

India supplies medicines to the world at very low prices

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that India has been supplying medicines to the entire world at very low prices. The US&based Bloomberg organization has established a presence across various sectors, including financial services, software, and media. The "Bloomberg New Economy Forum" was launched by the organization in 2018, and it holds an annual special

PM Narendra Modi expresses pride

conference. These conferences are typically held in cities such as Singapore and Beijing. For the first time, the Bloomberg conference began in Delhi yesterday, with over 500 economic experts from around the world participating. Speaking on the first day of the conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said: In the 21st century, technology, data, knowledge, and innovation determine a nation's strength. India is a frontrunner in all four of these areas. Before 2014, there were only 100 start&ups in India; today, more than 250,000 such companies are operational.



Women lead app roxi- mately 45 per cent of these enterprises. Through various social welfare schemes, we have lifted 250 million people across the country out of poverty—a monumental achievement. Subsidy funds are transferred directly to people's bank accounts. New challenges are constantly emerging in tod-

ay's world, leading to severe shortages of energy and rare minerals; India is effectively addressing these issues. Solar power generation is increasing significantly across the nation. India supplies medicines to the entire world at very affordable prices; during the COVID&19 pandemic, we distributed vaccines and me-

Rs. 3,108 Crore 'Main Ring Main' Pipeline Project in Chennai

CM Vijay to Lay Foundation Stone Today



CHENNAI: Work is set to commence on laying dedicated pipelines to facilitate the supply of 1.2 billion liters (120 crore liters) of drinki-

ng water to the residents of Chennai. This water will be drawn from 84 distribution stations, sourced from lakes, groundw-

ater, and desalination plants. The Chennai Water Board is implementing the 'Main Ring Main' project to ensure water can be diverted from one area to another during times of scarcity. This project links nine water sources—including a desalination plant with a capacity of 400 million liters (40 crore liters)—into a unified ring network. Spanning a distance of 98 kilometers, the project



The Union Minister for Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh attends the 1st ASEAN-India Defence Think Tank Forum at Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), in New Delhi.

Rivalry between superpowers: China's debt - ₹5,843 lakh crore, USA - ₹3,829 lakh crore

WASHINGTON: The United States and China, the world's largest economies, are facing a crisis as they grapple with mounting debt burdens. According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) projections for 2025 regarding China, the total debt across non&f- financial sectors—including the central government, local governments, households, and corporations—stands at approximately \$61.5 trillion. This figure represents 310 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), translating to roughly ₹5,843 lakh crore in Indian currency. Similarly, US government debt continues to rise. According to US Treasury data, the total government debt stood at approximately \$40.31 trillion as of October 8, 2026. In Indian currency, this amounts to approximately ₹3,829 lakh crore. Both the US and China play pivotal roles in global trade. Economists fear that the rising debt burden in these superpowers could impact financial markets, investments, interest costs, and international trade.

Bernie Sanders calls out oligarchic influence in 'corrupt' US campaign finance system, cites Musk's election funding

WASHINGTON : US Senator Bernie Sanders on Tuesday (local time) slammed the "corrupt campaign finance system" in the US, citing the substantial election spending by billionaire and SpaceX founder Elon Musk and other influential groups ahead of the upcoming US midterm elections, while calling for sweeping campaign finance reform. In a post on X, Sanders highlighted the money spent by wealthy individuals, cryptocurrency interests and political advocacy groups during the 2024&2026 election cycle on Republicans, arguing that the scale of such expenditure underscored the need to reform the campaign finance system.

backing a proposal by Michigan Democratic Senate candidate Abdul El&Sayed to temporarily halt the development of advanced artificial intelligence models and data centres until policymakers establish new safeguards for the technology.

Earlier, the US senator accused the billionaire of using his wealth to influence American politics and support efforts to keep Republicans in control of Congress. In an earlier post on X on Monday, Sanders said Musk had spent USD 290 million to help elect US President Donald Trump and was subsequently spending hundreds of millions of dollars to support Republican candidates ahead of the midterm elections.

US President Donald Trump's executive order directing executive branch departments and agencies to use the terms "Super Intelligence" and "SI" in official communications and policy documents. On October 5, Musk confirmed the proposed change in a post on X while responding to a user who suggested renaming the company. "Yes, we will make that change," Musk said in reply to the suggestion. In another post, he added, "No more AI. SI, it's better."

The rebranding followed Trump's executive order titled "Inaugurating the Era of Super Intelligence", signed on September 29, which directs federal departments and agencies to use the terms "Super Intelligence" and "SI" in official correspondence, public communications, policy documents and non&statutory documents. Sanders' criticism of Musk's political spending and his warning against the influence of technology billionaires have brought campaign finance reform and AI regulation into the same debate, as the United States approaches its midterm elections.

His comments call for greater limits on the political influence of wealthy individuals and corporate interests, alongside stronger public safeguards for emerging technologies.

warned against allowing wealthy technology executives to determine the future direction of the technology. "Thank you Abdul El&Sayed for putting out a bold plan to protect the American people against the very serious dangers posed by advanced AI & superintelligence. I look forward to working with you to pass it. We won't allow Big Tech Oligarchs to determine the future of humanity," Sanders wrote. The remarks marked another instance of Sanders criticising Musk's political influence and the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of billionaires.

Musk, the founder of SpaceX and Tesla, has faced repeated criticism from Sanders over his political spending.



