

CM Vijay Launches Breakfast Scheme Expansion and Dines with Students

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay inaugurated the expansion of the 'Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme' for middle school students (Classes 6 to 8) in government schools today in Chennai. At the Government Middle School in Thiruvannamiyur, Chennai, Chief Minister Vijay launched the scheme's expansion, served food to the students, and sat down to eat with them.

He subsequently inspected the school premises and conveyed his best wishes to the students. Ministers Anand, Aadav Arjuna, Rajmohan, and Jagadeeswari, along with Chief Secretary Saikumar and departmental officials, participated in the event. Police implemented security arrangements at the

CM Vijay follows in the footsteps of Kamaraj and MGR



school and its surrounding areas ahead of Chief Minister Vijay's visit. Additionally, parents of students and members of the public gathered outside the school to catch a glimpse of the Chief Minister. The scheme has come into effect

today in all districts, excluding the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies, where by-elections are scheduled to take place.

The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme was originally launched on September 15,

2022, with the aim of providing breakfast to children studying in Classes 1 to 5 in government schools across Tamil Nadu. Later, the scheme was expanded to include government and government-aided schools as well. Under this scheme, a specific

breakfast dish—such as *Khichdi* or *Pongal*—is served daily. Currently, breakfast is being provided to 19.34 lakh children studying in 37,447 government and government-aided schools across the state. After TVK (Tamilzhaga Vetri

Kazhagam) came to power, the breakfast scheme was named after Kamarajar and expanded to cover Classes 6 through 8. Against this backdrop, the inauguration ceremony for the expansion of the 'Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Break-

fast Scheme' took place this morning at around 8:30 AM.

It had previously been announced that Chief Minister Vijay would launch this scheme on September 17 at the school in Virudhunagar—the birthplace of Kamarajar. However, the launch was postponed because the Chief Minister was on an official visit to London, and the event took place in Chennai today. This initiative will benefit 1.53 million students studying in 15,910 government and government-aided schools across Tamil Nadu. Notably, an additional ₹217 crore has been allocated for this purpose in the current financial year. A text message (SMS) was sent to the mobile phones of

students' parents, reading: "Greetings to dear parents. I am happy to inform you that the 'Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme' is being expanded; starting September 22, 2026 (Tuesday), nutritious and tasty breakfast will be provided to children studying in classes 6 to 8 in government and government-aided schools, enabling them to attend school enthusiastically and excel in their studies."—With regards, S. Joseph Vijay, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Chief Minister Vijay inaugurated the expansion of the breakfast scheme for middle school students at the Government Middle School in Thiruvannamiyur, Chennai. Students were served Ven Pongal and Sambar; as it was the inaugural day, Sweet Pongal was also provided.

Russian Parliamentary Election Putin's Party Sweeps to Mega Victory with 355 Seats

MOSCOW: According to official preliminary results released by Ella Pamfilova, the head of the Russian Election Commission, the ruling United Russia party has secured 57.83% of the vote.

This victory gives Putin control over more than two-thirds of the seats in parliament. Previously, the party's record stood at 343 seats won in 2016; that record has now been broken, with the party securing an absolute majority of 355 seats. With this strength, Putin's government can easily pass any constitutional amendment without needing support from other parties. This is the first parliamentary election held in the country since Russia launched a full-scale war against Ukraine in February 2022.

The Moscow government



stated that these election results demonstrate the Russian people's full support for Putin and his war efforts. A total voter turnout of over 59% was recorded across the three days of the election.

The Election Commission noted that despite Ukraine launching severe drone attacks on Moscow on the final day of voting, citizens cast their ballots without fear. Following Putin's party in the Russian parliament, the Communist Party secured second

place with 40 seats. The nationalist LDPR party won 25 seats, the 'New People' party secured 20 seats, and the 'Just Russia' party took the remaining seats. All these parties have already been supportive of Putin's government regarding the war in Ukraine.

Furthermore, 49 soldiers who fought in the Ukraine war have been elected as Members of Parliament representing Putin's party. Similarly, in the regional leadership election held in Russia's Chechnya region, Ramzan Kadyrov—a close ally of Putin—secured re-election by garnering 99.85% of the vote. The 'Yabloko' party, which openly opposes the war in Ukraine, was barred by the courts from contesting the parliamentary general election;

consequently, the party failed to win a single seat in parliament. However, it achieved a minor victory in the Novgorod regional legislative election by securing over 6% of the vote, with more than 12,000 people voting for the anti-war party. Russian opposition figures, the European Union, and Western nations have alleged that opposition parties were suppressed and that the election was not fair.

In particular, countries including Britain, Australia, and Canada have strongly condemned the fact that voting was conducted in areas of Ukraine seized by Russia. Moscow, however, has categorically denied these allegations, asserting that the election was conducted in a completely democratic and lawful manner.

Jaishankar holds consultations with Foreign Ministers of European Union nations



DELHI: External Affairs Minister Jaishankar held consultations with the Foreign Ministers of European Union nations. The 81st session of the UN General Assembly commenced today at the UN headquarters in New

York, USA.

This session is scheduled to continue until the 28th of this month. Leaders from various countries across the globe are participating in this UN General Assembly session.

External Affairs Minister Jaishankar is representing India at the event.

Prior to the proceedings, Jaishankar met with the Foreign Ministers of European nations at the UN headquarters in New York.

