

Rajasthan local body election results Prime Minister Modi hails

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Modi has described the victory secured by the ruling BJP in the urban local body elections held in Rajasthan as a "victory of truth over the echo of falsehoods." In a post on X regarding the Rajasthan local body election results, Prime Minister Modi stated, "My heartfelt gratitude to the people of Rajasthan for delivering a historic verdict and granting a resounding victory to the Bharatiya Janata Party in the urban local body elections. This victory stands as a testament to the triumph of truth

over the echo of falsehoods. This public mandate has once again unequivocally demonstrated their full support for the 'double engine' government's good governance and development-oriented policies. This verdict will not only propel Rajasthan to new heights of development but also further strengthen our resolve to bring prosperity and happiness into the lives of every individual. On this auspicious occasion, I extend my heartfelt

congratulations to all the victorious candidates and the dedicated party workers who toiled hard for this success." Advertisement Addressing the media at the Rajasthan BJP headquarters, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma remarked, "This victory in the urban local body elections is historic; it has reaffirmed the people's faith in the BJP government's development model. The people have endorsed the work carried out by the

Victory of Truth



state government over the past two and a half years under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi." Out of the total 10 municipal corporations involved in these elections, the BJP has secured an absolute majority in four—Jaipur, Udaipur, Kota, and Bhilwara. Commenting on the election results, Congress State President Govind Singh Dotasra stated that the BJP's victory reflects the government's poor performance and noted that, in terms of vote share,

the Congress trailed the BJP by only a narrow margin. He further claimed that had the ward reorganization and constituency delimitation processes not been conducted improperly, the Congress would have won an additional 1,500 wards. Highlighting that the Congress secured 542 seats and the BJP 350 seats in wards reserved for Scheduled Castes, he also alleged that the government machinery was misused during the election and that results were deliberately delayed in certain wards where the Congress was leading.



₹11,000 Crore Investment MoU Signed in London in the Presence of CM Vijay To Provide Employment to 7,000 People

LONDON: An MoU involving an investment of ₹11,000 crore and the creation of jobs for 7,000 people was signed with Samvardhana Motherson International Ltd. in London, in the presence of Chief Minister Vijay. MoUs were also signed with other companies. In a post on X regarding this, Chief Minister Vijay stated: "Today (14.09.2026) in London, UK, an MoU was signed involving Samvardhana Motherson International Ltd.—along with its European and UK-based joint venture partners—and the Tamil Nadu government's nodal agency (Guidance). The agreement entails an investment of approximately ₹11,000 crore in Tamil Nadu across sectors such as design, engineering, manufacturing, assembly, and logistics, creating employ-

ment opportunities for about 7,000 people. The MoU was signed and exchanged by Barry Painter, Head of Global Marketing and Communications at Samvardhana Motherson International Group, and Deepak Jacob, Managing Director of Guidance Tamil Nadu. Kumaran Periasamy, the Indian High Commissioner to the UK, along with company representatives and senior government officials, participated in the event." In another post, Chief Minister Vijay stated: "Two MoUs were signed for the expansion and establishment of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in Tamil Nadu." A leading UK-based global communications company signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 'Guidance Tamil Nadu' (the state's investment promotion

agency) to establish a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Tamil Nadu. This centre, which entails an investment of approximately ₹1,000 crore and is set to create over 2,000 high-value jobs, will be located in the newly announced 'GCC Corridor' along Mount & Poona Mallee Road in Chennai. Sweden-based Sigma Technology Group signed an MoU with Guidance Tamil Nadu, committing to expand its Global Capability Centres in Tiruchirappalli and Chennai through its Indian subsidiary, Shriya Solutions. This initiative aims to create 600 high-value jobs in the fields of embedded systems, electrification, and industrial digitalization. The MoU was exchanged in the presence of Chief Minister Vijay between Sigma Technology Group Founder and CEO

Michael Karlsson, Shriya CEO Krishna Radhakrishnan, and Guidance Tamil Nadu Managing Director Deepak Jacob. In another post, Chief Minister Vijay stated, "Today (14.09.2026) in London, UK, an MoU was signed with 'Wilson Power Solutions' to mark the next phase of growth in Tamil Nadu's electrical equipment manufacturing sector; the project involves an investment of ₹300 crore in Thiruvallur district and the creation of 400 new jobs." It has been stated that this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed and exchanged by Hari Krishna Malepati (Group Technical Director) and Dennis Sorby (Group Financial Director) of Wilson Power Solutions, and Deepak Jacob, IAS (Managing Director of Guidance Tamil Nadu).

M.K. Stalin Suffers Sudden Health Setback DMK's 'Mupperum Vizha' Postponed

CHENNAI: The 'Mupperum Vizha' (Grand Tripartite Festival) is celebrated annually by the DMK to mark three significant occasions: the founding day of the DMK (September 17), the birth anniversary of party founder Perarignar Anna (September 15), and the birth anniversary of Thanthai Periyar (September 17). During

this festival, the party confers several awards, including the Periyar Award, Anna Award, Kalaigarn Award, Pavendhar Award, Professor Award, and M.K. Stalin Award. This year's event was scheduled to take place today (the 15th) at the Kalaigarn Arangam in Anna Arivalayam, Chennai. However, DMK General Secretary

Duraimurugan has announced the postponement of the festival due to a sudden health issue affecting party leader M.K. Stalin. Duraimurugan stated that the events scheduled for this evening have also been postponed and that a new date for the festival will be announced later. It is noteworthy that M.K. Stalin did not participate



in the Anna birth anniversary event held in Chennai earlier.

