

Developed countries emit high levels of carbon

NEW DELHI: "Our country's per capita carbon emission is less than half the global average. Developed nations emit six times more carbon than India. Developing nations are being unfairly blamed in this matter," expressed Prime Minister Narendra Modi. An international conference titled 'The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics' began in Delhi yesterday. Seventeen nations are participating in this two-day conference organized by the National Green Tribunal.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi concerned

Inaugurating the event, Prime Minister Modi said: The responsibility for carbon emissions is often unfairly placed on developing nations. However, the reality is that even today, India's per capita carbon emission remains less than half the global average. Per capita carbon emissions in developed nations are six times higher than in India. India has been strongly highlighting this fact on global platforms. India is collabor-

rating with other nations to establish new standards for environmental protection. Our growth is not only rapid but also sustainable. Over the past 12 years, India has achieved remarkable progress in every sector related to the environment. Great emphasis is being placed on renewable energy, which plays a pivotal role in environmental protection. India is the only G20 nation to have fulfilled the



pledges made at the 'CO-P&21' summit in Paris ahead of the stipulated deadline. India's efforts regarding no-

Twelve years ago, India's solar power generation capacity stood at 2 gigawatts; today, it has crossed 160 gigawatts. Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Free Electricity Scheme,' rooftop solar panels have been installed on more than 50 lakh (5 million) homes. This figure exceeds the total number of households in many countries. Under this scheme, the government provides ₹80,000 per household. Over the past 12 years, the

country's wind power generation capacity has tripled, and hydroelectric capacity has also increased.

The nation is making rapid strides in nuclear power generation as well. Recently, India's first hydrogen train was launched; it is the longest hydrogen train in the world. This marks the beginning of a new era in clean energy transportation. Prior to 2014, only 3,000 electric vehicles were sold

annually in India. Last year, 25 lakh (2.5 million) electric vehicles were sold. These vehicles are highly beneficial for the environment. A ban has already been imposed in India on single-use plastics. The Central Government is promoting a circular economy based on the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle. Today, thousands of tonnes of waste are recycled daily in India. For centuries, India has been guiding the world on matters related to nature and the environment. He spoke in this manner.

PM Modi Hands Over Appointment Letters to 51,000 Individuals

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 20th 'Rozgar Mela' (Job Fair) and urged the new recruits to prioritize the public interest while serving the citizens. The 20th Rozgar Mela, organized by the Central Government, was held simultaneously at 45 locations across the country yesterday.

Appointment letters were issued to over 51,000 youths joining various Central Government ministries and departments—including Revenue and Financial Services, Railways, Home Affairs, Health and Family Welfare, and Defence. Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the event via video conferencing. With these new appointments, the total number of appointment letters issued under the Rozgar Mela initiative has risen to approximately 12.75 lakh.

Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Modi said, "I extend my congratulations to the new recruits joining



Central Government departments and to their families." New recruits will play a pivotal role in building a developed and self-reliant India, with the goal of transforming the nation into a developed country by 2047. Public trust is the government's true strength. Pensioners, students awaiting scholarships, and farmers expecting the benefits of government welfare schemes—among others—primarily interact with the government through its officials. Your conduct, consistent performance, competence, and integrity will determine the quality of the service experi-

ence the government delivers to the people. New recruits must take steps to eliminate the difficulties faced by individuals and their families in accessing government services.

Initiatives such as the National Education Policy, Skill India, the Prime Minister's Skill Development Scheme, and expanded vocational training opportunities help align education and skills with industry requirements. Under the Prime Minister's Skill Development and Employability Transformation Scheme (PM&SETU), 1,000 Government Industrial Tr-

aining Institutes (ITIs) are being modernized, with an investment of ₹60,000 crore. Fifty percent of recognized start-ups in India are located in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. This demonstrates the growing contribution of individuals from smaller towns to entrepreneurship and job creation.

The 'Prime Minister's Developed India Employment Scheme,' being implemented with an outlay of approximately ₹1 lakh crore, will support the creation of new employment opportunities. Free trade agreements concluded with approximately 40 countries will create new markets and trade partnerships for Indian entrepreneurs, as well as generate new employment opportunities. Prime Minister Modi stated that new government employees should view their work as a service to the nation and discharge their duties with an approach prioritizing competence, integrity, and the needs of the citizens.



A distinguished international seminar was successfully held at the renowned Australian Curtin University, located in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al Kindi, the former Minister of Environment and Water of the United Arab Emirates, participated in the seminar as a special guest and delivered a keynote address.

Rs. 20,000 Festival Advance for All TASM MAC Employees Tamil Nadu Government Announces

CHENNAI: Various announcements regarding the TASM MAC administration have been issued in Tamil Nadu recently. Key announcements, including salary hikes for TASM MAC employees, were released just a short while ago. Amidst this, the Tamil Nadu government has issued another significant announcement: an advance of Rs. 20,000 will be provided to employees working in TASM MAC shops to cover festival-related expenses. The TASM MAC administration has released an official circular regarding this. This advance is interest-free and will be recovered in equal installments from the employees' salaries over a period of 10 months. The

demand for a festival advance had long been raised by TASM MAC employees and various trade unions. Following the approval of this proposal by the TASM MAC administration, the Minister for Prohibition and Excise announced the decision in the Legislative Assembly. Guidelines for implementing this announcement have now been issued. An annual festival advance of Rs. 20,000 will be provided to all eligible employees working in TASM MAC retail outlets. No interest will be charged on this amount. Furthermore, employees may choose the specific festival for which they wish to receive the advance; options include Pongal, Diwali,

Christmas, Ramzan, and Bakrid. This advance can be availed only once a year. A subsequent advance will be granted only after the full amount of the previously availed advance has been recovered from the employee's salary. Employees wishing to avail of the advance must submit a written request to the District Manager during the month preceding the chosen festival. An advance of ₹20,000 will be provided along with the salary of the month preceding the chosen festival. For employees who do not apply for an advance for any specific festival, the Pongal festival advance will be disbursed along with their December salary. This amount

will be credited directly to the same bank account where the employee's salary is deposited. Starting from the month following the receipt of the advance, the amount will be recovered from the salary in 10 equal monthly installments of ₹2,000 each. For instance, if the Pongal advance is received with the December salary, the recovery of ₹2,000 per month will take place from January to October of the following year, ensuring the full ₹20,000 is collected. It is further stated that if an employee leaves service or retires before the entire amount is repaid, the outstanding balance will be deducted in a single installment from any dues payable to them.

