

# “People are coming forward one by one after I spoke about the ‘Urban Naxal’ mindset”

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that over the past 13 years, India has witnessed a transformation from a state of policy paralysis to one of active policy implementation. Prime Minister Modi spoke while participating in the centenary celebrations of the Shri Ram College of Commerce in Delhi. It is noteworthy that he had previously addressed the same college in 2013. Spea-

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi

king to students at an event held on Saturday, he said: “In 2013, India faced severe challenges, including terrorism, corruption, and inflation. The nation’s growth was in decline. Inflation was at its peak, and corruption scandals had reached unprecedented levels nationwide. Terrorists roamed without fear,

and Pakistan was engaging in cross-border aggression. It was a period of policy paralysis, and the world viewed us as a weak nation. But look at the situation now: if Pakistan attempts an attack, we deliver a befitting response. We have eradicated Naxalism. People are witnessing the nation’s policies being ef-



fectively implemented. In the first quarter of the financial year, the nation’s GDP grew by 7.8 percent. India achieved this despite the conflict situation in West Asia and international trade challenges. I had spoken about the ‘Dimagi Naxal’ (ideological Naxals) at the Red Fort (referring to

his Independence Day speech). Since then, they have started to emerge into the open, and we will take action against them. The Jan Dhan Yojana scheme was launched [years ago]; at that time, 50 percent of the population did not have bank accounts. However, since 2012, approximately 60 crore bank accounts have

been opened.

In 2014, India used to import smartphones; now, we manufacture phones and have exported phones worth approximately ₹2.5 crore. Today’s youth are able to conceive and execute start-up ventures—an opportunity that the young generation did not have 13 years ago.” It is noteworthy that Prime Minister Modi arrived at the event via the Metro train.

## US Delegation Visits to Halt Russia Ukraine War: 3 Day Ceasefire

MOSCOW: A US delegation has arrived in Russia to hold talks aimed at halting the Russia-Ukraine war. Following this, a temporary three-day ceasefire has been announced. The United States has launched a bold new initiative to end the war between Russia and Ukraine, which has been ongoing for over four years.



A high-level delegation, including US President Trump’s son and law Jared Kushner and envoy Steve Witkoff, traveled to the Russian capital, Moscow,

yesterday with the aim of putting an end to the conflict. They were personally welcomed at the airport by Russian representative Kirill Dmitriev. In light of this significant visit by the US peace envoys,

both nations have agreed to a temporary ceasefire regarding aerial operations.

After Ukrainian President Zelenskyy announced that there would be no aerial attacks from their side, Rus-

sian President Putin ordered the military to observe a 72-hour (3-day) temporary ban on conducting air strikes against Ukraine. After concluding their talks in Moscow, the US delegation is scheduled to travel to Kyiv today (Sunday) to meet with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy. It is noteworthy that amidst these peace negotiations, a missile attack launched by Russia targeting industrial and residential areas in Ukraine resulted in the deaths of five people, including women.

## “Let us build a safe and exemplary Tamil Nadu”

### Chief Minister Vijay extends Police Day greetings

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay has extended greetings on the occasion of Police Day, urging everyone to “pledge to create an exemplary Tamil Nadu filled with peace and security.” In a social media post regarding this, he stated:

“On the occasion of Police Day—celebrated to commemorate the enactment of the Madras District Police Act of 1859 and the establishment of a modern,



organized police force—I extend my heartfelt greetings to all police personnel who work selflessly to ensure peace in

society and uphold the rule of law.

The bravery and sacrifice of our police personnel—who prevent crime and maintain law and order in our state, while also courageously working on the ground to protect people’s lives, property, and rights during dangerous situations and disasters—are truly praiseworthy. Our government will prior-

itize reducing the workload of police personnel,

enhancing their operational efficiency through modern technology, and ensuring the implementation of necessary welfare schemes for them and their families. Let us pledge today that the public will join hands with the police, moving forward with trust and harmony, to build an exemplary Tamil Nadu defined by peace and security.”

## Justice Sanjay Kumar Agrawal Appointed Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court

### Action taken following complaints against the Acting Chief Justice

NEW DELHI: Sanjay Kumar Agrawal has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court amidst a controversy sparked by Supreme Court Judge Sandeep Mehta, who raised allegations—including corruption and abuse of power—against the then Acting Chief Justice, Sanjeev Prakash Sharma. Sanjay Kumar Agrawal has been appointed as the permanent Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court after a gap of nearly a year. Notably, however, no action has yet been taken regarding Supreme Court Judge Sandeep Mehta’s request to transfer Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma out of Rajasthan. This announcement comes four days after the Supreme Court Collegium recommended the appointment of Sanjay Kumar Agrawal—currently serving as a judge at the Chhattisgarh Hi-

gh Court—as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court. Other Chief Justice appointments announced on Saturday include: V. Kameswar Rao (Patna High Court), Ravindra V. Ghuge (Calcutta High Court), Mahesh Chandra Tripathi (Bombay High Court), Ashwani Kumar Mishra (Punjab and Haryana High Court), Krishna Ram Mohapatra (Chhattisgarh High Court), Alpesh Yashwant Kogje (Madhya Pradesh High Court), and Pushpendra Singh Bhati (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court). Supreme Court Judge Sandeep Mehta had written a letter to Chief Justice Surya Kant last month. In that letter, he highlighted various allegations against Sanjeev Prakash Sharma, the Acting Chief Justice of

the Rajasthan High Court. The letter noted that Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma is due to retire next month.



nth. It stated that during a visit to Rajasthan, several judges had expressed distress and complained that he was misusing his position to deliver verdicts favorable to affluent litigants. Furthermore, they reported being intimidated by the Acting Chief Justice. Justice

Sandeep Mehta urged that Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma be transferred immediately to uphold the dignity of the Rajasthan High Court. He emphasized that the Supreme Court Collegium must make an immediate decision on this matter, noting that any delay would be entirely detrimental to the interests of the High Court. Similarly, some lawyers from the Rajasthan High Court also submitted various complaints regarding Sanjeev Prakash Sharma to Supreme Court judges. Specifically, they alleged that he had recommended the appointment of four female lawyers as judges, despite the fact that they had not practiced law in a proper manner.

