

We will be determined to make Tamil Nadu the premier state of India” - Chief Minister Vijay

Chennai

On the occasion of Tamil Nadu Day, Chief Minister Vijay has said, “On this day, we will resolve to make Tamil Nadu a leading state in India, where equality and social justice flourish, education, technology and skilled manpower are the homeland of the classical language of the Sangha.” In a social media post, Chief Minister Vijay said, “On this day, when a resolution was passed to name our



state ‘Tamil Nadu’ in honor of the antiquity, history, culture and linguistic consciousness of the Tamils, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all the Tamil people on ‘Tamil Nadu Day’.” I am happy to announce that this government will celebrate November 1st, the

day Madras State was formed, and July 18th, the day the historic resolution to rename the state as ‘Tamil Nadu’ was proposed and passed in the Perarignar Anna Legislative Assembly. Let us resolve on this day to make Tamil Nadu the premier

state of India, the homeland of the Sangam-Kandan classical language, where equality and social justice flourish, and where it excels in education, technology, and skilled manpower! “May the sweetness of Tamil, the high culture of Tamils, and the tradition of humanity flourish for generations to come. On this day, let us remember and pay homage to the martyrs who worked hard for the formation of Tamil Nadu!” he said.

Chief Minister Vijay to visit Delhi on August 4 to attend Vaiko’s book launch

Chennai

Chief Minister Vijay is scheduled to visit Delhi on August 4 to attend Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPC) general secretary Vaiko’s book launch. It has been reported that top leaders including Rahul Gandhi will be present at the event. The release ceremony of Vaiko’s book ‘Vaiko in Parlia-



ment’, which he wrote in England on his political and historical travels, is scheduled to be held in Delhi on August 4. Vaiko had invited Chief Minister Vijay to participate in

the ceremony. It has been reported that Chief Minister Vijay will be visiting Delhi on the 4th of next month, accepting the invitation. It is said that Chief Minister Vijay will

receive the release of Vaiko’s book by the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly and a senior leader of the Congress party, Rahul Gandhi. It is said that Chief Minister Vijay will also meet some Central Ministers during his visit to Delhi and will have the opportunity to talk about the important projects of Tamil Nadu.

Is the price of death worth the lock-up? Palaniswami lashes out at Thaweka government

Chennai

A disabled prisoner in Nagercoil jail has died mysteriously. His family has protested by refusing to accept the body, claiming that he was tortured to death by prison guards. Some ministers of this government have tried to pacify the family by pleading with them and failed,” AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi Palaniswami has said. In a statement issued today, he said, “They say, ‘Even if you cry and wallow for two years, will the dead come?’ to proclaim the greatness of life. It is painful that the current Thaweka rulers are acting in a shocking manner, saying ‘we are here’, as a continuation of that, shocking the people who said they would turn Tamil Nadu upside down and that the incompetent DMK government that ruled for the last 5 years had already written its final words. During the last DMK regime, people from ‘Temple Guard Ajith Kumar’ to ‘Vignesh’, the Tamil Nadu Bahujan Samaj Party leader, were beaten up and killed in various police stations



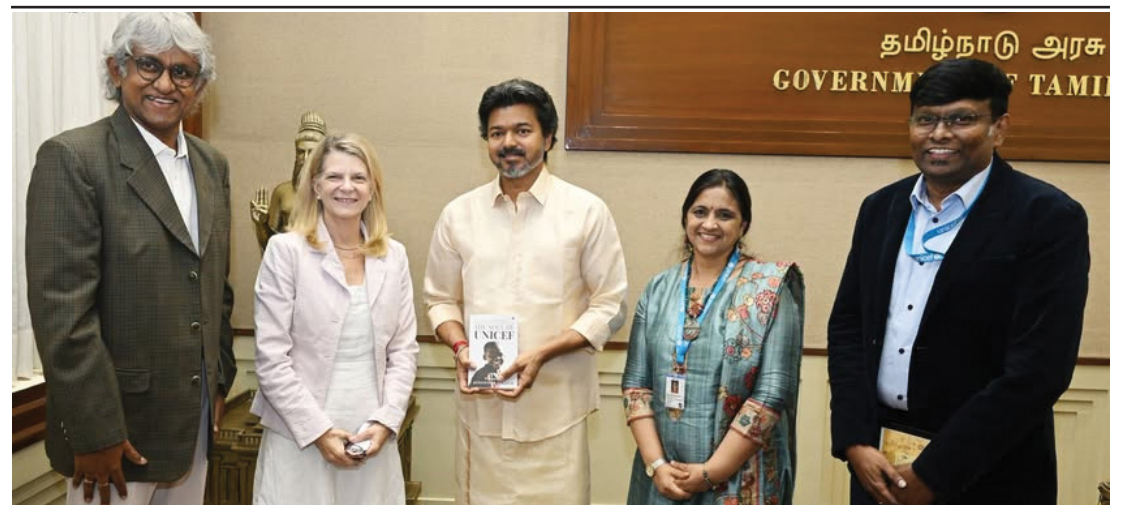
and in the name of encounters by the Chennai Secretariat Colony police, who were accused of being involved in the Armstrong murder case. There were allegations from the public that such measures were taken by the then government to protect a few bigwigs involved in important criminal cases. This government, which was formed by the people saying ‘we will bring change’, was a government where people believed that atrocities would not happen. Just as ‘the rain has stopped but the wind has not stopped’, even though the people are free from tyrannical rulers, they are trapped in the hands of the ‘evil power’ rulers. Innocent people are suffering like ‘they escaped from the clutches of an elephant and fell into the jaws of a crocodile’. A few police officers are acting with the mindset that ‘no matter what Rama or Ravana does, no one

