

MoU for Global Skills Centre in Chennai signed in the presence of CM Vijay

CHENNAI: At an event organized by the Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed today—in the presence of Chief Minister Joseph Vijay—between the Tamil Nadu government's nodal agency (Guidance) and the US-based Starbucks Coffee Company. The agreement paves the way for Starbucks to establish a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Chennai, creating high-paying jobs for 800

High-paying job opportunities for 800 technical professionals

technology professionals. Starbucks, the world's largest coffee company, has chosen Tamil Nadu for its first-ever GCC in India. The company will operate independently of its retail joint venture partner in India, Tata Consumer Products. This MoU reinforces the Tamil Nadu government's policy of generating high-paying jobs in the GCC sector; Starbucks' entry into the state's GCC ecosystem further highlights Tamil Nadu's emergence as a global hub for technology and business services. Speaking during the signing ceremony, Anand Varadarajan, Chief Technology Officer of Starbucks Coffee Company, stated that they consider India a crucial market. He noted that the abundance of skilled technology professionals in Chennai—who are known



for long-term retention with their employers—combined with Tamil Nadu's excellent infrastructure and the incentives provided by the state government, would facilitate the development of innovative solutions and business growth. Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, Chief Minister Vijay expressed great pleasure that Starbucks Coffee Company is

establishing its global center in Chennai. He stated that the confidence shown in the state by such a world-renowned major corporation serves as a testament to the talent of the state's youth and demonstrates that Tamil Nadu is an ideal destination for such prestigious companies. He also extended his best wishes for the creation of numerous new job opportunities for Tamil Nadu's talented youth and for a long, successful partnership with Starbucks Coffee Company.



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma laid the foundation stone yesterday for the 3,200 MW Adani Power thermal power plant, to be set up at a cost of ₹48,000 crore in Sapahar, Dhubri district, Assam.

Chief Minister Vijay congratulates Elavenil Valarivan on winning two medals



CHENNAI: The Asian Games, the largest sporting event after the Olympics, is held every four years. The 20th edition of the games kicked off in grand style the

day before yesterday in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan. Approximately 11,000 athletes from 45 countries are participating in the event, with a contingent of 496 athletes representing India. In a remarkable achievement, India's Elavenil Valarivan won the silver medal in the women's 10m air rifle individual event held yesterday. Delivering an impressive performance in the

thrilling final, Elavenil secured second place and claimed the silver medal. It is noteworthy that earlier, the Indian team—comprising Elavenil Valarivan, Sonam Maskar, and Vidarsha Vinoth—had also won the silver medal in the women's 10m air rifle team event. With this, Elavenil has achieved the impressive feat of winning two medals in a single day.

Goal to manufacture chips for cars and televisions in India

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has stated that a target has been set to manufacture chips for cars and televisions within India over the next five years. India aims to design and produce chips for cars, electrical systems, televisions, refrigerators, and other home appliances within this timeframe. The country is making rapid strides in the semiconductor (chip) manufacturing and design sector.

Companies in the sector must remain vigilant regarding cyberattacks and geopolitical challenges. As other powers in the global supply chain may view India's growth as a threat, the industry must be prepared to counter cyberattacks and disruptions. Under the second phase of the semiconductor program, the government has allocated ₹1.27 lakh crore to expand the domestic ecosystem and attract global investments. Efforts

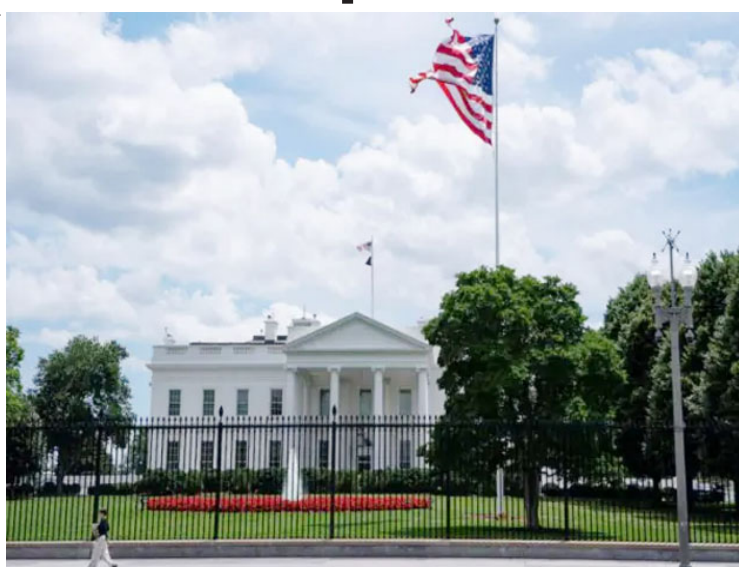


are underway to expand the entire infrastructure—encompassing not only chip testing but also design and equipment manufacturing—Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

White House removes CNN from TV Pool amid Trump's feud with media

WASHINGTON: The White House has removed CNN from its scheduled role as the television pool representative for Monday, escalating a dispute that began after US President Donald Trump announced a ban on CNN, MSNOW and Politico from the White House.

