

3 Dead, 5 Critical In Satya Niketan Building Collapse

DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Sunday vowed tough action against the persons responsible for the building collapse at Satya Niketan, Delhi, as the casualty count reached three. Gupta paid a visit to the site of the incident and went through the process of rescue work being carried out by the search teams amidst debris.

Speaking to reporters at the site, Gupta said the immediate focus of the government and the administration was to rescue those still buried under the debris. She said all concerned agencies were

Delhi CM Warns 'No One Will Be Spared'

working continuously at the site and that there would be no shortage of resources during the rescue operation. "The priority right now is to save lives," Gupta said, stressing that the authorities would continue their efforts until the rescue operation was completed. According to the chief minister, the building was relatively old and construction and renovation work was being carried out when the incident occurred. Gupta said that during the work, a pillar



apparently shifted following excavation, which eventually caused the structure to collapse.

The building was being used as a paying guest (PG) accommodation, with students staying inside at the time of the incident.

Gupta made it clear that those found responsible for the collapse would face action. She said the responsibility could extend to the building owner as well as any official found to have neglected their duties.

"Whoever is responsible

for this, whether it is the building owner or an official, will not be spared," she said.

The chief minister added that the administration would first assess the condition of those rescued and focus on saving those still trapped before moving ahead with further action. So far, three people have lost their lives, while five people have been reported to be in critical condition. The rescue teams are working on clearing the debris and rescuing survivors. There

have been no reports about the total number of people stuck in the building collapse as yet. The old building, which is believed to be more than five decades old, was functioning as a PG for students.

The case also raises some issues about the safety and maintenance of old buildings used for student accommodation in the densely populated area of Satya Niketan. According to Gupta, the administration will treat the matter seriously after the rescue mission is over and the causes of the building collapse are known.

DMK stages walkout after being denied permission to respond to Chief Minister's speech

CHENNAI: DMK members staged a walkout in protest after Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar denied them permission to respond to Chief Minister Vijay's speech. When the Legislative Assembly convened this morning, government bills were introduced. Ministers, including Sengottaiyan and Anand, introduced bills pertaining to their respective portfolios. Bills such as the Tamil Nadu Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Second Amendment) Bill, 2026, were introduced and passed via voice vote. This was followed by Chief Minister Vijay's reply speech. During his address, Chief Minister Vijay read out documents concerning the Sarkaria corruption case from the DMK's past tenure. He cited documents stating that Murasoli Maran, son-in-law of the then Chief Minister Karunanidhi, had demanded a 2.5% commission to award the Veeranam drinking water project contract to the Sathya-



narayana Brothers company. Furthermore, Chief Minister Vijay stated that the Enforcement Directorate itself had provided evidence showing that commissions ranging from 7.5% to 10% were collected as party funds during the previous DMK regime. Vijay also noted that Enforcement Directorate documents identified Chief Minister Stalin and Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi among those who directly benefited from these party funds. DMK members vehemently opposed the Chief Minister's remarks. Opposition Leader Udhayanidhi Stalin and others remained standing in protest. However, the Chief Minister continued his spe-

ech. He accused the DMK of allowing "rivers of obscenity and malice" to flow in Tamil Nadu and alleged that they were justifying such conduct. The Chief Minister questioned why we should engage in obscene, slanderous, and toxic politics, urging instead that we adopt only the positive aspects of the politics of the past. He further quoted the words of Kannadasan: "A tongue accustomed to lies, a hand accustomed to taking bribes, and a bag accustomed to stashing cash." The Chief Minister remarked that this epitomizes the DMK. As DMK members continued to create a ruckus, the Leader of the House, Sengottaiyan,

urged that action be taken against them in accordance with the rules of the House. Speaking next, Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar stated that the members were acting with the deliberate intention of obstructing the Chief Minister's speech and that such behavior could not be tolerated. At that juncture, DMK members sat in front of the Speaker's podium and created a disturbance, insisting that the Leader of the Opposition be given an opportunity to respond to the Chief Minister's address. The Speaker declared that the opportunity could not be granted because they had acted with the specific intent of stifling the Chief Minister's speech. Subsequently, the Chief Minister requested permission to speak, which the Speaker granted. However, when DMK members objected to certain remarks he made, the Speaker firmly stated that permission could no longer be granted. Protesting the Speaker's decision, the DMK members staged a walkout.



Reports indicate that the death toll in the Delhi building collapse incident has risen to seven.

So far, 12 people have been rescued alive from the debris. Personnel from the Delhi Police, the Fire Department, and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) are engaged in the debris clearance operations.

"These are the corrupt acts committed by the DMK!"

Chief Minister Vijay speaks vehemently, backed by evidence

CHENNAI: Following the conclusion of the debate on the demands for grants for the Police Department, Chief Minister Vijay delivered his reply today, stating: "In recent times, a river of obscenity and a river of malice have been flowing in Tamil Nadu. Political views may certainly be expressed, but we will not tolerate remarks directed against women.

What need do we have for a brand of politics that relies on slander, vulgarity, and obscenity? The law will take its course if derogatory comments are made about women. A member here speaks of 'breaking bones'—is he an orthopedist? Another claims that those who do not vote for the DMK will meet a wretched end. It is precisely because of such rhetoric that they are sitting in the opposition. They ought to show at least some respect for the people's verdict. They keep harping on about having witnessed the MISA era; I, too, am well aware of the history regarding MISA." "DMK members asked me to open the three files on my desk. Shall we look at a sample from them? I am reading out details sent by the Enforcement Directorate regarding the previous regime. The inquiry commission report has revealed many shocking episodes; the public



