

PM Narendra Modi Welcomes BRICS Parliamentary Forum Delegations in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in New Delhi, extending a warm welcome to foreign delegations. Among those greeted was Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation.

The Parliament complex buzzed with activity as delegates from 11 member

countries and 10 partner nations, including Uganda, Cuba, Brazil, and Russia, arrived for the two-day event. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also attended, highlighting the forum's significance.

Rajya Sabha MP Naresh Bansal underscored BRICS's global impact, noting it represents nearly half the world's

Emphasizes Global Role



population, 40% of global GDP, and 24% of trade. He stated, "India currently holds the presidency, and under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi, this forum serves as a vital platform for addressing global challenges—particularly those faced by developing nations." MP Rajeev Rai expressed hopes for a stronger collective

voice, stating, "It is our hope that a voice will emerge from here—one that might help keep the overbearing influence of the United States in check." He emphasized national unity on foreign policy matters.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla delivered the inaugural address, setting the stage for discussions on peace, development, and international cooperation among the BRICS nations and their partners.



The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla addressing at the inaugural session of the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum 2026 at Parliament House, in New Delhi.

Accident involving vehicles in Rahul Gandhi's convoy in U.P.; several, including security personnel, injured

Reports indicate Rahul Gandhi is safe

NEW DELHI: Several Congress party members and security personnel were injured after vehicles accompanying Rahul Gandhi's car were involved in an accident. However, reports confirm that Rahul Gandhi himself is safe.

A local BJP leader had filed a defamation case against Rahul Gandhi, alleging that he had made defamatory remarks against the then-BJP president, Amit Shah, during the 2018 Karnataka Assembly election campaign. The case was being heard in a special MP/MLA court in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

Rahul Gandhi was on his way to the court to appear for the proceedings, with a verdict expected today.

He was traveling from Lucknow toward Sultanpur along the Purvanchal Expressway, accompanied by a convoy of vehicles.

During the journey, an ambulance collided with one of the vehicles traveling behind Rahul Gandhi's car, triggering a chain reaction collision. In total, four cars and one ambulance were involved in the accident. Several Congress party members and security personnel accompanying Rahul Gandhi



sustained injuries; however,

it has been reported that Rahul Gandhi remains safe. The incident occurred within the jurisdiction of the Haliyapur police station in the Sultanpur district. It is not yet clear whether the ambulance involved in the accident was part of Rahul

Gandhi's convoy.

Reports suggest that Rahul Gandhi's own vehicle was already some distance ahead when the accident took place.

It is also reported that, following the accident, Rahul Gandhi continued his journey towards Sultanpur.

Ban on Carrying 'Murugan' Flag During Circumambulation

THIRUPARAKUNDRAM: For the past ten months, members of the 'Murugan Bhaktar Peravai' (Murugan Devotees' Association) have been performing 'Girivalam' (circumambulation of the hill) on every full moon day (*Pournami*).

Their objective is to advocate for the lighting of the 'Karthigai Maha Deepam' atop the hill at Thiruparankundram, Madurai—a practice they assert is supported by a court order.

Yesterday, in preparation for the 'Girivalam', members of the association and office-bearers of the 'Hindu Munnani' gathered in front of the temple.

They held a yellow flag featuring an image of Lord Murugan and the inscription "Murugan Bhaktar Peravai." Before setting off, they performed a 'deepa aradhana' (offering of camphor lamps) as a ritual start to their procession. Police officers arrived at the

scene and intervened, stating that carrying the flag during the 'Girivalam' was not permitted. The devotees argued,

"This is not a political party flag; it belongs to the 'Murugan Bhaktar Peravai'."

It contains nothing other than an image of Lord Murugan. We have been carrying this same flag during our 'Girivalam' for the last ten months." This led to a heated exchange between the police and the devotees.

When the police continued to refuse permission to carry the flag, the devotees attempted to stage a protest by blocking the 'Girivalam' path. Eventually, the police relented and granted permission for them to proceed with the flag. Following this,

the members of the association and the 'Hindu Munnani' continued their 'Girivalam' while chanting "Aroharu" (a traditional invocation to Lord Murugan).

Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman on Four Day Japan Visit to Strengthen Strategic Partnership

BANGALADESH: Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman arrived in Japan on Monday for a four-day state visit aimed at deepening the strategic partnership between the two nations.

His Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight landed at Narita International Airport at 9:05 am local time, where he was received by Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nakasone Yasutaka, along with key Bangladeshi officials.

The visit, from October 26 to 29, will focus on boosting

bilateral relations, attracting Japanese investment, and expanding trade and economic cooperation. Discussions are expected to prioritize reducing project costs and loan interest rates for ongoing infrastructure projects, including the metro rail. A key agenda item is accelerating the implementation of the "Bangladesh & Japan Economic Partnership Agreement" (EPA), signed in February 2026, to increase Bangladeshi product access to the Japanese market.



Prime Minister Rahman is scheduled to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, hold talks with representatives of major Japanese companies and development agencies, and deliver a keynote address at

the "Japan & Bangladesh Economic Forum."