CNN had been scheduled to serve as the TV pool network on Monday and was expected to accompany Trump to New York for the annual United Nations General Assembly. However, the White House's Sunday night "Daily Guidance and Press Schedule" did not name a primary television network for Monday's pool. The schedule was issued by the White House Office of Communications on Sunday night. The change comes after Trump on Friday said he was banning CNN, MSNOW and Politico from the White House, accusing the outlets of what he described as "fake news." "I am proud to announce that, effective immediately, I am banning Fake News CNN, MSNOW (who recently changed their name from MSNBC due to lack of viewership and credibility!), and Politico (The recipients of an illegal and ridiculous \$8 Million Dollar subscription, an All Time Record, directly from the United States Government, under Crooked Joe Biden, in order to keep them 'alive.' Seems like corruption to me!), from the White House as a result of their constant 'reporting' FAKE NEWS!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social. Trump added that other media organisations could also face restrictions. "Media Outlets shouldn't be able to constantly write or report FICTION and LIES when they're covering the President of the United States, the Trump Administration, or the United



States of America. Other Fake News Media Outlets to follow," he added. The impact of the decision became apparent on Saturday when journalists from the three affected organisations were denied access to the White House complex, and some had their press credentials confiscated. CNN reporter Betsy Klein said her hard pass failed at a security checkpoint and that a Secret Service agent told her the badge had been deactivated. "I go through a checkpoint with the Secret Service. I show them my hard pass, and I walk past," Klein said while describing the encounter on CNN. She said she completed the usual security process before attempting to enter the complex. "I put my stuff through essentially what looks like an airport security conveyor belt, and I tap my badge onto a card reader. I type in a four-digit PIN. I did all of that today. The only difference was there was a group of cameras waiting outside the gate, watching me walk in," Klein said. She said the badge was rejected when she tried to enter. "I walk in, I tap my badge, it beeps a couple of times and turns red, blue, and green, and it didn't accept my PIN number. The Secret Service agent on the guard [post] asked to see my badge, and he told me that it had been deactivated," she added. Klein said she asked the agent for an explanation

but was directed to the White House Press Office. "I asked him if he could provide an explanation as to why it had been deactivated," Klein recounted. "He said he had no further information. I asked him once more if he had any more details he could share with me, and he said that I should be referred to the White House Press Office," she added. Klein also said the agent retained her physical press badge. "When I asked if I could get the badge back, he said he would be keeping it," she said. MSNOW correspondent Akayla Gardner described a similar incident, saying an officer told her that her badge had been disabled. "Officer asked me to hand over my badge. He said that it was disabled. I asked why I was not able to get inside. He said it was above him," Gardner said. Gardner said her photographer was also denied entry, although an MSNOW producer was able to enter after scanning a badge that remained functional. The White House Correspondents' Association criticised the restrictions, with its president Jacqui Heinrich saying the decision violated the First Amendment. "Today's action revoking access for journalists from CNN, POLITICO, and MSNOW violates the First Amendment. The implications extend beyond these organizations: a standard used to exclude one

news outlet because of its coverage could be applied to any outlet in the future," the statement read. CNN also said it would continue covering the US government despite the restrictions. "CNN's mission to report on the U.S. government will continue regardless of any attempts to restrict physical access to the White House and other government buildings or any other attempts to impede our journalism. We have a right under the U.S. Constitution to do our reporting without hindrance or interference from the government and this ban is an illegal assault on this fundamental right," CNN said in a statement. The dispute now centres on the White House television pool, a rotating arrangement involving five major networks that provides shared footage of the President's activities, including travel and events where the entire press corps cannot be present. CNN's scheduled Monday assignment was particularly significant because Trump is due to travel to New York for the United Nations General Assembly. CNN had been designated as the pool representative for the trip before the White House removed it from Monday's schedule. The dispute has also raised the prospect of legal action. CNN, MSNOW and Politico are preparing to challenge the restrictions in court, while CNN has said it will continue its reporting despite the loss of physical access. The latest development marks a further escalation in the confrontation between the Trump administration and the affected news organisations, with the White House now removing CNN from a scheduled pool assignment that would have given the network a shared role in covering the President's trip to the UN General Assembly.

Today horoscope



You will purchase household items and electronic or electrical appliances. Your interest in spirituality will increase. Direct and indirect competition in your profession or business will fade away, and superiors at work will be supportive.



Fears, worries, and confusion will vanish, bringing mental clarity. Your parents will be relieved of fatigue and exhaustion. You will receive assistance in settling old debts. You will generate profits by implementing significant changes in your business.



You will complete the tasks you undertake only after a struggle. Practice a spirit of compromise within the family. Outstanding dues in your business will be recovered. Composure is required at the workplace. You will extend whatever help you can to those who seek your assistance.



You will work energetically and complete important tasks. Good news will arrive from your hometown. Outstanding dues in business that you thought were lost will be recovered. At work, you will complete tasks efficiently and earn appreciation.



You will complete certain tasks just as expected. You will adopt an accommodating attitude towards your spouse. You will replace a vehicle that has been causing frequent trouble. There will be sudden profits in business, and new orders will come your way.



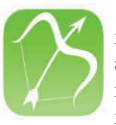
You will quickly complete the tasks you undertake. You will be able to identify the trustworthy people around you. You will take pride in your children's achievements. You will have the support of higher-ups at work. Your interest in spirituality will increase.



You will find amicable solutions to old issues after discussing them with family members. Professionally, you will meet influential people (VIPs). Colleagues will be supportive at work. Patience is required in all your endeavors.



Unexpected journeys will bring gains. Your enthusiasm and personal charisma will increase. You will gain the friendship of influential people and benefit from it. Government-related matters will be resolved quickly. Harmony between husband and wife will improve.



