

India Invites All SCO Members, Including Pakistan, for Civilisational Dialogue Forum

NEW DELHI: New Delhi is set to host the inaugural Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum from November 20 to 22. India has extended invitations to all ten member nations, including Pakistan, for this significant event aimed at strengthening cultural ties and mutual understanding across the region.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had previously announced India's intention to host this forum, emphasizing its importance in fostering

deeper connections among SCO countries. Speaking at the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Singh highlighted India's enduring friendship with Tajikistan and its close relationships with other Central Asian nations. He underscored the SCO's 25th year journey, reflecting on its achievements and future trajectory.

November 20 to 22 India has extended



During his address, Singh reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for concrete actions to enhance security, connectivity, and opportunities within the SCO region. He also stressed the critical need for a unified and resolute approach to combat

terrorism, identifying it as a major threat to global peace and development.

Singh firmly stated that there should be no double standards in dealing with terrorism, and no sanctuary for those who finance, support, or provide safe havens to terrorists.

He called for the complete dismantling of the entire ecosystem that supports this

menace.

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar was present at the Dushanbe meeting.

This development comes as Pakistan assumed the rotating chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State for the 2026 & 2027 term on September 1, 2026. The SCO currently comprises 10 member states: Belarus, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. India became a full member in 2017.

Trump Claims He Ended India-Pakistan Conflict with Tariff Threats

USA: Former US President Donald Trump has once again asserted that he resolved the India & Pakistan conflict by threatening both nations with hefty 250% tariffs. Speaking at a midterm election rally in Corpus Christi, Texas, Trump reiterated his claim that he used trade as leverage to de-escalate tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors.

According to Trump, five of the eight 'wars' he claims to have ended were resolved through trade-related measures, citing India and Pakistan as a prime example. He recounted contacting the prime ministers of both countries during a military confrontation, warning them of severe economic repercussions if hostilities persisted.

"I said, if you go to war, if you keep doing this, I'm going to put 250% tariff on each of you, and you're never going to be able to do business in the United States," Trump stated.

He suggested that this tariff threat provided both sides with a reason to step back from further conflict, recalling the Pakistani Prime Minister's alleged statement that he 'saved at least 30 million lives.'

However, India has consistently disputed Trump's claims, particularly regarding the loss of 11 aircraft during the engagement, and has firmly rejected any external mediation.

India maintains that the



ceasefire understanding during 'Operation Sindoor' was reached only after Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) initiated contact to request a halt in military action.

'Operation Sindoor' was launched by India as a targeted response to dismantle terror infrastructure following the

April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, with the operation pausing after Pakistan's formal request on May 10.

Trump's claims come amidst his continued criticism of the Nobel Peace Prize award to Navi Pillay, arguing he deserved the honor for his alleged conflict resolution efforts.

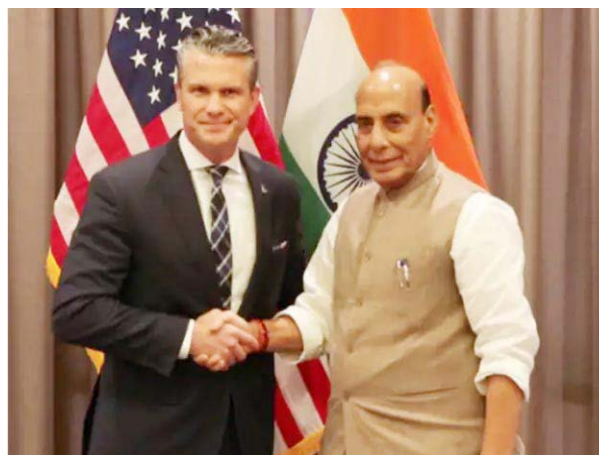
India-US Defence Framework Progress Reviewed Rajnath Singh Meets Pete Hegseth in Philippines

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently met his US counterpart, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, in Cebu, Philippines. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) - Plus. Both leaders discussed the ongoing progress of the 10-year India-US Defence Framework, a crucial agreement for strengthening strategic ties between the two nations.

Singh highlighted that the framework is driving strategic convergence in military technology,

information sharing, and co-production, reinforcing the robust partnership as a cornerstone for a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific. Secretary Hegseth also affirmed the strong collaboration, noting the one-year anniversary of their Major Defence Partnership and exploring new avenues for cooperation.

Rajnath Singh is leading the Indian delegation at the ADMM-Plus, which runs from October 28 to 29. During his visit, he is also holding bilateral meetings with defence ministers from other



participating countries to review and strengthen existing defence relationships.

India's active participation in these regional mechanisms, especially

co-chairing the Experts Working Group on Counter-Terrorism with Malaysia, underscores its commitment to peace and stability in Southeast Asia under the 'Act East' policy.

India Meteorological Department announces that Cyclone 'Arnab' has fully crossed the coast

CHENNAI: Cyclone 'Arnab', which was situated over the central & eastern and adjoining central & western Bay of Bengal, moved in a west & northwesterly direction and intensified. By 5:30 PM the day before yesterday, it had become a 'severe cyclonic storm' over the central & western Bay of Bengal.

Continuing its west & northwesterly path, it further intensified, becoming a 'very severe cyclonic storm' in the same region by 11:30 PM that night. Subsequently, the cyclone

moved further northwest and began crossing the coast between 2:00 AM and 4:00 AM today, near Yanam—situated between Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh and the Yanam region of Puducherry (in the stretch between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam).

