

Union Cabinet Meets Today Under PM Modi's Leadership

NEW DELHI: Two years have passed since the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) assumed power at the Centre, and the government has already moved well into its third year. Despite this, the BJP has already begun preparations for the 2029 general elections.

Since the party did not secure an absolute majority in the last election, strategies are being formulated—and work is underway—to achieve

Discussions regarding a developed India are set to be held at the meeting

a decisive majority next time. Initiatives such as strengthening the party organizationally, propagating the government's achievements across every nook and corner of the country, and engaging the younger generation are being prioritized. Some ministers have currently been reassigned to party work, while others have stepped down.

Meanwhile, several MPs from other parties have joined the BJP. Amidst these changes, there have been frequent reports suggesting a potential expansion of the Union Cabinet, though nothing has been confirmed so far. In this context, new information has sparked fresh speculation regarding the matter. Typically, Union



Cabinet meetings are held on Wednesdays.

These one-day sessions usually focus on approving policy-related decisions; while the duration might extend if additional topics arise, it is rare for a meeting to last beyond a single day. However, reports indicate that this week's Cabinet meeting will take place over two

days—today (Wednesday) and tomorrow.

It is said that this session will function as a major consultative meeting or a 'brainstorming camp.' Beyond merely granting approvals, the discussions will also cover the government's journey and performance over the past two years. With elections approaching in seven states

and a need to appoint new ministers to replace those who have stepped down, it is reported that this two-day meeting may involve a review of the performance of current ministers and a decision regarding a cabinet expansion based on that assessment.

Discussions concerning 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) are also expected to feature prominently in the meeting.

CM Vijay Inspects Electricity Board Headquarters in Chennai

CHENNAI: With the recent rise in temperatures across Tamil Nadu, the demand for electricity has increased. Consequently, unscheduled power outages are occurring in various districts, including Chennai, Trichy, and Nellore. Public frustration over nighttime power cuts has led to protests involving road blockades and the besieging of Electricity Board offices. These unscheduled two-hour outages have also adversely affected the industrial and agricultural sectors.



Amidst rising complaints about power outages across the state, Chief Minister Vijay personally visited 'Minnagam'—the Electricity Board headquarters located on Anna Salai, Chennai—to conduct

an inspection.

He inquired with officials about power outage complaints, remedial measures, and details regarding electricity generation and procurement. Furthermore, he held

discussions with Minister Nirmal Kumar, Electricity Board Chairman Arun Roy, Green Energy Corporation Managing Director Sridhar, and other officials regarding strengthening the power infrastructure, meeting electricity demand, and the actions taken to address consumer grievances. Subsequently, the Chief Minister inspected 'Minnagam' and the State Load Despatch Centre. During the visit, he sought information from officials regarding the measures taken during power outages, as well as details on electricity generation and demand.

Udhayanidhi to Campaign for Maduranthakam DMK Candidate on Sept 27

MADHURANTHAGAM: Udhayanidhi Stalin is set to campaign on September 27 in Maduranthakam and surrounding rural areas in support of Paranthaman, the DMK candidate contesting the Maduranthakam Assembly constituency election. A five-way contest has emerged in the by-election for the Maduranthakam Assembly constituency in Chengalpattu district.

Amidst this, various prominent leaders have been campaigning for the DMK candidate, Paranthaman. As part of these efforts, Udhayanidhi Stalin will campaign for the DMK candidate on September 27. He is scheduled to campaign from an open-top vehicle in areas including Mamandur, Karunguzhi, Maduranthakam town, Achirupakkam, and Orathi. Party functionaries



have also stated that plans are in place to set up a campaign stage in the Maduranthakam

area; consequently, DMK cadres are making various arrangements for the event.

Do not go to Malaysia relying on unscrupulous agents to seek employment on a tourist visa

Indian High Commission warns

KUALA LUMPUR: The Indian High Commission has warned Indians not to seek employment in Malaysia using tourist visas and urged them not to fall victim to fraudulent agents in this regard. The number of people traveling to Malaysia on the 30-day tourist visa facility provided by the Malaysian government is increasing daily. In this context, a statement issued by the Indian

High Commission in Kuala Lumpur clarified that the 30-day facility is intended solely for social visits, such as tourism or visiting relatives; it does not grant permission to seek employment.

Working in the country on a tourist visa violates immigration regulations, and Indians doing so could face severe legal consequences.

Therefore, Indians traveling to Malaysia on tou-

rist visas should not engage in job-seeking activities. Many Indians end up overstaying their permitted duration after being misled by unscrupulous agents who make false promises regarding employment. This situation can lead to issues such as illegal overstaying, exploitation, arrests, and legal complications.

Therefore, to avoid immigration-related prob-

lems when visiting Malaysia, genuine tourists must carry the necessary documents. Tourists are required to possess the 'Malaysia Digital Arrival Card' (submitted online three days prior to arrival) and a passport with a validity of at least six months. The Embassy has advised Indian citizens not to travel to Malaysia for employment without a valid work permit or the appropriate visa.

China, North Korea concerns with Trump, support for Ukraine, UNSC reform push with Guterres drive first day for Japan PM at UNGA

NEW YORK: Japan Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's first day at the United Nations General Assembly in New York was marked by a series of high-level meetings, including discussions with US President Donald Trump on China and North Korea, reaffirmation of Tokyo's support for Ukraine, and a push for United Nations reform, including expansion of the UN Security Council. Takaichi held a Japan-US summit meeting with Trump on Tuesday on the sidelines of the UNGA, describing the talks as "very open and cordial" and saying the two leaders held "solid discussions" on cooperation across a wide range of fields and regional situations.