Mental confusion will clear, allowing you to make firm decisions. Closeness between husband and wife will grow. Your respect, honor, and status in social circles will rise. Inflow of money and material possessions will bring happiness.



Unnecessary expenses may arise due to relatives and friends. Peace will prevail in the family after a long time. Business will yield moderate profits. Caution is advised while traveling by vehicle. You will acquire artistic items.



Friends will provide help at the right time. You will find joy in purchasing high-value items. You will expand your home or place of business. Interest in spirituality and meditation will increase. Competition in business will decrease.



Your unique approach will lead to permanent solutions for old problems. You will hold a position of influence within the family. You will get acquainted with people in high-ranking positions. Interest in spiritual matters will grow.

Flight Training Accident

Two Killed, Including Student from Tamil Nadu

OTTAWA: Two people, including a student from Tamil Nadu, lost their lives in a flight training accident in Canada. Sivakumar, a young man from Tamil Nadu, and Srisaran Thirugnanasambandam, a young man from Puducherry, were pursuing their studies in Canada. The two students were engaged in flight training the day before yesterday.

They were conducting a training flight in a small aircraft from Regina to Manitoba when the plane unexpectedly crashed to the ground. Both students, Sivakumar and Thirugnanasambandam, died in the accident. Rescue teams recovered their bodies following the incident. The Indian High Commission has stated that it is ready to provide all necessary assistance regarding the accident.



Flood impact: Over 6,000 people missing – Nepal government reports. Chinese media reports state that 43 people lost their lives in the floods in the Chinese region, and more than 500 people are missing.

Iran Sets 7 Conditions for the US to Halt the West Asian War

TEHRAN: Iran has laid down seven conditions for the United States to stop the war in West Asia. Iran has also warned that it is prepared for war should these conditions be rejected. The US military launched attacks on Iran on February 28. The conflict between the two sides has been ongoing for approximately seven months. The US military has been targeting Iranian military bases and weapons depots. In retaliation, Iranian forces have been attacking US military bases located in countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The government of Qatar is currently engaged in mediation efforts between the US and Iran to halt the hostilities.



Mohsen Rezaei, Secretary of Iran's National Security Council, stated yesterday:

"We have set seven conditions for the US to stop the war. We have conveyed these conditions to the US through Qatar. Attacks



against Iran must cease." "Iran's frozen financial assets must be released. Shipping traffic has been disrupted by actions targeting Iranian ports." "We must ensure the free maritime movement of our ships. We have laid down seven conditions, including this one.

We are awaiting a response from the United States. If our conditions are rejected, we are prepared for war," stated Mohsen Rezaei. Furthermore, reports indicate that advanced fighter jets, including the B&I B, have been placed on standby at British RAF bases and US airbases across Gulf nations. US embassies in Iraq, Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Qatar, Lebanon, Kuwait, and Jordan have issued warnings advising American citizens in these countries to remain vigilant.

Consequently, reports suggest that a major war could erupt between the United States and Iran.

Chief Minister Vijay to Campaign in Achirupakkam on the 25th



MADURANTAKAM: Maragatham Kumaravel is contesting as the candidate for the *Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam* (TVK) in the Madurantakam Assembly constituency (Chengalpattu district). It is reported that the party's leader and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Vijay, will campaign in the Achirupakkam area on the 25th in support of the candidate. Preparations to erect a stage at the foothills of Vajragiri Hill, located

near the Achirupakkam National Highway, have already begun. Preliminary work, including leveling the ground for the stage, is currently underway.

Ezhil Catherine—who is set to contest the 2026 Assembly general election from the Madurantakam constituency representing TVK, as announced by the party headquarters—inspected the site in person.

Remarks about the Prime Minister and his mother are undignified

Senior BJP leaders condemn Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI: Senior BJP leaders have condemned the undignified remarks made by Rahul Gandhi regarding Prime Minister Modi and his mother during a student event held in Indore.

An event titled 'Shatrun Ki Goonj' (Voice of Students) took place in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, the day before yesterday.

Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, participated in the event, as did stand-up comedian Pulkit Mani. The event was organized to discuss issues concerning students. A video of the event was shared on the Congress party's X (formerly Twitter) page.

The video shows Pulkit Mani sharing the stage with Rahul Gandhi and mimicking Prime Minister Narendra Modi. BJP leaders have alleged that remarks were also made regarding Prime Minister Modi's late mother during the event. The BJP has accused Rahul Gandhi of mocking the Modi-led government's diplomatic approach by mimicking the Prime Minister's voice in a humorous manner. BJP National Spokesperson C.R. Kesavan stated,

"By mocking the Prime Minister's mother, Rahul Gandhi has insulted women. No civilized, well-intentioned person would find such uncivilized and cheap behavior amusing. Yet, Rahul shared a stage with a comedian and laughed heartily. This very culture of incivility that Rahul endorses is the reason why neither he nor the Congress party has been able to connect with the youth."



Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi remarked, "Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party have hit a moral rock bottom. By insulting Prime Minister Modi's late mother, it has become evident that they lack even an iota of basic humanity or political decency."

