

Maduranthakam and Dharapuram Campaigning Ends Tomorrow in Constituencies

Leaders Intensify Vote-Seeking Efforts

CHENNAI: By-elections for the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies are scheduled for the 6th. A five-cornered contest is unfolding in these elections. Leaders have camped in both constituencies and are conducting vigorous election campaigns. Campaigning concludes tomorrow (Sunday) at 5 PM.

Against this backdrop, Chief Minister Vijay, DMK leader M.K. Stalin, and AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi Palaniswami conducted intense campaigns via roadshows yesterday. Chief Minister Vijay held a roadshow yesterday in support of Maragatham Kumaravel, the TVK candidate contesting in the Maduranthakam constituency. He set out by car from his Neelankarai residence at 1 PM and received an enthusiastic welcome all along the route. Cadres gathered on both sides of the road expressed their joy by showering flowers on the car in which Vijay was traveling.

Chief Minister Vijay began his roadshow at 2:30 PM from the Mamandur

junction. Standing in an open-top van, he canvassed for votes among the public. Subsequently, large crowds gathered at the Pukkathurai, Pazhayannur, and Padalam junctions to give him an enthusiastic welcome. Chief Minister Vijay stopped his vehicle for members of the public who were waiting with gifts and graciously accepted their offerings.

They presented him with items such as a *Sengol* (ceremonial sceptre), deity idols, images depicting MGR blessing him, a *Vel* (spear), and flower bouquets. Crowds of people flocked in waves to see Chief Minister Vijay as he campaigned in an open-top vehicle, undeterred by the scorching sun; he expressed his delight by whistling at the gathering. He canvassed for votes at 40 locations, including Janakipuram, Karunguzhi, Ayyanar Kovil Junction, Mambakkam, Muthukarai Junction, Melmaruvathur Temple Junction, Saravambakkam Junction,

Keezh Athivakkam, Elapakkam, Melaccheri, and Thandalam. At L. Endathur, he stopped his vehicle, stepped out, and had tea at a local shop. He sat with the village elders and conversed with them for a while, telling the shopkeeper that the tea was excellent.

In the Kiliyanagar area, he stopped his vehicle, stepped out, and inspected the nearby farmlands. He also canvassed for votes among the women present in the area. In the Sembondy area, he received petitions containing requests from differently-abled individuals. In the Ramapuram area, ploughing work was underway in a field, and a young man was driving a tractor. Upon seeing this, the Chief Minister stepped out of his vehicle and walked over to the field. Seeing the Chief Minister, the young man climbed down

from the tractor.

Vijay patted him on the shoulder, then climbed onto the tractor and drove it himself. In the Anaikkunnam area, he stepped out of his vehicle and went door-to-door to canvass for votes. Women performed *Aarthi* for him; accepting this gesture with a smile, the Chief Minister reciprocated by performing *Aarthi* for those who had honored him.



Starting at 2:30 PM and continuing until 6:30 PM, he spent four hours meeting the public while standing in his vehicle. He concluded his election campaign on Theradi Street.

M.K. Stalin's Roadshow To support Suganya, the DMK candidate contesting from the Dharapuram constituency

in Tiruppur district, party leader M.K. Stalin conducted a roadshow yesterday, starting from the Amaravathi statue in Dharapuram. He traveled a distance of approximately two kilometers, passing through key areas including Dharapuram's Periya Kadai Veethi (Big Bazaar

Street) and Pookadai Veethi (Flower Market Street). DMK cadres gave him an enthusiastic welcome, showering him with flowers all along the route. During the roadshow, M.K. Stalin stepped down from his vehicle to canvass for votes among the gathered public and accepted gifts offered by party cadres.

A brief commotion ensued when cadres tossed balloons towards M.K. Stalin. During the procession, he suddenly stepped down from his vehicle and visited a nearby grocery store, where he inquired about the prices of commodities. Speaking on the occasion, M.K. Stalin noted that the prices of essential goods had risen significantly compared to four months ago, leaving the public struggling to manage daily household cooking ex-

penses. He remarked, "Will watching 'Reels' fill people's stomachs?" He further pointed out that while GST revenue is rising across India, Tamil Nadu has been witnessing a decline over the past three months.

Edappadi Palaniswami Party General Secretary Edappadi Palaniswami campaigned vigorously yesterday to garner support for Banumathi, the AIADMK candidate for the Dharapuram constituency. Around 8 PM, he set out on a roadshow in a vehicle from the AIADMK election campaign office in Dharapuram.

Traveling from Udumalpet Road via Alangiyam Road across the entire town of Dharapuram, he received an enthusiastic welcome from party cadres who lined the route and showered him with flowers; some even took selfies with him. The roadshow concluded near the Anna statue in Dharapuram, followed by a public meeting. Edappadi Palaniswami participated and spoke at this event.