Chief Minister Vijay to Visit Switzerland in January; To Attend World Economic Forum Meeting

CHENNAI: Reports indicate that Chief Minister Vijay will participate in the World Economic Forum meeting scheduled to be held in Davos, Switzerland, this coming January. The Tamil Nadu government has set a target to transform the state into a \$1.5 trillion economy by 2036.

Various measures are being undertaken to attract investors from both within the country and abroad to achieve this goal. Accordingly, within the first 100 days of the TVK administration, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with



104 companies, attracting investments worth ₹1,02,514 crore. Subsequently, Chief Minister Vijay undertook a trip to London from September 10 to 17. During this visit, MoUs worth ₹15,300 crore in investments were signed with leading global

business entities.

Amidst these developments, reports have emerged that Chief Minister Vijay will attend the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland, in January. Over 100 Countries... Speaking on this matter, officials from

the Secretariat stated, "The World Economic Forum's annual meeting is scheduled to take place in Davos & Klosters, Switzerland, from January 18 to 22 next year. Government representatives from over 100 countries, along with representatives from 1,000 leading global companies, international organizations, and social organizations, are set to participate. Chief Minister Vijay will attend this conference—where global industrial investment will be discussed—with the aim of attracting investments to Tamil Nadu."

Another silver for India Elavenil shines by winning two medals in a single day



NOGOYA: India has secured another medal. Elavenil has impressed by winning silver in the 10m air rifle event. The Asian Games in Aichi & Nagoya, Japan, kicked off with great fanfare yesterday. Athletes from 45 nations are partici-

pating in the games, which run until October 4.

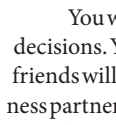
In today's competition, India's Elavenil Valarivan excelled by winning the silver medal in the women's 10m air rifle individual event. Performing impressively in a thrilling final, Elavenil secured second place to claim the silver. This marks yet another shooting medal for India.

Another Indian competitor in the final, Sonam Maskar, finished in seventh place. Notably, the Indian team comprising Elavenil Valarivan, Sonam Maskar, and Vidarsha Vinoth had earlier won the silver medal in the women's 10m air rifle team event. Thus, Elavenil has achieved a remarkable feat by winning two medals in a single day.

Today horoscope



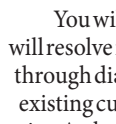
You will devise new plans. Old friends will come to visit you. Medical expenses for your mother will decrease. You will replace a vehicle that has been causing frequent trouble. There will be competition in business, but partners will be supportive. Avoid arguments at the workplace.



You will boldly make some important decisions. Your standing among relatives and friends will rise thanks to your children. Business partners will be supportive, and outstanding dues will be collected. At the workplace, learn to mind your own business and focus on your tasks.



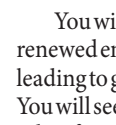
There may be temporary bitterness with maternal relatives; avoid acting out of a quick temper. You will renovate and expand your ancestral home. Avoid hasty decisions in business and maintain a cooperative relationship with your partner. Workload at the office will increase.



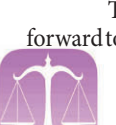
You will fulfill your children's wishes. You will resolve issues regarding ancestral property through dialogue. In business, you will attract existing customers by employing new strategies. At the workplace, you will move forward despite facing criticism.



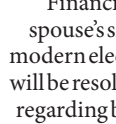
Your social circle will expand. Confusion within the family will clear up. You will take the lead in organizing special events in your hometown. Your interest in spirituality will grow. You will see progress in your job. In business, hard work will yield profits.



You will shake off fatigue and act with renewed energy. Ego clashes will be resolved, leading to greater closeness between spouses. You will seek assistance from others for the sake of your relatives. New stock will arrive for your business. You may need to meet important figures in connection with your work.



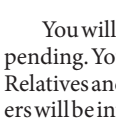
Those who previously criticized you will now come forward to initiate conversation. Good things will happen at home. An expected business contract will be signed. Acting on a partner's advice will prove beneficial. A superior at work will extend a hand of friendship.



Financial assistance will come through your spouse's side of the family. You will purchase modern electronic devices. Vehicle repair issues will be resolved. You will meet influential people regarding business matters. Do not antagonize your partners. It is best to avoid arguments at the workplace.



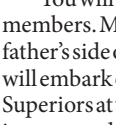
You may face hurdles in completing planned tasks. Practice compromise within the family. Delays regarding a dispute over ancestral property will persist. Employees may cause trouble in your business. Your status and respect will increase at the workplace.



You will complete tasks that had been pending. You will consider purchasing property. Relatives and friends will visit you. New customers will be introduced to your business. You will undertake out-of-town trips for work-related reasons.



Auspicious events that were previously delayed will now materialize. You will go on a trip with your family. Ego clashes will be resolved, leading to greater closeness between spouses. Children will act responsibly. Your career will flourish. You will meet prominent figures in business.



You will fulfill the wishes of your family members. Misunderstandings with your father's side of the family will be resolved. You will embark on efforts to expand your business. Superiors at work will consult you before making important decisions.