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Thanjavur: Water was released from the Kallanai (Grand Anicut) at 11:00AM today for the Samba paddy cultivation in the Delta districts.

## National Interest Drives Russian Crude Oil Imports

### Central Government

NEW DELHI: The Union Ministry of External Affairs has stated that national interest guides our energy procurement decisions, addressing the issue of Russian oil imports.

India continues to import crude oil from Russia. Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar, during a visit to Ukraine, remarked that the Ukraine issue would not be resolved simply by a country buying or not buying oil; rather, it would

be settled through dialogue and diplomacy. This point was raised during a press briefing in Delhi, where Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal faced questions on the matter. He was asked how India had conveyed its stance on purchasing Russian oil to Ukrainian President Zelenskyy. Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal responded as follows: “You are well aware of what



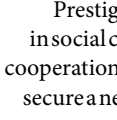
drives our energy imports and procurement. It is our national interest that guides our energy purchases. Furthermore, we have an obli-

igation to meet the energy needs of 1.4 billion people. That is what guides us, and that will continue to be our policy. The External Affairs Minister has stated that if India can do anything to help bring the Ukraine war to an end, it is ready to do so.” Thus, he stated...

## Today horoscope



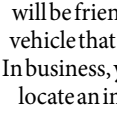
Your children will become less stubborn and listen to what you say. A marriage alliance for your daughter will materialize soon. Outstanding dues will be recovered in your business. Give importance to your partner's views. Avoid making enemies at your workplace.



Prestigious positions will come your way in social circles. You will receive increased cooperation from your spouse's family. You will secure a new job. Benefits will arise through government-related matters. Business will pick up pace, yielding good profits. Your standing at the workplace will improve.



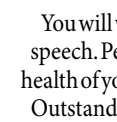
Sudden travel may cause fatigue and running around. You will struggle to complete planned tasks. With the support of your siblings, you will renovate and expand your ancestral home. Old business dues will be collected. You will receive appreciation from your superiors at work.



You will shake off fatigue and work energetically. People in positions of authority will be friendly towards you. You will replace a vehicle that has been causing frequent trouble. In business, you will procure new stock. You will locate an important document you had been searching for at the office.



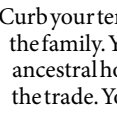
You will quickly complete planned tasks. You may have to spend your savings to fulfill your children's wishes. Exercise caution while driving. You will need to work hard to achieve the expected profits in business. Maintain a calm demeanor at the office.



You will win everyone over with your tactful speech. Peace will return to the family. The health of your wife and mother will improve. Outstanding dues will be collected in your business. At the office, it is best to mind your own business and focus on your work.



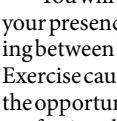
You will be introduced to prominent figures. You will understand the feelings of family members and adjust yourself accordingly. Business will pick up pace and yield moderate profits. Avoid interfering in others' affairs at the workplace.



It is best to act cautiously in all matters. Curb your temper. Practice compromise within the family. You will renovate and expand your ancestral home. You will learn the nuances of the trade. Your standing at the workplace will improve.



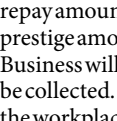
Issues regarding ancestral property will be resolved. You will meet childhood friends. Your children will conduct themselves responsibly. You will attract old customers by employing new strategies in business. Your superior at work will appreciate you.



You will accomplish various tasks using your presence of mind. Mutual understanding between husband and wife will improve. Exercise caution while driving. You will have the opportunity to meet prominent people in a professional context.



Old friends will seek you out. Stalled government-related tasks will be completed. You will attend auspicious events with your family. Financial inflow will be satisfactory. You will be recommended for a new position at work. You will relocate your business premises.



There will be an inflow of money. You will repay amounts borrowed for urgent needs. Your prestige among maternal relatives will rise. Business will be brisk, and outstanding dues will be collected. Avoid interfering in others' affairs at the workplace.

# ISRO Privatisation? Employee Bodies Seek Clarity Over Private Sector Role



**SRIHARIKOTTA:** Is Modi govt pushing everything towards private players? This is a burning question that ISRO scientists are asking today. According to the reports, employees of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) are seeking clarifications from the government about whether the privatisation agenda will go as far as the total dismantling of ISRO as a manufacturer of launch vehicles.

The issue came up in the wake of IN&SPACE chairman Pawan Kumar Goenka's suggestion that ISRO could eventually cease manufacturing launch vehicles, and leave their production to private companies or public sector units. Goenka's remarks have caused anxiety among ISRO employees that the organisation's traditional

role as a launch vehicle manufacturer and provider of ancillary services could be terminated in time to come. In a September 4 letter to ISRO chairman and Department of Space secretary V Narayanan, the employee bodies asked the government to clarify whether the government's view was one of an "official approval", and if so, the legality, time & frame and impact on the current work & force. The associations referred to the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) as an exam-

ple of the ongoing transition, and warned that the eventual production of bigger launch systems like the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and LVM3 could also follow.

While saying that they did not oppose private participation in India's space programme, the employees expressed apprehension that at ISRO's own capabilities to manufacture, test and operate launch systems would be phased out. They said that such a move would deprive ISRO scientists and engineers of pr-

ecious hands & on experience in building and testing launch vehicles. They added that a loss of involvement in these activities would negatively impact recruitment, promotions and career prospects of ISRO personnel.