Presidential Assent for Gujarat's Uniform Civil Code

AHMEDABAD: The Gujarat Uniform Civil Code Bill, which provides for a common set of legal rules regarding civil matters for people of all religions, was passed by the Gujarat Legislative Assembly on March 24. It was subsequently sent to the President for assent.

President Droupadi Murmu has granted her approval to the Bill, and a notification regarding this has been published in the Gujarat Government Gazette.



The notification states that the Act will come into force on a date to be decided by the state government.

This Act will regulate ci-

vil matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and live-in relationships. It applies to the entire population of Gujarat as well as to Gujar-

atis residing in other states. However, tribal communities falling under Article 342 of the Constitution and certain groups protected under the 21st Schedule of the Constitution have been exempted from the provisions of this Act.

Registration of marriage within 60 days of the ceremony is mandatory. While this law has already been implemented in Uttarakhand, it has now come into effect in Gujarat as well.

Reliance to Invest ₹1 Lakh Crore in Andhra Pradesh: Anant Ambani

MADANAPALLE: Anant Ambani announced that Reliance Industries plans to invest ₹1 lakh crore in Andhra Pradesh. The foundation-laying ceremony for the Rayalaseema Horticulture Centre and the Indian School of Agriculture took place yesterday in Madanapalle, Andhra Pradesh. Anant Ambani, Executive Director of Reliance Industries and son of Mukesh Ambani, participated in the event.

Speaking at the gathering, he stated that Reliance Industries intends to invest ₹1 lakh crore in the state. Elaborating on this, he said: "Our farmers, who ensure In-



dia's food security, are now also securing the nation's energy needs. They are helping build an India that is self-reliant in energy production. Therefore, Reliance Industries thanks the state government for providing the opportunity to invest ₹1 lakh crore in setting up com-

pressed biogas plants in Andhra Pradesh. This initiative will create new opportunities for farmers and boost the state's journey towards green energy.

The compressed biogas plants will generate over 3 lakh jobs and contribute more than ₹60,000 crore in revenue to the state in the coming years. Reliance has been investing in green energy projects in Rayalaseema and exploring opportunities in the advanced manufacturing sector.

According to state government data, Andhra Pradesh has approved 388 mega-p-

rojects since June 2024. The investment commitments for these projects exceed ₹14 lakh crore and have the potential to create employment for approximately 11 lakh people." About one-third of these investments are directed towards the Rayalaseema region.

Anant Ambani stated that the Reliance Group would continue to support the School of Agriculture in India through the state's strategic investments, digital capabilities, technical expertise, and industry partnerships. It is noteworthy that Anant Ambani requested Andhra Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to accept him as a son of Andhra.



The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr P. K. Mishra at the Plenary Session 1, titled "A World Priced for Risk" at the 5th edition of Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC) - 2026, in New Delhi.

Shocking details revealed during interrogation of Omani co-pilot regarding attempted plane crash

TEL AVIV: Shocking information has emerged during the interrogation of an Omani co-pilot. A group of Israeli tourists had visited Dubai for sightseeing. Upon completing their trip, they boarded an Emirates-affiliated 'flydubai' flight to return home. The Boeing aircraft departed from Dubai International Airport, bound for Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, last Wednesday. More than 180 people were on board, including 174 Israeli passengers (among them 27 children) and the flight crew.

The flight was operated by an Indian captain, Smith Machar, assisted by an Omani co-pilot. Two and a half hours into the flight, having crossed the Saudi Arabian border, the aircraft was cruising at high speed at an altitude of 33,000 feet over Jordanian airspace.

It was then that a terrif-

ying and unexpected incident occurred in the cockpit. The Omani co-pilot suddenly stood up, produced a small concealed knife, and viciously attacked Captain Smith Machar. After seizing control of the aircraft from the captain—who had collapsed in a pool of blood—the ruthless co-pilot plotted to kill all the passengers by carrying out a suicide attack.

Intending to crash the plane into the ground and cause an explosion, he steered the aircraft into a steep, vertical descent, dropping 14,000 feet in just 30 seconds. Terrified by the prospect of death, the 170 Israeli passengers screamed in panic.

Flight attendants screamed, unaware of what was transpiring inside the cockpit. Despite being injured, Captain Smith Machar struggled fiercely alongside the co-pilot to bring the aircraft under control.



Simultaneously, a distress signal was transmitted from the plane. Israeli soldiers and fellow pilots on board were alerted. When the captain opened the cockpit door, they immediately rushed in, subdued the attacker, and tied him up with a rope. The aircraft subsequently made a safe emergency landing at Tabuk Airport in Saudi Arabia. The Indian pilot, Machar, was taken for medical treatment, while the Omani co-pilot was arrested. Intensive interrogation of the co-pilot regarding the incident is underway, revealing several shocking details. Isra-

li media reported that the co-pilot had been subjected to the forceful imposition of Al-Qaeda ideologies. Efforts had been made to recruit him into the organization, involving multiple meetings with religious leaders.