needs to be informed about the information contained therein. It would take two days to read it in full, so I will summarize it briefly. Sarkaria Commission (1977): It is alleged that during the DMK regime, Maran demanded a 2.5% commission—amounting to ₹40 lakhs—to award the tender for the Veeranam pipeline project. The report states that a total of ₹25 lakhs was paid as a bribe between 1970 and 1974. The bribes were collected in installments. Commissions were also collected for the *Murasoli building and various other matters. These are the allegations made by the Enforcement Directorate. Karunanidhi misused his position as Chief Minister to award the tender to Sathyanarayana Brothers. If one speaks of these things, they will run away. If evidence is sought, it is available in the library right here; go and take a look. They search for evidence elsewhere while it lies right

beside them. The evidence is right here. The Enforcement Directorate has submitted a 100&page report detailing DMK's corruption regarding party funds; it states that 'party funds' ranging from 7.5% to 10% were collected. I possess the evidence for this. Senthil Balaji, who served as the minister for that department, misused his authority. What a 'great achievement'—that is the DMK for you. IAS officers have also become implicated alongside the minister who controlled TASMAT. The Enforcement Directorate has also made allegations regarding Senthil Balaji's brother. The agency has identified M.K. Stalin and Udhayanidhi Stalin as key figures involved in the collection of these party funds. If opening files from just two departments reveals this situation, imagine what monsters would be exposed if a few more files were opened..." "Will it happen? They claim that where the DMK exists, there

are no wrongdoings. I say this: where the DMK is, there will be wrongdoings; and where there are wrongdoings, the DMK will be found. You asked for proof—is this enough? There are two categories: on one side, those who commit wrongs and get caught; on the other, those who commit wrongs but manage to act as if they haven't. The DMK belongs to the second category. Mention the word 'corruption,' and DMK members immediately stand up in protest. But can they truly claim they haven't engaged in corruption? During the previous DMK regime, law and order deteriorated, and drug abuse was rampant.

Before speaking about law and order, it would be wise to look in the mirror and reflect on what happened during your own administration. Anna in 1967, MGR in 1977, NTR in 1983, and Vijay in 2026—nature and the Divine are on our side. They will certainly—most certainly—lose in the face of love. I have not come here for a seat of power or for authority; I have come solely to do good for the people and to repay the debt of gratitude I owe them." Thus, Chief Minister Vijay leveled a series of allegations regarding the DMK's corruption.

The work of packing and dispatching the 'Thai Maman Gold Ring Scheme' items has commenced



CHENNAI: As the government led by the Tamilzhaga Vетtri Kazhagam prepares to launch the 'Thai Maman Thanga Mothiram Thittam' (Maternal Uncle's Gold Ring Scheme), the jewelry firms awarded the contract have begun dispatching the items from their outlets.

ent hospitals. Consequently, the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation is set to distribute one&gram gold rings to approximately 4.41 lakh babies annually. The scheme is scheduled to launch on September 15. To store the gold rings prepared for this initiative, the

Tamil Nadu government has ordered the establishment of secure vaults equipped with modern features at 107 centers across the state. A budget allocation of ₹2,560 crore has been made for this project. The jewelry companies that secured the contract have now started dispatching the goods from their stores. The Chairman and Managing Director of the Joyalukkas Group stated: "Joyalukkas has been entrusted with the responsibility of manufacturing and supplying 89,955 rings in the first of four phases. These

rings are packed in bags designed exclusively for this scheme, clearly bearing the name 'Thai Maman Thanga Mothiram Thittam.' "The packing and dispatch operations have commenced at our dedicated centers in Chennai and Coimbatore. From a commercial standpoint, the government pays for the gold at the prevailing market rate; meanwhile, the manufacturing, hallmarking (quality certification), secure packaging, and distribution of the rings are our responsibility," he added.

Today horoscope



Mental confusion will clear, and happiness will prevail in the family. There will be a positive change in your children's behavior. Business competition will decrease; do not dismiss the advice of your partners. You will find peace at work. Avoid making enemies.

Do not make hasty decisions; act with composure in all matters. It is advisable to curb extravagant spending. You will renovate and expand your ancestral home. Competition in business is likely. Exercise caution in your speech at the workplace.



Your respect and standing among relatives will increase. There is a possibility of acquiring paternal property. Older siblings will provide financial assistance. Vehicle-related issues will be resolved. You will expand your business. You will receive appreciation from superiors at work. Send feedback



You will act energetically to keep your promises. You will spend generously on those close to your heart. Your physical health will be satisfactory. Business will pick up momentum. At the workplace, it is best to focus solely on your own tasks.



You will receive pleasant news. Clarity will emerge, dispelling any confusion. Your respect and standing among maternal relatives will increase. There is a possibility of meeting prominent figures in connection with your business. Workload at the office will decrease.



You will make important decisions after consulting with your family. You will benefit from your siblings. You will settle a portion of an old debt. Your career will flourish. Business will pick up, and you will attract customers by employing new strategies.



It is advisable to be frugal. Avoid arguments within the family. You may face some affectionate yet bothersome interference from relatives. Do not make enemies at the workplace. Competition in business will increase; give importance to the views of new partners.



You will act according to the situation. You will get introduced to prominent people. An auspicious family event that was previously postponed will now be arranged. You will receive the expected loan assistance. There will be peace at the workplace, and you will expand your business.



The series of expenses you have been facing will now decrease. You will successfully complete even challenging tasks. You will seek the help of influential people for business matters. Superiors at work will offer advice, and colleagues will respect you.



You will resolve certain issues by acting with foresight. Spouses should adopt a spirit of compromise. Children will behave affectionately. Business will flourish. Important responsibilities will be entrusted to you at the workplace.



You will resolve an old problem by thinking from a new perspective. Differences of opinion with your mother will be resolved. You will manage financial shortages effectively. Competition in business will subside. You will be recommended for a new position at work, bringing increased responsibilities.



The arrival of guests will bring liveliness to your home. Siblings will share your workload. People in positions of authority will offer assistance. You will find a new business partner. You will have the opportunity to meet prominent figures in connection with your work.



