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Free Trade Agreement with India: Bill passed in New Zealand Parliament

New Zealand signs agreement for $20 billion investment



NEW ZEALAND: The New Zealand Parliament has passed the bill for the Free Trade Agreement with India by a vote of 93 to 29. With the support of the opposition Labour Party, the legislation to implement the agreement was approved. India ranks as New Zealand's ninth&largest export market for goods and services.

From the date the agreement comes into effect, more than half of all goods will be exempt from tariffs.

Under this agreement signed between India and New Zealand, all Indian goods exported to New Zealand will receive 100 percent duty&free access. More than 50 percent of New Zealand's goods will be granted tariff exemptions from the day the agreement becomes operational.

Tariffs on 95 percent of goods will be either reduced or completely eliminated. Wellington has also agreed to invest 20 billion New Zealand dollars (Rs 1 lakh crore) in India over the next 15 years. The free trade agreement between India and New Zealand was concluded on April 27. The Union Ministry of Commerce has announced that this agreement will come into effect on the 19th of next month. New Zealand has also agreed to make investments worth ₹1,91,855 crore (US$ 20 billion) in India over the next 15 years.

Gujarat: Massive Explosion at Chemical Plant



GANDHINAGAR: A massive explosion occurred today at a chemical plant operating in Gujarat. An industrial park is located in the Vagra area of Bharuch district, Gujarat, where numerous factories operate. A chemical plant was functioning within this park. Eight workers were on duty at the plant today, as usual, when a massive explosion suddenly occurred, followed by a fire. Shocked by the incident, the workers quickly evacuated the premises. Upon being alerted to the fire, fire department personnel rushed to the scene and extinguished the blaze. No injuries or casualties were reported. The police are investigating the cause of the fire.



On the occasion of the birth anniversary of S.S. Ramasamy Padayatchiar, the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam paid tribute today by garlanding his statue and showering flowers on his portrait located in Guindy, Chennai.

US charges five linked to Russian intelligence over alleged global murder, terror plots

WASHINGTON: The US Department of Justice has unsealed charges against five individuals allegedly working for Russian intelligence services to carry out attacks and murders around the world, including in the United States.

According to the unsealed indictment issued on Wednesday, the network allegedly recruited and paid individuals in the US and elsewhere to conduct pre-operational surveillance and carry out targeted killings, while also commissioning attacks against civilian and military infrastructure in European countries aligned, or perceived to be aligned, with Ukraine.

The five defendants remain at large, the Justice Department said. "We will not tolerate efforts to finance terrorist activities and engage in acts of violence—particularly when these activities are commissioned by state actors and touch American soil," US Attorney for the Southern District of New York Jamie McDonald said in the statement. "As alleged, the defendants, working for the intelligence services of Russia, conspired to cause destruction and mayhem around the world, including right here in the United States," McDonald added, describing the alleged network as "brazen, aggressive, and far-reaching." US Attorney General Todd Blanche said the Justice Department and FBI were working to prevent America's adversaries from carrying out violence in the country.

"It is our job to stop America's adversaries from unleashing violence and terror on American soil," Blanche said. "And that's precisely what we are doing thanks to the work of the FBI and our Justice Department prosecutors," he added. The defendants named in the indictment are Yuri Khrameev, a former Russian intelligence colonel; his son Kirill Khrameev, identified as an officer in Russia's Federal Security Service; Cuban national Oemis Romagoza Durruthy; Cuban national Yaidel Delgado Suarez, also known as "Viking"; and Venezuelan national Angel Eduardo Castro, according to the Justice Department.

Prosecutors allege that three of the defendants were senior members of what the indictment describes as the Russian Intelligence Services Network, or RIS Network, which allegedly focuses on attacks against Russian dissidents and people in countries perceived as supporting Ukraine.

US Assistant Attorney General for National Security John A Eisenberg said the defendants allegedly operated as part of a global assassination network that reached into the United States. "These defendants allegedly operated as part of a global assassination network that reached into the United States, attempting to recruit U.S. citizens and foreigners to carry out killings at the behest of the Kremlin," Eisenberg said.

The indictment alleges that, during the summer, Suarez recruited a US-based individual to conduct surveillance on a prominent Russian dissident believed to be residing in the United States.

Prosecutors said the individual was offered between USD 1,000 and USD 1,500 for surveillance and was later offered USD 40,000 to "eliminate" or "disappear" the target. According to the indictment, Suarez and Castro also sought to identify someone who could carry out the killing after the recruited individual said he did not want to do it himself. The Justice Department further alleges that the network previously attempted to recruit a US citizen to surveil and kill a person in Lithuania who the network allegedly described as a "bad guy" who was "telling lies about Russia." Prosecutors allege that Yuri Khrameev offered the US citizen approximately USD 25,000 to kill the target and later proposed alternative acts, including setting fire to property or attacking an electrical substation.

The indictment also alleges that Durruthy coordinated logistics for attacks in the Czech Republic and Lithuania in 2024, including travel arrangements and communications with participants.

