would handle the film industry effectively and deliver a positive outcome. He also noted that while there are resource shortages, the Chief Minister is addressing issues step-by-step and will resolve them in due course.



District Collector Mr. K. Ravikumar, I.A.S., and District Superintendent of Police Mr. Akshay Anil Waghmare, I.P.S., inspected an accident-prone stretch of road near Sacred Heart College in Tirupattur Municipality, Tirupattur District, today (16.07.2026). They were accompanied by officials from relevant departments, including Highways Department Divisional Engineer Mr. Murali and Tirupattur Regional Transport Officer Mr. Panneerselvam.



On behalf of TVK, floral tributes were paid to the statue of Karmaveerar Kamarajar in the Bungalow Medu area of Theni district to mark his 124th birth anniversary. District Secretary Prakash, Union Women’s Wing representative Nagalakshmi, and many others participated in the event.

TMC Leaders Honour Kamaraj with Floral Tribute in Palani



Palani

On behalf of the Palani unit of the Tamil Maanila Congress, a tribute was paid by garlanding a portrait of Kamaraj at the party office to mark his 124th birth anniversary. Subsequently, a statue located near the Saravana Poigai at Adivaram Panchayat President Nattuthurai, Neikkarapatti Town Panchayat President Shanmugavel, presided over the event. Attendees included State Secretary Manikkannan, Dindigul West District President Rasiyappan, State Executive Committee member Kanakasabapathi, PTC Nagarajan, Block Presidents Sundar-

arajan, Rajendran, Nageswaran, and Balasubramaniam, District Youth Wing President Sundarapandian, City Vice President Thiruganasambandam, City Secretary Gopal, Mariappan, City Treasurer Bhaskaran, Ayakudi Town Panchayat President Nattuthurai, Neikkarapatti Town Panchayat President Shanmugavel, District Secretary Arun, Veerapandi, Keeranur Town Panchayat President Kattappan, former Union Councillor Sivasubramaniam, Rookwarpatti Selvam, Pethanaickenpatti Shanmugasamy, and many others.

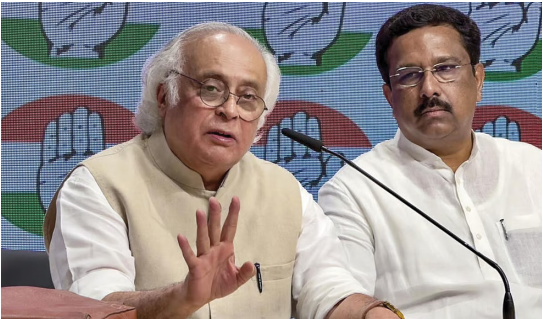
TODAY RASIPALAN	
17.07.2026	
	ARIES : You will feel energetic and confident. New opportunities may come your way. Be patient in personal relationships.
	TAURUS : Financial position will improve. You may plan something special with your family. Avoid overthinking.
	GEMINI : Good day for communication and learning. Important tasks will be completed successfully. Take care of your health.
	CANCER : You may receive good news. Support from friends and family will be there. Mind your emotions and stay calm.
	LEO : Your efforts will bring positive results. This is a good time to focus on career growth. Respect others’ opinions.
	VIRGO : You may get recognition for your work. Businesspersons can expect good gains. Maintain balance in your routine.
	LIBRA : A good day for financial activities. You may spend on things that bring happiness. Keep yourself organized.
	SCORPIO : You will be determined and focused. Old problems will get resolved. Avoid unnecessary arguments.
	SAGITTARIUS : Travel plans may materialize. New ideas will bring success. Stay positive and keep moving forward.
	CAPRICORN : Hard work and discipline will bring good results. You may get support from seniors. Avoid stress and take rest.
	AQUARIUS : You may meet new people. This is a good time for planning and implementing ideas. Be careful with finances.
	PISCES : Your intuition will be strong. You may spend quality time with loved ones. Avoid confusion and make clear decisions.

What are the issues that Congress is going to raise in the Parliament session?

