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India is heading towards an economic catastrophe

Congress MP Rahul Ganthi

NEW DELHI: India is heading towards an economic catastrophe Congress MP Rahul Ganthi He said.

Speaking at an event at Columbia University, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi alleged that India is heading toward an economic catastrophe, citing issues such as unemployment and flaws in the education system.

At a time when India is recognized as one of the fastest&growing economies globally,

these remarks by Rahul Gandhi have sparked significant controversy and criticism. Pradeep Bhandari, a BJP leader, has hit back at Rahul Gandhi for consistently making anti&India statements while abroad. In a video posted on the platform 'X', Bhandari stated that Rahul Gandhi's inherent aversion toward India's growth and its democracy is what drives him to speak against his own country whenever he travels abroad.

He emphasized that India is a globally respected democracy and possesses one of the fastest&growing economies. Bhandari further noted that Rahul Gandhi had previously criticized Indian democracy—in the presence of foreign nationals—at the 'Bharat Summit' held in Hyderabad.

He described Rahul Gandhi as a "disaster" as an opposition leader. Contrasting this with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's conduct, Bhandari recalled an instance at a Quad summit (in the Philippines) where the Prime Minister showed his patriotism by respectfully picking up an Indian national flag that had been placed on the ground and placing it in his pocket.

Bhandari asserted that by speaking against Indian democracy, Rahul Gandhi is also showing disrespect toward the dignity of the national flag.



Confederation of Indian Industry Representatives Meet Chief Minister Vijay



Chennai: Representatives of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) met with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Vijay. R. Mukundan, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), called on Chief Minister Vijay at the Secretariat in Chennai, presenting him with a basket of flowers before engaging in discussions. Also present during the meeting were Southern Region Chairman P. Ravichandran, Southern Region Director Indranil Ghosh, and Tamil Nadu Chairman and Director P. Jayakrishnan.

Attack on LPG tanker in the Strait of Hormuz 2 Indian sailors injured, one missing

NEW DELHI: Two Indian sailors were injured and one remains missing following a missile attack on an LPG tanker carrying 24 Indian crew members in the Strait of Hormuz. In a press release regarding the incident, the Ministry of External Affairs stated that a Panama&flagged LPG tanker, 'MT Tara Gas', was struck by a missile in the Strait of Hormuz the day before yesterday.

Two Indian sailors were injured in the attack and have been admitted to a hospital. Additionally, one Indian sailor is reported missing. The remaining 21 crew members have been safely rescued and taken to the coast of Khasab. The Indian Embassy in Oman is working in coordination with local authorities to monitor the ongoing search and rescue operations for the missing sailor.



We express our gratitude to the Government of Oman for providing timely assistance and support during the rescue operations.

The continued attacks on vessels in the region are a cause for concern. These pose a significant threat to the safety of civilians and seafarers traveling along international maritime routes. Attacks on commercial vessels and civilian infrastructure must cease immediately.

In accordance with international law, the unhindered movement of vessels and trade along international maritime routes must be restored promptly. This is stated therein.

India Water Foundation Pushes 'Water Transversality' for Climate Action at COP31

TURKEY: The India Water Foundation (IWF) recently hosted a crucial High&Level Policy Dialogue at the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) in Antalya, focusing on 'Multistakeholder Partnerships for Climate Adaptation and Resilience via Water Transversality.



'The dialogue emphasized that effective climate resilience demands coordinated policies, smart investments, shared knowledge, and partnerships that can turn promises into tangible results.

Arvind Kumar, President of IWF, opened the session by advocating for making water conservation financially rewarding through innovative tools like Water Credits, which would incentivize verified water savings and ecological restoration efforts. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, in a video address, highlighted his state's comprehensive water policy, inter&departmental cooperation, and the crucial role of indigenous knowledge and community involvement in building climate resilience.

Experts from around the globe, including Loïc Fauchon of the World Water Council and Deger Saygin from OECD, stressed integrated planning, innovation, and assessing water investments based on their ability to reduce interconnected risks. Satya S. Tripathi of the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet pointed out the growing water footprint of AI and data centers, suggesting collaborations between tech firms and farmers for conservation. Saroj Kumar Jha of The World Bank underscored that 'good water management is good climate adaptation.'

The dialogue concluded with Shweta Tyagi of IWF calling for a unified water&climate&urban&ecosystem framework.

The discussions identified five key priorities: cross&sectoral policy coherence, integrated financing, combining nature&based solutions with resilient infrastructure, stronger data and early&warning systems, and meaningful community participation. Participants widely praised India's 'Water Transversality' approach as a practical framework for tackling intertwined climate and development challenges.

Those who construct substandard buildings should be sent to prison

High Court judges express strong indignation

MADURAI: Judges of the High Court bench have stated that those responsible for constructing substandard buildings should be sent to prison. Dheeran Thirumurugan, an official from the 'Meenavar Pasarai' (Fishermen's Wing) of the 'Naam Tamilar Katchi' in Madurai district, filed a petition before the Madurai Bench of the High Court. In his petition, he stated, "The government branch library in Panaikulam, Ramanathapuram district, houses 36,000 books and has 3,410 registered members.

The library building was constructed in 2006 at a cost of approximately Rs. 7.5 lakh. Currently, the roof of the building is damaged, with concrete chunks peeling off and falling. There are also cracks in the walls. Rainwater seeps inside, damaging the books and affecting the electrical wiring.