Five people died and two are missing after being caught in landslides and flash floods caused by heavy rains in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Five people have lost their lives after being caught in landslides and flash floods caused by heavy rains in Kerala; a search operation is underway for two others who are missing. Heavy rains are lashing various parts of Kerala, including Malappuram and Kottayam; landslides, soil slips, and flash floods resulting from the downpour have claimed five lives. Two more individuals are

missing, and an intensive search operation is in progress; rescue teams are engaged in moving residents from flood-affected areas to safer locations. In view of the worsening situation, Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan has directed officials to review the situation every hour. He has instructed the District Collectors of Idukki and Kottayam to evacuate people based on



the prevailing conditions. The India Meteorological Department has forecast

heavy rainfall in certain parts of Kerala over the next four days.

Asian Games: Double medal for India in 10m Air Rifle Impressive silver and bronze wins

NAGOYA: India has secured two medals in a single event—the men's 10m air rifle individual category. The 20th Asian Games are currently underway in Japan. In today's men's 10m air rifle individual final, India's Himanshu and Rudranksh put up an impressive performance, winning

silver and bronze, respectively. In the final showdown for the gold medal,

Himanshu Dhillon competed against China's Sheng. Sheng scored 233.0 points to clinch the gold, while Himanshu Dhillon secured the silver with 231.0 points.

Another Indian shooter, Rudranksh Patil, finished third in the final with a score of 230.9 points, thereby claiming the bronze medal. Earlier, India had also won a silver medal in the men's 10m air rifle team event. The Indian team, comprising Rudranksh Patil, Parth Mane,

and Himanshu Dhillon, secured second place with a score of 1890.1 points. China won the gold medal with

1899.0 points, while South Korea took the bronze with 1841.4 points.



september 21 Chandigarh 2026

Elderly man reunites with family with ChatGPT's help



Saman Lal (72) hails from Fatehgarh Gujran village in the Ludhiana district of Punjab. On the 11th, he visited the Golden Temple in Amritsar with his family. Saman Lal has long suffered from memory loss. During the trip to Amritsar, he unexpectedly became separated from his family. He did not have a mobile phone with him, making it impossible to locate him. Disoriented due to his memory issues, Saman Lal boarded a train and traveled to the Gaya region of Bihar.

He wandered in search of his family, ending up about 1,200 km away from home. A few days ago, he asked a young man named Neeraj from Gaya for food. Upon realizing the elderly man's plight, Neeraj took him home and provided shelter. Saman Lal, who spoke only Punjabi, could only recall the name of his village (Fatehgarh Gujran). Neeraj used ChatGPT to search for the village's location and discovered it was in the Ludhiana district of Punjab. As Saman Lal could not be sent alone, he set out for Punjab and located Saman Lal's family.

Not only the family but the entire village community warmly welcomed Saman Lal and expressed their gratitude to the young man, Neeraj.

Central Government Targets Manufacturing 'Indigenous' Bullet Train Capable of 350 km/h by 2030

NEW DELHI: The Central Government has set a target to manufacture 'indigenous' bullet trains capable of speeds of 350 km/h by the year 2030. The Ministry of Railways has prepared a revised estimate for the Mumbai & Ahmedabad high-speed rail project. In the proposal submitted to the Union Cabinet for approval, India has set a goal to manufacture 'P35' series indigenous bullet trains—capable of operating at 350 km/h—by 2030. Notably, Japan also plans to commence production of its next-generation 'E10' series bullet trains in 2030; India's 'P35'



train is considered equivalent to the Japanese 'E10'. The Union Cabinet has approved a revised cost exceeding ₹2 lakh crore for the 508 km Mumbai & Ahmedabad high-speed rail project. This figure is double the initial estimate made in 2015. This additional expenditure of approximately ₹1 lakh crore will be met through budgetary support from the Central Government. In December 2024, Japan announced the phased discontinuation of the 'E5' series trains currently in use. Consequently, India initiated work on developing the 'P35' class of bullet trains. Officials have stated that since the production of Japan's 'E10' trains is set to begin in 2030 with entry into service by 2034, their operation on Indian routes will be considered once they are ready. Meanwhile, work has already commenced on manufacturing 'P28' high-speed trains in India, capable of speeds up to 280 km/h. Furthermore, India is developing the Bharat Train Control System (BTCS) to manage train speed, spacing, and safety—a system comparable to the 'CTCS' signaling method used in China's railway networks. Of the total 508 km distance between Mumbai and Ahmedabad... A target has been set to complete all high-speed rail line works by December 2030.



The Minister of State for Defence, Shri Sanjay Seth witnessed the show by the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) of the Indian Air Force took to the skies of Meerut for the first time to captivating spectators with a breathtaking display

Dengue Testing at Anna University Over 20 Students Unwell

CHENNAI: Dengue tests were conducted on students at Anna University, Chennai. The university administration has advised students found to have low platelet counts to return to their hometowns for appropriate medical treatment before coming back to the hostel. With the onset of the monsoon season, the spread of dengue fever in Tamil Nadu is increasing daily. Notably, the Health Department reported that 253 people in the state contracted dengue fever in a single day the day before yesterday. Reports claiming that three Anna University students had died due to dengue caused significant alarm; however, the Health Department clarified that the student death at the university was not caused by dengue but by an infection resulting from the 'Scrub Typhus' bacterium. Amidst this situation, dengue tests were carried out on students at Anna University due to fever-related illnesses. Medical screenings were conducted on over 200 students, and the results revealed that more than 20 students had low platelet counts. Consequently, the university administration advised these students to travel to their hometowns for proper medical treatment before returning. It was also announced that students who do not wish to return to their hometowns could stay in a hospital to receive treatment, in accordance with the university administration's guidelines. Reports indicate that ongoing medical checks are being conducted to monitor the students' health. The earlier death of an Anna University student due to fever has already created anxiety among the student body.

