

AI should not be used as a weapon it should also benefit agriculture

NEW DELHI: On the second day of the BRICS Summit, Prime Minister Modi emphasized that AI should not be weaponized and should instead be utilized for the benefit of agriculture. The BRICS Logistics Supply Chain Cooperation Framework will help make our supply chains more reliable and

BRICS Summit: Prime Minister Modi emphasizes

resilient.

The BRICS Network for Digital Agriculture will create new opportunities for farmers; through this initiative, artificial intelligence, geospatial technology, and digital public infrastructure will be integrated to address

the actual needs of farmers. The weaponization of technology and critical minerals could hinder our collective progress; therefore, we have advocated for inclusivity in the adoption of technology. India has championed the spirit of friendship,

partnership, and cooperation through the BRICS platform. We have strived to ensure that BRICS cooperation is not limited solely to governments; we want our entrepreneurs, farmers, researchers, women, youth, and ordi-

nary citizens to become active participants as well. India has championed the spirit of friendship, partnership, and cooperation through the BRICS platform. We have strived to ensure that cooperation within the BRICS framework is

not limited solely to governments; we desire that our entrepreneurs, farmers, researchers, women, youth, and ordinary citizens also become active participants. This is what Prime Minister Modi stated.



PM in a family photo with leaders of BRICS Member/Partner Countries Outreach Invitees and Heads of International Organisations at the 18th BRICS Summit, in Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay flags off Le Mans Cup at Silverstone during UK visit

ENGLAND: During his first official overseas visit, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay visited the world-famous Silverstone Motor Racing Circuit in England, inspected its infrastructure facilities and flagged off the car race for the 2026 Michelin Le Mans Cup, in which renowned actor and motor racing driver Ajith Kumar participated.

Vijay personally inspected the track layout, safety systems and other infrastructural facilities there on Saturday before he flagged off the race.

The event was attended by the Minister for Public Works and Sports Development, Aadhav Arjuna; Member Secretary of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, Meghanatha Reddy; and



senior officials, according to the CMO.

This follows Chief Minister Vijay's announcement in the State Assembly to establish a world-class "Motor Sports City," leveraging Tamil Nadu's strong automotive and EV manufacturing ecosystem.

Actor Ajith also hailed the announcement earlier, and their meeting during the event gained widespread attention, as both have spent more than three

decades being portrayed as competing stars of Tamil cinema.

Ajith publicly thanked Vijay for taking time from his official responsibilities to attend the event and expressed happiness over his former colleague's political journey.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay is currently on an official visit to the United Kingdom, leading a high-level delegation to attract fresh global invest-

ments and expand operations across key sectors, including advanced manufacturing, electric vehicles (EVs), electronics, and Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

The overseas outreach aims to generate large-scale employment and further solidify the state government's core objective of positioning Tamil Nadu as Asia's leading investment-friendly destination.

The visit follows a major economic milestone achieved within 100 days of the Vijay-led administration assuming office, during which the state signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) securing investments exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore at the 'Vetri Tamil Nadu Investors' Conference 2026,' according to an official statement.



London Car Race Ajith's Team Finishes 3rd

luded. It began at 9:30 PM (IST) yesterday and ended at 11:47 PM. The ANS Motorsport team secured first place in this competition, which covered a race distance of 5.1 km (50 laps). The RSGP team put up an impressive performance to take second place.

Ajith's team, competing under the banner of Team Virage, finished third. Although Ajith's team started in 16th place, they made a historic achievement by steadily advancing to secure the third spot. Initially, actor Ajith's car was running smoothly. However, the car suddenly met with an incident; it veered off the track and moved to the side. A rescue team immediately stepped in to rectify the situation. A total of 44 cars participated in the race.



The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman meets the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Seyed Ali Madanizadeh, in New Delhi

Union Minister Jaishankar Meets Foreign Ministers of Nigeria and Cuba

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Jaishankar held discussions with the Foreign Ministers of Nigeria and Cuba. The 18th BRICS Summit is currently underway at the Bharat Mandapam in Delhi, spanning three days starting from the 11th. Leaders from member nations, other countries, and international organizations, along with various representatives, are participating in the event. Heads of state and leaders from various nations have



arrived in India following an invitation from Prime Minister Modi to attend the summit. As part of the event, Union External Affairs Minister Jaishankar met with

Nigeria's Foreign Minister Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu and Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla for consultations. In a post on the social media platform

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, stating that they exchanged views on cooperation within the Global South.

X regarding these meetings, Minister Jaishankar expressed his pleasure at meeting Nigerian Foreign Minister Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, noting that their conversation focused on economic cooperation and people-to-people ties. Similarly, he mentioned meeting

Indonesian ship carrying 240 passengers goes missing in Java Sea search operations intensify

JAKARTA: An Indonesian passenger ship carrying over 240 people has suddenly lost contact in the Java Sea. Rescue teams are now actively engaged in a search operation for the vessel.