Furthermore, the facility lacks basic amenities such as drinking water and toilets. Therefore, I request the court to order an inspection of the damaged building, the construction of a new library, and the relocation of the library to a temporary site in the interim." The petition came up for hearing today before a bench comprising Justices P. Velmurugan and K.K. Ramakrishnan.

During the proceedings, the judges questioned how a building constructed only 20 years ago could have deteriorated to such an extent.

They asserted that such substandard construction work must not be allowed to recur. They emphasized that if any irregularities are found in construction projects, the engineers and contractors must be held accountable. "Those who construct substandard buildings should be sent to prison," the judges remarked sternly.

The court further ordered the engineer and the contractor responsible for the construction of the Panaikulam library building to appear in person in December, and subsequently adjourned the hearing.



The Cabinet Secretary, Dr. T. V. Somanathan launches the Karmayogi Sankalpa on the iGOT Karmayogi platform at the National Workshop on 'Leadership as a Mission', organised by NITI Aayog at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi.

Today horoscope

You will act according to the taste of others. Relatives and friends will treat you with great respect. You will be the main guest at hometown events. You will collect old debts in business. You will meet important dignitaries in official matters.

You will take some important decisions after consulting trusted people. The relationship between husband and wife will improve. Old friends will come to visit you. You will change your vehicle. Business will pick up steam and you may see profits. Uddhi Yoga will be successful.

You will be involved in new endeavors. You will be active in the family. Prayers to the ancestral deity will bring comfort. You will try to renovate and expand your ancestral home. You will overcome competition in business. You will have the support of your superiors in the office.

There will be worries and expenses related to children's education. As Chandrashtam begins, do not hold anger towards family members. Competition will increase in business. Avoid arguments in the office.

Long-standing problems will be resolved. Disturbances will be eliminated and happiness will prevail in the family. Children will behave responsibly. The sale of a house will be successful. Employees will support you in business. The document you were looking for will appear in the office.

You will benefit from siblings. Children who used to quarrel will now listen to you. There will be clarity in speech. Mother's health will give you peace. You will try to expand your business. It is good to maintain peace in the office.

Hidden opposition will disappear. Others will be amazed by your actions. There will be peace in the family. Partners will support you in business. You will shift your shop to a new location. There will be profit. You will be successful in the office.

Work will be completed without any obstacles as expected. Daughter will get a good groom. Son will get a job. Insomnia and mental stress will go away. Maternal relatives will come seeking help. There will be peace in the office. Business will prosper.

You will finish some work by speaking clearly. You will resolve ego issues and build a close relationship with your spouse. You will pay off the loan taken from the bank. You will find peace in the office. The unnecessary blame you had on yourself will be removed. Business will pick up steam.

Change your approach and complete the work that has been stalled. You will work extra hard for your sister's special needs. Your talent will be revealed in the office. You will impress your customers by adopting new strategies in business.

As the Moon continues in the zodiac, there will be anger and tension. There will be peace in the family. You will get recognition for your hard work in the office. Your workload will increase. Your superiors will praise you. You will collect your dues in business.

You will visit the temple of the family deity with your family. The health of your children will improve. You will learn the ins and outs of business and make progress. Do not hate your partners. Do not interfere in the affairs of others.

Deve Gowda writes to PM Modi, demands immediate approval for Megathattu project



BENGALURU: Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding immediate approval from the Central government for the Karnataka government to construct a new dam across the Cauvery river at Meghedatu.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in an event held in Mysuru on the 13th. At that time, Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar stressed, "The Central government should give permission to build a dam in Meghedathudu. Prime Minister Narendra Modi should support Karnataka in this matter."

In this context, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding the Meghnath issue, former Prime Minister Deve Gowda said:

For the last 30 years, the Karnataka government has been providing water to Tamil Nadu on a monthly basis. Water distribution is carried out smoothly even during drought periods.

During the rainy season, all the dams across the Cauvery river fill up and the excess water is wasted in the sea.

States including Karnataka and Tamil Nadu can benefit from storing this water during the dry season. The Karnataka government has planned to build a dam in Meghedadtu to save the wasted water.

Due to the opposition of the Tamil Nadu government, this dam is not feasible. Therefore, the Central government should immediately intervene and give the Karnataka government the necessary permission to build the dam. He said.

"Let us follow V.O. Chidambaram's Swadeshi sentiment, self-reliance thinking and patriotism": CM Vijay



CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay has paid tribute to 'sailor Tamil' V.O. Chidambaranar on his death anniversary, saying, "We will follow V.O. Chidambaranar's Swadeshi spirit, self&reliance thinking and patriotic principles and strive for the progress of the country."

In this regard, he shared a note on his social media pages, "On the anniversary of the 'Sailor Tamil' V.O. Chidambaranar, a freedom fighter who opposed British rule and initiated indigenous shipping, my salutes to his unparalleled sacrifice and patriotism!

The courage and self&respect of V.O. Chidambaranar, who lost all his property and suffered the cruelty of imprisonment for the liberation of his motherland, his devotion to the Tamil language and motherland, and his concern for workers will always be a guiding beacon for us.

Let us strive for the progress of the country by following the principles of V.O. Chidambaram, who instilled Swadeshi sentiment, self&reliance thinking, and patriotism in the minds of the people!" he posted.