According to Takaichi, the meeting marked the fourth time she has met Trump since the G7 Evian Summit in June this year. "Regarding economic security, an area of high mutual interest for Japan and the United States, we confirmed our cooperation to win the technology competition and enhance resilience in fields such as AI, semiconductors, and critical minerals, and agreed to further strengthen this going forward," Takaichi said in a post on X.

The two leaders also reaffirmed the importance of steadily implementing the Japan-US agreement on tariffs and agreed to advance cooperation on both sides. Takaichi said she and Trump also exchanged views frankly on "issues including China and North Korea." A key issue raised by the Japanese Prime Minister was the abduction issue, which she said she remains personally committed to resolving.

"In particular, regarding the abduction issue, to which I am personally committed with determination, I once again emphasised the importance of its immediate resolution and received his full support," Takaichi said.



She also said the talks covered security, the economy, economic security and the situation in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as views on the International Criminal Court (ICC). "Through close engagement with President Trump, we aim to elevate the Japan-US alliance to even greater heights," Takaichi added.

On Ukraine, Takaichi met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in their first meeting since their conversation in Evian in June. Takaichi said she expressed respect for the Ukrainian people and underlined Japan's continued support for Ukraine. "I once again expressed respect for the Ukrainian people who are standing up for the peace of their homeland under President Zelenskyy's strong leadership and emphasised that it is essential for all countries to unite in supporting Ukraine in order to achieve 'just and lasting peace' as soon as possible," she said in a separate post on X.

The Japanese Prime Minister further stated that Tokyo's policy toward Ukraine remains unchanged. "I also stated that Japan stands with Ukraine, that this policy remains unwavering, and that we will continue to work on support for Ukraine and sanctions against Russia in cooperation with the international community," Takaichi said. Zelenskyy expressed grati-



tude for Japan's support and explained Ukraine's current initiatives. She said Japan would continue to support Ukraine and coordinate with the Ukrainian President.

Takaichi also met UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, with UN reform and Security Council reform featuring prominently in their discussions. The meeting was a reunion following Guterres' visit to Japan in May. "From my side, to realise a more resilient and effective United Nations, I confirmed our cooperation on UN reform, including the UN80 Initiative, and stated that reform of the Security Council—encompassing expansion of both permanent and non-permanent membership—is indispensable," Takaichi said.

She also reiterated Japan's request for an increase in the number of Japanese nationals serving in UN-affiliated organisations. "From UN Secretary-General Guterres, I received his gratitude for Japan's support of UN activities and

expressions of expectation regarding Japan's contributions to efforts toward UN reform," Takaichi said. Takaichi reaffirmed Japan's commitment to multilateralism centred on the United Nations, saying Tokyo would continue working with the organisation to build peace and prosperity.

Meanwhile, the White House also highlighted the meeting between Trump and Takaichi, posting on X. "President Donald J. Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi at the United Nations General Assembly, furthering the strong alliance between the USA and Japan," the post read.

The meetings brought together several of Japan's key foreign-policy priorities during Takaichi's first day at the UN General Assembly: coordination with the United States on regional and economic-security issues, continued support for Ukraine, and efforts toward reform of the United Nations and its Security Council.

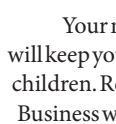


Lucknow: Supreme Court lawyer Neeraj died after a luxury car collided with his scooter.

Today horoscope



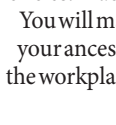
—You will achieve anything through mental strength. Good news will arrive from out of town. You will fulfill your parents' wishes. Business will pick up, yielding good profits. Partners will offer their support. You will gain the upper hand at the workplace.



Your mother's health will stabilize. You will keep your word. You will take pride in your children. Relatives and friends will be helpful. Business will be profitable. At the workplace, learn to focus solely on your own tasks.



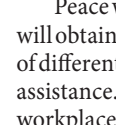
You will make decisions with a firm and confident outlook. Prominent figures will assist you. Journeys will go well. A crucial document you were searching for at the office will be found. Your superior will appreciate you. Employees in your business will work with a strong sense of duty.



It is best to avoid unnecessary talk in social circles. Practice compromise within the family. You will make efforts to renovate and expand your ancestral home. Maintain composure at the workplace. Avoid making hasty decisions in business.



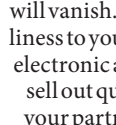
You will successfully complete planned tasks. You will focus on raising your children responsibly. You will receive support from superiors at work. In business, you will attract existing customers by employing new strategies.



Peace will return to the family. You will obtain a visa for foreign travel. People of different faiths or languages will offer assistance. Avoid pointless arguments at the workplace. You will implement new strategies in business, and partners will extend their support.



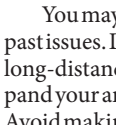
You will devise new ways to settle old debts. Those who applied for new jobs will receive interview calls. Your father's health will improve. Old friends will come to visit you. Partners will cooperate in business matters. Career advancement is indicated.



Differences of opinion between spouses will vanish. The arrival of guests will bring liveliness to your home. You will purchase modern electronic appliances. Business inventory will sell out quickly. You will accept advice from your partners. Your status and respect at the workplace will rise.



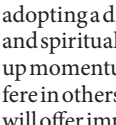
You will understand and fulfill the wishes of your family members. Your children's health will improve. Bitterness with maternal relatives will be resolved. Outstanding dues in business will be collected. Avoid interfering in other people's affairs at the workplace.



You may feel distressed thinking about past issues. Do not rush into anything. Avoid long-distance travel. You will renovate and expand your ancestral home. Business will flourish. Avoid making enemies at the workplace.