Jairam Ramesh’s explanation

New Delhi

The Congress party has said that it will raise issues including the Ayodhya Ram Temple donation scam, NEET question paper leak scam, E20 scam, and the setback in foreign policy in the upcoming monsoon session. The monsoon session of Parliament is set to begin on the 20th. It has been reported that the session will continue till August 13. In view of this, an all-party meeting will be held on behalf of the central government on the 19th. In this situation, the Congress party convened a consultative meeting today regarding important issues to be raised in Parliament. The meeting, chaired by Congress Parliamentary Party President Sonia Gandhi, was attended by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, senior leaders Rahul Gandhi, K.C. Venugopal, Shashi Tharoor, Jayaram Ramesh, P. Chidambaram, Manickam Thakur and others. Speaking to reporters about the decisions taken in the meeting, the party’s press secretary Jairam Ramesh said, “Official information is not yet available regarding the bills to be introduced in the monsoon session. An all-party meeting has been convened on



July 19. We will get official information from that.” We have heard that the Home Minister is trying to reintroduce the Constituency Redistricting Bill, which caused the government a huge defeat last April and prevented it from obtaining a two-thirds majority. We will continue to strongly oppose the Constituency Redistricting Bill. In this, we will make every effort to maintain the unity and integrity of all opposition parties. A joint parliamentary committee has been formed to look into the issue of one nation, one election. There was some discussion on the report of that committee. We will also oppose the Educational Institutions for a Developed India Bill. This bill is likely to be introduced in this session itself. Similarly, the FCRA bill is likely to be introduced. We will also oppose this. We have already stated our position on giving one-third of the seats to women in the Lok Sabha. One-third of the existing 543 members

of Parliament means 181. These seats can be reserved for women right now. We are ready to support that. But this government is trying to bring a constituency redelineation bill in the name of the Women’s Reservation Bill. This is a dangerous bill. It is true that the Home Minister is systematically working to get a two-thirds majority in Parliament by creating divisions in the opposition parties. But getting such a majority will be a tainted majority. However, they have no chance of getting a two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha. We are in touch with the opposition parties. Rahul Gandhi is in touch. “There are other issues we want to raise. The Ayodhya Ram Temple donation scam, the NEET exam question paper leak scam, the ethanol blended fuel (E20) scam, the foreign policy failure, and the deteriorating situation in West Asia are some of the issues the Congress party plans to raise in Parliament,” he said.

Karnataka cabinet expansion soon

Randeep Singh Surjewala information

New Delhi

Congress General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala has said that the Karnataka cabinet expansion will take place soon. Speaking to reporters in Delhi regarding this, Randeep Singh Surjewala said, “Senior Congress leaders including Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Karnataka State Congress President P.K. Hariprasad have arrived in Delhi today. They met Rahul Gandhi. They are also going to meet K.C. Venugopal. This is just an initial consultation.



The cabinet expansion will take place in Karnataka soon.” In a tweet posted by DK Shivakumar after the meeting with Rahul Gandhi, he said, “We met Lok Sabha Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi along with Randeep Singh Surjewala, Siddaramaiah and Hariprasad. We are committed to working for the welfare of the people and the development of the state.” The Karnataka government is

currently functioning with 14 ministers, including the Chief Minister. There are 20 vacant cabinet positions. More than 40 people are vying for a place in the cabinet. The Congress leadership is carefully considering its decisions to avoid internal discontent. At the same time, the opposition parties, the BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular), are closely monitoring the developments.

Constituency redelineation: Kharge writes to PM Modi, insisting on all-party meeting

New Delhi

Congress national president Kharge has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convene an all-party meeting to discuss the constituency redelineation issue. In a letter written by Kharge in this regard, it has been revealed that the central government plans to introduce a constitutional amendment bill, which includes constituency redelineation, in the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament. The opposition parties

have already demanded that if the constituency redelineation bill is to be tabled, it should be discussed in detail. The central government should convene an all-party meeting to facilitate this. I have already written a letter to the Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju in this regard. We are requesting that the aspects of the bill be discussed at an all-party meeting before it is introduced in Parliament. It has also been revealed that the

central government has decided to increase the seats in the Lok Sabha by 50 percent. The southern states have expressed concern regarding this. These issues should also be discussed in the all-party meeting. “Therefore, Prime Minister Narendra Modi should convene an all-party meeting to facilitate detailed discussion on issues including the controversial bills and the constituency redelineation bill,” Kharge said in the letter.