INDIA Bloc to Stage Protest in Chennai Tomorrow Demanding Removal of Gyanesh Kumar

CHENNAI: The INDIA bloc is set to hold a protest in Chennai tomorrow, demanding the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. More than 130 million (13 crore) names have been removed during the intensive special revision of electoral rolls conducted across the country. The Election Commission of India has clarified that this process was carried out according to due procedure. However, opposition parties

have alleged irregularities in the process. Consequently, the INDIA bloc and various other organizations have been staging protests demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Protests began at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Gandhi Jayanti, involving the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and student organizations such as the Students' Federation of India (SFI), the National Students' Union of

India (NSUI), and the All India Students' Association (AISA). The agitation has since intensified; recently, a protest was also held by the 'Karrappan Poochi Janata Party'. Against this backdrop, the INDIA bloc has organized a protest in Chennai's Egmore area tomorrow to demand the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the 'SIR' issue. Leaders from alliance partners—including the Congress,

TVK, VCK, MDMK, IUML, the Communist Party of India (CPI), and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CP&M)—will participate in this protest. The demonstration will be led by Tamil Nadu Congress leader and MP Manickam Tagore, with the participation of Minister Rajmohan, Vaiko, Thol. Thirumavalavan, K.M. Kader Mohideen, M. Veerapandian, and P. Shanmugam, among others.

Today horoscope



Exercise caution in your social circles and avoid unnecessary arguments. Expenses related to your children may deplete your savings. You will attempt to renovate and expand your ancestral home. Act upon the advice of your business partners. Workload at the office will increase.



You will gain the strength to overcome adversities. You will achieve your goals through firm communication. Your income will rise sufficiently to allow for savings. You will replace faulty appliances with new ones. Avoid arguments at the workplace. Business will be profitable.



Your words will carry more weight within the family. You will sell your property at the expected price. You will gain the friendship of influential and successful people. The atmosphere at work will be joyful. You will succeed in business by employing new strategies.



The series of expenses you have been facing will now decrease. You will successfully complete even challenging tasks. You will renovate and expand your ancestral home. You will seek the assistance of prominent figures for business purposes. A document you were searching for at the office will be found.



Children will conduct themselves responsibly. Happiness will abound in the family. Expenses related to your vehicle are likely. Interest in yoga and spirituality will grow. You will recover outstanding dues in business. You will receive support from superiors at work.



You may find yourself immersed in past memories. Some people may speak ungratefully. Your social standing will improve. Outstanding dues in business will be collected. A superior at work will extend a friendly hand. Avoid interfering in other people's affairs.



Your reputation among relatives and friends will rise.

Paternal assets will come into your possession. Elder sisters will provide financial assistance. It is best to focus solely on your own work at the office. Business will flourish.



With the Moon transiting your sign, your cash reserves may deplete. It is advisable to avoid unnecessary arguments. Children may experience minor health issues. Colleagues at work will respect you. Competition in business will intensify.



You will start saving by spending frugally. You will gain benefits through maternal relatives. The verdict in a dispute regarding ancestral property will be in your favor. Outstanding dues in business will be recovered. Avoid arguments at the workplace.



Fatigue will vanish, and you will appear cheerful. Financial inflow will be satisfactory. You will make efforts to sell ancestral assets such as a house, plot, or agricultural land. You will succeed in government-related matters. Superiors at work will appreciate you.



Expected money will arrive. You will replace worn-out household items and decorate your home with new ones. You will attract customers by employing new strategies in your business. Your professional standing will improve.



Money due to you will reach your hands. You will begin saving for the future. You will get acquainted with new people. It is best to avoid interfering in others' affairs at the workplace. You will expand your business.

Southern Railway Warns

Up to 6 Months' Jail for Playing Loud Music on Trains



CHENNAI: Southern Railway has issued a warning stating that passengers could face up to six months in prison for listening to music or watching videos at high volume on their mobile phones without using headphones during train journeys.

Millions of people travel by train across the country every day. During long & distance journeys, some passengers have a habit of listening to music or watching videos on their mobile phones—often at high volume—which causes inconvenience to others. Passengers have previously been advised to use headphones or earphones when listening to music or watching videos and to speak softly during phone calls.

Now, Southern Railway has warned that engaging in activities like listening to music or watching videos at high volume without headphones can result in a prison sentence of up to six months. Consequently, if a passenger causes a nuisance to fellow travelers by playing loud music or videos on their phone without headphones—whether at the station or on the train—they may face a fine of ₹1,000, a six-month jail term, or both. Orders regarding this have been issued to all railway divisions. Fines will be collected by Ticket Examiners or Commercial Department officials of equivalent or higher rank. Continued disturbance despite the warning could lead to a fine of up to ₹5,000, officials stated.

Parties gear up for by-elections in Viralmalai, Karur, and Trichy East constituencies

TVK aims to sustain its winning momentum; DMK seeks to reclaim lost ground; AIADMK is determined to make a comeback!

CHENNAI: Following the victories of Maragatham Kumaravel and Sathyabama—who contested on behalf of TVK in the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies—former AIADMK MLAs named Vijayabhaskar have also commenced by-election preparations in the Viralmalai and Karur constituencies with similar expectations.

The DMK is preparing to enter the fray with the aim of reclaiming lost territory, while the AIADMK is gearing up to restore its waning influence. Maragatham Kumaravel and Sathyabama, who had previously won as AIADMK candidates before resigning their MLA posts to join TVK, successfully retained their seats in the subsequent by-elections. Consequently, political parties have intensified their election-related activities in constituencies such as Viralmalai, Karur, and Trichy East, where elections had been postponed due to court stays. In Viralmalai, C. Vijayabhaskar is meeting the public daily, confident that he will secure the ticket to contest on behalf of TVK.