You will engage in public activities with self-confidence. You will gain benefits through relatives. Confusion with business partners will be resolved. Workload at the office will decrease. You will be recommended for a new position, and superiors will appreciate your work.



You will find solutions to old problems by adopting a different approach. Interest in yoga and spirituality will increase. Business will pick up momentum, leading to profits. Do not interfere in others' affairs at the workplace. Officials will offer important advice.



ABVP Scores Resounding Victory in Kerala College

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Student union elections were held at the Government Sanskrit College in Thrippunithura, Kerala. The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP)—the student wing of the RSS, the ideological organization behind the BJP—secured all key positions. With this result, the Students' Federation of India (SFI), which had managed the college student union for years, has lost all posts for the first time.

This victory for the ABVP in a college considered an SFI stronghold is viewed as a significant shift in Kerala's student politics. Snigdha M. Hari was elected President, Aditya T.A. as Vice President, and Vignesh Bhat as General Secretary. The ABVP has alleged that previous SFI-led student unions failed to promote the Sanskrit language and raised questions regarding the utilization of funds collected from students. Meanwhile, the BJP had also recently captured the Thrippunithura municipality. It is noteworthy that the ABVP has now secured a victory in the college student union elections, following the BJP's takeover of the municipality—which had been held by the Left for 45 years.

PM Modi to Visit Canada in December: Mark Carney Confirms

NEW YORK: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has announced that Prime Minister Modi is set to visit this country this coming December. Mark Carney, who is attending the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, was asked about trade relations between Canada and India and the timing of Prime Minister Modi's visit. He responded as follows: "We have made significant progress in trade negotiations with India."

I consider this very important, as our relationship spans various levels—including



people and to people, ties, security, the economy, and trade. Prime Minister Modi and I discussed this at the previous G20 summit, and an agreement is expected to be reached at the upcoming summit.

previously visited Canada in June of last year at Mark Carney's invitation. Mark Carney assumed office as the Prime Minister of Canada in March 2025; it is worth noting that he is an economist by profession. This year's G20 summit is scheduled to take place in Florida, USA, on December 14 and 15, under the leadership of US President Trump. Prime Minister Modi will participate in the event, and reports indicate that he is also expected to meet and hold discussions with President Trump during the visit.

Employee enraged over unpaid ₹10,000 salary

Textile shop in Surat set on fire, causing ₹24 crore in damages



SURAT: An accountant, furious over the non-payment of ₹10,000 in outstanding wages, decided to teach his employer a lesson; his actions resulted in a loss of ₹24 crore for the entire textile market. This incident occurred in Surat, Gujarat. A fire broke out on the 8th of the month

at the Shyam Sangini Textile Market in the city, destroying textile stock worth ₹24 crore across 14 shops. The Saroli police registered a case regarding the incident and examined footage from multiple surveillance cameras installed under the 'Vishwas Project Phase 2'. The footage captured an

individual, with their face covered by a cloth, setting fire to textile parcels placed outside one of the shops.

The police identified the man who set the fire as Vinod Pandit Sawle, a resident of Philipatra Residency in the Dindoli area, and arrested him. Regarding the subsequent interrogation, the police stated: Vinod Sawle had worked as an accountant at a textile shop for three months starting last April.

He was dismissed from the job in June because he was unable to handle the accounting tasks properly. Furthermore, angered by his employer's delay in pay-

ing his outstanding salary of ₹10,000, Sawle planned to teach the shop owner a lesson. To this end, he purchased petrol worth approximately ₹150 in a bottle from a local petrol station and, in September... On the 8th, he entered the market at midnight and proceeded to the targeted shop; he took out a bottle filled with petrol from his bag and poured the contents onto the boxes of cloth and parcels kept outside the shop. He then set them ablaze using a matchstick. The fire spread rapidly, engulfing several shops. The police stated that the textile market suffered a total loss of ₹24 crore due to this incident.

40 Years of Women in CRPF: Plans to Honor Key Female Personnel

NEW DELHI: To mark the completion of 40 years since the induction of women into the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)—a premier central security force—female personnel who have played pivotal roles in the force are set to be honored. The CRPF is the oldest among India's central security forces.

Originally established during the British era, the force initially comprised only men. Subsequently, on September 25, 1986, a dedicated women's unit was formed, marking the

first time women were inducted as commandos within the CRPF.

September 25 of this year marks the completion of 40 years since the inception of this women's contingent. To commemorate this milestone, the CRPF will host a ceremony to honor the women who have served in the force. Donning the uniform and shouldering the responsibility of national security is a challenging task; it involves standing at the forefront of the fight against terrorism and Naxalism, as



well as making the ultimate sacrifice for the nation when the need arises.

To this end, female personnel in the CRPF have been performing duties on par with

their male counterparts for the past 40 years. Notably, according to CRPF data, six female battalions are currently deployed in key security zones across the country.

Tamil Nadu Farmers' Association Demands Pension for All Farmers Aged 60 and Above



CHENNAI The Tamil Nadu Farmers' Association has urged the government to provide a pension to all farmers who have attained the age of 60.

In a statement regarding this, the association's General Secretary, P.S. Masilamani, noted that the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-dhan Yojana' scheme has been announced to provide a monthly pension of ₹3,000 to farmers aged 60 and above.

However, since the scheme is restricted to farmers owning less than two hectares of land, other farmers are unable to join it. Enrollment in the scheme is limited to individuals between the ages of 18 and 45. Once enrolled, the government deducts a monthly premium—ranging from ₹55 to ₹200 depending on the individual's age—directly from their bank account. For over two decades,

protests have been taking place across India demanding a monthly pension of ₹10,000 for farmers—who feed the nation despite battling the elements and facing various losses.