The passenger ship, named 'Virgo Transport 8', had departed from the city of Surabaya in East Java province, heading towards Banjarmasin, the capital of South Kalimantan province. Officials stated that the ship, which left Surabaya at 10:13 AM yesterday, lost contact



around 2:00 AM today. The passenger manifest indicates there were 241 passengers on board. Preliminary data based on

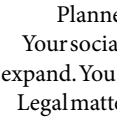
the ship's last recorded signals suggest it was located in the Java Sea, approximately 148 kilometers from the port of Banjarmasin. Consequent-

ly, the Banjarmasin rescue team initiated a search operation, and a rescue vessel has been dispatched to the area where the ship was last believed to be. Given the large number of passengers and crew members on board, rescue operations are being conducted on a war footing. There is currently no confirmed information regarding the fate of those on board, nor is there any immediate information concerning casualties.

Today horoscope



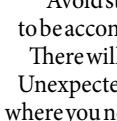
You will identify and distance yourself from those who have been acting covertly. Your words will gain support within the family. Relatives from your father's side will seek you out. You will receive support from colleagues at work and attend to the maintenance of your home and vehicle.



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



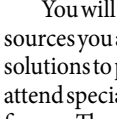
You will promptly fulfill the needs of your family members. Understanding the family situation, your children will conduct themselves responsibly. You will replace old electrical appliances with new ones and initiate efforts to expand your business.



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



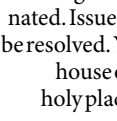
You will feel a surge of self-confidence. Solutions will be found for existing family confusions. You will fulfill your children's wishes. Siblings will provide timely assistance. Business will yield moderate profits. You will acquire artistic items or collectibles.



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



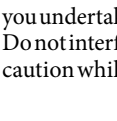
Your administrative skills will shine. A long-awaited sum of money will reach you. You will acquire art objects. You will identify and encourage your children's talents. Job seekers will find employment in a good company.



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



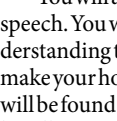
You will successfully complete even challenging tasks. A long-delayed payment will be received. Differences of opinion between husband and wife will come to an end. You will discuss your children's future. You will undertake a sudden journey.



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



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



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

Rs 3.45 Crore Cash Seized from Karnataka Minister Satish Jarkiholi's Residence

Enforcement Directorate Action

BENGALURU: Allegations had surfaced that Karnataka Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi had invested in gold mines located in African countries. Following this, Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials conducted raids on the 9th and 10th at the residence and office of Minister Satish Jarkiholi in Belagavi and Bengaluru. Additionally, ED officials searched the residences and offices



of Chikkodi MP Priyanka (Satish Jarkiholi's daughter) and his son, Rahul. Searches were

also conducted over two consecutive days at 18 locations, including the residence and office of Manjunath—Satish Jarkiholi's brother—and an Additional Commissioner in the Commercial Taxes Department. A total of Rs 3.45 crore in cash was seized during these raids; of this amount, Rs 2 crore was recovered from Minister Satish Jarkiholi's residence. During the raid, documents relating to his investments in gold mines

across South Africa, Congo, and Zambia were recovered. Additionally, documents concerning his sugar mill and construction company were seized. Officials stated that a diary detailing the receipt of commissions from Public Works Department contractors was also found. Meanwhile, Satish Jarkiholi has termed this an act of political vendetta and stated that he would face the Enforcement Directorate's case legally.

Minister Ramesh Condemns Sekar Babu's Criticism of Chief Minister Vijay

CHENNAI: Former Minister Sekar Babu, while speaking at a protest organized by the DMK in Chennai yesterday, severely criticized Chief Minister Vijay and Minister Nirmal Kumar. Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Ramesh, has condemned these remarks. Regarding this, he stated on his X (formerly Twitter) handle: "There is no party in Tamil Nadu other than the DMK that operates under the impression that obscenity, slander, derogatory language, and intimidation are

political tools. In particular, the conduct of a former Minister of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department—who, forgetting the dignity of the office and the minimum standards of public decency, engages in abusive speech, insults members of opposition parties, and threatens the public—consistently exposes the low level of his political conduct. A ministerial position is not meant for flaunting power. It is shameful that someone who

once held such a responsibility now behaves like a third-rate political operator. No one can intimidate us into submission. We will never be cowed by slander or threats. Stooping to the same low level as someone who speaks vilely is not part of our political culture. That is not how our Chief Minister has groomed us. Therefore, he should be mindful of his words." Otherwise, they would create a situation where they themselves would have to respond in the very



same political language they initiated. This is what has been stated. Ministers Keerthana and Vinod have also condemned Sekar Babu's remarks.

1.02 Lakh Pending Cases Resolved Across Tamil Nadu

Rs. 982.18 Crore Compensation Awarded In a Single Day at the Lok Adalat

CHENNAI: To reduce the number of long-pending court cases, the 'Lok Adalat' (People's Court) is conducted at the national level four times a year. Accordingly, a national-level Lok Adalat was held yesterday. In Tamil Nadu, the event was organized by the Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority. The proceedings were conducted under the guidance of Madras High Court Chief Justice S.A. Dharmadhikari and supervised by Justice S.M. Subramaniam, the Executive

Chairman of the State Legal Services Authority and a senior judge of the High Court. A total of 524 benches heard the cases.

