

Digital registration via 'Book My Show' for the first time for the PM event in Gujarat today

NEW DELHI: Free pre-registration for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's event, scheduled to take place today in Vadodara, Gujarat, was launched for the first time through the 'Book My Show' app.

All available slots were filled within an hour. An official statement noted that this digital initiative undertaken by the Vadod-

Entry passes for attendees issued via QR code

ara Municipal Corporation received an overwhelming response from the public; with all slots booked, over 42,000 additional people have been placed on a waiting list. Attendees will be issued an 'm&ticket' and a QR code for the event. Arrangements have been

made to verify entry tickets digitally and ensure visitors can proceed to their seats without overcrowding. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, visiting Vadodara, Gujarat today, will inaugurate various completed development projects and lay the foundation stones

for new ones. Notably, he will dedicate to the nation three sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor—spanning 326 km and built at a cost exceeding ₹20,700 crore—namely Sanand (North)&Makarpura, New Umbargaon&New Sanjan, and New Sanjan&JNPT.

This will establish a direct rail link to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai, thereby expediting freight transport for industrial sectors.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister is flagging off new freight train services from New Sanand, New Makar-

pura, New Umargam, and Mumbai New JNPT, as well as a new passenger train service between Vadodara and Thanda Road. Additionally, he is laying the foundation stone for three railway projects spanning 329 km and worth ₹9,700 crore (Vadodara&Ratlam 3rd and 4th

lines, Miyagam Karjan&Soranda&Malsar gauge conversion, and Vishwamitri&Dabhoi rail line doubling), three national highway projects worth ₹1,780 crore, and Gujarat state government projects worth ₹2,600 crore.



12 Devotees Die After Vehicle Hits Barrier and Overtakes in UP



LUCKNOW: Twelve people lost their lives and 16 others were injured when a vehicle carrying devotees

overturned on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway in the Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh. Bhagat Dham, located

in the Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan, is a significant pilgrimage site associated with Jaharveer Baba Goga Ji

Maharaj and Goga Nath Ji; it typically attracts a large number of devotees during the months of August and September. In this instance, a group of 32 devotees from a village in the Badaun district of Uttar Pradesh were returning to their hometown in a private vehicle after visiting Bhagat Dham. Around 1:00 AM yesterday, while traveling between the Pasi and Bada villages in Baghpat district, the vehicle struck a roadside barrier and overturned.

Twelve people died in the incident, and more than 16 injured individuals were admitted to the hospital.

Far & right party wins in German state election



BERLIN: A massive political upheaval, unprecedented in German politics since World War II, has occurred. In the state assembly election held in Saxony&Anhalt, the electorate dealt a severe blow to the ruling party. The ruling party, which had governed the state for the past 24 years, suffered a crushing

defeat, securing only 17.2 percent of the vote. In contrast, the 'AfD' party—known for its staunch anti-immigration stance and far-right policies—swept to victory by garnering 43.8 percent of the vote. The party secured 39 out of the total 83 seats. Although they are just three seats short of an absolute majority to form

a government on their own, the refusal of other parties to enter into a coalition with

them has created a situation of intense political suspense and uncertainty in Germany.

President Trump's Face on Iran Map: New AI Images Released

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has released a new AI-generated image featuring his face superimposed on a map of Iran.

A few days ago, US President Donald Trump shared a video on social media created using artificial intelligence (AI), which depicted the destruction of Iran's Kharg Island. Following this, the US military launched a massive attack on Kharg Island on the 6th, firing missiles at the site.

Against this backdrop, President Trump released new AI-generated images on social media yesterday. One image shows President



Trump's face superimposed on a map of Iran. Another AI image depicts a US warplane dropping bombs to destroy Iran's Kharg Island; in the accompanying post, he wrote, "Bye, bye Kharg."

Furthermore, President Trump stated in his post that "Iran is falling." He also released another image



identifying Iran's Strait of Hormuz as US territory.

President Trump has released statistics indicating that Iran's currency has been devastated and its crude oil exports have come to a complete halt. President Trump stated on social media that, prior to the US-Iran conflict, 20 million barrels of crude

oil were transported daily through the Strait of Hormuz; currently, 18 million barrels are transported daily without Iranian interference. Meanwhile, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf stated yesterday, "In the next phase, attacks will be launched against American oil fields located in Gulf nations."

In a statement released yesterday, Iran's Foreign Ministry issued an open warning, stating that if the South Korean military collaborates with the US military in the Persian Gulf region, they will face severe consequences.

High level delegation from Kenya arrives in India for capacity building programme

NEW DELHI: A high-level delegation consisting of 25 senior Kenyan officials, headed by Cabinet Secretary Mercy Wanjau, has reached India to engage in a specialised Strategic Capacity Building Programme. The High Commission of India in Kenya announced on Monday that the executive initiative focusing on Smart Governance is being conducted at the National Centre for Good Governance from September 7 to 12, 2026, under the auspices of the Ministry of External Affairs.

The diplomatic mission stated on X, "A high-level 25-member delegation from Kenya comprising senior officials led by Ms. Mercy Wanjau, Secretary to the Cabinet, arrived in India to participate in a specialised Strategic Capacity Building Programme on Smart Governance." It further added, "Hosted at the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) from September 7–12, 2026, the executive programme is sponsored under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs."



Bilateral engagement has witnessed steady momentum, highlighted by a meeting last month where India's High Commissioner, Adarsh Swaika, called on Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Musalia W Mudavadi, to review cooperative initiatives and explore avenues for deeper partnership.

The High Commission of India in Nairobi noted on X regarding that interaction, "High Commissioner Adarsh Swaika called on Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs H.E. Dr. Musalia W Mudavadi. High Commissioner apprised Hon'ble PCs of recent bilateral developments and discussed

proposals and ideas for further strengthening the partnership."