He will also visit industrial and energy installations, including JERA's LNG terminal and power plant, Uniqlo headquarters, and a Toyota motor manufacturing plant. Other meetings include those with JICA, JBIC, JETRO presidents, and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation chairman, emphasizing cooperation in renewable energy, agriculture, digital transformation, and skills development.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's derogatory remarks: Nationwide protest today

NEW DELHI: The derogatory remarks made by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his father have triggered a major storm in national politics. The BJP has announced that large-scale protests will be held across the country today (October 26) to condemn these comments. During a Congress public meeting in Patna, Bihar, party president Mallikarjun Kharge spoke about ousting the Modi government. In response, an individual in the audience remarked, "Modi isn't going anywhere; he won't step down from power."

Losing his composure, Kharge retorted aggressively from the stage, using demeaning language: "We will oust not just Modi, but even his father!" This outburst caused a major commotion at the venue, and Congress workers immediately removed the individual who had spoken up.

BJP leaders have strongly condemned the remarks, stating that Kharge

has crossed the boundaries of political decency. Amit Shah's sharp reaction: Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated: "Having faced consecutive electoral defeats over the last 12 years, the Congress party has reached the brink of desperation. They have neither policies nor any substantive issues to discuss. That is why, under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, Congress leaders have resorted to personal attacks and the politics of vile abuse. Making remarks about the late

father of the country's Prime Minister is an act that buries democratic traditions.

This once again proves that the Congress party lacks even an iota of culture or decency." The BJP has announced that it will hold nationwide protests and demonstrations today, demanding an unconditional public apology from Kharge for his uncivil remarks regarding Prime Minister Modi's father. This issue has also triggered a fierce war of words between the two parties.

TVK female office-bearer arrested for murdering her husband, a notorious criminal in Kanyakumari

NAGERKOIL: It has been revealed that the death of a notorious criminal near Nagercoil was, in fact, a murder committed by his own wife—an office-bearer in the TVK (Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam) party. Following this discovery, both the wife and their 14-year-old son, who assisted her, have been arrested.

Suresh (43), a resident of Poonga Nagar in Irachakulam near Nagercoil, Kanyakumari district, had several criminal cases pending against him and was listed as a habitual offender (history-sheeter). His wife, Bharathi (37), serves as the Joint Secretary of the TVK Women's Wing for the Kanyakumari East district. On the night of the 23rd, Suresh was found dead at his home.

When questioned by the Boothapandi police, his wife, Bharathi, claimed that he had died due to poor health. She stated that he had been unwell for the past two months, had recently returned from hospital treatment, and had suddenly passed away following a heart attack. A post-mortem examination conducted at the Asaripallam Government Medical College Hospital revealed an injury on Suresh's neck.

Upon further police interrogation, Bharathi confessed: "While intoxicated, he would

harass me at night by forcing me to watch explicit videos on his mobile phone; he also inflicted burns all over my body using lit cigarettes. My 14-year-old son was also deeply traumatized by this. Consequently, my son and

I strangled him to death." Following this confession, the police reclassified the case as a murder and arrested both Bharathi and her son yesterday. The incident has sent shockwaves through the Nagercoil region.



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Today horoscope



Unavoidable expenses will arise. It is essential to be accommodating within the family. You will see profits in business and trade. You will enjoy meeting up with childhood friends, and your siblings will provide help when needed.



You will be able to repay money borrowed from others. Ego clashes between spouses will be resolved. The health of your parents will improve. You will receive financial support to expand your business, and you will extend help to those who come to you in need.



Old friends will reach out to you after a long time. Your home will be filled with happiness. You will receive appreciation from prominent individuals. Your interest in spirituality will grow. There will be profits in business, but patience is required in all matters.



Tense discussions within the family will fade away. You will take pride in your children. You will gain the company of good people. At work, a superior will extend a hand of friendship. Be careful not to speak harshly or dismissively to anyone.



You will find a resolution to a problem that has been troubling you for a long time. You may acquire new clothing or ornaments. In business, you will be able to recover long-pending dues. Employees or subordinates will be supportive. It is important to exercise restraint in your speech.



You will complete certain tasks that require a fair amount of running around. Try to be accommodating with your family members. Avoid extravagant or unnecessary expenses. Business will be profitable. Your children will act responsibly and show maturity.



Relatives from your spouse's side will understand your needs and offer assistance. You may replace a faulty vehicle. Those who are employed will have the opportunity to participate in auspicious family events. You will take pride in your children's achievements. You may also acquire new possessions.



Trips to other places will prove beneficial. Relatives from your father's side will be supportive. Your children will conduct themselves responsibly. At your workplace, you will receive support from your colleagues. You may also develop an interest in spirituality and meditation.



You will achieve success in all your endeavors through your eloquence and strong personality. Your influence in external circles will grow. You may have meetings regarding ancestral property. In business, old stock will be cleared.



You will receive greater support from your family members. Your pragmatic way of speaking will help you complete tasks that were previously stalled. The health of your children will improve. In business, your employees will be cooperative and supportive.



You will enjoy meeting up with old friends and relatives. Any misunderstandings with your spouse's side of the family will be resolved. You will be able to recover money that you had lent out, albeit with some effort. You will acquire various items or assets.



You will gain increased respect and regard among your relatives. You may come into possession of property from your paternal side. Your elder siblings will provide financial assistance when it is most needed. Vehicle-related issues will be resolved. You will also benefit from new acquaintances.

Omni Bus Collides with Goods Van

Cleaner Killed, 40 Passengers Injured



TRICHY: A cleaner has died and 40 passengers have sustained injuries following a collision involving an omni bus. Yesterday, a private omni bus carrying 46 passengers was traveling from Marthandam in Kanyakumari district toward Chennai.