Indonesia's Krakatoa Volcano Eruption 6 Airports Closed; Over 300 Flights Affected



JAKARTA: Following the eruption of Indonesia's Anak Krakatoa volcano, six airports have been closed, and the operations of more than 300 flights have been disrupted. Operations at six airports, including the capital Jakarta, were temporarily suspended yesterday. After volcanic ash spread through the airspace, Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport temporarily halted services starting at 5:30 AM local time. Consequently, approximately 22,800 passengers were affected in a single day. Flights to international cities such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Sydney, Amsterdam, Seoul, Doha, and Kuala Lumpur, as well as domestic flights to cities like Bali and Surabaya, were cancelled. Some flights were diverted to other locations. Passengers waited in long queues at the airports to claim refunds and retrieve their luggage. Following the volcanic eruption, two large ash clouds have been detected via satellite imagery. One of these ash clouds rose to a height of approximately 20,000 feet (6,100 meters), affecting Jakarta and its surrounding areas. Another large ash cloud rose to an altitude exceeding 50,000 feet (15,200 meters) and is spreading over the Sunda Strait and parts of the Indian Ocean.

Drug & free India to be realized by 2029: Amit Shah asserts



PANAJI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has stated that a drug-free India will be realized by the year 2029. Speaking to reporters in Panaji, Goa, yesterday, he said: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a goal to build a developed India by 2047. Creating a drug-free India is essential for this objective. Under Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's guidance, we have successfully eradicated Naxal extremism across the country. Specifically, terrorism has been suppressed in Kashmir, and Left-wing extremism has been eliminated in the Northeastern states. Naxal and Maoist extremism have been wiped out in various other states as well. Along the Maoist corridor stretching from Tirupati to Pashupati, a large number of extremists have laid down their arms and surrendered to security forces. Just as we eliminated Naxal extremism, we will eradicate drug abuse across the nation. A drug-free India will be realized within

the next three years—by 2029. The Central Government has formulated various schemes to achieve this.

One hundred international groups are involved in drug trafficking across various Indian states; all such illicit groups will be eliminated. One hundred individuals implicated in drug trafficking cases are currently hiding abroad. They will all be brought back to India and made to face justice. Prior to 2014, measures taken against drug trafficking were limited in scope; however, since the BJP government assumed office at the Centre, massive operations against drug trafficking have been undertaken.

A new unit named the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) has been established and is operational across all states and Union Territories. Furthermore, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is being strengthened; notably, the number of officers and staff within the organization has been significantly increased. More than 1,400 officers from central and states security forces are working in collaboration with Interpol, the international police organization. This initiative will intensify anti-drug operations. Treatment and counseling are being provided to rescue young people struggling with drug addiction; this is what he stated.

5 Dead After Amazon Cargo Plane Barrelled Off Runway at Miami Airport

MIAMI: An Amazon cargo plane barrelled off a runway at Miami International Airport on Sunday, killing at least five people as it struck vehicles and burst into flames, authorities said.

The aircraft overran the runway around 2 pm after arriving from San Juan, Puerto Rico. Five people were killed, three critically injured and two others hospitalised with less severe injuries, Miami-Dade County officials told a news conference.

Miami officials said Sunday afternoon that it was too soon to determine whether the people who died were on board the plane or in the vehicles the plane hit. The crash, which sent thick black smoke billowing into the sky, trapped the pilot and copilot in the cockpit and



some occupants in cars, said Miami-Dade Rescue Fire Chief Ray Jadallah. The agency said another person was trapped under a vehicle. It also halted flights at the busy travel hub for much of the afternoon. Fire crews were still dealing with a fuel leak on the plane several hours after the crash, Jadallah said. The Prime Air plane came to rest beside a roadway near two semi-trucks, images from the scene showed. The aircraft appeared to be resting on its belly and was largely intact despite the fire. The flight had been operated by 21 Air, a cargo carrier based in North Carolina. The 32-year-old Boeing 767 was originally built to carry passengers and flew for several airlines for more than two decades before being converted to a cargo plane in 2015, according to flight-tracking site Flightradar24. About 250 flights were delayed at the airport late afternoon Sunday, according to FlightAware, a website that tracks flight disruptions. The National Transportation Safety Board said it is sending a team to Miami led by Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy to investigate.

Amazon said in a statement that it would cooperate with any investigation. "We're heartbroken to learn that five people lost their lives in today's incident at Miami International Airport," the company said. "Our deepest sympathies go out to the families, loved ones, and all those affected by this devastating loss."

Jackson Lee, who runs an electronics shop near the crash site, went outside with four colleagues after the crash and saw smoke rising near the airport's fences, Lee said. "We hear planes taking off and landing every five minutes. I thought I'd got used to it," Lee said.

"I never thought it could come this close to us."

12 Die After Consuming Illicit Liquor in Madhya Pradesh CM Orders Strict Action



BHOPAL: Twelve people tragically lost their lives after consuming illicit liquor in Madhya Pradesh. Several others are undergoing treatment and remain in critical condition. The night before last, several men from Baraj village in the Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh purchased and consumed illicit liquor sold in the area. Subsequently, they began suffering from symptoms such as nausea and vomiting.

Their families immediately rushed them to the Banda

Civil Hospital. Similarly, many individuals from two neighboring villages were also admitted to the same hospital with the same symptoms.

They were later referred to Bundelkhand Medical College and the Sagar District Hospital for advanced treatment. Despite receiving intensive medical care, 12 of them succumbed to the effects. Many others remain in critical condition, raising concerns that the death toll could rise further. Speaking

on the matter, Dr. Devesh Batharia, Chief Health Officer at Sagar Hospital, said, "Twelve people who consumed illicit liquor have lost their lives. We have dispatched teams comprising doctors and nurses to the affected villages. Individuals whose health has been compromised are urged to consult a doctor if they have consumed any type of liquor within the last 24 to 48 hours."

State Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has announced that a judicial inquiry has been ordered into the incident. He stated, "I have instructed officials to take immediate action, enforce stringent measures, and conduct a thorough investigation regarding the illicit liquor issue. Our government will never tolerate such incidents."



Continuous rainfall in Bihar has caused the Punpun River—a tributary of the Ganges—to flood. The floodwaters have crossed the danger mark, rising high enough to touch the railway bridge built across the river. A passenger train is seen crossing the bridge. Location: Patna.

september 7 Colombia 2026

Colombian Woman Buys Two Houses by Selling Neighbors' Secrets Armenia

MIRIAM, a 67-year-old woman from Armenia in Colombia's Quindío department, has turned the collection and sale of secrets from neighboring households into a business. She has purchased two houses using the income generated from this activity. She spends her days sitting outside her home, keenly observing her neighbors' conversations. To verify the authenticity of the information she gathers, she maintains a private archive at home containing photographs and notes. She sells juicy local details—such as accounts of extramarital affairs and family disputes—to interested parties for a fee; on one occasion, she charged approximately 700,000 Colombian pesos (roughly 21,073) to keep a person's secret. Miriam states that this unusual profession not only helps cover her daily expenses but also enabled her to purchase two houses. She showed her audience a large cash box filled with the currency she earned by peddling gossip. Although there was initial opposition to her actions, Miriam—known as the 'Queen of Gossip'—continues to enjoy great success in this field, thanks to her years of experience and solid evidence.



Consecration Ceremony: Mounted police deployed for security at Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple.

Phase 3 of Deep Sea Excavation at Poompuhar Begins Minister Rajmohan Conducts Scuba Diving Survey

MAYILADUTHURAI: Minister for School Education and Archaeology, Rajmohan, inaugurated the third phase of deep-sea excavation work at Poompuhar yesterday by conducting a scuba dive. To uncover the antiquity of ancient Tamil civilization, the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department—with the assistance of the Indian Maritime University—had previously conducted marine excavations in two phases during March 2025 and March 2026 off the coast of Poompuhar in Mayiladuthurai district.

During those efforts, structures belonging to the submerged ancient city of Poompuhar—such as buildings, perimeter walls, and roads—as well as pottery shards and bricks were discovered; a 17th-century ship was also identified. Against this backdrop, and in accordance with the Tamil Nadu government's directive, the third phase of excavation work commenced yesterday in the deep-sea area, located 6 km off the Poompuhar coast. Tamil Nadu Minister for School Education and Archaeology, Rajmohan, and the Director of the Archaeology Department, Jayaseelan, inaugurated the third phase of underwater excavations by diving into the deep sea using scuba gear; they personally inspected and surveyed the site. Subsequently, a 25-member



team—led by marine research consultant Professor Rajan and comprising Archaeology Department Joint Director Yatheeshkumar, retired Joint Director Sivanandam, official Vasanthakumar, and scuba divers—ventured into the sea aboard a motorized boat and two fiber boats. Equipped with state-of-the-art diving gear and underwater cameras, they conducted further explorations. Later, speaking to reporters at the Poompuhar harbor, Minister Rajmohan stated that Poompuhar holds a unique place in history as a treasure trove of art and culture.

He noted that pottery shards used by Tamils as well as those of foreign origin were discovered during the excavation. The presence of pottery from various nations suggests that Poompuhar was a major hub of trade, culture, and art—a city of immense historical significance. Underwater construction walls and ring wells have been discovered. Evidence confirming that Tamils lived and conducted

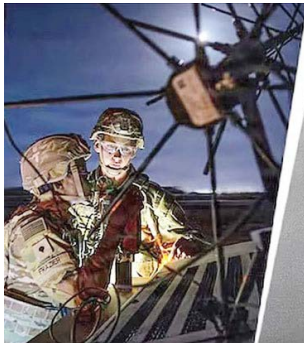
trade here for millennia has been found. Marine archaeological excavations will continue at Poompuhar. The truth that Tamils were the ones who taught civilization to the world will be revealed. We are on the verge of proving that the point where the Indus Valley civilization left off and the point where Sangam literature began are one and the same. He stated that Poompuhar would shine on the global stage. Furthermore, the Minister stated, "Regarding the issue of paddy sacks getting wet in the rain, we will speak to the concerned officials and take swift action."

The demands of temporary teachers will be met. Private schools must transparently announce their fee structures. Steps will be taken to form a committee headed by a retired judge to monitor this." TVK District Secretary Gopinath and other party functionaries were present. The inspection of the Tharangambadi area was cancelled because the Minister became exhausted after a boat ride at sea.



The National Eye Donation Fortnight is observed annually from August 25 to September 8. To mark this occasion, an eye donation awareness rally was held yesterday at Elliot's Beach in Besant Nagar, Chennai, organized by Rajan Eye Care Hospital (T. Nagar), Rotary Rajan Eye Bank, and the Rotary Club of Madras (T. Nagar). Health Minister Arunraj flagged off the rally. Many notable figures participated in the event, including Mohan Rajan (Chairman and Medical Director, Rajan Eye Care Hospital), Sujatha Mohan (Director, Rotary Rajan Eye Bank), Sriram Duvvuri (Rotary District Governor), and actors Shanthanu and Keerthi Shanthanu.

US Military Releases Video of Attack on Iranian Ships



sunken on the seabed, and the "Khaylo" is joining them. We thank the US troops who carried out this precise strike." In a related statement released yesterday, the Iranian military said, "We are delivering a fitting response to US transgressions. We have attacked three of that nation's warships and three oil tankers linked to the US." Furthermore, Iranian military sources reported the destruction of an unmanned US drone boat that had entered the Strait of Hormuz region. A special session of the Iranian parliament was held yesterday, during which Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf stated, "Countries acting against Iran's interests will face a fitting retaliation. Our counterattacks will be swift." He has stated that this attack is extremely severe and causes intense pain.