During these meetings, he held discussions on a range of issues, including India & Europe relations, trade, the international political landscape, the Russia & Ukraine war, and the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

Surgery Performed on Minister Keerthana at Pallikaranai Hospital; MLA Kanimozhi Shares Details

CHENNAI: Minister Keerthana underwent surgery at Kamakshi Hospital in Pallikaranai, Chennai, for an injury to her clavicle (collarbone)—the long bone connecting the shoulder to the breastbone. Although doctors had advised a 20-day rest period, she returned to work after just four days. MLA Kanimozhi Santhosh shared this information on her X (formerly Twitter) page. TVK MLA for Kavundampalayam, Coimbatore District. In a post regarding Minister Keerthana's health, Kanimozhi Santhosh stated, "As a woman, I wish to share this because I witnessed it firsthand. I visited my sister, Minister Keerthana, at Kamakshi Hospital following her collarbone surgery. Doctors had advised her to rest for about 20 days. However, driven by her commit-

ment to the state, she returned to work within just four days. Even while confined to her hospital bed, she was coordinating the arrangements for the Chief Minister's trip to London. Her primary concern each day was not her pain or medication; her focus was entirely on ensuring that negotiations with various entities and all necessary arrangements proceeded on schedule. She paid no heed when I urged her to rest. What struck me deeply was this: when Minister Aadav mentioned that Keerthana had been unwell for a few days, the opposition did not pause to consider the actual cause, her recovery status, or the physical agony she might have endured. Their minds immediately jumped to a single conclusion: menstruation.

The assumption that a woman's absence can stem from only one cause reveals nothing about her; instead, it exposes your own regressive mindset.



Women are not defined solely by their biological cycles. We are leaders, professionals, mothers, and daughters—individuals who stand firm in the field while simultaneously shouldering the burdens of illness, injury, and duty. When no fault can be found in a woman's work, the reflex to attribute her unexplained absence to her physiology is

an old, ingrained habit. Just four days later—despite not yet being fully recovered, and while taking painkillers and wearing a bandage...—she went straight ahead to meet companies and sign Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) one after another, without a single pause. This regressive mindset must change. We should celebrate women who continue to lead even in challenging circumstances, rather than discussing their bodily cycles. Women deserve far greater respect than this. Tamil Nadu deserves to rise to greater heights. Forgive me, sister Keerthana; I know you wished to keep this private, but I felt compelled to post this." Minister Kanimozhi Santhosh stated this on her X (formerly Twitter) page.

Indian Oil Approves ₹2,449 Crore Investment for Kochi Kumari & Thoothukudi Gas Pipeline Project

DELHI: Indian Oil Corporation has approved an investment of ₹2,449 crore for the Kochi & Kumari & Thoothukudi gas pipeline project. The Board of Directors of Indian Oil Corporation has sanctioned the investment to lay and operate a natural gas pipeline spanning 424.65 km from Kochi in Kerala to Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu. Through the Kochi & Kanniyakumari & Thoothukudi gas pipeline project, natural

gas will be transported from Kochi to Thoothukudi.

The pipeline will have the capacity to distribute 6.84 million cubic meters (68.4 lakh cubic meters) of gas daily. Of this, a capacity of 1.71 million cubic meters (17.1 lakh cubic meters) per day will be allocated for common carrier use, allowing third parties to utilize the pipeline subject to prevailing regulations.

Approval for the pr-



ject was granted during the Board of Directors meeting held yesterday. This project will strengthen the natural gas pipeline infrastructure in India's southern coastal regions and connect the gas infrastructure in Kerala with demand centers in southern Tamil Nadu.

Today horoscope



A relative with whom you had not spoken for a long time will initiate contact. Some friends will seek your assistance. You will visit your family deity's temple to fulfill religious vows. At the workplace, it is best to focus solely on your own tasks.



Good news will arrive from out of town. You will secure a new job. You will take pride in your children's achievements. You will attend auspicious family functions. Your customer base will grow in business. You will receive appreciation from your superiors at work.



You may experience fleeting moments of mental confusion. Family members will be supportive. You will renovate and expand your ancestral home. You will fulfill vows made to your family deity. Business will yield moderate profits. It is advisable to avoid arguments at the workplace.



It is advisable to curb your temper. You will gain money through stock market investments. Benefits will come from government sources, and you will make connections with people in positions of authority. Outstanding dues in your business that were previously delayed will be recovered. Avoid making enemies at your workplace.



Solutions to long-standing problems will be found. Relatives from your maternal side will visit you. You will have a good flow of money. You will learn the nuances of your business, and a partner will offer support. Work-related issues will be resolved.



Siblings will show great concern for your well-being. Someone you have long wished to see will come to visit you. You will have a good flow of money. An important document you were searching for at the office will be found. You will expand your business on a large scale.



You will hold the upper hand in family matters. You will cut down on luxury expenses and start saving. Ancestral homes, plots, or agricultural land will be sold. You will meet key individuals to expand your business. Workplace issues will subside.



Relatives will treat you with respect. You will receive assistance from unexpected sources. In business, you will gain an understanding of your customers' preferences. At the workplace, it will be beneficial to focus solely on your own tasks and avoid unnecessary involvement in others' affairs.



You will control your temper and contemplate ways to advance. Your children will act responsibly. Your interest in spiritual matters will increase. You will maintain a calm demeanor at work. Business will be profitable; give due importance to the views of new partners.