As the bus was moving along the national highway near Valasaipatti in Manapparai, Trichy district, it was following a goods van. When the driver of the goods van suddenly applied the brakes, the omni bus crashed violently into the rear of the van. The cleaner of the private bus tragically lost his life in the incident. More than 40 injured passengers were rescued by local residents and transported to hospitals via 15 ambulances. Upon receiving information, the police arrived at the scene to conduct an investigation.

The accident caused a disruption to traffic on the Manapparai national highway. Meanwhile, two other private buses were also involved in a collision at the same location, resulting in injuries to a few more individuals. The police subsequently cleared the area and restored the flow of traffic.

Vadipatti: Kumbhabhishekam at Mariamman Temple



VATIPATTI: In Kachaikatti, located within the Vadipatti taluk, the Kumbhabhishekam for the South Street Sakthi Mariamman

procession of the *Kadam* (sacred vessels) after 9:00 AM, the holy water was poured over the *kalasas*

Temple was held. On October 23, the first phase of the *Yagasalai* (ritual sacrificial) ceremonies commenced with the *Vigneswara Puja*.

On October 24, the second and third phases of the *Yagasalai* rituals took place, including *Varuna* and *Sudarsana Homas*, as well as *Kannika* and *Dhanalakshmi Pujas*.

On October 25, following the ceremonial procession of the *Kadam* (sacred vessels) after 9:00 AM, the holy water was poured over the *kalasas*

(temple spires/vessels) at 10:15 AM. Special *abhishhekams* (anointing rituals), decorations, and *aradhanas* (worship offerings) were performed for the Goddess.

Additionally, the Kumbhabhishekam for the Sellayi Amman Temple in Kulasekaran Kottai, Vadipatti, was also conducted.

This began on October 23 with the *Vigneswara Puja* and *Maha Ganapati Homam*. On October 24, *Haridra Ganapati Puja*, *Sangalambam*, and *Kubera Homam* were performed, followed by *Rudra*, *Sudarsana*, and *Garuda Homas* in the evening. On October 25, after 8:15 AM, the *Kadam* was carried in procession, and the holy water was poured

over the *kalasas*, followed by special *abhishhekams* and *aradhanas* for the Goddess.

In Sallakulam, the Kumbhabhishekam for the temple of Adaikkalam Kaatha Ayyanar—accompanied by the deities Poorna and Pushpakala Devi—and Karuppasamy was held. The proceedings began on October 23 with *Vigneswara* and *Mahalakshmi Pujas*. On October 24, *Mahalakshmi*, *Narayana*, and *Garuda Homas* were conducted, along with the recitation of auspicious hymns (*Asirvada Thirumurai*).

On October 25, following the procession of the *Kadam* after 8:15 AM, the holy water was poured over the *kalasas*.

2,000 Acres of 'Samba' Paddy Crops Submerged in Mayiladuthurai District



MAYILADUTHURAI: In Mayiladuthurai district, a target has been set to cultivate 'Samba' and 'Thaladi' paddy over an area of 1.60 lakh acres this year.

Due to the unavailability of Cauvery water at the appropriate time in the Mayiladuthurai, Kuthalam, Tharangambadi, and Sirkazhi regions, farmers relied on water from pump

sets to carry out sowing and transplanting activities starting in the first week of September.

Although water was released from the Mettur Dam on September 1st, it reached the tail end areas only after September 20th. Furthermore, as sufficient water was not released into the 'A' and 'B' category canals

branching off from the Cauvery River and its tributaries, many farmers in the coastal villages of Tharangambadi and Sirkazhi resorted to direct sowing of paddy seeds in dry fields, depending solely on rainfall.

As the sown seeds began to germinate, heavy and continuous rainfall over the past few days has led to water stagnation in the fields. Consequently, young 'Samba' crops—established through both direct sowing and mechanical transplanting—have become submerged in low-lying areas.

In many locations, drainage and irrigation canals have not been properly desilted,

which has delayed the drainage of rainwater and created a risk of the crops rotting. Approximately 2,000 acres of young 'Samba' crops are currently submerged across Thiruvizhandur, Pandur, Keezhamaruthanallur, Kanchanagaram,

Tharangambadi, Sirkazhi, Kollidam, and surrounding villages. Farmers have urged officials from the Agriculture and Water Resources departments to conduct an on-site inspection of the low-lying fields and establish adequate drainage facilities to clear the stagnant water, noting that this is the only way to save the 'Samba' crops.

Municipal Corporation Reclaims 118 Acres of Land by Removing Legacy Waste via Bio-mining



CHENNAI: The Municipal Corporation is currently reclaiming land at the Kodungaiyur, Perungudi, and Athipattu dump sites by removing legacy waste through a process known as 'bio-mining'. The Kodungaiyur dump site spans 350 acres.

Out of the 6,652,506 tonnes of legacy waste identified for removal via bio-mining,

approximately 4,785,993 tonnes (72%) have been cleared so far. This has resulted in the reclamation of about 22 acres of land. The project is scheduled to be completed by May next year, at which point a total of 200 acres of land will have been reclaimed.

Additionally, preparations are underway to invite tenders for a project—valued at ₹116.89

crore—to remove an additional 1.213 million tonnes of legacy waste discovered at the Kodungaiyur dump site using the same bio-mining method. The Perungudi dump site spans an area of 250 acres. In the first phase, 2,928,398 cubic meters of waste—representing 100% of the waste in that section—have been completely removed, resulting in the reclamation of approximately 96 acres of land. As part of the ongoing second phase, which utilizes bio-mining technology, about 108,073 tonnes (20%) of the targeted 550,000 tonnes of waste have been removed so far.