'We the Leaders' Membership Crosses 2 Million Mark

A Major Milestone: Annamalai

CHENNAI: The number of members who have joined the 'We the Leaders' organization, launched by Annamalai, has now surpassed the 2 million mark. In a statement regarding this, Annamalai, the founder of 'We the Leaders', said:

"We have reached a significant milestone in the journey of our 'We the Leaders' organization, with over 2 million leaders having joined us. This achievement belongs to every leader who has placed their



trust in our organization and stepped forward to contribute their efforts on the ground with the aim of



creating change in society. Our journey will continue towards our goal of not merely expecting change,

but becoming the very force that creates it.

In response to requests from our leaders, we are further expanding the avenues for joining our organization. While registration facilities via Android and iOS apps are already in place, we are now set to introduce a 'Registration Helpline' (Missed Call Membership) option. Details regarding the mobile number for this will be announced soon. Let us change, and let us bring about change."

Passing of 'Nadigar Thilagam' Sivaji Ganesan's Eldest Daughter

CHENNAI: Shanthi, the eldest daughter of the late legendary actor 'Nadigar Thilagam' Sivaji Ganesan and Kamala Ganesan, and a film producer, passed away early this morning (September 20).

The couple had two sons—Ramkumar and Prabhu—and two daughters—Shanthi and Thenmozhi.

Shanthi was the eldest. 'Shanthi Theatre' on Mount Road, which stood as an iconic landmark of Chennai, was built in 1961



and named after her. The theatre was inaugurated by the then Chief Minister Kamaraj on January 12, 1961. Subsequently, the Sivaji family constructed two more theatres in Thanjavur, named 'Shanthi' and

'Kamala' after the eldest daughter and the wife, respectively.

Sivaji's brother, V.C. Shanmugam, oversaw the operations of these theatres. Shanthi married Narayanasamy on November 3, 1968.

She later ventured into film production; she played a significant role in producing the acclaimed film 'Thanga Pathakam' (1974), starring Sivaji Ganesan. It is noteworthy

that following the deaths of Sivaji Ganesan (2001) and Kamala (2007), Shanthi Narayanasamy and her sister Thenmozhi had approached the Madras High Court regarding the division of family assets. Shanthi's mortal remains have been kept at her residence in Valasaravakkam for public homage.

Members of the film fraternity and fans are expressing their condolences over the passing of Shanthi Narayanasamy.

First Saturday of Purattasi Month Devotees Throng Perumal Temples



CHENNAI: Special prayers were held at Perumal temples across Chennai and its suburbs to mark the first Saturday of the Purattasi month. A large number of devotees gathered to worship the deity. The month of Purattasi is considered particularly auspicious for Lord Perumal. It is a deeply held belief that observing a fast and worshipping the Lord on Saturdays during this month brings manifold blessings.

Accordingly, special rituals were conducted yesterday—the first Saturday of

Purattasi—in all Perumal temples across Tamil Nadu. Devotees waited in long queues, chanting "Govinda, Govinda" with great devotion as they sought the Lord's darshan.

At the Parthasarathy Temple in Triplicane, crowds surged from the early hours of the morning. Special 'Thirumanjanam' (sacred ablution) rituals were performed for both the presiding deity (*Moolavar*) and the processional deity (*Utsavar*). At the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) temple

in T. Nagar, the presiding deity, Lord Venkatesa Perumal, graced devotees while adorned in a golden robe (*Thanga Angi*).

At the Chennakesava Perumal Temple in Pookkadi, *Tulasi Archana* (worship with holy basil leaves) was performed for the presiding deity, and special food offerings (*Naivedyam*) were presented. At the Adikesava Perumal Temple in Mylapore, special *Thirumanjanam* rituals were conducted for the Lord and the Goddess (*Thayar*), and the deities were beautifully decorated with colorful flowers. Worship services at the Srinivasa Perumal Temple in Purasawakkam began with *Go Pujam* (cow worship). In the evening, devotees participated in the chanting of the *Vishnu Sahasranama*.

Grand rituals were also held at the Neervanna Perumal

Temple in Thiruneermalai, where the Lord appears in four distinct forms: standing, sitting, reclining, and as Narasimha.

Although renovation work for the temple's consecration (*Kumbabishekam*) is currently underway, excellent arrangements were made to ensure devotees could worship the deity without difficulty. A large number of devotees offered prayers at various temples, including Kanchipuram Varadaraja Perumal and Ulagalanda Perumal; Thiruvallur Vee-raraghava Perumal; Poonamallee Thirukachi Nambigal & Varadaraja Perumal; Thirumazhisai Jagannatha Perumal and Thirumazhisai Azhwar; Ponneri & Thiruvayarpadi Karikrishna Perumal; Devadanam Ranganathar; Minjur Varadaraja Perumal; and Thiruninravur Bhaktavatsala Perumal.



Tulu Becomes Karnataka's Second Additional Administrative Language

Cabinet Approves

BENGALURU: The Tulu language is widely spoken in districts such as Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Chikkamagaluru, and Shivamogga in Karnataka. Belonging to the Dravidian language family, Tulu—much like Kannada—contains a significant number of Tamil words. The local population had long been demanding that their language be declared an official language. Against this backdrop, a Karnataka Cabinet meeting was held in Mangaluru the day before yesterday, presided over by D.K. Shivakumar.

During the meeting, the proposal to grant Tulu the status of the state's second additional official administrative language was discussed in detail. Following the unanimous approval of the ministers, a resolution to this effect was passed by the Cabinet. Members of Tulu language associations and the local public celebrated this move by the Karnataka government by bursting firecrackers and distributing sweets. Meanwhile, Kannada organizations have expressed their opposition to the decision.