can change our course’, and the rulers are struggling to control them, which is becoming a recurring theme. Recently, a disabled prisoner in Nagercoil jail died mysteriously. His family has protested against the body, claiming that he was tortured to death by prison guards. Some ministers of this government have tried to pacify the family by talking to them but have failed. There are reports that they have refused to accept the relief funds and assistance that the ministers promised to provide. Similarly, there are reports that an undertrial prisoner has died mysteriously in Chennai’s Puzhal Prison. His relatives are also fighting for justice. These rulers are also trying to bribe them. It is heartbreaking that a Chief Minister, within 60 days of coming to power, has come up with the idea of asking, “What is the price of your life?” and pouring money into innocent

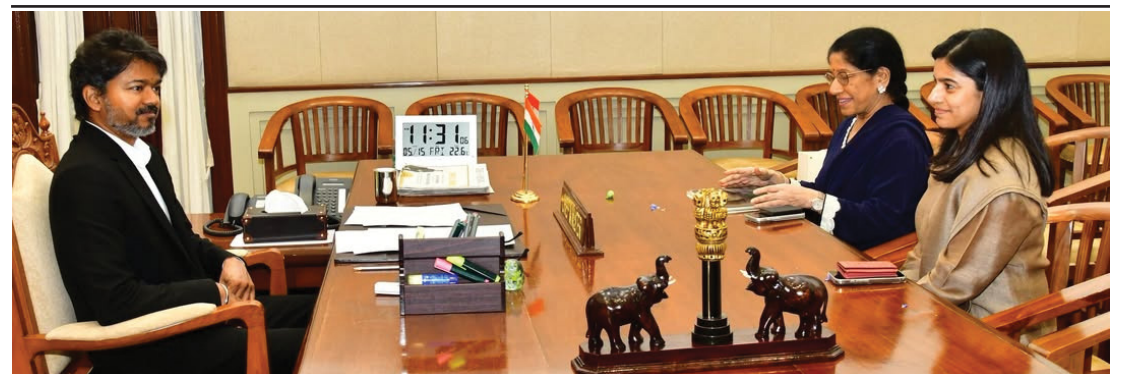
lives to silence them. The rulers are floating around thinking that if the government provides jobs to 31 members of the families of the 41 people who died in the Karur stampede after coming to visit them, those families will be saved. Lock-up deaths, prison deaths, unnecessary encounters, without trying to protect those in power who are involved in criminal activities, without taking any steps to prevent such acts, and leaving ministers to say that they will stop all these things as soon as possible, is tantamount to ‘locking up the stable after the horses have run’. The Chief Minister should realize that the way to govern is not like an actor who has reached the pinnacle of his career, who sits on the top of the podium and brags, “We got paid in crores, we acted according to the call sheet given, and we have no loss whether the film runs or not.” “I urge the Chief Minister of the Poi Kal Kudhi government to turn the wheel of government in a way that does not disappoint the people who voted for change by listening to the voices of their children at home,” Palaniswami said.



Thiru. Rajmohan, the Hon’ble Minister for School Education, Tamil Official Language & Tamil Culture, and Information & Publicity, conducted an inspection at the Tamil Nadu Government M.G.R. Film and Television Institute in Taramani, Chennai.



Ms. Cynthia McCaffrey, UNICEF Representative for India; Mr. Ganesan Kumaresan, Head of UNICEF Chennai (Officer-in-Charge) and Social Policy Specialist (Child Protection); and senior officials Mr. Shyam Sudhir Pande and Dr. Akila Radhakrishnan met the Honorable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru S. Joseph Vijay, at the Secretariat



When Mrs. Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman and Managing Director of TAFE, and Dr. Lakshmi Venu, Deputy Managing Director, met the Honorable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru S. Joseph Vijay, at the Secretariat, detailed discussions were held regarding various aspects of industrial growth, employment generation, manufacturing capacity enhancement, and export growth in Tamil Nadu.



State Chief Information Commissioner Mr. Mohammed Shakeel Akhtar, IPS (Retd.), along with State Information Commissioners Mr. Abhay Kumar Singh, IPS (Retd.), Mr. P. Thamarai Kannan, IPS (Retd.), Mr. R. Priyakumar, Mr. K. Thirumalaimuthu, Mr. V.P. Ilambarithi, Mr. M. Natesan, and Mr. A. Vijayarani, met the Honorable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr. S. Joseph Vijay, at the Secretariat

Demand for action by the Anti-Corruption Bureau against officials at the Mangalore-Nallur Block Development Office for accepting bribes.