Delhi’s Red Fort closed security arrangements



New Delhi

The Red Fort in Delhi will be closed from the day before yesterday until August 15 for security arrangements for the country’s 80th Independence Day, a statement issued by the Archaeological Survey of India said. The country’s 80th Independence Day will be celebrated on the 15th of next month. Prime Minister Modi will hoist the national flag and address the nation at the Red Fort in Delhi. For

this, massive security arrangements have already been made. The Red Fort in Delhi is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is under the management of the Archaeological Survey of India. The Red Fort is closed to the public for a month every year to mark Independence Day. As per the rules, the Red Fort will be closed to the public till the 15th of next month. On August 15, only those with central government passes will be allowed to participate.

First prize of Rs. 30 crore Bumper Lottery launched



Thiruvananthapuram Kerala Chief Minister V.T. Satheesan launched the Onam Bumper Lottery with a top prize of Rs. 30 crore yesterday. Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan said in a Facebook post, “This is the highest first prize in the history of the lottery. These lottery tickets will be

available for sale from July 20.” Last year, the first prize in the Onam Bumper Lottery was Rs. 25 crore. This has been increased to Rs. 30 crore this year. The second prize of Rs. 1 crore each will be given to 20 people. The lottery ticket costs Rs. 500 and the draw will be held on September 26.

Kamarajar’s Birthday Celebrated in Tiruvannamalai



Tiruvannamalai To mark Kamarajar’s birthday, pens, notebooks, and sweets were distributed to students at the Government Primary School and the Kanchi Panchayat Union Primary School—located within the

Pudupalayam Union of Chengam Taluk, Tiruvannamalai District. The event was presided over by K. Elumalai, President of the Tiruvannamalai Kamarajar Alliance Association, and was attended by fellow association members.

Significant Order by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court



Madurai R. Shanmugavel, the Secretary of the TT 568 V. Ammapatti Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society in Vedasandur Taluk, Dindigul District, was dismissed from service by the Joint Registrar of Cooperative Societies (Dindigul Region). The dismissal was based on allegations of misappropriating funds amounting to

₹83,13,342 during the 2020–2021 crop loan waiver scheme for 55 farmers. Challenging this dismissal order, the former Secretary, Mr. R. Shanmugavel, filed a petition with the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court. Upon hearing the petition on July 16, 2026, the Court issued a significant order staying the decision of the Regional Joint Registrar.

Puri Jagannath Rath Yatra stampede

One dead, 120 hospitalized

Bhubaneswar

Lakhs of devotees thronged the Jagannath Rath Yatra in Puri, Odisha, on Sunday, leading to a stampede and stampede. One person died and over 120 were hospitalised due to suffocation. The stampede occurred as lakhs of devotees thronged the Grand Road area to witness the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra at the Puri temple. According to initial reports, one person died and over 120 devotees suffered from suffocation. Following the stampede, the Special Rescue Team, Police Department and Emergency Response Team immediately launched rescue operations and evacuated devotees from the congested area. Those suffering from respiratory distress were taken to Puri Hospital and oth-



er medical centers for treatment. According to initial reports, a devotee fainted due to suffocation and was rushed to the Puri District Headquarters Hospital. Doctors who examined him declared him brought dead. Following the incident, authorities intensified crowd control measures and emergency rescue efforts in the Grand Road area to avoid further incidents. The world-famous Jagannath Rath Yatra began today (July 16) in Puri, Odisha. The Odisha Police has drawn up an extensive security plan to monitor all three routes - Rath Yatra festival.

land, sea and air - for the festival, which will be attended by lakhs of devotees, the government said. It is planned to use sophisticated drones and anti-drone equipment to control the crowd on the ground and to monitor the air. Officials also said that for maritime security, the Indian Navy, Coast Guard and Odisha Maritime Police have been engaged in joint patrols through boats. It is worth noting that the government has also stated that a total of 12,000 police personnel will be involved in security work for the 9-day Rath Yatra festival.