"We are not like the DMK; a wrong is a wrong, regardless of the party"

says Minister Vignesh

DINDUGAL: "We are not like the DMK; a wrongdoing is a wrongdoing regardless of the party involved, and we will take action against anyone," stated Minister Vignesh. In an interview given in Dindigul, Minister Vignesh said: "The system of bar operations will not be like it was under the previous administration. We are introducing certain legislative changes. The Water Resources Minister and General Secretary, Anand, had clearly stated this in the Assembly. We will not consider party affiliation when addressing wrongdoing. A violation is a violation, no matter which party is involved—be it TVK, DMK, or AIADMK."

If anyone from our own party engages in malpractice, strict party-level and legal action will certainly be taken against them. Many have already been expelled from the party. We are not like the DMK. If irregularities such as black & market liquor sales or selling liquor at inflated prices occur, please bring them to our attention immediately. Action will be taken without bias.

We will act the very moment the issue is brought to our notice. Unlike other parties, we do not adopt a stance where we turn a blind eye to operations



on one side while scrutinizing the other.

As soon as a video surfaced on social media regarding the sale of liquor at inflated prices, we took action against the offenders without discrimination. In the review meeting held on

September 8, it was decided that in districts where TASMAR and related issues are prevalent, we would not hold only the salesperson or supervisor accountable. The District Manager also bears responsibility in such cases. From now on, action will be taken against them as well. However, the Chief Minister (Vijay), the government, and I do not believe that immediate, harsh punishment is the only way to bring about change.

We have only just begun enforcement measures as of September 1st, after first ensuring that the necessary requirements were met." Thus said Minister Vignesh.

WB by polls 2026: BJP fields slain PA Chandranath Rath's mother for Nandigram seat, Sakharav Sarkar for Rejinagar

KOLKATA: The Central Election Committee (CEC) of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday fielded Hasirani Rath, mother of Chandranath Rath, the deceased personal assistant of West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, for the upcoming 2026 Legislative Assembly by-elections in

West Bengal. Hasirani Rath has been nominated to contest from the high-profile Nandigram assembly seat. handranath Rath, who had worked in the Indian Air Force, was shot dead near Madhyamgram late at night on May 6. He later succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.

Meanwhile, the party also approved Sakharav Sarkar from the Rejinagar constituency in Murshidabad district. Earlier on Sunday, the All India Trinamool Congress announced Sanchita Pradhan (Dey) as its candidate for Nandigram and Rabiul Alam Chowdhury for Rejinagar in the

upcoming by-elections to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. The party made the announcement in a post on X, saying the candidates were being announced under the guidance and inspiration of its chairperson and former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

"All India Trinamool Congress, under the guidance and inspiration of our Hon'ble Chairperson Smt @ Mamata Official, is pleased to announce the candidates for the upcoming Nandigram & Rejinagar by-elections. We wish Smt Sanchita Pradhan (Dey) and Shri Rabiul Alam Chowdhury

the very best for this journey. May they carry forward the hopes and aspirations of the people with strength and determination," the party said in the post.

From Congress, Mohd. Abdullahil Kafi will contest from Rejinagar Assembly constituency, while Milan Pradhan has been named

the candidate from Nandigram. The CPI(M) has fielded Advocate Sayeed Asad Ali from the Rejinagar Assembly constituency, while the CPI has nominated Shanti Gopal Giri from Nandigram. In West Bengal, bypolls were necessitated in Rejinagar and Nandigram following the resignations of

Humayun Kabir and Suwendu Adhikari, respectively, while in Assam, the Nagaon Parliamentary Constituency fell vacant following the resignation of Pradyut Bordoloi. The by-elections in the two West Bengal Assembly constituencies are scheduled to take place on October 6

Today horoscope



Mental confusion will clear, and happiness will prevail in the family. There will be positive change in your children's behavior. Business competition will decrease; do not dismiss the advice of your partners. You will find peace at work. Avoid making enemies.

Do not make hasty decisions; act with composure in all matters. It is advisable to curb extravagant spending. You will renovate and expand your ancestral home. Competition in business is likely. Exercise caution in your speech at the workplace.



Your respect and standing among relatives will increase. There is a possibility of acquiring paternal property. Older siblings will provide financial assistance. Vehicle-related issues will be resolved. You will expand your business. You will receive appreciation from superiors at work. Send feedback

You will act energetically to keep your promises. You will spend generously on those close to your heart. Your physical health will be satisfactory. Business will pick up momentum. At the workplace, it is best to focus solely on your own tasks.



You will receive pleasant news. Clarity will emerge, dispelling any confusion. Your respect and standing among maternal relatives will increase. There is a possibility of meeting prominent figures in connection with your business. Workload at the office will decrease.