He harbored views associated with terrorism; consequently, he had previously been banned from flying. These details came to light regarding his earlier stay in Syria. Instead of returning to Oman, he had remained in Syria for an extended period, cultivating ties with terrorists and falling under their influence.

Today horoscope



Expected help will be received at the right time. You will gain the respect of those around you with clear decisions. Partners in business will be flexible. You will maintain peace in the office. Accept the advice of your superiors.



You will complete some work by acting in a timely manner. Your speech will gain value in the family. Old goods will be sold in business. You will get the expected loan assistance. Avoid interfering in the affairs of others in the office.



There may be worries and expenses regarding your daughter's marriage. Give in to the family and leave. There will be anger. You will struggle to collect old debts in business. Just be in the office and do your job.



Your hand will be raised in the family. Old friends will come seeking your help. Your mother's medical expenses will decrease. New goods will arrive in business. Do not ignore the advice of your partners. There will be a rise in your career.



The resentment you felt towards your relatives will go away. The affection of your children will increase. You will control unnecessary expenses from your father. You will have to meet important personalities in business. You will get recognition for your hard work in the office.



You will make friends with celebrities. You will find important solutions to problems related to ancestral property. You will receive benefits from the government. Your mother's health will be stable. You will try to expand your business. You will complete your work in the office quickly.



You will be encouraged by the friendship of a new person. You will meet old friends unexpectedly. You will spend a lot of money on renovating and expanding your ancestral home. A non-religious person will help. You will make good profits in business. Your superiors will support you in the office.



You will struggle to complete the planned work. There will be expenses and hassles related to siblings. It is better to be considerate of your neighbors. The workload will increase in the office. Your superiors will appreciate you. Do not make hasty decisions in business.



Unexpected encounters will occur. There will be peace in the family. Childhood friends will help. You will fulfill the wishes of your sibling. You will make efforts to expand your business. Do not complain about anyone in the office.



There will be happiness in the family. You will set a date for an auspicious event that was being postponed at home. An elder brother will help. You will get your vehicle repaired. Dues will be collected in business. It is better to avoid arguments at the office.



You will buy expensive things. You will guide your children on a new path. Your in-laws will come looking for you. You will attract customers by using new strategies in business. You will get a promotion in the office.



Your personality will increase. Your hand in the family will be lifted. Conflicts with your spouse will disappear. Students will be enthusiastic. Anger will disappear. Business will heat up and be profitable. The document you were looking for in the office will appear.

Government hospitals can handle 6.31 lakh deliveries per year: Minister Arunraj

CHENNAI: In this regard, he said in a statement released yesterday: "Since the maternal uncle wears a gold ring, all the people will come to the government hospital to give birth."

Therefore, when there is a shortage of medical staff in government hospitals, how can the increasing number of patients be treated? Nothing has been done to strengthen medical institutions and increase the number of medical staff.

DMK Medical Secretary Dr. Ezhilan said that the Tamil Nadu Public Health System has made progress in maternal and child health care through continuous financial allocations and extensive welfare programs. Of the total number of births in Tamil Nadu from 2015&16 to 2025&26, 9.47 lakh births took place in 2015&16, the highest number. Of these, 6.31 lakh deliveries took place in government hospitals. However, the total number of deliveries in 2025&26 decreased to 7.80 lakh. Of these, 4.15 lakh deliveries took place in government hospitals.

When comparing the total number of deliveries in Tamil Nadu in 2025&26, it is clear that government hospitals have the capacity to handle up to 6.31 lakh deliveries in the coming years, compared to the statistics of previous years.

In Tamil Nadu, the number of obstetricians, nurses, and infrastructure needed to handle deliveries in government hospitals has not only increased, but also decreased. In addition, 130 special cesarean centers are operational.

Of these, Rs. 25 crore to Rs. 50 crore have been spent on improving the comprehensive emergency maternity and child care services to make them available 24 hours a day.

The maternal uncle's gold ring scheme has increased the number of deliveries taking place in government hospitals, and the number of medical staff and equipment required to handle it is sufficient in government hospitals, he said.

TVK to Participate in INDIA Bloc Meeting for the First Time

CHENNAI: TVK is set to participate in the INDIA bloc meeting being held in Chennai under the leadership of the Congress party. Opposition parties have been accusing Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar of acting unilaterally during the special intensive revision of the electoral rolls and of arbitrarily removing a large number of voters.

In this context, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and various student organizations—such as the Students' Federation of India (SFI), the National Students' Union



of India (NSUI), and the All India Students' Federation (AISF)—had announced plans to stage a protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Gandhi Jayanti, demanding Gyanesh Kumar's resignation; however, they were arrested for

attempting to protest without permission.