It took approximately one hour for the storm's center to completely cross the coastline. As the cyclone made landfall, heavy rains accompanied by strong winds lashed the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and West

Bengal throughout the night. The city of Kakinada suffered significant damage; trees were uprooted in many places, and power supplies were disrupted across various areas.

Consequently, roads remained deserted, with no vehicular traffic. In this context, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has announced that Cyclone 'Arnab' has fully crossed the coast near Yanam, between Narsapur and Kakinada. It was reported that during the landfall, the cyclone brought

gale & force winds reaching speeds of 125 kmph to 150 kmph. The system has since weakened slightly and is now classified as a 'severe cyclonic storm'.

In anticipation of the cyclone, precautionary measures have been taken in both Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

The Andhra Pradesh government has relocated thousands of people living in low-lying areas to safer locations. Additionally, 1,351 pregnant women have been admitted to hospitals.

"Since when speaking truth in Punjab, become a crime?"

Raja Warring slams Bhagwant Mann over escalating drug violence



CHANDIGARH: Congress leader Amarinder Singh Raja Warring on Wednesday slammed Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, raising alarming concerns over the state's worsening drug crisis.

In a post on X, citing a viral video of a serving CRPF jawan who spoke out against drug availability and reported facing state intimidation and administrative action for raising his voice, Warring questioned whether highlighting the reality of substance abuse in Punjab

has now been criminalised by the state administration. Warring accused the Bhagwant Mann government of suppressing citizens, security personnel, and activists who dare to expose local drug networks, alleging that the voice of dissent is met with police action or harassment rather than systemic solutions.

He said, "This is today's Punjab... Addiction isn't stopping, but the voices rising against addiction are being suppressed.

This question wasn't raised by any ordinary citizen, but by a jawan of the CRPF deployed for the country's security. Speak out on addiction and you'll go to jail, ask questions and you'll face

action & since when has speaking the truth in Punjab, @BhagwantMann, become a crime?"

The controversy follows a spate of high & profile incidents across the state, including targeted attacks and killings of anti-drug activists & such as the murder of prominent activist Parvinder Singh Jhota in

Mansa & public protests by grieving families.

The worsening law & order situation has drawn sharp criticism from national opposition leaders and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, leading the Ministry of Home Affairs to seek detailed reports on narcotics & related violence and suicides in Punjab.



Under the supervision of Kumar, the Section Engineer for the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, railway workers have been divided into several teams and are currently engaged in track restoration work. It is expected that the Mettupalayam-Ooty mountain train service will resume only after these restoration works are completed.



CHENNAI: Minister for Public Works and Sports Development, Adhav Arjuna, congratulated and commended the athletes who brought pride to Tamil Nadu by winning medals at the 5th Asian Para Games.

Today horoscope



You will shake off fatigue and act with renewed energy. Ego-related issues will be resolved, fostering greater harmony between spouses. You may undertake out-of-town trips for business purposes. Maintaining a calm demeanor at the workplace will prove beneficial.



Minor disagreements may arise between spouses. Avoid making any promises or commitments to others. Expenses may exceed your income. At the workplace, it is best to focus solely on your own tasks. Business activity will pick up, leading to profits.



You will successfully execute plans that you have been working on for a long time. You will notice positive changes in your children's behavior. At work, you will receive support from your superiors. In business, ensure you do not fall out with your partners.



Auspicious events that had been delayed will now come to fruition. You will fulfill the wishes of your children. You will benefit from your siblings. You will expand your business on a larger scale. Professionally, you may have the opportunity to meet with influential individuals.



You will practice compromise in your relationship with your spouse. You will fulfill the wishes of your children. Your reputation in your social circle will rise. In business, you will employ new strategies to attract customers. At the workplace, you will receive support from your colleagues.



Someone you have long wished to see will come to visit you. You may purchase new electronic devices. Confusion will dissipate, bringing happiness to your family. Avoid making enemies at your workplace. You can expect profits in your business.



Be accommodating toward your family members. It is best to avoid arguments with your neighbors. You may expand your ancestral home. At work, you will locate a document you had been searching for. In business, you may experience some running around or extra effort.



You will strive to reach your goals. There will be an inflow of money. Confusion will be resolved, and happiness will prevail within your family. Your father's health will improve. You will see progress in both your business and your career.



Your family members will appreciate the bold decisions you make. Intimacy between spouses will increase. Friends will be helpful. Your mother's health will improve. You will gain greater respect and recognition at your workplace. Business will be brisk.



Mental confusion will dissipate, bringing clarity. You may receive visits from relatives or friends living elsewhere. Unnecessary expenses will decrease. You will fulfill the wishes of your family members. A dispute regarding ancestral property will come to a resolution. Both business and professional life will flourish.



You will shake off fatigue and become energetic. Financial inflows will be satisfactory. You will benefit from relatives on your father's side. You may seek the blessings of spiritual figures. In business, you will achieve success by employing new strategies. At work, you will receive praise from your superiors.



You will receive assistance whenever you seek it. You may purchase valuable jewelry. You will attend functions hosted by prominent individuals. You might get your vehicle repaired or serviced. Business will yield a reasonable profit. At your workplace, avoid making complaints about anyone.

Impact of Cyclone Arnab

Rough seas in Ennore; seawater enters residential areas



PONNERI: Due to rough sea conditions triggered by Cyclone Arnab, seawater has entered residential areas in Ennore, Chennai.