Sri Lankan MP Urges PM Modi to Save Tamil Man Facing Death Penalty in Saudi Arabia



COLOMBO: A group of Hindus from Jaffna, Sri Lanka, undertook a holy pilgrimage to the Kataragama Murugan Temple a few months ago. A dog named Subramaniam accompanied them. A Muslim youth assaulted the dog, and a video of the incident went viral on social media. Following this, the Muslim youth



was arrested but subsequently released on bail. However, the incident sparked a major debate on social media in Sri Lanka.

Anojan Sivarasa, a Sri Lankan national working in Saudi Arabia, participated in these online discussions and posted comments. It is alleged that he made derogatory remarks about

Prophet Muhammad during these exchanges. Saudi police arrested him in connection with this matter. A Saudi Arabian court initially sentenced him to five years in prison and imposed a fine of ₹7.55 crore. An appeal was filed against this verdict; upon hearing the appeal, the court sentenced Anojan Sivarasa to death. Against this backdrop, Mano Ganesan—an MP and the leader of the Tamil Progressive Alliance in Sri Lanka—stated in a social media post yesterday:

"A very close friendship exists between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi Crown Prince Salman. Therefore, Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake should personally speak to Prime Minister Modi and secure the release of Anojan Sivarasa with his assistance."

Therefore, Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake should personally speak to Prime Minister Modi and secure the release of Anojan Sivarasa with his assistance."

8 Dead After Car Swept Away by Floodwaters



BHOPAL: Floodwaters were surging through a stream near the Maa Baglamukhi Temple in Nalkheda, located

in the Agar Malwa district of Madhya Pradesh. A car attempting to cross the stream was swept away by the current.

Upon receiving the information, a rescue team rushed to the scene. The car, which had been trapped in the stream, was pulled out. The eight occupants were retrieved and taken to a nearby hospital; however, doctors examined them and declared all eight dead.

september 20 Sweden 2026

Woman of Indian origin elected as MP in Sweden

In the general election held in Sweden on the 13th, Nila Vikhe Patil (41)—daughter of the renowned educationist Ashok Vikhe Patil from Maharashtra—contested from the Stockholm City constituency representing the Green Party. She has been declared the winner. Nila Vikhe Patil hails from a prominent political and cooperative sector family in Maharashtra. She is the great-granddaughter of Vitthal rao Vikhe Patil, who established Asia's first cooperative sugar mill, and the granddaughter of the late Union Minister Balasaheb Vikhe Patil. She is also the niece of the current BJP Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil. Born in Sweden, Nila spent her early childhood in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. After completing her MBA in Sweden, she has been actively working with the country's Green Party for the past 25 years.



Previously, she served as a political advisor for finance and housing in the government of Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven. Speaking about her victory, Nila Vikhe Patil said, "I am delighted to be part of the 349-member Swedish Parliament. My grandfather, Balasaheb Vikhe Patil—who used to make me read the Maharashtra state budget when I was just 15—would have been proud of my success had he been alive today. I love India very much." The election of a woman of Indian origin as an MP has brought great joy to the people of Maharashtra, occurring as the opposition alliance in the Swedish parliamentary election secured a razor-thin majority by winning 176 seats.

West Bengal Issue BJP Lacks Courage to Face Fair Elections

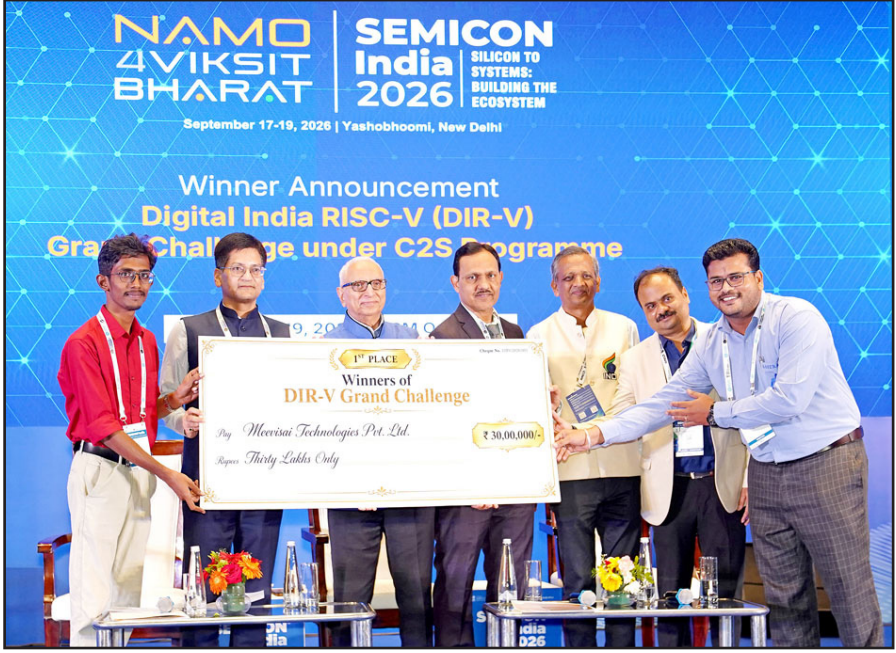
Pramod Tiwari Lashes Out

NEW DELHI: Congress Rajya Sabha MP Pramod Tiwari has stated that the BJP lacks the courage to face the West Bengal Assembly by-elections in a fair manner. He expressed his views on several issues, including the arrest of a Congress candidate contesting the West Bengal by-election, allegations regarding a meeting attended by Rahul Gandhi in Indore, and a notice sent to Arvind Kejriwal in



Delhi under the SIR (Systematic Information Retrieval) process. "They (the BJP) engage in intimidating, threatening, or co-opting opposition candidates. They lack the courage to contest elections fairly. That is why a Congress candidate in West Bengal has been arrested in connection with a 20-year-old case.