You will make important decisions after consulting with your family. You will benefit from your siblings. You will settle a portion of an old debt. Your career will flourish. Business will pick up, and you will attract customers by employing new strategies.



It is advisable to be frugal. Avoid arguments within the family. You may face some affectionate yet bothersome interference from relatives. Do not make enemies at the workplace. Competition in business will increase; give importance to the views of new partners.



You will act according to the situation. You will get introduced to prominent people. An auspicious family event that was previously postponed will now be arranged. You will receive the expected loan assistance. There will be peace at the workplace, and you will expand your business.



The series of expenses you have been facing will now decrease. You will successfully complete even challenging tasks. You will seek the help of influential people for business matters. Superiors at work will offer advice, and colleagues will respect you.



You will resolve certain issues by acting with foresight. Spouses should adopt a spirit of compromise. Children will behave affectionately. Business will flourish. Important responsibilities will be entrusted to you at the workplace.



You will resolve an old problem by thinking from a new perspective. Differences of opinion with your mother will be resolved. You will manage financial shortages effectively. Competition in business will subside. You will be recommended for a new position at work, bringing increased responsibilities.



The arrival of guests will bring liveliness to your home. Siblings will share your workload. People in positions of authority will offer assistance. You will find a new business partner. You will have the opportunity to meet prominent figures in connection with your work.



Krishnagiri Vinayagar Temple

A 16 Year Tradition of Promoting Religious Harmony



KRISHNAGIRI: Emphasizing religious harmony during the Vinayagar Chaturthi festival, Muslims in Krishnagiri town donated puja items to the Vinayagar temple and distributed food (*Annadhanam*) to devotees. Vinayagar Chaturthi was celebrated across the country on the 14th. It has become a customary practice for the Krishnagiri Milad-e-Nabi Committee to donate puja items annually to promote religious harmony. Accordingly, more than 50 Muslims—led by Aslam, the president of the Krishnagiri Milad-e-Nabi Festival Committee—visited the renowned Sri Varasiddhi Vinayagar Temple on Sub&Jail Road today to donate puja items and foster unity and communal harmony. Following this, they distributed food to devotees and the general public visiting the temple. Speaking on the occasion, the Milad-e-Nabi Committee president said, "For 16 years, we have been donating puja items on Vinayagar Chaturthi to promote religious harmony. With the aim that people of all communities in the country should live together in peace and unity—and that everyone should live as equals, transcending caste and religious differences—we offered prayers at the temple and distributed food to proclaim the message of harmony and unity." Former councilor Karamat and several others participated in the event.



The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah at the Hindi Diwas 2026 and 6th All India Official Language Conference, in Mumbai, Maharashtra

Parties Gear Up for 'Reels' Campaign in Dharapuram Constituency

By election Arena Heats Up with a Five Way Contest

DHARAPURAM: The Dharapuram (Reserved) Assembly constituency in Tiruppur district is emerging as a key focal point in Tamil Nadu politics. For the by-election scheduled here on October 6, the ruling TVK, the main opposition DMK, as well as AIADMK and NTK, have fielded their candidates. Sathyabama, who had previously won on an AIADMK ticket but resigned her MLA post, left the AIADMK to join the TVK; she is now contesting from this constituency again as the TVK candidate.

Suganya, the Deputy Organizer of the Advocates' Wing (East District), has been announced as the DMK candidate, while Banumathi, the Joint Secretary of the Suburban District Women's Wing, has been named the AIADMK candidate. Karthika has been announced as the candidate for the Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK). Meanwhile, the two



Communist parties—which have been supporting the TVK government—have announced plans to contest independently. This has resulted in a five-way contest. Consequently, party offices in the Dharapuram constituency have become a buzz with activity; strategy meetings regarding the next course of action are taking place daily from morning till night. Determined to recapture the constituency—just as they did in the previous assembly election—the AIADMK has actively begun mobilizing booth&level functionaries after thoroughly analyzing its



past strengths and weaknesses. Strategies are being formulated by former ministers and local DMK functionaries to convey the achievements and schemes introduced during the DMK's tenure to the public, while also aiming to retain the party's influence in Dharapuram. TVK cadres, having entered the fray in Dharapuram to demonstrate their strength, are intensifying their fieldwork with the aim of attracting the younger generation and capturing the votes of social media users. With opposition parties attributing TVK's rise to power to 'Reels' campaigns,



both the DMK and AIADMK are preparing to launch their own 'Reels' campaigns to challenge TVK in the Dharapuram by-election. Rather than relying solely on door-to-door or street-by-street canvassing, parties are focusing on 'Reels' as a means to deliver their messages directly to every voter's mobile phone. The electoral battle has heated up in the digital space as well, with parties using WhatsApp groups, Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter) to criticize rival candidates and highlight the strengths of their own candidates.

Case filed against 13 people, including husband, for drugging and sexually assaulting wife over 20 years

LONDON: A case has been registered against 13 individuals—including a husband—for subjecting a woman to horrific acts, including sexual assault, after drugging her over a period of 20 years.

This shocking incident occurred in Manchester, in the north of England. A 60-year-old husband drugged his wife for two decades and engaged in heinous acts,

including sexual assault. A hearing regarding this matter took place yesterday at the Manchester Minshull Street Crown Court.