As Cyclone Arnab approached the coast of Andhra Pradesh last night, the sea became turbulent starting yesterday evening in areas including Ennore and Thiruvottiyur in North Chennai, as well as Pulicat in the Thiruvallur district. In the Bharathiyar Nagar area of Ennore, aggressive sea waves surged past the shoreline and flooded the roads, sweeping away two & wheelers that were parked along the roadside.

Furthermore, the seawater has inundated six streets in Bharathiyar Nagar, leaving hundreds of local residents in a state of deep fear and anxiety. They reported that seawater is currently entering residential areas in Ennore—much like the way the sea surged and flooded coastal villages during the tsunami in Tamil Nadu. Following this, senior police officials rushed to the affected areas and advised the public to avoid going near the coastline and to refrain from wandering on the roads. Furthermore, Thiruvottiyur MLA Senthilkumar inspected the Ennore area and issued specific instructions to officials from the police, revenue, and other relevant departments to implement necessary safety measures.

Indian pilot Smith Machar honored with the country's highest award



JERUSALEM: Indian pilot Smith Machar thwarted a plot to crash a plane—which was traveling from Dubai to

Israel with 174 passengers on board—into the ground. By struggling against the co-pilot, he managed to save

many lives.

Machar sustained severe injuries during the altercation and was admitted to a hospital. The Indian pilot's bravery drew worldwide praise. Notably, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced that it would bestow one of its highest honors upon him.

He was also invited to participate in Israel's Independence Day celebrations to light a ceremonial candle, and the country announced a civilian bravery award for him.

Following his discharge from the hospital, Smith Machar was honored with the 'Order of Zayed (First Class)', a prestigious UAE award, presented to him by the Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Hamdan.

Furthermore, the President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, personally met with the flight crew to commend their courage and dedication.



Chief Minister Vijay honored the athletes from Tamil Nadu who won medals at the WorldSkills competition held in Shanghai, China, by presenting them with incentive awards.

Electricity will not be procured at an exorbitant price: Minister's clarification



CHENNAI: The demand of Rs. 41.50 per unit of electricity by companies in the open market has caused a stir. In response, Minister Nirmal Kumar has stated that electricity will not be procured at such a high price. It was reported that a power crisis

has emerged in Tamil Nadu due to a 3,000 megawatt increase in electricity demand compared to last year, coupled with a shortfall in the expected supply from the central power grid. Meanwhile, two weeks ago, a tender was floated to procure 4,500 megawatts of electricity from the open market to meet the rising demand.

The quoted prices ranged from Rs. 31 to a maximum of Rs. 37 per unit—a development that caused significant concern. Minister Nirmal Kumar had previously explained that the high cost was due to the

power being sourced from gas-based generation plants. Separately, a tender was issued yesterday for the procurement of 2,100 megawatts of electricity to meet peak-hour demand for the period spanning December 2026 to May 2027. For this, companies quoted a price of Rs. 41.50 per unit.

The news that electricity might be procured at a rate of Rs. 41.50 per unit has sparked significant controversy, following an earlier shock over a potential purchase price of Rs. 37 per unit. Addressing this, Minister Nirmal Kumar stated on the social media

platform X, "Electricity will not be procured at the rates of Rs. 37 to Rs. 41 per unit as requested by the companies." He explained that while tenders were invited yesterday, the companies have quoted excessively high prices.

Given that there is a sufficient power reserve for the next three months—and since this tender is intended for the summer season of next year—such pricing is unjustified. Furthermore, steps will be taken in the coming days to enter into medium-term and long-term power procurement agreements.

Importing Cooking Gas from 41 Countries to Address the Strait of Hormuz Issue

Information shared by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

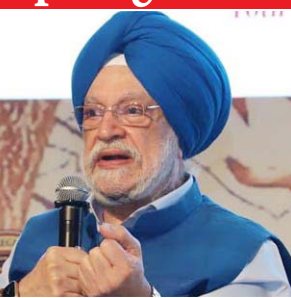
PANAJI: A conference on energy technology began in Goa yesterday. More than 1,500 energy experts from various countries, including India, are participating. Union Minister for Petroleum Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the conference. Speaking on the occasion, he stated: "Due to conflict,

the Strait of Hormuz—located near Iran—has been affected. This has created significant difficulties in importing crude oil and natural gas from Gulf nations.

The entire world has been impacted by this issue." "India is managing the situation regarding the Strait of Hormuz effectively.

Previously, we imported crude oil and LPG (cooking gas) from 27 countries; we now source them from 41 countries."

"Earlier, we imported only 10% of our LPG requirements from the United States. That figure has now risen to 67%." Previously, 34,000 tonnes of LPG were being produced domestic-



ally each day. This has now been increased to 55,000 metric tonnes, he stated.

1,000 rupee note featuring the Thanjavur Big Temple is fake

Press Information Bureau clarifies

NEW DELHI: A 1,000 rupee note featuring an image of the Thanjavur Big Temple is fake. The Press Information Bureau (PIB) of the Central Government has advised the public not to believe such information circulating on social media. In the past, 1,000 rupee notes issued in 1954 and 1975 did feature an image of the Thanjavur Big Temple. In November 2016, the demonetization exercise was carried out to curb the circulation of counterfeit currency; at that time, the old 500 & rupee and

1,000 & rupee notes were completely withdrawn.