Anti-corruption police raid Irukankudi Mariamman Temple: Rs. 59,600 collected from devotees seized



SATTUR: The Anti&Corruption Unit police conducted a surprise raid at the Irukkangudi Mariamman Temple yesterday. Rs. 59,600, which was illegally collected from devotees at the place where the head offering was being performed, was seized.

The famous Mariamman Temple in Irukkangudi, Virudhunagar district, has been the subject of allegations of illegal and extortionate collection of money from devotees at the temple where offerings are made.

In addition, there have been allegations of irregularities in the recent renovations worth Rs. 60 crore carried out at the temple.

Following this, a 15&member team led by DSP Ramachandran of the Virudhunagar Anti&Corruption Unit and including Inspector Bhoominathan conducted a surprise raid yesterday at the Irukkangudi Mariamman Temple where the head offering ceremony was held.

During the raid, Rs. 59,600 was seized from 32 employees who had illegally collected money from devotees who had come to pay the head offering.

Subsequently, the Anti&Corruption Unit police conducted searches at the temple office and the Hindu Religious Endowments Department Assistant Commissioner's Office regarding the details of the religious services conducted at a cost of Rs. 60 crore and seized important documents.

In addition, the Anti&Corruption Police also questioned the temple trustee committee chairman Ramamoorthy for more than 2 hours.

Kejriwal's 'Sheesh Mahal' bungalow to be opened to the public next week



NEW DELHI: The government&run church complex, where former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal lived and which was criticised by the BJP as a 'Sheesh Mahal' (glass mansion), is set to be opened for public viewing from next week.

Sheesh Mahal, located at 6, Blackstaff Road, Civil Lines, was renovated to house Arvind Kejriwal when he became the Chief Minister of Delhi. Arvind Kejriwal lived in this bungalow until 2024.

During the 2025 Delhi Legislative Assembly elections, the BJP used the lavish renovation works undertaken in these parts during the Kejriwal regime as a major election campaign. As a result, Parvesh Verma defeated Arvind Kejriwal, who contested from the New Delhi constituency during the Legislative Assembly elections.

Parvesh Verma told reporters yesterday: Sheesh Mahal will be opened to the public.

Delhiites will be able to visit it from next week. Details regarding ticket booking procedures, entry fee and visiting hours will be announced soon.

Prior to that, there are plans to tour the bungalow to journalists in the next 2 or 3 days, and details will be announced on Wednesday (Friday), Parvesh said.

In Madurai, Ayyappa devotees began their vratham amidst chants of "Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa"



MADURAI: Marking the beginning of the Tamil month of Karthigai, Ayyappa devotees in Madurai have commenced their *vratham*, chanting "Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa." After bathing in the early hours, the devotees—immersed in these sacred chants—have begun a rigorous period of fasting as they prepare for their pilgrimage to Sabarimala.

This year, many first&time pilgrims (*kanni&samis*) have also enthusiastically embarked on this spiritual journey.

Mohan: My mother once had a dream that we were losing the house we had worked so hard to build—that it was being auctioned off. She was deeply distressed, fearing that such an inauspicious dream occurring just before the start of the month of Karthigai was a bad omen. In my sleep, I apparently spoke out, saying, "If we wear the *mala* (garland) for Ayyappa, we will save our house." The very next day, our entire family began the *vratham* for Ayyappa.

A few years later, the legal case concerning our house was decided in our favor.

If you pray to Ayyappa with a sincere, melting heart, your wishes will be fulfilled.

Sitthaiah: I have been visiting Sabarimala for over 30 years. I have two sons and a daughter. My younger son was born unable to speak. When I took him to Sabarimala at the age of five to seek Ayyappa's blessings, he uttered his very first word: "Ayyappa!" No one could believe such a miracle. Discipline is the only offering Ayyappa truly asks of us;

He will take care of our well&being and progress in life.

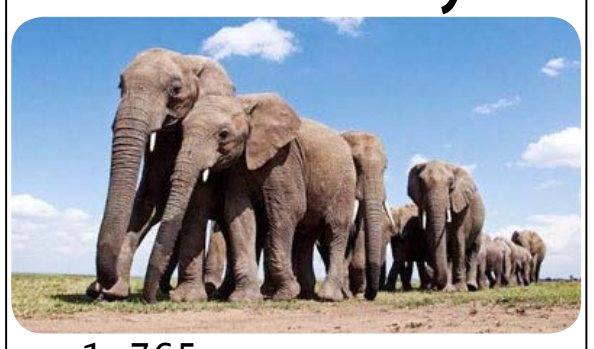
Solaimalai: I have been traveling to Sabarimala since 1972. About 20 years ago, while praying for the blessing of a child. My father prayed with all his heart and took the *vratham* (vow) for Ayyappan, wearing the sacred *mala* (garland). By the grace of Ayyappan, I was born when my father was 46 years old, and they named me 'Manikandan.' I have been making the pilgrimage to Sabarimala since I was seven. Climbing the rugged mountain requires both physical and mental strength; to prepare for this, one must practice self&discipline, follow dietary restrictions, and observe a strict *vratham*. This is what he shared.



Matan Kahana, who has the support of the opposition, has been elected as the Speaker of the Israeli parliament.

November 18 New Delhi *2026*

1,765 elephants die in India in 17 years



1,765 elephants have died in India in the last 17 years. The Union Environment Ministry has responded to a query under the Right to Information Act: 1,765 elephants have died from 2009 to 2026. Of these, 1,185 elephants have died due to electrocution.