Additionally, Kenya's National Assembly Speaker, Moses Wetang'ula, travelled to India in August to bolster legislative ties, meeting with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to advance parliamentary exchanges via newly established Parliamentary Friendship Groups. Reflecting on the historic relationship, Birla emphasised that shared democratic principles and deep-rooted historical ties form the cornerstone of bilateral camaraderie.

Birla stated on X, "The recently constituted Parliamentary Friendship Groups in both countries will provide an important platform for deepening parliamentary

engagement, fostering greater understanding between our two Parliaments and strengthening people-to-people connections."

Discussions during the parliamentary dialogue encompassed mutual legislative capacity building via the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies, alongside technological advancement, artificial intelligence, educational partnerships, healthcare cooperation, infrastructure projects, maritime connectivity, the Blue Economy, and digital growth. Disclaimer: This post has been auto-published from an agency feed without any modifications to the text and has not been reviewed by an editor

Youths Stage Protest in Pune; Opposition Leaders Extend Personal Support

MUMBAI: Youths in Pune staged a spontaneous protest condemning the leakage of government exam question papers. Opposition leaders extended their support to the protesters. A 'Group-B' examination for the post of Drug Inspector was held in Maharashtra last March. It was revealed after the exam that the question paper had been leaked. Mumbai police have arrested seven individuals in connection with this matter, including a female candidate who had secured the seventh rank. Against this backdrop, a mas-



sive protest by youths erupted suddenly in Pune yesterday to condemn the irregularities and question paper leaks in government examinations. Thousands of job seekers and exam candidates gathered, demanding transparency in

the examination process. They subsequently marched from the Omkareshwar Temple Chowk in Pune to the District Collector's office. Participants raised slogans demanding the immediate resignation of the Chairman and Secretary

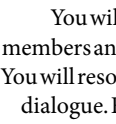
of the State Public Service Commission and calling for the appointment of honest officials to these positions. Supriya Sule, Working President of the Nationalist Congress Party (SP); Rohit Pawar (MLA) from the same party; and Congress MLA Vishwa-jeet Kadam visited the site to express their support for the youths.

Much like the protest held in Delhi against exam irregularities—organized by the 'Karapann Poochi Janata Dal'—this sudden gathering and protest by youths in Pune created a significant stir.

Today horoscope



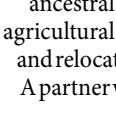
Your wishes will be fulfilled. Children will act with an understanding of the family situation. You will be able to identify the genuine well-wishers around you. In business, you will attract customers by employing new strategies. Your career prospects will be excellent.



You will understand the feelings of family members and adjust your behavior accordingly. You will resolve long-standing disputes through dialogue. Financial gains will bring peace of mind. Business activity will pick up momentum. Avoid arguments at the workplace.



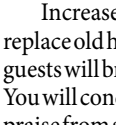
Confusion within the family will clear up. Financial inflow will be satisfactory. You will renovate and expand your ancestral home. Do not make promises to anyone. You will learn the nuances of the trade. Your standing at the workplace will improve.



You will face expenses and running around related to siblings. You will attempt to sell ancestral property, such as a house, plot, or agricultural land. You will expand your business and relocate your shop to a high-footfall area. A partner will offer support. Workload at the office will increase.



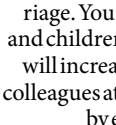
You will recover money that was lent out. Ego clashes will be resolved, leading to greater closeness between spouses. Stomach pain and nasal congestion will subside. Siblings will be helpful. Business will pick up momentum. Avoid interfering in others' affairs at the workplace.



Increased income will allow you to replace old household items. The arrival of guests will bring liveliness to your home. You will conduct yourself in a way that earns praise from superiors at work. Long-pending dues in business will be collected. Maintain a cordial relationship with your partner.



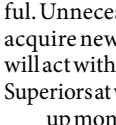
You will efficiently complete planned tasks. People who previously benefited from your help will now assist you. Business will be brisk. At the workplace, it is beneficial to focus solely on your own duties and avoid unnecessary involvement with others.



Practice compromise within your marriage. You will fulfill the wishes of your wife and children. Your social standing and respect will increase. You will receive support from colleagues at work. You will succeed in business by employing new strategies.



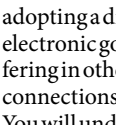
You may face running around and expenses related to your son's education or daughter's marriage. Siblings will offer assistance. Avoid making promises to anyone. You will successfully recover outstanding dues in your business. You will maintain a calm demeanor at work.



Fatigue will vanish, and you will appear cheerful. Unnecessary arguments will cease. You will acquire new clothes and jewelry. Older siblings will act with an understanding of your situation. Superiors at work will value you. Business will pick up momentum, leading to good profits.



You will engage in new ventures. Your influence within the family will grow. You will have the support of colleagues at work. You may be recommended for a new position, bringing increased responsibilities. You will effectively handle business competition.



You will find solutions to old problems by adopting a different approach. You will acquire electronic goods for your home. Avoid interfering in others' affairs at work. You will make connections with prominent figures in business. You will undertake a journey.

Plan to Operate Country's First Hydrogen Train at 110 km/h

Railway Board Chairman Satish Kumar Shares Details



INDORE: Railway Board Chairman and CEO Satish Kumar announced plans to operate India's first hydrogen train at a speed of 110 km/h. Speaking to reporters yesterday in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, Satish Kumar noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated India's first hydrogen-powered train service on July 17. This train operates on the 89&km&long Jind&Sonapat route in Haryana. While its current operating speed is 75 km/h, trial runs for speeds up to 120 km/h have already been completed.