Cuddalore

Social activists have raised allegations against officials at the Mangalore-Nallur Block Development Office in Cuddalore district, citing issues such as demands for commissions, financial irregularities, bribery, and fraud involving promises of employment. Controversy has erupted as officials reportedly demand bribes for various services, including building permits, sanitation certificates, and infrastructure works like roads and drainage. Contractors have alleged that commissions of 2% to 3% are demanded for the processing of bills



and cheques; those who do not pay face delays and are made to wait for hours. Allegations have also surfaced regarding the collection of separate commissions by various officials during the tender award process. As a first step, contractors have stated their intention to lodge a formal complaint with the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC). Based on available information and evidence, accusations have arisen

implicating multiple officials in bribery, accepting money for jobs, and misappropriating public funds. It is reported that some of these officials may face suspension. Social activists are calling for departmental action and urging the Anti-Corruption Bureau to take strict measures against those involved. Consequently, officials at the Mangalore-Nallur Block Development Office are in a state of anxiety. Will the Anti-Corruption Bureau take action? Will Chief Minister Vijay order uncompromising action against corruption? We must wait and see.

Tamil Nadu Government Approves Direct Paddy Procurement Centre

Cuddalore

A request was made to open a government direct paddy procurement center in Kosappallam Panchayat. In Kosappallam and more than ten surrounding villages near Pennadam in Cuddalore district, 'Samba' season paddy cultivation is carried out using irrigation from local tanks. Consequently, local residents and Alagudurai—the



District Secretary of the Congress SC/ST Wing—submitted a request for a government paddy procurement center during the public grievance redressal meeting at

the District Collector's office. Subsequently, the Tamil Nadu government granted permission to establish a direct paddy procurement center in Kosappallam Panchayat. Farmers, the general public, and representatives of various organizations in the area are expressing their gratitude to Chief Minister Joseph Vijay and the district administration for this approval.

Newly Completed Oddanchatram Revenue Inspector Office Remains Locked Public Faces Hardship

Dindigul

It has been several months since the construction of the new building—housing both the office and the residence for the Oddanchatram Sub-division Revenue Inspector (RI)—was completed under the Tamil Nadu Government's Revenue and Disaster Management Department in the Oddanchatram Municipality, Dindigul district. However, as the new building remains locked and unopened, the public is facing severe difficulties in meeting their essential needs. Key Issues

Waste Public Funds: Built at a cost of lakhs of rupees, this modern



facility is going to waste without being put to public use. Public Inconvenience: Members of the public seeking attestation for caste certificates, income certificates, residence certificates, and various government welfare scheme benefits are being forced to run from pillar to post due to the lack of a permanent office. Lack of Maintenance: As the new building remains locked and unused, it is falling into a state of disrepair due to a lack of proper maintenance. Public Demand

“It is distressing that the new building stands ready with all amenities yet remains unused. Consequently, the poor and common people are forced to wander in search of officials to get their certificates processed.” Therefore, residents and social activists in the Oddanchatram area have urged the Dindigul District Collector to intervene immediately and take steps to open the locked Oddanchatram Sub-division Revenue Inspector office for public use without delay.

Census 2027: Tirupathur District Collector Launches Self-Enumeration Process

Tirupathur

At the Tirupathur District Collectorate complex, District Collector K. Ravikumar inaugurated the 'Self-Enumeration' phase of the Census 2027—specifically the initial housing enumeration stage—by registering his own household details on the designated website. Speaking at the event,



which was organized to raise public awareness about the self-enumeration process, the District Collector urged the public to cooperate with the census by regis-

tering their household details themselves. Election Tahsildar Thirumalai and officials from the concerned departments participated in the event.

Silvarpatti Students Shine in Kabaddi, Earn Spot in District-Level Tournament

Periyakulam

Union-level zonal competitions for government school students were held over the past week at Bharat Niketan Engineering College near Andipatti, Theni district. Events included Kabaddi, shot put, and volleyball. More than 30 government school students from the Periyakulam area participated. In the Kabaddi events, the Silvarpatti Government Model Higher Secondary School team secured first place in the Under-17 category (team members: Aarthi, Subikvi, Sivaranjani, Bhavanadevi, Kirshitha, Atshaya, Kanishka,



Keerthana, Devitha, and Rithika) and also in the Under-14 category (team members: Yuvitha, Jeevitha Sri, Lavanya, Asmitha, Kausika, Vidharshana, Dhanalakshmi, Hasini, Pandiselvi, Thirshitha, Vaishnavi, and Jenisha). The winning students have been selected for the district-level competition. Headmaster Pandi and the teaching staff congratulated the winning students and Physical

Education Teacher Jamindar at the school campus. Volunteers and the public are also praising the winners in person and on social media. The competition arrangements were made by the Vagai Dam Government Higher Secondary School. It is noteworthy that Silambam and chess competitions were also held at Silvarpatti Government Model Higher Secondary School over three days last week.