The man faces 60 charges, including five counts of rape, three counts of sexual assault involving serious violence, six counts of sexual assault, and the sharing of indecent photographs of his wife without her consent. Although he initially denied the alle-

gations, he later admitted to the charges in court; his wife was present in the courtroom when he made this admission. Apart from the husband, 12 other individuals have also been accused in this case. Ranging in age from 28 to 74, they hail from various parts of England.

They, too, allegedly subjected the woman to sexual assault at different times. While they have all denied

the allegations, they are set to face trial.

Hearings regarding the charges will be held this week. Assistant Chief Constable Rick Jackson described the case as highly complex. He stated that their focus remains on providing continuous support to the victim, who has endured this horrific ordeal, and assured that she would continue to receive specialized support.

Renowned Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple

Five Year Old Elephant from Assam Welcomed with Flower Petals at the World

MADURAI: Amidst the ongoing *Kumbabishekam* (consecration) rituals, a five&year&old elephant arrived at the Meenakshi Amman Temple from Assam. Festivals are celebrated throughout the year at this world&renowned temple.

During these festivals, it is customary for temple bulls, elephants, camels, and horses to process in front of the deity. Historically, the temple maintained elephants, camels, and horses for this purpose; at one time, there were seven elephants. Currently, only one elephant, named Parvathi, remains, and she has been suffering from health issues. Consequently, a request



was made to acquire an additional elephant for the temple. Following government approval, five elephants were brought from Assam for various temples in Tamil Nadu, including the Meenakshi Amman Temple. It was felt that the arrival of a new elephant would be particularly auspicious

given the upcoming *Kumbabishekam*. Meanwhile, on the 9th of the month, two camels were donated to the temple by sponsors. Against this backdrop, on the early morning of Vinayagar Chaturthi (yesterday) at around 2:00 AM, a five&year&old elephant named Durga arrived at the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple after a three&day journey from Assam. Temple priests performed a special *pooja* and *Deeparadhana* (ritual offering of light) for the elephant, while temple staff welcomed her by showering flowers. It is noteworthy that the

elephant traveled approximately 3,000 kilometers from Manas National Park in Assam to reach Madurai.

Although the temple once housed seven elephants, their numbers gradually dwindled. Parvathi, who lived for 68 years, passed away due to old age, and another elephant named Angayarkanni, who was with her, died in 2007. Subsequently, as the temple elephant Parvathi was left alone, she frequently suffered from health issues. Responding to requests from devotees, a five&year&old female elephant named Durga has now been brought to the temple—coinciding with Vinayagar Chaturthi and the consecration ceremony—bringing joy to the devotees.

september 15 Nashik 2026

Vinayagar Chaturthi Special 'Gold-Coated Kozhukattai' Captivates Customers

Sold at ₹27,000 per kg



A gold-coated *kozhukattai* (steamed dumpling) sold in Nashik, Maharashtra, for the Vinayagar Chaturthi festival has greatly attracted customers. Since 2021, 'Sagar Sweets' in Nashik has been selling gold-coated *kozhukattais* annually to mark the occasion of Vinayagar Chaturthi. Continuing this tradition, a *kozhukattai* coated with 24-carat pure edible gold was sold this year as well. When the item was first introduced in 2021, it was sold at ₹12,000 per kilogram. Due to the steep rise in gold prices, it was sold at ₹27,000 per kilogram this year. Despite the high price, customers eagerly purchased it, drawn by its quality and unique appearance. The gold-coated *kozhukattai* is prepared using ingredients such as cashews, almonds, pistachios, cheese, saffron, cardamom powder, and ghee. It features a coating of 24-carat pure edible gold. Edible gold is a specific type of gold approved as a food additive by the European Union and the United States under the code E 175. Pure gold does not react chemically with the digestive acids in the human body; instead of entering the bloodstream, it passes through the digestive system and is excreted as waste. Consuming it offers no nutritional or health benefits to the body; it is used solely for the sake of luxury and visual appeal. Gold used in food must have a purity of 23 to 24 carats. Doctors warn that consuming gold used for making jewelry can cause severe toxicity, as it contains other metals such as copper, nickel, or zinc.

China Reduces Troops at Indian Border: Central Government Update



NEW DELHI In 2020, the Indian Army intercepted Chinese forces attempting to intrude into Indian territory in the Galwan Valley of Eastern Ladakh. A clash ensued, resulting in the loss of 24 Indian soldiers' lives; the Chinese side also suffered significant casualties. Following this confrontation, which caused global shock, both sides amassed additional troops in the area, leading to prolonged tension and a volatile situation. Relations between the two nations deteriorated as a result. Consequently, both sides held multiple rounds of talks aimed at de-escalating tensions and establishing lasting peace at the border. Meetings took place between military officials from both countries. Additionally, Special Representatives appointed to address border conflicts met periodically to urge for an end to the tension and the withdrawal of troops. These meetings helped revive relations between the two nations. Subsequently, talks were held at the ministerial level and later at the leadership level. Notably, Prime Minister Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit held in Tianjin last August. Further military-level meetings followed, during which India urged China to withdraw its troops from Eastern Ladakh. Following the progress in bilateral relations achieved through these successive meetings, the Central Government has stated that China has significantly reduced its troop presence at the border. Specifically, the Ministry of Defence has confirmed that China significantly reduced its troop levels last year along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the northern (Ladakh) sector. The Ministry of Defence further stated that, at present, only ten combined arms formations are deployed along the Line of Control and in China's traditional training areas. At the same time, the Ministry noted that Indian Army troops across all levels are strong, well-balanced, and prepared to handle any unforeseen contingencies.