Against this backdrop, a consultative meeting of the INDIA bloc parties is scheduled to take place in Chennai today to discuss holding a protest condemn-

ing Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Leaders from INDIA bloc parties—including the Congress, VCK, Left parties, Muslim League, and MD-MK—will participate in this consultative meeting, which is scheduled for 11:00 AM at Sathya Bhavan in Chennai. Notably, TVK will be participating in an INDIA bloc consultative meeting for the first time.

Reports indicate that Adhav Arjuna and Maria Wilson will represent TVK at this meeting, which calls for the removal of Gyanesh Kumar.

Trump “nearly \$100” checks will be sent to 20 million seniors

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump announced late on Friday that he will distribute nearly USD 100 to 20 million senior citizens nationwide, marking his latest initiative to offer direct cash payments to Americans.

The White House published details outlining Trump's plan on its official website, noting that the majority of qualifying seniors will obtain the distribution via direct deposits valued at USD 90 early in October. Individuals lacking direct deposit arrangements will be mailed a physical cheque during the same period, dispatched to the residential addresses officially logged with Medicare, according to the administration. Revealing the initiative late at night via his social media platform

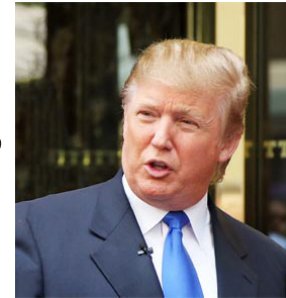
Truth Social, the US President stated, “My Administration will, immediately, begin sending ‘Checks’ of nearly \$100 to over 20 MILLION wonderful Seniors to help pay for their Medicare Part B premiums.”

He further remarked, “This money will come from the Medicare Improvement Fund, a pointless ‘Slush Fund’ that has only been used by Democrats in Congress to pay for the Waste, Fraud, and Abuse.” While Trump is not on the ballot, Republican candidates anticipate a challenging electoral battle against Democrats in the upcoming November midterms amid widespread public frustration over the adverse economic consequences of Trump's conflict with Iran on domestic finances.

In his Friday evening social media post, the US President added, “I pledged to protect and preserve Medicare and Social Security, which were on the verge of RUIN by Joe Biden, who foolishly and maliciously let tens of millions of Illegal Aliens into our Country, and we are doing just that for America's Seniors. This is separate from the equally substantial Refund ‘Checks’ we are sending to One Million Americans who were overcharged for their Unaffordable Care Act plans by Joe Biden.”

Trump asserted that fulfilling this cheque distribution should convince voters that the promised USD 5,000 “Trump Dividend” would materialise if the GOP secures victory.

This announcement follows closely on the heels of



Trump's declaration that his administration would disburse USD 5,000 to every US citizen should Republicans preserve their majority in Congress, a proposal that has provoked bipartisan criticism, though several congressional Republicans have expressed support. Trump's Republican Party presently maintains slender majorities across both the Senate and the House of Representatives, though his public approval ratings have suffered amid voter dissatisfaction with escalating living costs driven by the US-Israeli military campaign against Iran, which has sharply elevated petroleum and energy prices.

6 arrested for extorting money by showing snakes on a train in Bihar

PATNA: The Janseva Express train, which runs under the Sonpur division of the East Central Railway in Bihar, departed from Chhapra railway station yesterday. At that time, a group of people who boarded the general compartment showed snakes and demanded money from the passengers.



In this regard, on the complaint of some passengers, the Railway Protection Force police conducted a search in the public compartments of the train. At that time, it was found that 6 people were extorting money from the passengers by showing them snakes. Following this, all 6 people were arrested.

‘Spot fine’ for vehicles violating rules like vehicles without number plates and vehicles with 3 passengers from today

CHENNAI: Chennai Police Commissioner Amalraj is taking a series of measures to prevent road accidents in Chennai city and reduce the number of fatalities due to accidents.

In this situation, Chennai Traffic Police Commissioner Chamundeswari has ordered to intensify the action to detect violations on the spot and impose fines immediately.

Accordingly, for the next 10 days, traffic police will be closely monitoring Chennai's main roads, congested areas and accident-prone areas. Immediate action will be taken against drivers who violate traffic rules. In particular, those who drive vehicles without a number plate or with a number plate attached contrary to the rules. The police have decided to monitor and take action



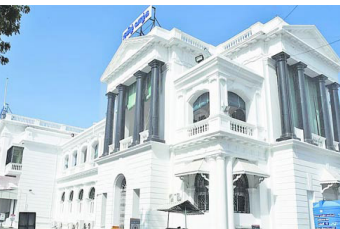
against those who ride three people on a bike, those who do not wear seat belts while

driving, those who drive at high speed, and those who violate signal rules.