Sri Ramakrishna College Student Council Members Take Oath of Office

Coimbatore

The inauguration of the 36th Student Council of Sri Ramakrishna College of Arts and Science for Women, located in Avarampalayam, Coimbatore, was held at the SNR Auditorium in the same area. Mahima, Vice President of Customer Success and Cloud Operations at Blue Yonder, Coimbatore, participated as the chief guest. After administering the oath of office to the elected student council members, she emphasized that developing leadership skills, self-confidence, and a sense of responsibility is the need of the hour for students. She urged students to invest their time and effort in honing their talents and to continu-



ously improve essential life skills—such as technical knowledge, communication, and teamwork—to meet the current demands of the industry. Presiding over the event, Dr. Sundar Ramakrishna, Managing Trustee of SNR Sons Charitable Trust, addressed the students, noting that student council roles offer an excellent opportunity to cultivate a spirit of service, unity, and administrative experience. He encouraged the students to participate enthusiastically

in council activities, develop their talents, and act in ways that uphold the college's prestige. College Principal Dr. K. Chitra stated that the elected office-bearers had pledged to discharge their duties with integrity and dedication. Following this, the student council office-bearers delivered speeches. The event concluded with cultural performances and the distribution of prizes to students who had excelled in various college-level competitions.

Aadi First Saturday: Massive Devotee Rush at Kuchanur Saneeswara Temple

Theni

Tens of thousands of devotees flocked to the world-renowned Arulmigu Swayambu Saneeswara Bhagavan Temple in Kuchanur, Theni district, to mark the first Saturday of the Tamil month of Aadi. Thick clouds of dust rose from the temple grounds and surrounding areas due to the heavy movement of vehicles and the surging crowds of devotees. Upon witnessing this, the Uthamapalayam Tahsildar and the Uthamapalayam Revenue Divisional Officer, who had arrived at



the temple complex, summoned the temple administration officials and ordered that water be sprayed immediately. To prevent eye irritation and respiratory discomfort among the devotees, water was promptly sprayed from tankers over the dusty areas to suppress the dust. Kuchanur Town Panchayat Chairman Ravichandran

and officials from the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department personally inspected the arrangements for special worship and security measures. The officials oversaw the provision of drinking water, restroom facilities, and arrangements to ensure smooth and uninterrupted *darshan* for the devotees.



Mr. P. Madhusudhan Reddy, IAS, Director of Municipal Administration, inspected the ongoing steel-binding work for the roof of a 12-lakh-liter capacity water storage tank today (July 18, 2026). This work is part of a drinking water development project costing ₹6,945.00 lakh, implemented under the 'Kalaingar Urban Development Scheme' (2025–2026) in Azad Nagar, Tenkasi Municipality. District Collector Mr. Ranjith Singh, IAS, accompanied him during the inspection.



District Collector Mrs. Sharanya Ari, I.A.S., inspected a lake under the control of the Water Resources Department in Kai. Kalathur village, located within the Veppanthattai Panchayat Union in Perambalur district, today



Led by District Secretary Sathya, a delegation from the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) submitted a memorandum to Theni Member of Parliament Thanga Tamilselvan, urging him to participate in the parliamentary session's debate and advocate for 33% reservation. Office bearers Sarada, Mahalakshmi, Vanitha, Muthulakshmi, Malarkodi, Subapriya, and Prakitha also participated in the event.



A groundbreaking ceremony (Bhoomi Puja) was held today to mark the commencement of desilting work at the Pudukulam irrigation tank, located in the Devaram Town Panchayat area of Uthamapalayam Taluk, Theni District. The initiative is a joint effort between the Parachute Kalpavriksha Trust and local farmers. Presided over by Cumbum MLA Jaganath Misra, the event was attended by Parachute Kalpavriksha Trust Manager Shaji Kumar, Joint Manager Pradeep Kumar, Trust administrators, Uthamapalayam North Union party functionaries, farmers, and the general public from Devaram, all of whom participated in large numbers.



In connection with the first Saturday of the Tamil month of Aadi, a large number of devotees are visiting the Swayambu Saneeswara Bhagavan temple in Kuchanur, near Chinnamanur in Theni district. Following a consultative meeting held under the instructions of the District Collector regarding the inspection of eateries and snack stalls in the town panchayat area, inspections were conducted today. Led by District Food Safety Officer Dr. Sasideepa and Chinnamanur Block Food Safety Officer Chiranjeevi, the team inspected restaurants, snack stalls, and Annadhanam (free food distribution) halls operating in the locality. They also instructed the owners to ensure that the food served to the public is of good quality.



The 39th conference of the Insurance Corporation Employees' Union (Vellore Division) is scheduled to be held in Tiruvannamalai district on September 19 and 20; a reception committee has been formed for this purpose. Representatives—including state, district, and circle-level office bearers—participated and spoke at the organizing meeting, representing the Tamil Nadu Government Employees' Association (Parithimar Kalaignan), the Land Survey Department (Raja), the Medical Department, and the All-Department Pensioners' Association (Pachaiyappan, Rajagopal, and Mani).

