

CM Vijay to campaign in the Dharapuram constituency today

TIRUPUR: Chief Minister Vijay is campaigning today (Wednesday) in support of the TVK candidate contesting the Dharapuram constituency by-election. He will address a massive public meeting being held in Dharapuram. Sathyabama, the AIADMK candidate who had won the Dharapuram (Reserved) Assembly constituency, resigned from her post and joined the TVK.

Consequently, a by-election for the constituency is scheduled for the 6th of this month. A total of 22 candidates are in the fray for this constituency, including Sathyabama (TVK), Suganya (DMK), Banumathi (AIADMK), Karthika (Naam Tamilar Katchi), and Lakshmanan (Communist Party of India).

A five-cornered contest is unfolding in the constituency. With only six days remaining

By-election battle heats up



for the election, campaigning by candidates from major parties has intensified. Against this backdrop, the party's leader and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay is set to address a campaign rally in Dharapuram today (Wednesday) to seek support for TVK candidate Sathyabama.

For this event, a massive venue spanning 54 acres has been prepared at Kondarasampalayam Maruti Nagar, located on the road from Dharapuram to Udumalai; the preparatory work is now complete.

Chief Minister Vijay will participate in this meeting to garner support. A bus, from

which the Chief Minister will deliver his speech, is being positioned at the designated stage area. Seating arrangements at the public meeting venue have been organized with ministers and key functionaries seated at the front, followed by seating for the general public and party cadres.

More than ten massive LED screens have been installed within the venue to facilitate a live broadcast of the event. Special entry passes featuring QR codes are being issued to 10,000 attendees.

To participate in the meeting, Chief Minister Vijay is scheduled to depart from Chennai on a special flight today, arriving at Coimbatore

Airport at 1:00 PM. From there, he will travel by car to the meeting venue, arriving at 3:00 PM. As the Chief Minister is traveling by road, speed breakers previously installed at 50 locations—including school, college, and village bus stops—along the Dharapuram-Palladam four-lane highway are being removed. Additionally, iron barricades

have been erected along the roadside at key locations. Traffic has been diverted, and a ban on heavy vehicles entering Dharapuram town has been imposed.

After addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Vijay will travel by car back to Coimbatore and subsequently return to Chennai by flight. Heavy police security has been

deployed across Dharapuram town and the Maruti Nagar area, where the meeting is taking place, in anticipation of the Chief Minister's visit.

Coimbatore Police DIG Swaminathan inspected the security arrangements yesterday. Under the supervision of Coimbatore West Zone IG Ramya Bharathi, over 3,000 police personnel from the Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Nilgiris, and Erode districts have been deployed for security duty.

Ministers and MLAs Did Not Go to See Off Chief Minister Vijay

MADURAI: The fact that ministers—who had gone to the airport in the morning to welcome Chief Minister Vijay upon his arrival in Madurai—did not go to see him off in the evening has caused a stir among TVK functionaries and cadres. Chief Minister Vijay arrived in Madurai the day before yesterday to launch the 'Tha-imaaman Thanga Mothiram' (Maternal Uncle's Gold Ring) scheme.

Later, he inaugurated the renovated Gandhi Museum and visited the Mee-nakshi Amman Temple in the evening to offer prayers. However, when he left for the airport to return to Chennai, none of the ministers—Arunraj, Nirmalkumar, Viswanathan, and Ramesh—or the TVK MLAs from the Madurai district accompanied him. Only the District Collector, Corporation Commissioner, South Zone IG, City Police Commissioner, and District SP went to the airport to see Chief Minister Vijay off. Speculation and questions spread rapidly among party functionaries and officials regarding why the ministers

and MLAs, who had welcomed him in the morning, did not go to see him off in the evening.

Functionaries were left puzzled, wondering if the Chief Minister was displeased and had asked the ministers and MLAs not to come, or if there was some other reason. When inquiries were made

them not to accompany him. The Chief Minister's tour of Madurai brought him great satisfaction and enthusiasm. He was particularly impressed by the arrangements for the launch of the 'Maternal Uncle's Gold Ring' scheme at the Government Rajaji Hospital. He commended the Health Mi-



with party members and officials, the explanation given was as follows:

If ministers and MLAs were to join the convoy to see Chief Minister Vijay off, it would result in an unnecessary procession of vehicles and cause traffic disruptions for an extended period. Citing the potential inconvenience to the public and motorists, he reportedly asked

nister and the doctors for their efforts in organizing the event. Official sources reported that the Chief Minister was deeply moved by the emotional expressions of gratitude from the mothers who received the gold rings.