TN government completely suspends collection of outstanding crop loans from cooperative societies

CHENNAI: The Cooperatives Department has announced that the collection of outstanding crop loans from cooperative societies has been completely suspended.

In a press release issued by the Cooperative Department, it was stated that the collection of outstanding crop loans received by farmers from cooperative societies has been temporarily suspended. The notification to this effect has



been sent by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies to the Zonal Registrars and Managing Directors of District Central Cooperative Banks through a circular, and all cooperative societies have

already been instructed to comply without fail and is being monitored.

In this situation, there have been complaints from some farmers that they are trying to collect their outstanding crop loans over the phone. Therefore, it is brought to the attention of all farmers that the collection of outstanding crop loans received by farmers in cooperative societies has

been completely temporarily suspended. Furthermore, it is stated that if any farmer is contacted by the cooperative society regarding the collection of outstanding crop loans, they can file a complaint on the official grievance redressal number of the cooperative department, WhatsApp number 9884000845, along with the mobile number contacted and the details of the cooperative society.

October 03 Muscat 2026

Missile attack on ship carrying 5 Indians in Strait of Hormuz; tensions rise



A missile attack on a ship carrying five Indians in the Strait of Hormuz has sparked tension. The vessel, the MT Kazimah III, was transporting oil and flying the Kuwaiti flag when it was attacked. Although the ship caught fire during the incident, the five Indian crew members on board were safely rescued. Tensions persist in West Asia due to the conflict between Iran and the United States. In retaliation for US attacks, Iran has restricted traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting global oil supplies. Iran has also been targeting vessels that pass through without prior authorization. Meanwhile, an abnormal situation prevails in the Strait of Hormuz region as the US maintains a blockade on Iranian ports. Amidst this, the attack on the Kuwaiti-flagged oil tanker MT Kazimah III occurred. While the ship caught fire, the five Indian crew members were safely rescued; the Indian Embassy in Oman confirmed this information. A statement issued by the embassy noted that an operation was carried out to rescue the five Indians from the MT Kazimah III, which had been struck by a missile in the Strait of Hormuz, and that all five have been safely brought ashore. “We express our gratitude to the Omani officials who supported the rescue operation,” the statement read. The vessel, sailing under the Kuwaiti flag, had been transporting crude oil to the port of Lomé in Togo.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs is currently maintaining close surveillance regarding the safety of Indian seafarers across key maritime routes, including the Persian Gulf. Amidst the prevailing tensions in West Asia, the rescue operation for the Indian seafarers was swiftly coordinated as India closely monitors the situation in the region. The Ministry of External Affairs recently stated that approximately 4,500 Indian seafarers are employed on vessels operating in the Gulf region. Addressing the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar voiced India's concerns regarding this issue. He stated that attacks on commercial vessels in the Gulf, Red Sea, and Black Sea regions—and the resulting loss of Indian lives—are completely unacceptable.

“Drug cartel leader Navpreet Singh, deported from Turkey, imprisoned” – Amit Shah

NEW DELHI: Amit Shah has announced that Navpreet Singh, the leader of a drug trafficking ring that smuggled narcotics from Afghanistan to India, has been deported from Turkey to India. In a post on X (formerly Twitter) regarding this,



Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated, “Navpreet Singh, a key leader of a drug trafficking cartel, has been deported from Turkey to India.

With this, the Modi government has achieved a historic milestone. Navpreet Singh, who had obtained Turkish citizenship using the alias ‘Nawab Virk’, was involved in the continuous smuggling of heroin and methamphetamine from Afghanistan to India. Our investigative agencies overcame numerous obstacles to locate him, expose his true identity, and secure his deportation. Navpreet Singh was brought to India today (Saturday) and has been imprisoned to face charges related to drug trafficking and other offenses.

Congratulations to all the agencies that contributed to this success. The Modi government is committed to eradicating every drug trafficking cartel by December 2029.” Navpreet Singh, a native of Amritsar, Punjab, had been a key figure in the drug trafficking network. Navpreet Singh was a wanted suspect in a case involving a heroin seizure worth ₹1,000 crore in 2021. While eleven members of his gang—who smuggled narcotics into India from abroad—had already been arrested, he has now also been taken into custody. It is expected that further arrests may follow as a result of the interrogation of Navpreet Singh.

US PACOM Commander arrives in India to bolster defence ties



NEW DELHI: Admiral Samuel J Paparo, Commander of the US Pacific Command, landed in India on Saturday to undertake a six-day official visit aimed at bolstering the India&US Major Defence Partnership and intensifying military&to&military collaboration.

Throughout his itinerary spanning October 3 to 8, Paparo is set to hold talks with senior officials representing the Ministry of Defence and the Indian Armed Forces concerning mutual

security objectives across the Indo&Pacific region.