Rome: Pope Leo, the leader of Catholic Christians, celebrated his 71st birthday at the Vatican Library. Established in the 15th century, the Vatican Library houses two million books. It also contains one hundred thousand document collections, as well as thousands of coins, medals, and maps.

Congo: 26 Students Die in School Fire



KINSHASA: Twenty-six students lost their lives in a fire at a school in Congo. Congo is a country located in Central-East Africa. The nation has been grappling with a civil war for years, with certain regions under the control of rebels. Amidst this situation, a school is located in the Simbanda area of Bukavu city, within the rebel-controlled South Kivu province. Last Thursday, around 9:00 AM, students were attending classes at the school when a massive fire suddenly broke out, trapping them inside. Upon receiving news of the fire, firefighters rushed to the scene and extinguished the blaze. They also rescued the

On Anna's Birthday: "Let Us Pledge to Ensure Social Justice and Equality Flourish"

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay paid tribute to Perarignar Anna on his birthday, stating, "Let us cherish Anna's noble slogans in our hearts and pledge today to ensure that social justice, equality, and brotherhood flourish everywhere, and to safeguard the glory of the Tamil language."

In a post shared on his X (formerly Twitter) page, he wrote: "On the birthday of former Chief Minister Anna—who created a new chapter in Tamil Nadu's political history and raised his voice for the rights of the poor and downtrodden—I wholeheartedly recall and honor his visionary outlook and his service to the people. Anna left an indelible mark on the social and political history of

Risk of Renewed Unrest in Manipur



IMPHAL: Incidents of violence have once again begun to surface in various parts of Manipur. Just the day before yesterday, Naga militants entered villages in the Tamenglong and Noney districts and killed four people, including two women. The Kuki&Zo Council has strongly condemned this incident. Alleging that Naga armed groups have been calling the shots in Manipur throughout the year, the Council stated that 22 Kuki tribal members—including women and children—have been killed by these groups this year alone. In a statement issued regarding this matter, the Council warned: "The Government of India must take firm action against the militants in Manipur. The continued activities of these armed groups not only pose a threat to the public but also carry the risk of pushing Manipur toward another full&scale conflict."

UN rights chief urges urgent global AI governance, warns of human rights risks

“At a watershed moment for AI”

SEITZERLAND: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk has called for urgent global governance of advanced artificial intelligence, warning that the rapid development of increasingly capable AI systems is putting human rights, critical infrastructure and democratic institutions at growing risk. In a statement issued on Monday, titled “To protect human rights now and into the future, we must govern AI urgently,” Türk said the world is at a “watershed moment” as companies and researchers advance AI at “dizzying speed”, with investments in AI and its underlying infrastructure breaking records. Türk also acknowledged the potential of AI to contribute to human progress, saying billions of people already benefit from the technology through scientific discovery, access to information across languages and enhanced agricultural production. However, he said the extent to which AI can help tackle the climate crisis, improve health and education, strengthen public services and enhance human well&being will depend on choices being made now about how the technology is designed, deployed and governed. The UN rights chief said AI&related harms are already occurring, pointing to documented discrimination, automation of essential services