FBI officials said the alleged operation was disrupted through coordination among multiple field offices and partner agencies. "The FBI disrupted this operation through relentless work and rock-solid partnership," said James C Barnacle Jr, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's New York Field Office. Darren B Cox, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office, said the charges followed efforts to disrupt alleged Russian attempts to conduct violent acts in the United States. "The charges announced today represent the culmination of extraordinary work by multiple FBI field offices, components, and partner agencies that collectively disrupted Russia's attempts to conduct violent acts in our nation's capital and throughout the United States," Cox said.

The defendants are charged with conspiracy to finance terrorism, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Khrameev, Suarez and Castro also face a conspiracy to commit murder for hire charge carrying a maximum penalty of 10 years.

The Justice Department stressed that the charges are allegations and that all five defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

US: News helicopter crashes in LA, killing 3; National Transportation Safety Board to lead investigation

CALIFORINA: A news helicopter crashed in a commercial area of a Los Angeles suburb on Tuesday night, leaving at least three people dead and multiple others injured, according to officials. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will be leading the investigation.

According to CNN, the helicopter working for NBC4 and Telemundo 52 crashed just before 7 p.m. (local time) in Chatsworth, a neighbourhood about 25 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, while it was providing aerial news coverage. The helicopter, identified as NewsChopper4 and operated by Angel City Air, was covering a deadly Metro bus collision in the area when it crashed, according to NBC4's website. NBC4 anchor Colleen Williams confirmed on air that the crash involved its helicopter team after the station earlier reported losing contact with its crew.

"We are deeply saddened to share that a helicopter providing aerial news coverage for NBC4 and Telemundo 52 was involved in a fatal accident in Los Angeles on Tuesday evening," the stations said in a joint statement. "We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of those who lost their lives." According to CNN, three people were determined dead at the scene and at least two others were injured and transported to a hospital. The identities of the victims were not immediately released.

One of the three deceased was a "pedestrian who was outside, in the parking lot," Los Angeles Fire Department Captain Branden Silverman told reporters, according to CNN. Silverman said the Los Angeles Police Department was involved in pulling the person away from the fire.



Silverman said the helicopter was "pretty well destroyed," adding that authorities would have to search through the rubble to identify victims and the helicopter's identification. The crash caused a fire as the helicopter landed near several vehicles and two large cargo containers, according to CNN. The fire was later extinguished, while four vehicles and two storage containers were damaged. More than 70 firefighters responded to the scene. In a post on X, the Los Angeles Police Department said that officers responded on September 15, 2026, at around 6:58 pm (local time) to the area of Lurline Avenue and Nordhoff Street in Chatsworth regarding a reported helicopter crash. https://x.com/LAPDPIO/status/2100066994947248282

"The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will lead the investigation," the LAPD said in the post.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass also said the NTSB will lead the investigation and an investigator is expected to arrive at the scene Wednesday morning. In a post on X, Bass said, "This is a tragic night for Los Angeles. My thoughts are with those impacted by the bus collision and the helicopter crash, and with the entire NBC4 family who lost members of their team while they were doing their jobs." https://x.com/MayorOfLA/status/2100091554459480288

"I'm deeply grateful to our firefighters, paramedics, and police officers who responded immediately to two incredibly difficult scenes to save lives and render aid," she added. "The NTSB will be leading the investigation. Right now, our focus is on the victims, their families and loved ones, and supporting everyone impacted by these tragedies," Bass said. According to CNN, the cause of the crash is unknown, and authorities have not said how many people were aboard the helicopter. The Federal Aviation Administration is also involved in the probe.

FAA records cited by CNN show that the aircraft was a Eurocopter AS350 B2 built in 2004, a single&engine utility helicopter. In a Facebook Post, California Governor Gavin Newsom also expressed condolences to the victims and their families in a Facebook post. "Our hearts are with the victims and families of tonight's devastating Metro bus and helicopter crashes in Chatsworth, and with the entire NBC4 family. Thank you to the first responders working tirelessly tonight," Newsom said. Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors member Lindsey Horvath said there were "serious questions about what happened tonight," according to CNN. "Tonight is not the time to speculate about those answers; tonight is the time to care for the people who are hurting, to support our first responders and to stand together as a community," she added.

Today horoscope

You may feel frustrated that tasks are not being completed as planned. Practice compromise within the family. You will attempt to renovate and expand your ancestral home. Maintain composure at the workplace. Avoid antagonizing your business partner.

You will purchase art objects. The running around caused by matters related to siblings will come to an end. A new job opportunity will arise. You will strive to expand your business, and partners will extend their support. Avoid interfering in others' affairs at the workplace.

You will settle old debts. You will cut down on expenses and begin saving. Your children will act with a sense of responsibility. You will attract cu tomers by employing new strategies in your business. Workload at the office will decrease.

You will feel a sense of satisfaction as you complete tasks according to plan. Efforts regarding marriage will bear fruit. You will attend to and fulfill your sibling's wishes. At the workplace, it is best to focus solely on your own duties.

Your family will accept your advice. You will attend to vehicle repairs. Stubbornness on the part of your children will subside. Avoid antagonizing your superiors at work. Business will be brisk, and competition will decrease.

You will show interest in new ventures. You will fulfill the wishes of your family members. Pending government-related tasks will be concluded. Business partners will be supportive. Avoid complaining to the management about anyone at the workplace.

ou will feel refreshed. You will secure a bank loan. You will adopt a spirit of compromise with your spouse. Trips to your hometown will be invigorating. In business, you will meet prominent figures. You will locate an important document you had been searching for at the workplace.