The government should provide this pension amount to all farmers—whether small, marginal, or large—who have attained the age of 60, without requiring any contribution from them; collecting premiums—akin to a small savings scheme—or implementing the scheme in a manner that discriminates among farmers amounts to a breach of trust. Therefore, acceding to the long-standing demand of the farmers, the Central and State governments must jointly provide a pension

of ₹10,000 without imposing any conditions.

Rajya Sabha Elections for 12 Seats on October 16

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission has announced that elections for 12 Rajya Sabha seats across three states, including Uttar Pradesh, will be held on October 16. The terms of ten Rajya Sabha members representing Uttar Pradesh—Arun Singh, Geeta (alias Chandraprabha), Brijlal, Ram Gopal Yadav, Neeraj Shekhar, Ramji Gautam, B.L. Verma, Seema Dwivedi, Dinesh Sharma, and Hardeep Singh Puri—are set to expire soon. Similarly, the

term of Naresh Bansal, a Rajya Sabha member representing Uttar Pradesh, is also coming to an end. Consequently, the Election Commission has announced that elections will be held on October 16 for these

11 seats (10 in Uttar Pradesh and 1 in Uttarakhand) that are soon to fall vacant. Results on the Same Day: The Commission has also announced that a by-election for one vacant Rajya Sabha seat in West Bengal will take place on the same day. Voting will be held from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and vote counting will begin at 5:00 PM. The Election Commission stated that the results will be declared on the same day.

september 23 Jaipur 2026

Even the 'King of the Jungle' gets drowsy after a meal... A tiger takes a quick nap



A severe traffic jam occurred on a forest road in a Rajasthan park because a tiger decided to take a nap. Yesterday (Tuesday), a tiger settled down for an afternoon snooze on a forest track within the world-famous Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan. This resulted in a peculiar traffic jam, with around 30 safari jeeps lined up behind it. Elena, a foreign tourist visiting the forest, captured this rare sight on her camera and shared it on Instagram. Describing the incident, she noted, "This was the third tiger I saw across the four safaris I went on."

Just like my pet cat sleeps at home, this 200-kilogram tiger lay down right in the middle of the road without a care in the world, forcing 30 safari jeeps to wait in line behind it." The tiger, weighing approximately 200 kilograms, lay calmly on the road, completely unconcerned about the tourist vehicles that had come to a halt. Consequently, the jeeps were unable to move forward and remained queued up. "Traffic jams are common in India, but this time, it was caused by a tiger," she remarked humorously.

After its brief nap, the tiger rose, stretched lazily, and slowly walked away into the dense forest. The video has gone viral on social media, garnering hundreds of thousands of views.

Petition Seeking Additional 70 TMC of Cauvery Water for Karnataka Dismissed

NEW DELHI: A writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court by the 'Cauvery Neer Rakshana Samithi' (Cauvery Water Protection Committee). Citing the drinking water shortage and agricultural needs in Karnataka, the petition requested an additional allocation of 70 TMC of Cauvery water to the state from the share originally allotted to Tamil Nadu.

Upon hearing the petition, the Supreme Court judges dismissed it, stating, "The Supreme Court has already delivered a verdict regarding the sharing of Cauvery water, and there are existing guidelines from the Cauvery Management Authority. Therefore, this petition cannot be entertained."





At an event held yesterday at the Chennai Secretariat, Law Minister Nirmal Kumar presented college allotment orders to the top 10 students in the rank list for LL.M. admissions in government law colleges for the current academic year.

Pakistani Minister Abducted Armed Gang’s Audacious Act



ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party is currently

in power in Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where Fazal Shakoor Khan serves as the Minister for Public Health. Last Monday, he was traveling by car along a main road in the capital, Peshawar, when a group of masked, armed individuals intercepted his vehicle. Subsequently, the unidentified gang abducted Minister Fazal Shakoor Khan. Sources within the PTI party stated, “We have lodged a co-

mplaint at the police station regarding Minister Fazal’s abduction, but no action has been taken so far. We suspect that the Pakistan Army is behind the abduction of Minister Shakoor. We are planning to hold a massive rally in Islamabad on September 27 to demand Imran Khan’s release from prison. Continuous attacks are being launched against us in an attempt to prevent this,” the sources added.

Bihar Schoolgirl Sexual Assault Case

Police Shoot and Apprehend Key Accused

PATNA: Police shot the key accused, Nandan Yadav, in the leg and apprehended him after he attempted to escape custody while being investigated for the alleged sexual assault of a Class 10 student in Jamui, Bihar. On the 19th, a Class 10 student in Jamui was returning home with a male classmate after attending coaching classes when a gang intercepted and attacked them. Nandan Yadav, a member of the gang, allegedly

dragged the girl away and sexually assaulted her.



Five individuals have been arrested in connection with the case so far; police have also stated that two juveniles are involved. As part of the investigation, the police had taken

Nandan Yadav to the scene of the incident. The police stated that he was apprehended after being shot in the leg while attempting to escape from custody. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary has announced that strict action will be taken against everyone involved in this incident. Meanwhile, Jamui District Superintendent of Police Vishwajeet Dayal has warned that severe action will be taken against those who share videos or information that reveal the girl’s identity.