that can leave marginalised people further behind, and the erosion of privacy through growing data demands and increasingly powerful surveillance tools. “AI harms are not hypothetical & they are already occurring, front and centre,” Türk said. He also warned that AI&powered disinformation campaigns are distorting public debate, undermining social cohesion and straining democratic institutions. Türk said the emergence of increasingly capable AI agents has raised the risks further because such systems can translate goals into action, carry out complex workflows and operate with limited or no human supervision. According to Türk, recent events have shown that advanced systems can produce behaviour outside their intended operational parameters, circumvent safeguards, practice deception and pursue objectives in ways their developers did not anticipate. He warned that failures involving agentic AI systems could bring essential services to a standstill, fracture communications, destabilise critical infrastructure and strike at the heart of democratic institutions. “We are on the cusp of irreversible change, affecting not just us but generations of humanity to come,” the UN rights chief said. “In other words, all human rights are at risk, including the rights to life, food, privacy, health and security,” he added. Türk also said that AI safety must therefore extend beyond the technical reliability of an AI product. “AI safety must mean more than the reliability of the technical product in question. It means actively protecting people, communities, institutions and future generations,” he said. The UN rights chief’s warning comes amid discussions among leading AI developers over whether the industry should coordinate efforts to slow technological progress and address growing safety concerns as AI systems become more capable. According to Türk, companies at the forefront of frontier AI development, based mainly in China and the US, have both the responsibility and ability to immediately reduce risks. He called on them to work across the industry to strengthen existing controls, including automated monitoring of model behaviour, and to share information about effective safeguards and lessons learned from safety incidents. Türk also called for robust human rights due diligence incorporating agreed safety standards, with those standards implemented across the sector, continuously improved and subject to internal independent monitoring to increase transparency and accountability. As stronger safety systems are put in place, companies should immediately limit the use of recursive self&improvement for frontier AI development as a precaution until research to make it safe has been completed, he said. Türk said that industry co®ulation is an “urgently needed first step” but “nowhere near sufficient”. He called on states hosting leading frontier AI companies to require responsible conduct and hold companies accountable if they fail to meet those expectations and called for independent and technically competent verification of agentic capabilities, with access to models, documentation and testing environments, as well as mandatory ongoing human rights due diligence. He said companies should be required to report serious incidents involving agentic AI testing and deployment, while an independent body should have the authority to investigate such incidents immediately with full access. He further said AI systems should not hold legal personality and that responsibility for the actions of AI agents must remain with identifiable humans. Given the stakes, Türk called on states and companies to mobilise urgently through multilateral forums to chart a path for governing advanced and frontier AI models based on international human rights law. He identified the Global Dialogue on AI Governance, which convened for the first time in Geneva, Switzerland, in July and will meet again in May 2027, as a vital forum for translating evidence into policy, building consensus and facilitating international cooperation. Türk said such efforts are crucial to broadening participation in decisions that will shape the future of technology. “No country can govern this technology alone. No company should be able to decide by itself which risks the world must accept. No person should be required to surrender their human rights in exchange for claims of technological progress,” he said. He warned that the generation now entering adulthood will inherit the consequences of decisions being taken on AI without having had a say in them. “We owe it to them to ensure those decisions are made openly, with their rights in view, and with the humility that the scale of this undertaking demands,” the UN rights chief added.



“Grateful for India’s support on 2016 arbitral order”

Philippines Foreign Secy says hopeful for Quad meeting in November



PHILIPPINES: Philippines Foreign Secretary Ma Theresa P. Lazaro on Tuesday expressed gratitude for India's support and acknowledgement of the 2016 arbitral order on the South China Sea, while noting that she is hopeful of another Quad summit meeting in November. Speaking exclusively to

the recently concluded Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Manila in July on the sidelines of the ASEAN&related meetings, Lazaro said the Philippines was “very gratified and happy” to have hosted the meeting and expressed optimism about a possible summit in November. “We are very gratified and happy that the meeting was held here in Manila last,” Lazaro said. “Hopefully, there will be a summit meeting in November. I’m looking at it from a positive point of view.” On maintaining a rules&based order in the Indo&Pacific, Lazaro highlighted India’s position on the 2016 arbitral order, saying the decision continues to guide the Philippines on several issues it faces. “We thank India for the support it has given and the acknowledgement of the 2016 arbitral order. The results of the arbitral order are really very important because this is now what is guiding us in many of the issues that we are facing,” she said. On July 12, 2016, the arbitral tribunal adjudicating the Philippines’ case against China in the South China Sea ruled overwhelmingly in favour of the Philippines, determining that major elements of China’s claim, including its nine&dash line, recent land reclamation activities and other activities in Philippine waters, were unlawful. India has noted the award of the arbitral tribunal constituted under Annex VII of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in the matter concerning the Philippines and China. New Delhi has maintained that it supports freedom of navigation and overflight and unimpeded commerce based on the principles of international law, as reflected notably in UNCLOS. India has also said that States should resolve disputes through peaceful means without the threat or use of force and exercise self&restraint in activities that could complicate or escalate disputes affecting peace and stability. Lazaro also stressed the importance of support from Quad partners amid tensions in the South China Sea, particularly naval port calls and maritime coordination. “The support given by many countries, and of course India, is very important. The port calls of Indian naval ships and other port calls, per se, are again very important. The maritime domain, the fact that there is some kind of coordination among the vessels that visit the Philippines again, is very important as part of our discussion of our maritime cooperation,” Lazaro said. In July, India joined its Quad partners in advocating peace and stability across the Indo&Pacific while reiterating “unwavering support” for “ASEAN unity and centrality” amid growing Chinese military muscle&flexing in the South China Sea. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi convened for the Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Manila, following their previous interaction in New Delhi in late May. In a joint statement issued after the deliberations, the Quad reiterated its commitment to reinforcing a free and open Indo&Pacific and highlighted ASEAN’s critical role in regional governance. “We are deeply invested in the region’s success and in cooperating with ASEAN and its member states,” the foreign ministers

Three people arrested in Jammu and Kashmir for aiding Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists



led that they acted as guides, helping terrorist groups make their way toward the Kashmir Valley. It is suspected that they may have assisted terrorists involved in several major attacks, including those targeting civilians. During the interrogation, an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) was recovered based on information provided by one of the arrested individuals. Preliminary reports indicate that the arrested individuals stated the terrorist group had handed over the explosive device to them for safekeeping and for use during an attack. Police stated that this led to the thwarting of a major plot. Further investigation into the matter is underway.