You will be kept busy with matters concerning your son's education or your daughter's marriage. Try to maintain cordial relations with your neighbors. There will be progress in legal disputes regarding ancestral property. Business will flourish. You may need to attend to office work at home.



Bitterness between husband and wife will vanish. You will repay money borrowed from others. Your temper will cool down. You will be recommended for a new position at work. Outstanding dues in business will be collected, and partners will offer their support.



Old friends will seek your help. Confusion will clear, and happiness will prevail in the family. You will purchase a new vehicle. You will employ new strategies in business to attract old customers. Your opinions will gain increasing support at the workplace.

Three sisters of former Pakistan PM Imran Khan arrested



LAHORE: Reports indicate that three sisters of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan have been imprisoned. Imran Khan, the former captain of the Pakistan cricket team, served as the country's Prime Minister from 2018 to 2022. He has been imprisoned for over three years in the high-security Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi following his arrest in connection with various corruption cases. Reports suggest that his health is deteriorating significantly while in custody. His family has alleged that there are threats to his life and that they are being denied permission to meet him. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has been demanding Imran's release. The PTI had announced plans to stage a protest on September 27 to press this demand; however, the Pakistan government categorically stated that the protest was illegal and would not be permitted. Meanwhile, the PTI party has alleged that Lahore police have arrested and imprisoned Imran Khan's three sisters—Aleema Khan, Uzma Khan, and Noreen Khan—who had been consistently raising their voices demanding his release. A party spokesperson stated, "The police arrested Imran Khan's three sisters and their family members, forcibly dragging them away. While the children were subsequently released, the three sisters were lodged in Lahore's Kot Lakhpat Jail."

Indian Tea Industry Must Evolve into a Global Brand Vice President's Call



COONOOR: Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan emphasized that the Indian tea industry needs to create a strong brand identity that is recognized globally. The centenary celebrations of the UPASI Tea Research Centre in Coonoor, Nilgiris district, commenced yesterday. C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the event, while

UPASI President Ajay Dippaya delivered the welcome address.

Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar presided over the function. After releasing the commemorative souvenir, C.P. Radhakrishnan said: "For the past 100 years, UPASI has been serving both small and large plantation owners

in South India. Beyond mere production, focus must also be placed on quality, value addition, and marketing. Although Sri Lanka is a small nation, it poses stiff competition to the Indian tea trade.

Therefore, UPASI should expand its research activities to focus on reducing production costs, improving quality, and introducing new

technologies." The Indian tea industry should move beyond focusing solely on wholesale trade and instead work towards creating strong, globally recognized brands. Branding yields higher value, premium pricing, and a stable market. Furthermore, new research centers equipped with modern technology need to be established within the tea industry.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Arlekar remarked, "A person who was once a tea seller has today risen to become a global leader (Prime Minister Modi). Research, innovation, technological advancements, and quality production are earning global renown and acclaim for Indian tea." Tea Board Vice-Chairman C. Murugan, Ooty MLA M. Bhojarajan, and several others participated in the event.

70 Acres Allocated for ISRO's State of the Art Radar Research Centre

Assam CM Announces



GUWAHATI: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced yesterday that 70 acres of land would be allocated free of

cost for ISRO's state-of-the-art radar research centre. Speaking on the matter, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said: "The Assam

government has provided approximately 200 *high-as*—roughly 70 acres—of land free of cost to the Indian Space Research Organisa-

tion (ISRO) to establish a state-of-the-art radar research centre for the 'ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network' at Chandrapur, near Guwahati." "This radar centre will monitor and analyze various activities in space and share the collected data with the government and other scientific institutions. I express my gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sanctioning such a unique project for Assam," he added.

Minister Prabhu files ₹1 crore defamation suit against YouTuber Maridhas

CHENNAI: Minister for Minerals T.K. Prabhu has filed a defamation suit in the Madras High Court against YouTuber Maridhas, seeking ₹1 crore in damages for spreading defamatory allegations against him on social media. Dentist T.K. Prabhu serves as the Minister for Minerals in Tamil Nadu. He has initiated legal action

against YouTuber Maridhas, claiming ₹1 crore in damages. In his petition, he stated, "Maridhas has been spreading false and baseless corruption allegations against me on social media. As he is acting with the intent to tarnish my reputation, the court should order the payment of ₹1 crore as damages."



Justice K.G. Thilagavathi heard the petition. She admitted the plea and direct-

ed the High Court Registry to formally list the matter for hearing.

Central Government Urges Bank Employees to Call Off Strike

NEW DELHI: The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) has called for a three-day nationwide strike from the 28th to the 30th of this month. The protest is being held to press for demands such as the implementation of a five-day workweek and the withdrawal of the performance-linked