This phase is scheduled to be completed by March of next year, and it will lead

to the reclamation of approximately 75 acres of land. Additionally, preparations are underway to invite tenders—at a cost of ₹158.93 crore—for the removal of an extra 1.65 million tonnes of waste discovered at the Perungudi dump site, using the bio-mining method. The Athipattu dump site covers an area of 5.5 acres. In the first phase, 107,811 cubic meters of waste were completely removed using the biomining technique. In the second phase, approximately 64,263 tonnes of legacy waste have been removed so far, out of a total of 72,083 tonnes. The press release states that this will result in the reclamation of about 5.5 acres of land.

Cyclone Warning Signal No. 2 Hoisted at 9 Ports in Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI: A low-pressure area that formed over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a depression and subsequently a deep depression. Today, it has strengthened into a cyclonic storm over the central and eastern and adjoining central and western Bay of Bengal.

This cyclone has been named 'Arnab'. It is expected to move further in a north-westerly direction, intensifying into a severe cyclonic storm and then a very severe cyclonic storm

by tomorrow (Tuesday). It is projected to make landfall near the coast of Andhra Pradesh the day after tomorrow.

While this system is likely to bring rain to the Andhra Pradesh region, it is reported that there is no possibility of rain for Tamil Nadu due to this cyclone; the rainfall experienced so far is unrelated to this weather system. In light of the formation of Cyclone Arnab in the Bay of Bengal, Cyclone Warning Signal No. 2 has been ho-



isted at 9 ports across Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

These ports include Chennai, Ennore, Kattupalli, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Pamban, Thoothukudi,

Puducherry, and Karaikal. Furthermore, fishermen who have already ventured out to sea have been advised to return to the shore immediately.

October 26 Alappuzha 2026

Sand as a blackboard, a small stick as a stylus, an 85-year-old teacher imparts lessons!

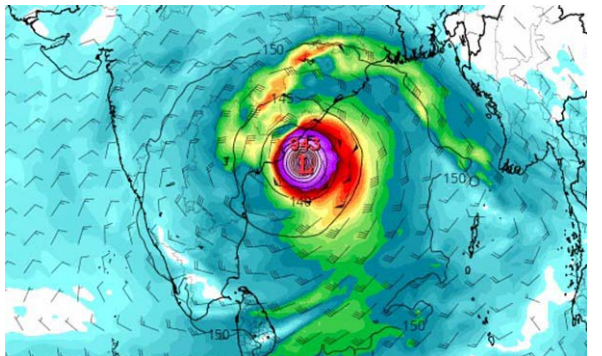
In the Alappuzha district of Kerala, an 85-year-old woman teaches children using nothing more than sand and a small stick. Affectionately known as 'Ashatti Ammma' (Teacher & Grandmother) or 'Indira Amma,' she has been teaching children the alphabet, numbers, and mathematics for about a decade. Her teaching style is rooted in the traditional 'Asan Kalari' method—a time-honored pedagogical practice from the state.

In an era dominated by smart classrooms and digital whiteboards, her simple approach has captured the attention of many. Sitting on a mat on the veranda of her home, she spreads a layer of sand before the children and levels it out using a small wooden stick. She then writes letters from the English and Malayalam scripts—including various strokes and shapes—into the sand. The children watch intently and then trace the same characters in the sand with their own fingers. There are no notebooks, pens, or blackboards there. Since mistakes can be erased and rewritten, one can practice repeatedly without the need for fresh paper. This video was shared on the Instagram account @mom_of_safaachiiii. It has gone viral and captured many hearts. One netizen described this space as "the most beautiful classroom in the world."



Rainwater has stagnated at a house in Netaji Nagar, Old Pettai, Krishnagiri.

Cyclone 'Arnab' Warning Intensive Preparations Underway in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha



VISAKAPATINAM: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning that a low-pressure area formed over the Bay of Bengal has intensified into a severe cyclonic storm named 'Arnab'. It is expected to make landfall along the coast of Andhra Pradesh on October 28. In response, precautionary measures have been intensified across the states of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

As the cyclone makes landfall, it is expected to bring strong cyclonic winds with speeds ranging from 115 to 125 kmph, potentially gusting up to 140 kmph. Consequently, the coastal stretch from Bapatla to Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh has been placed on high alert.

Although the cyclone is set to make landfall in Andhra Pradesh, heavy to very heavy rainfall is anticipated in the southern and coastal districts of Odisha. As a result, schools and colleges in five districts—Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Gajapati, and Ganjam—have been declared closed on October 28 and 29.

To handle the emergency, approximately 60 teams from the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force, 17 teams from the National Disaster Response Force, and 225 teams from the Fire Services department have been deployed. In Ganjam district alone, 100 cyclone relief camps and 1,000 temporary shelters have been set up.