He was also delighted by the crowds of people and party cadres who gathered along the route to welcome him. Carrying this enthusiasm

throughout the visit, he frequently stepped out of his vehicle to take selfies and interact with the public, remaining high & spirited until the conclusion of the Madurai events. Across the city, TVK MLAs and functionaries had spent lakhs of rupees erecting flex banners and posters at key intersections and roads to welcome him.

However, ministers stated that the Chief Minister had explicitly ordered that no flex banners or posters be displayed to welcome him. Acting on Minister Nirmalkumar's orders, the banners were removed and the posters torn down overnight. Displeased by this, TVK MLAs and functionaries

brought the matter to the attention of the party's General Secretary and Minister, Anand. When they questioned whether they were being told the truth or if politics was at play, they were informed that the directive against flex banners had indeed come from the Chief Minister himself; consequently, the MLAs and their supporters accepted the situation and remained silent.

"People of Tibet seek freedom", says US representative Mast after delegation meets Dalai Lama

HIMCHAL PRADESH: Members of the US Congress met Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama in Dharamshala on Wednesday, with House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Brian Mast saying the "people of Tibet seek" freedom and reaffirming the delegation's support for the Tibetan people.

Speaking to the media after meeting the Dalai Lama, Mast said that China and the freedom of the Tibetan people were among the top issues discussed during the meeting. "Certainly China was among top issues, the freedom of the people of Tibet, his representation of freedom across the globe just as we believe that the United States of America is representation of freedom across the globe. We discussed a great many things," Mast said. Mast said the threat of transnational repression from China was far-reaching, alleging that Beijing could extend such activities to other countries.

"The threat from China in terms of transnational repression is far-reaching. China will reach anywhere they can. They've proven that," he said. He also said the US and China had fundamental differences over freedom and democracy,



adding that these were also connected to what the Tibetan people seek. "We believe in freedom and democracy for all of our people, that people are born with certain inalienable rights, that the government is not meant to provide them but protect them. These are fundamental differences between what China represents and what America represents and what the people of Tibet seek," Mast said. Mast also said the Dalai Lama believes it is important for US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping to meet. "His Holiness believed that it was important that President Trump meet with Xi Jinping. They are two leaders of the world's biggest and strongest countries across the globe. So yes, it's very important, and it should happen," Mast said.

He added that such a meeting would not affect concerns over the treatment of Tibetans. "It doesn't take away in any way from believing that China should not be repressing its people, should not be repressing the Tibetan people or the Uyghur people, but rather working to embrace freedom and support freedom across the globe," he said.

Speaking to ANI, US Congresswoman Haley Stevens said the delegation wanted to highlight the plight of the Tibetan people and support their freedom. "I joined Chairman Brian Mast in this historic and important visit for the plight of the Tibetan people as it exists here in Dharamshala and as we want to see Tibet remain free," Stevens said. "We will not forget the story of the Tibetans. We will not forget the power of

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, what it means to have peace and democracy," she added.

Speaking to ANI, US Congressman James Gallagher said the Dalai Lama had continued to represent freedom for the Tibetan people. "We're meeting with His Holiness, who's been keeping the sacred fire of liberty burning here and for the Tibetan people. So we are united in that effort," Gallagher said. Asked for a message to China, Gallagher said, "Stop oppressing your people and allow everyone to live free. Allow for self-determination, for freedom of religion, for freedom of culture."

US Congressman Jimmy Patronis, speaking to ANI, also praised the Dalai Lama, saying his words and strength remained important for the delegation. "His words of wisdom, but also his strength, even at 91 years old, were important to continue to reinforce what we're trying to accomplish between our nation and continuing dialogues with China," Patronis said. The high-level US congressional delegation arrived in Dharamshala on Tuesday and is scheduled to depart on Wednesday after concluding its visit.

India wins 3 gold medals in a single day at the Asian Games

TOKYO: India's Sahil Jadhav and Sikhitha Thani & Parthi (mixed doubles) and the Indian women's team have won gold medals in the Asian Games archery events. Additionally, the Indian pair of Neeru and Kynan Chenai secured the gold medal in the trap mixed team shooting event.