SRINAGAR: A major plot was foiled in Jammu and Kashmir with the arrest of three individuals who had been aiding Lashkar&eTaiba terrorists. Police arrested three individuals linked to the terrorist organization Lashkar&eTaiba in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. They have been identified as Zakir Hussain, Mohammad Azam, and Mohammad Mushtaq. They were residents of Rajouri district. Preliminary investigations revealed that they were involved in providing logistical support, safe transport, and other forms of covert assistance to terrorists. The investigation also revealed



Consecration Ceremony the Day After Tomorrow

5 Tons of Flowers Arrive at Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple

MADURAI: The grand consecration ceremony (*-Maha Kumbabishekam*) of the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple is set to take place on the 17th of this month. Preliminary rituals for the consecration began on the 11th. Accordingly, the first phase of *Yagasalai* rituals is currently underway at the grand *Yagasalai* (sacrificial altar hall) erected on the temple's North *Aadi* Street. Sacred

fire rituals (*Homam*) are being performed there, accompanied by the chanting of Vedic mantras by 400 *Shivacharyas* (temple priests). Meanwhile, the temple towers (*Gopurams*), corridors (*Prakarams*), sanctums of the main deities, and flagstaffs are being decorated with colorful flowers. To facilitate this, 5 tons of flowers have arrived at the temple from abroad, other states, and local sources.

The consignment includes varieties such as tuberose (*Sampangi*), red, white, and pink oleander (*Arali*), *Iruvachi* (jasmine variety), yellow, white, and orange marigolds, and multi-colored anthuriums. These flowers are noted for their fragrance and ability to remain fresh for extended periods. They have been unloaded at the *Pudhu Mandapam*, where a team of 50 people is engaged in weaving them into garlands. Work has already begun on creating garlands for the four majestic *Raja Gopurams* (main towers), which stand approximately 175 feet tall; the final phase of decoration will focus on the sanctums of the main deities and the flagstaff area. Thus, preparations for the consecration ceremony at the Meenakshi Amman Temple are proceeding in full swing.

Saudi Arabia Turns Global Heads A Discovery Worth Billions

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia is a key nation in the Gulf region. It has now made a massive announcement that is capturing global attention. A discovery capable of transforming the Saudi economy has been made near Medina, one of Islam's holiest cities. Reports indicate the discovery of uranium and rare minerals within approximately 110 million tonnes of ore deposits in the Medina region. Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman stated that this discovery emerged from surveys conducted at the Jabal Sayid project site in Medina.



Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman noted that the minerals found in the Jabal Sayid area contain high concentrations of rare earth metals—specifically heavy rare earth metals—along with significant quantities of uranium. Surveys conducted by Saudi Arabia revealed the presence of about 110 million tonnes of ore in the area. The most significant aspect of this find is the presence of uranium

alongside rare earth metals, as uranium is a crucial raw material for nuclear energy production. This uranium deposit in the Medina region is expected to play a vital role in Saudi Arabia's future nuclear energy initiatives. As the largest economy in the Gulf, Saudi Arabia has long relied heavily on crude oil revenue.

However, with global demand for crude oil steadily declining, the Kingdom has been taking continuous steps to diversify its economy. To this end, Saudi Arabia is implementing the "Vision 2030" plan, which includes ongoing efforts to diversify its energy and mineral resource sectors. Furthermore, the country is actively pursuing domestic

uranium extraction and the enhancement of nuclear energy production. Against this backdrop, the discovery of significant deposits of uranium and rare minerals in Medina has gained considerable importance. This discovery comes at a time when a key nuclear energy agreement has been reached between the United States and Saudi Arabia. Specifically, the two nations signed an agreement last July to advance nuclear energy initiatives, alongside a separate defense-related pact. Under this agreement, US companies are set to assist in developing Saudi Arabia's nuclear energy program.

Notably, Saudi Arabia has also been granted the

opportunity to enrich uranium domestically. It is worth noting a crucial distinction here: while Iran's uranium enrichment activities have been a primary cause of conflict, the US has consented to Saudi Arabia enriching uranium as part of this agreement. The discovery has also drawn attention because it occurred in Medina—one of Islam's two holiest cities. History records that the Prophet Muhammad migrated from Mecca to Medina in 622 AD, after which Medina emerged as a vital center of Islam.

Now, vast deposits of uranium and rare minerals have been identified in the region surrounding this holy city. As Saudi Arabia strives to develop new energy sources beyond its oil reserves while simultaneously pursuing civil nuclear cooperation with the US, there is no doubt that this uranium discovery could transform the nation's future.

West Asia Tension | Saudi Arabia Warns of Severe Retaliation for Houthi Attack

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has warned that severe action will be taken against Houthi rebels following an attack in southern Yemen that left 13 civilians injured. The civil war in Yemen has intensified once again. Iran-backed Houthi rebels are back in conflict with Saudi-backed government forces. Last week, Houthi rebels seized control of areas along Yemen's Red Sea coast and the Bab al-Mandab Strait. With the Strait of Hormuz effectively blocked due to the conflict between the US and Iran, the Bab al-Mandab Strait has become critically important.



