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Malaysia, Ethiopia agree to stronger defence cooperation with India PM Modi during bilateral meetings

NEW DELHI: Malaysia and Ethiopia have expressed their keenness for stronger defence cooperation with India on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit 2026, sources stated.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed Ali at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, followed by meetings with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. The meetings took India's relations with the countries on a new trajectory. The leaders discussed joint personnel training as well as defence procurement from India. Both countries welcomed Indian industry and investment. According to sources, Ethiopia especially welcomed Indian mining companies.

Meanwhile, Semiconductor opportunities were discussed with Malaysia. According to MEA, PM Modi and his Malaysian counterpart, Anwar Ibrahim, built further on PM Modi's visit to Malaysia in February 2026, and reviewed the progress in



bilateral cooperation across a range of areas, including trade and investment, defence and security, semiconductors, infrastructure, digital economy, energy, fintech, education, tourism and people&to&people ties. The leaders exchanged views on key regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Malaysia's participation in the BRICS Leaders' Summit in New Delhi is in its capacity as a BRICS Partner Country, on the invitation of PM Modi.

"The Summit is the highest&level platform of BRICS, bringing together Heads of State and Government of BRICS Member and Partner Countries to discuss strategic issues relating to global governance, sustainable development, economic cooperation, trade and investment, digital transformation, and global challenges affecting developing countries," the Malaysian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

During his visit, Ibrahim is also scheduled to visit Keralam, where he will meet Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Chief Minister VD Satheesan and the Grand Mufti of India, Sheikh Abubakr Ahmad, to exchange perspectives on community development, educational advancement, and interfaith harmony.

Meanwhile, with Abiy Ahmed Ali, PM Modi discussed avenues to further strengthen the India&Ethiopia Strategic Partnership across sectors including economic, defence and security sectors.

Both reiterated their collective voice for the Global South, as per the MEA. Both leaders also exchanged perspectives on regional and international developments of mutual interest.

BRICS Summit: Chinese President Departs for India; Key Talks with PM Modi Today



BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping departed from Beijing for Delhi this morning to participate in the 18th BRICS Summit. Accompanying him are Cai Qi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, as well as Wang Yi, the Chinese Foreign Minister and a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. President Xi is visiting India after a gap of nearly seven years.

He previously participated in an informal summit with Prime Minister Modi in Mamallapuram, near Chennai, in 2019. Prior to that, he had visited India for the BRICS summit in Goa in 2016 and during his first visit to the country in September 2014. Speaking on the Modi-Xi meeting, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning stated that the two leaders are set to meet for the third consecutive year, following their previous meetings in the cities of Kazan and Tianjin. She affirmed that China is prepared—under the guidance of both leaders—to manage India-China relations with a long-term and strategic perspective, enhance communication, and foster cooperation. Tensions had persisted in India-China relations following the 2020 standoff in Eastern Ladakh. Currently, both nations are taking steps to de-escalate tensions and restore normalcy. Ahead of Xi Jinping's visit to India, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held extensive talks on the border issue in Beijing last month. During the 25th round of Special Representative-level talks held in Beijing on August 25, both nations reached an eight-point consensus. They also agreed to accelerate negotiations regarding border demarcation and management. Consequently, the upcoming meeting between Modi and Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS summit has generated significant expectations regarding the future trajectory of India-China relations.

The 18th BRICS summit is being held in Delhi today and tomorrow under India's leadership. Originally comprising five nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—the BRICS bloc expanded in 2024 with the inclusion of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia; Indonesia joined in 2025. Last year, Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam joined the BRICS alliance as partner countries. India is a founding member of BRICS. It has previously held the BRICS presidency in 2012, 2016, and 2021. India assumed the BRICS presidency for the fourth time on January 1 of this year.

The year 2026 marks the 20th anniversary of the bloc's inception. Following the conclusion of this summit, China is set to assume the rotating presidency of BRICS.



President Xi Jinping, who has arrived in India, was accorded an enthusiastic welcome at the airport in accordance with traditional Indian culture. He is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Modi this evening at 5:45 PM. Chinese President Xi Jinping has visited India after a gap of nearly seven years.

Chief Minister Vijay visits racing track at Ajith's invitation

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay recently announced in the Legislative Assembly, under Rule 110, that a world&class motorsports city would be established in Tamil Nadu.

To take this initiative forward, Chief Minister Vijay is visiting London to inspect leading motorsports infrastructure facilities firsthand. As part of this visit, he is set to tour the renowned Silverstone motor racing circuit. Additionally, Chief Minister Vijay will flag off the 'Michelin Le Mans' car race scheduled to begin at Silverstone on Saturday. The organizing committee for the Michelin Le Mans event has officially announced this. Leading Tamil cinema actor Ajith Kumar is participating in this race series representing his own team. While there was speculation about a possible meeting between Chief Minister Vijay and his friend Ajith during the London visit, the fact that Vijay is flagging off the race Ajith is competing in is particularly noteworthy. This has delighted fans.



Speaking to reporters, Ajith Kumar said, "We are fellow actors in the film industry. The government led by Chief Minister Vijay is taking various measures to promote the sports sector in Tamil Nadu. Despite his demanding work schedule, Chief Minister Vijay has come to London to flag off the Le Mans car race series at my invitation. He is doing a great deal to develop the sports sector. Chief Minister Vijay is keen on creating a facility similar to the 'Silverstone' racing track in Chennai.