Consequently, Indian Railways is planning to operate the train at speeds of up to 110 km/h. Consultations with relevant stakeholders are underway regarding the routes on which the train will operate. Technical issues and arrangements for hydrogen fuel supply are also being examined. The first Vande Bharat train with sleeper facilities is currently operating between Howrah and Kamakhya. Additionally, four more trains are ready, and another 11 are expected to enter service this year. Satish Kumar stated this.

No bell had rung yet... only Ilaiyaraaja was in the sanctum sanctorum

What did a female Sub-Inspector do at the Madurai Meenakshi Temple?

MADURAI: Music composer Ilaiyaraaja made a surprise visit to the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple. However, a female Sub-Inspector reportedly escorted him into the sanctum sanctorum ahead of the usual schedule, sparking a controversy. Devotees are questioning why Ilaiyaraaja was taken inside before the bell for the first *pooja* (ritual) had even rung. The temple doors open daily at 4:30 AM. Once opened, devotees enter and wait in line near the Siddhi Vinayagar shrine.

They are permitted to proceed to the sanctum sanctorum to worship the Goddess only after the bell for the first *pooja* rings at 5:00 AM. The *Thiruvananthol Pooja* takes place after this; this practice has reportedly been followed for centuries. Some



devotees even form special groups to visit the temple at dawn specifically to witness this *Thiruvananthol Pooja*. Against this backdrop, music composer Ilaiyaraaja visited the Meenakshi Amman Temple yesterday morning. The native of Pannaipuram has held a deep emotional connection to the Meenakshi Amman Temple—dating back to even before his visits to the Tiruvannamalai temple—and he visited the Madurai temple in keeping with this bond. He was accompanied by

individuals including Sasi Kumar, the State Secretary of the BJP's cultural wing. A female Sub-Inspector on security duty at the temple reportedly escorted Ilaiyaraaja and his companions inside. It appears Ilaiyaraaja waited there for about five minutes before the bell for the first *pooja* rang at 5:00 AM. Afterward, Ilaiyaraaja offered prayers to Goddess Meenakshi and the presiding deity before leaving the temple.

A question has now arisen as to why he was escorted

to the sanctum sanctorum ahead of schedule, given that devotees are typically permitted entry only after the ritual bell rings.

Reportedly, some devotees present at the temple expressed their dissatisfaction over this; a formal complaint regarding the incident has also been lodged at the temple's internal superintendent's office. Devotees are now demanding an explanation as to whether a female Sub-Inspector was authorized to escort Ilaiyaraaja to the sanctum sanctorum ahead of the usual procedure, or if he was taken there early for security reasons.

There is considerable anticipation regarding what action the temple administration will take concerning this complaint and whether officials will provide an explanation for the incident.

“India’s ISRO should join the US in the plan to establish a new base on the Moon”

US Ambassador Sergio Gore extends invitation



BENGALURU: US Ambassador Sergio Gore has called for India's ISRO to join the United States in its initiative to establish a new base on the Moon. A three&day space exhibition began yesterday in Bengaluru,

the capital of Karnataka. US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gore, participated in the inaugural ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, “We are preparing to travel to the Moon again. We

have plans to establish a new base there.

NASA has invited India's ISRO to join this mission. Reiterating this, I extend the invitation once more. We want India to partner with us in this lunar mission. Research concerning the Moon and Mars is set to be conducted under America's Artemis program. India has officially joined this initiative, a move I wholeheartedly welcome. Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla visited the International Space Station last year.” An Indian astron-

aut was able to achieve a new milestone thanks to America's constructive contribution. Various private companies have now entered India's space sector, and the doors of the American space market have opened for Indian firms. “We welcome you warmly. If Washington and Delhi join forces, we can reach new heights in the space sector; the sky is the limit for us. Both nations can work together to boost the global space economy and even undertake a joint mission to the Moon,” stated U.S. Ambassador Sergio Corre.

Treatment Must Be Provided for Social Ills Too: DMK Leader Stalin Urges

CHENNAI: DMK leader M.K. Stalin has urged that remedies be found and treatment provided for the social ills plaguing the country. The wedding of Amirtha—daughter of Thirumavelan, Head of the News Division at Kalaigai TV—to Rabindran took place in Chennai yesterday. DMK leader M.K. Stalin attended the event and congratulated the newlyweds. Speaking on the occasion, M.K. Stalin said: “This wedding has been conducted in accordance with the principles of the *Thirukkural*.” “This represents the Tamil way of life and Tamil culture. The Dravidian movement has been



championing and implementing these very values for a century. Prior to 1967, there was no legal recognition validating such ‘Self&Respect’ marriages.” “It was in 1967 that a state&level party—the DMK—first assumed power in Tamil Nadu, with Anna taking office as Chief Minister. He went to

is a Self&Respect marriage—a form of union that received legal recognition through Anna. Thiruvalluvar has stated that married life should be founded on love and virtue. Both the bride and the groom here are doctors. I have an earnest request for them: just as you discover medicines and provide treatment for human ailments, you must also find a cure for the ‘social maladies’ plaguing our country today and treat them as well. I urge you to fulfill this duty. Whether you are blessed with a boy or a girl, please give the child a beautiful Tamil name. This is how he spoke.

Those who attack doctors are unfit to walk the streets – Supreme Court’s strong observation

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court observed that individuals who attack doctors are unfit to walk the streets, while hearing a case involving a Shiv Sena councillor. On July 6, Ramesh Mhatre, a Shiv Sena councillor from the Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation in Maharashtra, was present with some associates at Shastri Nagar Hospital in Thane. At that time, the family of a pregnant woman alleged that doctors and staff were delaying her treatment.