Uttarakhand has become the epicentre of question paper leaks

Rahul Gandhi alleges

New Delhi

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has alleged that Uttarakhand has become a hotbed of question paper leaks and said that the future of the youth will not be allowed to be auctioned. Ahead of a meeting with students in Dehradun, the capital of Uttarakhand, today, he said in a statement issued yesterday: “The divine state of Uttarakhand has now become a hotbed of question paper leaks. An illegal ‘system’ has taken root in the examinations of the Assistant Civil Services Examination here. Due to this, government jobs like Patwari and Lekhpal are not filled on the basis of merit



and are being sold at a price determined by those involved in corruption. Despite the central government bringing strict laws against corruption, question paper leaks continue. The law is only in paper form. But the question papers are being sold freely in the market. A student, who has been studying for a year, goes to remote examination centers to write his exams. But his government job is bought for a price by someone else. This

is not just a question paper leak, it is a theft that takes away the young man’s rights, livelihood and future. I have one message for every student and youth of Uttarakhand. This is your struggle and I stand with you. Let us participate in the meeting being held in Dehradun today and make the ‘voice of students’ a loud voice. We will never allow the future of the youth to be auctioned off and their dreams to be shattered. Rahul Gandhi said this.

Son shoots father dead over Rs 150 crore property in UP

Ghaziabad

Hari Om Chowdhury (55) hails from Modinagar area of Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. A wealthy farmer, he owns 75 bighas of land near the Delhi-Meerut Expressway and properties worth around Rs 150 crore, including a shopping mall. He has a wife, Anita, and sons Nikhil and Nee-shu. His eldest son Nikhil (32) is addicted to alcohol. Because of this, Hari Om had given Nikhil some shops and 25 bighas of land. Nikhil kept insisting that the share



be transferred to his name immediately. But Hari Om refused to issue the transfer papers, saying that Nikhil would destroy the property due to his drinking habit. In this situation, Nikhil came home drunk the night before yesterday. Then, an argument

broke out between the father and son. Enraged, Nikhil took out a gun in front of his mother and fired several shots at his father. Hari Om died after being hit three times in the face, chest and abdomen. The police have registered a case and formed 5 special teams to search for Nikhil, who is absconding. Furthermore, the incident in which Nikhil shot and injured his younger brother Nishu in 2018 during a family dispute has now come to light in the police investigation.



TODAY'S PRICES

DATE : 17.06.2026





22K
(10 GRAM)

₹ 5,895

24K
(10 GRAM)

₹ 6,435

▼ GOLD PRICE MAY VARY SLIGHTLY



₹ 102.63

(PER LITRE)



₹ 94.24

(PER LITRE)

⌚ Note : Prices may vary depending on location.

★ Prices are subject to change without prior notice ★

🕒 Price updated at : 06:00 AM today

Iran’s military issues public warning We will destroy the infrastructure of Gulf countries

Tehran

The Iranian military has warned that it will destroy and raze the internal structures of Gulf countries. The US and Iran have been at war since February 28. After various truces, a temporary peace agreement was signed between the two countries on June 17. After this, the Iranian military imposed a ban on oil tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz along their border. In defiance of this, the Iranian military attacked eight oil tankers passing through the Sea of Oman. As a result, US President Donald Trump announced on the 8th that the temporary peace agreement would be canceled. Since then, there has been an intense war between the US and Iran. US warships have been patrolling both sides of the Strait of Hormuz. US warplanes launched a barrage of airstrikes on military bases, missile and drone man-



ufacturing facilities, Iranian military also and industrial sectors in the Iranian capital Tehran and the northern part of the country yesterday. Reports have emerged that 35 people have been killed and over 300 injured in the US attack in Iran so far. An oil tanker from the Caribbean country of Corsica was heading towards the Iranian island of Cork yesterday. A US warplane launched a missile attack targeting the engine compartment of the tanker, causing the ship to stop midway. In addition, US warships intercepted and turned back several oil tankers heading towards the Iranian port. In response to the US attack, the Iranian military launched missiles at a US air base in Kuwait yesterday. The

Iranian military also launched drone attacks on US air bases in Jordan, Bahrain, Iraq, and Kuwait yesterday. Iranian military spokesman Ebrahim Solbakari told reporters in Tehran yesterday: The Strait of Hormuz belongs to Iran. No one can claim this strait. We will not give it to anyone. If the US destroys Iran’s internal structures, we will destroy and destroy all the internal structures of America’s allies in the Gulf. “We will attack the enemy with all our might,” Ibrahim Solbakari said. The Iranian military has issued a veiled warning that it will attack oil fields, crude oil refineries, and storage facilities in Gulf countries, raising tensions in the Gulf.