G4 countries call for immediate UNSC reform, cite council’s inability to uphold global peace, security

NEW YORK: The G4 Ministers External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Brazil’s Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira, Germany’s Federal Foreign Minister Johann David Wadephul and Japan’s Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu met in New York on Tuesday on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly. In a joint ministerial statement, the four countries said the increasingly challenging geopolitical environment had made Security Council reform “more necessary than ever before”. “The G4 Ministers noted that the UNSC is currently unable to effectively discharge its core responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. The representativeness, legitimacy, credibility and efficacy of the UNSC are in question,” the statement said.

The G4 attributed what they described as the Council’s shortcomings to its “anachronistic eight-decades-old architecture”, which they said does not reflect contemporary geopolitical realities and is an impediment to addressing present and future challenges concerning international peace and security. Against this backdrop, the four countries called for UNSC reform to be implemented at the earliest, stressing that the Council needs to be “fit-for-purpose” and reflective of

present-day global realities. The G4 said expansion of the Security Council in both the permanent and non-permanent categories should be central to the reform process. They also stressed the need for greater representation of under-represented and unrepresented regions and groups, including Africa, the Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The four countries further highlighted the importance of increasing the participation of member states that contribute significantly to maintaining international peace and security and advancing other purposes of the United Nations. The G4 also welcomed the presentation of the African Group’s reform model during the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) in the 80th session of the UN General Assembly and reiterated their support for Africa’s case for enhanced representation, including in the permanent category of membership.

The ministers expressed concern over the limited progress made through the IGN framework, noting that it had been active for 18 years without

producing concrete outcomes towards substantive Security Council reform. They also expressed reservations over the presentation of what they described as a “bridging proposal” before the commencement of text-based negotiations, saying it did not reflect the views of a clear majority of UN member states in favour of expansion in both membership categories.

The G4 recalled that consensus is not the benchmark for decision-making on Security Council reform under the UN Charter and the IGN mandate. Looking ahead, the four countries said they would work with other reform-oriented groups to identify areas of convergence and develop a consolidated model reflecting the views of the majority of member states. They said commencing text-based negotiations would be a high priority, describing this as key to achieving what they termed “real and impactful UNSC reform”.

The G4 said such reform was necessary to restore the representativeness, legitimacy, credibility and efficacy of the Security Council and strengthen the wider multilateral system. Jaishankar also highlighted the G4’s shared objective following the meeting. “Joined my G4 counterparts from Brazil, Germany and Japan in New York #UNGA81. Discussed the imperative of reformed multilateralism and a more representative, responsive and effective UN

Security Council that reflects today’s global realities. Will continue to work together to advance this shared objective,” the EAM said in a post on X.

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul also emphasised the need for the Security Council to reflect changes in the international system, while calling for stronger representation for Africa. “Since the founding of the UN the world has changed profoundly & this needs to be reflected in its highest decision making body. Together with India, Brazil, Japan we strive for a more inclusive UN Security Council. Also, voices from Africa need to be represented more appropriately,” Wadephul said in a post on X.

The G4 ministers said they would continue coordinating closely during the 81st session of the UN General Assembly and tasked officials from their respective countries with following up on the discussions. They also agreed to take stock of progress at the next Director General-level meeting in New Delhi. Jaishankar separately met Wadephul on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly and discussed ongoing conflicts and their multilateral cooperation. “Sat down with Johann Wadephul of Germany on the sidelines of #UNGA81. We exchanged assessments on the ongoing Ukraine and Gulf crises. As G4 partners, our cooperation at the UN and other multilateral fora remains robust,” Jaishankar said in another post on X.

72nd National Film Awards Ceremony Awards for Actors Mammooty, Dhanush, G.V. Prakash Presented by President Droupadi Murmu

GUJARAT President Droupadi Murmu presented the 72nd National Film Awards to film personalities yesterday. Actors Dhanush and Mammooty, music composer G. V. Prakash, and others received the awards. The 72nd National Film Awards ceremony—considered the highest honor in the Indian film industry—was held with great grandeur yesterday in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat (formerly known as Kevadia). Traditionally, National Film Awards ceremonies were held exclusively at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi. However, in line with the Central Government’s new decision to take the awards ceremony to other states across the country, the event was held outside Delhi for the first time, in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat.

President Droupadi Murmu attended the event and honored the best films, artists, and technicians of 2024 by presenting them with awards. G. V. Prakash received the award for Best Background Score from the President for the 2024 Tamil film “Amaran”, starring Siva-

karthikeyan and Sai Pallavi. Following this, actor Dhanush received the National Award for directing “Raayan”, which was selected as the Best Tamil Film. The National Award for Best Actor for 2024 was presented to two individuals. Actor Mammooty received the Best Actor award for the Malayalam film “Bramayugam”, while Kartik Aaryan was awarded Best Actor for his performance in the Hindi film “Chandu Champion”. Yami Gautam received the National Award for Best Actress for the film “Article 370”. Additionally, Dhanush was presented with the Best Actor award (Special Category) for his performance in the film “Captain Miller”. Rajkumar Periasamy received the Best Director award for “Amaran”, and the producer of “Kalki 2898 AD”—selected as the Best Wholesome Entertainment Film—was also presented with an award. Awards for Best Supporting Actor went to Sanjay Mishra (for the film “Pakshak”), while awards for Best Supporting Actress were



presented to Rupashree Varkadi (for “Mithya”) and Sachana Namidass (for the Tamil film “Maharaja”). Randeep Hooda received the award for Best Debut Director (for “Swatantrya Veer Savarkar”). A special award was presented to the film “Captain Miller”, recognized for upholding national and social values. Shashwat Sachdev received the award for Best Music Director (for the films “Article 370” and “Kalki 2898 AD”). Director Aditya Dhar accepted the award for “Article 370”, which was selected as the Best Film. President Murmu honored the recipients with awards,