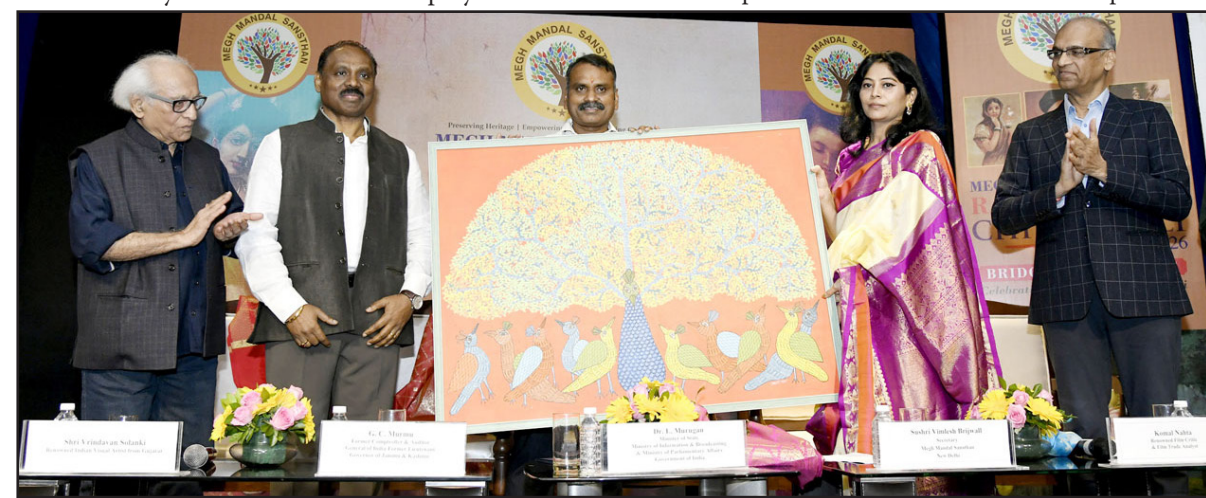
incentive scheme. Following discussions with bank employee unions, the government has stated that the incentive scheme has already been put on hold, and the demand for a five-day workweek remains under consideration. The Ministry of Finance has urged em-

ployees to call off the strike to avoid disrupting banking services, noting that most issues raised by the unions

have been resolved and that the government continues to take measures for the welfare of bank employees.



The Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in February 2027. As political parties are already gearing up for the polls, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav has adopted the campaign style of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay.



The Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. L. Murugan, addressing the gathering at the inauguration of "Raja Ravi Varma Chitrangali 2026", organized by Megh Mandal Sansthan to mark 10 years of Chitrangali and the 120th death anniversary of Raja Ravi Varma, at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, in New Delhi on September 21, 2026. Former CAG of India, Shri G. C. Murmu also seen.

september 22 Washington 2026

Little Yoga Teacher American Girl Sets Guinness Record



A five-year-old girl from the United States has garnered international attention by setting a Guinness World Record as the world's youngest female yoga teacher. Phoenix Giselle Hicks, from Houston, Texas, earned this recognition after successfully completing a 200-hour certified yoga teacher training course alongside adults when she was just five years and 337 days old. Now six years old, she has also been featured in the *Guinness World Records 2027* book. Phoenix's yoga journey began when she was just a three-month-old infant. She developed an interest in yoga by participating in "Mommy and Me" classes with her mother, Sydney Hicks, who is also a yoga teacher. By the age of four, she had mastered the ability to perform rigorous and advanced yoga poses (asanas). As she grew, her passion for yoga deepened; she achieved this qualification through hard work—studying complex anatomy, writing articles about yoga, and conducting daily yoga practice sessions. Phoenix conducts yoga classes for both children and adults alongside her mother. When teaching, she encourages her students by saying, "If any child finds a pose difficult, remember: you can do it—just give it your best shot. Exhale slowly, and it's okay if your body wobbles a little." Her mother, Sydney, speaks proudly of this achievement: "Through her playful yet energetic teaching style, Phoenix isn't just teaching yoga; she is creating a new kind of change, sowing seeds of peace and mindfulness in the community." Phoenix has stated that her ambition is to become an astronaut in the future and be the first person to practice yoga in space. Her favorite yoga pose is 'Vrikshasana' (Tree Pose). This young yoga teacher, who has achieved a Guinness World Record through hard work at such an early age, is receiving praise from all over the world.

CM Vijay's Campaign Venue Shifted to Thozhupedu

MADHURANTHAGAM: The venue for the election campaign by Chief Minister Vijay—scheduled for the 25th in support of Maragatham Kumaravel, the TVK candidate for the Madhuranthakam Assembly by-election—has been shifted from Achirupakkam to Thozhupedu due to security reasons. Maragatham Kumaravel is contesting the Madhuranthakam Assembly by-election in Chengalpattu district as the candidate for the *Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam* (TVK). Party leader and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay was scheduled to campaign for her in the Achirupakkam area on the 25th.

However, the campaign venue has now been moved to a different location due to security considerations. Accordingly, it is reported that preparations are underway to set up a stage on a site spanning over 40 acres near the Trichy-Chennai National Highway in the Thozhupedu area. Furthermore, it is said that only individuals from the Maduranthakam constituency will be permitted to attend this campaign meeting; party members are reportedly collecting Aadhaar numbers for this purpose. Party sources state that the venue was changed due to security considerations and the anticipation of a large turnout. This development has created a stir in the Thozhupedu area.



The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Accurate Industrial Controls Private Limited to procure Auxiliary Power Units (APUs) for T-72 and T-90 Tanks in the presence of the Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, in New Delhi

New Bus Terminus Inaugurated in Tondiarpet at a Cost of ₹ 2.50 Crore



CHENNAI: Ministers Vijay Tamilan Parthiban and Maria Wilson inaugurated a newly constructed bus terminus in Tondiarpet yesterday, built at a cost of ₹2.50 crore. The inauguration ceremony took place for the new bus terminus—spanning 16,000 square feet and constructed at a cost of ₹2.50 crore using

the MLA Constituency Development Fund and capital funds—located on the Tondiarpet IOC&Ennore Highway (Ward 38, Tondiarpet Zone, Chennai Corporation). Transport Minister Vijay Tamilan Parthiban and Finance Minister Maria Wilson inaugurated the terminus and flagged off the bus operations.