A video of him praising Chief Minister Vijay is also



circulating on social media. On the DMK side, speculation suggests the candidate will be either District Secretary K.K. Chellapandian or Palaniappan. For the AIADMK, it is reported that the candidate will likely be District Secretary Palanivel, Deputy Secretary Nallur Karupiah, or former District Panchayat member Sivasamy. In Karur, M.R. Vijayabhaskar remains confident that he will secure the opportunity to contest for TVK and is certain of achieving victory. Similarly, TVK District Secretary Mathialagan is confident that the party leadership will give him another opportunity, given the various hardships he endured for the party following the incident in Karur where 41 people lost their lives in a stampede. Meanwhile, the AIADMK has commenced election-related activities in the area under the leadership of District Secretary Kamalakannan.

While there is speculation

field Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, Inigo Irudayaraj, or a fresh face. Reports suggest that either Aavin Karthikeyan or Manoharan could contest on behalf of the AIADMK, while there is also a possibility that AMMK General Secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran might enter the fray. Following the victories in Maduranthakam and Dharapuram, TVK cadres are confident of winning these three constituencies in the Central Zone. Meanwhile, DMK cadres believe that with a little extra effort, they can secure victory, having successfully retained their vote share from the last general election without relying on alliance partners.

AIADMK cadres are also waiting with determination, convinced that their future depends on reviving their waning popularity through these by-elections. Across the Viralmalai constituency, supporters of Vijayabhaskar are creating a buzz by painting TVK's 'Whistle' symbol on walls. His supporters confidently proclaim that the party leadership appreciated his tireless, whirlwind efforts in the Dharapuram constituency; consequently, they are certain that the TVK ticket for Viralmalai will go to him and that victory is assured.

Diwali Hamper for 3 Lakh Ration Cardholders in Puducherry: Minister Announces



KARAIKAL: Minister V.P. Sivakolundhu has announced that a Diwali hamper will be provided to 3 lakh ration cardholders in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

A departmental review meeting was held yesterday at the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Administrative Complex in Karaikal, presided over by V.P. Sivakolundhu, the Minister for Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs, and Social Welfare. Puducherry Agriculture Minister Rajasekaran, Leader of the Opposition A.M.H. Nazeem, MLAs Meenakshisundaram and V. Vigneshwaran, Social Welfare Department Director P. Ragini, and other departmental officials participated in

the meeting.

During the meeting, the Leader of the Opposition and the MLAs raised several points: They urged that vacant posts within the departments be filled immediately.

They noted that financial assistance for funeral expenses is still pending for 157 applicants. They also requested that, regarding applications for old & age pensions, officials should not rely solely on seniority but should prioritize applications that have been specifically recommended. Later, Minister V.P. Sivakolundhu spoke to the press, stating that measures would be taken to ensure all ration shops in Puducherry are opened and fully

operational within a month. A Diwali festival hamper worth ₹690 will be provided to all 3 lakh ration cardholders in the state, including those holding red and yellow cards. This hamper, to be distributed through ration shops, will contain 2 kg each of sugar and sunflower oil, 1 kg of Bengal gram (chana dal), and half a kilogram each of maida (refined wheat flour) and rava (semolina). He stated this.

During the meeting, Opposition Leader Nazim remarked, "It is customary for women from Karaikal to marry grooms from nearby areas in Tamil Nadu, such as Nagai and Mayiladuthurai. These women come here for childbirth.

However, how is it fair that

the female child born to them is denied the ₹50,000 deposit provided under the Chief Minister's Girl Child Protection Scheme? If that is the case, you should arrange for them to marry grooms from within Puducherry itself."

This comment drew laughter from the gathering. Later, when Nazim questioned officials regarding another issue, a Minister smilingly remarked, "The Chief Minister accepts whatever you say; why, then, do you grill the officials?"

This comment also sparked laughter. Subsequently, speaking to reporters, Minister Sivakolundhu said, "The request regarding the deposit for the girl child is a valid one; we will consult with officials and consider finding a solution."



The Cyber Crime Police conducted an awareness program in Chennai for the elderly on how to protect themselves from cyber fraud gangs.

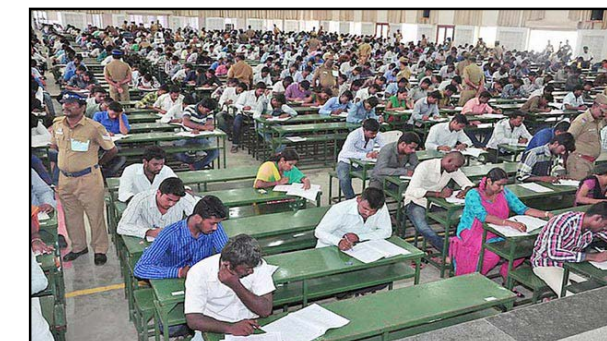
Book Fairs in All Districts: Tamil Nadu Government Allocates ₹8.45 Crore

CHENNAI: A Government Order issued by J. Innocent Divya, Secretary of the School Education Department, states that a decision was made to conduct book fairs across all districts of Tamil Nadu to encourage the habit of reading. Consequently, for the 2022 & 23 academic year, the districts were categorized into three groups:

A, B, and C. Book fairs we-

re conducted at a total cost of ₹4.96 crore, with allocations of ₹17.50 lakh for Category A, ₹14 lakh for Category B, and ₹12 lakh for Category C. Book fairs were also successfully conducted in all districts during the 2023 & 24 and 2024 & 25 academic years.

