

Projects worth ₹35,000 crore in Vadodara, Gujarat

VADODARA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated projects worth Rs 35,000 crore in Vadodara, Gujarat, yesterday. He also laid the foundation stones for several other projects. The Western Dedicated Freight Corridor project was announced during the tenure of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh but had remained stalled for several years. After assuming office in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expedited the work on this project. Under this initiative, freight corridors are being constructed to connect Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated it

As part of this effort, freight corridors connecting Sanand (North) to Makarpura, New Ambargan to New Saphale, and Saphale to JNPT have been constructed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated these new freight corridors at a function held in Vadodara, Gujarat, yesterday. The total length of these corridors is 326 km. A railway line has been laid covering a significant distance. Furthermore, he laid the foundation stone for various projects related to rail and road infrastructure. Speaking at the event, Prime



Minister Narendra Modi said: "The Western Dedicated Freight Corridor project was conceptualized in 2004, and a special entity was established for it in 2006.

not even a single kilometer of track was laid. Project work gained momentum after the BJP government assumed office in mid-2014. Currently, 2,800 kilometers of freight corridors have been constructed. Farmers from Eastern and Northern India are benefiting from this. At present, 430 freight trains are operating on the Eastern and Western freight corridors. During the previous administration, it took six and a half hours for a freight train to cover a distance of 100 kilometers; now, a freight train covers the same

distance in 3.15 hours." A double-decker freight train is being operated on the Mumbai & Vadodara route; a single train on this route can carry 250 trucks at once.

This remarkable progress angers certain "uncles." They might question what will happen to the livelihood of truck drivers if freight is transported by rail. Some people are merely spreading falsehoods.

Young people will not get caught in their web of deceit. Truth will triumph over falsehood. India's youth will lead our country on the

path of development. Since 2014, over 50,000 state-of-the-art railway coaches have been manufactured. In contrast, the previous administration failed to build even 50,000 toilets over a span of ten years. India has emerged as a manufacturing hub for railway coaches, metro coaches, and train engines. Indian youth are achieving great success in the field of Artificial Intelligence.

India must dominate this sector on the global stage. A goal has been set to build a developed India by the year 2047. All Indians must work tirelessly to achieve this goal. Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated this.

Cauvery Management Authority Orders Karnataka to Release 6,000 Cusecs of Water to Tamil Nadu

NEW DELHI: The 56th meeting of the Cauvery Management Authority was held yesterday in Delhi under the chairmanship of S.K. Haldar. Officials from the Water Resources Departments of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, and Puducherry participated via video conferencing. During the meeting, representatives for the Tamil Nadu government insisted that, in accordance with the Supreme Court's order regarding Cauvery water sharing, 7.8 TMC of water must be released to Tamil Nadu during



the month of September, even in a drought year. The Karnataka government objected to this, stating

that the state had not received adequate monsoon rainfall and, consequently, was unable to release the water. Rejecting this argument, Cauvery Authority Chairman S.K. Haldar ordered Karnataka to release 6,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) of water into the Cauvery river for the next 15 days. He directed that this flow be verified at the Biligundlu gauging station starting from September 9 (today).

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"Must Win the Bet" Dharapuram, Maduranthakam By-elections AIADMK Rallies Support!

CHENNAI With by-elections announced for the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies, AIADMK leaders met Tamil Nadu BJP President Nainar Nagendran to seek support for the polls. Following the assembly election victory, the TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam), led by Vijay, assumed power. Amidst this, AIADMK MLAs split into two factions during the trust vote; one group supported the TVK government, while the other opposed it. Amidst the ensuing uproar, AIADMK MLAs representing six constituencies—Maduranthakam, Dharapuram, Perundurai, Ambasamudram, Karur, and Virudhachal—resigned from their posts one after another and joined the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam. Opposition parties accused the TVK of engaging in horse-trading. Meanwhile, the six MLAs stated that they had resigned and left the party because of plans for the AIADMK and DMK to form a coalition government. Earlier,



Chief Minister Vijay, having won in two constituencies, had resigned from the Trichy East assembly seat. Seven assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu were declared vacant. Legal cases regarding the election victories in Trichy East, Perundurai, Ambasamudram, Virudhachal, and Karur have been filed in the Madras High Court. The High Court has issued an interim stay on announcing by-elections for these seats until the cases are resolved. While the case regarding the conduct of by-elections remains pending in court, election dates have now been announced specifically for the Maduranthakam and

Dharapuram constituencies. It has been announced that the by-elections for these two assembly constituencies will be held on October 6, with vote counting scheduled for October 9. The filing of nomination papers begins today, September 9, with September 16 set as the deadline. There is immense anticipation surrounding this event, as it marks the first by-election contest for the TVK party led by Vijay. Parties such as the DMK, AIADMK, and Naam Tamilar Katchi are strategizing to defeat TVK and teach them a lesson. Against this backdrop, the AIADMK plans to field candidates for the by-elections in the two constituencies; applications

from aspiring candidates have been accepted since yesterday and will continue to be received until tomorrow evening. Subsequently, the AIADMK has sought support from its alliance partner, the BJP. Senior AIADMK leaders met with BJP functionaries—including State President Nainar Nagendran—and handed over a formal letter requesting this support. A delegation comprising AIADMK leaders K.P. Munusamy, Agri S. Krishnamurthy, O.S. Manian, and Dindigul C. Sreenivasan visited 'Kamalakshy', the BJP state headquarters. There, they met Tamil Nadu BJP President Nainar Nagendran and submitted a letter urging the BJP to back the AIADMK candidates in the two by-election constituencies. Since the AIADMK had previously won both these seats, the party is preparing to demonstrate its influence and teach TVK a lesson in these contests.