India's space reforms have facilitated private sector participation in creating satellites, developing launch systems and commercialising space technologies, with agencies like IN&SPACE and NewSpace India playing a facilitating role. The employee associations have sought a delineation of responsibilities between ISRO and the private sector, and their demand is now drawing attention to an issue at the heart of India's space reforms: whether private sector participation will supplement ISRO's capabilities or progressively replace them.

# First woman Army officer from Kargil graduates at OTA



**CHENNAI:** When Officer Cadet Stanzin Tsangyang stood on the parade ground at the Officers Training Academy (OTA), on Saturday, she was carrying more than the rank badges she was about to receive.

The 23-year-old from Kargil was becoming the first woman Army officer from the district, a journey that began in the mountains of Zaskar in Ladakh. "I was completely lost during classes 11 and 12," she said, recalling that her career choices then seemed limited to engineering, medicine or law. She eventually chose engineering, pursuing Mechanical Engineering.

It was while in college, through the NCC, that she learnt more about the Indian

Army. The more she learnt, the more convinced. "I knew from inside that this is what I want to do," she said.

The Army's active lifestyle and the scope to remain physically fit appealed to her. Coming from a civilian family with no military background, she said the idea of becoming an Army officer was not something she had grown up around. "There are many who are in the Army in Ladakh, but they are not officers," she said.

Earlier, youngsters may not have known about the routes into the officer cadre or may have hesitated because of the difficult selection process and limited vacancies.

Stanzin also pushed back against a perception she said

was sometimes held outside Ladakh that there is an inherent friction between the Army and local people.

"People of Ladakh respect the Indian Army too much," she said. "Living close to the borders, residents understood the Army's role in protecting their home."

Colonel OPN Kalyan (retd) knows what it takes to enter the Army. His father joined in 1940; Kalyan himself was commissioned in 1969. This time, it was his grandson Lt Rashwant preparing for the uniform. Originally from Orathy, a small village in Chengalpattu, he was so proud in continuing his family legacy. "It's always been my dream to wear a uniform," Rashwant said. He was among 29 women and 313 male officer cadets commissioned into the Indian Army at OTA Chennai. Another 17 cadets from seven friendly foreign countries including Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Bhutan and Lesotho completed their training.

The 122nd Passing Out Parade was reviewed by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan who congratulated the newly commissioned officers and urged them to uphold the values of selfless service and the pursuit of excellence.

On the parade ground, many roots converged. Officer Cadet Mohit Arora from Phagwara in Punjab had spent seven years pursuing his Army ambition.

The son of an Army Postal Service veteran, he turned down admission opportunities at three IIMs to pursue his long-held goal of joining the Army. Battalion Under Officer Sagar Bhadana came from an agrarian family near Faridabad with no military background. For another cadet, the uniform represented a family legacy. Officer Cadet Prashant Gurung grew up with the stories of his grandfather and father, both associated with the Gorkha Rifles. And for Ritika Dubey, from a small village in Gorakhpur, the route involved scholarships, athletics and volunteering before she became the first member of her family to pursue a military career.

# UNEP report: 'Some climate damage irreversible, emitters must act'

**NEW DELHI:** World temperatures are running dangerously close to crossing the 1.5-degree Celsius global warming threshold, and 50 years of technological progress will not reverse the damage, a top United Nations official has said, warning that "things may not return to normal." The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report, titled 'Limiting Overshoot' and released on Wednesday, cautions that global temperatures are set to temporarily breach the 1.5-degree Celsius mark above pre-industrial levels within the next few years. This overshoot will intensify extreme weather, destroy fragile ecosystems, and threaten the survival of small island developing nations, making immediate and sustained cuts in greenhouse gas emissions non-negotiable.



Balakrishna Pisupati, head of UNEP India, said long-term policy and investment decisions must urgently adapt to changes that are permanent. He emphasised that while some environmental impacts can still be reversed, others are permanent, and understanding that distinction is vital for every country, community, and individual across the world.

Highlighting South Asia's severe vulnerability, Pisupati noted that the region is caught in a web of overlapping crises. "South

Asia is challenged by demographic pressures, income inequality, unequal access to technology, and a just energy transition. Like many developing countries, South Asia is largely at the receiving end of global warming," he said.

"Many of these changes don't respect political boundaries, which is why we have multilateral processes, negotiations, and frameworks like the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)," he added.

Pisupati pointed out

that several climate "clocks" are ticking simultaneously, each moving at its own speed and time horizon & spanning the heat clock, glacier clock, sea level clock, ecosystems clock, and human clock.

"Take the heat clock & the moment we reduce warming, we may see an immediate effect.

But the glacier clock is different. Even if temperatures fall back to 1.2 or 1.3 degrees Celsius after a hundred years, glaciers will not simply re-form, and ice caps will not return to how they were in the 1800s or 1900s," he explained.

He added that the sea-level clock moves even faster, warning that its disastrous impact will be "impossible" to reverse over a decade even if warming is capped at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

september 6 Nha Trang 2026

## Crowned: Johairy Mola... Dominican Republic wins Miss World title after 44 years...



**J**ohairy Mola Dominguez, a 24-year-old from the Dominican Republic, won the Miss World title. The grand finale of the 73rd Miss World pageant took place in the city of Nha Trang, Vietnam. This is marked the first time the Miss World pageant was held in Vietnam. Surpassing 111 other contestants, Johairy Mola Dominguez claimed the title. With this victory, the Dominican Republic has secured the Miss World crown again after 44 years; the country had previously won the title in 1982 through Mariasela Alvarez. Johairy Mola thus becomes the Dominican Republic's second Miss World winner. Spain's Elisabeth Reyes was named the first runner-up, while Malaysia's Dhanushia Chetty secured the second runner-up spot. Nikita, representing India, advanced to the top 40 but was eliminated after failing to qualify for the top 20. The Miss World title in 2025 had been won by Opal Suchata Chuangsri from Thailand.