These included benches presided over by Justices P.B. Balaji, K. Rajasekar, and G. Arulmurugan at the Madras High Court; Justices M.D. Sumathi and N. Gunasekaran at the Madurai Bench of the High Court; and various judges, Sub-judges, and Magistrates at the district level. A wide range of case-

s—including motor vehicle accident claims, cheque bounce cases, and civil disputes—were taken up for hearing. Judges facilitated negotiations between the parties involved and resolved the cases through mutual consent. Speaking on the matter, Justice S. Balakrishnan, Member Secretary of the State Legal Services Authority, stated, "A total of 1,02,501 cases were resolved with the consent of both parties during the National Lok Adalat held in Tamil Nadu yesterday.

Consequently, the concerned parties received a total compensation of Rs. 982,18,99,358." "Regarding Chennai district, the National Lok Adalat was held under the leadership of P. Karthikeyan, the Principal District Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority. A total of 17,840 cases were taken up for hearing, and 15,948 cases were resolved with the consent of both parties. Through this, the affected parties received a total of ₹172,82,04,543," he said.

Amid PR campaign by CJP for schools in AAP-ruled Punjab, Anganwadi centres in Jalandhar struggle with ration shortage

PUNJAB: Anganwadi centres in Jalandhar district of Punjab have been struggling with a shortage of ration supplies for nearly three months, leading to a halt in a government nutrition programme for young children.

Children between three and six years are being given biscuits, toffees and namkeen instead of the nutritious meals they are supposed to receive under the programme.

The programme provides children with dalia, khichdi, panjiri and funpops (murmure). Pregnant women, lactating mothers and children between six months and three years are also entitled to take-home rations from the centres. According to a report by The Tribune, the shortage began after Markfed suspended its tender for supplying food items in April following complaints about poor quality. Since then, regular supplies have not reached the Anganwadi centres. The situation comes shortly after a CJP team visited three government schools in



Ludhiana as part of what they called a school audit, but the team turned the visit into a PR campaign for Punjab's government schools. CJP spokesperson Saurav Das led the team, which visited a government School of Eminence, a government senior secondary school and a government primary school. According to Das, the School of Eminence had relatively good infrastructure, including a swimming pool and badminton court, while the other two schools had several shortcomings. After the visit, Das and other CJP members met Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains, who reportedly assured them that action would be taken on the complaints. AAP founder

and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal also thanked Das for pointing out the deficiencies. While the so-called school audit has focused attention on relatively better-performing government schools, the condition of Anganwadi centres in Jalandhar highlights a bigger problem involving basic services for children and women, an issue that was not addressed by the CJP during its visit. Nirlep Kaur, district president of the Punjab Anganwadi Workers Union, said all 1,634 Anganwadi centres across Jalandhar's 11 blocks had been without regular food supplies for the past three months.

"There are 1,634 Anganwadi centres across 11 blocks

in Jalandhar. All of them have been without food supplies for the past three months. In the absence of regular rations, we are distributing whatever packaged food is available," she said. "Similarly, lactating mothers, pregnant women and children below the age of three years, who are entitled to take-home rations, are being turned away with the assurance that they will receive their food once supplies arrive," she added. Workers said many of them have been spending money from their own pockets to buy biscuits and other packaged food. Some have also been bringing extra tiffins from home so that children have something to eat. Suman, an Anganwadi worker near Lamma Pind Chowk, said, "I have not received any ration supply at my centre since July. Around 15 to 16 children attend the centre. If I do not give them anything to eat, parents will stop sending them. So, I arrange biscuits for them. The children also bring tiffins from home."

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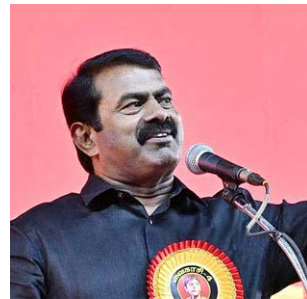
Mercury is Shrinking Like a Grape

Scientists Reveal Startling Findings

Scientists have discovered that Mercury—the planet closest to the Sun in our solar system—is shrinking much faster than anticipated. They have likened its appearance to that of a grape shriveled by the Sun's heat. Mercury has a total diameter of approximately 4,900 kilometers. Data from spacecraft sent by space research agencies reveals that the planet has already shrunk by about 23 kilometers. This figure exceeds earlier scientific estimates by 30 percent. Because Mercury is situated so close to the Sun, its exterior is subjected to intense solar heat, while its interior is cooling rapidly. Scientists explain that this shrinkage is caused by the drastic temperature difference between the scorching exterior and the rapidly cooling interior. Space researchers have expressed concern that this rapid contraction is causing large-scale rock folds and fissures to form on Mercury's surface.