India has won three gold medals in a single day. The Asian Games are currently underway in Aichi & Nagoya, Japan. Today (Sept. 30), the Indian women's team won the gold medal in the compound archery event. In the final, the

Indian team—comprising Sikhitha Thani & Parthi, Prithika Pradeep, and Jyothi Surekha—defeated China with a score of 238-234. The Indian duo of Sahil Jadhav and Sikhitha Thani & Parthi also won gold in the mixed team archery event.

With the women's team having already secured gold, India has claimed two archery gold medals in one day; they defeated South Korea 158-157.

Boxer Priya Gangas won a bronze medal in the 60kg category, while the pair of



Neeru and Kynan Chenai won gold in the trap mixed team shooting event.

Neeru had previously won gold in the individual trap event.

Medal Tally! India has moved up to 8th place in the medal standings. Indian athletes have won a total of 57 medals so far. * Gold & 9 * Silver & 21 * Bronze & 27

Biometric verification mandatory from tomorrow to avail subsidized gas cylinders

CHENNAI: Biometric verification has been made mandatory to obtain gas cylinders at a subsidized rate, and the deadline for this process expires today (Wednesday). Failure to complete this process may result in difficulties

when booking cylinders, and subsidized cylinders will not be available otherwise.

Oil companies in India have made e&KYC verification compulsory to prevent fraud in cooking gas connections and to ensure that subsidies reach

the intended beneficiaries. Oil companies have announced that those who have not yet completed this process should do so by this evening. Officials from the oil companies stated the following: "90 percent of customers

have already completed the e&KYC process; only the remaining 10 percent are yet to do so. Since this is an essential requirement, there is a possibility that an extension will be granted to register the remaining customers."

Today horoscope



— You may face some running around and stress regarding the construction of a new house. It is advisable to be accommodating within the family. Avoid making enemies at the workplace. Do not make new decisions in business; instead, accept the advice of your partners.



Tasks that were previously stalled will now conclude successfully. You will find good solutions to old problems by adopting a different approach. Competition in business will decrease. At the workplace, learn to mind your own business and focus on your tasks.



Your social standing will rise, and others will seek your assistance. Your elder brother will come to understand you better. You will embark on efforts to renovate and expand your ancestral home. Outstanding dues in business will be recovered, and you will experience peace of mind at work.



Mental confusion will clear, and you will find happiness through fresh ideas. You will accumulate sufficient savings and may purchase a new vehicle. There will be harmony in the family, and a favorable resolution regarding ancestral property disputes will be reached. You will see progress in both business and your career.



You will acquire valuable art objects. Misunderstandings with your spouse will be resolved, and you will buy them new clothes and jewelry. Vehicle-related repair issues will be sorted out. Maintain a calm demeanor at the workplace. You will achieve profits through dynamic action in business.



Unexpected good fortune awaits you. An auspicious event will be organized at home. You will renovate and expand your ancestral home. Relatives will speak highly of you. Outstanding dues will be recovered in business. It is best to avoid arguments at the workplace.



Exercise restraint in your social interactions. Your temper may flare up. The verdict in a dispute regarding ancestral property will go in your favor. You will locate a document you had been searching for at the office. You will successfully recover outstanding payments in business after some effort and see reasonable profits.



Tasks that were stalled midway will be completed. Expected funds will reach you. Relatives will be cooperative. You will build a rapport with a superior at work, leading them to share important matters with you. You will relocate your business premises to a different area.



Anticipated tasks will be completed without obstacles. You will take pride in your children's achievements. Conflicts with neighbors will be resolved. You will expand your home. Business will flourish. Avoid interfering in others' affairs at the workplace.



You will receive expected assistance. It is best to be accommodating within the family. Siblings will be supportive. Business will pick up momentum. Outstanding dues will be collected. Avoid making enemies at the workplace.



You will understand and fulfill the wishes of your family members. Buying or selling a house or land will prove profitable. You will find peace through your father's side of the family. Students will focus better on their studies. You will undertake business-related travel. Your stature at the workplace will rise.



You will exchange old gold and valuables for new ones. You will gain benefits through your wife's relatives. Money you had given up on will be recovered in business. Stagnant stock will be sold off. Avoid complaining to superiors about anyone at the workplace.

CM Vijay Commends Head Constable Who Risked Life to Stop Gutkha Smuggling While Clinging to Moving Car

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay personally invited and honored Head Constable Velmurugan, who risked his life by clinging to a car to prevent Gutkha smuggling in Coimbatore, presenting him with a reward. On the morning of the 27th, police were checking vehicle checks near Kovilpalayam, close to Coimbatore. A luxury car bearing a Karnataka registration number arrived at the scene.