There was no wrongdoing on his part in that matter; that is precisely why he has been active in the public sphere all these years. Does the BJP not have the chance to win by facing elections democratically? It has become their habit to either buy off opposition candidates or send them to jail. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has alleged that Rahul Gandhi criticized Prime Minister Modi's mother during his speech in Indore. I listened to Rahul's speech twice; he made no comments regarding anyone's mother. Through the SIR process, an exercise is underway to remove the names of Delhi's former Chief Minister, his wife (an Income Tax official), and his family members from the electoral rolls. By doing this, the BJP is removing voters who do not support them or do not vote for them," Pramod Tiwari stated.



Glimpses of closing ceremony of SEMICON India 2026 at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, in New Delhi

Immersion of Vinayagar Idols in Chennai

16,500 Police Personnel Deployed for Security



CHENNAI: Vinayagar idols were immersed in the sea yesterday after being taken in processions along designated routes in Chennai. As the immersion process continues today, 16,500 police personnel have been deployed to ensure security and prevent any untoward incidents. Vinayagar Chaturthi was celebrated with great fervor across the country on the 14th. Following this, the immersion of idols—which had been installed for worship in

Chennai—is proceeding in full swing. A total of 1,562 idols, installed by various organizations, had been the focus of special prayers over the past five days; the police granted permission for their immersion in the sea yesterday and today. Accordingly, arrangements for the immersion have been made in coordination with the Corporation at four designated coastal locations: Srinivasapuram in Pattinapakkam, University Nagar

in Neelankarai, Kasimedu Fishing Harbour, and the area behind the ‘Popular Weighbridge’ in Thiruvottiyur. In the first phase, idols installed by the Shiv Sena and private organizations were taken in processions and immersed yesterday. Today, idols belonging to major organizations, including the Hindu Munnani, are being immersed. Giant cranes with capacities of 80 tonnes and 20 tonnes have been kept ready at the beaches for this purpose. Furthermore, acting on the orders of the Chennai Police Commissioner, a total of 18,500 personnel—comprising 16,500 officers and police constables along with 2,000 Home Guard members—have been deployed for security duties.

India, Japan air chiefs attend ‘Exercise Veer Guardian 2026’ at Jodhpur Air Force Station



JODHPUR: Indian Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh and Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) Chief of Staff General Takehiro Morita were both present on Sunday at Air Force Station Jodhpur during the ongoing Indo-Japan bilateral air exercise ‘Veer Guardian 2026’. The Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) are conducting the bilateral air exercise, with both sides participating with their frontline fighter aircraft. The IAF is participating with a diverse mix of frontline combat aircraft, including the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Su-30MKI and Rafale fighter jets. The JASDF is participating in the exercise with its F&2A fighter aircraft. The bilateral air exercise comes as earlier, on September 10, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described Tokyo sending its fighter aircraft to participate in Exercise Veer Guardian, taking place in Jodhpur, as a “significant milestone” for India&Japan defence partnership. In a post on X, he under-

lined that the maiden visit of the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) fighter aircraft to India reflects the growing trust and shared commitment to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. He recalled the “highly productive discussions” with his Japanese counterpart in New Delhi last month, and noted how mutual exchange of visits such as Exercise Veer Guardian further strengthens this synergy. Meanwhile, on September 8, the Indian Air Force welcomed F&2 fighter jets of the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) for the bilateral combat exercise ‘Veer Guardian 2026’. Announcing the launch of the joint air defence drills, the Indian Air Force highlighted the strategic objective of the engagement. In a post on X, the media coordination centre of the IAF wrote, “The skies over Jodhpur are set for high&octane aerial action as the #IAF welcomes F&2s of #JASDF for Ex Veer Guardian. Strengthening interoperability, sharpening skills and taking the Indo-Japan defence partnership to

greater heights. “The bilateral Air Exercise ‘Veer Guardian 2026’ between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) will begin at Air Force Station Jodhpur. It will continue till September 22, 2026,” the Ministry of Defence release said. During the fourteen-day exercise, participating air warriors will undertake advanced operational missions and engage in extensive professional interactions.



A cleanup drive was conducted at Palavakkam Beach to mark International Coastal Cleanup Day. More than 300 participants took part in the initiative, removing 2.40 metric tonnes of waste. The event was presided over by Asha Ajit, Director of the Environment, Forests and Climate Change Department; Athab Rasool, Deputy Commissioner (South Zone); and Sumish Soman, Director of the Tamil Nadu Coastal Area Protection Project. Bhattacharya, Deputy Secretary, and Bhaskar Seal, Under Secretary of the Environment, Forests and Climate Change Department, attended as special guests.

Iran war costs surge to \$45.1 billion, Pentagon tells Congress

WASHINGTON: The ongoing US conflict with Iran has cost the Trump Administration an estimated USD 45.1 billion, according to a Pentagon estimate provided to the US Congress on Friday, CNN reported, citing two sources familiar with the matter. According to CNN, citing the sources, the latest figure includes USD 43.6 billion in war&related costs through September 3, along with an additional USD 1.5 billion for extra fuel. However, the Pentagon’s estimate does not represent a complete accounting of the financial cost of the conflict. According to one of the sources cited by CNN, the figure does not include the cost of repairing damaged US military bases and buildings and does not provide the US Congress with a detailed assessment of indirect military&operation costs. The latest estimate is higher than the USD 38 billion cost projected by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) through August 1 and also exceeds the Pentagon’s earlier estimate of USD 37.5 billion in July. The CBO, in its September 15 report titled Estimating the Cost of Combat Operations