By-elections for Two Constituencies TVK Devises Strategy Led by Aadhav Arjuna and Sengottaiyan



CHENNAI: TVK has formulated a new strategy to secure victory in the by-elections for the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies. Teams comprising five ministers each—led by Sengottaiyan for Dharapuram and Aadhav Arjuna for Maduranthakam—have been appointed and instructed to oversee election-related activities. By-elections for the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies in Tamil Nadu

are scheduled for October 6. The by-elections were necessitated after Maragatham Kumaravel and Sathyabama, who had previously won representing the AIADMK, resigned from their posts and joined TVK. The filing of nomination papers for these two constituencies began today. Amidst this backdrop, a meeting of parties supporting TVK is scheduled for this evening, during which a name will be finalized for the

TVK-led alliance. Consequently, it is anticipated that TVK will enter the electoral fray with renewed strength. With the DMK and AIADMK also contesting, there is keen anticipation regarding who will emerge victorious in this three-way contest. Maragatham Kumaravel and Thilagabham are set to contest again as TVK candidates, prompting the party to devise a specialized strategy for the campaign. Five ministers, led

by Minister Aadhav Arjuna, have been appointed to oversee election operations for the Maduranthakam constituency.

Similarly, a team of five ministers, led by Minister Sengottaiyan, will handle election work for the Dharapuram constituency. It has also been reported that TVK leader Vijay will conduct roadshows and participate in public meetings in both constituencies, a development that has energized TVK cadres.

However, since DMK and AIADMK candidates are expected to center their campaigns on attacking TVK, the question arises as to what strategy TVK will devise to counter this. Even if the campaign focuses on attacking the DMK to garner votes, it is worth noting that the AIADMK remains a strong force in both constituencies; consequently, Vijay may find it necessary to address the issue of Edappadi Palaniswami in order to capture AIADMK's vote base.

Singapore Prime Minister Surpasses Trump! Tops the List in Salary

SINGAPORE: The Prime Minister of Singapore holds the top spot globally for the highest-paid prime minister, earning more than US President Donald Trump. This has sparked international debate. Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong has received a 64% salary increase. This brings his monthly earnings to ₹2.25 crore, resulting in an annual income of ₹27 crore. This new pay hike comes into effect on October 15. In contrast, US President Donald

Trump's monthly salary is merely ₹27.8 lakh; Lawrence Wong's salary is seven times that amount. Acknowledging the public debate surrounding this raise, Wong announced in Parliament that he would donate the additional salary amount to charitable trusts for the next five years. With the Prime Minister receiving a raise, it is expected that others will follow suit; reports suggest that ministers' annual salaries could be set between ₹28.22 crore and ₹13.46 crore.



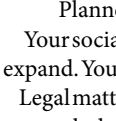
Similarly, the income of a junior minister is expected to rise from ₹68 lakh to ₹1.12 crore. While this may appear to be a massive salary hike at first glance, the last time ministers' salaries were increased in Singapore was in 2012. Even

then, the proposed increase was reduced by 36% due to public opposition. Subsequently, scheduled salary commission reviews in 2017 and 2023 were postponed due to economic conditions. On the other hand, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's side has explained that this salary hike is necessary to retain top talent in politics and to completely prevent corruption, given the significant rise in salaries within the private sector and the judiciary.

Today horoscope



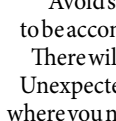
You will identify and distance yourself from those who have been acting covertly. Your words will gain support within the family. Relatives from your father's side will seek you out. You will receive support from colleagues at work and attend to the maintenance of your home and vehicle.



Planned tasks will be completed swiftly. Your social circle and external contacts will expand. You will make efforts to settle old debts. Legal matters that had been dragging on will conclude favorably. Unnecessary running around and tension in business will subside.



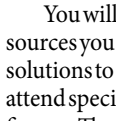
You will promptly fulfill the needs of your family members. Understanding the family situation, your children will conduct themselves responsibly. You will replace old electrical appliances with new ones and initiate efforts to expand your business.



Avoid starting new ventures. It is advisable to be accommodating with family members. There will be moderate profits in business. Unexpected expenses may lead to a situation where you need to borrow money. You may face some affectionate yet bothersome attention from neighbors.



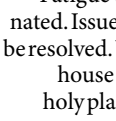
You will feel a surge of self-confidence. Solutions will be found for existing family confusions. You will fulfill your children's wishes. Siblings will provide timely assistance. Business will yield moderate profits. You will acquire artistic items or collectibles.



You will receive assistance from the sources you approach. You will find amicable solutions to property-related issues. You will attend special events hosted by prominent figures. Those looking for a home will find a well-equipped property. You will gain profits from stock market trading.



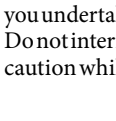
Your administrative skills will shine. A long-awaited sum of money will reach you. You will acquire art objects. You will identify and encourage your children's talents. Job seekers will find employment in a good company.



Fatigue will vanish, and you will feel rejuvenated. Issues involving your elder brother will be resolved. You will deliberate on purchasing a house or land. You will plan visits to holy places. You will gain new customers in your business.



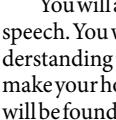
You will successfully complete even challenging tasks. A long-delayed payment will be received. Differences of opinion between husband and wife will come to an end. You will discuss your children's future. You will undertake a sudden journey.



Minor family issues may resurface. Any task you undertake will face delays before completion. Do not interfere in other people's affairs. Exercise caution while driving. You may face the wrath of a superior at work.



You will attend auspicious events at relatives' homes. A joyful atmosphere will prevail in the family. You will purchase clothes and jewelry. You will happily meet childhood friends. Financial inflow will be satisfactory. You will engage in spiritual activities.