The terminus is equipped with facilities such as a nursing room for mothers, a waiting area, a room for the bus timekeeper, and restrooms for men, women, and persons with disabilities. Additionally, 122 trips are being operated from this terminus using 12 buses. More than 18,000 residents of the area will benefit from this.

Corporation Commissioner G.S. Sameeran, Metropolitan Transport Corporation Managing Director V.P. Jayaseelan, North Region Deputy Commissioner Swetha Suman, and Tondiarpet Zonal Officer A. Rajkumar, among others, participated in the event.

Shortage of Aravana Prasadam at Sabarimala: Conflict Between Devaswom Board and Kerala Government

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A conflict has arisen between the State Government and the Travancore Devaswom Board due to a shortage of the famous 'Aravana Payasam' *prasadam* at the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple.

The Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple in Kerala had opened for the 'Kanni Masam' (Malayalam month of Kanni) rituals. Amidst a massive influx of devotees, the distribution of Aravana Payasam had to be severely restricted due to insufficient stock, forcing devotees to wait for long periods.

As the number of devotees arriving for the Kanni Masam rituals exceeded expectations, the stock of 2.6 lakh tins of Aravana Payasam was rapidly depleted; by yesterday, fewer than 14,000 tins remained. To manage the shortage of *prasadam*, distribution was restricted to one tin of *Aravana Payasam* and three packets of *Appam* per devotee, and counters were temporarily closed. The Board attributes the shortage to a halt in production caused by maintenance work at the plant. However, Devaswom Minister K. Muralidharan



has severely reprimanded officials for carrying out maintenance and shutting down the plant during days when the temple was open for major rituals.

He also stated that he is considering legal action in the High Court against the officials who failed to in-

form him about the situation beforehand. Meanwhile, the Travancore Devaswom Board has clarified that the urgent modernization work currently underway is intended to prevent a similar crisis during the upcoming *Mandala&Makaravilakku* season.

However, Devaswom employees' unions have expressed dissatisfaction, stating that this unplanned, sudden suspension resulted in the production of only about 3.2 lakh units, causing a loss of several crore rupees to the Board.

The government is considering holding detailed consultations with Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan regarding this issue and is also contemplating the formation of a special committee to oversee Sabarimala's administrative operations and the distribution of *prasadam*.

Wheelchair facilities available at 118 railway stations in the Chennai Division

CHENNAI: Railway officials have announced that wheelchair facilities have been provided at 118 railway stations within the Chennai Division. Regarding this, Chennai Division railway officials stated: Due to ongoing redevelopment work at Egmore Railway Station, the wheelchair service for accessing platforms from

the Poonamallee High Road side—except for Platform No. 11A—has been temporarily suspended. As an alternative, a facility has been arranged to access all platforms via wheelchair from the Gandhi Irwin Road side. This arrangement will remain in effect temporarily until the new foot&over&bridge becomes operational. To assist senior citizens requiring wheelchair support, information regarding porter services and their prescribed charges has been displayed at appropriate locations within the station premises. Passengers needing

assistance can approach the Station Manager or Station Master to avail of this facility. Work is proceeding on a priority basis to construct a massive, 18&meter&wide foot&over&bridge connecting the Gandhi Irwin Road and Poonamallee High Road sides of the Egmore railway station. The bridge will be equipped with six escalators and five elevators, providing access to all platforms. This project is expected to be completed by the end of the



current year. Thirteen wheelchairs have been placed at various locations within the Tambaram railway station complex. Wheelchair facilities have been provided for passengers requiring assistance across the 118 railway stations in the Chennai Division.

Multiple wheelchairs have been supplied to major stations—including Chennai Central, Beach, Mambalam, St. Thomas Mount, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur, Arakkonam, Tiruttani, Katpadi, and Jolarpettai—to meet passenger needs. They stated this.



Minister Vijayabalaji inaugurated a 30% discount sale for Diwali at the Vasantham Co&optex sales outlet located on Gandhiji Road, Erode. Erode District Collector Kandasamy presided over the event, while MLAs Anandmohan and Shanmugan were present.

Iranian President Pezeshkian leaves for 81st UNGA session in New York, says will raise 'distrust created' by 'oppressing' nations

IRAN: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday morning set off for New York to participate in the 81st session of the UNGA and to set forth the agenda for Iran, as reported by Iranian news agency IRNA. According to IRNA, the Iranian President received an official farewell from First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, Deputy for International Affairs of the Supreme Leader's Office, Hojjatolislam Walmoslemin Mohsen Qomi, and a group of cabinet members.

Prior to his departure for New York, the Iranian President said, "We will forcefully raise Iran's positions in international forums. The issues we will raise at the United Nations are expressing the oppressed state of the Iranian nation, the crimes that have occurred, and the distrust that has been created. We went to the negotiating table several times and signed agreements, but unfortunately, the whole world saw how commitments were not fulfilled and the writings were trampled underfoot."

Pezeshkian is scheduled to address the General Assembly

on Wednesday, September 23, during the morning session. During this trip, in addition to attending and explaining Iran's positions at the session of the UNGA, the President will also meet with some heads of state attending the meeting.