Apart from this, 277 elephants died due to train collisions, 222 due to poaching and 81 due to poisoning. Odisha recorded the highest number of elephant deaths during the year with 371 elephants. Assam followed with 356 and Karnataka with 223. Elephants died due to electrocution in Odisha (238), Karnataka (195) and Assam (191).

It said that 90 elephants died in Assam, 68 in West Bengal and 45 in Odisha after being hit by trains.

Amit Gupta, an environmental activist from Noida who filed an RTI application in this regard, said, "Elephants dying due to electrocution is not an accident; it is negligence. The reason for this is the illegal installation of electric fences on elephant routes, low&hanging electric wires and unprotected electric lines. Strict action should be taken to prevent this."

British Prince William driving an auto in Mumbai

MUMBAI: William, the eldest son of British King Charles. The crown prince of that country, founded the award "The Earthshot Prize" in 2020. This award is given every year under 5 categories. This year's award ceremony was held in Mumbai yesterday. A cash prize of Rs. 11 crore was given for each category award.



The ceremony was held at the Jio World Center in Bandra East, Mumbai. British Prince William drove an electric auto on the Bandra&Worli road to attend the event. His wife Kate Middleton was sitting in the back seat of the auto.

This video and photo are going viral on social media. Prince William is going to Delhi today, the last day of his three&day tour. Where he is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Costa Rica: Journalist Murdered After Exposing Links Between Politicians and Drug Cartels

SANJOSE: A journalist who exposed connections between politicians and drug cartels has been murdered in Costa Rica. Journalist Camilo Rodríguez (51) reported on the ties between politicians and drug trafficking organizations in Costa Rica.

Following this, he was shot and killed by unidentified assailants. The incident has sent shockwaves through the country. In addition to his work in the media, Camilo Rodríguez frequently posted videos on social media in which he criticized various public figures, including politicians, judges, and businesspeople—specifically highlighting the links between politicians and drug cartels.

The attack took place in the San Miguel de Santo Domingo area, located in the central province of Heredia, north of the capital, San José. Unidentified individuals on a motorcycle opened fire on Rodríguez while he was in his car, then fled the scene.

He sustained fatal injuries and died. This marks the first time a journalist has been killed in the country in the last two decades. Reports indicate that he had previously received multiple death threats from drug trafficking groups. President Laura Fernández has strongly condemned the incident.

However, the situation is complicated by the fact that, in a past video, Camilo had alleged that the President's home was built by a company linked to criminal organizations—a claim that caused a significant stir. President Laura denied these allegations and had filed a defamation lawsuit against Camilo.

In a democratic society, silencing those who disclose information related to drugs or corruption is unacceptable, says public prosecutor Carlo Díaz.



Manila: The high-level meeting of the Quad was held in the Philippine capital Manila yesterday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Trump, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese held important talks.

"SP's future was, is, will remain dark": UP Dy CM Maurya dismisses Akhilesh Yadav's Gorakhpur 'Rath Yatra'

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Wednesday slammed Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav over his ongoing 'Rath Yatra' in Gorakhpur, asserting that the party's political future remains completely in the dark regardless of where it stages protests or processions.

Reacting to the SP chief's outreach campaign, Maurya stated that while the opposition party can indulge in daydreams about capturing power in Uttar Pradesh, the ground reality remains entirely against them.

"Whether Akhilesh Yadav holds a yatra in Gorakhpur, Saifai, or Lucknow, the future of the Samajwadi Party was, is, and will remain in the dark. The Samajwadi Party can certainly daydream about coming to power in Uttar Pradesh till 2047, but on the ground, they cannot come to power. Akhilesh Yadav knows this very well," Maurya said.

On the Samajwadi Party's 'PDA Rath Yatra', a party worker pushed back on the idea that Gorakhpur belongs to one camp alone. Gorakhpur is widely recognised as the political stronghold of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Its political significance stems from the influence of the Gorakhnath Math and decades of electoral representation.

"To label Gorakhpur solely as Yogi's stronghold is not entirely accurate; it has also been a stronghold for the Samajwadis," he said.

Yogi Adityanath won the Gorakhpur Lok Sabha seat five consecutive times starting in 1998, before vacating it in 2017 to become Chief Minister. His mentor, Mahant Avaidyanath, held the seat three times prior to him. Following Adityanath's exit from Parliament, the BJP lost the seat in a 2018 by&election to Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate Praveen Nishad.

The BJP regained and retained the Gorakhpur parliamentary seat through actor&politician Ravi Kishan in both the 2019 and 2024 general elections, defeating SP's Kajal Nishad in 2024.

Yogi Adityanath won the Gorakhpur Urban assembly seat in 2022, and across the district, the BJP secured roughly 50.9% of the vote compared to the SP's 30.5%. Additionally, the BJP retained the Gorakhpur&Faizabad Teachers' constituency during the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council (MLC) elections in October 2026.



He laid out the plan for Akhilesh Yadav's visit & starting from Gorakhpur airport, the PDA Rath Yatra will move through various parts of the city before reaching the Chauri Chaura Memorial. There, Akhilesh will unveil a statue of Bandhu Singh, a hero of the 1857 revolution. He will also pay tribute to Binnu Singh & the elder brother of event organiser Ajay Singh 'Tappu' & and address a massive gathering in Chauri Chaura.

The worker added that Akhilesh also intends to visit areas in Gorakhpur that the current Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh typically avoids, where he will meet party workers.

With the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections on the horizon, Gorakhpur has turned into a high&stakes battleground for both the ruling party and the Opposition.

Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav is holding a 20&km PDA Rath Yatra (padyatra) in Gorakhpur on November 18, aimed at mobilising supporters across all nine assembly constituencies in the district.

As part of the yatra, the SP chief headed toward the Chauri Chaura Martyrs' Memorial to pay tribute to the freedom movement martyrs, signalling the party's aggressive grassroots mobilisation ahead of future electoral battles.

A day later, CM Yogi Adityanath is set to launch the BJP's statewide "Jan Chaupal" direct public outreach campaign from Gorakhpur's Town Hall ground on November 19.

AIADMK protests against Kallakurichi Thaveka MLA



VILLUPURAM: A protest was held yesterday on behalf of the AIADMK in Kallakurichi, criticizing former MLA Arul Vignesh for doing injustice to the District Magistrate, criticizing the government for not taking action against him and not providing security to women and girls.

The party's District Secretary Kumaraguru presided over the protest. Former Chief Minister Valarmathi addressed the gathering. At that time, he said:

Chief Minister Vijay did not say that what Kallakurichi MLA Arul Vignesh did was 'wrong'; he did not even look into it. He questioned this incident and informed many agencies. The Chief Minister will look into all this. But, he has called MLA Arul Vignesh to Mamallapura and spoken to him. Without noticing that he sent a text message to the officer, he presents him with a silk dhoti. If Jayalalithaa and Palaniswami had been the Chief Ministers, they would have bought and sent that MLA away, just like MGR bought Nambiar with a chowk in the movie 'Enga Veedup Pillai'.

During the Legislative Assembly elections, Chief Minister Vijay had said, 'I am the candidate in all 234 constituencies, vote for me, I am responsible for any wrongdoing.' He said, 'People voted because they trusted me.' People voted for the MLA, even sending text messages to the officer.

You yourself said, 'The vote that fell on me, the vote that fell on me,' Chief Minister, if the vote fell on you, then your party will take action against the MLA who committed this mistake.

Otherwise, you will resign. Thus spoke Valarmathi.

Minister Nirmal Kumar warns Karnataka government of dire consequences if it tries to build Meketatu dam



THOOTHUKUDI: The Chief Minister has not allowed even a single brick to be laid for the construction of the Mekethatu dam. Tamil Nadu Energy and Law Minister C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar has said that if the Karnataka government gets involved in the dam construction effort, it will face huge consequences.

The Minister inaugurated the test run following the completion of the renovation work on Unit 1 of the Dudhdukkudi Thermal Power Station, which was damaged in a fire last year. He later told the participants:

The Tamil Nadu government's position on the Megedhattu dam issue is very clear. Under no circumstances will the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister allow even a single stone to be laid for the construction of the Megedhattu dam. Whatever efforts the Karnataka government makes, the Tamil Nadu government will react strongly against it.

The Tamil Nadu government has approached the relevant legal frameworks, including the Green Deal, and the Supreme Court regarding this matter.

Not a single brick can be laid in Meghalaya without violating Tamil Nadu. If the Karnataka government gets involved in such an effort, it will face huge consequences.

The Ministry of Renewable Energy has been working on a battery energy storage policy for the past 6 months. So far, applications for more than 1,000 MW of energy storage projects have been received. Work is underway to verify and issue permits for them.

The aim is to store surplus electricity generated by solar power during the day in batteries and use it during the night when the demand for electricity increases. We have set a target of creating 10 gigawatts of battery energy storage capacity by 2029.

A new power procurement policy has been formulated keeping in mind the future power demand of the state. As part of this, tenders for medium&term power purchase agreements have been sought, the minister said.

High Court orders seizure and auction of cattle roaming on roads



CHENNAI: Lawyer Kamesh has filed a case in the Madras High Court alleging that pedestrians wandering on the roads in Thiruverkaud areas are causing traffic congestion and causing road accidents.

This case came up for hearing in a bench of Chief Justice S.A. Dharmadhikari and Justice G. Arul Murugan.

At that time, a government order was issued by the Tamil Nadu Revenue and Disaster Management Department on September 20 to confiscate stray animals roaming the roads without permission.

The Thiruvetkadu Municipal Administration has also passed a resolution in this regard. Accordingly, it has been decided to impose a fine of Rs. 2,000 for the first time and Rs. 5,000 for subsequent offenses on the owners of pedestrians who obstruct public traffic.

If no one claims the cattle roaming on the roads within 48 hours, they can be confiscated and auctioned. The law provides for imprisonment of up to 3 years and a fine of Rs. 5 thousand for the owners of the cattle.

The Thiruverkado city administration should consider this issue and take appropriate action. The stray animals on the roads should be confiscated and auctioned and the maintenance costs for them should be collected from the owner.

The police can register a case against the owners. The DGP and all district collectors will have to implement this decision within a period of 4 weeks.

TN government argues that the High Court order allowing lighting of lamps at the Thiruparankundram lamp post should be stayed

MADURAI: The Tamil Nadu government argued in the Supreme Court that the order issued by the High Court allowing lighting of lamps at the Thirupparangkunram lamp post should be stayed.

Single Judge G.R. Swaminathan of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court had given permission to light a lamp on the hilltop of the Thirupparangkunram Subramania Swamy Temple every year on the Karthigai Deepa festival.

The temple administration had ruled that the lamp should be lit with the permission of the archaeological department. The verdict issued by the single judge was upheld by both the bench of the High Court.