A police team led by Head Constable Velmurugan inspected the vehicle. There were three occupants inside, and several sacks were found in the rear of the car. While the police were inspecting the vehicle, the car suddenly sped away in the blink of an eye. Reacting quickly, Head Constable Velmurugan leapt onto the car. As the vehicle did not stop, he lay flat on the roof and held on tightly to a grip. The car sped furiously along the Coimbatore & Salem National Highway. Motorists on the highway were shocked to witness the scene. Fellow officers at the checkpoint alerted the police



in Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts. As traffic was light during the morning hours, the car was able to speed along; it also drove past the Vilankurichi and Kaniyur toll plazas without stopping. Consequently, the Coimbatore police informed the Avinashi police.

As a precautionary measure, the police created an artificial traffic jam on the National Highway near Avinashi in Tiruppur district by halting other vehicles. The gang in the car became trapped in the resulting congestion. They then stopped the car, stepped out, and attempted to flee on foot. Police officers waiting at the location surrounded and apprehended them. They also rescued Head Constable Velmurugan, who had bravely attempted to apprehend the offenders while on the roof

of the car. Upon questioning the three individuals, the police discovered that they hailed from Rajasthan and had smuggled tobacco products from Bengaluru, Karnataka, intending to sell them in Coimbatore. Subsequently, the police arrested Suresh (20), Rajesh (23), and Babadaram (27) and seized 233 kilograms of tobacco products found in their car.

The incident, in which Head Constable Velmurugan (38) risked his life while intercepting the banned tobacco products over a distance of approximately 40 kilometers, created a stir across Tamil Nadu. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin personally met and commended Head Constable Velmurugan for his bravery in preventing the 'Gutkha' smuggling. A press release issued by the Tamil

Nadu government yesterday stated: On the 27th, near the Kaniyur toll plaza in Coimbatore district, Head Constable M. Velmurugan leaped onto the roof of a car that was transporting banned contraband in a split-second move. Disregarding the fact that the policeman was clinging to the roof, the smugglers drove the vehicle at high speed. Head Constable Velmurugan traveled for about 40 kilometers—from Vilankurichi to Avinashi—lying flat on the car's roof and risking his life. Eventually, additional police personnel rushed to the scene and intercepted the vehicle.

Head Constable Velmurugan's courageous act was highly appreciated by both the police force and the public. Chief Minister Vijay personally invited Head Constable Velmurugan—who had risked his life to help apprehend smugglers—to the Secretariat yesterday to commend him. After honoring him with a gift, the Chief Minister advised him to remain cautious and ensure safety while on duty. DGP Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal was present during the event; this was stated in an official government press release.

DMK boycotts 'INDIA' alliance meeting convened by Congress in Delhi today

Reports indicate that leaders like Akhilesh and Kejriwal will also not attend



Chennai: A meeting of the 'INDIA' alliance parties is taking place in Delhi today, led by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi.

Discussions at the meeting will focus on planning the next phase of protests against the Election Commission regarding the 'SIR' issue and moving a no-confidence motion against the Chief Election Commissioner in Parliament. Representatives from parties including the CPI(M), CPI, RJD, JMM, NCP (Sharad Pawar faction), and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray faction)

are participating.

However, the DMK has boycotted the meeting. Similarly, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav will not attend the meeting in person. It is reported that he is unable to attend due to a state & level farmers' conference in Lucknow and work related to the Rajya Sabha elections. There is also little likelihood of key leaders from the Trinamool Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, and BJD attending the meeting in person.

Their decision to send only party representatives instead has come as a shock to the Congress. Speaking on this matter, DMK spokesperson T.K.S. Elangovan said:

"In Tamil Nadu, the

Congress party has chosen TVK for the sake of two ministerial posts. Consequently, we could not continue our alliance with them.

They themselves have stated that they intend to move forward with TVK. Given this situation, how can we support them? How can we attend the meeting they have convened?" Many parties within the INDIA alliance have no desire to align with the Congress. However, they all share a common view on the need to oppose the BJP. All the parties are aware of the issues surrounding the SIR matter; therefore, attending the meeting is merely a formality. He stated this.



New Delhi: President Donald Trump has announced that India's Essar Group is setting up a massive steel plant in the US state of Iowa.

Former IAS Officer Divya Mittal Enters Politics



LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh IAS officer Divya Mittal has resigned from her post to enter politics. With the Assembly elections approaching in Uttar Pradesh, she stated, "I wish to become the voice of the common people.