An argument ensued when Mhatre questioned the doctors about this. Mhatre and his supporters then proceeded to attack the doctors. A Thane court granted bail to Mhatre—who had been arrested in connection with the case—on July 14, but the Bombay High Court issued an interim stay on that order. Subsequently, on August 7, the Bombay High Court granted bail to Mhatre and others, subject to certain conditions. Mhatre appealed to the Su-

preme Court seeking the cancellation of these conditions, while the state government filed an appeal challenging the bail granted to him. During an earlier hearing on these petitions, the Supreme Court had remarked that those who attack doctors are not entitled to bail. The petitions came up for hearing again yesterday before a bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta. During the proceedings, the judges stated: “Such individuals who attack

doctors are unfit to walk the streets.”

The situation is deteriorating rapidly. The same group has once again attacked doctors in Palghar. Therefore, we must send a message that deters others from engaging in such acts. A notice must be issued to Mhatre, directing him to respond to the State Government's petition within three weeks. The judges made these observations and adjourned the hearing to the 28th.

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New Fungus Species Discovered in Giant Panda Droppings

Researchers have successfully identified a completely new species of fungus—previously unknown to the world—in the droppings of giant pandas. Chinese researchers isolated the microorganism from panda feces and conducted a study.

After examining its physical characteristics and growth patterns across various temperatures, scientists performed a detailed analysis of its DNA and ribosomal genes. The results confirmed that, while closely related to known fungal varieties, it is a distinct species entirely new to the scientific community.

According to a research paper published in the journal *Current Microbiology*, the fungus has been named *Mucor melanoleucus*. Although it shares a close genetic relationship with the fungus *Mucor saturninus*, there are significant structural differences. Its sporangium (the sac&like structure that produces spores) is smaller than usual, yet the spores it produces are larger than those of other fungi. This discovery demonstrates that countless microorganisms, yet to be identified by humans, remain hidden within animal waste and decaying organic matter in the soil. Scientists are currently conducting further research to determine whether this fungus poses any risk to humans or animals, or if it holds potential for medical applications.

DAC Approves Projects Worth ₹1 Lakh Crore



NEW DELHI: The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved military equipment procurement projects worth ₹1.1 lakh crore aimed at enhancing the defence capabilities of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force. A meeting of the DAC

was held yesterday under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. During the meeting, approval was granted for the procurement of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) reconnaissance vehicles, high&mobility vehicles, automated mine&laying equipment, Advanced Light Helicopters, ‘Trawl’ tanks, and ‘Sarvatra’ bridging systems to meet the Army's requirements. CBRN vehicles will assist in detecting areas affected by radiation and chemical agents.

‘Sarvatra’ bridging systems and ‘Trawl’ tanks will facilitate the rapid movement of Army troops across difficult terrains. Approval has been granted for the procurement of ‘Arudra’ radars for the Indian Navy and for the indigenous design and development of marine gas turbines used for the propulsion of warships.

Ajith, a Vijay Fan in Tirupati, Charges Women Only ₹5 for Auto Rides!



TIRUPATHI: Ajith hails from Tiruchanur, near Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh. An auto&rickshaw driver by profession, he is an ardent fan of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay. He operates a shared auto service between Tiruchanur and Tirupati. He charges women only ₹5 for the ride from Tiruchanur to the Tirupati bus stand or railway station. While other auto&rickshaws charge passengers ₹30 or even ₹40, and buses charge ₹20 per person, he is the only one who charges women just ₹5. Devotees and passengers highly appreciate his gesture. Ajith says, “I am a die&hard fan of Vijay Sir. Ever since he became the Chief Minister, I have been charging women only ₹5 for the trip between Tirupati and Tiruchanur as a way to help the public in my own small way.” He smiles when mentioning that many people ask him, “Your name is Ajith, yet you are a fan of Vijay?”

Indian Engineer Arrested in Russia Wife Pleads for Rescue in Tearful Video



NEW DELHI: The wife of an Indian engineer from Kanpur, currently detained by Russian police in Moscow, has alleged that there are attempts to forcibly enlist him in the Russian army. Chandan Gupta, an engineer from Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, works at the Moscow branch of Flex Films, a Noida-based company. He resides in Moscow with his wife, Sneha Gupta, and their 10-year-old son. On the night of September 5, Russian police arrested Chandan Gupta and his friend, Ashish, in Moscow's Red Square area, accusing them of consuming alcohol in a public place and breaching the windshield of an ambulance. Asserting that her husband was arrested despite committing no wrongdoing, Sneha Gupta alleged that the police are pressuring him to join the Russian army to fight in the Ukraine war. Through a tearful video message, she

appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to intervene immediately and ensure her husband's safe rescue. Government sources stated that the Indian Embassy in Moscow has urged local authorities to release Sandan Gupta and Ashish and has requested permission to meet them. This incident comes amidst reports that Indians taken to Russia with promises of good jobs are being forcibly recruited into the military. The Ministry of External Affairs has stated that out of the 227 Indians who joined the Russian army, 139 have been released and 51 have lost their lives, while negotiations with Russia are underway to secure the release of the remaining individuals.