Prime Minister Modi witnesses Indian Air Force air show in Varanasi



VARANASI: To mark the 94th anniversary of the Indian Air Force, a three-day event titled 'Wings Over Ganga' was held at Namo Ghat in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. On the final day, yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnessed the aerial displays performed by the Indian Air



Force's elite aerobatic teams. He was accompanied by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The event featured a variety of combat aircraft and helicopters, including the

Sukhoi&30MKI, the indigenously manufactured Tejas, and the LCH Prachand. Three Kiran aircraft flew in a 'V' formation, creating a striking visual display in the colours of the national flag. Meanwhile, Mi&17 helicopters carrying the national flag performed a manoeuvre in the shape of the 'Omkar' (Om) symbol. The 'Surya Kiran' aerobatic team showcased precision flying and highly coordinated tactical manoeuvres. Meanwhile, the Sarang helicopter display team captivated the audience with their aerial stunts.

Production of dairy products has not been stopped: Aavin management clarifies



CHENNAI: The management of Aavin has denied reports claiming that the production of over 100 dairy products has been halted. Aavin is engaged in the sale of milk and dairy products to the people of Tamil Nadu. Through Aavin, more than 3.4 million (34 lakh) litres of milk are procured daily. This milk is processed, categorised into various types, and sold. Furthermore, Aavin prod-

uces 225 varieties of dairy products—including butter, ghee, curd, and paalkova (milk solids)—which are sold through Aavin outlets and retail sellers. In Chennai, the daily sales of milk and dairy products amount to a value of Rs 1.50 crore. Reports have emerged suggesting that the production of over 100 dairy products at Aavin has been halted. Refuting these claims, the Aavin management stated in a press release that

the reports regarding the stoppage of production are entirely untrue. The production of no item manufactured by Aavin has been completely discontinued. All dairy products—including ghee, butter, paneer, and cookies—are being produced as usual and distributed to sales outlets and retail agents. Furthermore, in preparation for the Deepavali festival, a variety of special sweets are being produced and supplied to various organizations and customers based on their requirements. Furthermore, based on the demand forecast lists received from sales agents, measures are being taken to ensure an uninterrupted supply of the required dairy products to them. This has been stated therein.

Australia Toughens Visa Rules for Indians Biometrics Now Mandatory from October 26



AUSTRALIA: Australia has tightened its visa application process for Indian citizens, making biometric data collection, including fingerprints and facial images, mandatory for certain new visa applications from October 26. This move, announced by the Australian High Commission in India, aims to bolster the security and integrity of its

migration system. The new regulations apply to applications submitted on or after October 26, 2023, and will not impact previously granted visas or applications lodged before this date. The Department of Home Affairs will notify applicants if they need to provide biometrics, typically via email, and provide instructions on how to proceed. Applicants may be required to visit one of the 16 Australian Biometrics Collection Centres managed by VFS Global across India. Alternatively, some may be eligible to use the Australian Immi App

for digital submission. This expansion aligns Australia's practices with international standards, as biometrics are already collected from visa applicants in nearly 60 other countries. The Australian government emphasizes that this measure will help protect applicants from identity misuse and reduce fraud, ensuring a secure and efficient visa process. Despite the additional step, officials do not anticipate any adverse effect on visa processing times, provided applicants submit their biometrics promptly after notification. Applicants are advised to await official instructions from the Department of Home Affairs before scheduling appointments or using the app.



Readers participating in competitions during the 'Women's Festival' (Magalir Thiruvizha)—organized by the 'Penn Indru' (Woman Today) section of the 'Hindu Tamil Thisai' newspaper—held yesterday at the Thiruvannamiyur campus of Vels University, Chennai.

Jan Neeti Party to contest all 403 constituencies in U.P. independently

Former IAS officer Divya Mittal

LUCKNOW: Divya Mittal, an IAS officer from Uttar Pradesh, resigned from her position last August. Subsequently, she launched a new political party called 'Jan Neeti Bharat'. Speaking to the public in Mirzapur yesterday, Divya Mittal stated, "In the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections, Jan Neeti Bharat will contest independently in all 403 constituencies.



We seek your support for this. We will field candidates in every one of the 403 constituencies in U.P. Under the current system, Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) have largely acted as intermediaries between the government and the public. In contrast, representatives from Jan Neeti Bharat will

be directly accountable to the citizens." She added, "While political parties may appear to be competing against one another, they are, in fact, complicit in keeping decision-making power out of the hands of ordinary people."



Continuous rainfall in Kanyakumari district has brought rubber tapping operations in rubber plantations to a halt. Small-scale rubber plantation workers have requested that the government provide relief.

Re-election Victory: PM Modi Congratulates Brazilian President Lula



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended his congratulations to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on his re-election as the President of Brazil. Incumbent President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has secured victory in the Brazilian presidential election. While right-wing candidate Jair Bolsonaro (referred to in the source text as Flavio Bolsonaro) held the lead in the first round, President Lula emerged victorious in the second and final round. 80&year&old Lula defeated his opponent, Jair Bolsonaro, by a margin of 4.4 million votes.

The people of Brazil are celebrating his victory with great enthusiasm. In a post on social media, Prime Minister Modi conveyed his congratulations, stating: "Heartiest congratulations to my friend, President Lula, on his re-election as the President of Brazil." "I look forward to working with him to further expand the partnership between India and Brazil. Our bilateral cooperation across various sectors will continue," he added.

Delhi: Sudden fire breaks out near Parliament



NEW DELHI: A fire has broken out in the North Block of the Central Secretariat, located near the Parliament in New Delhi. The incident occurred at approximately 11:10 AM today. Upon receiving the alert, six fire tenders from the Delhi Fire Service were immediately dispatched to the scene. Thick, black smoke billowed high into the air as the fire spread rapidly.