It is best to act with composure in all matters. Heeding the advice of elders in the family will be beneficial. Old stock may accumulate in your business; you will attempt to attract customers by employing new strategies. Your stature at the workplace will rise.

You will amicably resolve past issues through dialogue. The health of your spouse and children will improve. You will sell ancestral property, such as a house, plot, or agricultural land. You will seek experienced staff for your business. Your hard work will be valued at the workplace.

You will respect the feelings of your family members. You will gain benefits through government-related matters. You will settle outstanding debts. Your interest in yoga and spirituality will increase. At the workplace, it is best to focus solely on your own tasks. Business activity will pick up momentum.

You will renew friendships by attending functions at the homes of old friends. Your suggestions will be accepted at home. Outstanding dues will be collected in your business. You will be recommended for a new position at work, and superiors will appreciate you.

You will charm those around you with your realistic and engaging conversation. Harmony between you and your spouse will increase. Relatives and old friends will come to visit you. You will have the opportunity to meet prominent people in a professional context. Business will be profitable, and you may acquire a new agency.

Chief Minister Vijay's event in London cancelled due to security reasons



LONDON: A scheduled event in London where Vijay was set to appear was cancelled due to security reasons.

Vijay had traveled to London to attract investments to Tamil Nadu and participated in various events.

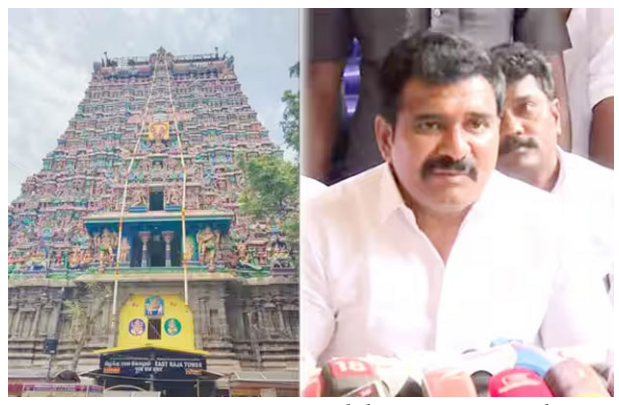
During this visit, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹12,300 crore were signed. Subsequently, an event was organized for Vijay to meet fans in a public space in front of 'The Shard,' London's tallest building.

However, an overwhelming crowd gathered to see him. Consequently, the police cancelled the event as a security precaution.

This has caused disappointment among the fans who had gathered to see him. Vijay's team announced via loudspeakers that the event was being cancelled due to security concerns and the lack of police permission.

Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple Consecration Arrangements

2,000 Passes for Devotees Minister Nirmal Kumar



MADURAI: Minister Nirmal Kumar stated that excellent arrangements have been made for the Meenakshi Amman Temple consecration ceremony and that 2,000 passes have been issued to devotees. To prevent overcrowding during the consecration ceremony, roadside stalls in the temple vicinity have been banned until September 18. Preparations for the event, scheduled for tomorrow, are complete, and a committee comprising officials from all relevant departments has been formed. Passes have been issued to 2,000 people to witness the consecration.

I have not interfered in the matter of passes. Police security operations will intensify from 2:00 PM today, and security drills are being conducted along the routes used by devotees. There is no obstruction to the functioning of the temple trustees; we will address and resolve their requirements through dialogue. No one has interfered in the pass&related matters; entry will be granted based on inspections by the Public Works Department.

Restrictions have been imposed solely to ensure the public can visit without difficulty. The goal is to conduct the consecration ceremony successfully, and arrangements have been made with the needs of the devotees in mind. Minister Nirmal Kumar stated this.

Two people, including a woman of Indian origin, killed in New York train accident



NEW YORK: Malaika Chithre (24), a woman of Indian origin, resided in Dayton, New Jersey. She and her friend, Navam Kaul (from Nepal), had graduated from Rutgers University in the area and were living and working in the United States. Last Sunday, the two visited a subway station in Lower Manhattan. While attempting to cross the railway tracks, they were struck by an oncoming train and died at the scene.

Their bodies were subsequently recovered and taken to a hospital. The *New York Post* reported that Navam Kaul had accidentally fallen onto the tracks, and Malaika Chithre was caught in the accident while attempting to rescue him. Navam Kaul had completed his studies at the Rutgers Business School, part of Rutgers University. Similarly, Malaika Chitre completed her Bachelor of Science degree at the Rutgers&New Brunswick School of Arts and Sciences in 2024. She has worked as an Operations Specialist at Acadia Pharmaceuticals and as a Data Analyst at Navam Kaul Bloomberg.

BJP wins 4,179 wards in Rajasthan local body elections; Congress wins 3,613

NEW DELHI: Elections were held in two phases for a total of 10 municipal corporations, 51 municipal councils, and 248 municipalities in Rajasthan, a state governed by the BJP. A total voter turnout of 74.05% was recorded across the two phases held on September 9 and 11. The election results were announced on Monday.

Of these, the BJP secured 4,179 wards, while the Congress won 3,613.