DELHI: The five-storey building collapse in Satya Niketan, near Delhi University's South Campus, that killed six students has once again exposed a problem that extends far beyond one building or one neighbourhood: India's rapidly expanding, poorly regulated paying guest (PG) accommodations. Satya Niketan has evolved from a largely residential colony into one of Delhi's biggest student accommodation hubs. With several Delhi University colleges nearby, easy access to the metro and Ring Road, and far fewer hostel seats than the number of students seeking accommodation, the neighbourhood has become a lucrative market for PG operators. But in the narrow lanes behind the main roads, the housing boom has often come at the cost of safety. Large residential houses have been divided into tiny rooms, with beds packed tightly together and common spaces converted into additional accommodation. In several smaller lanes, buildings originally designed for families now function as informal hostels, housing students, migrant workers, gig

workers and office-goers. Parking is often non-existent, ventilation is poor and emergency exits and evacuation routes are absent. This is not only a Delhi problem. The same pattern is visible across the country & in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai and other major employment and education hubs, where the demand for affordable accommodation has fuelled a booming PG economy. The problem is not that every PG is unsafe. Many operators maintain decent standards and provide students with a relatively affordable and convenient place to stay. The concern is the mushrooming of unregulated PGs in congested residential pockets, where enforcement and basic safety standards often struggle to keep pace with demand. The economics are straightforward. There are far more students and young workers looking for affordable accommodation available near employment and educational hubs. That scarcity has created what some residents describe as a PG "mafia" & a loosely organised, money-driven accommodation ecosystem in

which landlords and operators can command high rents because they know that another tenant is waiting. A room meant for two can become a room for four. A common area can become a bedroom. A terrace or basement can be pressed into service. And alterations carried out to accommodate more tenants can place additional stress on buildings that were never designed for such use. Preliminary reports in the Satya Niketan collapse indicate that construction work was under way in the basement to expand the building's capacity. That raises an even more fundamental question: how closely are such alterations and conversions being monitored? The safety concerns go beyond structural alterations. Many PGs operating inside narrow residential lanes have virtually no parking space. In an emergency, this can become a serious problem for fire engines, ambulances and rescue teams. Emergency exits are another concern. In densely packed properties, staircases can be narrow, corridors cluttered and escape routes poorly marked. When dozens of people are sleeping inside a building that was originally designed as a family residence, even a relatively small fire or structural failure can quickly become a mass-casualty event. Yet inspections often happen after something goes wrong.

The removal of PG signboards across parts of Satya Niketan after the collapse illustrates the familiar pattern: enforcement becomes visible after a tragedy, rather than before it. What is happening in Delhi is not unique. Across major urban centres such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Mumbai, residential neighbourhoods close to universities, IT corridors, offices and transport hubs have increasingly been converted into informal accommodation clusters. The tenants have changed as India's urban economy has changed. Students share rooms close to colleges. Gig workers look for inexpensive accommodation close to their delivery zones. Young employees choose PGs because they cannot afford increasingly expensive rents and deposits. Migrants arriving in a city for their first job often find a PG easier than navigating the formal rental market. For them, the PG is not a luxury. It is often the only practical option. That dependence gives operators enormous bargaining power. When every extra bed becomes a business opportunity, the fundamental problem is the absence of a uniform, enforceable safety framework that keeps pace with the growth of this informal accommodation market. A property can effectively become a hostel without necessarily being designed, approved or operated like

one. The result is a dangerous mismatch: commercial-scale occupancy inside residential-scale buildings. The more beds a property can accommodate, the more money it can make. But the building's staircase does not become wider, its exits do not multiply and the road outside does not become broader simply because the number of occupants has increased. That is where the real danger lies. The bigger question is simple: who allowed these buildings to operate this way, and where was the local administration? Municipal corporations, local authorities, police and elected representatives cannot claim ignorance of these neighbourhoods. They see the overcrowded buildings, unauthorised commercial conversions, blocked lanes and properties housing far more people than they were designed to accommodate. Yet such violations are often allowed to continue for years. Bribery, political patronage and police protection have long surrounded unregulated local businesses. Where politicians, police and officials look the other way in return for money, the pattern is depressingly familiar: authorities wake up only after a collapse, fire or death. Inspections are ordered, signboards are removed and enforcement drives are announced. But once the headlines fade, the same system often returns & until the next tragedy.

International Recognition for Bittu Tabahi, Who Cleaned the River Single Handedly

Invited to Work with a Dutch Environmental Organization



and after" photos of the cleanup work on social media, they went viral, garnering widespread support for his efforts. Amidst this, Boyan Slat, the CEO of the Netherlands-based environmental organization "The Ocean Cleanup," invited Bittu via Instagram to join and work with the organization. It is noteworthy that "The Ocean Cleanup" is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing and scaling advanced technologies to remove plastic pollution from the world's oceans and rivers.