"Protest by Mobilizing Fisherfolk if New Secretariat Project Isn't Dropped"

Seeman Warns



CHENNAI: Seeman, the Chief Coordinator of the Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK), has warned that his party will mobilize the fishing community and launch a protest if the government does not abandon the plan to construct a new Secretariat in Pattinapakkam.

In a statement regarding this, he said:

"It is shocking that the Tamil Nadu government has issued a Government Order (G.O.) to construct a new Secretariat in Pattinapakkam. The government—which repeatedly claims it cannot fulfill its promises due to a debt burden of ₹10 lakh crore—is now hastily spending ₹1,200 crore amidst a severe financial crisis; what is the necessity for building a new Secretariat?" If severe congestion and traffic jams are cited as issues at Fort St. George, is the decision to build a new Secretariat at Pattinapakkam—an area facing even worse congestion and traffic, and home to the Santhome Church, over ten schools and colleges, numerous commercial establishments, business hubs, and fishing trade centers—truly for the public good? Or is it for the Chief Minister's personal interests? The Tamil Nadu government must immediately abandon the decision to construct a new Secretariat at Pattinapakkam—a site prone to severe congestion, traffic jams, and tsunami risks—by wasting public tax money for the Chief Minister's personal benefit. Otherwise, 'Naam Tamilar Katchi' will mobilize the fishing communities from the nine villages of Pattinapakkam and launch a massive protest.

We previously vowed to prevent projects like the Salem eight-lane highway, the Parandur airport, and the pen statue in the sea; those projects were not implemented. Similarly, we will never allow the Secretariat to be built at Pattinapakkam. This is what the statement says.

Tamil Hockey League: SDAT Team Crowned Champions



CHENNAI: The SDAT Sports Hostel team won the championship title at the Tamil Hockey League (THL). The men's final, held yesterday in Chennai, saw a clash between the SDAT Sports Hostel team and the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) team. The match ended in a 3&3 draw. For SDAT, V. Aravind, Srinivasan, and N. Aravind scored one goal each, while Dilraj Singh (2 goals) and Muthuselvan (1 goal) scored for Indian Overseas Bank. In the ensuing penalty shoot-out, both teams scored two goals each. Subsequently, a 'sudden death' round was employed to determine the winner; SDAT won 1&0 in this phase and clinched the trophy.



Event Honoring Wives at Temple Festival

200 Couples Participate

ALANGULAM: Near Alangulam in Tenkasi district, an event honoring wives—celebrating the dignity of women—was organized by the Alangulam Manavalakkalai Mandram during the festival of the Sri Ramasamy and Mariamman Temple in Maruthambuthur.

During the event, husbands expressed their affection by presenting rose flowers to their wives and placing them in their hair. The couples exchanged garlands and had yellow threads tied around their wrists. Husbands held the hands of their wives—who stand by them through life's joys and sorrows—and expressed their heartfelt gratitude. Wives reciprocated this affection by offering bananas to their husbands. A lecture was also delivered on the ways to ensure lasting happiness and peace in married life. Two hundred couples from the Maruthambuthur area participated in the event.



On Thursday at approximately 10:30AM—marking the 148th birth anniversary of the ‘Sun of Rationalism,’ Thanthai Periyar—office-bearers from the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) headquarters will pay their respects by showering flowers on the decorated portrait of Thanthai Periyar, located beneath his statue near the Anna Flyover in Chennai. District party secretaries, Members of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly, former ministers, former MPs and MLAs, state-level office-bearers of affiliated wings, functionaries at various levels, and party cadres are requested to participate in this event in large numbers.

Chinese President Xi Jinping Calls for a Permanent Solution to the West Asia Conflict

NEW DELHI: Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged for a permanent solution to the conflict in West Asia, noting that the entire world is being affected by it. Speaking at the BRICS summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping said, “The world is undergoing profound changes. The strength of Global South nations is on the rise. “No one can stop the emergence of a multipolar world. BRICS has evolved into a genuine and fair force, striving for the well-being of



all humanity.

BRICS nations must play a pivotal role in establishing

global peace and must abandon the Cold War mentality. The people of the West Asia region are facing severe hardships due to the conflict there, and the entire world is affected by it. “A permanent solution must be found for this,” he stated. Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin remarked, “BRICS is not opposed to any country; it seeks to embrace and work with everyone.”

Government Bus Plunges into River Near Tenkasi

30 Seriously Injured as Vehicle Overtakes Upside Down



TENKASI: A bus traveling from Tenkasi to Nellai (Tirunelveli) met with an accident this morning, overturning into a 10-foot-deep ravine. Thirty passengers sustained serious injuries in the incident. The accident occurred near Vettaikaran Kulam, close to Tenkasi, where the government bus plunged into

a river. The injured are currently receiving treatment at the Tenkasi Government Hospital. The bus, en route from the Tenkasi New Bus Stand to Tirunelveli, was crossing a bridge near Vettaikaran Kulam when the driver suddenly lost control; the vehicle struck a retaining wall and overturned upside

down, falling into the 10-foot-deep ravine. Passersby alerted the police, and emergency teams—including police and fire personnel—rushed to the scene to conduct rescue operations. Reports indicate that 30 people were injured. The rescued passengers were sent to the Tenkasi District Government Hospital for treatment. The accident caused traffic congestion on the Tenkasi-Nellai road. The Courtallam police have registered a case and are investigating the incident.