It is my wish that motorsports and similar activities come to India. I desire to see events like the ones held in London taking place in Chennai as well."

North Korea Flexes Muscles with Successive Ballistic Missile Launches

PYONGYANG: Amidst joint military exercises conducted by US, Japanese, and South Korean forces in close proximity to North Korea, the latter has test-fired intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). This has triggered heightened tensions across the Korean Peninsula. This morning, North Korea conducted test launches of multiple missiles from the Wonsan area.

The US, South Korea, and Japan had only just concluded a five-day trilateral joint military exercise named 'Freedom Edge' yesterday. Within hours of the exercise commencing, North Korean Defense Minister Kim Sang-gi had voiced strong condemnation. He warned that North Korea would take severe countermeasures, leveraging its military strength. The recent missile tests are a direct continuation of this stance. Observing the US military exercises and North Korea's retaliatory missile tests, one might feel that both sides are merely trading accusations and escalating tensions. When the US justifies its joint exercises with South Korea and Japan by citing North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons and its sporadic ICBM tests, the argument seems valid. However, there is another side to the story. The US has been conducting such joint exercises since 1955. If China were to initiate joint



military exercises with Sri Lanka—right next to India—would we remain idle? Military exercises in the Indian Ocean would pose a direct threat to India; similarly, US military exercises in the waters off the Korean Peninsula pose a direct threat to North Korea. However, it was only in 2006 that North Korea conducted a nuclear weapons test; after enduring threats from the United States for five decades, it carried out such a test only recently. Yet, many argue that it is inappropriate for the U.S. to conduct military exercises that further escalate tensions, citing this test as the reason. In this context, the ballistic missile tests conducted by North Korea in opposition to U.S. military drills have drawn significant attention. It is noteworthy that North Korea currently possesses 120 nuclear weapons, as well as ballistic missiles designed to strike U.S. territory with precision from thousands of kilometers away.

US and Israel trying to coerce us into submission; Iranian President speaks in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian stated that the US and Israel are attempting to coerce Iran into submission, but emphasized that the country would never yield to such pressure. Speaking at an event in Delhi, Masoud Pezeshkian said, "Iran stands firm against both the US and Israel simultaneously. They wish to intimidate us, but we will not bow to intimidation. If pressure is exerted on us, we will retaliate. The US and Israel claim to champion human rights, yet their actions contradict this. Those who used modern technology to kill 168 schoolchildren at once now claim to be guardians of human rights."



Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Iranian President Pezeshkian for talks. The two leaders discussed issues including the ongoing conflict in West Asia, maritime transport, and the safety of ship crews. Prime Minister Modi specifically emphasized the necessity of ensuring safe international shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

He also stated that solutions to establish lasting peace and stability in the region should be sought through dialogue and diplomatic efforts.

Today horoscope

You will learn the knack of acting according to the situation. Your foresight will improve. You will plan to curb extravagant expenses. At the workplace, it is best to focus solely on your own tasks. Business will flourish.

Even though expenses may arise in quick succession, there will be adequate income to match them. You will successfully complete challenging tasks through proper planning. You will derive happiness from purchasing electronic gadgets. Business will pick up momentum and yield profits. Avoid arguments at the workplace.

You will embark on a new path. Excellent opportunities to showcase your talents will come your way. You will be introduced to trustworthy people. You will attract customers by employing new strategies in your business. Your career prospects will be excellent.

You will become more swift in your actions. Benefits will arise through government-related matters. You will quickly complete certain tasks with the help of influential people. Minor differences of opinion between spouses will arise and resolve quickly. Your superior at work will appreciate you. Business will flourish.

It is advisable to be accommodating within the family. Caution is required in both speech and actions. You will attempt to sell ancestral homes, plots, or agricultural land. Maintaining a calm demeanor at the workplace is beneficial. You will manage to sell stagnant stock in your business.

Cooperation from your spouse's side will increase. Positions of authority will come your way. You will secure a new job. New friends will offer their support. Benefits will arise through government-related matters. Partners will extend their support in business. Your standing at the workplace will improve.

You will successfully complete even challenging tasks with tact. All obstacles will vanish. You will make important decisions. Closeness between spouses will increase. Avoid making enemies at the workplace. In business, you may relocate your shop to a different area.

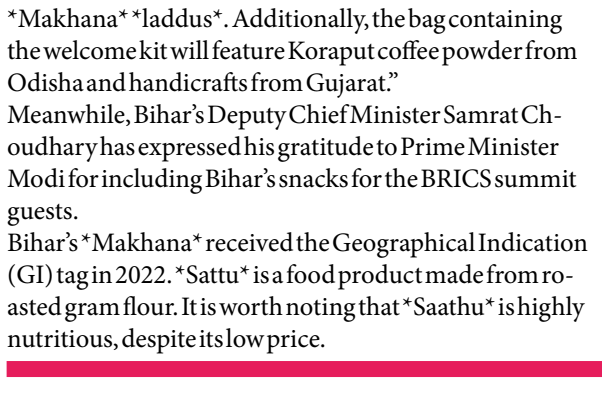
You will repay money borrowed from others. A joyful atmosphere will prevail in the family. You will gain benefits through paternal relatives. You will have the opportunity to meet prominent figures in a professional context. You will learn the nuances of the trade.

You will attempt to renovate and expand your ancestral home. Time spent with family members will decrease. Business will be brisk, yielding high profits. Workload at the office will increase, leaving little time for rest.