President Pezeshkian will also hold separate meetings with educated Iranians living in the United States, as well as American elites and think tanks. Meanwhile, Iran Foreign Minister Syed Abbas Araghchi arrived in New York on Monday (local time) to participate in the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Araghchi said that the United Nations General Assembly will provide an opportunity to discuss how trust in the world body has been lost and how it can be revived, as he began his journey to New York to participate in the 81st UNGA session, as reported by Iranian news agency IRNA.

Araghchi said Iran would use the UNGA to discuss how trust in the United Nations could be restored. "It is natural that no other trust remains in



an organisation that is under the influence of these countries. Therefore, an important issue is the restoring of trust, and it is a good opportunity to talk to the world about how trust in this United Nations has been lost and how it can be revived," he said. Speaking to the reporters, Araghchi said Iran's primary objective was to use the UNGA as an international forum to defend the rights and interests of the Iranian people.

He said, "This trip is taking place after the inhumane war that has been waged against us by the United States and the Zionist regime, and the subsequent developments, and in truth, the situation that continues to exist as a war situation. And in the first place, it is natural that our most important goal is to be present

in a large international forum, which is the United Nations, to defend the rights of the people of Iran, the rights of the people of Iran, and the interests of the people of Iran."

The 81st session of the UN General Assembly is being held under the theme "Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation: A United Nations That Delivers for All."

The high-level general debate is scheduled to take place from September 22&26 and on September 28 in New York, with world leaders expected to discuss major international challenges. The session's agenda also includes high-level meetings on climate action, development, sea&level rise, pandemic preparedness and other global issues.

"I believe in a free press" Mamdani tells Trump during NYC meeting amid WH media ban

NEW YORK: New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani said that he told US President Donald Trump during their meeting in New York that he believes in a free press and supports engaging with journalists regardless of whether their coverage is complimentary or critical. Mamdani made these remarks during an interview with CNN, following his meeting with Trump on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly, as the dispute over the White House's decision to bar CNN, MS NOW and Politico continued. "What I said is that I believe in a free press, and I believe in the importance of engaging in questions from all, no matter whether they are based in a compliment or on a critique," Mamdani told CNN's Christie Amanpour during a sit&down interview on Monday.

"You saw that we spoke to representatives from CNN, from MS NOW, from Politico, from Crain's, from The City Reporter, from a wide variety, and that is something that will continue under my administration, because I believe it's a critical part of the fourth estate being able to do its job," he added. Mamdani also spoke about his relationship with media outlets that have frequently criticised him, saying he remains willing to answer their questions. "You know you could pick up a copy of the New York Post almost every day of the week, and you'd find me there on the

cover, and I'll still take questions from the New York Post because I think that that's also what it means to be in New York City politics—to engage with New Yorkers," Mamdani told CNN.

Following his meeting with Trump, Mamdani reiterated his position during a joint press conference at Gracie Mansion. Asked whether he had challenged Trump over the decision to restrict access to CNN, MS NOW and Politico, Mamdani said he had made clear that journalists would be allowed to cover events in New York. "I told the President that we're going to have all of the members of the press here on the lawn. And that is something that I believe in, as everyone, no matter the opinion or the critique, that we engage," the NYC Mayor said.

The comments came amid a dispute over White House media access after CNN, MS NOW and Politico filed a federal lawsuit challenging the administration's decision to revoke their White House access. Trump, speaking to reporters after the meeting with Mamdani, defended the restrictions and dismissed suggestions that media organisations would boycott him. "They said they were going to boycott me, but they never boycotted me. So I wasn't very worried about that. Look at all that press," Trump said.

Trump said he believed news organisations had an obligation to report fairly.



"I'm only doing it because I think the press also has an obligation," Trump said. He specifically criticised CNN and MS NOW, saying, "If you look at CNN, it's fake news. If you look at MS NOW—I don't even know what MS NOW is," while accusing the outlets of being biased. "I think that these outlets have an obligation to be fair. And if they're fake news, I really think I have an obligation not to allow them into another very special house," Trump said, referring to the White House. "They're very bad for the country, very bad for national security, so I have that obligation," he added.

The dispute began after Trump announced on Friday that CNN, MS NOW and Politico would be barred from the White House, accusing the organisations of repeatedly publishing what he called "fake news." Journalists from the affected outlets were subsequently denied entry to the White House grounds, while some press credentials were disabled or confiscated.

The White House has defended the policy, arguing that while the First Amendment protects the right of news organisations to publish, it does not automatically guarantee an individual outlet access to the White House grounds, briefing room or presidential press pool. The three media organisations have challenged the restrictions in federal court, alleging that the decision violates First Amendment press protections and Fifth Amendment due process rights. A federal hearing is scheduled in Washington.

The dispute has also affected the White House television pool. CNN had been scheduled to serve as the television pool network for Trump's New York trip, but its removal disrupted the traditional arrangement under which participating networks share footage of presidential events with other news organisations. Other television networks subsequently halted pool coverage in solidarity with the affected outlets.