You will achieve your goals through gentle speech. You will help relatives and friends by understanding their needs. The arrival of guests will make your homelively. A good marriage alliance will be found for your daughter. You will skillfully handle competition in business.

German Language Training for Tamil Nadu Youth

Minister Thennarasu Announces

CHENNAI: While announcing initiatives from the Chief Minister regarding his department, Minister for Non-Resident Tamils Welfare, Thennarasu, stated the following: The public faces difficulties in registering grievance petitions, tracking their status, and ascertaining the actions taken on them via the Chief Minister's Help Centre website. Therefore, an AI-powered chatbot and an interactive voice-bot service will be introduced on the Chief Minister's Help Centre website. An annual fund of ₹2.18 crore will be allocated for this purpose. Funds amounting to ₹30 lakh will be allocated to install digital kiosks at all District Collector offices and the Chennai Secretariat. The monthly cash assistance provided to Sri Lankan Tamils living in camps will be increased: the head of the family will receive ₹1,800, adults (aged 12 and above) ₹1,200, and children under 12 years of age ₹600. The educational assistance provided to the children of camp-dwelling Sri Lankan Tamils for higher education will be increased by ₹2,000 for all courses. A new award titled the 'Vetri Tamilar Award' (Successful Tamil Award) will be instituted to honour Non-Resident Tamils who provide assistance for the welfare of Tamils living abroad. An AI-based, instant global platform named 'IGM' will be created for overseas employment opportunities. Free German language training will be provided to the youth. The monthly financial assistance for ex-servicemen and widows will be raised to ₹6,000. He stated these details.



Corruption Allegation:

Enforcement Directorate writes to register FIR against Pinarayi and his daughter

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has alleged that the Kerala-based mining company, Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL), made irregular financial transactions amounting to ₹2.78 crore to Exalogic Solutions—a now-defunct company owned by T. Veena, daughter of former

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan—under the guise of “IT consultancy services.” Last June, the ED conducted a search involving Veena at the rented residence in Thiruvananthapuram where Pinarayi Vijayan lived. Subsequently, in a statement released in August, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) revealed

that handwritten notes containing details of financial transactions involving Dubai were seized during searches conducted against Veena. Reports indicate that, based on evidence gathered during the investigation and searches, the ED has written to the Kerala Director General of Police (DGP) requesting the

registration of an FIR against former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his daughter T. Veena, and his son—and a CPI(M) leader P.A. Mohamed Riyas—among others. The ED sent this letter based on information obtained under Section 66(2) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

27 IAS Officers Transferred

CHENNAI: Twenty-seven IAS officers, including Commissioner of Revenue Administration Muruganandam and School Education Department Secretary Chandramohan, have been transferred. Chief Secretary Saikumar issued the order regarding these transfers.

Accordingly, Dharmendra Pratap Yadav (formerly Chairman of TANSI) has been appointed as Secretary of the Rural Development Department;

P. Chandramohan (formerly School Education Secretary) as Commissioner of Revenue Administration; and N. Muruganandam (who held the latter post) as Chairman of TANSI. J. Innocent Divya, formerly Managing Director of Co&optex, has been appointed as Secretary of the School Education Department. Additionally, Perambalur Collector Sharanya Ari has been appointed as Virudhunagar Collector; F. Abdul

Rasik (Sub-Collector, Ponneri Division) as Perambalur Collector; and V. Nalla Sivam (Sub-Collector, Chengalpattu Division) as Tiruppur Collector. T. Mohan (formerly MD of MTC) has been appointed as Additional Secretary, Home Department; V.P. Jeyaseelan (Director of Tourism) as MD of MTC; Saravana Velraj (MD of TAMIN) as Commissioner of Stationery and Printing; Ajay Yadav (MD of Aavin) as Co-

mmissioner of Civil Supplies; and Sivarasu (Director of Civil Supplies) as Director of Aavin. T.N. Venkatesh (Secretary, Handlooms Department) has been appointed as MD of TIDBITCO; K.S. Kandasamy (MD of TAHDCO) as MD of TAMIN; and Kavitha Ramu (MD of TIDBITCO) as MD of the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation. A total of 27 IAS officers have been transferred across Tamil Nadu.

Auto & rickshaw meter fares to be revised soon: Minister Vijay Tamilan Parthiban

CHENNAI: Minister Vijay Tamilan Parthiban has stated that steps will soon be taken to revise auto & rickshaw meter fares. Speaking yesterday in the Legislative Assembly during the debate on demands for grants for departments including the Transport Department, Latha (CPI & MMLA from Kilvelur) said, “To meet the needs of Tamil Nadu's current population, 30,000 buses should be operated; however, only 20,500 are currently in service. The number of buses must be increased in proportion to the population. Pensioners should receive their retirement benefits on the very day they retire. In accordance with



election promises, free bus travel for women must be implemented across the state. Privatization efforts must be completely abandoned. Private bus operators have arbitrarily hiked fares; action must be taken against this. Auto & rickshaw and taxi meter fares have not been revised since 1977; the government needs to fix these rates. The MLA Constituency

Development Fund should be increased to ₹5 crore. Police restrictions on members of the public visiting the Secretariat to submit petitions should be eased.” Responding to this, Transport Minister Vijay Tamilan Parthiban said, “We will consult with officials regarding the member's requests and implement those that are feasible. Regarding auto & rickshaw meter fares, a consultative meeting chaired by me was held on July 9 with auto drivers, owners, trade unions, and the public. Subsequently, a committee was constituted on August 5 to address meter installation and fare fixation; this committee submitted its

initial recommendations to the government on the 21st. Based on this, measures to revise auto meter fares and install meters will be taken soon.” Continuing his remarks, Minister Rajmohan said, “Some commotion may arise due to the large number of people visiting the Secretariat simultaneously; the Public Works Minister has issued announcements to address this. The Speaker, who has ensured the live broadcasting of Assembly proceedings from the first day to the last, could well be called the ‘Hero of Live Broadcast.’ Arrangements should also be made to provide sign language facilities for the hearing impaired.”