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly today that 2,546 new posts have been created for the 'Singappenn' (Lioness) Special Task Force. During the Assembly session held over the past 18 days, a key event took place on the 3rd (Thursday): the debate on the demands for grants for the Police, Fire, and Rescue Services Department, which falls under the purview of Chief Minister Joseph Vijay. The debate became heated as the Leader of the Opposition, Udhayanidhi Stalin, and AIA-DMK Legislature Party Leader Edappadi Palaniswami, among others, participated and spoke. While Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin was speaking, Chief Minister Joseph Vijay rose and said, "I will provide clear explanations for all the questions raised by the members on Monday (today). Even when I am not physically present here, I receive information about who is asking what questions. I will give clear answers to everything. I now seek an assurance from them on your behalf: that none of them (DMK members) should get up and walk out when I do so," and subsequently left the Assembly. Following a three-day break, the Tamil Nadu Legislative

Assembly reconvened today (Monday) at 9:30 AM. Chief Minister Joseph Vijay began his speech—responding to the debate on the demands for grants for the Police, Fire, and Rescue Services Department—amidst applause from TVK MLAs. Speaking on the occasion, he said: "The police force forms the foundation for the state's growth and peace; progress is rooted in the state's tranquility. Industrial investments flow in only when law and order are well-maintained. The police must act as an adversary to those who disregard the law. When a government employee is arrested on corruption charges and their name appears in newspapers and on television, the news affects not only the individual but their family members as well. Therefore, government employees must uphold integrity in their duties and ensure that neither they nor their families face any disrepute. At the same time, anti-corruption agencies have been instructed to carry out their statutory duties without any hesitation. The TVK government will make no compromises in its actions against corruption. Because the drug culture was overlooked by previous administrations, it has now taken



deep root and expanded; this has become a major social issue for Tamil Nadu. This government is firmly committed to putting an end to the drug culture. A dedicated anti-narcotics squad has been established for this purpose. So far, we have merely lopped off a few branches of the 'drug tree'; we must eradicate it entirely, right down to the roots. This is not a task that can be completed in a single day or even in a hundred days. Action is being taken through 65 anti-narcotics squads operating across the state's 37 districts and 9 city corporations. Under anti-narcotics laws, 3,263 cases have been registered, and 4,350 individuals have been arrested. Authorities have seized 4,846 kilograms of ganja and 116,159 narcotic pills. The primary objective of this government is to disman-

tle drug trafficking and sales networks while liberating our youth from the grip of addiction. Members of the Legislative Assembly have expressed concern regarding crimes against women and girls. Two female leaders..." The TVK government is the only administration guided by clear principles. It is a government that views women as mothers, elder sisters, younger sisters, and friends. Creating an environment where women can live safely and without fear is a paramount responsibility of this government. This government aims not only to take action after a crime has occurred but also to prevent crimes before they happen. To this end, the 'Singappenn' (Lioness) Special Task Force, focused on the safety of women and children, has been established, and 2,546 new posts have been created. Furthermore, they have been provided with 327 four-wheelers, 109 two-wheelers, and modern equipment worth ₹357 crore. Through these measures, 268 criminal cases have been registered. A total of 125 missing women and children have been safely rescued and reunited with their families. Additionally, 37,150 awareness programs have been conducted, and 21 child marriages have been prevented. Opposition members raised the issue of custodial deaths during their speeches. A custodial death is not merely a loss for a family; it is a critical issue that affects public trust in the police force. Therefore, instructions have been issued to conduct a transparent, impartial, and lawful inquiry into the circumstances surrounding any death in custody. In accordance with the guidelines of the National Human Rights Commission, information regarding custodial deaths is reported in a timely manner, and the necessary medical autopsies and magisterial inquiries are being conducted systematically. "If a police officer commits a wrongdoing, no protection is granted simply because they belong to the police force; the law discharges its duty impartially, regardless of who the offender is. I firmly state that measures such as CCTV surveillance, technical monitoring, and accountability mechanisms will be strengthened with the aim of completely preventing custodial deaths." He stated this.

Woman in live-in relationship beaten to death – Killer thrashed with lathi

BHANAGAR: A stir has been caused in Gujarat after police officers ruled after blows on a man accused of beating his live-in partner to death, while he was reenacting the crime at a bus station. Faisal (20), a native of Bhavnagar, Gujarat, has pending cases against him involving theft and violence.



He had been living with a woman named Kajalben Paraiya (40) for the past few years. On the afternoon of September 3, while Kajalben was standing with her friend Ravi at the Bhavnagar bus station, an argument broke out when Faisal arrived at the scene. Enraged by a dispute involving suspicions of an illicit affair and alcohol consumption, Faisal brutally attacked Ka-

jalben. Her friend Ravi, who attempted to intervene, was also assaulted. The brutal attack, which lasted several minutes while onlookers watched, was captured on CCTV cameras installed at the bus station. Kajalben, who had been hospitalized for treatment following her injuries, passed away on September 4 as the medical care proved ineffective. Acting on a complaint filed by Kajalben's

mother, the Nilambag police registered a murder case against Faisal and arrested him. To examine the manner in which the murder was committed, the police had the crime scene reenacted. During this process, police personnel surrounded Faisal in a crowded public area and rained blows on him with lathis. A video capturing this incident is going viral on social media.

Rahul Gandhi condemns use of firearms against protesting students in Bihar

NEW DELHI: A "bandh" (shutdown) was observed in Bihar on July 25 with the support of opposition parties to protest against the NEET question paper leak, examination irregularities, and unemployment. Students injured in police firing during a protest in

Siwan district traveled to Delhi last Thursday and met Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, at his residence. He listened to their accounts of the injustice they faced and offered them words of comfort. Rahul subsequently shared

photos and videos of the meeting on his social media. In the accompanying post, he wrote: "A student's leg bone was shattered by police AK&47 fire, destroying his dream of joining the Army. Bullets pierced the shoulders of two other students. Tearfully, the students expressed that their

futures had been ruined. Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary answer for the trauma and shattered dreams of these students?" He has condemned the use of "batons and bullets" against students raising legitimate



demands and has urged that an independent inquiry be conducted.



The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush and Health & Family Welfare, Shri Prataprao Jadhav addressing a Curtain Raiser Press Conference for 11th Ayurveda Day at National Media Centre, in New Delhi on September 07, 2026.

Youth Dies After Collision with Car Carrying Minister Jagadeeswari's Family

KATTANKULATHUR: A young man lost his life after a car belonging to Social Welfare Minister Jagadeeswari collided with his two-wheeler on the GST Road in Kattankulathur.