For the current academic year (2026 & 27), the government has allocated a total of ₹8.45 crore to conduct book fairs across all districts



Chennai: A request has been made to the government to relax the age limit by five years for the recruitment of Grade II Police Constables and Sub & Inspectors.

Cases Related to Delhi Protests: Supreme Court Hearing Tomorrow

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has adjourned the hearing to tomorrow (the 15th) regarding cases concerning the protests held in Delhi against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the Election Commission's procedures. Several petitions had been filed in the Supreme Court alleging police excesses during the protests in Delhi demanding the resignation of Gyanesh Kumar. While the hearing was scheduled for yesterday before a bench led by Justice Surya Kant, it was postponed because Justice V. Mohana was on leave. Meanwhile, the Court has also granted time to the Central Government to file its counter-affidavit in cases involving allegations of contempt of court against officials for closing metro stations and suspending train services during the protests, as well as complaints regarding the unlawful detention of lawyers and journalists.



of Tamil Nadu. It is stated that the Director of Public Libraries may obtain these funds as an advance through district treasuries and conduct book exhibitions.

Ashok Anand Sworn In as MLA for Puducherry's Thattanchavady Constituency

PUDHUCHERRY: Ashok Anand, the N.R. Congress candidate who won the Thattanchavady by&election, took the oath of office as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (M-LA) today in the presence of Chief Minister Rangasamy. In the general assembly elections held last April, Chief Minister Rangasamy contested and won from two constituencies: Thattanchavady and Mangalam. Subsequently, he resigned from the Thattanchavady seat, necessitating a by&election which was held on October 6. In this election, N.R. Congress candida-



te Ashok Anand secured 13,350 votes, while Vinayagam (Congress) received 4,876 votes; Anand won by

a margin of 8,474 votes. Following this, Pro&tem Speaker Anbalagan administered the oath of office to him at the Puducherry Legislative Assembly complex in the presence of Chief Minister Rangasamy. Ashok Anand assumed office as the new MLA before the Chief Minister, ministers, fellow MLAs, and leaders of alliance parties. The Chief Minister and others felicitated him by draping a shawl around his shoulders. It is noteworthy that this marks the third time Ashok Anand has assumed office as an MLA.

TN ranks first in inflation and rising prices just four months into the TVK government's tenure: Stalin's allegation

CHENNAI: In a statement, DMK leader M.K. Stalin said: Within just four months of the TVK government taking office, Tamil Nadu has topped the list for inflation and rising prices. It would have been one thing if they simply didn't know how to keep the prices of essential commodities under control. But the poor are further infuriated by the blatant lie told by the Food Minister, who claims that there has been no rise in prices at all. While the Electricity Minister points to Punjab, the



Chief Minister has flown off to London. Now, at the eleventh hour, they are scrambling to buy power from the open market at ₹35 per unit. Is the "change" they promised simply about cancelling contracts secured at low rates during the DMK regime and purchasing power at the highest

price any state in India has ever paid? Whose money is this, sir? You shamelessly admit that you intend to "purchase" another 15 members from the AIADMK; people have begun to wonder if the corruption in electricity procurement is happening because funds are needed for that purpose. When the "Kuruvai" crop failed, they ignored the advice of Delta farmers and listened to an astrologer instead, opening the Mettur Dam on the wrong date. Now, farmers at the tail&end areas are suffering without water, unsure if "Samba" cultivation will even be possible.

Thus, trapped in the hands of a group of fools lacking both foresight and brains, Tamil Nadu is deteriorating right before our eyes. He remarked that the TVK government's cabinet resembles a troop of monkeys with their tails on fire, leaping across the forest and setting everything ablaze. Meanwhile, DMK District Secretaries P.K. Sekar Babu and Ma. Subramanian have announced that a protest demonstration will be held by the party tomorrow to condemn the Tamil Nadu government for disregarding the severe dangers posed by El Niño rains.

Punjab Social Activist Shot Dead After Confronting Drug Sellers



CHANDIGARH: Parvinder Singh Jotta, a social activist from Punjab, was known for opposing the sale of narcotics and illicit drugs. He had a following of over 24,000 people on his Facebook page. Recently, Parvinder Singh learned that narcotic drugs

were being sold illegally at a pharmacy in the Mansa region of Punjab. Yesterday morning, he visited the shop—broadcasting the event live on Facebook—and confronted the owner. He told the owner, "I will stop the illegal sale of narcotics. Kill me if you can."

As the argument escalated, the shop owner drew a gun and shot Parvinder, resulting in his death. The police arrived promptly, recovered Parvinder's body, and sent it to the hospital. The police have arrested the pharmacy owner and others, and are questioning them.

Appointment of New Judges to Madras High Court: CM Extends Congratulations



CHENNAI: Out of the total 75 sanctioned judge posts in the Madras High Court, 66 judges—including the Chief

Justice—are currently serving. With nine vacancies existing, President Droupadi Murmu has issued orders appointing T. Lingeswaran, who served as the Presiding Officer of the Labour Court in Chennai, and P. Karthikeyan, who served as the Principal Judge of the City Civil Court (Principal Sessions Judge), as new judges of the Madras High Court. The Chief Justice of the Madras

High Court, S.A. Dharmadhikari, will soon administer the oath of office to both of them. "My heartfelt congratulations to them! May you excel in your duties as you assume the opportunity to serve in the Madras High Court—an institution known for its high traditions and dignity—while upholding the sanctity of justice and the values of the Constitution," the statement read.