Key to Kolkata Kali Temple's ₹100 Crore Jewelry Vault Missing – Complaint Filed in Court

NEW DELHI: The Kalighat Temple is situated on the banks of the Adi Ganga River in Kolkata. It is considered a renowned and sacred pilgrimage site for Hindus and is regarded as one of the 51 *Shakti Peethas* associated with Goddess Parvati. It is believed that the toes of Goddess Parvati's right foot fell at this very spot.

The temple houses a unique idol of Goddess Kali featuring a long, golden tongue. The historic Kalighat Temple has recently become embroiled in a major controversy. Jewelry accumulated over centuries through offerings from dev-



otees is kept locked in a vault. Although a government bank locker was allocated to safeguard the Goddess's jewelry and other priceless items, a complaint has arisen stating that the key to this locker has been missing since 1980. Sabarna Roy Chowdhury,

a prominent member of the region's traditional landed gentry, has filed a petition in the Calcutta High Court seeking an inquiry into this matter. In the petition, Sabarna Roy states the following:

This strong room was constructed specifically to

safeguard the temple's assets and jewelry.

However, the key to it has been missing for over 46 years. Furthermore, the tenure of the committee responsible for managing the temple's assets has expired. Deep concerns have arisen regarding the whereabouts and safety of the Goddess's priceless jewelry. Additionally, there is a suspicion that financial irregularities and fraud amounting to over ₹1,000 crore may have occurred. Therefore, the petition urges that the matter be investigated and appropriate legal action taken.

100% Tuition Fee Waiver for Ex & Agniveers Enrolling at Indore University

INDORE: Devi Ahilya University in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, has announced a 100% tuition fee waiver for ex- & Agniveers to help them pursue higher education and secure employment opportunities. Speaking on this initiative, the university's Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Rakesh Singhai, stated: “Under the Agnipath scheme, Agniveers are inducted into the armed forces on a short-term basis, keeping the nation's current defense needs in mind. Th-

ese Agniveers, who protect the country, dedicate four golden years of their lives to military service. Consequently, they are often unable to continue their education. With the aim of enabling them to complete their higher education, secure good jobs, and embark on a new life after their military service, our university has decided to offer them a 100% waiver on tuition fees.” If former Agniveers secure admission to any of the approximately 200 courses offered by this

university—established by the Madhya Pradesh government in 1964—they will be granted a 100% tuition fee waiver. Agniveers must have completed their four-year service tenure. Those who were dismissed from service or faced disciplinary action during their tenure are ineligible for this fee waiver. There is no upper limit set for this concession; all eligible former Agniveers will receive this benefit. In the future, the university

may consider providing reservation quotas for former Agniveers in student admissions and could also develop special courses tailored for them. Children of personnel serving in the armed forces are already granted a 50% concession on university tuition fees. A 100% tuition fee concession is provided to the children of army personnel who died in the line of duty and to the children of retired army personnel. The Vice-Chancellor announced this.

september 9 Balasore 2026

Five Orangutan Cubs Rescued in Odisha



Locals in a village in Odisha's Balasore district were astonished yesterday morning to see five small orangutan cubs wandering through a forest area. Forest department officials immediately intervened and rescued the rare primates. Pratik Prakash Indalkar, the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Balasore, stated that members of the public spotted five young orangutans roaming a forest area near Badabai village in the Bhograi region around 6:00 AM. News of these rare animals spread rapidly, and within an hour, thousands of people had gathered at the site. Forest officials intervened promptly to bring the situation under control and safely rescued the animals. It is suspected that the orangutans may have been smuggled into the state by an international wildlife trafficking gang. The five rescued orangutan cubs were subsequently taken to the forest department office. Four of the five rescued cubs are in very good health. They are consuming food andORS solution. Veterinarians are examining and treating them. They are currently under the direct care and supervision of Forest Department officials. Forest Department officials are conducting an intensive investigation into the cross-border wildlife smuggling incident. Prateek Prakash stated this.

Advice to US based Hindus to celebrate Vinayaka Chaturthi at home



WASHINGTON: Various Hindu organizations have advised Hindus living in the United States to celebrate Vinayaka Chaturthi in their own homes rather than in public places. Approximately 5.5 million Indians reside in the United States. Racially motivated attacks against Indians have been on the rise in various states, including California, Texas, New Jersey, New York, and Florida. It is customary for Hindus in the US to gather in public places and celebrate the festival on a grand scale every year.

However, considering the current situation in the country, various Hindu organizations are issuing important guidelines to the community via social media. In their social media posts, these organizations have urged all Hindus living in the US to celebrate the Vinayaka Chaturthi festival within their own homes.

They have advised against holding celebrations in residential complexes, neighborhoods, on roads or streets, or in other public spaces.

Vijay Vasanth Appointed Head of Tamil Nadu Congress Social Media Wing

Congress Social Media Wing

CHENNAI: MP Vijay Vasanth has been appointed as the head of the Tamil Nadu Congress party's social media wing. In a statement regarding this, All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary K.C. Venugopal said, “The Congress President has approved the proposal to appoint the state head and coordinators for the Tamil Nadu Congress party's social media wing. These appointments come into effect immediately.

Accordingly, Vijay Vasanth has been appointed as the state head of the wing, while Sakthi Marithasan, G.K. Muralidharan, Sivasathayaraja Gunasekaran, Sanjay Gandhi, John Samuel, and Abdul Rahman have been appointed as coordinators.”