Against Iran, estimated that the Department of Defense had incurred approximately USD 38 billion in costs as of August 1. The agency said the estimate covered operational, logistical and sustainment costs, including replacing expended munitions and equipment lost in battle, increased flying hours, other military operations and higher fuel costs. The CBO cautioned that its estimate was subject to “considerable uncertainty”, as it relied on government databases and public reports after the Department of Defense did not respond to its requests for information. According to the budget office, the cost of the conflict could continue to rise depending on the intensity of fighting. It estimated that another month of conflict would cost around USD 2 billion if violence remained at levels seen in May and June, while monthly costs could reach USD 3 billion if fighting returned to approximately the intensity seen in July. “Monthly costs could be higher still if the violence escalated further,” the CBO said. The Pentagon’s latest USD 45.1 billion figure therefore comes

as the financial burden of the conflict continues to increase, while several categories of potential expenditure remain outside the current estimate. The CBO had also noted that its USD 38 billion figure did not include costs borne by other parts of the federal government or certain expenses already accounted for in the federal budget. It also identified the large expenditure of missile&defence interceptors as a major opportunity cost for the Department of Defense, saying the spending would leave the US with a reduced inventory of interceptors for several years. Beyond direct military spending, the conflict has also generated wider economic effects, particularly through disruptions to oil and natural&gas shipments through the Strait of Hormuz and shipping through the Red Sea. According to the CBO, those disruptions have contributed to higher global energy prices, affecting crude oil as well as refined petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. The agency estimated that higher energy prices would put additional pressure on consumer inflation. It projected that, in the first quarter of 2027, inflation measured by the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index would be 0.5 percentage points higher than its February 2026 projection, while core PCE inflation would be 0.3 percentage points higher. The CBO also estimated that higher energy prices had added 2.3 percentage points to the annualised rate of overall PCE inflation in the second quarter of 2026, when PCE inflation stood at 5.3 per cent. The economic impact could extend to US borrowing costs as well. The CBO estimated that three&month Treasury bill rates would be nearly 0.2 percentage points higher in 2026 than projected in February, while by the first half of 2027 they would be less than 0.1 percentage point higher than previously projected. The budget office also said the US administration had requested USD 87.6 billion in supplemental appropriations in June, including USD 67.1 billion for the Department of Defense. Of that request, USD 42.3 billion appeared



directly related to the conflict, according to the CBO. At the same time, the CBO said it could not estimate potential additional costs linked to diplomatic operations and foreign aid because such expenses would depend on the outcome of the conflict and could be spread across different areas of government spending. The latest Pentagon figure, reported by CNN, thus represents a higher cost than the earlier CBO assessment, while also leaving out some expenses associated with the broader military operation. CNN reported that the Pentagon’s latest estimate was communicated to lawmakers on Friday, with the USD 1.5 billion additional fuel expenditure bringing the total to USD 45.1 billion. The financial assessment comes as the conflict continues to carry implications beyond the battlefield, with military expenditures, energy disruptions, shipping pressures and inflationary effects contributing to the broader economic impact identified by the CBO.

Yudh Abhyas 2026

Indian, US armies conduct live firing drill with M777 Howitzers at Mahajan Range

RAJASTHAN: Indian and US Army personnel conducted a live&firing demonstration involving the M777 Ultra Light Howitzer (ULH) at the Mahajan Field Firing Range (MFFR) in Rajasthan as part of the ongoing bilateral Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026, showcasing artillery capabilities, operational coordination and exchange of battlefield practices between the two forces. According to an official update by the Indian Army, the gun crews, from the Indian side demonstrated precision, professionalism and combat readiness, while the visiting US contingent later interacted with ULH Battery personnel at the gun positions to exchange operational knowledge and best practices. The live&firing activity was part of the ongoing bilateral military exercise between India and the United States, aimed at enhancing interoperability, joint operational capabilities and coordination between the two armies. The Mahajan Field Firing Range, located in Rajasthan’s Bikaner district, is the Indian Army’s largest and oldest field firing range. The live&firing demonstration followed a Lecture&cum&Demonstration on the day of deployment of the M777 ULH conducted at MFFR on Wednesday. The session focused on technical and tactical aspects of the artillery system, with emphasis on improving operational efficiency, joint artillery tactics and field&level coordination. The demonstration covered the “duties of key appointments, gun deployment, local defence coordination, movement to alternate positions during

counter&bombardment and shoot&and&scoot drills.” The activity also provided an opportunity for personnel from both armies to interact and exchange professional knowledge and best practices, according to the Indian Army. Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026 is the 22nd edition of the India&US joint military exercise and began on September 15. The two&week exercise is being conducted simultaneously at the Auli Foreign Training Node in Uttarakhand and the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan. The exercise brings together



around 600 personnel from each side. Major General Amaresh Gunjan, General Officer Commanding, 14 Infantry Division, and Colonel Benjamin Jackman, Commander, 1st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 11th Airborne Division, US Army, addressed the participating contingents at the opening ceremony. The US Pacific Command and said on X that US and Indian Army forces had officially opened Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026 on September 15, beginning two weeks of bilateral training focused on “readiness, interoperability

and cooperation”. According to the Ministry of Defence, the exercise is aimed at enhancing the joint military capability of the two armies for the employment of Integrated Battle Groups in mountainous and semi-mountainous terrain, with an emphasis on infantry&dominated operations. The exercise is also focused on strengthening interoperability, facilitating the exchange of best operational practices and improving joint planning and execution. Technology infusion is another key component of Yudh Abhyas 2026. The training programme includes the employment of drones and autonomous systems for surveillance and reconnaissance, while demonstrations of contemporary weapon systems are being conducted at the Mahajan Field Firing Range.

Maharashtra: Luxury Car Falls Off Flyover – 3 Dead



MUMBAI: Three people lost their lives after a luxury car plunged from a flyover in Maharashtra. Early this morning, around 5 AM, a luxury car was traveling from the Marine Drive area of Mumbai towards Haji Ali. Four young men were inside the vehicle. While traversing the flyover connecting Marine Drive to the coastal road, the driver lost control, and the car fell off the structure. Three of the occupants, including a young man named Sanay Gazal (21), died on the spot. The fourth occupant was rescued with severe injuries and has been admitted to a nearby hospital for treatment. The police have registered a case regarding the accident and are conducting an investigation.