It is not yet clear whether any parts of the building or important documents have been damaged or destroyed. According to the police, the incident took place while repair work was being carried out in the building. Reports indicate that no one has been injured. Shiv Sena MP Milind Deora, who was on his way to Parliament, witnessed the incident and shared information about it on the social media platform X. The cause of the fire is not yet known, and an investigation is currently underway.



In Chennai's Egmore, former BJP state president Tamilsai Soundararajan paid respects to the RSS flag by performing an 'aarathi' before it.

Fetus Found Inside 2 Month Old Infant's Abdomen

Rare Case Reported in Karnataka

RAICHUR: In Karnataka, a medical examination has revealed the presence of a fetus inside the abdomen of a 2-month-old male infant. The infant, whose parents are from the Gadag district of Karnataka, experienced sudden abdominal swelling and intermittent vomiting. Concerned, the parents took the child to a private hospital in Sindhanur, Raichur district, for treatment. Upon examination, doctors discovered a mass like str-

ucture in the infant's abdomen. Further testing revealed that it was not a tumor, but rather a fetus located inside the child's body. Dr. Shivaraj, who treated the infant, explained the condition: During pregnancy, in the case of twins, one fetus may develop properly while the other fails to develop and becomes trapped inside the body of the developed twin. This rare medical condition is known as "Fetus in Fetu." This rare phenomenon occ-

urs in approximately one out of every 5 million births. In India, about 230 such cases have been documented to date, and this marks the third such instance in Karnataka. As the infant requires urgent care and further medical evaluation, the child has been referred to a government hospital in Ballari. A decision regarding the necessity of surgery will be made only after the results of further tests, including blood work, are available, the doctor stated.

Cyclone 'Arnab': No direct impact on TN; to make landfall in Andhra Pradesh on October 28

CHENNAI: The severe cyclonic storm 'Arnab', which has formed in the Bay of Bengal, will not have any significant direct impact on Tamil Nadu, according to official statements from the Disaster Management Authority and the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Currently positioned over the central&western Bay of Bengal, the cyclone is moving northward and is expected to reach the Andhra Pradesh coast by the forenoon of October 28 (Wednesday). It is likely to make landfall as a severe cyclonic storm near

Yanam, between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam. Although the cyclone will not directly strike Tamil Nadu, the sea is expected to be extremely rough. The Disaster Management Authority has prohibited fishermen from venturing into the sea, as waves may rise to heights significantly greater than usual. Furthermore, the public is strongly advised to avoid visiting coastal areas for recreational purposes. As the cyclone is moving toward Andhra Pradesh, a 'Red Alert' has been issued

exclusively for the states of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. However, the IMD has indicated that, due to the influence of the Northeast Monsoon, northern coastal districts of Tamil Nadu—including Chennai and Thiruvallur—may experience widespread moderate to heavy rainfall from today (Monday) through October 28. The Disaster Management Authority has urged the public not to believe rumors and to rely solely on official updates provided by the government and the meteorological department.

Incorrect Information Regarding Power Outage: Minister Nirmalkumar

CHENNAI: A news channel reported that relatives were left waiting with a body at an electric crematorium in Thirumazhisai, near Chennai, due to a lack of electricity. Responding to this, Minister Nirmalkumar posted a video on the platform 'X' (formerly Twitter) featuring an official. He stated, "This is incorrect information. There was no disruption to the power supply; the internal

electrical infrastructure of the crematorium falls under the control of the local village panchayat." "Operations were affected due to a fault in the crematorium's internal cabling. There was a delay by

panchayat staff in addressing the issue. Upon a request from the panchayat, the Electricity Board team arrived at the site immediately, arranged for a generator, and ensured that the funeral rites could proceed without further delay. The Electricity Board team is also providing the necessary assistance to identify and repair the internal electrical fault," he noted.

'Hunter's Moon' to appear in the sky tonight

The 'Hunter's Moon' will appear in the sky tonight, looking brighter and somewhat more magnificent than usual. The full moon that follows the first full moon of autumn is known as the 'Hunter's Moon'. In ancient times, across North America and Europe, people used the light of this moon to hunt animals and stock up on food before the onset of winter. The name 'Hunter's Moon' originated because the moonlight made it easier to spot animals moving across open fields after the harvest. When this full moon first

appears on the horizon, it will take on a deep orange or reddish hue. While the moon typically rises later each night following a full moon, the 'Hunter's Moon' will emerge in the sky almost immediately after sunset, casting a bright glow throughout the entire night. Because this full moon coincides with a point in the moon's elliptical orbit where

it is closest to Earth, it will appear larger and shine more intensely than a typical full moon. Shortly after sunset this evening, you can enjoy the sight of this massive, orange-hued moon with the naked eye—no telescope is required.



'Mann Ki Baat' continues uninterrupted for 12 years: PM Modi expresses pride



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Modi participated in the 139th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' yesterday. Speaking on the occasion, he said: "Twelve years ago, on this

without interruption. Throughout this journey, you have been my fellow travellers and guides.

I consider this a blessed opportunity to celebrate the hard work, valour, determination, dedication, and spirit of service of ordinary people. For me, this 12-year journey of 'Mann Ki Baat' is nothing short of a sacred pilgrimage. Over these 12 years, individuals who often go unnoticed by society have received recognition for their extraordinary contributions. Through this programme, I pay tribute to the collective strength of the nation's people. It provides me with an opportunity to connect with every family. I have received letters from people saying that listening to 'Mann Ki Baat' feels as though a member of their own family is sitting with them, engaged in conversation. This closeness and affection are my most invaluable assets." He spoke thus.