India's growth has not been hampered by the fuel supply crisis" - PM Modi proud

Jind

Despite the West Asian War and the resulting fuel supply crisis, Indian Railways service did not come to a standstill. The country's development was also not hampered. If the West Asian conflict had occurred before 2014, Indian Railways would have come to a standstill. About 99 percent of the railway infrastructure has been electrified under our rule," Prime Minister Narendra Modi proudly said. Speaking after flagging off India's first hydrogen train connecting Jind and Sonipat in Haryana, Prime Minister Modi said, "With this hydrogen train, the country has taken a giant leap towards green transport. For the last few months, there has been a war going on in the West Asian region and the Strait of Hormuz involving Iran and the Gulf countries. This sea route is where



a large quantity of petrol, diesel, LPG gas and fertilizers for farmers reach India. But for the last three or four months, this route has been a constant battleground. If such a situation had arisen before 2014, the time before I took office, the operations of Indian Railways would have been completely paralyzed. At that time, a large part of the country's trains ran on diesel. If the supply of diesel had been disrupted at that time, how would the trains running on diesel have functioned? The country would have faced a huge crisis. But the situation of 2014 is not there now. Here is Modi, who thinks ahead and implements solu-

tions to problems. Although the electrification work on Indian Railways began about 100 years ago, i.e. in 1925, in the 90 years since then till 2014, only 30 percent of the country's railway infrastructure was electrified. The remaining 70 percent was dependent on diesel. With only 30 percent of the work completed in those 90 years, it would have taken another 200 years to achieve full electrification. Indian Railways would never have been fully electrified; they would have had to continue to rely on diesel. "But in the last 12 years, almost 99 percent of India's railway infrastructure has been electrified. As a result,

despite the war and the fuel supply crisis that it caused, Indian Railways service did not come to a standstill. The country's development was also not hampered. Trains continued to run without any hindrance," he said. He further said, "Today, Haryana and Jind region have made history. The country got its first hydrogen train from here. You must have read and heard the news that the country's first train was operated between Mumbai and Thane. Similarly, in the future, when the news about the country's first hydrogen train comes, it is inevitable that the names of Haryana, Jind and Panipat will be mentioned. "When I came to Jind, my old memories came back to me. The love and warmth you showed me when I came to Jind for organizational work many decades ago is still unforgettable," he said

Education system needs to be radically changed: Rahul Gandhi insists

New Delhi

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has stressed that our country's education system needs to be radically overhauled. A student rally was held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, against the NEET exam system the day before yesterday. Rahul Gandhi, who participated in it, said: A student named Riya Kumari committed suicide after the NEET exam held last May was canceled. I met her father Rajesh Kumar and expressed my condolences. Rajesh Kumar was devastated after losing his daughter Riya. Tears welled up in the eyes of everyone who saw it. This is not just a family's grief. The question paper leak



scandal has robbed many such families of their children. The continuous leakage of exam question papers has caused irreparable grief to many families. Exam question paper leakage has become a systemic issue. A consensus of political parties is needed to solve this problem. In the last decade, about 7.5 crore students have been affected by question paper leaks. From coaching centers, examination centers to question paper makers, translators, transporters and distributors, National Testing Agency (NTA),

and the Ministry of Education, the entire educational environment is also involved in this problem. The incidents of question paper leaks by this corrupt system are increasing day by day. No action has been taken so far, including punishing the culprits. Therefore, the education and examination system needs to be completely overhauled. We need to create an environment where children feel protected instead of crying and parents get the fruits of their sacrifices instead of shedding tears. He said.

Expert group to study El Nino impact: Sengottaiyan information



Chief Minister Sengottaiyan announced that the Chief Minister has constituted a committee of experts for the first time in India to study the impact of El Nino. He told the participants in Erode: The committee will study the effects of El Nino and provide a report on the precautionary measures to be taken. Women's rights applications are being received online. They will be examined and given to the eligible people.

India's first private orbital rocket 'Vikram-1' successfully launched

Chennai

In a new milestone in Indian space history, 'Vikram-1', the first orbital rocket designed entirely by a domestic private company, was successfully launched into space today (July 18). This historic effort was successfully carried out today from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The Vikram-1 rocket was scheduled to launch at 11.30 am today, but was delayed by 35 minutes to 12.05 pm due to cloudy

weather. Speaking to reporters after the successful launch of the rocket, Pawan K Goenka, Chairman of the Space Department's IN-SPaCe, said, "I am proud to officially announce the successful completion of India's first private sector launch. The Vikram-1 rocket has been placed in an orbit of 453 km. This is an achievement that has exceeded expectations." Union Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh witnessed the launch of the rocket. After the successful



launch, he congratulated the scientists involved in the project. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier congratulated the successful launch of the rocket, manufactured by Hyder-