PM Modi and Russian President Putin to Meet on September 11

NEW DELHI: Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are scheduled to meet in Delhi on the 11th of this month.

Dmitry Peskov, the spokesperson for the Russian Presidential Palace (Kremlin), stated that the two leaders will hold significant discussions regarding the procurement of Russian Su-57 fighter jets for the Indian Air Force during this meeting. The BRICS summit is scheduled to take place in Delhi on the 12th and 13th. President Putin is arriving in Delhi on the 11th to participate in the event.

Arrangements are being made for a one-on-one meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Putin on

that day. During these talks, key discussions will be held across various sectors, including defense, trade, energy, technology, and nuclear power. Speaking to Indian reporters via video link regarding this, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov noted that a very close friendship exists between President Putin and Prime Minister Modi. The two leaders are scheduled to meet in Delhi on September 11, where they will hold discussions on bilateral and international issues. The two nations are collaborating in sectors such as energy, nuclear power, defense, space, and education.

Russia will continue to provide assistance for the expansion of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant. Discussions are also underway



regarding the establishment of a new nuclear power plant in India with Russian assistance. India and Russia are jointly manufacturing BrahMos missiles, which have received significant international acclaim. During the BRICS summit, Prime Minister Modi and President Putin are set to hold key discussions regarding the procurement of Russian Su-57 fighter jets for the Indian Air Force. Talks

will also be held concerning the transfer of technology for these fighter jets to India. President Putin and Prime Minister Modi will also discuss the supply of Russian S-400 missile systems to India; Russia will certainly honor the commitment it has made. We are ready to provide Russia's state-of-the-art defense technologies to India. We will identify Indians serving in the Russian military and

repatriate them. There are some complications regarding rupee-based financial transactions between Russia and India; these will be resolved gradually. Exports of Indian goods to Russia are increasing significantly. Plans are in place to increase air connectivity between the two nations.

Crude oil exports from Russia to India are continuing steadily. While specific statistics cannot be disclosed, crude oil exports to India are reaching new highs every month. Negotiations are underway between Russia and the United States regarding the war in Ukraine. President Putin will fully brief Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this matter. This was stated by Dmitry Peskov.

Three arrested, including a man who entered the Modi event venue with a gun

MUMBAI: Three individuals, including a man who entered the venue of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's event carrying a handgun, have been arrested. They are currently undergoing intensive interrogation. An international fintech conference began yesterday at the Jio World Plaza center in Mumbai, the capital of Maharashtra.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the event. Amidst this, a 24-year-old man visited the Jio World Plaza complex last Monday. Police personnel on duty at the entrance of the event venue stopped him. The young man claimed to be an official from the Prime Minister's Office and produced



an identity card as proof. He was accompanied by a man, estimated to be around 50 years old, who was carrying a handgun. Suspicious, the police thoroughly examined the identity card presented by the young man and discovered it was fake. Consequently, both individuals were arrested. Preliminary investigations revealed that the young man claiming to be a PMO official

was Rohan Premal Parikh (24), and his companion was Dilip Raja Gunde (49). Upon inspection, the pistol in Dileep Raja's possession was found to be loaded with ammunition. A third individual linked to them has also been arrested.

All three were produced before the court. During the proceedings, a senior lawyer appeared on

behalf of Premal Parikh and argued as follows: Premal Parikh holds a B.Sc. degree in Mathematics. Since 2024, he has employed a personal security guard who possesses a licensed pistol. Recently, an individual named Tarun Kumar approached Premal and issued him an appointment order for a position with the Prime Minister's Office.

It was Tarun Kumar who instructed him to attend an event in Mumbai featuring Prime Minister Modi; acting on these instructions, Premal Parikh visited the Jio World Plaza centre, accompanied by his security guard. The Mumbai Police strongly opposed this argument, requesting that the three arrested

individuals undergo intensive interrogation.

Subsequently, with the court's permission, the three individuals were taken into police custody and are currently undergoing intensive interrogation. The Mumbai Crime Branch is conducting a thorough investigation into several aspects: where the fake Prime Minister's Office identity card was manufactured; how Premal gained entry into the Jio World Plaza complex where Prime Minister Modi was present; how the security guard carrying a handgun managed to enter; who constitutes the group behind them; and whether there was a conspiracy to attack Prime Minister Modi.

'Alwar Thirumanjanam' Ritual Performed at Tirupati Lord Venkateswara Temple Ahead of Brahmotsavam

TIRUMALA: In preparation for the Brahmotsavam festival, the entire Tirupati Lord Venkateswara temple was cleansed yesterday morning in accordance with 'Agama' rituals. Consequently, devotees were permitted to have 'darshan' of the deity only after the afternoon hours. It is customary to observe the 'Alwar Thirumanjanam' ritual at the temple on the Tuesday preceding major festivals such as Vaikunta Ekadasi, Anivara Asthanam, Telugu

Ugadi, and Brahmotsavam. With the Brahmotsavam festival scheduled to commence on the 15th (flag-hoisting ceremony) and continue until the 23rd, the entire temple complex was cleansed yesterday using a mixture of rose water, turmeric, vermilion, and aromatic substances like 'pachai karpooram' (edible camphor).

Areas ranging from the sanctum sanctorum to the flagstaff, 'Bali Peetham' (sac-

main entrance tower, and the 'Vimana Gopuram' were all purified with these aromatic ingredients.

Devotees were allowed to worship the deity only after 12:00 PM. P.R., the Chairman of the Devasthanam Board of Trustees, participated in this event. Naidu, Additional Executive Officer Venkaiah Chowdary, Tirupati SP Subbarayulu, and Board of Trustees member Bhanuprakash, among others, participated.