Brahmotsavam Festival Grand Chariot Procession at Tirupati

TIRUMALA: The chariot procession took place with great grandeur today, marking the eighth day of the ongoing Brahmotsavam festival at the Tirupati Lord Venkateswara (Ezhumalayan) temple. The annual Brahmotsavam festival is being celebrated with great pomp and fervor. Daily *Vahana Sevas* (processions on divine vehicles) are held in the mornings and nights; Lord Malayappa Swamy, seated on decorated vehicles, traverses the *Mada* streets

to bless the devotees.

A highlight of the festival was the *Garuda Seva* held on the fifth day, which drew hundreds of thousands of devotees for *darshan*. On the sixth day (the day before yesterday), the *Hanumantha Vahana Seva*, Golden Chariot procession, and *Gaja Vahana Seva* were conducted. The seventh day (yesterday) featured the *Surya Prabha* and *Chandra Prabha Vahana Sevas*. Numerous artists performed cultural

programs during the street processions.

Today, the eighth day, the *Rathotsavam* (Grand Chariot Procession) was celebrated with great magnificence. Lord Malayappa Swamy, accompanied by Goddesses Sridevi and Bhudevi, was seated on a massive wooden chariot—standing 43 feet tall and weighing 47 tons—and taken in procession through the four *Mada* streets to grant *darshan* to the devotees.

Thousands of devotees

participated in the event, pulling the chariot and offering their prayers. Dignitaries who participated in the chariot procession included Tirumala Pedda Jeeyar Swamy, Chinna Jeeyar Swamy, TTD Board Chairman B.R. Naidu, Executive Officer Muthyala Ravichandra, governing council members, Additional Executive Officer Venkaiah Chowdary, Chief Vigilance Officer Muralikrishna, and officials from the engineering department.

“We will not spare anyone who has usurped temple land” – Minister Ramesh

TRICHY: “We have initiated an investigation into the Srirangam temple land fraud case; we will not spare anyone who has usurped temple land,” stated Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Ramesh, categorically. Speaking to reporters in Trichy, Minister Ramesh said: “Why does former Minister Sekarbabu need to seek anticipatory bail? He should face the situation boldly.

He ought to appear in court and present all the facts during the inquiry. There isn't even an immediate arrest involved. Why



seek anticipatory bail while the investigation is ongoing? Fear exists where there is wrongdoing; that is why they are doing this. Sekarbabu asks, ‘Is the mouth that spoke in Tiruvannamalai the same as the mouth that spoke in Madurai?’ I wonder if they possess

even basic common sense. One can compare an apple with an apple, but not an apple with an orange. They fail to grasp the difference between an apple and an orange.

In Tiruvannamalai, it was a general public darshan; in Madurai, it was a consecration ceremony (*Kumbabishekam*). How can these be compared? Udhayanidhi keeps claiming that *we* are the ones singing the same tune, yet for the past three weeks, it is *he* who has been singing the same song. Furthermore, Udhayanidhi claims he only learns who the ministers are when asked. Had

he paid proper attention to the Assembly proceedings, he would have known. He says he didn't know who they were even after the budget session; that implies he wasn't paying attention to the 'class' properly.

You are the one who skips out after just an hour; how, then, would you know who the ministers are? We have launched an investigation into the Srirangam temple land fraud. Based on the police inquiry, if irregularities are found elsewhere, those matters will also be investigated. We will not spare anyone, anywhere, who has usurped temple land.”

“Uttar Pradesh will be divided into four parts” – Minister Om Prakash

Lucknow: State Minister Om Prakash Rajbhar has stated that Uttar Pradesh will be divided into four parts. He spoke about this at a public meeting held in the Ambedkar Nagar area.

“In the coming days, our state will be divided into four parts. When the state of Purvanchal is formed, its first Chief Minister will be someone from the Rajbhar community. Keep this in mind while working on the ground. I urge



our younger generation not to go astray by joining the Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, or the Congress,” he said. The Rajbhar caste falls under the OBC category in the state.

A large population of this community resides in the eastern region of Uttar Pradesh; consequently, their votes hold significant political importance in the constituencies of that region. Minister Om Prakash made this statement ahead

of the Assembly elections scheduled for next year in Uttar Pradesh. As the leader of the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party, he stated that Uttar Pradesh would be split into four regions: Purvanchal, Madhyanchal, Bundelkhand, and Harit Pradesh. However, the BJP government—currently in power at both the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh—has not yet commented on the matter. Uttar Pradesh is one of the largest states in India.

In 2000, Uttarakhand was carved out as a separate

state from Uttar Pradesh. Subsequently, in 2007, the then Chief Minister Mayawati passed a resolution in the Assembly regarding the division of the state into four parts, which was sent to the Central Government for approval. Since then, there have been periodic discussions regarding the division of the state. Minister Om Prakash's recent statement is noteworthy in this context.

First female player to cross 11,000 runs, Smriti Mandhana makes history

NAGOYA: Smriti Mandhana has achieved the historic feat of becoming the first female player to surpass 11,000 runs in international cricket. Mandhana accomplished this milestone during the women's T20 cricket final against Sri Lanka, currently underway at the 20th Asian

Games. Heading into the match, she needed just 13 runs to reach the 11,000-run mark. Smriti crossed this massive milestone by hitting a six off a delivery by Sugandika Kumari. Her career tally includes 788 runs in 9 Test matches, 5,411 runs in 120 One Day Internationals (O-

DIs), and 4,788 runs in 178 T20 Internationals. With this achievement, she holds the distinction of being the first Indian player—and the first female cricketer globally—to cross the 11,000-run mark across all three formats combined. Additionally, Mandhana holds the record for the most centuries

(18) scored in international women's cricket. In this final match, she smashed 79 runs off 45 balls, helping the Indian team amass a total of 216 runs for the loss of 3 wickets in their allotted 20 overs. Sri Lanka is currently battling, chasing a target of 217 runs for victory.