Central topics on the agenda encompass digital transformation, emerging critical technologies and regional strategic stability. Additionally, both countries are channelling efforts into bolstering defence energy resilience alongside addressing a progressively competitive global technology environment. Highlighting the engagement, the US Embassy released a statement on Saturday, noting, “From emerging technology to maritime security, the United States and India are building a defence partnership equipped to meet the challenges of the future.”

This high&level visit builds on a series of recent high&profile military and diplomatic engagements

between Washington and New Delhi aimed at expanding bilateral defence collaboration alongside deliberating upon shifting security imperatives across the Indo&Pacific region.

Adding to this strategic momentum following the conclusion of the 22nd edition of the India&US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas on September 27, which wrapped up after nearly three weeks of intensive bilateral training, key strategic talks took place last month in the national capital between Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth and Lieutenant General Joel B Vowell, Deputy Commanding General of United States Army Pacific (USARPAC).

Illuminating the outcomes of that interaction, the Indian Army issued a statement via X, noting,

“Lieutenant General Joel B Vowell, Deputy Commanding General, USARPAC, called on General Dhiraj Seth, COAS, on 28 September. The leaders discussed the evolving security landscape in the Indo&Pacific and explored opportunities to advance bilateral defence engagement across multiple domains.”

The official update further stated, “The interaction also focused on measures to enhance interoperability through joint training and military exercises. The successful outcome of Exercise Yudh Abhyas validated the seamless synergy of joint operations and reaffirmed the commitment of both Armies towards strengthening military&to&military cooperation.”

Further expanding this bilateral momentum earlier this Monday, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar

Singh held discussions with a visiting bipartisan US Congressional delegation headed by Representative Brian Mast. Their dialogue concentrated on reinforcing the India&US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, with specific emphasis directed towards defence industrial and technological collaboration.

Detailing the engagement on X, the Ministry of Defence noted, “Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh met with a bipartisan delegation from the United States House of Representatives, led by Representative Brian Mast, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Their discussion centred around the evolving India&US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership with special emphasis on defence industrial and technological cooperation.”



Srinivasa Perumal Graces Devotees in ‘Raja Alankaram’; Thousands Offer Prayers

TIRUVANAMALAI: Special worship ceremonies are being conducted with great grandeur at the Srinivasa Perumal Temple in Tiruvannamalai—often revered as ‘Then Tirupathi’ (Southern Tirupati)—to mark the third Saturday of the Tamil month of Purattasi. As a key highlight of the festival, the temple doors were opened as early as 1:00 AM today (Saturday).

Following this, special *Thirumanjanam* (sacred bath) and *Abhishekam* rituals were performed for the deity. After the rituals, Perumal appeared before the devotees adorned in the majestic *Raja Alankaram* (royal attire). Since the early hours, thousands of devotees waited in long queues and offered prayers while chanting “Govinda.” Later today at 4:00 PM,

Perumal will be taken out in a procession around the hill (*Girivalam*) mounted on the “Garuda Vahanam”. A large turnout of devotees is expected to witness this procession. Extensive arrangements have been made by the district administration and the police to ensure devotee convenience and manage the crowd; over 400 police personnel have been deployed for security duties.

Swaminarayan Organization Clarifies: Did Not Ask for Female Eiffel Tower Staff to Be Kept Away

NEW DELHI: An internal inquiry by the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) has revealed that the group visiting the Eiffel Tower in France did not request that female staff members on duty be kept away. The Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, is one of the wonders of the world. A 100&member group from BAPS, including monks, visited the Eiffel Tower on September 5. Subsequently, complaints arose alleging that female staff members at the tower were moved to other locations. Protesting this, Eiffel Tower employees went on strike. As a result, the iconic Parisian landmark was temporarily closed.

Amidst this, the Paris chapter of BAPS voluntarily conducted an inquiry into the matter, and the report has now been released. The report states, “When the BAPS group visited the Eiffel Tower, they did not request that female staff members be kept away from the path they were taking.

BAPS is concerned about the staff members affected by this controversy. We believe that these inquiry findings will help clarify the circumstances surrounding the visit and assist those involved in taking the next steps.” Following this controversy,



the chief official of the Eiffel Tower decided to step down from their position.

It has been announced that Patrick Branco Ruivo, the CEO of ‘Société d’Exploitation de la Tour Eiffel’—the company that manages the Eiffel Tower—will step down from his position at the end

of this year.

Previously, the Eiffel Tower employees’ union had alleged that female staff members were sidelined and transferred based on gender, attributing these actions to

instructions issued by BAPS.

The BAPS organization in Paris had already apologized to everyone affected or inconvenienced by this incident. The consecration ceremony of the BAPS Hindu temple near Paris took place last month. In connection with this event, members of the organization visited the Eiffel Tower.