50% of Bengaluru’s sewage flows into the Cauvery

Karnataka Environment Minister Ramalinga Reddy admits

BENGALURU: Karnataka Environment Minister Ramalinga Reddy stated that 50 percent of Bengaluru city’s sewage flows untreated into the Cauvery and Thenpennai rivers, eventually reaching Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu government had filed a case with the Green Tribunal alleging that sewage from Bengaluru city was discharging into the Cauvery and Thenpennai rivers. With the case scheduled for a hearing next week, Karnataka Environment Minister Ramalinga Reddy held consultations yesterday with officials from the Bengaluru



drainage board. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Ramalinga Reddy said: “2,825 MLD of sewage is discharged daily through the drains of Bengaluru city. Of this, 1,364.5 MLD is treated through 37

treatment plants.” Subsequently, the treated water is transported to meet the agricultural needs of the neighboring districts of Kolar, Chikkaballapur, and Tumakuru. The remaining 47 percent of untreated sewage flows into the Vrishabhavathi River, joins the Cauvery River at Sangama near Kanakapura, and eventually flows into Tamil Nadu. Similarly, untreated sewage flows into the Thenpennai River and makes its way to Tamil Nadu. “We are taking measures to treat the untreated sewage that flows into Tamil Na-

du. To this end, we plan to establish 43 new treatment plants, which will enable the treatment of 1,174 MLD of water. These plants will be operated in compliance with the standards prescribed by the Green Tribunal,” stated Minister Ramalinga Reddy. The Tamil Nadu government and various agricultural organizations have long alleged that the Karnataka government has been discharging sewage into the Cauvery and Thenpennai rivers. Against this backdrop, a statement by a Karnataka minister effectively acknowledging the matter has sparked a controversy.



NEW DELHI: The 18th BRICS summit began yesterday at the Bharat Mandapam in Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared several photographs from the event on social media. Among them was a photo showing Prime Minister Modi shaking hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin. This marks the third meeting between these three leaders in the past three years. Leaders participating in the summit include Iranian

Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, and

Vietnamese Prime Minister Le Minh Khai. Secretary-General António Guterres, World Trade Organization Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, New Development Bank President Dilma Rousseff, and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank President Jin Lique have

participated in the conference. This conference has gained added significance as the global economy faces various challenges. Notably, it is taking place amidst the impacts of the Russia-Ukraine war, the West Asia crisis, the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, and the trade and import tariff policies of the Trump administration in the United States.

Bharat Mandapam Captures World Leaders’ Attention Built at a Cost of ₹2,700 Crore Across 123 Acres

NEW DELHI: Bharat Mandapam, the venue in Delhi hosting the BRICS summit, has captured the attention of world leaders. Located within the Pragati Maidan complex in the heart of Delhi, Bharat Mandapam was constructed at a cost of ₹2,700 crore, spanning an area of 123 acres. Inaugurated in 2023, this venue has emerged as a key landmark reflecting India’s capability to host international events. The complex is designed to accommodate thousands of guests simultaneously. The name ‘Bharat Mandapam’ is derived from the 12th-century ‘Anubhava Mandapam’. Anubhava Mandapam is regarded as one of the earliest institutions for public debate and democratic dialogue.



A magnificent Nataraja statue, standing 27 feet tall and weighing 18 tonnes, is one of the complex’s key features. This statue, crafted from an alloy of eight metals known as ‘Ashtadhatu’, was designed by artists from Tamil Nadu. The main conference building of Bharat Mand-

apam is designed based on the shape of a conch shell, symbolizing consciousness, energy, and auspicious beginnings. Its exterior and interior designs incorporate various elements of Indian civilization. Features highlighting solar energy, India’s journey

from ‘zero’ to ISRO, and the ‘Pancha Bhootas’ (the five elements of nature) are also included. Serving as a key hub for high-level diplomatic meetings, the conference hall at Bharat Mandapam can accommodate representatives from over 150 countries. Crucial bilateral and

multilateral talks take place here during the two days of the BRICS summit. The International Media Centre is located in ‘Hall No. 5’. Around 1,200 to 1,400 journalists from various countries around the world have gathered here to gather news about the conference.

“No crisis remains confined to a single region” PM Modi stresses need for greater “resilience” at 2nd day BRICS Summit

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday stressed the need for greater resilience and preparedness among BRICS countries amid rising global tensions, saying that “no crisis remains confined to a single region” in today’s interconnected world. Addressing the open session on “Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability: Shaping the

Future for Inclusive Global Growth” on the second day of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, PM Modi said, “Today, the number of tensions in the world is constantly rising, having a significant and widespread negative impact on the lives of ordinary people. Pandemics, climate disasters, and supply chain disruptions have demonstrated that in today’s interconnected world, no crisis remains confined to a single region. Therefore, we have placed special emphasis on enhancing resilience within the BRICS group. It is equally essential to identify challenges in a timely manner, remain prepared for them, and take immediate action.”