Chief Minister Vijay Considers Major Cabinet Reshuffle

CHENNAI: Dissatisfied with the performance of certain ministers, Chief Minister Vijay is actively considering a cabinet reshuffle. The TVK government assumed office in Tamil Nadu last May. Vijay took charge as Chief Minister, alongside nine ministers including Anand and Aadav Arjuna; subsequently, other ministers—including those from alliance parties—were sworn in.

Chief Minister Vijay is adamant that not a single member of his cabinet should face corruption charges. He has consistently emphasized this point during cabinet meetings and warned ministers that he would take action against anyone, regardless of their stature. However, allegations ag-



ainst some ministers have surfaced on social media. The recent conclusion of the budget session brought the ministers' performance into sharp focus, and it is reported that Chief Minister Vijay is dissatisfied with some of them. Issues such as power outages and unchecked price hikes have also displeased him. Furthermore, several incidents—including the dissatisfaction expressed by devotees during the consecration ceremony of the Madurai Meenakshi Amman

Temple and allegations regarding an insult to the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court—have angered the Chief Minister.

He now finds himself in a situation where drastic action is required to address public discontent. In such scenarios, he prefers to adopt a decisive approach, much like the late Jayalalithaa. Earlier, Chief Minister Vijay had the intelligence wing compile detailed reports on the performance of each minister—tracking whom they

meet, what they discuss, and identifying who might bring disrepute to the administration. He possesses precise details regarding these matters. Several key government schemes are currently set to be launched, including the expansion of the breakfast scheme and the 'Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram' (Maternal Uncle's Gold Ring) scheme. Additionally, by-elections are scheduled for the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies.

It appears, therefore, that the Chief Minister will take a firm stand—cracking the whip, so to speak—once the by-elections conclude. While this has sparked anxiety among some ministers, certain MLAs are enthusiastically vying for a spot in the cabinet.



CHENNAI: The government plans to expand the free bus travel scheme for women.

Named 'Vetri Payanam' (Journey of Success), the scheme will come into effect on October 2.

October 2 'Vetri Payanam'

Women will be able to travel for free on 12,692 buses, including Express, LSS, Deluxe, and ordinary government buses operating in metropolitan and urban areas, suburban ordinary buses, and ordinary buses operating in hilly areas on routes exceeding 40 km. Chief Minister Vijay held

consultations with Transport Department officials regarding the implementation of the scheme.

Transport Minister Parthiban, Chief Secretary Saikumar, Finance Secretary Siddique, and Department Secretary Nirmalraj participated in the meeting. Send feedback

Iran Warns: We Will Use New Weapons and Combat Strategies If the US Launches Another Attack

TEHRAN: A spokesperson for Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has warned that if the United States launches another attack, Iran will employ new weapons and combat strategies. The conflict between the United States and Iran continues. In this context, Brigadier General Hossein Mohebi Al Alam, an IRGC spokesperson, stated in a television interview:

“The conflict with the US has not yet ended. The IRGC is prepared for a long-term confrontation. If the US initiates another attack, a fitting retaliation will follow. Specifically, we will deploy new, secret weapons that have not been used previously.

Furthermore, any new conflict with the US will differ entirely from the past and will involve new combat strategies. These military

capabilities could astonish the entire world.” “The US has been defeated in this conflict.

Its defeat is both historic and humiliating.” However, America lacks the courage to admit that defeat. There are no official or unofficial relations between America and our organization. Diplomacies with that country fall within the purview of Iran's



Foreign Ministry. Meanwhile, the IRGC focuses solely on maintaining military readiness. He stated this.

17 year old girl gang raped by three men posing as police officers



A shocking incident has occurred in Delhi where three men, posing as police officers, gang-raped a 17-year-old girl inside a park. The 17-year-old girl and her friend were conversing in a park near Kalkaji Mandir in Delhi. Yesterday evening, three men arrived, claimed to be police officers, and intim-

idated the girl. Subsequently, the three men gang-raped her. Special teams were formed to apprehend the accused. Police located and cornered one of the suspects, identified as Asif. He attacked the police, who then shot and apprehended him. A search operation is underway for the other two culprits. Police stated that the girl has

been taken for a medical examination and legal action is being initiated based on her statement. Investigators are examining CCTV footage from the park and surrounding areas. This marks the fourth incident of sexual assault against a minor girl in the capital within ten days. The details are as follows: * On September 13, in Swaroop Nagar, North West Delhi, a 17-year-old girl was gang-raped and murdered by four individuals, including three juveniles. * On September 16, in the

Sadar Bazar area of North Delhi, a 10-year-old sixth-grade student was sexually assaulted inside a shop after her hands and legs were tied. * Yesterday, September 21, a six-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by a 34-year-old man in the Kishan Ganj area of Central Delhi. Yesterday evening, while a 17-year-old girl and her friend were at a park, a three-member gang subjected the girl to gang sexual harassment. The continuing incidents of crime against women in the capital have caused a stir.



An incident in Andhra Pradesh, where a woman died after falling into a pot of boiling sambar, has caused shock.