Police stated that the accident occurred while the Minister's three daughters were traveling by car from Rajapalayam to Chennai. The deceased has been identified as Iraianbu (26), son of Sivakumar, a resident of Chelliamman Koil Street in Kattankulathur, Chengalpattu district. He was riding his Honda Dio two-wheeler towards the Kattankulathur junction around midnight. It is reported that a Maruti Ertiga car, traveling from Rajapal-



ayam to Chennai, collided with his two-wheeler near the Kattankulathur junction. Iraianbu was thrown from his vehicle and sustained severe injuries. Police stated that the accident took place around 12:30 AM today. He died at the scene. Upon receiving the information, the police arrived, recovered Iraianbu's body,

and sent it to the Chengalpattu Government Hospital for a post-mortem examination. The Maruti Ertiga car involved in the accident was driven by Chinna Agni (28), a member of the Chennai City Police Armed Reserve. Police sources stated that he joined the force in 2017 and is currently serving in the Pudukottai Armed Reserve unit. The Tambaram Traffic Investigation Wing police have registered a case based on a complaint filed by the family of the deceased, Iraianbu.

The police stated that a case has been registered under Sections 286 and 106(1) of the BNS (Crime No. 511/T1/2026). They are investigating whether there are surveillance

cameras at the accident site, the speed of the car at the time of the incident, and whether driver negligence caused the accident.

Additionally, the police are gathering details regarding the path taken by the car and the direction in which the two-wheeler was traveling prior to the crash. The fact that a fatality occurred in an accident involving a car—reportedly carrying the Minister's family and driven by an Armed Reserve police constable—has caused a stir in the Kattankulathur area. Police stated that definitive information regarding the cause of the accident would only be known after a thorough investigation.

Army Recruitment Rally Announced for 11 Districts, Including Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Dindigul, and Theni

KRISHNAGIRI: An Indian Army recruitment rally for the 'Agniveer' category will commence in Krishnagiri on the 25th of this month for candidates from 11 districts, including Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Tiruppur, Dindigul, Theni, and Erode. This rally is being conducted to recruit candidates—who have already qualified in the online Common Entrance Exam—into various roles, including Agniveer Clerk, General Duty (All Arms), Technical, Tradesman, and Women Military Police. A press release issued by the Army Recruitment Office, Coimbatore, states: "An Army recruitment rally is scheduled to be held at the District Sports Stadium in Krishnagiri from the 25th of this month to October 7th.



This rally is being conducted to recruit candidates—who have already qualified in the online Common Entrance Exam—into categories such as Agniveer Clerk, General Duty (All Arms), Technical, Tradesman, and Women Military Police. Candidates from 11 districts—Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Salem, Erode, Krishnagiri, Dindigul, Namakkal, Nilgiris, Madurai, Theni, and Dharmapuri—are eligible

to participate. Candidates must mandatorily bring all documents specified in the recruitment rally notification available on the website www.joinindianarmy.nic.in. The required formats for these documents are also provided within the notification itself. Any candidate arriving without complete documentation or with incorrect forms—specifically those bringing an incorrect affidavit—will

not be permitted to participate in the rally. Admit cards for all Agniveer categories have already been issued. Candidates may contact the Army Recruitment Office in Coimbatore for any doubts, clarifications, or assistance. The Army recruitment process is fully automated and conducted in a fair and transparent manner. Candidates are advised to be cautious of touts and fraudsters who claim they can ensure selection or secure recruitment into the Army. Only hard work and proper preparation will ensure selection based on merit and ranking. Touts and agents play no role in Army recruitment; therefore, candidates should not fall prey to the false promises made by such individuals or agencies."

Insured for ₹703 Crore... Lord Vinayaka Shines in 66 kg of Gold and 335 kg of Silver

MUMBAI: Mumbai's wealthiest GSB Mandal Vinayaka idol—adorned and gleaming with 66 kg of gold and 335 kg of silver ornaments—has been insured for ₹703 crore. The Kings Circle GSB Seva Mandal, regarded as Mumbai's richest Vinayaka Mandal, is gearing up to celebrate its 72nd annual Vinayaka Chaturthi festival with great grandeur over five days, from the 14th to the 18th of this month. During the festival, the 'Maha Ganapati' idol installed here will be adorned with over 66 kg of gold jewelry and 335 kg of silver ornaments offered by devotees. While the Mandal had secured insurance worth ₹474 crore last year, the



coverage amount has been raised to ₹703.27 crore this year to enhance security and facilities. This insurance covers the installed Vinayaka idol, the gold and silver ornaments adorning it, and the precious gemstones. Additionally, insurance coverage has been arranged

for the lives of the devotees and volunteers attending the festival. Speaking on this, the Mandal's spokesperson, Amit Pai, said, "As a responsible organization, it is our duty to ensure the safety of every devotee attending the festival and to protect their belongings.

That is why we have opted for this mega insurance plan." The first look of this Vinayaka idol—crafted entirely from eco-friendly materials—will be unveiled to devotees for the first time on the 12th at 8 PM during an event titled 'Virat Darshan'. During this five-day festival, *Annadhanam* (free food) will be provided to over 40,000 devotees daily, and *Prasadam* will be distributed to more than 200,000 people in total. Furthermore, festival organizers have announced that, starting this year, digital receipts will be issued instead of traditional paper receipts to reduce paper usage and promote environmental awareness.

Isolated criminal incidents do not amount to a 'breakdown of law and order in the state'

CM Vijay's reply in the Assembly

CHNNAI: "The mere occurrence of a crime cannot be equated to a breakdown of law and order across the entire state. There is a distinction between isolated criminal incidents and the overall law and order situation of the state," stated Chief Minister Vijay in the Legislative Assembly. Chief Minister Vijay responded today (Sept. 7) in the Assembly to questions regarding law and order raised by MLAs from various parties during the debate on demands for grants for the Police and Fire and Rescue Services departments. The Assembly convened at 9:30 AM today. Amidst the proceedings, opposition party members created a significant commotion, insisting on a discussion regarding law and order. Government bills were passed while they continued to raise their voices on the issue. Following this, Chief Minister Vijay began his reply.