Subsequently, new 500 rupee and 2,000 rupee notes were introduced into circulation. The 2,000 rupee notes were withdrawn in May 2023. Currently, only 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500 rupee notes are in circulation. Against this backdrop, information—accompanied by images—is circulating on social media claiming that new 1,000 & rupee notes, featuring an image of the Thanjavur Big Temple, have been put into circulation. Addressing this, the Press



Information Bureau (PIB) of the Central Government stated in a social media post yesterday: "Claims are circulating on social media that a new 1,000 rupee note has been introduced into circulation.

This is fake. The Reserve Bank of India has not issued any announcement regarding a new 1,000 rupee note. It is essential to verify the authenticity of information circulating on social media."

October 28 Dubai 2026

A Walkway Made of 24 Karat Gold to Open Soon in Dubai



A walkway crafted from 24 karat gold is set to open soon in Dubai. Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, stands as a global hub for commerce and tourism. It is particularly renowned as a premier destination for gold jewelry. In Dubai, there are no taxes on the purchase of gold or jewelry. Because there are no heavy import duties on gold brought in from abroad, the metal is available at significantly lower prices than in many other parts of the world. Consequently, tourists and investors flock to Dubai to purchase gold.

To cater to this, a dedicated 'Gold District' was launched this January in the Deira area of Dubai. It houses over 1,000 retail outlets specializing in gold, jewelry, wholesale trade, and investment. To further enhance its status as a 'City of Gold' and to attract even more tourists, the Gold District is preparing to unveil a spectacular feature: the world's longest walkway made of 24 karat gold. The walkway is scheduled to open within the next two months. Globally, the price of gold has soared—surpassing 100,000 rupees per *pavan* (approx. 8 grams)—making it increasingly difficult for people back home to afford jewelry for weddings.

Against this backdrop, the news of a gold walkway opening in Dubai has captured the world's attention and sparked widespread amazement.

Anbil Mahesh files bail plea in special court; hearing set for tomorrow

CHENNAI: A bail application filed by former Minister Anbil Mahesh is set to be heard tomorrow (Thursday) in a special court in Chennai. A complaint was lodged by the Private Schools Association alleging that over Rs. 100 crore was collected during the previous DMK regime in exchange for granting permanent recognition to private schools.



Based on this complaint, former School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh was arrested the day before yesterday by the Chennai Central Crime Branch police. He is currently lodged in Chennai's Puzhal Prison. In this context, Anbil Mahesh has filed a bail application in the special court for corruption cases in Chennai. In his petition, he states: "Initially, this case was registered under ordinary legal provisions, but it was later altered to include Sections 7 and 12 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, with my name added as the fifth accused."

"This is a fabricated case, filed against me out of political vendetta. The police have only alleged that certain individuals collected money." "The police have provided no evidence to suggest that I personally accepted a bribe or acted in a manner that resulted in illegal gain. Furthermore, under Section 17 & A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, prior sanction from the Governor is required to initiate an investigation against me; however, this action was taken unilaterally without obtaining such sanction, which is unlawful." "I have fully cooperated with the police whenever summoned for questioning. I suffer from pancreatitis and require continuous medical supervision.

Therefore, I request that I be granted bail," the petition reads. This petition is set to come up for hearing tomorrow (Thursday) before Judge L.S. Sathiyamurthy at the Special Court for Anti-Corruption Cases, located on the Madras High Court premises.



V.O. Chidambaram Port in Thoothukudi has set a new record by handling 25 million tonnes of cargo by October 24 in the 2026-27 financial year.



PM in a group photograph during the inauguration of the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi.

The government should impose a ban on holding sales exhibitions in wedding halls

Demand from the Federation of Tamil Nadu Traders' Associations

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu Traders' Associations Federation has requested the Chief Minister to impose a ban on holding festive & season sales exhibitions in wedding halls. In a petition submitted to the Chief Minister, S. Sundararajan, President of the Tamil Nadu Traders' Associations Federation, stated that during festive seasons like Deepavali and Pongal, business entities from other states and major metropol-



itan cities rent out wedding halls in cities like Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, Trichy, and Salem—as well as in smaller towns and rural areas—to host sales exhibitions.

At these venues, they stock large quantities of items such as readymade garments, textiles, and household goods, selling them directly to consumers under the guise of “discount sales.” This practice adversely affects local traders who have been conducting business in these areas for generations. It should be noted that wedding halls are permitted by local civic bodies to operate exclusively for auspicious events

and social gatherings. Using wedding halls as temporary marketplaces—akin to commercial complexes—is a violation of regulations. Therefore, local governing bodies and the police should not grant permission for holding commercial exhibitions or the sale of goods in wedding halls. The Government of Tamil Nadu should issue an immediate government order (G.O.) regarding this matter, the statement adds.