He further said that a consensus had been reached on a BRICS Integrated Early Warning System for the prevention of and response to infectious diseases. “Additionally, Early Warning Data Integration Guidelines have been formulated for disaster management,” PM Modi said. The open session, titled “Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability: Shaping the Future for Inclusive Global Growth”, began at the Summit Hall inside Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Sunday. Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BRICS leaders posed for a family photo of the grouping at Bharat Mandapam, the venue for the 18th BRICS Summit under

the chairship of India. PM Modi stood in the centre with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping beside him. The last leg of the summit is focused on the core pillars of India’s 2026 BRICS chairship: resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability. The two-day summit is being hosted by India on September 12-13 under the chairship theme, “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.” The open session is part of the two-day BRICS Summit being hosted by India on September 12-13 under the chairship theme, “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.” The open session is providing an opportunity for BRICS leaders to deliberate on areas of common interest and discuss ways to strengthen cooperation among member countries while advancing an inclusive approach to global growth. On the second day of the summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with leaders of South Africa, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Egypt, Burundi, Uganda and Nigeria. PM Modi will meet South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. South Africa has been a core part of BRICS. President Cyril Ramaphosa attended the BRICS session on ‘Inclusive

Global Governance & Strengthening Multilateralism’ on Saturday and visited the ‘Bharat Innovates’ exposition in New Delhi. PM Modi will also meet Egypt President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. The Egyptian leader met Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit on Saturday. PM Modi will also meet Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, Burundi President Evariste Ndayishimiye, Uganda Vice President Jessica Alupo and Nigerian Vice President Kashim Shettima as India boosts its ties with African and Asian nations. Earlier, on Saturday, BRICS leaders unanimously adopted the New Delhi Declaration, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing the outcome as a reflection of a BRICS that is “wider in reach and stronger in purpose.” PM Modi, who made a series of posts on X, said the declaration focuses on innovation, sustainability and people-to-people ties, with the aim of making cooperation “more practical, development-oriented and responsive to the aspirations of the BRICS nations.” “I thank all the fellow BRICS nations and their leaders for its adoption,” the Prime Minister said. The declaration expressed deep



concern over the continued escalation of tensions in West Asia and called for exercising maximum restraint, as well as avoiding actions that could further aggravate the situation. The New Delhi Declaration reaffirmed BRICS’ support for a lasting two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, while urging deeper international institutional support for Palestine and reaffirming Israel’s legal obligation to ensure the provision of humanitarian aid in Gaza. The BRICS countries also called for an immediate end to unilateral economic sanctions and expressed grave concern over rising protectionist policies, warning that arbitrary tariff hikes and green-labelled trade barriers are disrupting global supply chains and hurting the developing world. India’s presidency, which began on January 1, 2026, is guided by the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”, deploying a human-centric approach across its core pillars to reinforce institutional strength and support sustainable growth.

Sekar Babu in the General Darshan Queue

CHENNAI: P.K. Sekar Babu was a powerful minister in the DMK government, overseeing the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department. He spearheaded consecration ceremonies (*Kumbabishekam*) at temples across Tamil Nadu. It was customary for him to receive special honors whenever he visited a temple. However, the scenario changed after the shift in administration. Following a visit to Tiruttani, visuals of Sekar Babu being denied VIP access and instead waiting in the general queue for *darshan* at Tiruvannamalai have gone viral on social media. After the DMK won the 2021 assembly elections and formed the government, Sekar Babu was entrusted with the HR&CE portfolio. Many questioned why he was given this specific responsibility when there were various other key departments available. Yet, it was in this role that Sekar Babu truly excelled. Temple properties across Tamil Nadu were reclaimed, and facilities at numerous temples were upgraded to world-class standards. Notably, temples in Palani, Tiruvannamalai, and Tiruchendur were revamped to better suit the needs of devotees. Furthermore,

he successfully conducted consecration ceremonies for over a thousand temples, both large and small. Consequently, the HR&CE Department emerged as one of the gov-



ernment's most significant portfolios. Impressed by his performance, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin also handed him the responsibility for the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA).

It could even be said that he held primary responsibility for both party affairs and administrative matters in Chennai. In the 2026 assembly elections, the DMK faced defeat in all but two constituencies in Chennai. Only two candidates won; one of them was Sekar Babu. He secured victory in the Kolathur constituency. Now, the situation has shifted; Sekar Babu, who once received top honors at consecration ceremonies and temple events, currently waits in the general queue for *darshan* alongside

ordinary citizens. On the occasion of the recent Aadi Krithigai festival, Sekar Babu visited the Thiruttani Murugan Temple with his supporters to offer prayers. However, the



police denied permission for his vehicle to ascend the hill and also refused to allow him access to the special darshan.