elangana: Neurologist Dies After Car Crashes into Road Divider

HYDERABAD: Dr. Jagadeesh Babu, a neurosurgeon from Khammam, Telangana, was driving alone to Hyderabad yesterday morning. Around 7:15 AM, while his car was traveling along the national highway near Pillalamarri in Suryapet district, it suddenly went out of control and crashed into the road divider. Moments later, the car caught fire and was engulfed in flames. Consequently, Dr. Jagadeesh Babu, who was in the driver's seat, was unable to escape the vehicle. Firefighters and police arrived at the scene upon receiving the information and extinguished the fire; however, the car was completely gutted. Dr. Jagadeesh Babu's charred body was recovered from the driver's seat. Preliminary investigations suggest that the vehicle may have gone out of control due to a lack of sleep. Police stated that an investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the accident and the precise reason the car caught fire.

Ukraine Launches Massive Overnight Drone Attack Targeting Moscow

Oil Refinery Ablaze



MOSCOW: Ukraine launched a fierce attack on the Russian capital, Moscow, overnight, deploying over 1,000 drones—an unprecedented scale of assault. Two people lost their lives in the incident. The war between Ukraine and Russia has entered its fifth year. In recent months, both nations have been conducting reciprocal attacks targeting public infrastructure, oil facilities, ports, and warehouses. Amidst this, Ukraine targeted Moscow with a massive overnight drone strike involving more than 1,000 drones. This marks the largest drone attack Ukraine has launched against

Italian PM Meloni announces ban on burqas, niqabs in schools; plans cap on foreign students per class

ITALY: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has announced plans to prohibit face coverings such as burqas and niqabs in schools, while also proposing a legal cap on the number of foreign students permitted in each classroom. Speaking at Fenix, a youth event organised by her Brothers of Italy party in Rome on Sunday, Meloni said a measure containing the proposed provisions would soon be presented to the Council of Ministers. "So, a measure is about to reach the Council of Ministers that legally introduces a limit on the number of foreign students per class. A maximum number, clearly. And that's not all. It also introduces an obligation for parents of foreign students with severe integration issues at school to learn Italian and introduces a ban on burqas and niqabs in schools," she said. The Prime Minister said the measures were aimed at ensuring that people coming to Italy to build their future learn the Italian language, understand the country's culture and respect its rules. "For us, anyone who comes to Italy and wants to build their future here must learn our language, know our culture, and respect our rules. It is the only serious way to welcome people," she added. On the proposed ban on face coverings in schools, Meloni said students should attend school with their faces uncovered and linked the measure to gender equality. "Because you go to school with an uncovered face and because in Italy, no one, in the name of a real or presumed tradition, can decide that a young woman must hide

herself. Gender equality is non-negotiable—not on our streets, and not in our schools," she said. Meloni



also said parents of foreign students experiencing severe difficulties with integration into the Italian school system would be required to learn Italian. The government has not yet specified the maximum number of foreign students

that would be permitted in an individual class. According to current data from research institute Fondazione ISMU, around 930,000 students without Italian citizenship are currently enrolled in schools across Italy, accounting for nearly 11.6 per cent of the country's total school population. Addressing higher education at the event, Meloni also spoke about changes to admission procedures for medical school. She said the government had scrapped the multiple-choice entrance test, describing it as an unfair mechanism that restricted opportunities. "And then university—that transition where so many young people choose what they want to be for the year to come. Here too, we inherited a system that claimed in words to guarantee opportunity for everyone but in practice left some behind. We have unseated some of these mechanisms as well, starting with one of the biggest symbols of the senseless injustices created by left-wing governments: the multiple-choice entrance test for medical school. We scrapped this infernal mechanism because if you want to play the lottery, you buy a New Year's ticket—you don't enrol in university," she stated. The announcements were made as Meloni outlined the government's proposed approach to integration in schools, including language requirements for parents of foreign students facing serious integration difficulties, a cap on foreign students per class and a ban on burqas and niqabs in schools.

Trump to meet Mayor Zohran Mamdani ahead of UNGA High Level Week in NYC

WASHINGTON : US President Donald Trump is scheduled to meet NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani in New York on Monday (local time), ahead of the 81st United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week. According to the White House's daily guidance and press schedule for Monday, Trump will meet Mamdani at 4:10 pm (local time) at Gracie Mansion. The meeting is listed as closed press. The White House schedule also lists a meeting between Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron at 5:35 pm (local time) in New York, followed by a Republican National Committee (RNC) reception and a MAGA Inc. dinner. On Tuesday (local time), Trump is also set to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in New York as the United

States pushes efforts to secure de-escalation between Russia and Ukraine, with the two leaders expected to discuss steps towards reducing hostilities and reviving negotiations. According to Axios, Ukrainian chief negotiator Rustem Umerov, who also heads Ukraine's Foreign Intelligence Service, has been working with White House envoys to arrange the talks. The US President's upcoming meetings come at a time as world leaders prepare to gather at the UN headquarters for the annual high-level General Debate, scheduled from September 22 to 28. The 81st session of the UN General Assembly is being held under the theme "Restoring trust, managing transformation: A United Nations that delivers for all." Bangladesh's Khalilur Rahman is presiding over the session. The General Assembly will bring together presidents, prime ministers and senior representatives from all 193 UN member states, who will outline their priorities and positions on major international issues. Earlier, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for hope and continued efforts towards a better world as he prepares to attend his last UN General Assembly (UNGA) as UN chief. In a post on X, Guterres said, "As I prepare for my last UNGA as @UN Secretary & General, I've been reflecting on the global challenges people face. In these difficult times, we have to choose to be hopeful, not hopeless. We cannot give up fighting for a better world for all & now more than ever." According to the United