“Trump sexually assaulted me” – Former Swiss beauty queen makes allegation after 33 years

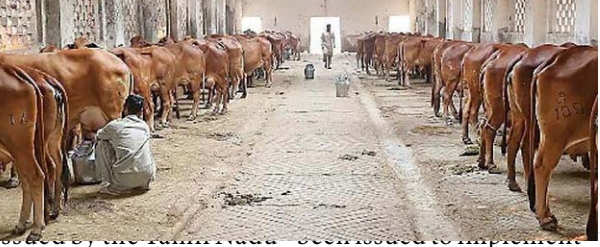
WASHINGTON: Democrats on the U.S. House Judiciary Committee have released a 53&page report. It includes statements made by a former Swiss beauty queen, Beatrice Giull, against President Trump during interviews conducted by the Democratic party members. In the report, Beatrice Giull states: “In 1993, when I was 24 years old, I participated



in a beauty pageant held at the Plaza Hotel in New York. That was when I first met the current U.S. President,

Trump. At that time, the hotel was owned by Trump.” “After Trump left the scene, one of his representatives invited me to a room on an upper floor of the Plaza Hotel. As soon as I entered the room, Trump grabbed me and sexually assaulted me by force.” “At that time, my clothes were torn, and I sustained bleeding injuries on my body,” stated Kiul.

10,000 Milch Cows for Rural Women Rs.57 Crore Allocated for Free Distribution



government, Minister N. Mariawilson had announced in the previous budget

this initiative, and Rs. 57 crore has been allocated for the purpose.

This scheme is expected to improve the livelihoods and income of rural women by fostering the development of high&yield dairy assets. Under this scheme, each beneficiary will be provided with a healthy, high&yielding crossbred milch cow capable of producing at least 8 litres of milk per day.

This will ensure a steady source of income for the beneficiary’s family. Through proper livestock care and scientific management, each cow is expected to produce 3 to 4 calves over a period of 5 years; this will facilitate the creation of long&term assets and provide sustainable economic benefits.

DMK Councilor arrested for remark that Vijay could have been “finished off” in Karur

CHENNAI: During the previous DMK administration, Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi served as the Minister for School Education. At that time, the Association of Private Schools filed a police complaint alleging that over ₹100 crore had been collected from private schools under the pretext of securing permanent recognition and obtaining

necessary statutory approvals, such as those from the DTCP (Directorate of Town and Country Planning) and CMDA (Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority). Following this, he was arrested by the Central Crime Branch police.

As he was being brought to Puzhal Prison, DMK supporters gathered at the

prison entrance and raised slogans against the Tamil Nadu government.

During this, Ditta Saravanan, a DMK Councilor from Katpadi, Vellore, shouted aggressively, “Stay strong, leader! We will get out of this.”

If only we had ‘finished him off’ back then in Karur, would we be in this situation today?” He repeated the same sentiment—asking if the current predicament could have been avoided had “he” been “finished off” in Karur—to a person standing nearby. A video of this incident has been circulating rapidly on social media, drawing widespread condemnation. The Puzhal police registered a case and launched a search for Ditta Saravanan. He has now been arrested.



Ditta Saravanan was apprehended by a special police team at the residence of an individual named Prem in Villupuram, after he had attempted to mislead authorities by feigning a trip to Bengaluru. Additionally, ACK Premkumar—the Deputy Organizer of the DMK’s Central District Youth Wing in Villupuram, who had provided shelter to Ditta Saravanan—has also been arrested.



Jalandhar: In the Men’s Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament, the Indian team secured a brilliant victory by defeating Bangladesh.

20% Diwali Bonus for Group C and D Employees: CM Vijay Announces

Payouts to Range from Rs. 8,400 to Rs. 16,800

CHENNAI: In view of the upcoming Diwali festival, Chief Minister Vijay has announced a bonus of up to 20% for Group C and D employees working across all public sector undertakings (PSUs) under the Government of Tamil Nadu. A statement issued by the Tamil Nadu government yesterday noted that, in recognition of the hard work and dedication of the employees who contribute significantly to the state’s economic growth and the operational success of public sector undertakings—and with the aim of motivating them—Chief Minister Vijay has ordered the disbursement of a bonus (ex&gratia/incentive payment) for the year 2025–26.

According to the Payment of Bonus Act, 2019 (formerly the Payment of

Bonus (Amendment) Act, 2015), the salary ceiling for eligibility to receive a bonus is set at Rs. 21,000, while the monthly salary ceiling for the purpose of calculating the bonus is set at Rs. 7,000.

For Class ‘C’ and ‘D’ employees and staff working in profit&making public sector undertakings, a total of up to 20%—comprising an 8.33% bonus and an 11.67% ex&gratia payment—will be provided, based on the allocable surplus of the respective organizations. Eligible Class ‘C’ and ‘D’ employees and staff working in public sector undertakings—such as the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO), State Transport Corporations, and the Civil Supplies Corporation—as well as those working in the Milk

Producers’ Cooperative Federation, will be granted a total of 20%, consisting of an 8.33% bonus and an 11.67% ex&gratia payment.

For employees and workers in ‘C’ and ‘D’ categories in public sector undertakings that lack allocable surplus, a total of 10 percent—comprising a minimum bonus of 8.33 percent and an ex&gratia payment of 1.67 percent—will be provided. Eligible ‘C’ and ‘D’ category employees of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board and the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board will receive an 8.33 percent bonus and a 1.67 percent ex&gratia payment. Eligible ‘C’ and ‘D’ category employees of the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board will receive an 8.33 percent bonus. Workers employed on a temp-



orary basis at the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation will be given an ex&gratia payment of Rs. 3,000.

Consequently, permanent employees eligible for a bonus will receive an amount ranging from a minimum of Rs. 8,400 to a maximum of Rs. 16,800. In total, a sum of Rs. 367.20 crore will be disbursed as bonus and ex&gratia payments to 2,60,497 employees working in public sector undertakings under the Government of Tamil Nadu. This has been stated therein.