It was only after senior officials intervened that arrangements were made for him to worship. A similar situation has now occurred at the Tiruvannamalai temple. Yesterday, Sekar Babu visited the Tiruvannamalai Arunachaleswarar Temple accompanied by his wife. After entering through the North Tower and worshipping Lord Sambandha Vinayagar, he waited for a long time to proceed to the VIP darshan area. However, neither officials from the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department nor temple staff arrived to assist

him. Disappointed by the long wait, he eventually worshipped Goddess Unnamulai Amman via the general darshan queue; only then did the priests offer him *prasadam*

and garland him. With the Annamalaiyar Temple gaining nationwide popularity, many—including industrialists, politicians, and film stars—visit the shrine. They are usually accorded due respect by the temple authorities and granted access to special darshan. However, DMK members allege that Sekar Babu was deliberately made to wait. Meanwhile, officials from the HR&CE Department offer a different explanation. They point out that the government had issued specific guidelines regarding VIP visits following the Thiruttani incident.

These regulations required celebrities to inform the Commissioner's office a day in advance and prohibited photography or videography inside the temple, as well as any disruption to the general public's worship.

Officials state that Sekar Babu was denied special darshan because he arrived unexpectedly without prior notice; had he informed them beforehand, he certainly would have been granted access to the special darshan.

No Entry! Freight Trucks Blocked Manipur Completely Cut Off

IMPHAL: Residents of Manipur are facing severe hardship as protesters have blocked trucks carrying petrol, diesel, and food supplies from other states from entering the state. Truck drivers transporting these goods have been stranded on the roadside for ten days, creating a situation of extreme tension in Manipur. These trucks and fuel tankers, carrying essential commodities from other parts of India, were heading towards Imphal, the capital of Manipur. They have been halted at a location called New Keithelmanbi on National Highway 37, the route connecting the border town of Jiribam to Imphal.

The United Naga Council (UNC) is responsible for blocking the entry of these trucks. The blockade stems from an incident on May 13, where six members of the Liangmai Naga community were abducted and subsequently killed by Kuki



militant groups in Leilon Vaiphei village, Kangpokpi district. The UNC is demanding appropriate action against the perpetrators and justice for the affected families. Furthermore, Naga organizations have called for the removal of Manipur's Deputy Chief Minister, Nemcha Kipgen, alleging links with Kuki militant groups. Additionally, Nagas have expressed opposition to the Central Government's decisions regarding border fencing along the Myanmar

border and the revocation of the Free Movement Regime.

By blocking the trucks from entering the state, the organization is attempting to pressure the Central and State governments into considering their demands. However, there are numerous other avenues available to convey these grievances to the government. Drivers have questioned whether intercepting and stopping trucks is the solution to this issue. Speaking about the situation, one driver said,

"I am a driver from Bihar. I need to transport cargo to Manipur, and my vehicle is loaded, but I am unable to enter the state. I have been stranded on the road for ten days now, without access to food or safe accommodation. To make matters worse, extortion gangs operate all along the route, and the road is riddled with potholes that pose a threat to our lives. We drive through such immense hardship; therefore, the government must intervene and find an immediate solution."

Undersea Treasure of Gold and Silver! A Deep-Sea Marvel in the Pacific Ocean Stuns China

BEIJING: Chinese researchers have discovered a vast new area in the depths of the Pacific Ocean rich in gold, silver, and various precious minerals. Information regarding this deep-sea research has sparked widespread astonishment and discussion globally. The presence of such a massive quantity of minerals beneath the sea is viewed as crucial for the future of humanity. A team of scientists from prominent institutions—including China's renowned Tsinghua University, the Qingdao Institute of Marine Geology, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University—collaborated to successfully conduct this research. They achieved this feat while aboard the Chinese oceanographic research vessel 'Xiangyanghong 10'. The scientific team embarked on their voyage from the port of Shenzhen, China, on August 10. During this 18-day expedition, they carried out seven deep-sea explorations using advanced underwater vehicles. These minerals were discovered in a deep-sea trench located within China's Exclusive Economic Zone in the Western Pacific. A key milestone



of this research was the discovery of multiple high-temperature vents at depths ranging from approximately 700 to 1,500 meters below the ocean surface. The water temperatures at these vents exceed 315 degrees Celsius. Intense natural processes associated with these vents are continuously generating various minerals. Scientists had previously conducted smaller-scale surveys in this area more than ten times; it was based on that experience that this precise, large-scale study was successfully executed. The mineral deposits discovered here appear as three large, cone-shaped rock formations. Tests conducted in the ship's modern laboratory revealed that the mineral ores found there contain gold and silver concentrations many times higher than those found on land. Specifically, up to 15.4