There will be auspicious expenses in the family. Visits from guests will increase. Spiritual journeys will bring peace of mind. Do not make promises or commitments to anyone. You will expand your business. Avoid making enemies at the workplace.

Pay attention to your health. You will attempt to ell your ancestral home. Workload at the office will be heavy; be cautious when speaking with c olleagues. You may relocate your business premises. Your drive to achieve success will grow.

Elder brothers will be supportive. Avoid antagonizing your neighbors. Those who have been waiting after applying for jobs will secure employment with a good salary. Your leadership and personality traits will be enhanced at work. Business will flourish.



Bihar's Famous Delicacies for BRICS Guests

NEW DELHI: Famous Bihari food items—specifically *Sattu* and *Makhana*—are set to be served to the guests attending the BRICS summit.

The BRICS summit is taking place in Delhi over two days, starting today (September 12). Guests and journalists participating in the event will be offered popular Bihari delicacies such as *Sattu* and *Makhana* *laddus*.

An official organizing the BRICS summit stated: "The 'welcome kit' provided to guests will include a water bottle, a coffee mug, a BRICS summit diary, a pen, a commemorative souvenir, and snacks like *Sattu* and *Makhana* *laddus*. Additionally, the bag containing the welcome kit will feature Koraput coffee powder from Odisha and handicrafts from Gujarat."

Meanwhile, Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Modi for including Bihar's snacks for the BRICS summit guests.

Bihar's *Makhana* received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2022. *Sattu* is a food product made from roasted gram flour. It is worth noting that *Saathu* is highly nutritious, despite its low price.

Vice President pays floral tributes to portraits of Bharathiyar and Immanuel Sekaranar on their remembrance day



NEW DELHI: On the occasion of the remembrance day of Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiyar and the martyr Immanuel Sekaranar, Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan paid floral tributes to their portraits at the Vice President's residence. In a subsequent post on X, he stated: Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiyar was a noble son of Mother India who dedicated his life to the service of the nation and the Tamil language. He famously proclaimed, "She speaks eighteen languages, yet possesses a single mind" —emphasizing that despite speaking various languages, we are citizens of a great nation united in thought. We do not know how many eras it will take for another such great poet to be born. Let us cherish the memory of Bharathiyar, who championed patriotism, equality, and the advancement of women through his poetry. Martyr Immanuel Sekaranar was a truly great man. He sacrificed his life to uphold the principle of equal justice, advocating that people should not view one another as superior or inferior based on caste.

Tirupati Lord Venkateswara Temple Receives ₹6.94 Crore in Offerings in a Single Day

TIRUMALA: The Tirupati Lord Venkateswara Temple has received ₹6.94 crore in hundi (offering box) contributions in a single day. This is considered a record. Devotees are flocking in large numbers to the Tirupati Lord Venkateswara Temple in Andhra Pradesh. With the arrival of weekends and consecutive holidays, devotees have been gathering at Tirumala.

On Wednesday, the 9th, a total of 69,771 devotees offered prayers to the deity. Of these, 25,888 devotees offered their hair. A total of 4.42 lakh 'Laddu' *prasadam* units were sold, and *Annadanam* (free food distribution) was provided to 2.65 lakh people. Notably, ₹6.94 crore was collected in the temple hundi on that Wednesday alone. This is considered the highest single&day hundi collection in the history of the Tirupati Lord Venkateswara Temple. Previously,

hundi collections had reached the ₹6 crore mark only three times. In this instance, the collection on the 9th—at ₹6.94 crore—came very close to the ₹7 crore mark.

Other countries praise us, but opposition can't tolerate this" BJP's Madan Rathore on P Chidambaram's BRICS remarks

JAIPUR: BJP Rajasthan president and Rajya Sabha MP Madan Rathore on Saturday hit back at Congress leader P Chidambaram over his remarks on BRICS, saying the opposition party was unable to understand the seriousness of India's growing global standing.

Reacting to Chidambaram's remarks, Rathore said the Congress was unable to understand the significance of the work being done by the BJP&led government.

"The Congress is not understanding the seriousness. They couldn't do the things we are doing... We have conveyed the message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'... Other countries praise us, but the opposition can't tolerate this, so they are making such statements," Rathore told.

On Wednesday, senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP P Chidambaram questioned the tangible benefits India has gained from recent BRICS summits, saying he had not seen any significant outcomes from the last two or three meetings.

Speaking about the upcoming BRICS Summit 2026 in Delhi, Chidambaram said India is part of several multilateral groupings, including BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), G20 and QUAD, but questioned what concrete benefits the country has received from them. "I don't know how many Presidents and how many Prime Ministers are coming. I don't think the last two or three BRICS summits have resulted in tangible benefits or tangible results," Chidambaram.

"In fact, we are part of BRICS, we are part of SCO, we are part of G20, and we are part of QUAD. What benefits are we getting out of that? I can't see. In the last two or three summits, I didn't see any benefits. Earlier, the BRICS Summits resulted in some tangible benefits," he added.

Meanwhile, the theme of this year's summit is "Building Resilience for Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainable Development." India is a founding member of BRICS and has previously chaired the grouping in 2012, 2016 and 2021. BRICS has emerged as an important platform for coordination among major emerging economies and for advancing the interests of the Global South in multilateral institutions. Its agenda covers development, finance, technology, trade and people&to&people exchanges.

The grouping currently comprises 11 countries && Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the UAE.