The BJP achieved significant victories in Jaipur, Kota, Udaipur, and Bhilwara, whereas the Congress secured the majority of wards in Ajmer, Bikaner, and Pali. Independent candidates and other parties won 2,436 wards. Nineteen candidates from former UP Chief Minister Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) were victorious. This election was viewed as a test for the 20&month&old administration led by BJP Chief Minister Bhajanlal; the results indicate a victory for the Bhajanlal government.

Several key BJP leaders failed to secure victories in their respective wards. The BJP suffered a defeat in Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat's ward.

The party could not secure a majority in Jhalawar, considered the stronghold of former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje. It also failed to gain a majority in the Bharatpur Municipal Corporation, the district of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma. Furthermore, the BJP faced defeat in Pali, the stronghold of state party president Madan Rathore.



Similarly, the Congress party lost in the ward where former Rajasthan Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot resides; the BJP's victory in Gehlot's ward marks a significant turn of events.

The BJP also won Ward No. 97 of the Jaipur Municipal Corporation, where former Union Minister Sachin Pilot resides.

However, the Congress achieved a resounding victory in Tonk, Pilot's constituency.

'Gen Z' voters—those aged 21 to 22—have made a significant impact in this election. Young candidates have achieved resounding victories in various wards across Jaipur and Alwar. BJP's 21&year&old candidate Neha Sharma won in Alwar's Danakali ward, while Congress's 22&year&old Faiz Ahmed secured a victory in Jaipur's Ward No. 71.

Number of Polling Stations to Increase by 46% in 2029 Lok Sabha Elections



NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India has announced that the number of polling stations will increase by 46 percent for the upcoming 2029 Lok Sabha elections. Information regarding the 2029 Lok Sabha elections was sought under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

In its response, the Election Commission stated that 10.52 lakh polling stations were set up across the country during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. For the 2029 elections, 15.38 lakh polling stations will be established. Consequently, the number of polling stations will see a 46 percent increase compared to the previous election.

During the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Commission possessed 14.88 lakh Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and 11.30 lakh Control Units. Currently, the inventory stands at 30.48 lakh EVMs and 21.92 lakh Control Units. It is customary to replace old Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with new ones before each election. Accordingly, 3.57 lakh EVMs and 1.25 lakh control units are set to be decommissioned. In their place, new EVMs and VVPAT units will be procured at a cost of ₹486 crore for the 2029 elections.

september 16 Islamabad *2026*

Imran Khan languishes in prison; his first wife marries a millionaire financier



Imran Khan, the former captain of the Pakistan cricket team and former Prime Minister, is currently imprisoned in the country on corruption charges. There have been persistent allegations that he is being mistreated in prison, and rumors regarding his death circulate from time to time. Amidst this, Imran Khan's first wife has remarried at the age of 52. Imran Khan has been married three times in total. His first wife is Jemima Goldsmith, a film producer; he married her in 1995, and they subsequently divorced in 2004. He then married journalist Reham Khan on January 8, 2015; that marriage ended on October 22, 2015, with the couple divorcing. Later, in 2018, Imran Khan married a spiritual guide named Bushra Bibi. Currently, Bushra Bibi is also imprisoned alongside Imran Khan in connection with the corruption case. Meanwhile, Jemima Goldsmith, Imran Khan's first wife, is now 52 years old. Born in London, the British capital, she currently resides there. The couple had two sons: Sulaiman and Qasim. Both hold British citizenship. She has recently been voicing opinions in support of Imran Khan and against Pakistan's Army Chief, Asim Munir. She also garnered attention for speaking out on social media against Imran Khan's imprisonment. It is against this backdrop that Jemima Goldsmith has entered into her second marriage. She has tied the knot with Cameron O'Reilly, a wealthy tycoon. Her husband, Cameron, is a financier; aged 62, he was born in Ireland and is a businessman based in Australia. Jemima Goldsmith is a film producer by profession, a role that led to her acquaintance with Cameron O'Reilly. That acquaintance blossomed into romance, culminating in their marriage. Jemima's family has confirmed the wedding. Jemima Jones—the wife of Jemima's brother, Ben—shared the news on Instagram, stating, "The wedding of Jemima [Imran Khan's first wife] and Cameron was a grand affair; it was a truly happy day."

Rajasthan Local Body Elections

Son Wins by a Margin of One Vote the Day After His Mother's Death

JAIPUR: A son won an election by a margin of a single vote just one day after his mother passed away—having cast her vote in the Rajasthan local body elections. Local body elections in Rajasthan were held in two phases, and the votes were counted on Monday. In Ward No. 6 of the Nadbai Municipality in Bharatpur district, independent candidate Jagdish Prasad secured victory by a margin of one vote (151 to 150) over the BJP's Ramsharan. While a fierce contest was anticipated in this ward, no one had imagined the margin would be this narrow. However, when the results were declared, Jagdish Prasad's home—which should have been a place for distributing celebratory sweets—instead became a place where condolences were offered. Consequently, Jagdish Prasad could not celebrate his victory, as his mother had passed away the day after casting her vote. A notable aspect of this situation is that had his mother died before voting, the validity of Jagdish's victory might have been called into question. Thus, a mother's final act as a citizen may well have paved the way for her son's victory. Some election results are determined by the numbers, while others are remembered for entirely different reasons.