abad-based private company Skyroot Aerospace. The Prime Minister said in his tweet, "This is a historic new milestone in Indian space exploration. Today at 11.30 am, Skyroot Aero-

space will successfully launch India's first private rocket, Vikram-1." The rocket is designed to provide rapid and on-demand launch services. This project reflects the talent,

determination, and entrepreneurial spirit of our youth. It also shows how our space sector is creating new opportunities for innovation, entrepreneurship, and reform. My best wishes to the

entire Skyroot Aerospace team for this successful launch. May Vikram-1 soar into the sky, create history, and inspire a generation of innovators. "Following the success of this historic mission, I urge all Indians, especially my young friends, to congratulate the Skyroot team on their success using the hashtag #IndiaWithVikram1." 'Mission Agaman: The mission of this rocket, which is being prepared by a private company called 'Skyroot Aerospace', is named 'Mission

Agaman'. This is the first time that a private Indian company has attempted to place a satellite into orbit using a launch pad it has built itself. The goal of this mission is not to launch a single satellite into space. Rather, the main goal of this test is to directly evaluate and collect data on how all stages of the rocket perform during spaceflight. The rocket is designed to place small and medium-sized satellites weighing up to 350 kg into low Earth orbit at an altitude of 450 km.

7 people suspended for accepting bribe in Chennai Corporation

Chennai

Seven officials have been suspended for accepting bribes in the city administration. A case has been registered against three of them. Speaking at the Karur People's Meeting, Chief Minister Vijay said, "If you are asked for a bribe in government offices, do not give it. They will tell you my name." Following this, the anti-corruption police intensified their raids on government offices across Tamil Nadu. They raided the registration offices, road traffic offices, and municipal offices. They discovered that bribes were being exchanged through digital transactions and also



seized cash. In the Chennai Metropolitan City, raids were conducted on the 3rd at 6 zonal offices in Royapuram, Thiru.V.K.Nagar, Anna Nagar, Teynampet, Kodambakkam, and Perungudi. Unaccounted money was seized. It was also discovered that bribes were being exchanged through UPI transactions. Based on the reports submitted based on the inspections conducted in the municipal areas, Municipal Commissioner G.S. Sa-

meeran suspended and dismissed 7 people. In the Thiru.V.K.Nagar area, Executive Engineer R.Saravanan, Assistant Executive Engineer T.Ravivaraman, Assistant Engineer T.Saraswathy, Revenue Division Junior Assistant. Manikandan, 4 people were suspended. In Teynampet, three people - Inspector A. Sriramulu, Health Inspector A. Manjith Hussain, and Sanitation Supervisor R. Kothandan - have been suspended and an FIR has been registered.

Stalin returns to Chennai

Chennai

DMK president Stalin is returning to Chennai today after completing his trip to London. DMK members are planning to give him a rousing welcome at the airport. Inpanidhi, the grandson of DMK leader Stalin and son of Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Udhayanidhi Stalin, has completed a degree in

sports development from the University of Manchester in London. Following this, Inpanidhi received his degree at the university's convocation ceremony. Earlier, Stalin had left for London two weeks ago to personally congratulate his grandson. His wife Durga Stalin had also accompanied him. Later, Udhayanidhi also went to London. Stalin, who partici-

pated in the graduation ceremony with his family, hugged his grandson and congratulated him. After this, Stalin, who rested in London for a few days, will return to Chennai today after completing his trip. DMK members have made elaborate arrangements to give him a rousing welcome when he arrives at the Chennai International Airport at 7 am.



Led by District Secretary Sathya, a delegation from the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) submitted a memorandum to Theni Member of Parliament Thanga Tamilselvan, urging him to participate in the parliamentary session's debate and advocate for 33% reservation. Office bearers Sarada, Mahalakshmi, Vanitha, Muthulakshmi, Malarkodi, Subapriya, and Prakitha also participated in the event.

Two more arrested in connection with the Thaweeka MLA deal

Chennai

The Thiruvallikeni police in Chennai have already arrested 12 people after registering a case based on a complaint filed by Thaweeka MLA from Uthankarai assembly constituency Ilayaraja, who alleged that he was offered up to Rs. 35 crore to vote against Thaweeka Nilappattu in a resolution against the Assembly Speaker. Former minister and DMK MLA from Coimbatore South constituency Senthil Balaji and his brother Ashok Kumar

were also implicated in the case. A lookout notice has also been issued against Lakshmanaperumal, who is said to have been involved in the recruitment of MLAs from Singapore. Meanwhile, the police have also interrogated a private television editor. In this case, many shocking information has been revealed during the interrogation of the arrested people. Namely, it has been revealed that this conspiracy to overthrow the Thaweeka regime was secretly named 'Me-

ghalaya Project'. It has been revealed that their aim was to buy off 15 Thaweeka MLAs for a large sum of money and disrupt the stability of the regime. Currently, in continuation of this case, the police have interrogated financier Karunanidhi from Korrattur, Saravanan from Saligramam, and Vinoth Venkatesan from Pallikaranai. It is said that Rs. 2.80 crore has been seized from them. It was revealed that they had close links with Nareish from Trichy, who was the mastermind be-