Free travel passes for staff; Forest Force revitalization at a cost of ₹100 crore

Forest Minister's announcement



CHENNAI: Forest Minister R. V. Ranjithkumar announced in the Legislative Assembly that a scheme to revitalize the Forest Force would be implemented by the Forest Department at a cost of ₹100.72 crore. While making announcements regarding the Forest Department in the Assembly, R. V. Ranjithkumar stated the following: To enhance the preparedness, operational efficiency, and service delivery capabilities of the Tamil Nadu Forest

Department in addressing the growing challenges associated with forest protection, wildlife management, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, and field level enforcement, the Tamil Nadu Forest Force will be restructured and strengthened at a cost of ₹100.72 crore over a five-year period, from the 2026-27 to 2030-31 financial years. The Tamil Nadu Forest Fire Management Scheme will be implemented at a cost of ₹60.58 crore. Induction training costing ₹12 crore will be provided to 1,947 newly recruited uniformed personnel of the Forest Department. Twenty-five nature parks will be established at a cost of ₹10 crore on lands owned by the government, local bodies, and other institutions. The wood forensics research laboratory facility at the State Forest Research Institute will be modernized at a cost of ₹5 crore. Initiatives to identify and designate 'District Biodiversity Symbols'—representing the unique fauna and flora found in each district—will be undertaken at a cost of ₹5 lakh. Compensation amounts for human & wildlife conflicts and damages caused by wild animals will be increased. Five solar & electric hybrid boats will be procured at a cost of ₹2 crore for boating operations in Pichavaram. He issued 12 announcements, including the provision of free bus passes—in the form of smart identity cards—worth ₹1.50 crore to 6,200 uniformed personnel working in the Forest Department.

India's BRICS Chairmanship takes centre stage as PM Modi hosts expanded 11-nation Summit in New Delhi

NEW DELHI: With New Delhi taking on the chairship, discussions will focus on steering international cooperation across trade, digital technology, finance, energy security, and global governance reform. The two-day summit will bring together heads of state and government from member nations, alongside invited international participants and senior officials, at Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan on September 12 and 13. Preceding the main leaders' gathering, the BRICS Business Forum will take place on September 11 at the same venue, alongside a session of the Women's Business Alliance. Under its chairship, India has already organised over 350 BRICS-related meetings and high-level engagements across more than 25 cities nationwide. V India's chairship for 2026 is anchored in the central theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability", reflecting the broader vision of "Humanity First." Discussions across various sessions are expected to address resilient global supply chains, cross-border payment integration, expanded use of national currencies, micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) development, digital trade, and artificial intelligence. Talks will also cover energy

security, climate resilience, development finance, the expansion of the New Development Bank, and urgent reforms of multilateral financial and political institutions. Operating across three foundational pillars of political and security matters, economic and financial cooperation, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges, the summit is expected to adopt a joint Leaders Declaration subject to bilateral consensus. The enlarged 11-member core grouping includes Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates, following Indonesia's induction as a full member in 2025. Additionally, 10 partner nations, namely Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam, participate within the broader BRICS framework while remaining distinct from full member states. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host the summit, with confirmed attendance from Russian President Vladimir Putin and expected participation from Chinese President Xi Jinping. A visit by President Xi would mark his first trip to India since his 2019 informal meeting with PM Modi in Mamallapuram, positioning potential bilateral

exchanges as a key diplomatic highlight. Other prominent leaders scheduled to participate include South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, and Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, alongside expected participation from United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. New Delhi's presidency places India at the helm of global discussions on trade, financial autonomy, technological architecture, and climate action, providing a platform for critical bilateral talks with key international partners, particularly Russia and China. India's four BRICS chairmanships in 2012, 2016, 2021, and 2026 mirror the evolving priorities of both the grouping and New Delhi's diplomatic trajectory. During its first chairship in 2012, India sought to transform an informal dialogue forum into a structured institution, proposing a South-financed multilateral development bank that di-

rectly laid the groundwork for the establishment of the New Development Bank in 2014. By the 2016 Goa Summit, held under the theme "Building Resilience, Inclusive and Collective Solutions", India broadened the bloc's focus towards counter-terrorism, regional connectivity, and collective security, leveraging the platform to urge international action against terror networks and cross-border threat financing. During its third chairship in 2021, conducted virtually amid the COVID-19 pandemic and complex military standoffs along the Line of Actual Control, India adopted the theme "BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus." New Delhi successfully preserved the functioning of the multilateral platform while prioritising public health, economic recovery, and diplomatic consensus. In 2026, as host to an expanded BRICS+ framework, India is deploying its chairship to champion Global South priorities, positioning the grouping as a leading voice for institutional reform, financial inclusivity, and sustainable development. Disclaimer: This post has been auto-published from an agency feed without any modifications to the text and has not been reviewed by an editor

Palani Murugan Temple to be elevated as a model institution that draws national attention

Minister Ramesh

CHENNAI: Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, S. Ramesh, announced in the Legislative Assembly that the Palani Murugan Temple would be elevated to the status of a model temple, setting an example that would capture the attention of the entire nation. During the debate on demands for grants for the Commercial Taxes and Registration Department, as well as the Environment, Climate Change, and Forests Department in the Tamil Nadu Legislative As-

sembly yesterday, AIADMK member Ravi Manoharan (Palani constituency) spoke, stating, "Hundreds of thousands of devotees visit the Palani Murugan Temple every year. Contract workers handle various tasks there, including the temple's *Annadhanam* (free food distribution) scheme. They are paid a monthly salary of only ₹10,000. Permanent staff should be appointed there." Responding to this, Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments



S. Ramesh said, "I recently inspected the *Annadhanam* (free meal) scheme operations and temple infrastructure facilities at the Palani Murugan Temple. The member accompanied me during that visit. Lord Murugan is the God of the Tamils. The Chief Minister has directed that the Palani Murugan Temple be eleva-

ted into a model temple that commands the attention of the entire nation. Accordingly, it will be upgraded into such a model temple, fully equipped with all necessary amenities." **Palani Murugan's Generosity:** Earlier, while speaking, member Ravi Manoharan remarked, "Minister K.A. Sengotta-

ian frequently visits the Palani Murugan Temple. Palani Murugan has granted him not only what he asked for but has also generously bestowed upon him things he did not even request. Therefore, it is Minister Sengottaiyan who should speak the most about Palani." Responding to this, Minister Sengottaiyan said, "A member here remarked that Lord Murugan of Palani has showered me with both what I asked for and what I did not. Just like Lord Murugan of Palani, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has also generously bestowed upon me; he has placed me in this position. I extend my best wishes to him."