DMK Area Secretary Arrested in Property Tax Irregularity Case

MADURAI: Police arrested Saravanan (44)—a DMK area secretary and the husband of former DMK Zonal Chairperson Saravana Bhuvaneshwari—yesterday for his alleged involvement in property tax irregularities within the Madurai Corporation. Allegations had surfaced regarding irregularities amounting to ₹150 crore in the Madurai Corporation, involving violations such as levying residential tax rates on commercial buildings. In the wake of these allegations, seven individuals—DMK Zonal Chairpersons Vasuki, Saravana Bhuvaneshwari, Pan-

diselvi, Mukesh Sharma, and Suvitha, along with Standing Committee Chairpersons Vijayalakshmi and Moovendran—resigned from their posts. The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police, led by Assistant Commissioner Vinothini, have been investigating this matter for over a year. More than 20 people, including Ponvasanth (husband of former DMK Mayor Indrani), corporation officials, and computer operators, have been arrested in connection with the case. Following the formation of the TVK government, the AIADMK exerted pressure



during corporation meetings to expedite the case, causing the investigation to gain momentum once again. Yesterday morning, CCB police took Saravanan from his home for questioning

regarding a complaint about an unauthorized tax reduction—amounting to several lakhs—granted to a private hospital in Saravana Bhuvaneshwari's 15th Ward. He was arrested following five hours of interrogation. As he was being loaded into a van to be taken from the Central Crime Branch office to the government hospital, lawyers and functionaries from the DMK and TVK raised slogans against the government. Amidst the ensuing scuffle, a female inspector accidentally fell and sustained injuries.

No changes should be made to the 'Dharma Darshan' system

Demand made to Meenakshi Amman Temple administration



MADURAI: The doors of the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple open at 4:30 AM. Subsequently, devotees have traditionally been able to worship the Goddess and the Lord under the 'Dharma Darshan' (free viewing) system between 5:00 AM and 6:00 AM. It is customary for hundreds of devotees to arrive early in the morning and wait for this darshan. Usually, there is no interference from temple staff or the

nges have been made to the queue system, and devotees are now being admitted through a single line via the East Entrance. The paid darshan queue, which originates from the West Tower, remains empty until 5:30 AM; previously, devotees were allowed in that line, but now they are not. As a large number of devotees crowd into a single line, the time taken for darshan increases. Therefore, he urged that devotees be allowed for 'Dharma Darshan' in both lines between 5:00 AM and 6:00 AM, just as before.



A government bus suddenly caught fire due to an electrical short circuit while traveling along a temporary service road near the Nallur railway crossing, close to Kurumbur in Thoothukudi district. More than 40 passengers escaped unharmed.

Minister Warns of Action Against Private Medical Colleges Charging Fees Beyond 4½ Years

KANCHIPURAM: A ceremony was held yesterday in Kancheepuram to issue appointment orders to 201 nurses selected to serve in government primary health centres, government hospitals, and the Arignar Anna Memorial Cancer Hospital, under the aegis of the Kancheepuram District Department of Medical and Family Welfare. Speaking at the event, Minister Arunraj stated: "The issue of nursing staff shortages, which remained unresolved during the previous administration, has been fully regularized; currently, 4,724 nursing positions



across the state have been filled through a transparent process. The Government Arignar Anna Memorial Cancer Hospital in Karaipettai, Kancheepuram district, is set to be upgraded into a state&specialized cancer treatment centre at an estimated cost of ₹16.06 crore."

Subsequently, speaking to reporters, he said, "Private medical colleges should collect fees from medical students only for the 4½&year course duration; they must not charge fees for the one&year internship period. A complaint was received alleging that a private college was charging excess fees. During the inquiry into this matter, 15 students appeared along with their parents to provide explanations. Legal action will be taken if fees are collected in this manner. Left&wing parties desire a corruption&free administration, and the Tamil Nadu government is delivering exactly that; therefore, there is no conflict between us and them. AIADMK General Secretary Palaniswami runs the AIA-DMK like a company rather than a political party." Ministers S.P.K. Thennarasu and R.V. Ranjithkumar, along with the Director of Medical Education and Research V. Loganayagi, participated in the event.

Kasimedu Harbour: Fire Breaks Out After Cylinder Explodes on Mechanized Boat

CHENNAI: A fire broke out suddenly today on a mechanized boat docked at the Kasimedu fishing harbour in Chennai. This alarming incident caused a commotion in the harbour area. Mechanized boats were moored at the Kasimedu fishing harbour, where fishermen and the public were going about their usual activities. Amidst this, a fire suddenly erupted on one of the docked boats. Unable to withstand the intense heat of the flames, a gas cylinder inside the boat



exploded with a deafening blast. The sound of the explosion was ear&splitting. Shocked by the sudden, massive noise and unaware of what was happening, the public and fishermen panicked and scattered in all

directions, screaming in alarm. The fire, which started on the anchored boat, spread rapidly across the entire vessel within minutes. The sight of the boat's parts being damaged by the explosion and the vessel engulfed in roaring flames created a sense of great alarm in the area. Upon receiving news of the accident, personnel from the Fire and Rescue Services department rushed to the scene. Firefighters battled intensely to bring the fire on the burning boat—which was adrift in the water—under control. After several hours of strenuous effort, they succeeded in completely extinguishing the blaze. Preliminary investigations suggest that the accident may have been caused by an electrical short circuit on the boat or the explosion of a fuel cylinder kept inside. Local police are investigating the incident.