## Chhattisgarh Case: NIA Court Convicts 10 People for Killing 29

**BASTAR:** A National Investigation Agency (NIA) court has convicted all 10 individuals accused in the case involving the killing of 29 people in Chhattisgarh. On May 25, 2013, Maoists intercepted and attacked a convoy of Congress party leaders returning from the 'Parivartan Rally' in the Jhirim Valley of Chhattisgarh's Bastar district. Twenty-nine people, including Chhattisgarh Congress chief Nand Kumar Patel, were killed in the attack.

The Bastar district police initially registered a case and began an investigation. The case was subsequently handed over to the NIA. Proceedings were conducted at the NIA court in Jagdalpur. NIA officials filed the charge sheet in 2014, and 101 witnesses were examined during the trial.

Following the conclusion of the trial, NIA Judge Abhay Singh Rajput delivered the verdict yesterday. The judge declared all 10 accused in the case guilty. He further announced that the details of the sentences for the 10 individuals would be pronounced on the 16th.

## Left keeps cards close on joining Sept 9 TVK meet

**CHENNAI:** The Left parties on Saturday said they would announce their decision on whether to attend the meeting convened by the ruling TVK on September 9 before that day, without specifying a time frame, heightening suspense.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting of the Left parties' coordination committee, Shanmugam said the CPI and CPM were yet to discuss the invitation extended by TVK to parties supporting the government and those in the alliance.

"The respective party committees will meet and take a decision. We will certainly announce our decision before September 9," he said.

Shanmugam said TVK had made a fresh attempt to bring together parties supporting the government and form an alliance. Unlike the earlier meeting, which the Left parties did not attend, the ministers who met the two parties' state secretaries on Friday clearly explained the objective of the September 9 meeting.

Meanwhile, Shanmugam announced that the Left parties would hold a massive workers' rally in Tiruchy on October 15. The rally, earlier scheduled for October 6, was postponed due to unavoidable reasons. The national general secretaries of the three Left parties are expected to participate. The rally will be held under the slogan "Tamil Nadu towards the Left", Shanmugam said. He said the objective was to strengthen Left ideology across Tamil Nadu and mobilise people in support of Left policies.

He said the rally would focus on the aspirations and demands of working people and oppose economic inequality, caste discrimination and various forms of oppression. A statewide campaign for the rally will begin on Sunday, with the Left parties planning to take their message and demands to villages, towns and households.

CPI state secretary M Veerapandian said the Left parties had begun a separate political journey through the coordination committee and would join hands with democratic forces to defeat the BJP when circumstances required.

"We support good schemes and governance, but oppose those against the public without compromise. Our voice will always be on the side of workers, the poor and the weaker sections," he said.



## Wedding party fire in Congo's capital Kinshasa leaves at least 22 dead

**KINSHASA:** A fire at a wedding party in Congo's capital Kinshasa left at least 22 people dead, the regional mayor said Saturday. Several others were injured. The fire started Friday night and continued into early Saturday in a building in Lingwala in northern Kinshasa. The building's narrow hallways were constricted by people trying to escape the fire.

Several people — some alive and some dead — were laid by the roadside as attendees tried to help those who were still alive.

The mayor of Lingwala, Norbert Mushinga, told the Congolese Press Agency that the provisional death toll was 22. He said the toll could rise further.

The exact cause of the fire was unconfirmed. "It is a tragedy," Jacquemin Shabani, Congo's deputy prime minister and interior minister, said. The minister visited the site Saturday morning.

Deadly fires are common in densely populated areas of Kinshasa where urban development is often implemented without provisions such as fire services. Fires are common during the dry season and several have taken place this year, according to local media.



Gathering at the centenary celebrations of Shri Ram College of Commerce (S-RCC) at Maurice Nagar, in New Delhi on September 05, 2026. PM addressing on the occasion.

## Viral Delhi Metro Phone Sticking Stunts DMRC Warns Content Creators, Strict Action Will Be Taken

You must have seen viral videos, in which, some people stick their phones to a running metro's window to

who share a space with them, and can also cause damage to the phones they carry.

DMRC stated that such

age of commuters, especially in crowds.

DMRC has been addressing similar issues with content creators over the past weeks of disruptive social media content being made inside the system, with dance, pranks, staged performances and other shoots being reported.

While passengers are accustomed to using their mobile phones for communication, messaging and personal photography, DMRC's concern is

kind of filming can cause a nuisance or cause harm to fellow passengers, and can also damage the phones being used. The corporation said it was concerned and would take action against anyone found recording shoots inside Metro premises.

The advisory brings to light the issue of phones becoming loose in the hands of the carrier causing injury to fellow passengers and also the danger of filming activity causing obstruction to pass-

with the recording of videos that involve disruptive set-ups or causes discomfort to others. The corporation has urged creators to avoid such practices inside the Metro system and reminded passengers that such spaces should remain safe and comfortable for everyone. With short-form videos increasingly being filmed, DMRC's latest advisory makes clear that viral content should not come at the expense of passenger safety or inconvenience.



shoot their video just for sake of some likes, however, they don't realise how dangerous it can be. Taking cognizance of such instances, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has a strict warning to content creators of the dangers of attaching their mobile phones to Metro train windows to record videos, saying it would take action against any such individual.

Such actions can cause discomfort, inconvenience and injury to fellow commuters

## US ambassador calls violent Israeli settlers 'terrorists' after weeks of West Bank unrest

JERUSALEM: The United States ambassador to Israel condemned Israeli settler violence in the occupied West Bank again on Saturday, calling the behaviour an "act of terror" as he visited with Palestinian American residents shaken by

with the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, according to the United Nations humanitarian office.

Huckabee also used the term "terrorists" last month after weeks of unrest in the West Bank town of Qusra, where

religious in Israel's history. It has presided over a surge of settlement construction in the West Bank. Most of the international community views settlements as illegal. On Saturday's visit to Turmus Ayya, the ambassador began his remarks by making clear he was addressing US citizens, who make up a small percentage of the roughly 3 million Palestinians in the West Bank but a significant part of the village's population.