“Use your weapons” – Prison DGP issues order: Prisoners escaping from jail may be shot and apprehended

CHENNAI: In the event of an untoward incident, such as prisoners escaping from jail, the Director General of Prisons (DGP), Sandeep Rai Rathore, has authorized the use of firearms, depending on the situation.

Reports indicate that further significant directives aimed at tightening security within prisons are expected to be issued. The escape of 17 prisoners from the Theni sub&jail during the night has caused a major stir in Tamil Nadu.

The inmates claimed that a prisoner in the third block was suffering from a seizure; when the guards on duty arrived, the prisoners attacked them, opened the main entrance, and fled. Thirteen of the prisoners who escaped from the Theni jail have since been apprehended. Police are actively searching

for the remaining escapees. Two teams, consisting of 12 armed police officers, are currently combing the forest area in pursuit of the fugitives.

Previously, last week, two inmates escaped from the Puzhal Central Prison in Chennai—one an undertrial from Nepal and the other a convicted prisoner. The Nepalese inmate managed to scale a 40&foot&high wall by gripping the wiring of a CC-TV camera before jumping over. Both were subsequently tracked down by the police and returned to custody. The recent series of prison escapes across Tamil Nadu has raised serious questions regarding the adequacy of existing security arrangements. An investigation into the circumstances of these escapes is underway, with authorities



examining whether the personnel on duty performed their duties correctly and whether established security protocols were strictly followed.

The escape of prisoners, despite the existence of a three&tier security system, has raised questions regarding how these security measures are actually implemented. In light of this, the Prison Department has issued orders to shoot and apprehend any prisoners attempting to escape. Following the escape of

inmates from the Theni prison, senior officials—including the Chief Secretary—held consultations with prison authorities. It has been decided to enhance prison security by stationing armed guards in watchtowers to monitor the premises.

Furthermore, instructions have been issued authorizing armed personnel to open fire, as the situation warrants, to stop any prisoners attempting to flee.

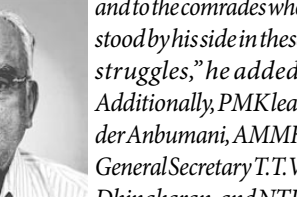
Addressing the existing shortage of prison staff, it has been announced that additional personnel will be recruited to bolster security, particularly in central prisons. An official order to this effect has been issued by the Director General of Prisons, Sandeep Rai Rathore.

Leaders express condolences on the passing of Cumbum K.M. Abbas

CHENNAI: Cumbum K.M. Abbas, who led various legal battles to uphold Tamil Nadu’s rights regarding the Mullaperiyar Dam and served as the president of the Five&District Farmers’ Association, passed away the day before yesterday due to ill health. Political party leaders

have expressed their condolences. DMK President M.K. Stalin stated: “The news of the passing of Cumbum K.M. Abbas, who dedicated his life to securing Tamil Nadu’s rights over the Mullaperiyar Dam, is deeply saddening.” “He worked tirelessly on the ground—addressing issues such

as the livelihoods of farmers and the protection of water resources—while maintaining a clear ideological vision. I extend my deepest condolences and sympathies to his grieving family



and to the comrades who stood by his side in these struggles,” he added. Additionally, PMK leader Anbumani, AMMK General Secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran, and NTK Coordinator Seeman have also expressed their condolences.

99.32 Lakh Voters Removed in Karnataka Through Special Intensive Revision

BENGALURU: The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Karnataka commenced on June 30.

Polling station agents visited households to distribute applications for this revision process.

Voters filled out these forms, leading to the removal of names—such as those of deceased individuals or people who had relocated.

Subsequently, a draft electoral roll was published on August 17, in which 1.08 crore names had been removed.

period was provided for filing objections and for adding new names to the electoral roll. The SIR process, which spanned 129 days, has now concluded, and the final electoral roll was released yesterday. According to this, a total of

99.32 lakh names have been removed from the electoral roll.

The total number of voters has declined from 5.54 crore to 4.55 crore. This includes 2.29 crore female voters and 2.25 crore male voters.

Auto rickshaw fare hike in Tamil Nadu Minimum fare set at Rs. 50



CHENNAI: The last official revision of auto&rick-

shaw meter fares in Tamil Nadu by the government took place in August 2013. At that time, the minimum fare was set at Rs. 25 for the first 1.8 kilometers, with a charge of Rs. 12 for every

subsequent kilometer. Over the past 13 years, the costs of petrol and CNG, vehicle insurance premiums, and spare parts have increased manifold.

Consequently, auto&rickshaw drivers had requested the government to announce new fares, stating that it was no longer

feasible to operate under the old rates. Accepting this request, a government order was issued yesterday. The minimum fare has now been set at Rs. 50, with an additional charge of Rs. 25 for every subsequent kilometer, and a waiting charge of Rs. 1 per minute.



Lack of Basic Amenities at Madurai Race Course Grounds

MADURAI: Last year, a synthetic athletic track and a natural & grass foot-ball field were constructed at the Madurai Race Course grounds at a cost of ₹8.5 crore. However, the grass was planted so poorly that it has not grown uniformly, leaving bald patches throughout the field.



collects prescribed fees for the use of these sports facilities; yet, athletes are left to struggle due to the complete absence of proper roads. Even a light spell of rain forces the cancellation of training sessions.