I want to seek an

account of our country's 80 years of independence. In today's politics, there is power and clamour, but a lack of constructive thinking. We must transform politics. I will engage in politics—not by joining any political party, but by joining hands with all of you. I will contest the election from right here."

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CISF Jawan Opens Fire Indiscriminately at Office; 4 Dead



A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan opened fire at his colleagues following an altercation in the Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir. Four people, including an officer, lost their lives in the incident. Our country has various security wings, among which the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is a key component. Its primary mission is to provide security for the nation's most critical and protected infrastructure, such as space centers, nuclear power plants, major ports, airports, and the Delhi Metro. Additionally, the force handles security duties for prominent national leaders and VIPs. A tragic incident has now occurred within this force. An argument broke out yesterday among CISF personnel deployed for security duty at the Sewa Hydroelectric Project in Mashka village, Basohli area. What began as a minor dispute escalated into a shooting. The incident reportedly took place around 6:40 PM yesterday. The four individuals injured in the shooting were rushed to the NHPC Hospital in Himachal Pradesh; however, all four succumbed to their injuries despite medical efforts. The deceased have been identified as Assistant Commandant Ankit Kumar Pandey, Sub-Inspector Laxman Singh, Head Constable Rafiq Ahmed, and Head Constable Sandeep Kumar. The person who opened fire has been identified as CISF Head Constable Awadhesh Kumar Singh. It is reported that after an altercation, he entered the office and fired indiscriminately using his issued AK47 rifle. The CISF stated that he was carrying 150 rounds of ammunition at the time of the incident. Officials have also seized the weapon allegedly used in the shooting. Upon receiving information about the incident, the police rushed to the scene and brought the area under their control. Awadhesh Kumar Singh, the suspect in the shooting, has been arrested and handed over to the police. Officials are investigating the cause behind the altercation between the personnel that escalated into the shooting.

“Andhra Government Moving at Jet Speed”

CM Chandrababu Naidu Expresses Pride

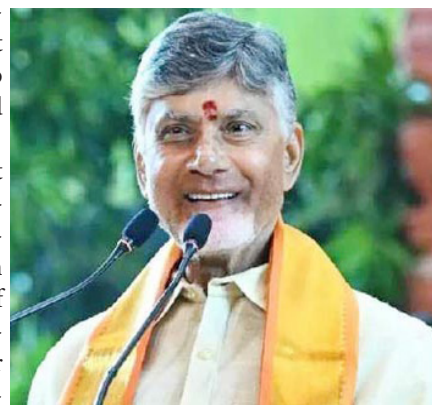
NELLORE: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated a new rural development initiative titled 'Gramathu Pandigai 3.0' (Village Festival 3.0) yesterday at Ramapuram in Nellore district. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan

and BJP State President Madhav also participated in the event.

Speaking at the event, Chandrababu Naidu said: "With the support of the Central Government, our alliance government is carrying out development works in Andhra Pradesh at 'jet speed.' The Central and State governments have allocated ₹11,085 crore to execute development projects under this 'Gramathu Pandigai 3.0' initiative.

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, who also holds the Rural Development portfolio, is making significant efforts towards rural progress.

Through this initiative, all villages in our state will be provided with essential amenities, including roads, transport, electricity, internet connectivity, drinking water, schools, and canals." Furthermore, measures will be taken to improve the livelihoods of the villagers. He spoke in this manner.



Private Sector Participation in Municipal Underground Sewerage Projects

Tender Issued to Study Feasibility in Madurai and Nagercoil



set to be undertaken in areas lacking underground drainage facilities; these include laying 111 km of sewer lines and 19.93 km of pumping mains, as well as constructing necessary pumping stations.

Following this, the selected consultancy firm must submit its report within five months. The feasibility study report and the project design must be prepared during the first two months. Tender procedures to select a private firm must be carried out over the next three months.

Companies participating in the tender are required to pay an earnest money deposit of ₹50,000. It has been announced that applications must be submitted by October 15. Once the scheme is implemented, the private firm is expected to play a role in tasks such as maintenance and tax collection.

MADURAI: There are 25 municipal corporations in Tamil Nadu—including Chennai and Madurai—functioning under the Municipal Administration Department. Meanwhile, private sector participation in the operations of these corporations has been increasing. In this context, the Municipal Administration Department has decided, for the first time, to implement underground sewerage projects with private sector participation.