hind the conspiracy, and that the seized money was brought through the 'hawala' method. Following this, the police arrested Karunanidhi and Saravanan. With this, the number of arrests in the case has increased to 14. The cell phones of three people, including Karunanidhi, are currently undergoing cyber analysis. Through this, the police are actively working to gather evidence that anyone else is involved in this conspiracy. Bail petition of 3 dismissed: In this situation, the 3

people in jail, Nareish, Ramesh, and Karthik, filed a petition in the Chennai Principal Sessions Court seeking bail. The petition came up for hearing before Judge S. Karthikeyan in the Chennai Principal Sessions Court. At that time, the police argued, "The case is in its early stages. Many people are still involved in this case. If bail is granted, the investigation will be affected." Accepting this, the judge dismissed the bail applications of the three petitioners.

Violence in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir UN envoy urges investigation

New York

The United Nations has expressed concern over the ongoing violence in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk issued a statement from Geneva the day before yesterday. In it, he said: With elections soon to be held in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the ongoing protests and violence there are worrying. Several people have lost their lives in clashes between members of the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) and



security forces there. The ongoing protests here have caused unrest in the region. Therefore, an impartial investigation into the incidents of deaths of protesters and security forces should be conducted. All deaths related to the unrest should be investigated promptly, fully and impartially. Furthermore,

the arrested JAAC members should be provided with full legal assistance and contact with their families. The joint service rules imposed there should be removed. A meaningful and inclusive political dialogue should be held to resolve the basic problems and grievances of the villagers. He said this.

Death penalty for marrying Bangladeshi women: Embassy warns Chinese

Dhaka

According to the 2020 Chinese census, there are about 17.5 million more men of marriageable age than women. As a result, the trend of them marrying women abroad through illegal brokers is increasing. According to the Chinese Supreme People's Court, 1,546 people were arrested in China for marriage fraud and human trafficking between January 2024 and March 2025. In most cases, Chinese men paid thousands of yuan to marry foreign women and then disappeared within days, while

in some places, foreign women were abducted and forced to marry Chinese men. As a result, Chinese embassies in countries including Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Pakistan and Nepal, in addition to Bangladesh, have issued warnings about marriage fraud. In this context, there have been complaints that many Chinese men are coming to Bangladesh and buying women through middlemen. Following this, the Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh said: According to Bangladeshi law, the most serious crimes in human trafficking

cases are punishable by life imprisonment or even the death penalty. Those involved in this crime will be sentenced to a minimum of 7 years in prison and a fine of about Rs. 3.95 lakh. Furthermore, those who instigate or are complicit in the crime of marriage kidnapping will be punished with imprisonment for 3 to 7 years and a fine of Rs. 15,600. Marriages should be based on true love. Buying women for money can lead to severe financial losses and life-threatening situations later on. This is what the Chinese embassy said.

Andy Burnham becomes Britain's new Prime Minister

London

Britain's Labour Party leader Keir Starmer announced last month that he would resign. Following this, senior party leader Andy Burnham was elected as the leader of Britain's Labour Party. He will then



take office as Prime Minister. He is ex-

pected to take office on Monday (July 20). Andy Burnham, who has previously served as Mayor of Greater Manchester, said: "I will work to drive economic growth, strengthen public services and tackle regional inequalities."

School bus overturns in Uganda 20 children tragically die

Kampala

21 people, including 20 children, tragically died in a primary school bus accident in the East African country of Uganda. The Uganda Police Force said in a statement on its X-site that the bus was returning from an educational trip to Sibi Falls in Kapsorwa District, eastern Uganda, when it crashed last night (July 16). Police said three people and sev-



eral children were injured in the accident and were taken to local hospitals. The bus belonged to King David Junior School, a primary school in the Ugandan capital, Kampala. The police said in

a statement that the driver lost control of the bus, veered off the road, hit a rock and overturned. It said this was preliminary information and an investigation into the cause of the accident was underway.



Minister for Cooperation V. Gandhiraj inspected the Tata Motors manufacturing plant at the SIPCOT complex in Panapakkam, Nemili Taluk, and held consultations with officials and company representatives. He was accompanied by District Collector N. Priya Ravichandran (IAS), Sholinghur MLA Dr. K. Kapil, District Revenue Officer Mrs. Baby Indira, Revenue Divisional Officer Ramesh, SIPCOT Project Officer Maheshwari, and others.

Iran claims to have attacked and damaged US Air Force planes in Jordan

Tehran

Iran claims to have shot down a US Air Force refueling plane and fighter jets. The US military has been carrying out a heavy attack on Iran for the past 6 days after it attacked oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz in violation of the Memorandum of Understanding. The attack on the Iranian city of Bandar Abbas on Sunday destroyed infrastructure including bridges, train stations and power plants. Seven Iranian soldiers were killed in the attack on an Iranian military base. In response, Iran has



launched missile and drone attacks on Gulf countries. Jordan said it had intercepted and destroyed three Iranian missiles in mid-air. In this situation, the Iranian military said in a statement: We launched a missile and drone attack targeting a US military base in Jordan. In this, many US refueling planes and fighter jets were damaged.