"Dirty politics": AAP leader Anurag Dhandha hits back at Rahul Gandhi's criticism over Gulzar Singh suicide case

NEW DELHI: AAP media in-charge Anurag Dhandha on Wednesday hit back at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's criticism of the Punjab government over Gulzar Singh's death, accusing Congress of indulging in "dirty politics".

Rahul Gandhi had called for Punjab Minister Harpal Singh Cheema's resignation after Gulzar Singh, a worker from Sangrur district, died by suicide after allegedly being harassed for publicly questioning Cheema about the illicit drug trade.

Dhandha said that the accused in the case has been arrested. Slamming the opposition, he held the Shiromani Akali Dal, BJP, and Congress governments responsible for the drug menace in Punjab.

Dhandha wrote on X, "Rahulji, Congress leaders were attempting to engage in the same dirty politics during their visit to the victim's village, but the people chased them away from there. All the accused have already been caught by the police based on identification by the family."

"The Akali BJP and Congress governments have been responsible for spreading drugs in Punjab. In the AAP government, no drugs mu-



ggler is spared," the post read. Earlier today, in an X post, Rahul Gandhi slammed the AAP government, calling for justice for Gulzar Singh's family. He also called for an independent probe in the case.

Gandhi wrote, "A dangerous pattern is emerging in Punjab's AAP government—if you question government failures, the response will come in the form of threats and torture. Gulzar Singhji, from the Dalit community, who had to watch his son fall victim to drugs, asked the Finance Minister just this much: why has the government failed so miserably in stopping the drug trade?"

Sharing Gulzar's video, before he consumed poison and died, the Congress leader alleged that he was pressured to apologize for questioning the Punjab Minister.

"For just this, he was tortured and humiliated so much, pressured so intensely to apologize, that he cons-

umed poison. Wandering from one hospital to another, without access to treatment, he ultimately lost the battle for his life," he added.

Mentioning Mohanjeet Singh's case, who the Congress alleged was tortured in police custody, Rahul Gandhi added, "Last week, I also spoke with a young Mohanjeet Singh, who was tortured for protesting against Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann."

"The government's job is to answer to the people, not to crush those who ask questions. May Gulzar Singhji's family get justice as soon as possible. The Chief Minister should immediately demand the Finance Minister's resignation and ensure an independent and impartial investigation, with his name registered in the FIR," the X post read.

46-year-old Gulzar Singh allegedly died after consuming poison shortly after publicly questioning Harpal Singh Cheema about the illicit drug trade.

The incident took place in Toor Banjara village during a constituency visit by Minister Harpal Singh Cheema.

Gulzar Singh, whose son is allegedly struggling with severe drug addiction, had raised concerns with the minister about the easy av-

ailability of synthetic drugs, locally known as chitta, in the area. Following the interaction, Gulzar Singh allegedly faced harassment and pressure from local leaders and panchayat members to publicly apologise for questioning the minister.

He later recorded a video naming some individuals allegedly involved and subsequently passed away while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Ludhiana.

In response to the video and the family's statement, local police registered an FIR against five individuals under charges of abetment to suicide and relevant sections of the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act.



Favorable conditions created by El Niño in the Thoothukudi district have led to 80 percent salt production; however, producers are concerned due to a drop in prices.

Former Japan PM Ishiba pushes for deeper Seoul & Tokyo cooperation in defence, AI, and semiconductors



SOUTH KOREA: Former Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has called for stronger cooperation between South Korea and Japan, saying the two countries together could become the world's third-largest economic and defence power.

Speaking at the 27th World Knowledge Forum in Seoul during a session on

"The Future of Korea & Japan Relations", Ishiba said South Korea and Japan, which share the core values of freedom, democracy and human rights, should build a "true partnership of equals".

Ishiba said the combined strength of the two countries would rank third globally in terms of GDP and defence capability, while their combined population would rank ninth.

He stressed that closer cooperation could allow Seoul and Tokyo to make a greater contribution to the international community.

On the sensitive issue of history, Ishiba said Japan must confront the historical pain caused by the annexation of Joseon.

He also reiterated that he has not visited the controversial Yasukuni Shrine for 25 years and called for greater reflection on Japan's wartime history as a prerequisite for building trust with South Korea.

On regional security, Ishiba proposed developing an "Asian NATO" framework linking existing alliances in the Indo-Pacific.

He also backed an Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) as a practical starting point for greater security cooperation. Commenting on South Korea's pursuit of nuclea-

r-powered submarines, Ishiba said Seoul has sufficient capability to strengthen its self-reliant defence and help reduce the security burden on the United States.

He called for substantive consultations among South Korea, the US and Japan to prepare for a possible simultaneous crisis in the Taiwan Strait and Korean Peninsula. Ishiba also called for stronger economic and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, including cooperation in semiconductors and artificial intelligence.

He suggested joint efforts to address common challenges such as low birth rates, ageing populations and excessive concentration in capital regions.

Airfares have doubled as the Navaratri and Diwali festivals approach

NEW DELHI: With the Navaratri and Diwali festivals approaching, airfares on key domestic routes have surged from ₹7,000 to ₹15,000 for travel during this period.

For the Mumbai & Kolkata route, the one-way fare has risen to as much as ₹16,000 per person during the Navaratri period (October 12-18); typically, the fare for this route remains under ₹8,000. Fares for the Delhi & Mumbai route have also increased.

While the fare is usually ₹6,500, it has risen to ₹10,000 for the festival months of October and November. Direct flight tickets to major cities are being sold for up to ₹25,000.



PM in a group photograph during the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026 at Mumbai, in Maharashtra

Strong Opposition to Private Investment in Australia's Big Bash T20 League!