Nations, the 81st session will focus on revitalising global cooperation, advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and promoting collective action for peace, dignity and equality. From the Indian side, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is scheduled to participate and deliver an address. The UN General Assembly's high-level week will also feature discussions on global conflicts, development, climate change, humanitarian challenges and other pressing international issues. The General Debate is expected to provide a major platform for leaders to present their foreign policy priorities and engage on key global developments.

Typhoon 'Dujuan' hits Japan Asian Games postponed

TOKYO: As the Asian Games are underway in Japan, the meteorological department has issued a warning that a massive storm is set to strike the country. Named 'Dujuan', the storm is expected to pass over the Boso Peninsula in Chiba Prefecture—located east of Tokyo—between this evening and tonight. Warnings have been issued

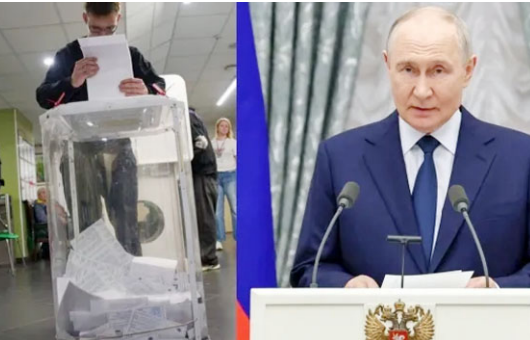
regarding potential heavy rains, strong winds, and landslides. The storm has caused disruptions to transportation, leading to the closure of certain sections of highways. The impact of the storm is also being felt in the Aichi & Nagoya region, where the Asian Games are taking place. Heavy rains accompanied by strong winds are

occurring, prompting the postponement of the equestrian event to tomorrow. Meanwhile, photos of Indian cricket team players—who have traveled to Japan for the Asian Games—posing with umbrellas amidst the rain have gone viral on social media.



Putin's Party Shows Its Might! Major Shift in Russian Parliamentary Elections

MOSCOW: Russian parliamentary elections have taken place amidst drone and cyber-attacks by Ukraine. Reports indicate that Putin's party is poised for an easy victory. The war against Ukraine began in February 2022. This is the first parliamentary election held in Russia since the conflict started. The election serves as a litmus test for public support regarding Putin's war policies. Notably, most opposition candidates who opposed the war were barred from contesting. Other sanctioned parties—such as the Communist Party, LDPR, and New People—are likely to secure only a few of the 450



parliamentary seats with a minimal share of the vote. Political leaders had urged citizens opposed to the war to gather at polling stations at noon to register their dissent; in some areas, people were seen waiting in long queues. While the election was underway, Ukraine launched a massive drone attack on

Moscow and its surrounding areas—an assault unprecedented in scale. Three people in the Moscow region and two individuals—including an election official—in the Russian-controlled Kherson region of Ukraine lost their lives in these attacks. A drone strike on an oil refin-

ery in Moscow caused a fire, sending plumes of smoke into the air. However, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin stated that Ukraine's attempt to disrupt the election had failed. The Russian Ministry of Defence reported shooting down approximately 2,000 Ukrainian drones and eight Flamingo cruise missiles within the last 24 hours alone. In retaliation, Russia has stated that it will intensify attacks on Ukraine's military targets. The Election Commission reported that, despite repeated cyberattacks on Russia's voting systems, the overall electoral process proceeded smoothly without major disruptions.

Sexual Assault Case Against 'Granite' Veeramani

Chief Minister Vijay Issues Decisive Order



CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay has issued a decisive order regarding the sexual assault case involving 'Granite' Veeramani. A volunteer from Chennai lodged a complaint with the Anti & Vice Squad on October 6, 2025. The complainant stated, "An unidentified person visited my office and handed over a pen drive."

He claimed the drive contained video footages showing Veeramani (aged 84)—the prominent industrialist and owner of 'Gems Granites'—engaging in a sexual act with a minor girl. The Anti & Vice Squad examined the video footage on the pen drive, which recorded industrialist Veeramani committing a sexual offense against a minor girl. Based on this footage, the Anti & Vice Squad of the Chennai Central Crime Branch registered a

case on October 7, 2025, and launched an investigation. Police inquiries revealed that industrialist Veeramani had rented a house in Teynampet for a woman named Shanthi. It was discovered that Shanthi and her husband, Mahendra Simkan, had been procuring minor girls for Veeramani at that house.

Subsequently, the police conducted surprise raids on their residences and offices. During the raids, police recovered video evidence related to the case, as well as photographs of minor girls and women. Based on this evidence, the Central Crime Branch Anti & Vice Squad arrested industrialist Veeramani under the POCSO Act for sexually abusing multiple minor girls. Shanthi and her husband, Mahendra Simkan—who had been supplying the min-

or girls—were also arrested. Following the investigation, all three were remanded to judicial custody and imprisoned. As this is a POCSO case, Deputy Commissioner of the Central Crime Branch Geethanjali and Assistant Commissioner of the Anti & Vice Squad Rajalakshmi paid special attention to the matter and initiated an inquiry to identify the minor girls and young women featured in the pen drive submitted with the complaint.