Against this decision, the temple administration, the Tamil Nadu government, the dargah administration, and a person named Rama Ravikumar have filed an appeal in the Supreme Court challenging the clause that refused to allow the public to light the lamp. The petitions came up for hearing before a bench comprising Justices Arvind Kumar and Vipul M. Pancholi.

At that time, senior lawyers Jaideep Gupta, Shekhar Napde, Gopal Sankaranarayanan, and Prashantho Chandra Sen appeared on behalf of the Tamil Nadu government and argued as follows:

In a judgment delivered in 1923, it was clearly confirmed that the areas including the hilly foothills and the paddy groves could come under the purview of the Dargah. This was also confirmed by the Supreme Court, which heard the cases related to this after the country gained independence.

The lighting of the lamp at the temple on the top of Thirupparangunram Hill has a history of 150 years, and we have filed all the documents in the Ministry of Justice for this.

In 1994, when members of the Hindu Front announced that they would climb the mountain and light the lamp on their own, the Madras High Court, which heard the case, ruled that "no outsider should climb the mountain and light the lamp." The Supreme Court pointed out that this issue is not just a matter of Hinduism. It also includes the right of Muslims to worship and their religious sentiments



should not be hurt. For over a century, the customary practice has been followed without any religious conflicts. Although the state government looks after law and order, court decisions should not cause any commotion or unrest in the society.

Since the Karthigai Deepam festival is going to be held in a week, to avoid unnecessary controversy, the Madras High Court's order should be stayed. All the petitions filed seeking permission to light the lamp on the pillar on the hill should be disposed of, they argued.

Responding to this, the lawyers for the petitioner argued, "Lighting the lamp on the lamppost on the Thirupparangunram hill is a very common practice. There is no need to obtain special permission for this. Therefore, devotees should be allowed to light the lamp directly."

After hearing arguments from both sides, the judges adjourned the hearing of the case until today.

Prince William, Kate Middleton Visit Mumbai's Chanakya School of Craft, Promote Sustainable Textiles



MUMBAI: Maharashtra: Prince William and Princess Catherine, the Prince and Princess of Wales, visited the Chanakya School of Craft in Lower Parel, Mumbai, as part of their India tour for the Earthshot Prize 2026.

This engagement focused on the crucial role of sustainable textiles and preserving traditional craft techniques.

The royal couple's visit, on the final day of their India trip for the sixth annual Earthshot Prize Summit, highlighted how India's rich textile heritage can contribute to a greener future. Their presence brought significant attention to the country's skilled artisans and their sustainable practices.

Earlier in their Mumbai schedule, the royal couple engaged in various activities, including playing gully cricket with cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar at Ballard Estate and experiencing the Mumbai Metro.

They also attended the Earthshot Prize Impact Assembly.

On Tuesday, Prince William and Kate Middleton visited the Bandra Reclamation Garden. Here, Prince William notably drove an electric three&wheeler manufactured by Mahindra Last Mile Mobility, interacting with the 15 global finalists of The Earthshot Prize 2026.

The Earthshot Prize ceremony, held in Mumbai, recognized India's efforts in electric vehicles, with Mahindra Last Mile Mobility Limited winning the 'Clean Our Air' category, securing a £1 million grant to further their work.

Cyclone 'Akwan' Intensifies into a Severe Cyclonic Storm

CHENNAI: Cyclone 'Akwan', currently over the Bay of Bengal, is moving at a speed of 3 km/h, leading to forecasts of rain in Chennai today and tomorrow.

The cyclone, which was situated over the central and adjoining west&central Bay of Bengal, began moving slowly in a north&northwesterly direction early yesterday morning.

At that time, it was centered approximately 610 km east of Chennai. Continuing its north&northwesterly path, it intensified into a 'severe cyclonic storm' over the west&central Bay of Bengal by yesterday evening. Over the past six hours, it has moved at a speed of 3 km/h while further intensifying.

The storm is expected to continue moving in a northwesterly direction and is likely to make landfall as a severe cyclonic storm around noon on the 20th, between Nellore and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

At the time of landfall, wind speeds are expected to reach 120–130 km/h, with occasional gusts up to 145 km/h. Consequently, moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and strong winds is expected in isolated areas across the Chennai, Thiruvallur, and Chengalpattu districts today. Light rain with thunderstorms is also likely in parts of southern Tamil Nadu, other coastal areas of northern Tamil Nadu, as well as in Puducherry and Karaikal.