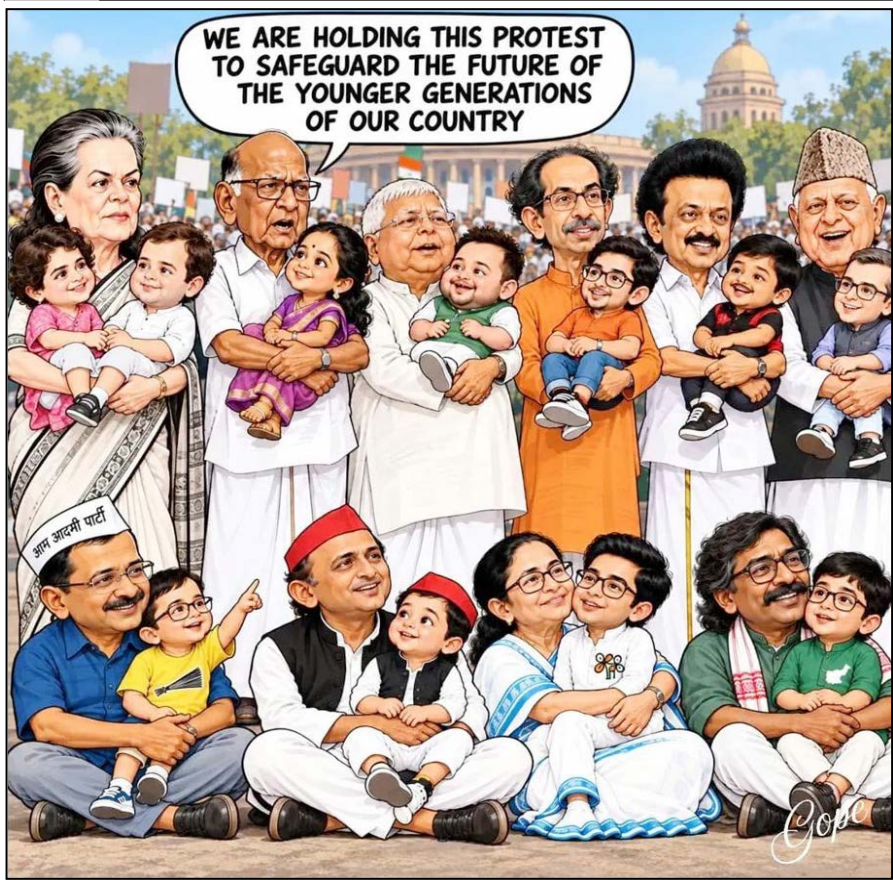
Team India aims to clinch the T20 series

HYDERABAD: The fourth T20 match between India and the West Indies is scheduled to take place tonight at 7 PM at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. India currently leads the five&match T20 series 2&1. India won the first match by eight wickets, while the West Indies achieved a record&breaking victory in the second match by successfully chasing a target of 250 runs. India bounced back in the third match to secure a win by 14 runs.



With the fourth match set for tonight in Hyderabad, a victory would see India clinch the series; consequently, the Indian players are likely to approach the game with heightened determination. Meanwhile, the West Indies team will likely play cautiously, knowing that a defeat in today's match would result in losing the series. However, the outcome of the match is expected to hinge once again on the aggressive

During this season's IPL, the average score for teams batting first at this venue was 209 runs across seven matches. Consequently, today's game promises to be a treat for the fans. It will be an added advantage for Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, and Nitish Kumar Reddy—who play together for the Sunrisers Hyderabad team—to play at the Hyderabad stadium, a venue familiar to them. The Indian team last played a T20 match at this stadium against Bangladesh in 2024. In that match, India batted first and set a record by scoring 297 runs for the loss of 6 wickets. Chasing this mammoth target, Bangladesh managed to score only 164 runs, resulting in a resounding 133&run victory for India. Sanju Samson had smashed 111 runs off 47 balls in that game, and another brilliant batting performance could well be expected from him. batting of the big hitters from both sides. As for the Indian team, the top&order trio of Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson, and Ishan Kishan are capable of explosive batting, which relieves the pressure on the middle&order batters. Nevertheless, should the top&order fail to fire, players like Shreyas Iyer, Tilak Varma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, and Naman Dhir will need to step up, handle challenging situations, and deliver high&quality performances. Their contribution will be particularly crucial if the team is chasing a stiff target. Despite trailing in the rankings, the West Indies team has



Navaratri Festival: Madurai Meenakshi Appears in 'Ardhanarishvara' Form



MADURAI: On the second day of the Navaratri festival at the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple, Goddess Meenakshi appeared in the divine form of Ardhanarishvara. A large number of devotees visited the temple, waiting in long queues to offer their prayers. The Navaratri festival at the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple is a ten-day event running from October 11 to October 20.

On the first day (Octo-

ber 11), Goddess Meenakshi appeared adorned as Rajarajeshwari to bless the devotees. Yesterday, the second day, she appeared in the Ardhanarishvara form. In the days to follow, the Goddess will appear in various forms to bless devotees: *Kolattam* (dance with sticks) on the third day (Oct 13); *Pattabhishekam* (coronation) on the fourth day (Oct 14); *Thapasu* (penance) on the fifth day (Oct 15); *Oonjal Utsavam* (swing festival) on the sixth day (Oct 16); *Muthangi Sevai* (adornment with pearls) on the seventh day (Oct 17); *Mahishasuramardini* on the eighth day (Oct 18); and *Siva Puja* on the ninth day (Oct 19). The Navaratri festival will con-