The Jordanian people should also target the Americans who are acting against Muslims. We also attacked the US military base in Al-Danf, Syria. The Strait of Hormuz is under the complete control of Iran. As long as the US attack continues, we will not allow any fuel tankers to pass through here. The Iranian military has stated this.



To mark the birthday of the Honorable Thiru N. Anand—General Secretary of the Tamizhaga Vетtri Kazhagam and Minister for Rural Development and Water Resources—an event was organized on behalf of the Palani Assembly constituency to provide lunch to 200 mentally challenged individuals at the Palani Ramakrishna Hostel. Tamizhaga Vетtri Kazhagam functionaries—including Magudeeswaran, J.P.S. Sanjay, Hariharan, Victor, and Sivanappan—along with other party office-bearers, participated in the event and distributed food to the beneficiaries.

All countries should benefit from AI” - UN Secretary-General

Speech at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference

Shanghai

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said that artificial intelligence is the greatest opportunity of the 21st century and has emphasized that its benefits should be made available to all countries. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the World Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Shanghai, Antonio Guterres said, “Artificial intelligence is the greatest opportunity of the 21st century. But it can also become one of the greatest risks.” The technology that will shape the future of humanity must be designed by all of humanity. The governance of artificial intelligence cannot be controlled by a few countries or companies. Every country



needs a place in it. Countries should share their expertise in artificial intelligence and ensure that developing countries have a strong role in shaping the future of this technology. Artificial intelligence has enormous potential to accelerate medical innovation, transform education, strengthen food systems, and create jobs, all of which will help advance the Sustainable Development Goals. A third of humanity still lacks

access to the internet, while computing power, technical expertise, and investment are largely concentrated in a few countries and companies. If these imbalances are not remedied, artificial intelligence will lead to increased inequality and divisions in income, opportunity, and security. To help bridge this gap, more than 20 countries, including China, have already nominated centers for the UN-backed Global Network for Artificial

Intelligence Capacity Development Exchange and Co-operation. Proposals for a global fund for artificial intelligence are due soon. Countries should support both initiatives. To ensure that AI benefits everyone, we need to expand its capabilities in developing countries, establish international safety standards, and make AI more environmentally friendly. Developing countries should have the tools to build AI systems using their

own data, languages, and expertise, while governments should adopt common approaches to testing and space management based on international law. No artificial intelligence system should be given to children before it has been proven safe. “The criterion for determining whether the change brought about by artificial intelligence will reduce or increase inequalities, concentrate power or expand opportunities,” he said.

Final talks to release ships held by Somali pirates

Singapore

Final talks are underway regarding the release of three cargo ships and 44 sailors held by Somali pirates. The oil tankers Honor 25 and Eureka, and the cargo ship Sward were hijacked by Somali pirates in April and May while sailing through the Somali Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The security personnel on board the cargo ship are firing guns to deter the pirates. However, despite this, the pirates are boarding the ship and hijacking it. The blockade of shipping in the Strait of Hormuz has led to an increase in attacks by pirates on cargo ships in the western Indian Ocean. The Department of Shipping said that the countries where the ves-

sels are registered, the vessel owners and the insurance companies are holding confidential talks to secure the release of the 3 hijacked vessels and 44 crew members. To avoid legal complications, the identity of the person receiving the bail is being checked against sanctions imposed by the UN, the US, the UK and the European Union. Although the bail is being paid on a humanitarian basis, the move is in line with international laws on sanctions. It is expected that the three hijacked vessels and 44 sailors will be released soon. According to the Singapore-based ReCap Information Sharing Center, there have been 35 piracy incidents in the Asian region so far this year

3 Indians, including Raghuram Rajan appointed to US Federal Reserve Board

Washington

Three Indian-origin experts, including former Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan, have been appointed to the board of the US central bank, the Federal Reserve. A new reform plan has been introduced in the United States to address the severe inflation that has persisted in the past few years and to completely overhaul the country's monetary policies. To this end, the new chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, Kevin Warsh, announced five new high-level working groups. Three Indians have been appointed to these groups: Raghuram



Rajan, Delhi-born three Indians in American economist Raj Chetty, and Microsoft senior executive Asha Sharma. The US central bank's balance sheet has ballooned to nearly \$9 trillion since the coronavirus pandemic, as the central bank struggles to keep inflation under control. The Fed has formed five committees of 15 of the world's best experts to help it transform its operations and come up with new ideas. The inclusion of

this reform group, along with global luminaries such as former Bank of England Governor Mervyn King, Nobel laureate Thomas Sargent, and former Walmart CEO Doug McMillan, has garnered international attention. Kevin Warsh said that with the recommendations of this committee, the United States will overcome its years of severe inflation challenges and make better policy decisions.