Athletes often stumble and fall when transitioning from grassy areas to bare patches while running. Although a facility for persons with disabilities was built at a cost of ₹1 crore, the lack of proper access roads makes it impossible for them to reach it

independently. Similarly, the path to the adjacent international hockey stadium is so muddy that it is impassable. The area surrounding the hockey stadium—accessible via the kabaddi, tennis, and indoor sports complexes—has effectively turned into a “mud island.” The Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT)

Furthermore, there is a lack of adequate drinking water and restroom facilities. District officials, who seem primarily focused on collecting fees, must conduct a thorough inspection of the grounds and ensure that essential basic amenities are provided.

Businessman loses Rs. 20 lakh while stopping for a Rs. 20 kachori



JAIPUR: In Jaipur, Rajasthan, a businessman named Sambhalal stopped his scooter the evening before last to eat a kachori, which cost Rs. 20.

He had left a bag containing Rs. 20 lakh in cash on the front of his scooter while he enjoyed his snack. At that moment, two indi-

viduals arrived on another scooter, stole the bag containing the money, and fled. The incident was captured by surveillance cameras installed in the area, and the footage has since gone viral on social media.

It shows Sambhalal sitting on his scooter eating a

kachori when two people on another scooter pull up beside him. The person riding pillion quickly snatches the bag containing the cash and speeds away. Shocked, Sambhalal—still holding the kachori in his hand—ran after the thieves in an attempt to catch them. However, he was unable to catch the thieves.

The police are currently examining footage from surveillance cameras in the area to identify the two individuals, who were wearing helmets. Based on a complaint filed by Sambal, the Nahargarh police station has registered a case and is conducting an investigation.

This is the reason for the foam in rivers—Minister Rajeev offers a rather unusual explanation!



TIRUPUR: Minister Rajeev inspected the effluent treatment facilities for dye & waste water at the Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) in Kasipalayam, Tiruppur.

Speaking to reporters afterward, he explained the cause behind the formation of foam in rivers—a statement that has since sparked considerable debate. Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Rajeev, suggested that the presence of soap, shampoo,

and sewage is the primary reason for the foaming.

He stated, “Foam is generated when sewage, soap, or shampoo & based substances are present. Naturally, when water falls from a height, it creates foam.” Rivers, which were once reliable sources of clean drinking water, are now losing their vitality.

The accumulation of foam, in particular, has severely impacted the entire riverine ecosystem—affecting fish,

aquatic vegetation, and the birds that depend on them, creating a cascading negative effect. It is a well-known fact that the waste discharged from dye units and various industries is the root cause of this pollution.

However, environmentalists find the claim that soap and shampoo are to blame to be unacceptable. Commenting on this, Sundaran of the environmental organization ‘Poovulagin Nanbargal’ (Friends of the Earth) remarked, “It is fortunate the Minister didn’t go as far as to say that the food people eat turns into foam in the rivers, and therefore, people should stop eating rice!” “Even after it has been proven time and again that this foam is caused by waste discharged from dye works

Akhilesh Yadav alleges “massive fraud” in UP MLC polls, vows to defeat BJP in 2027 Assembly elections

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of resorting to alleged electoral malpractice to win the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council (MLC) elections, claiming that the alleged irregularities in the counting process had exposed a conspiracy to defeat SP candidate Sanjayan Tripathi.

In a post shared on X, Yadav alleged that BJP leaders, their associates and officials had colluded to manipulate the counting process. He claimed that the alleged treatment of Tripathi had angered teachers and his community, and vowed that the party would stand against what he described as injustice and harassment.

“The corrupt BJP leaders, their conspiratorial associates and complicit officials have stooped to every possible low to win the MLC elections. The conspiracy to defeat Dr. Sanjayan Tripathi has been exposed before everyone. The reason for defeating Dr. Sanjayan Tripathi through vote & counting irregularities is not merely that he is an SP candidate; the main reason behind it is ‘Haata nahibhaata’ (he is not acceptable to them). In matters of politics, the BJP has

sunk to the lowest depths. After such massive fraud, the public has realised that the BJP has, in fact, lost every seat,” he wrote.

“BJP leaders win not through votes, but through foul means,” Yadav added. “The way Dr. Sanjayan Tripathi has been harassed is being witnessed by his entire community. Neither his community nor any teacher in the state will forget Dr. Tripathi’s tears,” the SP chief said, alleging that teachers had received nothing but humiliation from the BJP government. Yadav also targeted the BJP over the alleged treatment of teachers, claiming that the party’s actions would influence the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. “Every teacher will always remember the despicable conspiracy to make teachers do the unwanted task of collecting fodder, and will fulfil their ‘gurus resolve’ by defeating the BJP in the 2027 Assembly elections,” he wrote.

“The BJP’s ‘400 BC’ (a pun on char saubeesi, meaning fraud or deceit) will not work across all 403 seats,” Yadav further said. Reiterating his support for Tripathi, the SP chief said, “We stand with Dr. Sanjayan Tripathi and against every injustice and act of harassment inflicted upon him and his community.

We stand united against the BJP and will continue to do so.” The remarks came amid allegations of irregularities during counting for the Gorakhpur & Faizabad Division Teachers’ constituency. SP candidate Sanjayan Tripathi and independent candidate Rajeev Yadav boycotted the counting process, accusing administrative officials and the election observer of favouring the BJP candidate.