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Last night, marking the first day of the Brahmotsavam, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, accompanied by his wife, offered silk garments to the deity on behalf of the state government. Earlier, he offered prayers at the Bedi Anjaneyar Temple, located opposite the main temple in Tirumala.

"Raid at Anbil Mahesh's home is a diversionary tactic and an act of political vendetta" M.K. Stalin

CHENNAI: DMK President M.K. Stalin has stated that the raid being conducted at the residence of Anbil Mahesh is yet another diversionary tactic and an act of political vendetta. In a post shared on his X (formerly Twitter) page regarding this, he noted:

"The Chief Minister is busy with a film shoot in London, ignoring the issues shaking the state—such as protests across Tamil Nadu over power outages, the agitation by Pattinapakkam fishermen, the protest outside the Secretariat by relatives of those missing in Nepal who have received no proper answers, public distress over the shortage of Aavin milk, the double murder in Ramanathapuram, the beating to death of a government bus driver during the Vinayaka Chaturthi procession in Chennai, and the harassment of a female police officer by a TVK functionary in Ayanavaram.

Frustrated by its inability to resolve these issues, the incompetent TVK government has deployed the weapon of a raid against



former Minister Anbil Mahesh to divert public attention. We will legally confront this blatant act of political vendetta. Raiding the opposition will not quell public anger. This government will soon realize that false allegations cannot stand up in the eyes of the law."

Meanwhile, the Central Crime Branch police arrested P.T. Arasakumar for allegedly swindling ₹100 crore from private school administrators.

Arasakumar, who ran an unregistered association named the 'Tamil Nadu Private Schools Association' in Saligramam, Chennai, had claimed he could secure permanent recognition, school upgrades, DTCP and CMDA approvals, and other statutory clearances for private schools by leveraging his political and official connections.

Police from the Chennai Central Crime Branch have been conducting a search since this morning at the residence of former School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh in Thennur, Trichy, in connection with this case. Meanwhile, DMK leader M.K. Stalin has strongly condemned this search operation.

₹1.88 crore seized at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport



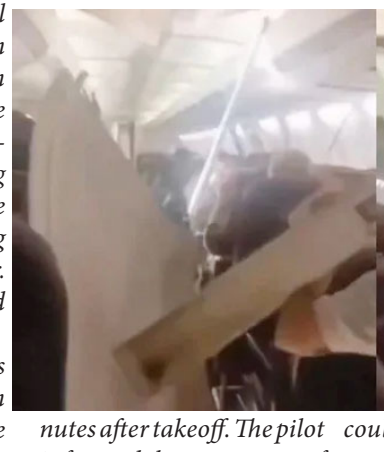


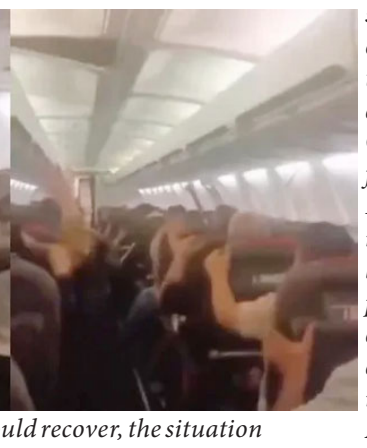
NEW DELHI: Three capsules containing gold worth ₹1.88 crore were seized from a Bangladeshi passenger at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport. Following reports of a suspected gold smuggling attempt at the airport, officials from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and Customs conducted a search and recovered three capsules containing gold valued at ₹1.88 crore from the passenger. The search revealed that the capsules had been secretly concealed inside the underwear the passenger was wearing. The gold inside the capsules was in the form of a chemical paste.

Customs officials have seized the contraband and are currently interrogating the passenger; an investigation is underway to determine who else might be involved.

Mid air panic: Passengers scream as plane tire detaches and ceiling collapses

THERAN: A technical malfunction occurred on a flight departing from an Iranian airport when a tire suddenly detached. A shocking video has emerged showing the plane shaking and the ceiling collapsing, causing passengers to scream in terror. Mashhad Airport is located in northeastern Iran.





A Sepehran Airlines Boeing 737 departed from this airport bound for the city of Kermanshah, carrying both crew and passengers. A technical issue arose just minutes after takeoff. The pilot informed the passengers of the malfunction, leaving them shocked. Before they could recover, the situation worsened; the plane began to shake violently, luggage fell from the overhead bins, and a section of the ceiling collapsed. Terrified, the passengers screamed and prayed to God for salvation, fearing for their lives. Realizing that continuing the flight could lead to further complications, the pilot decided to land the aircraft. He chose to return to Mashhad Airport, the point of departure.

Air traffic control was notified, and the plane landed safely, averting a major disaster. A few passengers sustained minor injuries, but fortunately, there were no serious casualties.

The passengers were subsequently flown to Kermanshah on a different aircraft. Preliminary investigations revealed that a tire had detached from the landing gear, triggering the sudden technical malfunction and the violent shaking. Moreover, media reports indicate that parts of the roof at the airport collapsed when the aircraft landed.