Annabhishekam Performed at Sathuragiri Sundaramahalingam Temple for Aippasi Full Moon

VATHIRAIRUPPU: Despite a ban on devotees climbing the hill to the Sathuragiri Sundaramahalingam Temple due to rain, an 'Annabhishekam' (a ritual offering of cooked rice) was performed for the deity Sandana Mahalingam on the occasion of the full moon (Pournami) in the Tamil month of Aippasi.

The temples of Sundara Mahalingam and Sandana Mahalingam are situated on the Sathuragiri hills—part of the Srivilliputhur&Megam-



alai Tiger Reserve (Sapthur forest range)—at an altitude of 3,500 feet above sea level. Devotees had initially been granted permission to climb the hill and offer prayers

between October 23 and 26, coinciding with the Pradosham and full moon (Pournami) observances of the month of Aippasi.

However, due to the on-

going Northeast monsoon, water levels in the streams along the trekking path rose, leading to a prohibition on devotees climbing the hill. Nevertheless, the full moon rituals were conducted at the temple as scheduled. On the occasion of the Aippasi full moon, the deity Sundara Mahalingam underwent 16 types of 'abhishekam' (sacred ablutions) accompanied by special prayers, while an 'Annabhishekam' was performed for the deity Sandana Mahalingam.

Investigate IPS Officer Arun for Purchasing Gold Worth Rs. 24 Crore Using Bribe Money

New Petition Filed in High Court



CHENNAI: A new petition has been filed in the Madras High Court seeking to intensify an investigation into allegations that an IPS officer purchased gold worth Rs. 24 crore using money received as a bribe to close a case against 'Gem' Veeramani of Gem Granites. In the petition, the petitioner, Varahi, states that, in compliance with a court order, he appeared before the Special Investigation Officer on October 1 and 6 to provide evidence and information. He alleges that just days before the police filed a report to close the

case against 'Gem' Veeramani, assets belonging to Gem

Granites—valued at approximately Rs. 147.87 crore—were transferred. Specifically, he claims to have received information that IPS officer Arun used Rs. 24 crore—part of the bribe money intended for closing the case—to purchase gold from a GRT jewellers store in Chennai.

The petition further alleges

that these funds were routed through an individual named Prakash Kannaian, who fled abroad and went into hiding once the investigation commenced. Varahi has requested a comprehensive investigation—including an examination of GRT receipts and bank transactions—to determine whether this gold was purchased as a means to conceal the bribe money. The petition is set to come up for hearing.



Salem: The temporary ban on travel along the Yercaud hill road—imposed due to continuous heavy rainfall and the risk of landslides—has been lifted, and tourists are now permitted to travel on the route once again.

Indians living in Saudi Arabia advised not to film missiles: Indian Embassy

NEW DELHI: The Indian Embassy has strictly advised Indians living in Saudi Arabia not to take videos or photographs of missiles and drones.

An intense conflict is currently underway between Saudi Arabia and the Houthi rebel forces of Yemen. The Saudi Arabian military has been conducting continuous attacks on Sana'a—the capital city held by the Houthi forces—as well as on their military bases. In retaliation, the Houthi rebels have been launching attacks using missiles and drones, targeting airports and oil fields within Saudi Arabia.

Some individuals have



been recording videos and taking photographs of these missiles and drones as they enter Saudi territory, and subsequently posting them on social media. The Saudi government has been issuing repeated warnings regarding this matter. In a statement issued again yesterday, the country's de-

fense authority warned that "strict legal action will be taken against anyone who records videos or takes photographs of missiles or drones."

While the Saudi government has not specified the exact nature of the penalties, official sources have indicated that individuals who film or photograph missiles

or drones could be arrested under anti-terrorism laws and face heavy fines.

Furthermore, foreign nationals who record such footage and post it on social media may face deportation from Saudi Arabia. In light of this, the warning issued by Saudi Arabia has been shared on the social media channels of the Indian Embassy in Riyadh.

In its post, the Indian Embassy has advised Indians residing in Saudi Arabia to refrain from recording videos or taking photographs of missiles or drones, and to ensure they remain in compliance with Saudi Arabian laws and regulations.



PM Modi inaugurates RBI data center in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data center and a cyber security training institute in Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha, yesterday. The Reserve Bank of India's headquarters is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

In the event of damage to the Mumbai office—for instance, due to a natural disaster—banking services across the country could be disrupted. As a contingency measure, an RBI data center and a cyber security training institute have been establish-

ed in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, spanning 18.55 acres at a cost of Rs 169 crore. Should the Mumbai headquarters face any disruption, the Reserve Bank will be able to continue its operations through the Bhubaneswar center, ensuring that banking services remain unaffected.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated this new facility yesterday. Speaking on the occasion, he stated that the central government is implementing various welfare schemes with the well-being of the people as a priority, with a particular

focus on the development of villages and smaller towns. We are firmly committed to ensuring that poor families live with dignity and that the Central Government's schemes reach the people at the grassroots level. Before 2014, the state of banking services in the country was dire.

Bank loans were granted exclusively to those with connections to the Congress party—individuals who secured loans amounting to thousands of crores. Conversely, the poor and the middle class were required to provide guarantees even to open a

bank account.