Several shocking details emerged during this process. Subsequently, businessman Veeramani was taken into police custody for three days with court permission. Since Veeramani is over 80 years old and could not be brought out of prison for questioning, Deputy Commissioner Geethanjali and Assistant Commissioner Rajalakshmi conducted the interrogation within Puzhal Prison itself—from last Wednesday to Friday—in accordance with the court order. The investigation revealed that he had established ashrams and provided financial aid for the education of underprivileged female students only to exploit them for sexual gratification;

that 'Gem Granite' Veeramani had sexually abused 100 minor girls and young women; and that he had rented a bungalow in Poes Garden for ₹2 lakh specifically for these illicit encounters.

Intensive investigations into the case are ongoing. Amidst this, Chief Minister Vijay has ordered the police to take action against everyone involved in the sexual assault case against Gem Granite owner Veeramani.

With sexual allegations against Veeramani continuing to surface, the Chief Minister has instructed Chennai Police Commissioner Amalraj to ensure that no perpetrator is spared and that swift action is taken in the case. This directive follows two direct consultations held by Chief Minister Vijay with Chennai Police Commissioner Amalraj over the past two days regarding the matter.

Following the Chief Minister's order, the investigation into the sexual assault case against 'Granite' Veeramani has been intensified. Furthermore, special teams have been constituted within the Anti & Vice Squad to handle the case.

Syria: Massive Explosion at Arms Depot



DAMASCUS: A massive explosion occurred at an arms depot in Syria. Syria is a Middle Eastern nation

that experienced a civil war spanning from 2011 to 2024. Various weapons—including bombs and firearms used during the conflict—are stored in depots across the country, and explosions occasionally occur at these sites.

In a recent incident, a massive explosion

took place today at an arms depot located within a military base in the town of Al & Eis, in the Aleppo province of northern Syria. Preliminary reports indicate that four people were critically injured in the blast.

Upon learning of the explosion, firefighting and rescue teams rushed to the scene and are currently engaged in rescue operations.

Campaign to Oppose Mekedatu Dam Construction Begins at Poompuhar Concludes in Tiruvarur on Sept 24

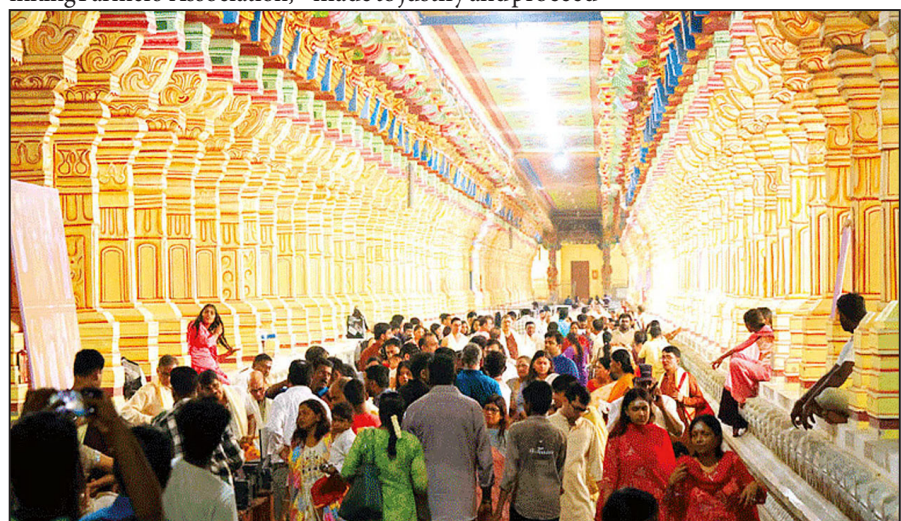
MAYILADUTHURAI: A campaign organized by the Tamil Nadu Cauvery Farmers' Association began yesterday at Poompuhar in Mayiladuthurai district.

The campaign aims to press for demands such as preventing the Karnataka government from constructing a dam at Mekedatu and urging Tamil Nadu to initiate a dam project at Rasimanal. P.R. Pandian, the General Secretary of the association, presided over the event. Speakers included Ayyakannu, State President of the National & South Indian River Interlinking Farmers' Association,

and Tamilselvan, District President of the Tamil Nadu Traders' Federation. A.M. Vikramaraja, President of the Federation, flagged off the campaign. Speaking to reporters in Karaikal, P.R. Pandian stated that Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is engaging in a false propaganda campaign by claiming that Tamil Nadu allows surplus Cauvery water to drain into the sea. Intense efforts are being made to justify and proceed



with the illegal construction of the Mekedatu dam. This campaign tour is being undertaken to unite farmers and political parties from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, and to build a consensus on constructing a dam at Rasimanal—on behalf of Tamil Nadu—for the benefit of farmers in both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Gratitude was expressed to the Chief Minister of Puducherry for passing a resolution against the Mekedatu dam; the Puducherry government should also file a case in the Supreme Court opposing the project.



Following Prime Minister Modi's showcasing of the famous third corridor of the Rameswaram temple at the BRICS summit, the number of devotees visiting to see its pillars has begun to rise.