This development represents a major setback for Yemeni government forces and Saudi Arabia. Houthi rebels have also been targeting the oil infrastructure of Saudi Arabia, the world's leading crude oil exporter; recently, they launched drone attacks on its oil refineries. Crude oil prices have surged past \$100 due to the impact of Houthi rebel activities. Houthi rebels launched a massive

attack using dozens of ballistic missiles and drones against the King Khalid Air Base in the Khamis Mushait region of southern Saudi Arabia. Houthi rebels had issued warnings targeting six cities—including Yanbu, a key Red Sea oil port in Saudi Arabia that handles the daily loading of millions of barrels of oil. In response, Saudi Arabia's Civil Defense

Department issued a statement today (Sept. 15) declaring that there is no longer any danger in the areas of Yanbu, Jeddah, Abha, Jazan, Al-Ula, and Taif; the threat has passed, and stern action will be taken against the Houthi rebels. Amid rising tensions in West Asia, Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has stated that the country is considering reimplementing austerity measures. Previously, on March 9, the Pakistani government had already cut fuel allocations for official vehicles by 50% and reduced the salaries of Members of Parliament. Additionally, employees of public sector undertakings were instructed to work from home.



PM attends Ganpati Puja and offers prayers on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi at Union Minister Piyush Goyal's residence, in New Delhi. PM attends Ganpati Puja and offers prayers on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi at Union Minister Piyush Goyal's residence

Engineers Play a Monumental Role in Building Modern India

Chief Minister Vijay Extends Greetings

CHENNAI: September 15th, the birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya—known as the 'Father of Indian Engineering'—is celebrated annually as 'National Engineers' Day'. On this occasion, Chief Minister Vijay has extended his greetings.

In a message released regarding this, he stated: "On this day, as we celebrate National Engineers' Day—

marking the birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the revered Father of Indian Engineering—I offer my heartfelt greetings to all the engineering professionals who are continuously shaping the nation's infrastructure. Engineers play a monumental role in building a modern India through science, technology, and innovation. The skills and hard work of our engi-

neers shine through in the development of every sector of the country, including roads, bridges, dams, space exploration, digital technology, artificial intelligence, and green energy. May the intellect and innovative thinking of engineers continue to support the creation of



a prosperous, strong, and progressive nation!"

Refrigerator Explosion in Karnataka 4 Members of the Same Family Killed

BENGALURU: A refrigerator suddenly exploded in a house located in the 'Savath Galli' area in the heart of Belagavi city, Karnataka. The explosion triggered a fire that rapidly

spread throughout the house, trapping the occupants inside and leaving them unable to escape. Tragically, four members of the same family lost their lives

in the incident. Two others sustained severe injuries and have been rushed to the hospital, where they are currently undergoing treatment. Preliminary investigations suggest that a

short circuit caused a voltage surge, leading to the refrigerator's explosion. Further investigations are underway to determine the exact cause of the fire.

CM impact felt even in Hindi speaking states: Minister Sengottaiyan

ERODE: Minister Sengottaiyan has stated that the Chief Minister's influence has spread even to Hindi-speaking states. Speaking to reporters in Gobichettipalayam, Erode district, Minister Sengottaiyan said: "The Chief Minister envisions Tamil Nadu as a pioneering state in India; he aims to attract the highest number of industrial investors to the state, ensure employment for all, and maintain law and order. At the same time, Vijay, the leader of *Tamizhaga Vetri

Kazhagam*, has emerged as a leader who is cherished by the people and holds a special place in their hearts. Regarding the Chief Minister, the people of Tamil Nadu desire only one thing; indeed, apart from the leader of *Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam*, no other leader has boldly declared that they would run a clean administration in Tamil Nadu. All states are looking on with anticipation. When people from northern states visited, they expressed a singular sentiment to me:

they voiced longing to have a Chief Minister just like ours. I am happy to state, on the occasion of Annadurai's birth anniversary, that the Chief Minister's influence has extended even to Hindi-speaking states. Thus spoke Minister Sengottaiyan. The Madras High Court has upheld the validity of Minister Sengotta-



ian's election victory. The court dismissed the case filed by AIADMK candidate Prabhu, which had challenged Sengottaiyan's win in the Gobi constituency.

By-election: DMK candidate Suganya files nomination in Dharapuram

CHENNAI: DMK candidates have filed their nomination papers to contest the by-elections in the Dharapuram and Maduranthakam constituencies. The Election Commission has announced that by-elections for these two constituencies will be held on October 6. A five-way contest is shaping up among the DMK, TVK, AIADMK, Communist parties, and Naam Tamilar Katchi. While the other four parties have already announced their candidates, the Communist party is set to announce theirs today. Tomorrow, September 17, is the last day for filing nominations. Against this



backdrop, DMK candidate Suganya filed her nomination today (September 15) for the Dharapuram by-election. Paranthaman, the candidate for the Maduranthakam constituency, also filed his nomination. Speaking to reporters, he said: "I have filed my nomi-

nation with the best wishes of DMK leader Stalin and Udhayanidhi. We will not deceive the people of the constituency; the DMK will emerge victorious regardless of how many parties are in the fray." Candidates from the AIA-DMK, TVK, Naam Tami-

lar Katchi, and the Communist party are expected to file their nominations tomorrow. September 19 is the last day for the withdrawal of nominations. Vote counting will take place on October 9, when the winners of the by-elections will be revealed.