ISRO will never be privatized

National space agency chief clarifies



NEW DELHI: The head of the national space promotion agency has stated that ISRO will never be privatized. Reports had recently surfaced suggesting that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was set to be privatized. Nine ISRO employee unions had deman-

ded a clarification regarding this matter. In response, Pawan Goenka, Chairman of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (INSPACe), issued a statement clarifying that there is no truth to the speculation about ISRO's privatization. He affirmed that ISRO will never be privatized, nor will its importance be diminished.

He explained that private sector participation in the space domain is not about reducing ISRO's role; rather, while the industry develops mature technologies and capabilities, it will enable ISRO to focus even more intensely on India's next-generation space missions. It is not the significance of ISRO that is changing, but rather the scale and structure of India's space ecosystem. The reforms implemented since 2020 are aimed at expanding India's entire space ecosystem.

INSPACe will facilitate and authorize private sector participation in the space industry. ISRO will continue to serve as India's premier institution for advanced space research and technological development, space science, exploration, and critical as well as frontier space capabilities. This is what he stated.



Capacity Enhancement for Chennai Metro Phase 1

New Consultancy Contract Worth ₹35.97 Crore

CHENNAI: A new contract worth ₹35.97 crore has been awarded to provide consultancy services for project management and detailed design, aimed at enhancing transport capacity along the Chennai Metro Phase 1 corridors. At an event held in Chennai, the agreement was signed by Manoj Goyal, Director (Systems and Operations) of Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL); Sunil Kumar Reddy Kasa, Regional Director of AECOM India; and Sathish Suneja, Joint Director

of Nippon Koei India. K. Mani Venkata Kumar, Chief General Manager of CMRL, along with other officials, participated in the event. Officials from CMRL stated that this project was initiated because the number of Chennai Metro passengers is steadily increasing; the project aims to increase the frequency of metro trains on Phase 1 corridors and upgrade stations as well as technical infrastructure. All these improvement works will be carried out while ensur-

ing that passenger services continue safely and without any interruption. Under this project, the consultancy firm will fully handle all technical advisory and supervisory tasks—including the preparation of detailed plans for architecture, railway tracks, and electrical and mechanical works for the Phase 1 corridors; the formulation of tender specifications; and the on-site supervision and management of construction activities. They stated this.



The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah in a group photograph during chairs the 28th meeting of the Western Zonal Council at Panaji, in Goa on September 07, 2026.



Alcaraz Advances to US Open Quarter & finals

NEW YORK: Spain's Carlos Alcaraz has advanced to the quarter-finals of the US Open tennis tournament. On the eighth day of the tournament currently underway in New York, world number 2 and defending champion Carlos Alcaraz defeated the 20th-ranked American, Tommy Paul, in the men's singles fourth-round match to secure a

spot in the quarter-finals. Meanwhile, American Frances Tiafoe (ranked 11th) faced Russia's Daniil Medvedev (ranked 7th); Tiafoe defeated Medvedev in straight sets—7-6 (7-1), 6-4, 7-6 (8-6)—to enter the quarter-finals. Additionally, American Ben Shelton (ranked 8th) advanced to the quarter-finals by defeating Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas (ranked 53rd) with a score of 6-2, 6-3, 6-4. Meanwhile, Argentina's

Tomas Etcheverry (ranked 27th) lost to American Alex Michelsen (ranked 46th) in straight sets: 6-7 (6-8), 4-6, 4-6. In the women's singles fourth round, top seed and defending champion Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus defeated American Taylor Townsend 6-4, 6-3 to advance to the quarter-finals. Additionally, Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic (ranked 6th) beat Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk (ranked 11th) 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 to secure a spot in the quarter-finals.

Third-seeded American Jessica Pegula defeated 16th-seeded Romanian Sorana Cirstea 6-3, 6-4, while 26th-seeded American Emma Navarro beat 21st-seeded Russian Anna Kalinskaya 6-4, 6-2 to advance to the quarter-finals. In the second round of the men's doubles event, the Indo-American pair of Sriram Balaji and Evan King lost 4-6, 5-7 to the 12th-seeded duo of Édouard Roger-Vasselin (France) and Hugo Nys (Monaco).

Delhi Hostel Collapse: Death Toll Rises to 7; 5 Officials Suspended

NEW DELHI: The death toll in the student hostel building collapse in Delhi has risen to seven. The Delhi government has ordered the suspension of five municipal officials in connection with the incident. While initial reports indicated three fatalities, four more individuals succumbed to their injuries,

bringing the total death toll to seven. Additionally, five people are undergoing treatment in the hospital; the condition of some is reported to be critical, raising fears that the death toll could rise further.



Rescue operations continued for a second day yesterday, as it is believed that more students might still be trapped in the collapsed structure.

Mayor Rekha Gupta visited

the site yesterday to inspect the rescue efforts. She stated that the accumulation of water in the building's foundation and renovation work carried out on the 50-year-old structure

were the causes of the collapse. "I have ordered a judicial inquiry into the accident and directed that a case be registered against the building owner," he said. The Delhi government has ordered the suspension of five officials—the Deputy Commissioner, Executive Engineer, Superintending Engineer, Assistant Engineer, and Junior Engineer—in connection with the accident. The building owner, 81-year-old Hariram Gupta, was arrested yesterday in Bhiwadi, Rajasthan; the police also arrested his wife and son.