clude with the Vijaydashami celebration on October 20. In conjunction with the Navaratri festival, various cultural programs are being held daily at the temple's Thirukalyana Mandapam* (Celestial Wedding Hall) during two sessions: from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and from 4:30 PM to 9:30 PM. The event features programs such as spiritual discourses, *Thirumurai* musical recitals, devotional music, Bharatanatyam performances, and Veena concerts. Additionally, throughout the Navaratri festival, the processional deity Goddess Meenakshi—seated in the *Kolu* hall—is adorned specially, and sacred rituals (*Abhishekam* and *Aaradhana*) are performed. Following this, visiting devotees offer their prayers to the Goddess. During the nine days of Navaratri, people worship the trinity of Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati, as well as the

nine avatars of the Goddess: Shailaputri, Brahmacharini, Chandraghanta, Kushmanda, Skandamata, Katyayani, Kalaratri, Mahagauri, and Siddhidatri. In Tamil Nadu, it is customary to arrange *Kolu* dolls in homes and perform special prayers during Navaratri; women participating in the festivities are offered *Thamboolam* (betel leaves and nuts). It is also common for individuals to arrange the *Kolu* dolls based on specific themes. The *Kumbabishekam* (consecration ceremony) of the Meenakshi Amman Temple took place two weeks ago, following a gap of 17 years. Allegations had arisen that ordinary devotees were not permitted to witness the consecration and that holy water was not sprinkled upon them. Following the consecration, the Navaratri festival is now being celebrated with great grandeur.

India not a 'middle power' but a power in the middle EAM Jaishankar at Bloomberg New Economy Forum

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday said India was not comfortable being described as a 'middle power', arguing that the country's population, economic size and growth potential made the term limiting.

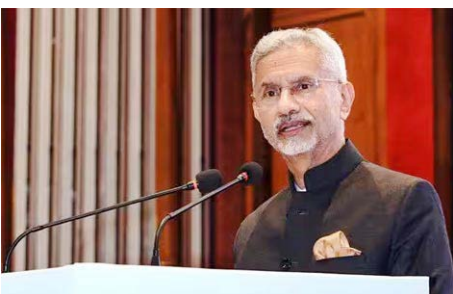
Speaking at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum, Jaishankar said countries in the middle of the global power structure would increasingly need to assess their own interests, formulate independent policies and build arrangements with one another.

"More than a middle power, in a way, we are powers in the middle. What would really define a middle power? To use the Prime Minister's words, the countries who have the power to empower," Jaishankar said. "Would India be a middle power? It's not a comfortable description because if you are the most populous country in the world, you have a GDP of

\$4 trillion, give or take, and you have a lot of growth ahead of you, staring you in the face, then the middle power somehow seems to be limiting itself by that definition," he added.

The External Affairs Minister said countries would increasingly have to determine their interests and policies independently before reaching agreements with one another. "The middle powers would now each apply their own mind, stake out their own interests, figure out their own policies, and then reach arrangements with each other," he said.

Jaishankar also highlighted the growing importance of economic interdependence and the risks posed by the weaponisation of strategic resources and financial systems in the changing global order. Describing the current international environment as a "world of choke points", he



said countries could use their control over critical resources and financial mechanisms to exert pressure on others.

"It's also today a world of choke points, and you know the tendency to weaponise. We tend to think of rare earths as an example, but the fact is even finance is a choke point. I mean sanctions are a choke point. I mean, people are weaponising their grip on finance or on the US dollar," Jaishankar said. He said global competition would increasingly revolve around what different countries could offer and the agreements they could negotiate to advance their respective interests.

"The point, I think, is we are moving to a world where the competition is going to be, to some degree, who has what to bring to the table, and then deals among them saying, you know, you do this, I do this. Let's develop this together. Let's trade this for each other," he said. However, Jaishankar cautioned against viewing the ongoing changes in the global order pessimistically. "But I still think we should not have a pessimistic view about this process of change," he added. The discussion was part of the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in New Delhi, where Jaishankar was in conversation with Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand, former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio to Visit India



NEW DELHI: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is set to visit India on October 17, with plans to travel to locations such as Mumbai and Jamnagar.

This marks his second visit to the country. During the visit, he will hold

discussions with senior officials, focusing on India-US diplomatic relations, global and regional issues, and the energy sector. He is also scheduled to meet with business leaders to discuss trade investments and economic cooperation. Mr. Rubio's visit comes ag-

ainst the backdrop of the US imposing a 100 percent tariff on India regarding fuel purchases from Russia. With trade agreement negotiations between the two nations currently stalled, his visit has generated significant expectations.

Chandrababu Naidu Assures Water Supply to Tamil Nadu Despite Shortage

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister Vijay, currently visiting Andhra Pradesh, held discussions with the state's Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu, regarding river interlinking and the Godavari & Cauvery interlinking project.

Subsequently, Chief Minister Vijay participated as a special guest in 'Vijayawada Utsav 2.0', a traditional and cultural event of the state. Speaking at the event, Chandrababu Naidu said: "I am delighted to meet the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Vijay, here in Vijayawada. We discussed the drinking water requirements of Chennai under the Telugu Ganga Project and

held constructive talks on the Godavari & Cauvery interlinking project.

Andhra Pradesh has supplied 4.08 TMC of water to Chennai so far this year. Even amidst water scarcity in Andhra Pradesh, we remain committed to assisting Tamil Nadu; we will provide the water required by the state. I firmly believe that water should be a source of cooperation rather than a cause for conflict.

With the support of the Central Government, the Godavari & Cauvery interlinking project will pave the way



to resolving water scarcity. This initiative will enable the transformation of agriculture and bring prosperity to lakhs of farmers across South India."

"I consider it a privilege to have participated in the

Navaratri festival".

Chief Minister Vijay spoke as follows: "Greetings to everyone.