"A state's progress is not determined solely by the construction of roads or the establishment of industries. True progress lies in how safely and fearlessly every citizen of the state lives. When law and order are well-maintained, industrial investments flow in, new job opportunities are created, and the tourism sec-



tor flourishes. Consequently, women and the youth can freely participate in education and employment. Thus, the police force is not merely an agency for arresting criminals; it is a pivotal institution that serves as the foundation for the state's economic growth, social harmony, investment climate, and public trust. For those who respect and abide by the law, the police force acts as a trusted friend; conversely, for those who violate the law, it must serve as a formidable adversary that instills fear.

A police officer must embody both these qualities. This government accords the highest priority to creating an environment where police personnel can perform their duties honestly—maintaining law and order—without fear or interference. I have emphasized that there must be no undue interference from any quarter—be it the Chief Minister, ministers, or

government officials—in the lawful actions of the police. This government's stance is clear: action must be taken against offenders regardless of their identity or political affiliation, for everyone is equal before the law. Many members of this House have expressed their views regarding the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu.

Even when such views are critical of the government, we treat these concerns about public safety with the utmost responsibility. We will examine the facts and accept valid points without any bias or discrimination. In Tamil tradition, good governance and justice hold a place of supreme importance. Regarding the administration of law and order, the great Thiruvalluvar articulated long ago that proper governance entails delivering justice impartially—after thorough examination and without favoring any party. Former Chief Minister Kamaraj cham-

pioned honest administration, former Chief Minister Anna advocated for a pro-people government, and former Chief Minister MGR stood for the upliftment of the poor and downtrodden... He emphasized the welfare of the people. When the ideas of these figures are viewed collectively, it becomes clear that the police force should not merely represent authority; rather, it should stand as a symbol of public safety and trust. There needs to be a shift in perspective regarding crime. The mere occurrence of a crime does not imply that the law and order situation of the entire state has collapsed; there is a distinction between isolated criminal incidents and the overall state of law and order. "Regarding the use of obscene language towards women—lately, a 'river of obscenity' and a 'river of vitriol' have been flowing in Tamil Nadu. The public is witnessing this. People are observing the use of double and even triple entendres when speaking about women. From now on, if anyone speaks crudely about women, the law will take its course. Before engaging in such speech, one should think of the women in one's own family," Chief Minister Vijay warned.

An opportunity missed for 20 years... India returns to the U & 20 Asian Cup

TASHKENT: The Indian U&20 team has qualified for the main round of the U&20 Asian Cup football tournament after a gap of 20 years. India faced Bangladesh in the final match of the Group B qualifiers held yesterday in Tashkent. Entering the match with a must-win objective, the Indian team played impressively from the very beginning. Danny Meitei Laishram put India in the lead by scoring a goal in the 25th minute. In the 60th minute, Vishal Yadav scored a brilliant goal to extend India's lead to 2&0. Subsequently, substitute Mohammed Arbash scored



in the 79th minute, securing a 3&0 victory for India. With this win against Bangladesh, India accumulated 6 points from 3 matches; however, their qualification depended on the outcome of another match.

In the subsequent match between Syria and Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan defeated Syria 3&0. This result confirmed India's qualification. Uzbekistan topped Group B with 9 points, while India finished second

with 6 points, and Syria took third place. Bangladesh finished last without securing any points. With the seven best second-placed teams across eight groups advancing to the Asian Cup, India secured its spot as one of those seven teams. India last played in the U&20 Asian Cup in 2006; after failing to qualify for the subsequent 20 years, that long wait has now come to an end. The U&20 Asian Cup is scheduled to be held in China from March 24 to April 10, 2027.

If I were to openly reveal who confined the two IUML MLAs in the hotel and kept guard over them

Shahjahan's remarks



CHENNAI: IUML Minister Shahjahan stated that if he were to publicly disclose the identities of those who confined him and his fellow IUML MLA in a hotel—while attempting to lure them with offers of crores of rupees—it would make it impossible for anyone to continue in politics. He also refuted claims by DMK members that Vaniyambadi MLA Syed Farooq Basha had criticized the DMK by alleging they engaged in horse-trading to prevent Vijay from becoming Chief Minister. Shahjahan clarified that DMK members had distorted Basha's remarks made in the Assembly; Basha had merely recounted what he had said at a public meeting in Tiruvannamalai—that DMK members had threatened

IUML MLAs and offered them crores of rupees and ministerial posts—but this was being misrepresented as an allegation that TVK (Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam) was involved in horse-trading. "I did not speak ill of anyone. The DMK had planned to make the AIADMK leader the Chief Minister on May 7th. Our leader, Kader Mohideen, refused to accept this. I merely reiterated in our party meeting what he had already stated in an

interview," Shahjahan said. At that point, AIADMK members caused a commotion. Subsequently, Minister for Minorities Welfare Shahjahan spoke, clarifying that the AIADMK had no connection to this specific issue. He explained that on May 7th, DMK members had decided to make the AIADMK leader the Chief Minister and had conveyed this proposal to their leader, Kader Mohideen. "Our leader stated that we would not support a gov-

ernment led by the AIADMK, given their alliance with the BJP. Following this, the two of us were confined in a hotel on May 8th. If we were to openly reveal who threatened and guarded us, or who confined us in that hotel, no one would be able to engage in politics." "We extended our support to TVK precisely to prevent the imposition of Governor's rule. TVK is currently running an administration free from corruption," stated Shahjahan. Aadhav Arjuna immediately interjected, noting that the two IUML MLAs had been confined at the Accord Hotel—a property owned by DMK MP Jagathrakshakan—and stated that an inquiry would be conducted regarding their confinement.