including Sukumar (“Pushpa 2”) and Yogesh Deshpande (“Swargandharva Sudhir Phadke”) for Best Screenplay, Venky Atluri (“Lucky Bhaskar”) for Best Dialogue, Shenad Lalal (“Bramayugam”) for Best Cinematography, and Nitin Zihani Choudhary (“Kalki 2898 AD”) for Best Production Design. Regarding Chennai... National Film Award ceremonies are traditionally held in Delhi; this practice has been followed since 1954. However, the 17th National Film Awards ceremony was the only exception, held in Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, in 1971. Now, for the first time since

then, the awards have been presented outside Delhi—this time in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat. Mammooty’s 4th National Award: Malayalam actor Mammooty has won the National Award for Best Actor for the fourth time. He had previously won the National Award for Best Actor for the first time for the films “Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha” and “Mathilukal” (1990), a second time for “Vidheyan” and “Ponthan Mada” (1994), and a third time for “Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar” (1999). He has now received his fourth National Award for the film “Bramayugam”.

Rampant Bribery in Government Offices: What Will the Government Do?

CHENNAI: Amidst the rampant bribery in government offices, the amounts seized during surprise raids are reaching record highs. There are 55 departments operating under the Tamil Nadu government, approximately 22 of which provide direct services to the public. When citizens approach these service-oriented departments, a majority of the officials and staff fulfill requests only after accepting bribes. The fact that some members of the public visit these offices without the proper documentation contributes significantly to the prevalence of bribery.

While complaints regarding bribery have persisted for years—not just recently—awareness slogans stating “Giving or taking a bribe is a crime” remain displayed in government offices merely for the sake of formality. The conflicting claims—government employees saying, “We take it because they offer it,” and the public saying, “We gave it because they demanded it”—remain an unfathomable puzzle, much like the age-old question: “Which came first, the chicken or the egg?” The TVK government has now assumed office in Tamil Nadu, with the party’s leader,

Joseph Vijay, taking charge as Chief Minister. Since assuming power, he has consistently pledged to eradicate bribery and deliver a transparent administration to the people. Against this backdrop, anti-corruption police are frequently conducting raids on government offices.

They are specifically targeting Sub-Registrar offices, municipal corporation offices, municipal offices, Taluk offices, and Block Development Offices. In the raids conducted by the government over the past four months, bribe money has been recovered from every single office inspected. It has even been discovered that bribe money is being collected via GPay (digital

payment apps) without any fear of detection. There is a rural saying that asks, “Who is greater—the thief or the protector?” and concludes that “the thief is greater.” Similarly, despite ongoing crackdowns on bribery, no one seems deterred by them. Bribery shows no signs of diminishing, even in the slightest; the legal system often offers protection to the wrongdoers. Yesterday, surprise raids were conducted across 36 districts in Tamil Nadu—covering Taluk, municipal, panchayat, and Block Development offices. Authorities discovered ₹13,78,207 in cash bribes and ₹1,59,70,459 in bribes received via GPay. A total of ₹1,73,48,666 was seized.

This total includes ₹12,750 collected as vehicle parking fees using fake receipts at the Ramanathapuram municipal office. The fact that funds rightfully belonging to the government are being siphoned off by government officials and employees themselves has caused shock across the state. If bribery were eradicated and malpractices prevented, the government treasury would begin to fill up. However, much like the song lyric, “Theft cannot be eradicated unless the thief decides to reform,” bribery cannot be eliminated unless those who accept it choose to stop. It is now up to the government to stamp out bribery with an iron fist.



The Brahmotsavam festival at the Tirupati Lord Venkateswara temple began with the flag-hoisting ceremony on the evening of the 15th. The chariot procession commenced at 8:00 AM yesterday, the eighth day of the festival.

“Organ Donors: Guiding Lights for a New Lease on Life” - CM Vijay Expresses Pride

CHENNAI: “Let us proudly honor the organ donors who, bearing the torch of humanity, pave the way for others to regain their lives,” stated Chief Minister Vijay. In a post on X regarding this, he said, “September 23rd is observed annually as ‘Tamil Nadu

Organ Donation Day’ to raise public awareness about the importance of organ donation and to commemorate the donation of the organs of the young boy, Hithendran. Organ donation is a noble, humanitarian act that grants a new lease on life to many through a

person’s organs, even after their passing. Every organ donated brings fresh hope and a new life to those awaiting transplants. On this day, let us proudly remember all the organ donors who, carrying the flame of humanity, guide others toward a renewed life.”

Ayushman Bharat scheme marks 8 years; 60 crore people have benefited

PM Modi expresses pride

NEW DELHI: The Ayushman Bharat scheme has completed eight years since its inception. Prime Minister Modi has proudly stated that 60 crore people have benefited from this initiative. The Central Government implements the Ayushman Bharat scheme, which provides free health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per year to each family.

Prime Minister Modi

launched this scheme on September 23, 2018; today marks the completion of eight years since its launch. To mark this occasion, Prime Minister Modi shared a post on X (formerly Twitter). He proudly noted that 60 crore people across the country are receiving health insurance coverage through the Ayushman Bharat scheme. He further stated in his post: The objective is to ensure

that every Indian citizen has access to high&quality and affordable medical facilities. The Ayushman Bharat scheme was introduced eight years ago with this very aim. Today, more than 60 crore people are benefiting from this scheme, receiving health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh annually. Poor and middle&class families have benefited by saving on medical expenses. Arrangements have been

made to ensure that all necessary healthcare facilities are available close to their homes. Records show over 500 crore visits to Ayushman Arogya Mandir centers, demonstrating the strengthening of primary healthcare services at the grassroots level.