"I'm very aware that a lot of the American people who live in Turmus Ayya and other communities across this region are not enjoying the life they deserve to live, not enjoying it in a peaceful way," Huckabee said. "It's a life that is disturbed by people who have created extraordinary challenges that are unfair and illegal."

The US Embassy can't investigate criminal activity, he said, but it can tell its host government "there are needs that need to be addressed, there are issues that cannot go unnoticed, and specific crimes and acts of terror that cannot continue without that country doing the investigation and adjudication that every person has a right to expect."

Huckabee met with about 10 Palestinian American residents who described the impact of the violence on their lives and properties, the municipality told The Associated Press.

Israel captured the West Bank, along with Gaza and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 Mideast war, territories the Palestinians want for a future state. The UN and much of the international community consider them to be illegally occupied. Since then, the Israeli government has built nearly 150 settlements that are home to well over 500,000 Jewish settlers. Many settlements resemble developed suburbs. Israel's military operates in all parts of the West Bank, but rights groups have said the military frequently turns a blind eye to settler violence. The settlers are Israeli citizens, and Israel's defense minister recently announced plans to fully transfer law enforcement among settlers to the Israeli police.



months of attacks.

Ambassador Mike Huckabee referred to such settlers as "terrorists," a word that US officials usually reserve for Palestinian militants. "If there are squatters that come in and put up their own flags and take possession of something that does not belong to them, if they burn a car, if they torch a mosque, if they go into someone's home and vandalize it, paint graffiti on the walls, that's a criminal act. But it extends beyond a criminal act. It's an act of terror," Huckabee said during his visit to the village of Turmus Ayya, which has reported frequent attacks by settlers over the past year.

Such attacks have surged since the war in Gaza began

Netanyahu's government is the most ultranationalist and



TIRUCHY: Terming the DVAC raids politically motivated, former minister KN Nehru on Friday alleged that the ruling party was trying to threaten and silence the

## DVAC threats can't silence Oppn's voice: Former minister KN Nehru

Opposition from raising questions in the Assembly. "We have faced several such cases levelled against us by several Chief Ministers, including late CM J Jayalalithaa, and proved innocent every time, and this time too, we will prove it," he stressed. He said the charges of tender irregularities were false and that he

would prove his innocence in court. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition linked it to a direct response to questioning the ruling TVK government in the Assembly. Upset over executing the duty of an opposition party, they are trying to silence us by using the DVAC, he alleged.

Speaking to reporters after the raids, Nehru said DVAC

sleuths searched his house, that of his brother and the premises of people associated with him in connection with what he termed a fabricated case. "The team took the usual records related to his accounts and those of his brother and got our signature for the documents and left the place. We gave full support to the team during the DVAC raids

and our party president MK Stalin also asked us to extend full support to the raids," Nehru said.

Nehru said the sleuths did not question him about cases that were already under investigation. Maintaining that he had done nothing wrong, he said he would face any charges legally and prove himself innocent in court.

## Putin meets with US envoys at Kremlin for renewed talks on ending war in Ukraine

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin met with US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner at the Kremlin on Saturday for talks to try to revive a stalled push to end the Russia-Ukraine war.

Putin, Kushner and Witkoff spoke for more than three hours in closed-door talks that come as both sides continue to escalate aerial attacks. Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy both agreed to pause strikes on each other's capitals while the talks took place. Washington's push to end the fighting has lost momentum as US attention has been focused for the past six months on the Iran war. The last known visit to Moscow by Witkoff and Kushner, US President Donald Trump's son-in-law, was in January, when they also held talks with Putin at the Kremlin.

Both US envoys will also visit Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, for the first time in the peace process on Sunday, Ukrainian officials said.

At the start of the meeting in Moscow, Putin asked Kushner and Witkoff to pass on his warm wishes and gratitude to Trump, and described the situation in Ukraine as "not simple." Russian forces launched an all-out invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

"(Russian President Vladimir) Putin has ordered that no strikes be carried out against Kyiv for three days, starting at midnight today," presidential spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told Russia's Tass news agency.

Zelenskyy said that Ukraine was prepared to halt strikes on Moscow until Monday. He said he spoke on Saturday afternoon with the US delegation after their

arrival in Moscow.

"From now through the end of Saturday, as well as on Sunday and Monday, Ukraine is ready to refrain from strikes on Moscow, and we expect the Russians to do the same regarding Kyiv," he said.

The US envoys were met at the airport in Moscow by Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev, Tass reported. Dmitriev shared photos of him meeting with the US delegation as they disembarked, alongside the caption, "Welcome to Moscow Peacemakers." With peace efforts stalled, Russia has intensified its attacks on Kyiv and other cities with relentless bombardments stretching into daylight hours, taking advantage of Ukraine's shortage of air defense systems.

On Friday, a Russian drone hit one of the most important government buildings in Kyiv — the headquarters of Ukraine's Security Service, known as the SBU, which is one of the agencies involved in carrying out deep-strike operations inside Russia.

The long-range strikes by Ukraine have hit Russian military facilities, oil refineries and e-commerce hubs, seeking to undermine the Kremlin's war effort and economy, as well as make ordinary citizens feel the consequences of the war. The air war between Russia and Ukraine has intensified as troops have struggled to make progress along the 1,250-kilometre front line. Russia has recently been using fast-flying, jet-powered drones, and the recurring wail of air-raid sirens has become part of daily life in Kyiv.

In a social media post on Saturday, Zelenskyy said



that Russia had carried out overnight strikes on Kyiv and Boryspil international airports, and linked the attack to the planned US visit.

"Clearly, these Russian strikes on the airports are a reaction to the discussions and preparations for the possibility of the US side using an aircraft to travel to Ukraine," he said.