According to information on the BAPS website, the organization builds and manages over 1,300 temples across North America, Europe, Africa, West Asia, India, and the Asia&Pacific regions.

“Do Not Buy Firecrackers Without Paying”

Virudhunagar SP Warns Police Personnel



VIRUTHUNAGAR: Virudhunagar Superintendent of Police (SP) Gautam Goyal has warned police personnel against purchasing firecrackers without payment in the district. Over a thousand firecracker manufacturing units and more than 1,500 firecracker shops operate in Sivakasi and its surrounding areas within the Virudhunagar district. Complaints had frequently arisen regarding police personnel obtaining firecrackers or gift boxes without payment from factories and shops located within their respective station limits during the Diwali season. In a press release addressing this issue, SP Gautam Goyal warned police officers and constables serving in the district not to acquire firecrackers or gift boxes from these establishments without paying for them.

‘Chat Business’ Launched: Completely Free for Government Departments and Public Services

Sridhar Vembu’s Bold Move



NEW DELHI: Zoho, a global software company based in Tamil Nadu, has officially launched its ‘Arattai for Business’ app to challenge the dominance of Meta’s WhatsApp. Sridhar Vembu, the company’s

head, has made a significant announcement stating that the service will be completely free for government departments and public services. ‘Arattai’—an Indian&origin messaging app—has already

gained widespread popularity among the public; the company has now introduced ‘Arattai for Business’ to cater to commercial enterprises. In a statement regarding this launch, Sridhar Vembu noted that the ‘Arattai for Business’ app has been introduced to enable businesses to communicate easily with their customers. He further mentioned that the ‘Arattai Business Platform’—which integrates various software systems—will be provided entirely free of charge for all government and public welfare services, including the railways.

Compulsory Saturday work in 100 sub-registrar offices cancelled from Nov. 1

CHENNAI: The order issued by Tamil Nadu Commercial Tax and Registration Department Secretary J. Kumaragurubaran states: As per the order issued in 2022, the Head of the Registration Department has been authorized to operate the Registrar’s offices on Saturdays, which are weekly holidays, to enable the general public working in the offices to carry out document registration, and to direct the concerned District Registrars to employ the necessary staff in those offices as per their workload.

In this situation, in a letter sent to

the Tamil Nadu government on September 8, the Head of the Registration Department said, “In order to achieve the goal of universal registration, the Registrars are required to undertake various administrative tasks in addition to document processing. Therefore, there is a backlog in office work on Saturdays due to document processing.” Since it is planned to conduct all documents in a non&attendance and paperless manner in the coming times, the notification issued by the Minister in the Legislative Assembly to waive the mandatory Saturday work, which

is currently practiced in 100 procuratorate offices, may come into effect from November 1.

“The government order issued in 2022 for this purpose should be repealed,” he demanded. The Tamil Nadu government, after considering this, has decided to discontinue the compulsory Saturday work system and has decided to implement the suggestions of the Head of the Registration



Department. The 100 pro®istrar offices that function on Saturdays will function only on weekdays from November 1. The decision has been taken for the general public. The highlight of the fe-

Justice N. Anand Venkatesh insists that Tamil Mother’s Day should be sung with devotion like the Vedas



CHENNAI: Justice N. Anand Venkatesh emphasized at the ‘Nature Cure Fest’ that Tamil Mother’s Day is not a ritual that is sung as a ritual, but should be sung with devotion like the chanting of the Vedas.

The World Vegetarian Federation, Government Yoga and Naturopathy College of Medicine, Student Council, and Rotary Association organized the ‘Nature Cure Fest&2026’ festival yesterday at Rajaratnam Stadium, Egmore, Chennai, with the aim of creating awareness among the people about yoga, naturopathy, and a healthy lifestyle on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. The festival, which began with an awareness rally for nature and well&being, included free yoga and naturopathy counseling camps for the general public.

The highlight of the fe-

stival was the Natural Food Exhibition, where over 1,000 traditional natural food items that do not require cooking gas or oil were displayed, and the Noah World Record was recognized.

Subsequently, an awareness march titled ‘Let’s choose vegetarian food and do yoga’ is also being held. At the inaugural ceremony, Madras High Court Justice N. Anand Venkatesh, who released books on natural medicine, said: Vegetarian food, which does not cause suffering to any living being, gives us peace of mind and clarity of mind.

Even scholars like Thiruvalluvar, Gandhi, Pythagoras, Albert Einstein, and Bernard Shaw have spoken about the virtues of vegetarianism. Therefore, vegetarianism is not a matter of superiority. Vegetarianism connects us

closely with all living beings in the world. Rather than spending money on gyms and getting in shape, practicing yoga at home can help you live a healthy life, even up to 120 years. There was a mistake in the pronunciation when the greeting was sung in Tamil at the beginning of the program. He said, “Just as there is devotion when singing the Vedas and Upanishads, one should sing the salutations in Tamil with the same devotion, understanding the meaning.”