150 Special Buses Daily to Tirupati for Brahmotsavam



CHENNAI: The Transport Department has announced that 150 special buses will be operated daily from Tamil Nadu to Tirupati starting tomorrow until September 30, in connection with the Brahmotsavam festival. A statement regarding this was issued by the Managing Director of the State Express Transport Corporation (SETC): The Brahmotsavam festival is set to take place at Tirumala, Tirupati, this year. To cater to the needs of devotees, the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporations will operate 150 special buses daily from tomorrow until September 30. These buses will run between Tirupati and various locations—including Chennai, Trichy, Thanjavur, Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai, Karaikudi, Kumbakonam, Nagapattinam, Sengottai, Puducherry, Tirupattur, Tiruvannamalai, Kanchipuram, Tambaram, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Harur, and Hosur—in both directions. Advance booking facilities are available for buses operating from Trichy, Thanjavur, Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai, Karaikudi, Kumbakonam, Nagapattinam, Sengottai, and Puducherry. Devotees are encouraged to utilize this service by booking their tickets through the www.tnstc.in website or the TNSTC mobile app.



The Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia addressing at release of the commemorative postage stamp in the sacred memory of revered saint Shri Malukdas Ji Maharaj at Talkatora Stadium, in New Delhi on September

Tiruvannamalai Constituency

DMK Candidate E.V. Velu's Election Upheld by Madras High Court



CHENNAI: The Madras High Court has dismissed the election petition filed against Tiruvannamalai DMK MLA E.V. Velu. Former Minister E.V. Velu, who contested from the Tiruvannamalai constituency in the recent Assembly elections, was declared the winner with a margin of 2,455 votes.

Arul Arumugam, a candidate from the TVK party, had filed an election petition in the Madras High Court challenging Velu's victory. A petition seeking the dismissal of this case was filed on behalf of E.V. Velu. Upon hearing the matter, Justice D. Bharatha Chakravarthy dismissed Arul Arumugam's election petition, stating that there were no grounds to proceed with the case. It is noteworthy that the Madras High Court had previously dismissed election petitions filed against TVK MLA Ilaiyaraja, Jayakumar (who resigned after being elected from the Perundurai constituency), Gobichettipalayam MLA Sengottaiyan, and Coimbatore South DMK MLA Senthil Balaji.

Former Andhra Deputy Chief Minister Alla Nani passes away due to heart attack



AMARAVATI: Alla Krishna Srinivas, popularly known as Alla Nani—the former Deputy Chief Minister and former Health Minister of Andhra Pradesh—has passed away following a heart attack. He was 56 years old. Political leaders, including Andhra Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, have expressed their condolences over his sudden demise.

Nara Lokesh, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) General Secretary and Minister for Information Technology, also conveyed his condolences. In his message, he described Alla Nani as someone who interacted affectionately with everyone and stayed away from controversies. Alla Nani had served as Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister during the previous YSR Congress administration. In the 2024 Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections, he was defeated by Telugu Desam Party candidate P. Radhakrishnayya in the Eluru constituency. Subsequently, he left the YSR Congress Party and joined the Telugu Desam Party. Alla Nani's passing has caused deep sorrow within Andhra's political circles.

Individual arrested for making bomb threat to Puducherry Secretariat

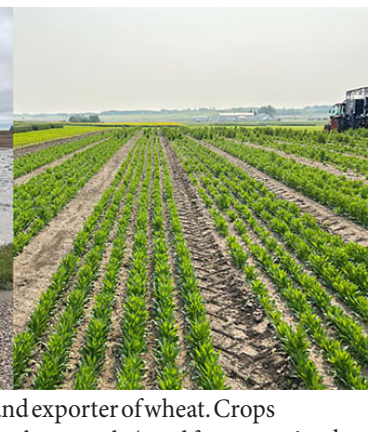


PUDHUCHERRY: Police have arrested a man from Chennai in connection with a bomb threat made to the Puducherry Secretariat. The N.R. Congress party, led by Chief Minister Rangasamy, is currently in power in Puducherry. Amidst this, an unidentified person issued a bomb threat targeting the Secretariat located on Beach Road. Upon receiving this information, the Gorimedu police initiated an investigation. Bomb disposal experts, assisted by sniffer dogs, conducted a thorough search of the Secretariat complex and its offices.

Personnel from the Fire and Rescue Services also arrived to assist in the search operations. The search revealed that the bomb threat was merely a hoax. The Gorimedu police arrested Seshashailashan (40), a native of Chennai, in connection with the incident. An investigation is underway to determine the motive behind the threat.