As a first step, the Tamil Nadu Urban Infrastructure Financial Services Limited has issued a tender to study the feasibility and submit a report regarding the implementation

of this project in the Madurai and Nagercoil municipal corporations.

Project reports have already been prepared using the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) model to execute underground drainage works in these municipal corporations.

Accordingly, the plan for the Madurai Corporation includes rehabilitating existing sewage infrastructure, establishing sewage collection systems in newly added areas, and constructing sewage treatment plants. The estimated cost for this project is ₹2,377 crore. Similarly, in the Nagercoil Corporation, works costing ₹189 crore are



Narcotics worth ₹3,000 crore smuggled in Arabian Sea; 5 Pakistanis arrested

AHMEDABAD: Five Pakistani nationals have been arrested in connection with the smuggling of narcotics worth ₹3,000 crore in the Arabian Sea. Efforts to detect and curb drug smuggling along India's coast have been intensified, as have operations to identify smuggling syndicates. As part of these efforts, the Indian Coast Guard conducted a joint operation with the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS). During the operation, they intercepted and searched a suspicious boat moving near Lakshadweep. High-grade narcotics, including 526 kg of methamphetamine and heroin, were found concealed on board.

The authorities seized the contraband, which is estimated to be worth ₹3,000 crore, thereby thwarting a major smuggling attempt. Five individuals linked to the smuggling incident were arrested; all of them are Pakistani nationals.

The boat, its crew, and the seized narcotics were brought to Mumbai under heavy security. Intensive interrogation will be conducted, and appropriate legal action will follow. The Gujarat ATS has announced that a press conference regarding the incident will be held today to share further details.

Congress Urges Assam Government to Recall Elephants Sent to Tamil Nadu Temples



GUWAHATI: Five elephants were recently transported from Assam to temples in Tamil Nadu. Among them, 'Durga' was sent to the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple; 'Heeralal' and 'Shiva' to the Tiruvannamalai Annamalaiyar Temple; 'Roop Singh' to the Vaitheeswaran Temple; and 'Bujli' to the Kanchi Kamakshi Amman Temple. In this context, Assam Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi stated: "Wildlife activists have filed a case regarding the transfer of these five elephants from Assam to Tamil Nadu.

The government must clarify whether these five elephants were donated or purchased. If a financial transaction took place, the government needs to disclose the amount involved."

"Various allegations had previously arisen regarding the elephant 'Joymala,' which was sent to Tamil Nadu. Despite this, five more elephants have been transferred there. These five elephants must be brought back," he said.

Karachi Football Players Robbed at Gunpoint in Pakistan's Balochistan Province



QUETTA: An unidentified gang robbed Karachi football players at gunpoint on a highway in Balochistan. Players from the Karachi West District football team were traveling by bus to Quetta—the capital of Pakistan's Balochistan province—the day before yesterday to participate in the Chief Minister's Gold Cup football tournament. An armed gang intercepted and stopped the bus on a Balochistan highway. Threatening the players with guns, the gang looted their belongings, including cash, mobile phones, and valuable items.

They also assaulted some individuals who attempted to question or resist them. Upon reaching Quetta, the football team management lodged a police complaint regarding the incident. The police are currently investigating the matter.

It is noteworthy that there has been an increase in incidents where members of militant groups intercept and rob travelers on the highway connecting the Mastung district to Quetta in Balochistan.

SP's Ram Gopal Yadav, Dhanraj Nathwani file nominations for Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party candidates Professor Ram Gopal Yadav and Dhanraj Parimal Nathwani on Wednesday filed their nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav accompanied the two candidates during the nomination filing as the party formally entered the contest for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections. The party had earlier announced Ram Gopal Yadav and Dhanraj Parimal Nathwani as its two nominees from Uttar Pradesh.

Ahead of the nomination filing, Uttar Pradesh Minister and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party chief Om Prakash Rajbhar took a dig at the SP's candidate selection and questioned whether the nominees represented the party's PDA (Pichhada, Dalit, Alpashankhyak) formulation.

In a post on X, Rajbhar said, "Akhilesh ji, I've heard you're going to field three candidates for the Rajya Sabha. Tell me, will all three be from your 'PDA' or not?" Rajbhar also cautioned the SP against attempting to secure a third seat, saying it should not risk losing its second seat in the process.

The Election Commission had earlier announced that polling for 11 Rajya Sabha seats, including 10 from Uttar Pradesh and one from Uttarakhand, will be held on October 16. The terms of the sitting members from the two states are scheduled to expire on November 25.