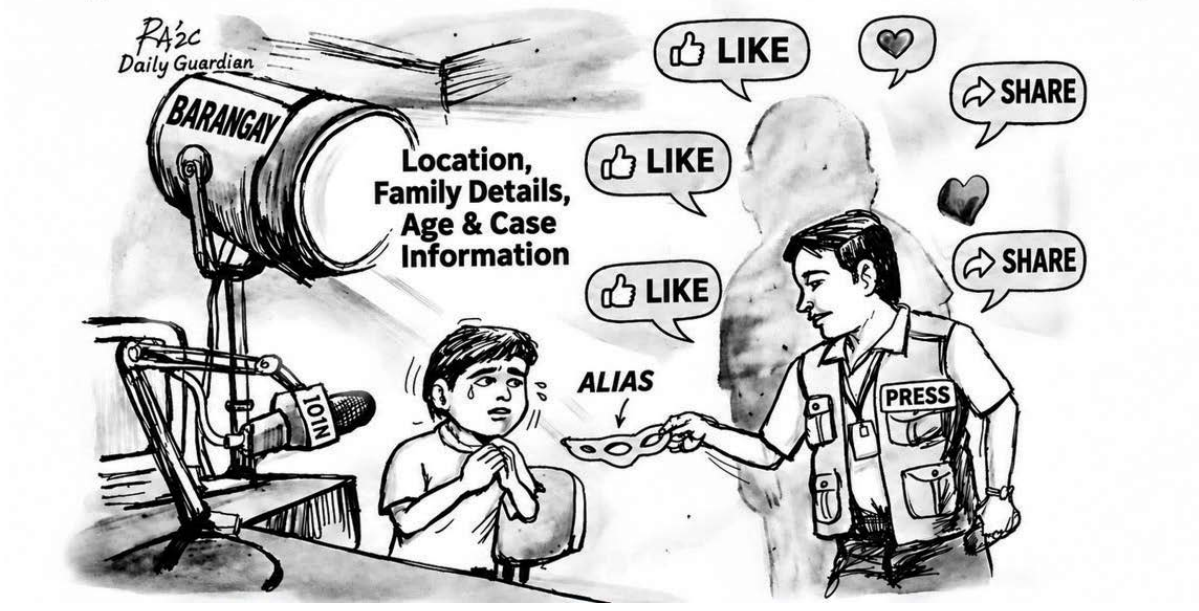
The rest of Tamil Nadu is expected to remain largely dry. Furthermore, tomorrow (Thursday), heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and strong winds is likely in isolated places across the Chennai and Thiruvallur districts.

Light rain with thunderstorms and lightning may occur in isolated areas within the Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram, Villupuram, and Cuddalore districts. In the rest of Tamil Nadu, as well as in Puducherry and Karaikal, the weather is expected to remain generally dry. The Chennai Meteorological Centre has indicated that there is a possibility of rain in Tamil Nadu until the 23rd of this month. Due to a storm warning, fishermen have been prohibited from venturing out to sea until further notice.

During the ongoing Northeast Monsoon, the state of Tamil Nadu experienced widespread rainfall when the previous two storms—'Arnab' and 'Murasu'—made landfall along the coast of Andhra Pradesh.

It is expected that this current storm, 'Akwan', will also bring rainfall.

Why hide the name when the details reveal the identity?



India- Japan Partnership Crucial for Free, Open Indo- Pacific: Jaishankar

USA: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized the vital role of the India&Japan special strategic and global partnership in shaping a free and open Indo&Pacific.

Speaking at the 9th India&Japan Indo&Pacific Forum in New Delhi, Jaishankar highlighted that this partnership is built on 'trust and goodwill' and a shared strategic vision.

The forum, co&hosted by the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) and the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) from November 16–17, 2026, brought together government officials, diplomats, and experts to strengthen bilateral ties.

Jaishankar commended the organizers, stating that the collaboration contributes to peace, stability, and economic prosperity not just for both nations, but for the entire world.



As major Asian democracies and maritime nations, India and Japan are indispensable in fostering a rules&based Indo&Pacific, with joint efforts visible in initiatives like the Indo&Pacific Oceans Initiative and Vision Mahasagar. The Minister also pointed to strong economic synergies, noting Japan's manufacturing prowess and advanced technology complement India's entrepreneurial spirit and vast talent pool. Japan remains a key foreign direct investment partner, contributing significantly to India's development goals, while India offers Japanese businesses opportunities to 'Make in India and Make for the World'.

Jaishankar further stressed the shared commitment to building resilient global supply chains and addressing infrastructure challenges. He recalled the strong ambition for bilateral cooperation reaffirmed during Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's visit to India in July. Looking ahead, 2027 will mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations, to be celebrated as the 'India&Japan year of shared horizons', with a focus on youth engagement. The coming year also commemorates 20 years since the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe championed the Indo&Pacific as a geo&strategic concept, a vision that continues to guide their collaboration.

Madurai: Boundary wall of a railway structure collapses; accident occurs

MADURAI: A boundary wall of a railway structure near the western entrance of the Madurai Junction railway station collapsed suddenly this morning, leaving two people who were drinking tea nearby injured. The western entrance area of the Madurai railway station is typically bustling with passengers and the general public.



This morning (Wednesday), the boundary wall of a railway structure located near this entrance collapsed unexpectedly. At the time of the collapse, two individuals were standing at a nearby stall, drinking tea.

They sustained serious injuries when debris from the wall fell upon them.

Bystanders immediately rushed to the scene, rescued those trapped under the rubble, and arranged for them to be taken to a hospital for treatment.

Upon receiving information about the incident, railway officials and the police arrived at the site to conduct an inspection.

The police are currently conducting a thorough investigation into the cause of the wall collapse.

The incident caused a brief period of commotion near the western entrance of the Madurai railway station.



Puducherry: Nurses in Puducherry government hospitals wore black badges while on duty to demand the filling of vacant positions.

Kashmir Encounter: Terrorist Shot Dead

SRINAGAR: A terrorist has been shot dead in an encounter with security forces in Kashmir. In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, security forces and the police are engaged in counter&terrorism operations.



On the 11th of this month, two terrorists belonging to 'The Resistance Front'—an offshoot of the Lashkar&e&Taiba—attacked security personnel stationed in the Kulgam district of Kashmir.

Three security personnel sustained injuries in this attack.