Unidentified man flees with ₹4 lakh after throwing chili powder at bank staff

police apprehend him within 30 minutes

*NAGPUR: A State Bank of India (SBI) branch is located in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The day before yesterday, at 6 PM, a man entered the branch posing as a customer. He was wearing a red *kurta* and black *pyjamas*.*

As he approached the cash counter, he covered his face with a cloth and threw chili powder—which he had carried in a bag—into the eyes of the bank employees. The staff screamed in agony as the chili powder hit their eyes. Seizing this opportunity, the man grabbed ₹4 lakh in cash from the counter and fled. Although the employees and the bank security guard tried to catch him, he managed to escape by taking advantage of the crowd inside the bank.

The police were informed of the incident; they arrived promptly and examined footage from surveillance cameras located both inside and outside the bank.



Subsequently, based on the direction in which the suspect had fled, the police set up checkpoints at various locations. The police apprehended the unidentified individual a short distance from the bank branch and seized ₹4 lakh from him. They were commended for arresting him within just half an hour of his escape. The police are currently interrogating the arrested man.

State Honors for the Late Professor Solomon Pappaiah: Tamil Nadu Government



CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government has announced that state honors will be accorded to the late Professor and Tamil scholar Solomon Pappaiah. Minister Nirmal Kumar shared this information on the social media platform X. Minister Nirmal Kumar tweeted on X that state honors would be conferred upon the Tamil scholar Solomon Pappaiah. Earlier, reporters had asked Minister Nirmal Kumar whether state honors would be accorded to the late Solomon Pappaiah; this announcement follows those inquiries. The Tamil Nadu government stated that state honors would be accorded during his final journey today, in recognition of his contributions to the Tamil language. Solomon Pappaiah: The renowned debate moderator and eminent Tamil scholar, Professor Solomon Pappaiah, passed away at the age of 90 due to ill health. Tamil enthusiasts, scholars, political party members, and the general public are paying their respects to his mortal remains in Madurai. Following his passing, Chief Minister Vijay, former Chief Ministers Stalin and Edappadi Palaniswami, as well as various political party leaders, ministers, and film personalities, expressed their condolences.

september 12 Riyadh *2026*

Shortage of petrol and diesel imminent

Impact due to a key decision by Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has shut down a critical oil pipeline following a drone attack launched from Iraq. This move has sparked fears of a global crude oil crisis and the likelihood of further hikes in petrol and diesel prices in India. Drones launched from the Iraqi border struck Saudi Arabia's vital East-West oil pipeline network, forcing the Kingdom to shut the lines down. The Saudi Foreign Ministry reported that the attack caused some injuries and minor property damage. Notably, this single pipeline accounted for 4–5% of the global crude oil supply. Investigations revealed that the drone attack originated from Iraq's Maysan province, which borders Iran.

Acknowledging that its territory was used to launch an attack on a neighboring country, the Iraqi Prime Minister immediately ordered the dismissal of the province's military commander and directed a thorough investigation into the incident. Saudi Arabia is the world's largest crude oil exporter.

Amidst escalating tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, the Kingdom had been distributing crude oil via this 1,200-km-long East-West pipeline to bypass that route. With this pipeline now shut, Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have announced that they have brought the Red Sea region and most of the coastline along the Bab el-Mandeb Strait under their control. These two incidents have heightened international anxiety regarding crude oil.

Consequently, the price of crude oil has crossed the $100-per-barrel mark for the first time since July. Saudi Arabia did not launch a military retaliation in response to this attack from Iraq; instead, it commended Iraq's efforts to prevent attacks on other nations from its soil. Nevertheless, Saudi Arabia has asserted its right to take all necessary measures to protect its citizens.



4,000-year-old rock paintings, Neolithic grinding grooves, and Megalithic ritual remains have been discovered at the foothills of Thenparai Hill, near Kadamalaikundu.

Bangladeshi Hindu religious leader granted 5 hour parole to attend mother's funeral



DHAKA: Chinmoy Krishna Das, a Hindu religious leader who has been imprisoned in Bangladesh for over two years, was granted parole for just five hours to attend his mother's funeral. Chinmoy Krishna Das, a spokesperson for the 'Bangladesh Sammilita Sanatani Jagaran Jote' organization, was arrested on charges of sedition in November 2024.

His mother, Sandhya Rani Dhar (71), passed away at Hathazari Hospital due to ill health. Following her death, Chattogram Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Jahidul Islam Mia issued an order granting Krishna Das parole for five hours to participate in the funeral rites, according to a report by *The Daily Star*. An emotional video has gone viral on social media showing Chinmoy Krishna Das—who was temporarily released from prison—weeping as he touches the feet of the Radha&Krishna idols at the Pundarik Dham temple in Chattogram.

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PM meeting with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khaled Bin Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit, in New Delhi

Leaders Pay Homage at Immanuel Sekaran's Memorial in Paramakudi on His 69th Death Anniversary

8,000 Police Personnel Deployed for Security



PARAMAKUDI: Political leaders paid their respects at the memorial of the late Immanuel Sekaran in Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram district, on the occasion of his 69th death anniversary. A security force comprising 8,000 police personnel was deployed for the event. Extensive arrangements were made for the observance of Immanuel Sekaran's death anniversary.