"We have taken note of this Russian move, and next week we will adjust our operation accordingly regarding Russian airspace, which has become dangerous because of our drones and missiles in the sky. Of course, there are and will be no threats to diplomacy from our side." Russian attacks killed five people and wounded five others at an industrial facility in Ukraine's southern Dnipropetrovsk region, local military administration head Oleksandr Hanzha said. He described those killed as employees at the site.

"A locksmith, an electrician, a plumber and a machinist. People of peaceful professions. They were simply working their shift. They were doing their job when enemy missiles cut off their lives," he said.

A 62-year-old man was wounded, and several homes and an apartment building were damaged, in a separate attack on the region's Nikopol district, Hanzha said. In a statement on Saturday, Russia's Ministry

of Defense said that it had carried out strikes on two metallurgical plants in the region, describing them as "major suppliers of metal products for Ukraine's military production."

The city of Dnipro and the nearby Pidhorodne community were among the areas hit. One person died and five others were injured, including two men who were hospitalised in serious condition, Hanzha said.

A service station, supermarket, industrial facility, apartment buildings and vehicles were damaged. A sixth civilian was injured in an attack on the Nikopol district.

A Russian drone also struck a house in Chuhuiv in Ukraine's eastern Kharkiv region, killing at least three people and wounding a 40-year-old woman, regional administration head Oleh Syniehubov said.

The victims were a 19-year-old woman, an 11-year-old boy and a 45-year-old man. The strike destroyed a residential building, an outbuilding and a garage, Syniehubov said. Firefighters were battling a blaze as local authorities searched the area for any additional casualties.

Two people were killed and another person was wounded in a Russian drone attack on the Bucha district of Ukraine's Kyiv region on Saturday, local officials said.

Earlier on Saturday, head of the regional military administration Tymur Tkachenko said that two people were wounded in an overnight attack on the region.

As of Saturday evening, 28 facilities in five districts of the region had been damaged, Tkachenko said. These included private and apartment buildings, warehouses, railway tracks, the territory of an agricultural enterprise and vehicles, he said.

Russian forces also repeatedly struck a shopping center in the southern Mykolaiv region with drones overnight, damaging retail premises and sparking fires, Ukraine's state emergency services said. A 72-year-old man and a 17-year-old girl were wounded.

Emergency crews responding to the attack were repeatedly forced to withdraw to safety because of the threat of further strikes, returning whenever conditions allowed, the emergency services said.

Russia launched ballistic missiles from its Rostov and Voronezh regions and deployed 167 attack drones overnight, Ukraine's air force said.

The drones included Shahed-type aircraft — around half of them jet-powered — as well as Geran and decoy drones. Ukrainian air defences shot down or suppressed 128 drones, according to the air force.

In Russia's Belgorod region on the border with Ukraine, two people were killed and three others were wounded by Ukrainian attacks on Saturday, local authorities said.

Russia's Defence Ministry said in statement that its forces had shot down 53 Ukrainian drones overnight.

## Chief Secretary inspects drainage and canal works in south Chennai ahead of northeast monsoon



CHENNAI: Chief Secretary M Sai Kumar on Saturday reviewed a series of drainage, canal and waterbody works across south Chennai ahead of the northeast monsoon.

In Sholinganallur, he inspected a Rs. 73 crore stormwater drain project on the OMR in Thoraipakkam, where the Highways Department is working to connect water flowing out of the Pallikarai

canal at Rs. 8.68 crore. The channel will carry rainwater through the drainage network along the Velachery & Medavakkam road towards the Pallikarai marsh, helping drain the surrounding residential areas of Ram Nagar (South), Kubera Nagar and Sadasivam Nagar.

He also inspected water & hyacinth removal at Narayanapuram Lake and reviewed the sluice and canal arrangements for releasing water. Along the Radial Road - Perungudi dump yard stretch, officials were directed to clear water hyacinth and desilt 17 culverts to ensure that water can flow towards the Buckingham Canal without obstruction.

In Adyar, he inspected a

Rs. 13.52 crore stormwater drain at Tidel Park being constructed over 660 metres to carry rainwater from the IIT area to the Buckingham Canal. At the Okkiyam Maduvu canal, he reviewed ongoing Chennai Metro Rail works and directed officials to expedite them and remove water hyacinth to facilitate the free flow of rainwater.

The Chief Secretary directed the Greater Chennai Corporation, Water Resources Department, Highways Department, Chennai Metro Rail Corporation and Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board to coordinate the monsoon preparedness works and complete them by the end of September.

## ‘Give Hope, Not Stupid Labels’

# CJP Hits Back at PM Modi Over ‘Dimagi Naxal’ Remark at SRCC

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi again used the term ‘Dimagi Naxals’ during his address at Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) in Delhi and now this remark has got a sharp response from Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka.

The criticism mainly attracted after PM Modi used this term while addressing students at the prestigious Delhi University college during its centenary celebrations. Saurav Das accused PM Modi for targeting young people who asks questions from the people who are in power and not discussing the issues that directly affect students and teachers. “Wow. Going to one of India’s premier colleges and once again branding a young, questioning generation as



“Dimagi Naxals” has got to be among the most shameful things a Prime Minister can do. And on Teacher’s Day,” Das wrote on X.

He said PM Modi could have addressed issues over teachers’ medical and childcare leave, deteriorating infrastructure at SRCC and pressure students feel after intense competition among students. Das also said that PM should have addressed issues like school closures,

unemployment and access to education.

CJP co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka also asked the same question focusing PM Modi’s speech, he said his speech should have focus more on education, employment and challenges facing young Indians. “Going to the centenary celebrations of a college as reputed as SRCC, you would have expected the Prime Minister to talk education, jobs, current challenges impacting

students, and what all India is doing to set itself apart for next 20 years,” Ranka said.