Tirumala Brought to a Standstill by Devotees Gathering for Garuda Seva

TIRUMALA: The annual Brahmotsavam festival at the Tirupati Lord Venkateswara temple began on the 15th. Yesterday—the fifth day and a highlight of the festival—devotees flocked to Tirumala to witness the Garuda Seva. As the event coincided with the first Saturday of the Tamil month of Purattasi, the turnout was significantly higher than usual. Large numbers of devotees from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana began streaming into Tirumala as early as Friday night.

Yesterday morning, during the 'Mohini Alan-kara Seva,' approximately 200,000 devotees gathered

along the four Mada streets surrounding the temple. Additionally, around 100,000 people had assembled in other areas. Reports indicate that approximately 200,000 people traveled between Tirupati and Tirumala from yesterday afternoon through the night. Consequently, an estimated 500,000 devotees gathered for this Garuda Seva. Anticipating a massive influx of devotees from both local areas and other states, around 5,000 police personnel were deployed to ensure security.

Devasthanam surveillance teams were also engaged in security duties. Additionally, the OCTOPUS commando force and the Armed Reserve police conducted intensive patrols.

Round-the-clock surveillance was maintained using drone cameras. As a security measure, a ban on two-wheelers traveling to Tirumala was imposed starting at 6:00 PM on Friday. Since all special darshan slots were cancelled, devotees could only have darshan of the Lord through the general 'Sarva Darshan' queue. Yesterday evening, at precisely 6:30 PM, the deity (Malayappa Swamy) emerged from the Vahana Mandapam at Tirumala, mounted on the Garuda Vahanam. Devotees chanted "Govinda, Govinda" with such fervor that the sound seemed to pierce the heavens. The Garuda Vahana Seva procession then proceeded along the Mada

streets. Devotees gathered in large numbers everywhere to witness the deity. The Devasthanam's SVBC channel broadcast the procession live on giant screens set up at various locations. Free food distribution (*Annadanam*) for devotees began as early as 10:00 AM. Devotees were provided with free meals, drinking water, and tea at various locations in Tirumala, including the 'Mada' streets. Officials—including TTD Trust Board Chairman B.R. Naidu, Executive Officer M. Ravichandra, and Additional Executive Officer Venkaiah Chowdary—frequently interacted with the devotees to inquire about the facilities and any grievances.

Under TVK rule, the competition would be between power cuts and sickle attacks

Stalin at the DMK's 'Mupperum Vizha'

CHENNAI: DMK President M.K. Stalin has stated, "No one is qualified to grade my MISA sacrifice." The DMK's 'Mupperum Vizha' (Grand Tripartite Festival) was held yesterday at Anna Arivalayam in Chennai. DMK President M.K. Stalin presided over the event and presented various awards. Awards were conferred as follows: the 'Periyar Award' to Agricultural Wing Deputy Secretary Ku. Chellappa; the 'Anna Award' to Salem Central District General Council President Salem G.K. Subash; the 'Kalaigarn Award' to Deputy General Secretary Trichy Siva; the 'Pavendhar Award' to Medical Wing President Kanimozhi N.V.N. Somu; the 'Professor Award' to Executive Committee Member MISA S. Ahmed Thambi; the 'M.K. Stalin Award' to Youth Wing Deputy Secretary Na. Ilaiyaraaja; and the 'Murasoli Selvam Award' to journalist and writer P. Thiruma Velan. Speaking at



the event, General Secretary Duraimurugan said, "We have faced numerous elections; we have tasted both victory and defeat. That is natural in elections. In the past, we contended with a visible adversary. But this time, an entity resembling an invisible illusionist has arrived and established itself here. This illusionist has spread across Tamil Nadu. Our cadres are standing on the battlefield at two fronts. We must observe whether the enemy appears as an illusionist or as a tangible opponent. We must emerge victorious." Subsequently, M.K. Stalin spoke as follows: "Having claimed to have quit acting in films, he is now acting as Chief Minister

to sign a contract with a company that is already based in India? Unable to answer the questions raised by Udhayanidhi in the Assembly, they resort to diverting attention by bringing up MISA and the Sarkaria Commission. I have no need to prove my MISA detention to you. You lack the standing to grade my sacrifices. Usually, by-elections occur only upon the death of a legislator. However, for the first time, this by-election has arisen because 'democracy has died.' It serves as an opportunity to teach the ruling party a lesson regarding their integrity and arrogance. Voters in Maduranthakam and Dharapuram must teach the DMK a fitting lesson by voting against them. Campaign in a way that appeals to Gen-Z youth—speaking their language and reaching them directly on their mobile phones. M.K. Stalin spoke in this manner.

to sign a contract with a company that is already based in India? Unable to answer the questions raised by Udhayanidhi in the Assembly, they resort to diverting attention by bringing up MISA and the Sarkaria Commission. I have no need to prove my MISA detention to you. You lack the standing to grade my sacrifices. Usually, by-elections occur only upon the death of a legislator. However, for the first time, this by-election has arisen because 'democracy has died.' It serves as an opportunity to teach the ruling party a lesson regarding their integrity and arrogance. Voters in Maduranthakam and Dharapuram must teach the DMK a fitting lesson by voting against them. Campaign in a way that appeals to Gen-Z youth—speaking their language and reaching them directly on their mobile phones. M.K. Stalin spoke in this manner.

Rope car service at Palani to resume from the 22nd

DINDUGUL: It has been announced that the rope car service will resume on September 22nd following the completion of maintenance work. The world-renowned Palani Murugan Temple is situated atop a hill.