My best wishes to all the beneficiaries of the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Prime Minister Modi mentioned this in his post.

AI cameras for 70,000 km of roads in Tamil Nadu to curb accidents

Minister Aadav Arjuna

CHENNAI: “To curb road accidents in Tamil Nadu, surveillance cameras powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology will be installed across a stretch of over 70,000 km within the next three months,” stated Adhav Arjuna, the Tamil Nadu Minister for Public Works and Highways. Speaking at an engineers’ review meeting held in Guindy, Chennai, he said: “Since the TVK government assumed office, no funds have been collected under the guise of ‘Chief Minister’s funds’ or ‘party funds.’ An end has been put to the irregularities that prevailed in the past.

All official transfers are being executed honestly, without any monetary transactions. Officials must move away from the old practice of colluding with contractors to finalize tenders. I have not met any contractor in person so far. Everything is conducted transparently via the internet.

tly via the internet.

The new reforms introduced recently have resulted in financial savings for the government. A new color&coding system is set to be introduced, allowing the public to directly assess the quality and maintenance status of government buildings in Tamil Nadu. Structures like the Ripon Building, constructed during the British era, and the current Secretariat remain beautiful even today.

The current Secretariat lacks adequate space. Although ₹1,200 crore has been allocated for a new Secretariat, the project would take three to four years to complete.

Government buildings should possess infrastructure on par with that of private corporate buildings.



With the ban on natural sand mining for construction, Public Works Department engineers must inspect and certify the quality of ‘M&Sand’ used in these projects. If substandard material is detected, action will be taken through the Department of Geology and Mining.” Over the past five years, more than 88,500 people have lost their lives in road accidents.

To curb road accidents in Tamil Nadu, AI surveillance cameras will be installed along a stretch of over 70,000 kilometers within the next three months. He stated this while addressing the gathering. Public Works Department Secretary Selvaraj and Highways Department Secretary Siru, among others, participated in the meeting.

Sri Lanka Easter Bombings

15 Convicted – 220 Years in Prison Each

COLOMBO: A court has convicted 15 individuals for the series of terrorist bombings that took place in Sri Lanka during the Easter festival. The attacks occurred on April 21, 2019, targeting three Christian churches and three luxury hotels in a coordinated series of suicide bombings and explosive attacks.

A total of 270 people, including 11 Indian nationals, lost their lives in these attacks, while over 500 others sustained severe injuries. The attacks were carried out by the ‘National Thowheeth Jama’ath,’ a terrorist organization



linked to the Islamic State (IS).

Twenty&five individuals were arrested and imprisoned in connection with the bombings; one of them subsequently died while in custody. Meanwhile, the trial regarding the attacks proceeded in a special court in Colombo.

Yesterday, the Sri Lankan court delivered its verdict, finding 15 of the 24 accused guilty. The court sentenced each of the 15 convicted individuals to 220 years of rigorous imprisonment for their involvement in the terrorist acts. Mohamed Ibrahim Mohamed Nafsar

Moulavi Mohamed Sharibu Adam Lebbe Hayathu Mohamed Ahmed Milhan Mohamed Ibrahim Siddiq Abdullah Mohamed Ibrahim Hafiz Abdul Haq Mohamed Anwar Mohamed Rizkan Mohamed Mansoor Mohamed Sanasdeen Abdul Manoof Mohamed Pedrosh Mohamed Ramzi Mohamed Sajid Abdul Latheef Mohamed Safi Hasinul Rizvi Khalid Sameer Mohamed Hanifa Zainul Abideen Mohamed Mustafa Mohamed Haris Rasik Raza Hussain Kachi Mohamed Mohamed Jesmith

“Houthis are terrorists” – Saudi King

RIYADH: The Houthi group operates in Yemen, where it has been waging an insurgency against the government. A conflict between government forces and Houthi rebels has persisted in the country for years. Houthi rebels control several areas, including the Yemeni capital, Sana’a. In this civil war, Saudi Arabia supports government forces, while Iran backs the Houthi rebels. Amidst the long&standing tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the two nations are engaged in a proxy conflict in Yemen.

Meanwhile, the civil war in Yemen has intensified



following the escalation of tensions between the United States and Iran. Clashes between Yemeni government forces and Houthi rebels have escalated over the past few weeks.

Houthi rebels have been capturing territories previously held by government forces and have also been

launching attacks on Saudi Arabia. Notably, a few days ago, Houthi rebels launched missile and drone attacks targeting Mecca, a major holy site for Muslims; Saudi air defense systems intercepted and shot down these projectiles in mid&air over the city.

As this attempted attack

sent shockwaves across the Middle East, Saudi forces—alongside Yemeni government troops—have intensified their operations against the Houthis. Against this backdrop, the King of Saudi Arabia has declared the Houthis to be terrorists. Speaking at a Cabinet meeting held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (aged 90) condemned the Houthi terrorists, stating that their attempt to attack Mecca—an act designed to incite Muslims worldwide—was reprehensible. The Saudi King also commended the Saudi security forces for thwarting the attack.



The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu confers the award for “Best Child Artist Onko Ki Kothin (Bengali) Child Artist : Shri Tapomoy Deb Rajat at the 72nd National Film Awards ceremony at Ekta Nagar (Kevadia), in Gujarat.

Supreme Court calls Rs. 27,000 price tag for cancer drug “blatant daylight robbery”

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has condemned the fixing of a cancer drug’s price at Rs 27,000—ten times its actual cost—calling it “blatant daylight robbery” and expressing astonishment that officials are merely standing by as spectators. Petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court seeking orders to prevent pharmaceutical companies from setting exorbitant prices for essential medicines.