India and Thailand discuss further strengthening of Strategic Partnership

THAILAND: India's Ambassador to Thailand, Puneet Agrawal, held discussions with Thailand's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Vijavat Isarabhakdi, centred on deepening bilateral cooperation across multiple strategic domains.

The diplomatic engagement took place on Monday, during which Ambassador Agrawal paid a courtesy call on the senior Thai official. The Embassy of India in Thailand detailed the exchange on X, stating, "Ambassador Puneet Agrawal paid a courtesy call on Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand HE Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi. Discussions focused on further strengthening the India - Thailand Strategic Partnership, including in trade, investment, defence and security, and cultural exchanges." This high-level diplomatic interaction follows a series of robust defence en-



gagements between the two nations. Last week, the 14th edition of Staff Talks between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy concluded in New Delhi, focusing on naval capacity building, professional training expansion, and operational collaboration. The Indian Navy stated on X regarding the proceedings, "14th Edition of Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy Staff Talks were successfully concluded on 03 Sep 26 at New Delhi. Co-chaired by Rear Admiral Sachin R Sequeira, ACNS (FCI) and Rear Admiral Chaksawat

Saiwong, Director, Office of Policy and Planning, Naval Operations Department, Royal Thai Navy, the talks focused on strengthening the foundations of bilateral engagement, reaffirming commitment for capacity building & training and identifying areas for further collaboration."

Maritime cooperation has seen further operational milestones earlier this year. In July, Indian Naval Ships INS Udaygiri, INS Shakti, and INS Kavaratti from the Eastern Fleet conducted a

Passage Exercise (PASSEX) alongside the Royal Thai Navy vessel HTMS Chao Phraya.

The joint naval manoeuvres followed a port call by the Indian Fleet at Sattahip, designed to boost tactical interoperability.

The Indian Navy spokesperson noted on X concerning the drill, "Indian Naval Ships INS Udaygiri, INS Shakti and INS Kavaratti of the Eastern Fleet undertook PASSEX with HTMS Chao Phraya of the Royal Thai Navy following their visit to Sattahip, Thailand. The exercise provided an opportunity to enhance interoperability between the two Navies, reaffirming their shared commitment to maritime security and regional stability." Disclaimer: This post has been auto-published from an agency feed without any modifications to the text and has not been reviewed by an editor

Controversy Erupts Over Hindu Group's Visit: Staff Strike Closes Eiffel Tower



PARIS: A controversy has arisen in France after female employees were reportedly asked to leave their posts during a visit by a Hindu organization to the Eiffel Tower. The tower was temporarily closed as staff staged a protest in response to this action.

Thousands of tourists from around the world regularly visit the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Last Saturday, a group of 100 people from the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushott-

am Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)—a Hindu organization based in Gujarat—visited the landmark.

Allegations surfaced that female employees working at the tower were removed from the premises during this visit. This move by the Eiffel Tower's management sparked outrage in France. While political leaders condemned the incident, the staff launched a strike.

Consequently, the Eiffel Tower was closed for a short

period. It reopened following negotiations with the employees. Stéphane Dieu, a union representative, stated: "Female employees were told to leave their workstations when the representatives from the Hindu organization arrived. Male employees were deployed in their place."

This incident, which occurred over the weekend, caused significant anger among the staff, leading to a meeting on Monday. "This meeting was held to negotiate with the management and to ensure that women would not be treated in such a manner at the company in the future," it was stated. The opening of the Eiffel Tower was delayed as employees gathered for this meeting; a notice board at the site indicated that the

opening of the monument had been postponed due to operational reasons. Meanwhile, the inauguration ceremony of a Hindu temple took place in the suburbs of Paris; Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the temple via video conference. Members of Hindu organizations had traveled to France to attend this event.

It was during this visit that they went to the Eiffel Tower. The private company managing operations at the Eiffel Tower explained that female employees were asked to leave the workplace for a short period at the specific request of the Hindu group members. Addressing the controversial incident, Paris Deputy Mayor Emmanuel Grégoire stated that an inquiry into the matter would be ordered soon.

Odisha sisters climb a hill to study and clear the NEET exam



MAYURBHANJ: Sisters from Odisha have amazed everyone by clearing the NEET

exam after climbing a hill to study, as mobile network coverage was unavailable at their home. Yajnaseni and Divyaseni are the daughters of Gouranga Kathua, a poor farmer,

and Sunita, an Anganwadi helper, from Mahulabhang

village in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. Due to financial constraints, they did not attend private coaching centers; instead, they studied through self-effort and online classes to achieve success in the NEET exam.

Since there was no adequate mobile network in their area, they would climb a nearby

hill and study on their mobile phones until late at night. The elder sister, Yajnaseni, cleared the exam on her third attempt, while the younger sister, Divyaseni—who studied under her guidance—cleared it on her first attempt. The sisters' sole ambition is to become excellent doctors in the future and serve the underprivileged.



Mysuru: The volume of water released from Karnataka dams into the Cauvery river for Tamil Nadu has been reduced to 5,200 cubic feet per second.

No need to expunge the Chief Minister's remarks from the House records" - Speaker firm

DMK members who protested were evicted



CHENNAI: In the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, DMK members demanded that the Chief Minister's remarks regarding the Sarkaria Commission report and the MISA issue be expunged from the House records. However, Speaker J. C. D. Prabhakar firmly declared, "There is no need to expunge the Chief Minister's remarks from the House records." Yesterday, while replying to the debate on the demands for grants for the Police Department in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister leveled a series of allegations against the DMK. The Assembly convened at 9:30 AM today, marking the final day of this session.