Heavy Rains in Canada; Crops Rotting Across Thousands of Acres



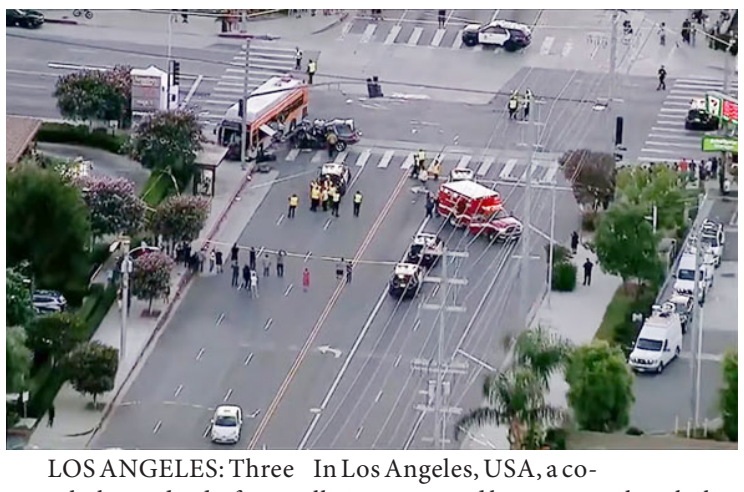


TORONTO: Heavy rainfall in Canada has put crops across thousands of acres at risk of rotting. Canada is a leading producer and exporter of wheat. Crops such as canola (used for mustard oil) and premium-quality wheat are currently ready for harvest in the country. However, unseasonal heavy rains have severely disrupted harvesting operations. Water stagnation in the fields has created a risk of crop rot, leaving farmers struggling to harvest their produce. Since August, these crops have remained submerged, making harvesting impossible. Consequently, there are concerns that canola and wheat crops worth lakhs of rupees, cultivated across thousands of acres, could go to waste, resulting in significant financial losses for farmers. Nevertheless, since conditions where frost sets in and the soil freezes typically occur in November, farmers remain hopeful that there is still time to complete the harvest. However, in some areas, crops like wheat have lost their color due to the rain or have been washed away by the water. There are also fears that fungal infections may be spreading among some of the crops.



20 NCC Girl Cadets successfully complete 'Aparajita - Parang La 2026' High Altitude Long Trek, in Ladakh

Helicopter Crashes During Live TV Coverage; 3 Dead



LOS ANGELES: Three people have died after a helicopter crashed during live television coverage. In Los Angeles, USA, a collision occurred between a Metro bus and a luxury car near Northridge Street in the San Fernando Valley area. Two people died and several others were injured in this accident; rescue operations are currently underway. Fire department personnel and police officers had arrived at the scene.

Meanwhile, a helicopter belonging to a television station flew over the accident site to film and broadcast live footage of the bus crash. While the helicopter was being used to film the bus accident, it suddenly crashed, plummeting between two buildings. One person on the ground was killed in the incident. However, the fire department stated that details regarding the number of people on board the helicopter—or their identities—were not immediately available. The circumstances surrounding the crash remain unknown, and police officials are investigating the matter.

Saudi Arabia Thwarts Houthi Drone Attack Targeting Mecca

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has announced that a drone attack launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeting Mecca, the holy city for Muslims, was thwarted. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation has strongly condemned this attack.

Amidst the escalating civil war in Yemen, clashes have intensified between Iran&backed Houthi rebels and Saudi&backed government forces. The Houthi rebels have also been carrying out attacks targeting Saudi Arabia.

In this context, Turki Al&Maliki, a spokesperson, stated that Houthi rebels launched a drone attack targeting Mecca yesterday (Sept. 15) but the attempt was foiled. He said that Saudi Arabia's air defense system intercepted and destroyed the Houthi drone south of Mecca before it could enter restricted airspace. Following this attempted attack, a red alert was issued—and subsequently withdrawn—for residents in Saudi Arabia's western coastal areas, including Mecca, Jeddah, and Taif. Such an alert regarding potential airstrikes on these areas was unprecedented.

The Israeli newspaper *Hayom* reported that, due to this attack, air traffic to the Prince Mohammad Bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Medina was also suspended.

On the 14th, Houthi rebels launched an attack on Saudi Arabia from Yemen using ballistic missiles and drones, leaving 13 people injured. Following this, an attempt was made to attack Mecca. The Islamic coalition, comprising 57 member nations, has strongly condemned this attack by Houthi rebels.

Commenting on the matter, Turki Al&Maliki, spokesperson for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), stated, "This is a heinous attack. The safety of the Two Holy Mosques and the pilgrims is of paramount importance; these are inviolable sites. The OIC will not hesitate to take all necessary measures to prevent attacks by Houthi rebels."

Meanwhile, Houthi rebels have denied allegations that a drone attack was attempted against Mecca. Hashem Al&Asad, a member of the Houthi political wing, stated that the accusation of targeting Mecca is a "worn&out lie" used previously and that it would no longer deceive anyone. Earlier this week, drone attacks launched by the Houthis targeting Saudi Arabian oil facilities caused fires at several sites, injuring 73 people. Additionally, the Houthis carried out large&scale attacks using dozens of ballistic missiles and drones against the King Khalid Air Base in Khamis Mushait. They have also been targeting Saudi Arabian vessels in the Red Sea. Consequently, hostilities between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia have intensified.



The advance of Houthi rebels has become a major threat to the vital shipping lanes of the Red Sea. Qatar has warned that the closure of the Bab al&Mandab Strait would lead to dire consequences. Ibrahim Al&Hashmi, an official from the Qatari Foreign Ministry, has stated that closing the strait would spell disaster for the entire world.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has rejected a request from the Saudi Crown Prince to intervene in the conflict. Trump stated that the Houthis had contacted him last Saturday and asked him not to intervene.

Details of 'Hawala' money transfers to Dubai found in Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter's diary

Sensational revelations



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Bribery allegations have been raised against former Kerala Chief Minister and current Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan, as well as his daughter, Veena Vijayan.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted an investigation into this matter.