The petitions demand

strict enforcement of price controls and measures to stop retail pharmacists from making excessive profits. Additionally, they call for disciplinary action against doctors who fail to prescribe generic (molecule&based) drugs. These petitions came up for hearing before a bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta. During the hearing, one of the petitioners argued that fixing a Maximum Retail Price (MRP) for medicines

is essential. Appearing for the Central Government, Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj stated, “The Central Government is also a petitioner; we do not view this petition negatively.” The Maximum Retail Price (MRP) printed on an essential cancer drug is Rs 27,000, yet the drug is supplied to the retailer for Rs 2,700.

The retail price has been set at ten times the cost at which it was supplied to the retailer. If this is not robbery,

what is? People sell their homes and jewelry to afford medical treatment. In such a context, this amounts to blatant daylight robbery committed against patients. It is an act of sheer brutality—it must be termed nothing less than murder. How can people be deceived in this manner? The judges expressed surprise that the officials who ought to take action have remained silent. Subsequently, they adjourned the hearing to the 29th.

“Debt trap of whopping Rs. 8.24 lakh crore”

Karnataka BJP targets CM DK Shivakumar over state’s fiscal health

KARNATAKA: Escalating its attack on the Congress government over its fiscal management, the Karnataka unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday alleged that the state is being pushed into an “Rs 8.24 lakh crore debt trap” and claimed that the state’s Finance Department has issued a “red signal” against making unbudgeted announcements. In a sharply worded post on social media platform X, the state BJP targeted Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, accusing him of making arbitrary financial commitments for publicity despite a severely depleted treasury.

“The Karnataka Congress government, which is pushing the state into a debt trap of a whopping Rs 8.24 lakh crore, has now received a red signal from the Finance Department itself! With not a single new paisa left in the treasury, the Finance Department has warned Real Estate CM DK Shivakumar to stop making arbitrary announcements and grasp the real situation,” the Karnataka BJP stated.

The opposition party claimed that the state is grappling with severe cash shortages, making it unable to clear various pending dues. “Showman Shivakumar’s grandiose declarations are



nothing more than publicity stunts and showmanship through advertisements. Due to severe cash shortages, it’s impossible to clear dues for transport corporations, irrigation corporations, and power companies. Amid all this, the Chief Ministers have announced Rs 10,000 crore for the Rural Roads Connectivity Scheme and Rs 1,000 crore in grants for ‘Bharat Jodo Yuva Clubs’. But is there any budgetary allocation for these?” the party questioned.

Highlighting the state’s fiscal deficit, the BJP alleged, “The state is facing a revenue deficit of Rs 22,957 crore. It has withheld Rs 36 thousand crore in payments to contractors, and works worth around Rs 2 lakh crore are stuck in limbo. By emptying the treasury and making empty announcements, CM DK Shivakumar is misleading the people of

Karnataka through his empty publicity tactics.” The digital offensive comes alongside on&ground protests by BJP leaders in Bengaluru, who held demonstrations earlier in the day at the Kengal Hanumanthaiah statue in Bengaluru, accusing the administration of financial bankruptcy, economic mismanagement, and diverting funds meant for Dalit communities.

Leading the demonstration, leaders of the opposition in both houses of the state legislature mounted a sharp attack on the state government, demanding immediate accountability and resignations over the alleged fiscal crisis.

Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly R Ashoka claimed that developmental work across the state has come to a standstill due to a severe financial crunch and mounting debt.

He further demanded the resignation of Karnataka CM DK Shivakumar for failing to handle the state’s finances effectively. “There is no money for development. We have already taken the loan... Now the finance department openly says this is coming under DK Shivakumar; he is the finance minister. How is it possible?... You have failed to manage the finance department. That’s why you have to resign. That is the BJP’s demand,” Ashoka told reporters.

Simultaneously, Karnataka Legislative Council Leader of Opposition (LoP) Chalavadi Narayanaswamy accused the government of exhausting state exchequers and misusing welfare funds earmarked for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

Speaking to ANI, Narayanaswamy said, “The government has become bankrupt, but still they are spending the remaining amount like water for no reason, and it is a waste of money. Independence Day was celebrated by the government.

But Constitution Day was celebrated by social welfare; why? That is the money kept for the Dalits, SC and STs, for their betterment. But this government is spending that amount on these issues.”

Gandhi Jayanti and Ayudha Puja Festivals: Two Special Trains Announced from Chennai to Kollam

CHENNAI: Several holidays are approaching in October. Gandhi Jayanti falls on October 2, followed by Ayudha Puja on October 19 and Vijayadashami on October 20.

In light of this, special trains have been announced for the convenience of passengers traveling from Chennai to their

hometowns. A weekly special train (06117) will depart from Chennai Egmore at 11:40 PM on October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, arriving in Kollam at 4:20 PM the following day.

In the return direction, a weekly special train (06118) will depart from Kollam at 6:45 PM on October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, arriving at Chennai Egmore

at 12:30 PM the next day. This train will reach Kollam via Perambur, Tiruvallur, Arakonam, Katpadi, Jolarpettai, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur, and Podanur.

The weekly special train (06121) will depart from Chennai Egmore at 11:40 PM on October 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, reaching Kollam at

4:20 PM the following day. In the return direction, the weekly special train (06122) will depart from Kollam at 6:45 PM on October 4, 11, 18, 25, and November 1, arriving at Chennai Central at 11:35 AM the next day. Ticket reservations for these special trains commence today (September 23) at 8:00 AM.