Demands will be raised for the Tamil Nadu government to pass a resolution urging the construction of a dam at Rasimanal. The tour proceeded via Karaikal, Nagai, and Thiruthurai to reach Mannargudi. It was announced that a campaign meeting would be held in Egmore, Chennai, on September 23, followed by the concluding event of the campaign tour in Tiruvarur on September 24.



The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the Conference of Finance Ministers and Finance Secretaries of States and Union Territories with Legislature on "Financing India's Journey towards Viksit Bharat" organised by Ministry of Finance at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi

For whose whim is the new Secretariat being built? M.K. Stalin issues a warning

CHENNAI: In a statement issued by DMK President M.K. Stalin, the following was stated: The unilateral decision by the government to construct a new Secretariat at Pattinappakkam—a move that destroys the habitat and livelihoods of fishermen—deserves strong condemnation.

Representatives of fishermen's associations met me today at Anna Arivalayam to seek the DMK's support regarding this issue. I wish to state that the DMK extends its full support to the protests being conducted by the fishing community against this move and will stand firmly with our fisherfolk brothers until the government withdraws its decision. There are numerous locations available for constructing a Secretariat. There is already the Omandurar Government Estate complex, which was built by our leader Kalaigarnar for use as a Secretariat. If desired, the hospital currently operating there could be relocated, and the complex



could once again serve as the Secretariat. However, reports suggest that the Chief Minister chose Pattinappakkam simply because an astrologer advised that the Chief Minister's office should face the sea. It is unacceptable for the livelihoods of thousands of fishermen to be destroyed merely to satisfy one person's whim.

Furthermore, the site currently selected by the Tamil Nadu government is surrounded by numerous schools and is an area prone to severe traffic congestion. Establishing the Secretariat here would cause immense hardship to students and the general public. Additionally, the fishing villages of Mullik-

uppam and Srinivasapuram are located to the south of the proposed construction site in Pattinappakkam. In the northern sector, there are a total of 12 residential areas—including Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Bhavani Kuppam, Irudhayapuram, Selvarajapuram, Doomil Kuppam, Nochi Nagar, and Nochi Kuppam—situated within a one-kilometer radius on either side. Due regard must be given to the letter submitted to the government by the Mullikuppam Panchayat and the fishing community. We had assumed that the Secretariat would not be established in Pattinappakkam, given that the two Communist parties—which supported

the formation of this government—were also expressing their opposition.

However, it is shocking that the TVK government remains adamant on this matter, disregarding their opposition and protests. The ruling TVK government has created a situation where the DMK must also vigorously join this struggle. The TVK government must heed the cries of the fishermen and immediately withdraw its government order.

The Chief Minister must openly announce the abandonment of the decision to build the Secretariat in Pattinappakkam. Instead, housing for the fishermen should be constructed in that area. I warn the anti-fisherman TVK government that if construction work for the Secretariat in Pattinappakkam continues with an attitude of anarchy and arrogance, the DMK will spearhead a massive protest alongside the fishermen. This was stated in the release.

Sudan: Gold Mine Collapse – 11 Dead

KHARTOUM: Eleven people lost their lives when a gold mine collapsed in Sudan. Sudan is a North African nation where numerous gold mines operate; however, many of these mines function illegally. One such mine is located in the town of Oni, in the Red Sea State in the country's northeast.

Yesterday, more than 40 people were engaged in gold extraction work at this site.

During the operations, the roof of the mine collapsed, resulting in the deaths of 11



people. Thirty others survived with severe injuries. Additionally, some individ-

uals remain trapped inside the mine. Upon receiving the news, rescue teams

rushed to the scene and are currently engaged in rescue operations.

"What happened to your promise?" - Congress questions PM over rising food prices



NEW DELHI: With food prices in the country skyrocketing, the Congress party has criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking, "Where have those 'good days' you spoke of gone, and what happened to your promise?"

In a post on X (formerly Twitter) regarding this issue, Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jair-

am Ramesh stated, "Skyrocketing food prices across the country have broken the backs of the middle and poor classes. The lives of common people have become miserable as the prices of essential commodities have hit record highs. In the last month alone, the prices of items such as turmeric, black pepper, mustard seeds, and garam masala have risen by 10% to 25%."

The price of small cardamom has increased from ₹4,000 to ₹4,400 per kilogram, while large cardamom has gone up from ₹2,400 to ₹2,800. Cumin prices have risen from

₹360 to ₹400 per kilogram. The price of *toor dal* (split pigeon peas) has increased from ₹100 to ₹130 per kilogram, *chana dal* (split chickpeas) from ₹70 to ₹100, and *urad dal* (split black gram) from ₹120 to ₹140. The price of mustard oil has risen from ₹190 to ₹210 per litre. In June, the average retail price of onions across the country was ₹29.50 per kilogram; by September, it had risen to ₹53.78. This represents a staggering 82.3% increase in onion prices in just three and a half months.

Due to rising prices, pulses and essential food items are becoming unaffordable for the poor.

Yet, the Prime Minister remains silent on the issue of rising prices.

"Prime Minister, where have those 'Achhe Din' (Good Days) you promised gone? Did they amount to nothing more than empty rhetoric?" ...is what the nation is asking. People are suffering from hunger, yet the government remains silent.

Is this the 'New India'? What happened to your promise? What became of that pledge and that resolve? The Modi government must immediately take stringent measures against this spiraling price rise and provide relief to the common people," he stated.