I am happy to meet you all. I thank the people of Andhra

for the wonderful welcome extended to me.

I consider it a privilege to have participated in the Navaratri festival. It is gratifying to have held discussions with Andhra Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu regarding the development of both states. I thank the people of Andhra for their hospitality. I also extend my gratitude to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu." He spoke thus. He began his speech in Telugu and concluded it in Tamil. Earlier in the event, Chief Minister Vijay and the ministers from Tamil Nadu were honored with mementos.

Canadian FM stresses need for global enforcement mechanisms highlights ICC, ICJ role in upholding state sovereignty

NEW DELHI: Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand on Wednesday stressed the need for stronger enforcement mechanisms in the international arena, highlighting the role of international adjudicatory institutions such as the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in upholding principles of territorial integrity, human rights and state sovereignty.

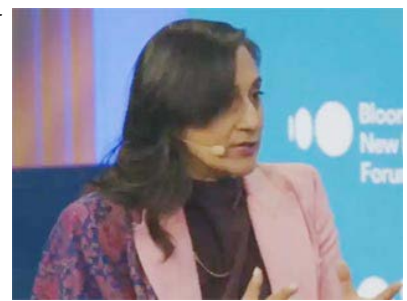
Speaking at the Bloomberg New Economy 2026 discussion titled "Is This the Middle Power Moment?", Anand underlined the limitations of enforcing international law and emphasised the importance of supporting institutions that can help uphold fundamental global principles. "Enforcement in the international arena is a very ambiguous, if not vulnerable, concept," Anand said.

"International law has long suffered from the fact that there is no enforcement mechanism, and that's why it is so important to support the international adjudicatory institutions like the ICC, like the ICJ, because they give, to the extent that is possible, some enforcement mechanism to the principles of territorial integrity, human

rights, state sovereignty, etc," she said. Her remarks came amid renewed attention to the ICC's role and the challenges facing international judicial institutions, following the US Department of State's announcement of additional sanctions against the court. Washington said the measures were intended to defend American sovereignty and protect US citizens from what the administration described as a threat posed by the ICC.

"Under President Trump, the United States has acted decisively to defend U.S. sovereignty and U.S. citizens against the threat of the International Criminal Court (ICC)," the US Department of State said in a fact sheet. The department noted that Washington had already imposed sanctions on 17 individuals under an executive order before announcing the latest action against the institution itself. Under the sanctions, and subject to applicable licences and exceptions, the property and interests in property of the ICC located in the United States or held by US persons are blocked and must be

reported to the US Department of the Treasury's Office



of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). The measures also prohibit transactions by US persons, or transactions within or transiting the United States, involving the property or interests of designated or otherwise blocked persons, unless exempted or authorised under applicable licences. Against this backdrop, Anand emphasised that strengthening strategic autonomy and economic resilience must go hand in hand with upholding the values that underpin international cooperation.

"We are all pragmatic in the sense that we're speaking about how do we enhance our strategic autonomy and how do we ensure that we are resilient economically in these times. But we can't forget the role that values play in this conversation," she said.

"The idea is there are fundamental principles or values that will motivate us

as well," Anand added. The discussion brought together Anand, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Asia Society Global President and CEO Kevin Rudd, and former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to deliberate on the evolving international order and the role of middle powers amid changing geopolitical and economic dynamics. The session examined whether middle powers could strengthen cooperation on security guarantees, open markets, reserve & currency regimes and rules-based institutions at a time when the US is described in the discussions framing as turning inward and moving away from the global order it once maintained.

During the exchange, Jaishankar highlighted the growing importance of economic and financial vulnerabilities in international relations, pointing to the potential weaponisation of critical resources, financial systems and sanctions.

The discussion highlighted the challenges facing middle powers as they seek to strengthen their strategic autonomy and economic resilience while navigating an increasingly competitive international environment.

People polluted the river again in just 30 days, a river an Instagram celebrity had spent 8 months cleaning!

BHOPAL: A video released by Instagram celebrity 'Bittu Tabahi'—showing his eight-month-long struggle to clean the Ajnar River in Madhya Pradesh, which had been overflowing with plastic and other waste—had garnered significant attention.

However, within just a month of that video's release, the river has become polluted once again. A new video released by Bittu Tabahi, revealing the river's deplorable state due to garbage dumped by the public, has left everyone dismayed. It is often said that "creating something is hard, but destroying it is easy." A recent incident in the town of Piploda, Madhya Pradesh, serves as a perfect example of this.



The Ajnar River flows through Piploda, and many people take holy dips in its waters. Furthermore, the river serves as a vital water source for both the general public and livestock. However, the river had recently become heavily polluted; vast amounts of waste—including plastic—were floating on the surface, almost completely obscuring the water beneath.

Bittu Tabahi (whose real name is Surendra Singh Choudhary), a 21-year-old college student pursuing a B.Sc. degree in Piploda, was deeply concerned by this situation. Determined to clean the river, he began the task on January 26th.

Through an eight-month solo effort, he successfully cleaned the Ajnar River by September. Although others offered occasional assis-

tance, the achievement was made possible primarily through Bittu Tabahi's unwavering perseverance. Bittu Tabahi received widespread praise for this initiative. He garnered significant attention. Boyan Slat, CEO of the Netherlands-based environmental organization 'The Ocean Cleanup', invited Bittu Tabahi to join and work with their team. However, the Ajnar River has now become polluted again within just four weeks. Bittu Tabahi released a video regarding this, expressing his dismay. "I never even imagined that my eight months of hard work would go to waste like this," he said. Many who have watched the video are criticizing the public.