The nomination process for the biennial elections is underway, with candidates required to complete the filing process within the schedule announced by the Election Commission. The SP's nomination exercise comes amid the party's continuing criticism of the Election Commission over electoral processes.

Earlier, Akhilesh Yadav had alleged that votes of SP supporters were deliberately deleted during the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. He claimed that voters who had exercised their franchise in 2019 were denied the opportunity to vote in 2022 without notice or adherence to rules. "When the results came out in 2022, I remember stating at our national convention that the Election Commission and officials had colluded to deliberately delete the votes of the Samajwadi Party," Yadav had said. The BJP had won 255 of the 403 Assembly seats in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh elections and formed the government under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.



Madurai: The consecration (*Kumbabhishekam*) of the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple took place on September 17. Ahead of this, Sri Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal, the Pontiff of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, visited the temple yesterday. He was accorded a ceremonial welcome by the temple administration. Seated in the *Artha Mandapam*, he performed *Puja* and special prayers to the Goddess for the welfare of the people and the prosperity of the nation. The Goddess was adorned with an ornament featuring two gold medallions and precious *Pancha Ratnas* (five gems), inscribed with the name 'Meenakshi' in Devanagari script. This design symbolized the *Meenakshi Pancharatnam*—a hymn comprising five verses in praise of the Goddess, composed by Adi Shankaracharya. Subsequently, the Swamigal spent half an hour performing rituals near the *Irattai Vinayagar* (*Twin Ganesha*) shrine located outside the sanctum sanctorum. During this time, devotees chanted the *Lalita Sahasranama*. Following the *Deeparadhana* (ritual offering of lamps), temple priests and administrators extended traditional honors to him. He then blessed the temple elephants—Parvathi and the calf Durga—by offering them fruits. He is scheduled to visit the temple again this morning to worship Lord Chokkanathar. Speaking at an event held at the 'Saksham Dheemahi' Special School in Thoppur, Madurai district—an institution focused on science and humanitarian education—Sri Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal said: "Greater attention needs to be paid to the development of differently-abled students. Service organizations like this are essential to empower differently-abled individuals by providing them with health support, medical care, and counseling.

Grand Triple Celebration at VIT Chennai: Nurturing Tamil is the Responsibility of the Entire Society – J.C.D. Prabhakar

MELAKOTTAIYUR: A grand triple celebration organized by the Dr. U.V. Swaminatha Iyer Library took place yesterday at VIT Chennai. G. Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor of VIT and President of the Dr. U.V. Swaminatha Iyer Library, presided over the event. Legislative Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar participated as the special guest. Vice President G.V. Selvam also participated and delivered an address.

In recognition of their contributions to the Tamil language, the 'Mahavidwan Sri Meenakshisundaram Pillai Award' was presented to Tamil scholar V. Padumanar, and the 'Dr. U.V. Sa. Award' was presented to Professor A.R. Venkatachalapathy. Legislative Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar honored the recipients by presenting the awards. He also released the book titled *Nannool Moolamum Mayilainatharuraiyum* ('The Original Text of Nannool and the Commentary by Mayilainathar'). VIT Vice President G.V. Selvam received the first copy. Speaking at the event, J.C.D. Prabhakar said, "Re-publishing rare Tamil works in refined editions not only preserves the Tamil intellectual tradition but also makes them easily accessible to future generations. Nurturing Tamil is not the responsibility of the Tamil department alone. Tamil will fully reach the next generation only when government bodies, educational institutions, universities, research centers, libraries, publishing houses, Tamil scholars, teachers, and students work together. Preserving Tamil literature and grammar should not be the task of scholars alone; it is the responsibility of society as a whole. Making Tamil books easily accessible to the current generation, publishing rare works, preserving them in digital formats, and encouraging Tamil research among students are the needs of the hour."

VIT Chancellor G. Viswanathan was also present at the event. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "Political parties should not always maintain a confrontational attitude. Wh-



en cooperation is required on major issues concerning the public, all parties must come together and work in unison. We should emulate the unity demonstrated by political parties in Nordic countries—such as Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, and Finland—and strive for the nation's development. Regardless of differences, the ruling party and opposition parties must work together when cooperation is needed. Such a political climate needs to be fostered in Tamil Nadu once again.

Tamil Nadu should serve as a role model for the rest of India." Speaking at the event, VIT Vice President G.V. Selvam said, "Tamil communities residing in Singapore, Malaysia, Mauritius, the United States, and various African nations continue to maintain a strong connection with the Tamil language. They take pride in speaking Tamil. Although everyone in Tamil Nadu knows the language, some hesitate to speak it. The Tamil language is our identity; we should speak it with pride.