The failure to repay the loans taken during the Congress regime severely impacted the entire banking system.

In modern-day warfare, cyberattacks have emerged as a major challenge. Protecting the nation's banking infrastructure from cybercriminals and terrorists is of paramount importance. The new data center of the Reserve Bank of India, established in Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha, will strengthen the security of the country's banking system. He stated this during his address.

Iran to Host Saudi, Pakistani, Turkish Officials for Key Regional Security Talks

TEHRAN: Tehran is set to host high-level officials from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey for crucial regional security discussions. According to Ali Bagheri, Deputy Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Saudi Defence Minister Khalid bin Salman, Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir, and Turkish intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin will participate in a joint meeting with Iranian counterparts. Bagheri

emphasized that these talks are part of a broader effort to foster "endogenous security in West Asia" through enhanced cooperation among regional nations. The initiative, he noted, aims to establish a stable and peaceful region, leveraging the Islamic Republic's successful model of national security built on internal capabilities. The discussions will focus on confronting foreign interference, particularly from American and Zionist

regimes, which Iran views as threats to regional stability.

Significantly, Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir had previously informed Major General Mohsen Rezaei, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, about the decision by Saudi, Turkish, and Pakistani officials to travel to Tehran for this joint meeting. The agenda includes consulting and discussing regional security with Major General Rezaei.

This meeting comes against the backdrop of the 'Makkah Alliance,' where Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan recently agreed to activate collective defense measures and deploy forces to Saudi Arabia to counter threats, including those from Houthi rebels. The Makkah Alliance's decision, solidified at an emergency meeting in Riyadh, underscores a growing regional focus on collaborative security frameworks.

The 'Vetri' travel scheme has begun to disrupt the operations of private buses

TRICHY: In accordance with an election promise made by the TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam), the 'Vetri Payanam' (Journey to Victory) scheme—which allows women to travel for free on state and suburban buses—was launched on the 2nd of this month. Initially, the free travel facility was applicable for distances of up to 80 kilometers in suburban areas; this has now been extended to 120 kilometers. As a result, state and suburban buses are facing rising costs without a corresponding increase in revenue, while the operations of private bus services across the state have begun to falter. When the 'Vidhiyal Payanam' (Journey to a New Dawn) scheme—which provided free travel for women on town buses—was implemented during the DMK administration, private bus operators faced some initial difficulties. However, because the number of buses and beneficiaries under that scheme was relatively small, they were able to manage. Following the advent of the TVK administration, the 'Vetri Payanam' scheme was introduced, extending free travel for women on suburban buses for distances ranging from 80 to 120 kilometers. This has led to a loss of revenue and mounting deficits for state and suburban buses.

Furthermore, private bus operators have seen their earnings drop by 50 percent over the last 20 days. Where they once earned a daily profit, they are now forced to spend between 1,000 and 2,000 rupees out of their own pockets each day. The private bus sector supports 50,000 workers directly—including drivers, conductors, and cleaners—as well as a vast number of indirect workers, such as mechanics, bus and body builders, fuel station staff, and painters. With the decline in revenue for private buses due to the 'Vetri Payanam' scheme, the livelihoods of 300,000 workers have been cast into uncertainty. Additionally, the free travel policy has led to a drop in passenger numbers for private buses during night and time hours, prompting operators to cancel those specific trips. As a result, the public may be left without transport services during the night.

over the last 20 days.

Private bus operators are not opposed to the Tamil Nadu government's scheme; however, they point out that certain flaws in the plan could negatively impact other segments within the same sector. Therefore, the government should first streamline the beneficiary criteria for the 'Vetripayanam' (Successful Journey) scheme. The scheme should be restricted exclusively to holders of green ration cards—those

eligible to receive rice through the public distribution system. Similar to the model in Karnataka, these beneficiaries should be issued a 'Vetripayanam' pass linked to their ration card and Aad-



haar number.

This would help reduce the number of beneficiaries who are affluent and do not require such free services. Currently, 46 government buses on the Kanchipuram-Poonamallee-Chennai route and 14 government buses on the Trichy-Thuraiyur route have been designated as 'free' buses. With many such routes across the state, what will become of the private buses operating on these same routes? It is suggested that free service buses should be limited to no more than 30 percent of the total fleet on any given route.

* The maximum distance for free travel should be capped at 40 kilometers. * Private bus fares, which have not been revised in eight years, should be adjusted to align with the rates in other states. * Whenever diesel prices rise,

fares could be adjusted by small, incremental amounts (in paise), which would not place a significant burden on the public. Only by considering these requests and taking appropriate action can the operation of

private buses—which serve as a vital support to the state transport corporations—be sustained. Failure to do so could lead to the collapse of the private bus industry and its allied sectors, ultimately affecting the livelihoods of

300,000 workers and their families. * Ultimately, the state transport corporation may, over time, be handed over entirely to a corporate entity—and that is the direction in which things are heading. * The stark reality is that where risk-reaching a point where passengers will have to pay fares—covering both the principal cost and interest—for services that were once provided for free. Because travel on suburban buses is free, women from rural areas and small towns are bypassing local shops—where they might otherwise purchase clothing, household goods, or groceries—and flocking to nearby major cities instead. As a result, business for small-scale local traders has declined. While this issue is currently in its early stages, it is bound to escalate into a much larger problem.