Tributes were first paid by the residents of Sellur village, his native place. Subsequently, members of his family—including his daughter Sundari Prabharani and grandsons Chakkaravarthy, Arokiya Koman, and Jeevan—paid their respects. Following this, tributes were offered on behalf of the Devendira Panpattu Kazhagam. Minister Nirmal Kumar paid homage by placing a floral wreath on behalf of the TVK party. Ministers K.A. Arunraj, T.K. Prabhu, Madhanraja, and Rajiv, along with MLAs Sabari Aingaran (Periyakulam), Ilangovan (Manamadurai), Karthik (Srivilliputhur), Ayyanar (Nilakottai), Karthikeyan (Madurai East), Gopisan (Madurai South), and Karuppiah (Sholavandan), were present. Similarly, on behalf of the DMK, Opposition Leader Udhayanidhi paid his respects by laying a floral wreath; he was accompanied by former ministers Periyakaruppan and Rajakannappan, as well as MLAs Khader Batcha, Ponmuthuramalingam, and Kathiravan. On behalf of the AIADMK, former ministers R.B. Udhayakumar and Manikandan, along with Ramanathapuram District Secretary Muniyasamy, paid their respects. Additionally, tributes were paid by BJP State President Nainar Nagendran, actress Kasthuri, former Tamil Nadu Congress President Selvaperunthagai, Tourism Minister Rajeshkumar, Naam Tamilar Katchi Chief Coordinator Seeman, AMMK General Secretary TTV Dhinakaran, DMDK Town Secretary Anbu Dakshinamurthy, VCK representative and Social Justice Department Minister Vanniyarasu, Puthiya Tamilagam party leader Krishnasamy, MDMK representative Sathyan Thirumalaikumar, PMK General Secretary Vadivel Ravanan, 'We the Leaders' organization representative Dharani Murugesan, and SDPI State President Nellai Mubarak, among others. Security operations were overseen by Ramanathapuram District SP Sandheesh, with 8,000 police personnel deployed for the task. To prevent any violations, 38 checkpoints were established across the Ramanathapuram district. Furthermore, 700 surveillance cameras were installed in Paramakudi and its surrounding areas, with continuous monitoring conducted from the control room at the Paramakudi Town Police Station.



Weddings for 102 Couples in a Single Day Tomorrow at Thiruparankundram Temple



THIRUPARAKUNDRAM: Weddings for 102 couples are scheduled to take place tomorrow in a single day at the Thiruparankundram temple, the first of Lord Murugan's six abodes (*Arupadaiveedu*).

A unique feature of the Thiruparankundram temple is that Lord Murugan graces devotees in a seated posture, dressed in wedding attire. Devotees believe that getting married here brings all forms of prosperity and blessings. Consequently, numerous couples choose this venue for their weddings on auspicious days (*Muhurtham*). On the 23rd of this month—the first auspicious day of the *Aavani* month during the waxing phase of the moon—104 couples were married in a single day. Following this, 102 couples have registered to get married tomorrow (Sunday), which is another auspicious day. Additionally, 52 couples have already registered for weddings on the upcoming 17th, and bookings are continuing. Permission is granted only for couples performing their first marriage at the Thiruparankundram temple, and registration must be completed at least 20 days in advance. The ceremonies take place at the shrine of Lord Muthukumaraswami and Goddess Deivanai Ambal, located within the *Thiruvatchi Mandapam* complex. A fee of ₹4,500 per couple is charged; this covers the marriage registration fee and provides entry tickets for *darshan* at the sanctum sanctorum for a group of 20 people, including the couple and their family members. Based on this, with 102 couples registered for tomorrow, the temple is expected to generate a revenue of ₹4.59 lakhs.

Green Tribunal: Immersion of Vinayagar Idols Not Permitted at Pattinapakkam and Neelankarai Beaches



CHENNAI: Permission cannot be granted for the immersion of Vinayagar idols at the ecologically significant beaches of Pattinapakkam and Neelankarai. The National Green Tribunal has ordered that the idols be taken to other locations for immersion.

Immersion of idols in water bodies during the Vinayagar Chaturthi festival causes pollution. In 2023, Hariharan, a resident of Pudupet, Chennai, filed a petition with the Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal, seeking an order to prevent the immersion of idols in unauthorized water bodies.

The case came up for hearing yesterday before the Tribunal's Judicial Member Pushpa Sathyanarayana and Expert Member Prashant Gargava.

During the hearing, reports were submitted on behalf of the District Collectors of 38 districts, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, and the Chennai Corporation. It was stated that measures have been taken to prevent the sale of idols made of Plaster of Paris, and public awareness has been raised regarding this issue.

In Chennai, the beaches at Kasimedu, Thiruvottiyur, Ennore, Pattinapakkam, and Neelankarai have been identified as designated sites for the immersion of Vinayagar idols.

Counsel for the petitioner argued that the beaches at Pattinapakkam and Neelankarai are turtle breeding grounds. Furthermore, as these areas fall under Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ-)&1, permission should not be granted for idol immersion there.

At this juncture, the tribunal members intervened and questioned why the idols intended for the ecologically sensitive areas of Pattinapakkam and Neelankarai could not be diverted to other locations. Responding to this, the counsel for the Tamil Nadu government stated, "Regarding the relocation to other areas, factors such as law and order, crowd congestion, and areas sensitive to religious tensions must be taken into account. Time is required to consult with officials and convey the decision."

Accepting this submission, the Tribunal bench ruled that permission cannot be granted for idol immersion at the Neelankarai and Pattinapakkam beaches, given their environmental significance.

The bench ordered that a consultative meeting be held regarding the diversion of idols—originally intended for immersion at these two locations—to the other four designated sites, and directed that the government's position on the matter be conveyed by September 16.