“Instead, he resorted to “Dimagi Naxal” nonsense. That’s what happens when your degree is in “Entire Political History.” PM Modi who returned to SRCC after 13 years of his last address as CM of Gujarat, this time in his address he used the term ‘dimagi Naxa’ which he used in his Independence day speech. He compared this phrase to homeopathic medicine that initially intensify and illness before even started its effect.

“As soon as I gave the ‘Dimagi Naxal’ homeopathy pill, all the ‘Dimagi Naxals’ started coming out one by one. And now the public is also seeing the true colours of those who are encouraging this illness,” Modi said.

## PM debate matter of past, says Manickam Tagore ahead of friendlies’ huddle

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president Manickam Tagore on Saturday reiterated that Rahul Gandhi remains the Congress’s Prime Ministerial candidate, even as the party prepares to participate in the TVK’s friendly parties’ conference on September 9. Tagore made the remarks while speaking to reporters after interacting with the visiting TVK ministers N Anand and Aadhav Arjuna at Sathyamurthy Bhavan in Chennai. Despite sources in Congress saying that Saturday’s meeting was held in a less-than cordial atmosphere, with the leaders remaining silent for most of the time, Tagore said that the PM candidate conflict



with the TVK was a matter of the past. Rahul Gandhi is the only PM face, he asserted and confirmed Congress’ participation in the September 9 TVK friendlies’ meeting. But the Congress sources said the atmosphere at Saturday’s meeting contrasted with their earlier interactions, when the leaders had met in a friendly manner and spent considerable time discussing the political

situation in Tamil Nadu.

“This time, the scenario was completely different,” the source said.

The meeting came a day after Anand, Aadhav Arjuna, R Nirmal Kumar and Rajmohan personally met leaders of the Left and MDMK and invited them to the TVK’s friendly parties’ conference, which will be led by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay. During Saturd-

ay’s meeting, Tagore held discussions with Anand and Aadhav Arjuna in the presence of Congress ministers Viswanathan and Rajesh Kumar and other senior party functionaries.

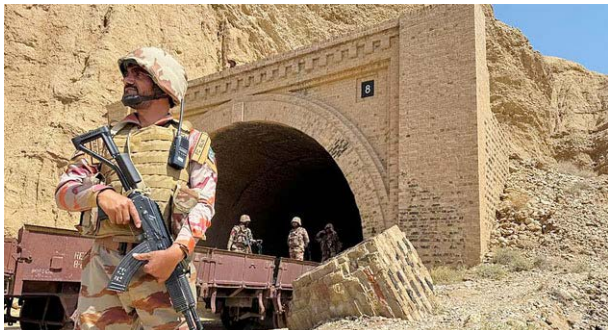
Tagore said the Congress would participate in the September 9 conference. “We assume that the TVK alliance will be named at that meeting,” he said.

Asked about the Prime Ministerial candidate, Tagore said, “Our Prime Ministerial candidate is Rahul Gandhi.” He described the issue as a “closed chapter” and accused some people of being keen to break the secular & social justice alliance. “That will not happen,” he said.

## 25 Pakistani Soldiers Killed in Attacks by Baloch Forces

ISLAMABAD: Twenty-five Pakistani soldiers lost their lives in two separate attacks carried out by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) in Balochistan, Pakistan’s largest province.

Balochistan is Pakistan’s largest province, where separatists have been fighting for autonomy in opposition to political repression and



military crackdowns.

In this context, the BLA

stated that 18 soldiers were killed in an attack by the ‘Fa-

teh Squad’ on army vehicles in the Ziarat Cross area the day before yesterday, while another 7 soldiers were killed in an attack by a special strike unit in the Hajika area.

Subsequently, 48 members belonging to the BLA and Tehreek-e-Taliban were killed in a retaliatory attack launched by the Pakistan Army.

## US Strikes Early; Iran Retaliates Undeterred – Tensions Peak

TEHRAN: This morning, the US attacked and destroyed three of Iran’s massive oil tankers. In retaliation for the US attack, the IRGC struck three oil tankers linked to the US. Consequently, tensions in the Middle East have reached a boiling point. The US justified its actions by claiming, “We were merely on patrol when Iran’s IRGC military launched missiles at us—unprovoked. In response, we attacked and destroyed Iran’s major oil tankers: the M/T Downy, M/T Strark I, and M/T Kylon. However, Iran has questioned the narrative, asking, “Why would we launch a missile attack on a vessel that was simply

passing by?”

Furthermore, Iran stated that, in retaliation for the US attack, the IRGC struck three oil tankers linked to the US.



Unnecessary US actions have already led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, causing a rise in petrol and diesel prices globally, including in India. In Chennai’s Anna Nagar, a liter of pure ‘Speed’ petrol (unblended with ethanol) is

selling for ₹117–118; the US is the cause of this situation. Due to this unnecessary conflict instigated by the US, the closure of the Strait of Hormuz has paralyzed maritime transport. As a result, the volume of crude oil exported from the Middle East in August dropped by 39% compared to January and February of this year. Realizing that a continued escalation would benefit neither side,

Iran is actively pursuing negotiations regarding this issue. Yesterday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held separate, urgent telephone consultations with the foreign

ministers of Turkey and Saudi Arabia. These discussions focused on de-escalating tensions, establishing peace, and resolving the issues surrounding the Strait of Hormuz. It remains to be seen how effective these talks will prove to be. Compounding this situation, the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon has also intensified.

Hezbollah operatives in southern Lebanon launched an attack using two explosive-laden drones against Israeli forces. While there were no casualties on the Israeli side, it is noteworthy that the Israeli military has launched heavy retaliatory strikes in southern Lebanon in response.



## Tamil Nadu honours 396 teachers with Dr. Radhakrishnan Award

CHENNAI: The School Education department honoured 396 teachers for their dedicated service and contribution to the education sector with the Dr Radhakrishnan Award on the occasion of Teachers’ Day.