500 Rohingya refugees killed in boat capsizations in last 2 months

The UN refugee agency has expressed concern that more than 500 people may have died in two separate boat sinkings at sea since last June, when Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar and Bangladesh were trying to reach the country. In this regard, the International Organization for Migration and the UN Refugee Agency jointly issued a joint statement, saying, “The Rohingya Muslim minority from war-torn Myanmar, and some of the Rohingya Muslims who had long lived in the overcrowded refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, set out on two boats in the last week of June in search of safety and a better livelihood.” Their



boats, which risked their lives in flimsy wooden boats, have sunk one after another. The first boat carrying 250 people lost contact shortly after setting off. Initial reports suggest that the second boat, which set off with about 280 people, may have sunk off the coast of Ayeyarwady, Myanmar, on the 8th. “There is no official confirmation of the sinking of the boats and the loss of life yet. However, the International Organization for Migration and the UN Refugee Agency are

deeply concerned by this tragic incident. These voyages took place at a time when the maritime environment is extremely dangerous,” it said. Rohingya Muslims have long risked their lives by traveling in wooden boats to countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand. The International Organization for Migration and the UN Refugee Agency have reported that about 300 Rohingya refugees have gone missing or died in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal this year.

US Navy re-blocks Iranian waters after attacks on oil tankers

Washington

Two oil tankers belonging to the United Arab Emirates were attacked by Iranian missiles two days ago as they passed through the Strait of Hormuz off the coast of Oman. One Indian sailor was killed and 10 Indian sailors were injured. India expressed its condolences. In this situation, the United States, which has been carrying out continuous attacks on Iran for the past few days, imposed a blockade on Iranian



waters yesterday. No vessels are allowed to leave Iranian ports. No ships are allowed to enter Iranian ports. The US Navy has taken this measure to further block Iran’s revenue. At the same time, the US is also expanding its airstrikes on Iranian military bases. Having destroyed

military bases on the Iranian coast, the US is now targeting military bases in Iran’s interior. Negotiation. “Iran must return to normalcy. If not, there will be attacks on Iran’s bridges and power plants next week. There will be nothing there,” US President Trump warned.

Linking Ganga-Cauvery rivers will solve the country’s water problem

Vijayawada

A holy aarti ceremony was held yesterday at the confluence of the Krishna and Godavari rivers near Ibrahimpatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu participated in the ceremony. Later, at a meeting held there, he said: “We will open the Polavaram Dam and dedicate it to the nation by March 2027. In the last 2 years since we came to power, we have spent Rs. 24 thousand crores on small dams and check dams in the water resources department.”

Chandrababu Naidu



We will spend Rs. 35 thousand crores in the next 3 years and complete 35 more watershed projects. If the Penna-Vamsadhara rivers are linked, there will be no drought in Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, if the Ganga and Cauvery rivers are linked, our country will not have any water problem.

Agriculture will also flourish in the country. The foundation stone for the Guntur Water Canal Project will be laid by the end of this month. The Polavaram Left Canal Project has been completed. On August 14, a Jala Aarti will be held for the Godavari water at Anakapalle. He said this.

Central government once again clarifies that passport is not proof of citizenship

New Delhi

The special electoral roll revision exercise being conducted by the Election Commission in several states has raised the question of whether passports can be used as proof of citizenship. Speaking to reporters, Union External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, “Passports are issued only after due verification and in accordance with the prescribed procedures. The issue of passports to Indian citizens or other persons is governed by the Passport Act, 1967 and the Passport Rules, 1980. According to the Passport Act, 1967, an Indian passport is an essential document issued by the Government

it is a ‘travel document’



of India to facilitate the travel of Indian citizens abroad. Furthermore, currently less than 8 percent of Indians hold a passport. Earlier, during the ‘Passport Seva Diwas’ event held on June 24 last month, the Ministry of External Affairs had categorically stated that an Indian passport is only a travel document and should not be considered a proof of citizenship. Officials said that although a passport is

issued only to Indian citizens, its primary purpose is to facilitate international travel and verify one’s identity abroad. Under the Passport Act, 1967, there are opportunities to issue passports to non-citizens of India. This is why the Bombay High Court, in a judgment delivered in 2013, had pointed out that the mere possession of a passport does not constitute a ‘final’ or ‘complete’ proof of a person’s citizenship.