Following this, security forces launched a search operation. One of the terrorists involved in the attack, identified as Umar Nazir Dar, was shot dead the day before yesterday. Security forces continued an intensive search for another terrorist, Latief Butt, who had managed to escape.

Meanwhile, security forces received a tip&off that a terrorist was hiding in the Kulgam area. Acting on this information, the security forces rushed to the location and initiated a rigorous search operation.

At that point, the terrorist, identified as Latief Butt, opened fire on the security forces. The security forces returned fire, leading to an exchange of gunfire between the two sides. In the ensuing operation, the terrorist Latief Butt was shot dead. Security forces are continuing their search operations in the area where the encounter took place.

Pallikaranai Marshland Case: High Court Directs CREDAI to Approach Supreme Court

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court has directed CREDAI (Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India) and other petitioners to approach the Supreme Court regarding a challenge to the ban on construction within a one&kilometer radius of the Pallikaranai marshland.



The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which took up the matter *suo motu*, had issued an order last September directing the Tamil Nadu government not to grant approval for any construction within a one&kilometer radius of the Pallikaranai marshland.

Following this, the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) issued an order in October 2024, stating that no construction permits could be granted within a one&kilometer radius of the marshland.

CREDAI filed a petition in the High Court, arguing that this order has brought all apartment construction projects in the vicinity of Pallikaranai to a complete standstill.

The case was heard by a division bench comprising Chief Justice S.A. Dharmadhikari and Justice G. Arul Murugan.

The petitioners requested the quashing of the NGT's order, contending that it was issued without any scientific study.

CREDAI argued that no construction work has taken place for the past seven months, and that the NGT's directive has adversely affected nearly 100,000 people.

They urged the High Court to set aside the NGT's order and direct the Tribunal to conduct a fresh inquiry into the matter.

The State Wetland Authority stated that an area of 128.19 hectares, spanning 36 specific survey numbers around the Pallikaranai wetland, has been identified as an interim buffer zone; it was further noted that privately&owned 'patta' lands have been excluded from this demarcation.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the judges reserved their judgment. Delivering the verdict today, the judges directed the petitioners—including CREDAI—to approach the Supreme Court regarding this matter, noting that a case concerning the wetland is already pending before the apex court.

Furthermore, the judges instructed the Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority to expedite the process of defining the boundaries of the wetland and subsequently closed the petitions filed by CREDAI and others.



MUMBAI: Prince William experienced the vibrant heart of Bollywood during his recent visit to Dharma Productions. He was treated to a spectacular dance performance of the iconic 'Shava Shava' from 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham.

Attempted Assassination Plot Against Trump Pakistani Man Sentenced to 27 Years in Prison

WASHINGTON: D.C. A Pakistani man has been sentenced to 27 years in prison for his role in a plot to assassinate U.S. President Donald Trump. Asif Merchant, a 48&year&old Pakistani national, was identified for his involvement in a conspiracy to assassinate key U.S. government officials, including President Donald Trump. He acted at the behest of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

The case was heard in a federal court in Brooklyn, New York, where U.S. District Judge Eric R. Komitee handed down the sentence. It was revealed that Merchant attempted to orchestrate these assassinations by hiring a hit squad.



For this, he has been sentenced to 27 years in prison, as confirmed by U.S. prosecutor Todd Blanche. Merchant, a Pakistani national, had voluntarily joined Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and received training in intelligence operations before traveling to the United States. He was actively involved in scouting locations and recruiting individuals to carry out the assassinations, with Donald Trump identified as a primary target. Furthermore, it is reported that he also targeted then&President Joe Biden and former U.S. Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley—all of whom were involved in the presidential race at the time.

In January 2020, Qasem Soleimani, a former commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, was killed in a U.S. drone strike. Iran sought to retaliate for this, and the current attack was planned as part of that effort.

Gold Price Continues to Fall: Drops Below ₹98,000 per Sovereign Today

CHENNAI: The price of gold in Chennai has declined further today (Nov 18). The fact that the price per sovereign has fallen below ₹98,000 has brought relief to the public.



While gold prices had previously made headlines by repeatedly hitting new record highs, they have recently been in the news due to a sharp decline.

Accordingly, today (Wednesday), the price of 22&carat gold has decreased by ₹255 per gram, bringing it to ₹12,215 per gram. The price per sovereign has dropped by ₹2,040, now standing at ₹97,720.

Similarly, the price of 18&carat gold has fallen by ₹205 per gram to ₹10,000, while the price per sovereign has decreased by ₹1,640 to ₹80,000.

The price of silver has also dropped by ₹5 per gram, now retailing at ₹185 per gram, while one kilogram of silver bars is being sold for ₹1,85,000.

Generally, gold prices are determined based on international economic conditions. In this context, the price per sovereign crossed ₹50,000 in March 2024 and surpassed ₹55,000 in May of the same year.

Following this, the price rose gradually, crossing ₹60,000 in January of last year, reaching ₹97,000 in October, and exceeding ₹1 lakh by December 15.

This year, on January 29, the price of gold reached a new peak of ₹1,34,400. Since then, gold prices have experienced fluctuations. Meanwhile, the price of gold has been on a decline since the 10th of this month.

On November 9th, the price of a sovereign of gold stood at ₹1,06,040. It has since decreased gradually, falling below the ₹1 lakh mark yesterday.

Today, the price has dropped by another ₹2,040 per sovereign, with one sovereign now selling for ₹97,720.

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