Delhi: Controversial Slogan at Singhu Border; 3 Arrested

NEW DELHI: Three individuals have been arrested in connection with the writing of controversial pro&Khalistan slogans on walls at the Singhu border in Delhi on the 6th of this month. The Special Cell of the Delhi Police registered an FIR and conducted an investigation into the incident. Subsequently, the police arrested three individuals in the Faridkot area of Punjab. They had carried out these illicit activities under the instructions of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a Khalistani terrorist and the leader of the SFJ (Sikhs for Justice), an organization banned in India. Based on CCTV footage, the arrested individuals have been identified as Preetpal, Harminder Singh, and Sheeshpal. The police also seized a car used by them. Among them, Preetpal was in direct contact with Pannun; he is also suspected of having links with Pakistan&based terrorist organizations, a matter that is currently under investigation. A case under the UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act) had previously been registered against Preetpal. Further investigation is underway.

"Don't you have time to review files, even as much as you do to check your mobile phones?"

CM Chandrababu Naidu reprimands officials

AMARAVATI: "Don't you have time to review files, even as much as you do to check your mobile phones?" Andhra Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu reprimanded government officials at the District Collectors' Conference.

The 8th District Collectors' Conference was held in Amaravati under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Speaking on the second day of the conference, Chandrababu Naidu said: "It is surprising that heads of certain departments have failed to attend this meeting, which is being held to discuss public issues and the pending files related to them. Where do they get the audacity? The concerned secretaries must explain the reasons for their absence and provide me with an answer. Some officials do not spend as much time reviewing files as they do checking their mobile phones. You are in a state where you cannot go even a few hours without your mobile phones. Files are piling up for days in every department. Why are these files accumulating?" Similarly, there are complaints that ministers Ramprasad Reddy, Kolla Ravindra, and Keshav are taking too long to process official files.

"Even I take a maximum of only four days to review files. All ministers should examine and clear files immediately. The faster files move across your desks, the faster the administration will function; otherwise, the government will move at a snail's pace," he said.

Poets and writers should be appreciated while they are still alive

VIT Chancellor G. Viswanathan's appeal at the Bharathi Festival

CHENNAI: VIT University Chancellor G. Viswanathan urged that poets and writers be appreciated while they are still alive. The 77th Bharathi Grand Festival and the Bharathi Awards presentation ceremony, organized by the Bharathiyar Sangam, took place yesterday at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Mylapore, Chennai. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor of VIT University, Vellore, participated in the event and presented the Bharathi Awards. The award recipients included John Raja Das of the VGP Group, writer Bharathi Krishnakumar, Professor Kalakkadu Ramaseethalakshmi, Dharani Komal of Komal Theatres, and Bharatanatyam artist H.N. Nandhini Suresh. Speaking at the event, G. Viswanathan said: "Today, we remember and honor Bharathiyar. However, during his lifetime, no one took notice of him. Poets and writers should be appreciated while they are still alive." There are 23 state universities in Tamil Nadu. Of these, the post of Vice&Chancellor is vacant in 17 universities. The prestigious University of Madras has been without a Vice&Chancellor for the past three years. The conflict between the government and the Governor is the reason for this. Now that a new government has assumed office, steps must be taken to appoint Vice&Chancellors; this is what he said. At this event, writer Sivasankari and industrialist V.G. Santhosham were felicitated. Industrialist Nalli Kuppuswami, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Director K.N. Ramaswamy, and Sri Krishna Sweets Managing Director M. Murali delivered congratulatory addresses. Earlier, Professor Ulaganayaki Palani, President of the Bharathiyar Sangam, delivered the welcome and introductory address.



Invitation extended to Sringeri Swamigal for the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple consecration ceremony



MADURAI: Temple officials and priests visited Sringeri Jagadguru Bharati Tirtha Swamigal and Vidhushekhara Bharati Maha Swamigal to extend a formal invitation for the *Kumbabishekam* (consecration ceremony) of the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple, scheduled for September 17, and to seek their blessings. Centuries ago, when foreign invaders sought to destroy temples and undermine *Dharma*, Vidyaranya Swamigal—the 12th Shankaracharya of the Sringeri Sharada Peetham—helped establish the Vijayanagara Empire through the kings Harihara and Bukka, thereby preserving *Dharma*.

These kings defeated the invaders, protected the temples, and ensured that rituals were conducted without interruption. Kumara Kampanna, the son of Bukka, took steps to resume worship services that had been halted at temples in Kanchipuram, Tiruvannamalai, Srirangam, and Madurai. Historical accounts state that Goddess Meenakshi appeared in his dream, pointed out the disruption of rituals at her temple, and instructed him to restore them. Representatives from the HR&CE Department and the temple—including Trustee P.K.M. Chelliah, Assistant Commissioner Meivel Srinivasan, and *Shivacharyas* Shanmugasundaram and Karthikeyan—visited the revered Sringeri Mutt to extend the invitation. The Swamigals blessed them, stating that they could not attend the event due to their observance of the *Chaturmasya Vrata* (a four&month period of penance and spiritual practice) but promised to visit and worship the Goddess at a later time.



Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan stated that measures have been taken to stock 70 lakh tins of Aravana prasadam at Sabarimala.

PM Modi Urges Iran President to Ensure Seafarer Safety and Uninterrupted Shipping

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Modi held bilateral talks yesterday with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who is in Delhi to attend the BRICS summit.