AUSTRALIA: Cricket Australia's decision to allow private investment in the Big Bash League (BBL) and Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) has exposed significant divisions within Australian cricket. Cricket New South Wales has warned that this move could lead Australian cricket into a precarious position—both strategically and financially—in the long run. On Tuesday, Cricket Australia confirmed the implementation of a "self-determination" model. Under this system, individual states can decide when and how to secure private investment for their respective Big Bash teams. The Melbourne Renegades team is set to be the first put up for sale, with bids being invited for 100% ownership. Cricket Australia aims to appoint new owners before the 2027-28 season. This new approach follows Cricket Australia's failure earlier this year to garner sufficient support for a broader plan to fully privatize the competition. While Victoria, Western Australia,



and Tasmania have supported bringing external investment into the league, New South Wales has remained staunchly opposed. Queensland had also previously joined New South Wales in rejecting the earlier proposal, compelling Cricket Australia to consider an alternative model that grants greater autonomy to each state.

Cricket New South Wales, which manages the Sydney Sixers and Sydney Thunder teams, has openly criticized Cricket Australia for proceeding with this plan despite the lack of consensus among all stakeholders. The New South Wales cricket board stated: "Cricket New South Wales is disappointed by Cricket Australia's decision to introduce

private investment into the Big Bash Leagues without achieving consensus among all stakeholders in Australian cricket. This decision risks placing New South Wales and Australian cricket in a precarious position, both strategically and financially. In particular, it will directly impact our ability to invest in grassroots cricket. Cricket New South Wales remains strongly confident in the future growth of both the WBBL and BBL competitions. Both leagues, and the teams competing in them, are powerful drivers of cricket participation and fan engagement. The BBL is a sports league that attracts the highest broadcast audience and the second-highest live attendance per match in Australia. The record crowds

and unforgettable moments from last summer—particularly the memorable 'Sydney Smash' at the Sydney Cricket Ground—demonstrated that the Big Bash is stronger than ever. The WBBL continues to attract the world's best female players while simultaneously encouraging large numbers of boys and girls to take up the sport. The key issue is how the revenue currently generated by Big Bash teams is reinvested into the sport. The profits earned by the Sixers and Thunder teams [support] cricket participation..." Cricket New South Wales states that funds are being reinvested into expanding programs and player development initiatives. It noted that if external stakeholders were to come on board, a portion of that revenue would flow out of Australian cricket. Cricket New South Wales further stated that it had conveyed its concerns regarding this matter to Cricket Australia, proposed an alternative approach, and obtained external advice highlighting the potential risks associated with the plan.

Nagapattinam & Sri Lanka Ferry Service Cancelled Until the 11th

NAGAI: Ferry services between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai (Sri Lanka) have been operating on all days of the week, except Tuesdays. Officials from the Mercantile Marine Department in Chennai tr-

aveled to Nagapattinam to inspect the vessels operating on this route, specifically reviewing safety protocols, inspection certificates, and regulatory compliance. It is reported that certain deficiencies were identified

during the inspection, and the Mercantile Marine Department issued a directive to suspend ferry services until these issues are rectified. Remedial works are currently underway on the vessels.

Passenger services are expected to resume after the 11th, once these works are completed. Until then, all scheduled trips between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai stand cancelled.

"3.25 lakh deaths; smoking ban law must be strictly enforced" – Anbumani

CHENNAI: "I urge all states, including Tamil Nadu, to enforce the law banning smoking in public places even more strictly and rigorously," said PMK leader Anbumani. In a statement regarding this, he noted, "A global medical study has revealed that in 2023 alone, 3.25 lakh people in India lost their lives due to inhaling secondhand cigarette smoke.

It is alarming that fatalities caused by inhaling secondhand smoke have risen significantly, even after the implementation of laws banning smoking in public places. A research article published in *The Lancet Public Health*—an online medical journal from the UK&based Lancet Group—states that 3,25,600 people died in 2023 due to secondhand smoke exposure. This represents a 49.56% increase compared to the 2,17,700 deaths recorded from the same cause in 1990. The study reveals that the

death rate increased by 61.74% among men and by 38.35% among women. While the number of people exposed to secondhand smoke rose by only 18.40%—from 37.50 crore to 44.40 crore—during this period, the fact that the death toll surged by nearly 50% underscores the severity and danger of the situation. The primary reason for this worsening scenario in India is the failure to effectively curb smoking in public places. The practice of smoking in public, devoid of any social concern, is increasing year by year. Innocent people—particularly women and children—are severely affected by inhaling the smoke exhaled by smokers. It was with the aim of putting an end to this menace that, during my tenure as Union Health Minister between 2004 and 2009, [I took steps regarding] smoking in public places..." I enacted



the law banning smoking amidst strong opposition and implemented it starting October 2, 2008—the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. It was only thereafter that a healthy environment emerged in public places—such as cinema halls, restaurants, and bus terminals—allowing women and children to move about without inhaling secondhand smoke.

Although the Central Government enacted the law prohibiting smoking in public places, the duty and responsibility of implementing it lie with the State governments. However,

the statistics reveal that this law has not been properly implemented in any state. For instance, in Tamil Nadu, during the fifteen&and&a&half&year period from the law's implementation on October 2, 2008, to March 31, 2024, action was taken against only 3.89 lakh individuals, and fines totaling ₹6.83 crore were collected. The fact that the Tamil Nadu government took action against an average of just 68 people per day for smoking in public places—collecting an average fine of only ₹177 from each—clearly demonstrates the negligent manner in which this law is being enforced.