The main routes to reach the temple from the foothills are the flight of steps and the 'Elephant Path'. Additionally, rope car and winch train services are available to facilitate easy travel for devotees to the hilltop temple.

Many devotees prefer the rope car service as it offers a quick journey while allowing them to enjoy the scenic beauty of Palani Hill; furthermore, the service provides a delightful tourism experience.

Routine monthly and annual maintenance works are carried out at the Palani rope car station to ensure devotee safety, during which time the service is suspended.

Accordingly, the rope car



service at the Palani Murugan Temple had been temporarily suspended for the past 64 days due to annual maintenance. During this period, devotees used the winch train and the flight of steps to visit the hilltop temple.

Key maintenance activities—such as the installation of new cabins, trial runs, and renovation work—were carried out. With all works now completed, the temple administration has announced that the rope car service will resume on the 22nd of this month.

Biometric Aadhaar Verification Mandatory by October 1 to Receive Subsidized LPG Cylinders



NEW DELHI: It has been made mandatory for recipients of subsidized LPG cylinders to complete biometric Aadhaar verification by October 1 in order to continue receiving the subsidy.

In a statement regarding this, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said, "Biometric Aadhaar Authentication (BAA) has been made mandatory for domestic LPG consumers to receive LPG cylinders at the subsidized retail price, effective October 1, 2026. This measure aims to ensure that subsidized domestic

LPG cylinders reach genuine and eligible households and to prevent their diversion for commercial and industrial use. As of September 19, 27.43 crore domestic LPG consumers—representing 89.9 percent of the total—have already completed the Biometric Aadhaar Authentication. These consumers do not need to take any further action; their LPG cylinder bookings will continue as usual. Once this verification process is completed, consumers who have not yet done so will also be able to book subsidized refills.

The BAA can be completed during LPG delivery, at the distributor's showroom, or via the mobile apps of the respective Oil Marketing Companies. Indane customers can use the 'IndianOil ONE' app, BharatGas consumers the 'HelloBPCL' app, and HP Gas customers the 'HP PA-Y' app. Consumers can complete this process themselves from home using these apps. Consumers who do not wish to or are unable to complete the BAA can continue to receive LPG; however, they [must use] digital channels—including the consumer website, mobile app, WhatsApp chatbot, or IVRS..." must register their preference through the available channels.

Such consumers can obtain LPG at market rates—without the subsidy—in locally available 5 kg or 10 kg cylinders.

Initially, consumers were

asked to complete the 'BAA' (Beneficiary Authentication/Verification) process by June 30, 2026. Subsequently, this deadline was extended multiple times, with September 14 being the latest deadline. Domestic LPG is sold at a price lower than its cost price. The subsidy per cylinder stood at approximately ₹210 in September 2026. To maintain domestic LPG prices at consumer-friendly levels, the government provided ₹22,000 crore in compensation to oil marketing companies during 2022&23. It is also providing ₹30,000 crore for the years 2025&26 and 2026&27. Consumers who have not yet completed the 'BAA' process are advised to do so before October 1. For assistance regarding LPG services, consumers can contact the toll-free helpline number 1800 2333 555.



PM addressing the gathering on the occasion of 20th Rozgar Mela via video conferencing.



Number of NGOs Halved Foreign Funding Increases



NEW DELHI: Over the past decade, the number of voluntary organizations (NGOs) in India has dropped by half. However, the total volume of funds received from abroad has increased. This was stated in a report submitted to a Joint

Parliamentary Committee by a team of officials led by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan. In 2015, the number of NGOs registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) in India stood at 29,022;

currently, that figure has fallen to 14,466. Despite this reduction in the number of NGOs, the inflow of foreign funds rose from ₹17,832 crore in 2015&16 to ₹22,974 crore in 2024&25.

Tamil Nadu has the highest number of active NGOs (2,102), followed by Maharashtra (1,578) and Karnataka (1,355). Delhi ranks first in terms of receiving funds.

Among the contributors, the United States provided the highest amount at ₹12,113 crore, followed by

the United Kingdom with ₹2,414 crore. The majority of the funds were received for social work and the education sector. In the 2024&25 financial year, Christian organizations received ₹1,345 crore, while Hindu organizations received ₹328 crore. Meanwhile, the FCRA registrations of 21,983 NGOs have been cancelled so far due to violations of regulations or failure to submit annual accounts. This was stated in the report.

Son avenges father's murder after 25 year wait, A gruesome incident in Madurai

MADURAI: An incident in Madurai, where a man avenged his father's murder after waiting for 25 years, has caused significant tension. Sappani Saravanan (50) was a resident of Sappani Kovil Street in the Solai Alagapuram area of Madurai city. He reportedly had several criminal cases pending against him and had previously served time in prison for some of them. Early yesterday morning, he visited a tea shop. At that time, a five-member gang arrived and chased

him. Fearing for his life, he tried to flee. The gang pursued him relentlessly and hacked him repeatedly as he ran. He sustained severe injuries and died on the spot. Upon receiving the information, the Jaihindpuram police arrived at the scene, recovered Saravanan's body, and sent it to Madurai Rajaji Government Hospital for a post-mortem examination. They also launched an investigation into the motive behind the murder and began searching for the perpetrators.

Subsequently, the police arrested ten individuals accused of the murder and interrogated them. The investigation revealed that Sappani Saravanan had been the prime accused in the brutal hacking murder of Pushparaj, a resident of Melaraja Street, back in 2001. Police inquiries further disclosed that Pushparaj's son, Balamurugan—who had been waiting to avenge his father's death—carried



out the killing along with his accomplices after a lapse of approximately 25 years. This incident of retaliatory murder has caused a major stir and shock across Madurai.