Among the current generation, the habit of reading is declining, and attention spans are shortening. Therefore, Tamil scholars, historians, and professors should make extensive use of social media to convey the Tamil language and its history to the younger generation." Award recipients Pulavar V. Padumanar and Professor A.R. Venkatachalapathy delivered acceptance speeches. Also present were Y. Manikandan, former Head of the Department of Tamil at the University of Madras; S. Avudaiyappan, founder of 'Porunai Pakkangal'; and Dr. U.V. Sa. Library Vice-President Sivalayam J. Mohan participated and delivered a speech.

Traditional, emerging security threats discussed at 11th BIMSTEC counter terrorism meet in Delhi



NEW DELHI: The 11th meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime was held in New Delhi from Monday to Tuesday (September 28 & 29), with member states discussing traditional and emerging security threats and making recommendations to enhance regional cooperation in countering terrorism and transnational crimes, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The meeting, hosted by the Government of India, was attended by delegations from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan, Additional Secretary (Counter Terrorism), Ministry of External Affairs, chaired the meeting.

According to the MEA, the meeting discussed "traditional and emerging non-traditional security threats in the BIMSTEC region". Participants also deliberated and made recommendations on a wide range of issues to enhance cooperation and collaboration in countering terrorism and transnational crimes in the region.

The meeting further discussed reports of various sub-groups under the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on human trafficking; prevention of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals; anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism; legal and law enforcement issues; and cooperation on countering radicalisation and terrorism.

The discussions come as India continues to underline its zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism. Addressing the 178th episode of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' on September 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Today, India pursues a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism, and we are witnessing the results of that." PM Modi also recalled the 10th anniversary of the Surgical Strike carried out by the Indian Army on September 28 & 29, 2016.

"The 'Surgical Strike' boldly demonstrated to the entire world a new example of India's counter-terrorism policy. The 'Surgical Strike' was our decisive response to the long-standing pain India had endured due to terrorist attacks.

Over the past decade & from the Balakot airstrike to 'Operation Sindoor' & India has repeatedly sent a clear message: if terrorists dare to cast an evil eye on India, they will be met with a befitting response," he said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh currently holds the rotating chairmanship of BIMSTEC and intends to host a BIMSTEC Summit in 2027.

Bangladesh's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir said earlier in September, "Bangladesh currently holds the chairmanship, and we intend to host a BIMSTEC Summit at some point in 2027."

Visit of Sri Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal to Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple



Madurai: The consecration (*Kumbabhishekam*) of the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple took place on September 17. Ahead of this, Sri Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal, the Pontiff of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, visited the temple yesterday. He was accorded a ceremonial welcome by the temple administration. Seated in the *Artha Mandapam*, he performed *Puja* and special prayers to the Goddess for the welfare of the people and the prosperity of the nation. The Goddess was adorned with an ornament featuring two gold medallions and precious *Pancha Ratnas* (five gems), inscribed with the name 'Meenakshi' in Devanagari script. This design symbolized the *Meenakshi Pancharatnam*—a hymn comprising five verses in praise of the Goddess, composed by Adi Shankaracharya. Subsequently, the Swamigal spent half an hour performing rituals near the *Irattai Vinayagar* (*Twin Ganesha*) shrine located outside the sanctum sanctorum. During this time, devotees chanted the *Lalita Sahasranama*. Following the *Deeparadhana* (ritual offering of lamps), temple priests and administrators extended traditional honors to him. He then blessed the temple elephants—Parvathi and the calf Durga—by offering them fruits. He is scheduled to visit the temple again this morning to worship Lord Chokkanathar. Speaking at an event held at the 'Saksham Dheemahi' Special School in Thoppur, Madurai district—an institution focused on science and humanitarian education—Sri Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal said: "Greater attention needs to be paid to the development of differently-abled students. Service organizations like this are essential to empower differently-abled individuals by providing them with health support, medical care, and counseling.

Many charitable activities are taking place across the country. In the spirit of fostering righteousness and the desire to perform virtuous deeds, both the public and the government should extend their support to such service-oriented sectors." He stated that the Central and State governments should encourage educational programs grounded in science and humanism that foster a spirit of service.

He added that they pray to Swami Sundareswarar for His abundant grace upon such special schools, which are based on the principles of economics, science, and humanism.