grams of gold per tonne of ore were detected. Similarly, silver content is exceptionally high, reaching up to 1,271 grams per tonne. Additionally, significant economic minerals such as copper and zinc are abundant in the area. Preliminary estimates suggest that these resources could rival world-class deep-sea mineral deposits. This marine area is situated near the boundary where the Eurasian Plate and the Philippine Sea Plate meet. Frequent tectonic plate movement in this region leads to intense volcanic activity. Seawater enters through fissures in the seabed and is intensely heated by the underlying magma (molten rock). As this hot, mineral-rich water rises and mixes with the cold seawater, it transforms into solid sulfide minerals. Over time, these accumulate to form

large mineral deposits. It is through this natural process that metals like gold and silver have concentrated there in vast quantities. Researchers have discovered and photographed shrimp, crabs, mollusks, and unique microorganisms capable of surviving in these harsh conditions near the hydrothermal vents. Scientists are amazed that these organisms thrive in the sunless depths of the ocean by utilizing energy derived from chemical reactions. They believe these organisms will provide valuable insights into survival mechanisms in extreme environments. Scientists clarify that although vast, valuable resources of gold, silver, and copper lie beneath the ocean, they cannot be extracted immediately. Due to the immense water pressure and complex geological conditions in the deep-sea environment, mining for these minerals is currently not feasible. This possibility might be reconsidered in the future as technology advances. Nevertheless, this deep-sea discovery is viewed as a significant turning point in the scientific world and in marine research.

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Yesterday, the DMK held protests across Tamil Nadu to condemn remarks made in the Legislative Assembly by Chief Minister Vijay regarding former Chief Ministers Karunanidhi and M.K. Stalin. As part of this, a protest was organized near Panagal Maligai in Saidapet by the DMK units of the Chennai South, South-West, and West districts. Deputy General Secretary A. Raja presided over the protest, with former Minister Ma. Subramanian also present in a leading role. A large number of DMK functionaries and party cadres participated in the event.

Water from the Sikkarayapuram stone quarry arrives to quench the thirst of Chennai residents



CHENNAI: Officials from the Water Resources Department and the Public Works Department (PWD) conducted a trial run yesterday to resume water extraction from the stone quarries at Chikkarayapuram, near Kundrathur, to meet Chennai's drinking water needs. When the Chembarambakkam Lake dried up completely in 2017, the Tamil Nadu government transported water from these quarries to Chennai. There are a total of 23 stone quarries in Chikkarayapu-

ram, near Mangadu, each ranging from 300 to 400 feet in depth. These quarries are currently filled with rainwater. A severe drought occurred during the summer of 2017 under the AIADMK regime, causing the Chembarambakkam Lake—a key source of drinking water for Chennai—to run dry. Consequently, the then AIADMK government pumped out the accumulated rainwater from the Chikkarayapuram quarries using giant motors and transported it via pipelines to the Chem-

barambakkam treatment plant for distribution. Water from these quarries was treated and supplied to the people of Chennai until 2019. Extraction was gradually reduced as adequate water inflows returned to lakes like Chembarambakkam. Currently, the Public Works Department plans to utilize the Chikkarayapuram quarry water once again. The water level in Chembarambakkam Lake stands at 16 feet. Anticipating a potential drop in rainfall and a possible drinking water shortage in the coming months, the PWD has decided to treat and use the quarry water again. As water extraction is resuming after several years, officials have begun inspecting the old pipeline routes to check for any blockages or damage. A trial run involving the installation of massive

electric motors—designed to float on the water—to pump water from the quarry to the treatment plant has been successfully conducted. Consequently, it appears that water from the stone quarry will soon be supplied to Chennai as drinking water. It is worth noting that the site—previously used by the public as a dumping ground for waste in 2022—has been transformed into a massive water reservoir following the removal of tons of garbage. Expectations are high that, much like in 2017, water from this quarry will once again help quench the thirst of Chennai's residents. Notably, Chennai currently sources its drinking water from several lakes, including Chembarambakkam, Puzhal, Poondi, Cholavaram, and Kannankottai-Thervoy Kandigai.

The people will soon write the final chapter for the DMK: Minister Nirmal Kumar



CHENNAI: Minister Nirmal Kumar has stated that the people will soon write the final chapter of the DMK in

the political landscape of Tamil Nadu. DMK members have been staging protests to condemn Chief Minister Vijay's remarks and gestures in the Assembly regarding DMK leader Stalin's arrest under MISA. During a protest in Saidapet, DMK MP Raja spoke about Chief Minister Vijay using disrespectful, singular and form language and made derogatory remarks about Minister Nirmal Kumar.

Condemning this, Minister Nirmal Kumar issued a statement posing a series of questions to DMK leader Stalin. He stated: "The obscene spectacle staged by DMK members under the guise of a protest has left women shocked. Whenever questions regarding corruption, betrayal, or falsehoods are raised against the DMK, they resort to violence or obscene language. It appears that organizing stages to spew obscenities at

the Chief Minister and me has become the DMK's last resort. Stalin must say whether the DMK members would be willing to show the footage of their crude speeches to the women and children in their own homes. Stalin needs to realize that every political move is scrutinized by the people. We will confront the DMK's excesses head-on. It is certain that the people will soon write the final chapter of the DMK in Tamil Nadu's political arena."