Manipur Musician Beaten to Death Rahul Alleges Lack of Safety for North & Easterners in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has alleged that families from North&Eastern states living in the national capital, Delhi, lack safety, citing the incident where Chongtham Vikram Singh, a renowned musician from Manipur, was beaten to death by a mob. Sharing this on X (formerly Twitter), he stated: Chongtham Vikram Singh, a 54&year&old music teacher from Manipur residing in Kilokri village near the Ashram area of Delhi, lost his life after being attacked by a mob during a dispute over noise and disturbance outside his home.



According to the police, the incident stemmed from Vikram Singh objecting to the noise created by restaurant staff and delivery personnel opposite his house. A man has been killed right at his own doorstep in the capital of his own country. After such recurring incidents, one is left to



wonder: are we safe here? Every family from the North&East living in Delhi is asking this very same question today. Have Home Minister Amit Shah and the Delhi Police taken any measures to curb these escalating unlawful acts against the people of the North&East? A speedy inv-

estigation into this incident must be conducted, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I extend my deepest condolences to Vikram Singh's family. Rahul stated this. Information regarding the attack on Vikram Singh on September 7 was received by the Sunlight Colony police station in Delhi. Preliminary investigations confirmed that he was attacked after objecting to the noise being made. Police officials have stated that a murder case has been registered in connection with this incident and that all the accused, including minors, have been arrested.

Prince Rahim Aga Khan V to begin seven day India visit today

NEW DELHI: Prince Rahim Aga Khan V, the 50th hereditary Imam (spiritual leader) of the Shia Ismaili Muslims and Chair of the Aga Khan Development Network, is beginning his seven&day visit to India starting Wednesday at the invitation of Vice President C.

P. Radhakrishnan. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), during his visit till September 15, Prince Rahim will call on President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

He will also meet Home Minister Amit Shah and External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar.

In addition to these engagements, Prince Rahim will visit Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Hyderabad, where Aga Khan Development Network is involved in various deve-

lopment and community initiatives.

This is the first visit of Prince Rahim to India since his accession as the 50th Imam of the Ismaili community, the MEA mentioned.

Prince Rahim was named the 50th hereditary Imam (spiritual leader) of the Shia Ismaili Muslims in February 2025 following the death of his father, Prince Karim Al&Hussaini Aga Khan IV, in accordance with historical Shia Imami Ismaili tradition.

Throughout their 1,400&-year history, the Ismailis have been led by a living, hereditary Imam.

The Ismailis live in more than 35 countries, and their number is nearly 12 to 15 million.

Prince Rahim also serves on the boards of many agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). He has



closely followed the work of the Institute of Ismaili Studies and the Ismaili community's social governance institutions.

The visit of Prince Rahim comes against the backdrop of longstanding engagement between the Aga Khan Foundation and India.

Last year, Prince Rahim's father, Prince Karim Aga Khan IV, passed away. Prime Minister Modi had condoled the demise of the leader, describing him as a visionary who dedicated

his entire life to service and spirituality.

Aga Khan IV was a spiritual icon to millions of Ismaili Muslims and also the founder and chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). He passed away in Lisbon on February 4, 2025, aged 88, surrounded by his family.

During his visit to India in 2015, Aga Khan IV was conferred the Padma Vibhushan for his contributions to social development in India.

Prime Minister Modi had then praised the work of the Aga Khan Foundation, especially in the areas of rural development and sanitation, which, he said, he had the opportunity to witness first&hand when he was Chief Minister of Gujarat.

"Pay me ₹45 lakh for raising my grand daughter for 15 years!"

Mother sues her own son...

BEIJING: In Shanghai, China, a mother filed a lawsuit against her own son for the expenses incurred in raising her granddaughter for 15 years. Xu (60), a resident of the Changjiang district in Shanghai, lived with her son, Liang. In 2014, Liang divorced his wife; at that time, his daughter was only four years old. Following the divorce, Liang left home for work without looking after his daughter. Consequently, for the past 15 years, the grandmother, Xu, covered all living expenses—including education, medical care, and food—using her own money. Recently, Liang remarried and moved out of

the house with his new wife, leaving his daughter in his mother's care.

Citing old age and severe financial hardship, Xu stated she could no longer afford to raise her granddaughter. She subsequently sued her son in a Shanghai court, accusing him of failing to fulfill his family responsibilities, and demanded 360,000 yuan (over ₹45 lakh in Indian currency) as compensation for the 15 years spent raising the child. During the proceedings, Liang argued that he had cared for his daughter to the best of his ability, given his monthly salary of only 3,000 yuan (approximately ₹37,000).



However, the court did not accept this argument.

Recognizing that the primary responsibility for raising children lies with the parents, Liang agreed to pay his mother 200,000 yuan (approximately ₹24 lakh) in compensation, in accordance

with the court's order. While it is customary in China's joint&family tradition for the elderly to raise their grandchildren, this ruling has sparked a new debate suggesting that this should not be viewed as a form of compulsory labor or an obligation.

India Condemns Houthi Rebel Attacks on Saudi Oil Facilities

NEW DELHI: The Houthi rebel group, operating from Yemen with Iranian backing, launched attacks yesterday targeting oil facilities and certain public infrastructure in Saudi Arabia. These attacks have raised concerns about escalating war tensions in West Asia. The strikes on Saudi oil facilities occurred at a time when the United States is intensifying

economic sanctions against Iran. In response, India has condemned the series of attacks carried out by Houthi rebels on Saudi oil facilities.

The Indian government stated that these attacks undermine security in the Middle East region. Speaking to reporters on the matter, Randhir Jaiswal, Spokesperson for the Ministry of

External Affairs, said, "India condemns the attacks on Saudi Arabia's sovereign territory, particularly those targeting civilians and infrastructure. Such attacks, which undermine regional security and stability in the Middle East and threaten freedom of navigation in the Bab&el&Mandeb region, are unacceptable."