Today's proceedings involve debates on the demands for grants for several departments:

Public Sector; Non-Resident Tamils Welfare; State Legislature; Governor and Council of Ministers; Finance; Planning and Development; Pensions and Retirement Benefits; and Transport.

Meanwhile, DMK members demanded that the Chief Minister's remarks regarding the Sarkaria Commission report and the MISA issue be expunged from the Assembly records. Speaking on the occasion, DMK Whip E. V. Velu said, "The Legislative Assembly has established conventions; accordingly, the Chief Minister is expected to speak with dignity. However, Chief Minister Vijay has violated these conventions. Furthermore, matters currently under judicial inquiry are not to be discussed in the House.

We remained silent while Chief Minister Vijay spoke yesterday, but his reading of the Enforcement Directorate report was a breach of House decorum. M.K. Stalin was imprisoned for a year after being arrested under the MISA Act, a law that went against democratic principles. Even DK leader Veeramani, a proponent of Periyar's ideology, was imprisoned alongside M.K. Stalin. We also objected to the Chief Minister's remarks regarding the MISA Act.

Yesterday, the Chief Minister spoke about Maran; however, the rules state that one should not speak about individuals who are not present in the House. The Sarkaria Commission itself stated that the allegations against Kalaignar Karunanidhi could not be proven and that no case could be filed due to a lack of evidence. All unsubstantiated remarks made by Chief Minister Vijay must be expunged from the Assembly records." Responding to this, Speaker J. C. T. Prabhakar said, "DMK members did not pay attention

for even a minute while Chief Minister Vijay was speaking. The Chief Minister's mention of M.K. Stalin's arrest under MISA was a statement of fact. Similarly, the Sarkaria Commission has been discussed in the Assembly on numerous occasions. Why did DMK members display placards in the House without my permission? There is no need to expunge any of Chief Minister Vijay's remarks from yesterday's records." Following this, DMK members surrounded the Speaker and raised slogans, an action the Speaker strongly condemned.

At that juncture, Leader of the House Sengottaiyan intervened and demanded that the DMK members, who had been creating a ruckus in the Assembly for two days, be evicted. Following this, the Speaker stated, "I grant permission to the DMK Whip to speak in the Assembly; he may speak for as long as he wishes." However, the DMK members remained seated in the House and continued to raise slogans. Consequently, the Speaker ordered the marshals to evict the DMK members from the House. Following this order, the marshals removed the DMK members.

AIADMK Announces 3 Day Window to Obtain Applications for By Election Candidacy

CHENNAI: Edappadi Palaniswami has announced that those wishing to contest the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram by-elections on behalf of the AIADMK can obtain application forms at the party headquarters over the next three days, starting today.

The Election Commission announced yesterday (Monday) that by-elections for the vacant Maduranthakam and Dharapuram Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu would be held on the 6th of next month. In a statement regarding this, AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi Palaniswami said, "By-elections for the Maduranthakam (Reserved) and Dharapuram (Reserved) Assembly constituencies are scheduled to take place on October 6, 2026. Accordingly, those wishing to contest as candidates representing the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) may obtain the necessary application forms at the party headquarters daily between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM, starting today (September 8, 2026) through Thursday, September 10, 2026. I wish to inform you that the forms must be filled out clearly with all the requested details and submitted to the



headquarters by 6:00 PM on September 10, 2026."

Chief Minister Vijay had contested and won in two constituencies—Chennai Perambur and Trichy East—during the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. After assuming office as Chief Minister, he resigned from his MLA post for the Trichy East constituency. Subsequently, six AIADMK MLAs—C. Vijayabaskar (Viralimalai), M.R. Vijayabaskar (Karur), Maragatham Kumaravel (Maduranthakam), Jayakumar (Perundurai), Sathiyabama (Dharapuram), and Isakki Subbiah (Ambasamudram)—resigned from their posts and joined TVK.

Election petitions concerning five of these constituencies—Trichy East, Viralimalai, Karur, Perundurai, and Ambasamudram—are currently pending. Meanwhile, the Election Commission of India has announced that by-elections for the Maduranthakam and

Dharapuram constituencies will be held on October 6. In the Assembly election, Maragatham Kumaravel, contesting on behalf of the AIADMK in the Maduranthakam constituency, won by securing 69,298 votes. TVK candidate Ezhil Catherine secured 62,090 votes, DMK candidate Amulu Ponmalar received 59,838 votes, and NTK candidate Janakiraman obtained 4,950 votes. Maragatham Kumaravel, who joined TVK after resigning as an MLA, was appointed as the State Deputy General Secretary.

Amidst this situation, there is anticipation regarding whether Maragatham Kumaravel will contest from the constituency or if Ezhil Catherine—who has contested previously—will be given the opportunity. Sathiyabama, who contested on behalf of the AIADMK in the Dharapuram constituency, won

by securing 81,100 votes. DMK candidate Indirani secured 64,373 votes, Gauri Chitra received 46,438 votes, and NTK candidate Divya obtained 6,026 votes.

Sathiyabama, who resigned from her MLA post to join TVK, currently serves as the Joint Secretary of the Tiruppur East District unit. It is reported that there is a strong possibility of Sathiyabama being announced as the candidate for the Dharapuram constituency. In the Assembly elections, the AIADMK managed to win both the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies, defying the TVK wave. Consequently, the AIADMK is keen on securing victory in these two constituencies once again. It is also reported that the DMK has decided to field candidates there.

The filing of nomination papers for the by-election begins tomorrow (September 9). The last date for filing nominations is September 16. Scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on the 17th. The last day to withdraw nominations is the 19th. Polling will be held on October 6, and vote counting will take place on October 9. The Model Code of Conduct has come into force in all constituencies.