Delhi High Court orders authorities to monitor Sonam Wangchuk’s health

New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has directed the authorities to monitor the health of social activist Sonam Wangchuk, who is on an indefinite fast at Delhi’s Jantar Mantar, daily and provide medical assistance if required. A continuous protest is being held at Delhi’s Jantar Mantar on behalf of the Karapanpoochchi Janata Party, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who is responsible for the question paper leak. Ladakh-based social activist Sonam Wangchuk, who participated in this protest, has been on a hunger strike since June 28, demanding Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation. A public interest litigation was filed in the Delhi High Court yesterday, urging the protection of Sonam Wangchuk’s health. The



petition states, “Sonam Wangchuk’s fast has entered its 18th day. But the government is not even remotely concerned about it. The government is insensitive to this issue. “They are turning a blind eye to Sonam Wangchuk, treating him like a criminal, a traitor, a terrorist. If they kill him like this, it will be a tragedy for the nation to see a citizen die before its eyes. Sonam Wangchuk will not be alive for even 2 more days. Force him to eat food immediately,” it was demanded. The petition, which was sought to be heard as an urgent matter, was taken up for hearing today (July 16). A bench comprising Justices D.K. Upadhyay and Tejas

Kariya heard the case. The judges said, “The life of every citizen is precious. We point out that the government authorities should make all efforts to protect it.” Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the central government and the Delhi government, said, “The life of every individual is precious. The government has no objection to continuously monitoring Wangchuk’s health.” Following this, the judges said, “We appreciate the position taken by the Solicitor General. We order that the health condition of Sonam Wangchuk be monitored on a daily basis and that necessary medical measures be taken.”



On the evening of July 14, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Nurses’ Development Association organized a massive protest demonstration in front of the Tiruvannamalai District Collector’s office, demanding the regularization of their employment in accordance with election promises. Representatives from the Pachaiyappan Raja Land Survey Association and others delivered speeches in support of the protest. Nurses participated in large numbers, and slogans were raised during the demonstration

Yoga World Record Event in Tenkasi



July 16

Praveen Kumar, a student from the Vallam area, set a world record by participating in a yoga world record event held at M.K.V.K. School in Tenkasi, Tenkasi district. Praveen Kumar has already set yoga world

records on two previous occasions. This latest achievement marks his third world record. Furthermore, he has participated in various district and state-level yoga competitions, achieving numerous victories and receiving a multitude of awards.

Kamarajar’s 124th Birth Anniversary Celebrated in Marudhamputhur



Alangulam

An event was held in Marudhamputhur, near Alangulam, to pay tribute to the ‘Father of Education,’ Perunthalai- var Kamarajar, by garlanding his statue on the occasion of his 124th birth anniversary. The event was organized by the Marudhamputhur Nadar Association. Many individuals participated in the event,

including Nadar Association office-bearers and members such as Union Councillor and Advocate Arinarayan; S. Murugesan (Human Rights Wing); Nainar Nadar; Nattamai Sivasubramanian; Contractor Chairman Raja; Kalakutti; S.S. Bhaskar Ramachandran; T.R. the Marudhamputhur Ramachandran; and Palpandi Narayanan Nadar.

Suresh Assumes Office as Vellore District Revenue Officer

Suresh has assumed office as the District Revenue Officer (DRO) of Vellore district. He has taken up this new role following the transfer of the previous DRO, Sivasubramanian. A veterinarian by profession, Suresh has



been appointed to this position after previously serving in Kallakurichi.



Vellore District Collector Mrs. P.S. Leela Alex, IAS, inquired about the stock of medicines required for emergency treatment with the driver of a two-wheeler emergency ambulance (108) today (16.07.2026) at Alleri village, located within the Pinjamanthai Panchayat of the Anaicut Panchayat Union. Anaicut MLA Mr. T. Velazhagan, District Panchayat Council President Mr. M. Babu, District Health Officer Dr. Vijay Chandran, District Maternal and Child Health Officer Mrs. Renuka, District Chief Educational Officer Mrs. R. Premalatha, Assistant Conservator of Forests Mr. Manivannan, Anaicut Tahsildar Mr. Sukumaran, and Block Development Officers Mr. Vinothkumar and Mr. Selvakumar, among others, accompanied her during this inspection.