Speaking to ANI, Tripathi alleged that the counting trend changed abruptly after the first three rounds, when independent candidate Rajeev Yadav was leading by approximately 450 votes. “We have boycotted the vote & counting process. Everything was proceeding smoothly for the first three rounds of counting; independent candidate Rajiv Yadav was leading by approximately 450 votes. Suddenly, the counting began to shift entirely in favour of the BJP candidate; the trend changed abruptly, making it appear as though the outcome had been predetermined. Consequently, we decided to boycott the process,” Tripathi said. He also alleged police misconduct and claimed that the authorities were determined to ensure the ruling party’s candidate won.

Earlier on Tuesday, Yadav had urged Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar to take immediate cognisance of the alleged irregularities and ensure transparency in the counting process. He had alleged delays in announcing round-wise results and warned that the SP would launch a movement and file a case against the Election Commission if officials attempted any foul play.

Similar allegations were raised by SP candidate Danish Akhtar over the results in the Bareilly & Moradabad Teachers’ constituency. Akhtar alleged irregularities in the electoral rolls and voting process, claiming that 30 per cent of the names on the electoral roll were fraudulent. He further alleged that the Election Commission had failed to act despite receiving evidence and repeated representations. Meanwhile, in Lucknow, Ram Singh Rana, an SP agent for party candidate Kanti Singh on Wednesday claimed that the party was maintaining its lead in the counting and alleged that BJP candidate Avnish Singh had repeatedly attempted to disrupt the process.

“We have been steadily increasing our lead since yesterday, and it continues to grow.

The opposition candidate from the BJP made several attempts to misuse power, but the Samajwadi youth did not bow down; they stood firm and remained unfraid & even when there were lathi-charges during the night, and chairs were smashed,” Rana said. He alleged that the opposition had tried to halt the counting process four or five times and that SP workers had faced harassment throughout the night. “The opposition tried to halt the process four or five times, but no one gave in or felt intimidated. We have maintained our momentum and are moving toward victory. We faced harassment all night long. The opposition candidate, Avnish Singh, tried to stop the process five times, but we did not back down,” Rana said. Providing the vote figures after four rounds of counting, Rana said that Kanti Singh had secured 25,382 votes against 17,797 votes for the BJP candidate. “As the counting for the fifth round begins, the margin is significant, and we are continuing to pull further ahead,” he added. Polling for five Graduates’ constituencies and six Teachers’ constituencies in Uttar Pradesh concluded on October 23, while counting took place on October 27.

Dronacharya’s Ashram in Uttarakhand ASI Excavates Traces of the Mahabharata

NEW DELHI: For several years, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), under the central government, has been engaged in efforts to uncover evidence related to India’s ancient history and the Mahabharata.

To this end, the ASI has conducted numerous archaeological excavations. Dronacharya was the guru (teacher) of the Pandavas in the Mahabharata.

Excavations have now resumed in Uttarakhand to unravel the mystery surrounding his ashram. The work is taking place across an area of approximately 90 acres in Dronasagar, located in the Kashipur district. It is expected that these efforts will help bring to light India’s hidden history and provide historical insights into the era of the Mahabharata, as well as the periods of the Shunga and Kushan dynasties. As part of the ongoing excavations, a site has been discovered in

Dronasagar containing evidence of a civilization dating back approximately 2,000 years. It is believed that this might be associated with the Mahabharata and the ashram of Guru Dronacharya.

Regarding this, Dr. Mohan Chandra Joshi, the Archaeological Survey of India’s (ASI) Superintending Archaeologist (in & charge) for the Dehradun Circle—who is overseeing the research—s-

tated, “Excavations were first conducted at Dronasagar in 1965, during which several structures were discovered. Subsequent excavations in 1970–71 yielded further information about the site. Remains of pottery known as ‘Painted Grey Ware’ have been found here.

Based on this, many scholars associate the site with the era of the Mahabharata. Our primary objective now



is to carry out a systematic excavation down to the natural soil layer. This will enable us

to determine the complete cultural sequence of the site and uncover its origins.”



Mamallapuram: A two-day orientation and leadership training camp for 30 MLAs has commenced at the Ideal Beach Resort in Mamallapuram. The training was inaugurated by Speaker J. C. D. Prabhakar, Minister for Rural Development and Water Resources Anand, Minister for Public Works and Sports Development Adhav Arjuna, and Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Secretary Shanthy, among others.

Train services in Chennai disrupted for over two and a half hours due to an electrical fault; passengers face hardship



CHENNAI: Train services were disrupted for more than two and a half hours following an electrical fault in the overhead lines between Washermanpet and Royapuram, causing significant

hardship to passengers. The section between Washermanpet and Royapuram serves as a vital link for trains operating along the Chennai Beach—Arakkonam and Chennai Beach—Gummidipoondi routes.

At 5:15 AM today, an electrical fault occurred in the overhead lines on this stretch. Consequently, both electric suburban trains and express trains were brought to a halt at various locations.

Railway officials and staff rushed to the site to carry out repairs. Meanwhile, services for trains departing from Chennai Beach towards Arakkonam and Gummidipoondi were suspended, and the trains arriving in Chennai Beach from the Arakkonam

and Gummidipoondi directions were also halted. This caused severe inconvenience to commuters, including office-goers and students heading to schools and colleges from the suburban areas. After two and a half hours of intensive repair work, railway staff successfully fixed the fault in the overhead lines. Train services resumed normal operations starting at 7:45 AM.

Nevertheless, the disruption, which began early in the morning, caused considerable distress to the passengers.