This meeting holds significance amidst rising tensions in West Asia caused by new US economic sanctions. Shipping traffic has been severely affected by Iran's actions regarding the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint accounting for 20 percent of global energy supplies. During the talks, Prime Minister Modi emphasized the need to establish peace in the region and ensure the safety of seafarers as well as the freedom of uninterrupted shipping along international maritime routes. Modi further pointed out that conflicts in West Asia cannot be resolved through war and that solutions must be sought through dialogue and diplomacy. In response, Iranian President Pezeshkian requested India to leverage its international connections to help restore peace and avert war. Prime Minister Modi expressed his gratitude to Iran for its continued cooperation within the BRICS bloc, even amidst challenging circumstances. It is noteworthy that the two leaders discussed India&Iran relations during this meeting, which marked their second interaction in the past two weeks.

Controversy over accepting money for a job

Former Uttarakhand CM steps down from Congress party role

NEW DELHI: Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat has stepped down from his position within the Congress party following allegations regarding his aide accepting money in exchange for a job.

On Friday, Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials conducted raids at the residence of Chandan Singh Jeena, an aide to Harish Rawat. The ED carried out these raids in connection with allegations of irregularities in a state&level recruitment process held in 2016.

Searches were conducted at premises linked to Chandan Singh Jeena. Officials reported the seizure of ₹32 lakh in cash, 200 grams of gold, and 12 high&end watches. The incident has caused a stir in state politics. Chandan Singh Jeena currently serves as an aide to Harish Rawat; notably, he had previously served as Rawat's Officer on Special Duty (OSD) during his tenure as Chief Minister from 2014 to 2017.



Harish Rawat has since posted about the matter on social media. He stated: "Media reports have emerged claiming that cash and jewelry were recovered from the Dehradun residence of my aide, Chandan Singh Jeena. The facts behind this matter will come to light in the coming days. He handled key responsibilities while I held government and party positions. He is a hardworking individual. Allegations regarding recruitment irregularities have surfaced; however, I do not believe he was involved in any wrongdoing, and thus, I do not accept these accusations. People often ask me about the elections; I usually say that the election notification will be announced only when the CBI knocks on my door. Yet, this time, instead of my home, they have knocked on the door of one of my aides. Through this, they are attempting to fabricate a false narrative.

Our party is fighting against corruption. At a time like this, such allegations could weaken the party's campaign efforts. Therefore, I have taken this significant decision: I am stepping down from my party position," said Harish Rawat. Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in Uttarakhand next year.

Severe Attacks on 3 Cargo Ships; 42 Indian Crew Members Survive

TEHRAN: Severe attacks have been carried out against three foreign&flagged vessels carrying Indian crew members.

The vessels involved are the *Risco* (a crude oil tanker flying the Zimbabwe flag), *Horizon 1* (an LPG tanker flying the Palau flag), and *Mersin Prosperity* (a crude oil tanker flying the Liberia flag).

The *Risco* was the first to be attacked, on the night of the 8th, in the Gulf of Oman. There were 21 Indian crew members on board during this attack, which was reportedly carried out by the US Navy; they immediately evacuated the ship safely and sought refuge at an Iranian port.

Around 11:30 PM on the same night, the *Horizon 1* was attacked. That vessel carried a total of 16 crew members—14 Indians and two Georgians—who were safely rescued with the help of another nearby ship.

The following day, a missile struck the *Mersin Prosperity* near Fujairah. Seven Indian crew members were on board, but they were safely rescued. In total, 42 Indian crew members across these three ships survived these severe attacks.



Since the onset of the conflict between Iran and the US in West Asia, there have been four attacks on Indian&flagged vessels and 50 attacks on foreign&flagged vessels carrying Indian crew members. These incidents have resulted in nine deaths and 12 injuries, with one additional person presumed dead.

Three Arrested for Filming Inside Stanley Hospital Morgue

CHENNAI: A notorious figure from the Ennore area, near Chennai, died suddenly two days ago. His body was taken to Stanley Government Hospital for a post&mortem examination. Upon learning of this, his friends—Sathishkumar (25) from Vyasarpadi and Dineshkumar (alias 'Deena', 30), a member of TVK—went to Stanley Government Hospital early the day before yesterday to view the body. Accompanied by another individual named Sankar from Vyasarpadi, the two men proceeded to the hospital's morgue area. They paid ₹200 to Srinivasan, an employee on duty at the post&mortem facility, to obtain the key to the morgue. Once inside, they used their mobile phones to record videos of the bodies kept there. When hospital staff discovered the incident, the hospital administration lodged a complaint with the police stationed at the Stanley Government Hospital complex. Acting on the complaint, the police visited the scene and conducted an inquiry. The police arrested three individuals—Sathishkumar, Dineshkumar, and Shankar—who were alleged to have filmed a video inside the morgue. The police took the three arrested individuals to the station for questioning. They admitted to entering the morgue to film the bodies there for social media "Reels." Consequently, a case was registered against them under three sections, including trespassing into the morgue. The police produced the three individuals before the George Town Magistrate at his residence that same night; the Magistrate released all three on bail. A recommendation has been made to initiate departmental action against Srinivasan, a morgue worker alleged to have handed over the morgue keys to outsiders. Police stated that the arrested individuals—Sathishkumar (25) and Dineshkumar (a member of TVK)—already have prior criminal cases against them.

Tirupati Sacred Umbrella Procession Organized by Hindu Dharmartha Samithi Trust Begins Tomorrow in Chennai

CHENNAI: The Tirupati sacred umbrella procession, organized by the Hindu Dharmartha Samithi Trust, begins tomorrow at the Chenna Kesava Perumal Temple in the Pookadai area of Chennai.