Following the probe, the ED stated that Exalogic Solutions—a company owned by Veena—received monthly payments from the mineral firm CMRL without providing any services in return. Furthermore, the ED indicated that Pinarayi Vijayan and his son-in-law, MLA and former minister Mohammed Riyas, were linked to this affair. A change of government occurred while this issue—which had caused a stir in Kerala—was under investigation. Subsequently, on May 27, the ED conducted raids at the residences of Pinarayi Vijayan and Mohammed Riyas; it was reported that key documents were seized during these operations.

TVK will achieve a historic victory in the by election: Minister Sengottaiyan



TIRUPUR: Minister Sengottaiyan stated that the number of TVK MLAs would increase and that the party would achieve a historic victory in the by&election. TVK candidate Sathyabama, contesting the Dharapuram by&election, filed her nomination papers accompanied by Ministers Anand, Sengottaiyan, Arunraj, Vijayalakshmi, and Vijay Balaji. Speaking to reporters afterwards, Minister Sengottaiyan said: "The by&election result will not merely be a victory; it will be a historic one, paving the way for an increase in the number of TVK MLAs. We will deliver this historic victory to Chief Minister Vijay. We will all work tirelessly, day and night, to secure the fruit of victory for him."

Minister Anand added, "Chief Minister Vijay will certainly come for the election campaign; the date will be announced later." Minister Arunraj stated: "For the past 60 or 70 years, no one believed it was possible to run a corruption&free administration; people thought it would never happen.

We are delivering a pro&people, corruption&free government. We are not thinking about the next election; Chief Minister Vijay is planning for the long term with the next generation in mind. We must strengthen the Chief Minister's hands, and this is a great opportunity to do so; in our very first election, we contested alone and secured 35 percent of the votes."

Telangana: Father and son arrested for cultivating cannabis plants worth ₹1.5 crore on a 10 acre farm



HYDERABAD: A father and son have been arrested for cultivating cannabis plants worth ₹1.5 crore across 10 acres of farmland in Telangana.

The farm is located in Nagolkonda village, within the limits of the Jainoor police station in the Asifabad area, near the borders of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. Cannabis plants were being cultivated on this land. Acting on a tip&off, the police conducted an investigation. During a vehicle check on the Patnapur road, they questioned Ambure Pundalik (aged 50).

Upon questioning him on suspicion, it was discovered that he was concealing 11 grams of dried cannabis in a piece of cloth; the police seized the contraband. Subsequently, they raided his farm and uprooted 1,245 cannabis plants. The police stated that the value of the seized plants was ₹1.50 crore. Both he and his son, Ambure Ramesh, were arrested. They had been cultivating cannabis as an intercrop alongside cotton.

The police reported that it took ten hours of effort to uproot the cannabis plants. Investigations are currently underway from various angles, including identifying the person who instructed him to cultivate the cannabis and uncovering others involved in the operation.

Ramasamy Padayachiar's 109th Birth Anniversary

Chief Minister Vijay and Political Leaders Pay Tribute



CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay, DMK President M.K. Stalin, AMMK General Secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran, and others have paid tribute on the occasion of the birth anniversary of freedom fighter and former minister Ramasamy Padayachiar.

In a post on his X (formerly Twitter) page, Chief Minister Vijay stated, "On the birth anniversary of S.S. Ramasamy Padayachiar—a freedom fighter and former minister who tirelessly championed social justice and the rights of the backward classes—I honor his memory and his immense service to the people. The service he rendered and the initiatives he undertook—fighting for people's rights and prioritizing education, social progress, and equal rights—have left an indelible mark on the political landscape of Tamil Nadu. Let us celebrate his public welfare work on this day."

DMK President M.K. Stalin, in a social media post, wrote, "I gratefully recall the contributions of Ramasamy Padayachiar on his birth anniversary; he was a great leader who served the public in roles such as Member of the Legislative Assembly

, Member of Parliament, and Minister, and was a social justice warrior who fought for the rights of the backward classes.

The DMK government honored him by acceding to his request to constitute a Backward Classes Commission headed by A.N. Sattanathan and by erecting a statue of him in Guindy, Chennai.

I pay my tribute to Ramasamy Padayachiar, who advocated for the rights of the working people." In a statement, AMMK General Secretary TTV Dhinakaran noted,

"Today marks the birth anniversary of S.S. Ramasamy Padayatchiar, a freedom fighter who tirelessly championed the cause of education, employment, and economic advancement for the downtrodden and socially backward sections of society. Let us honor and pay tribute to the immense contributions of S.S. Ramasamy Padayatchiar, who dedicated half a century of public life—serving as an MLA, MP, and Minister—to the principles of equality, social justice, and public welfare."

Tributes by AIADMK Members: On the occasion of the 109th birth anniversary of S.S. Ramasamy Padayatchiar—a freedom fighter, distinguished politician, former Minister, and former Member of Parliament—AIADMK representatives paid their respects at his statue in Guindy, Chennai.

Party Presidium Chairman and former Tamil Nadu Waqf Board Chairman Dr. A. Tamilmagan Hussain, along with former Ministers Ponnaian, D. Jayakumar, and B. Valarmathi, garlanded the statue and showered flower petals on his portrait, which had been decorated at the base.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday arrived in Paro, Bhutan, as part of his official visit to the country from September 16-17, saying he looks forward to engagements aimed at advancing India's "unique ties of friendship" with Bhutan.

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