The state-level Teachers’ Day celebration was held at the Anna Centenary Library here on Saturday and was attended by Minister for School Education, Tamil Development, Information and Advertising,

A Rajmohan.

According to the details released for the programme, teachers from various categories have been accorded the honour. The list includes 171 teachers from the School Education department and 171 from the Elementary Education department. In addition, 38 teachers from private schools across the state also received the award. Two teachers each from Anglo-Indian schools, Social Welfare Department

schools and teachers serving students with disabilities were also awarded by the minister. Further, 10 teachers from the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) were also honoured, taking the total number of awardees to 396. In his keynote, the minister said, “The celebrations are aimed at recognising teachers who play a crucial role in shaping students’ academic and personal development. The Dr

Radhakrishnan Awards serve as a mark of appreciation for their commitment, innovation and service to education.”

He added, “The event is expected to bring together teachers and education officials to celebrate the profession and underline the importance of educators in building the next generation.” The minister stressed that teachers focus only on teaching, and the department will ensure their concerns are addressed.

## Relocation of Chief Minister’s Office

# Tamil Nadu Government Allocates ₹6.17 Crore – RTI Reveals Details!

CHENNAI: Information obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act has revealed that ₹6.17 crore was allocated for the work of relocating the Chief Minister’s office to the 10th floor of the Namakkal Kavingar Maaligai. However, the firm that won the contract, Rasi Builders, secured the project for ₹3.78 crore—a figure 32% lower than the government’s estimated cost. Work is proceeding rapidly to relocate the Chief Minister’s office from the main Secretariat building to the Namakkal Kavingar Maaligai. It is reported that this move is taking place

because the Chief Minister’s trusted astrologer, Ricky Rathan Pandit, advised that he should be situated on the 10th floor—a high vantage point overlooking the sea. Renovation work on the 10th floor of the Namakkal Kavingar Maaligai began as early as the end of July. However, questions arose regarding how the renovation was proceeding without a tender being issued. The matter was raised in the Legislative Assembly, and photographs of the ongoing work were circulated. Minister Aadav Arjuna initially denied the reports. Subsequently, the

tendering process was conducted. Tenders were invited for the renovation work, with a stipulation that it be completed within three months and an estimated cost of ₹5.54 crore. Companies such as Rasi Builders, Eswari Constructions, Sri Raghavendra Builders, and Cube Infra competed for the contract. Rasi Builders won the bid with a quote of ₹3.78 crore. The company won the contract by bidding 32% below the estimated cost.

Under the TVK administration, securing contracts by bidding below the estimated value has become a common

trend. However, this information has not yet been officially announced.

Amidst this, an RTI query was filed regarding the work to relocate the Chief Minister’s office to the Namakkal Kavingar Maaligai; specifically, the question sought to know the expenditure involved in this move. It has been revealed that ₹6.17 crore has been allocated for shifting the Chief Minister’s office to the 10th floor of the Namakkal Kavingar Maaligai. It is noteworthy that this is the first official information released by the government regarding this matter.

## Brothers reunited after 35 years thanks to a special intensive voter revision drive

CHANDIGARH: Sitaram, a native of Punjab, had left his hometown in Haryana 35 years ago to seek a livelihood in Punjab. A person with a disability, he secured a ‘Group D’ job with the Punjab state government and settled there. Recently, he returned to his hometown—specifically to the government school he had attended in Manoharpur village, Jind district, Haryana—to obtain a certificate required for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll.

While officials were searching for his school records, information regarding his family came to light. School staff contacted Sitaram’s brother, Krishna, by phone; that was when Krishna learned that Sitaram was still alive. Krishna immediately contacted the local Booth Level Officer (BLO) and confirmed that Sitaram was indeed his younger brother. Following this, Krishna rushed to the school and welcomed his younger brother, Seetharam, with a warm embrace. Krishna’s

wife and children also ran over to welcome Seetharam, shedding tears of joy. Afterwards, the two brothers left the school together in the same vehicle. News of Seetharam reuniting with his family after 35 years has gone viral online. Speaking on the matter, Additional Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) Dr. Ramesh Kumar said, “The brothers have reunited after 35 years



thanks to the Special Summary Revision (SSR) exercise conducted by the Election Commission. It is heartening to see a family, separated in life, come together again through the SSR process.”

## Dahi Handi celebration: One dead, 376 ‘Govindas’ injured in Mumbai

MUMBAI: A minor boy died while 376 ‘Govindas’ were injured during Dahi Handi celebrations in Mumbai, civic officials said on Sunday.

Dahi Handi, which is part of the Janmashtami festival that marks the birth of Lord Krishna, was celebrated across Maharashtra with traditional fervour on Saturday. As part of the tradition, ‘Govindas’ or participants form multi-tier human pyramids to break Dahi Handis (clay pots filled with curd) suspended mid-air.

A seven-year-old boy died after a brick column co-

llapsed on him when a group of children were celebrating Dahi Handi on their own at Ekta Welfare Society at Chikuwadi in Malvani on Saturday afternoon, an official said.

As many as 376 ‘Govindas’ suffered injuries. The highest number of injuries was reported from hospitals in the island city at 183, followed by 126 in the western suburbs and 62 in the eastern suburbs, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation officials said.

Of the injured, 53 are currently hospitalised, 37 others



are also under treatment, while 286 were discharged after treatment, it said.

The KEM Hospital in Parel reported the highest number of injured Govindas at 76,

followed by HBT Trauma Care Hospital in Jogeshwari with 34,

Rajawadi Hospital in Ghatkopar and V Desai Hospital in Vikhroli with 33 each, and Nair Hospital in Mumbai Central with 32.

The civic-run Sion Hospital and BDBA Hospital in Govandi reported 18 injuries each, the civic body said.