In a statement regarding this, Trust Trustee R.R. Gopalji said: During the Brahmotsavam festival at the Tirumala Tirupati Lord Venkateswara (Ezhumalaiyan) temple, floral garlands from Andal at Srivilliputhur and white silk sacred umbrellas are offered from Tamil Nadu for the Garuda Seva.

*Every year, on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, the Hindu Dharmartha Samithi Trust carries 11 beautiful white silk sacred umbrellas in a procession from Chennai to offer them to Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala. Accordingly, this year's Tirupati sacred umbrella procession will commence at 10:00 AM tomorrow (September 13) from the Chenna Kesava Perumal Temple in Pookadai, Chennai. The procession will proceed via NSC Bose Road, the Govindappa Naicken Street junction, Bairagi Madam, and Walltax Road, crossing Gauni at 4:00 PM. It will reach the Kasi Viswanathar Temple in Ayanavaram by night. The sacred umbrellas, traveling via Villivakkam, Thirumullaivoyal, Pattabiram, and Tiruvallur, will reach Tirumala on the morning of the 18th. There, after a procession along the Mada Streets, the umbrellas—accompanied by sacred garments and auspicious offerings—will be presented to the Devasthanam officials in the presence of the Tirupati Jeeyars. Residents and devotees along the procession route are invited to come with their families to view and pay their respects to the sacred umbrellas. During the procession, no one should throw coins or offer cash contributions onto the sacred umbrellas. No donations are being collected for the Tirupati sacred umbrella procession; therefore, the public is advised not to make any payments to anyone. For further details, please contact 73730 99562 or 73730 99563. This information was conveyed in the announcement. The police have announced traffic diversions in areas including Walltax Road, NSC Bose Road, Mint Road and its connecting roads, Choolai Roundtana, and Demellows Road, in connection with the Tirupati sacred umbrella lgrimage (*Thirukkudai Padayatra*).*

Mumbai cyber fraud racket: Three held as 2,898 SIM cards used in fraud

MUMBAI: Mumbai Police's Crime Branch has busted a cyber&fraud network allegedly involving the use of 2898 SIM cards and multiple bank accounts, with three men arrested in connection with the racket.

A preliminary investigation has found that the accused — Islamuddin Salimuddin Sheikh, 44, Abdul Razzaq Rauf, 42, and Yasir Nasiruddin Sheikh, 26 — allegedly routed around Rs 24 crore through just 10 bank accounts, police said on Friday.

Investigators are now examining the financial and technical trail to identify the beneficiaries of the transactions, and establish whether the arrested trio was part of a larger cyber&fraud network. According to the police, the accused allegedly opened bank accounts in their own names as well as those of their associates and other people. They then purchased multiple SIM cards and linked them to the accounts.



After the accounts were opened, they allegedly took control of the passbooks, ATM cards, cheque books, SIM cards, and other banking instruments, using them to facilitate cyber fraud.

The investigation by Crime Branch Unit 5 found that complaints had been registered against the bank accounts on the 1930 cybercrime helpline. Police have so far identified 32 such complaints and found transactions worth R24 crore through 10 accounts.

The scale of the operation emerged during the seizure of 88 bank passbooks, 143 cheque books, 100 ATM cards, 24 mobile phones, 167 SIM cards, and two laptops, besides other documents. Police said technical investigation indicated that the accused had used 2898 SIM cards for cyber&fraud activities.

A case has been registered at Malad police station under Sections 318(4), 61, 45, and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and Section 66(D) of the Information Technology Act. The three accused have been arrested and remanded in police custody till September 19. The case comes amid a series of investigations exposing the infrastructure behind cyber fraud. In August, Dongri police busted an interstate mule&account racket in which 17 accounts were linked to 38 cybercrime complaints and transactions worth around Rs 25.45 crore.

In another recent case, the West Cyber Police arrested seven people in an alleged digital&arrest racket and seized 613 SIM cards, along with phones, laptops, and banking documents. In a two&month period, Mumbai Police reportedly dealt with 24,860 cyber&fraud cases, blocking Rs 18.27 crore and facilitating the return of Rs 3.97 crore to 6096 victims.

Mumbai Police's 1930 cyber helpline has been operating 24x7 since May 2022, allowing victims to report fraud immediately and enabling police to alert banks and attempt to freeze the defrauded money.

Fire at Madurai's Central Theatre Firefighters Battle to Extinguish Flames

MADURAI: A fire broke out at the old Central Theatre, located near the West Tower of the Meenakshi Amman Temple.





Central Theatre is one of the older cinema halls in Madurai. Currently, the theatre is no longer operational; the front section has been rented out for use as a vehicle parking area and a plastic warehouse.

Last night, a fire suddenly broke out in the car parking area and spread to the adjacent plastic warehouse, causing flames to flare up intensely.

Upon receiving the alert, firefighters from the Thidir Nagar fire station rushed to the scene and battled to extinguish the blaze. However, as the fire continued to rage out of control, additional fire tenders were summoned from the Anuppanadi and Tallakulam fire stations. Ultimately, firefighters operating more than five fire tenders managed to bring the fire under control and extinguish it.

One or two cars parked at the site were damaged in the incident. Preliminary reports suggest that an electrical short circuit may have caused the fire.

The thick smoke billowing from the fire spread across the area, causing a commotion. The Thidir Nagar police have registered a case and are investigating the incident.

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