The event was attended by Government Yoga and Naturopathy College Principal N. Manavalan, World Vegetarian Federation President Mahavir Bothra, Founder Darachand Dugar, Secretary Sudhakar, Rotary District Governor Sriram Duvuri, and Adiyar Ananda Bhavan Managing Director K.T. Srinivasa Raja Ollidore.

TVK files complaint with Election Commission against DMK leader M.K. Stalin

CHENNAI: The legal wing of TVK has lodged a complaint with the Election Commission against DMK leader M.K. Stalin, alleging that he engaged in body-shaming a TVK candidate during his campaign. By-elections for the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies are scheduled for the 6th. A five-cornered contest is underway in these elections.

Leaders have camped in

both constituencies and are conducting intensive campaigns. Election campaigning concludes at 5 PM tomorrow (Sunday). Against this backdrop, Chief Minister Vijay, DMK leader M.K. Stalin, and AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi Palaniswami conducted intensive campaigns via roadshows yesterday. Meanwhile, while speaking at a public meeting in Dharapuram in support of Secular Progressive Alliance

candidate S. Suganya, DMK leader M.K. Stalin remarked, "People call the TVK candidate of this constituency 'Petti Bama' and 'Palti Bama'—referring to that candidate who acted contrary to truth." He also commented on the physical appearance of TVK candidate Sathyabama. This has sparked strong opposition from the TVK camp. Consequently, a complaint has been filed with the Election Commission ag-

ainst DMK leader M.K. Stalin. TVK has approached both the Election Commission and the DGP regarding the alleged body-shaming of their candidate during the campaign. The lawyers' wing has lodged a complaint. Reports indicate that a demand has been made to take action regarding the violation of the Model Code of Conduct and to register a case under the law against violence towards women.

Ebola death toll rises to 4,018



CONGO: More than 8,000 people in Congo have been confirmed to be infected with Ebola. Congo is witnessing an unprecedented spread of Ebola.

Since the outbreak began in mid-May, the death toll has risen to uncontrollable levels. During the 2014–2016 West African Ebola epidemic, 28,600 people were infected across

Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, resulting in over 11,000 deaths. The current outbreak marks the second deadliest spread of the virus since then. The virus has spread across seven provinces, with 8,300 confirmed cases. Government data confirms 4,018 deaths, while more than 2,000 patients have recovered. The virus continues to spread rapidly in eastern Congo. As one of the world's deadliest viral diseases, it can cause

severe internal bleeding, organ failure, and death. There are fears that the Ebola virus may have spread to neighboring countries such as Uganda and South Sudan. In response, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a global health emergency.

The outbreak has been identified as being caused by the Bundibugyo virus. There are currently no specific medicines or vaccines to treat or prevent this virus, though medical trials are ongoing in Congo.

We should stand in the election fray without campaigning

'We the Leaders' founder Annamalai



CHENNAI: More women should be allowed to contest in local government and assembly elections. They should stand in the election fray without campaigning, said Annamalai, founder of the 'We the Leaders' organization.

The 'We the Leaders' organization is celebrating 'Women's Empowerment and Safety Month' throughout the month of October.

As an inaugural event, the 'Kamaraj Award' ceremony was held yesterday in Alwarpet, Chennai, to honor Kamaraj's memory.

The organization's founder, Annamalai, participated in this and honored

11 lesser-known women achievers who excelled in various fields including teaching, organic farming, traditional rural music, yoga, education, and volunteerism with the Kamaraj Awards. Following that, Annamalai spoke: The number of cases including sexual assault against children, sexual harassment against women, and kidnapping have increased significantly in Tamil Nadu.

We should have more women contest on behalf of our movement in the upcoming local government elections and legislative assembly elections.

So far, 2.1 million people have joined this movement. We are moving towards

our goal at a faster pace than expected.

A change has begun in Tamil Nadu politics. We are going to bring many more changes. Political party leaders are campaigning to get votes for them in the ongoing assembly by-elections.

But, when we become a political organization, we should stand in the election field without campaigning. We

should create a politics where there is no need to campaign during election time.

We need to create a situation where we meet the people only on the last day of the campaign after filing the nomination papers. We are moving towards that goal. He said this.

The function was attended by Karu Nagarajan, General Secretary of 'We the Leaders' organization, Aspire K. Swaminathan, General Secretary of Media, Campaigns and Public Relations, and many others, including administrators Sai Sathyan, Manoharan, Sumathi Venkatesan, Amarprasad Reddy.

Confiscation of Corruptly Acquired Assets of Government Employees Mandatory

High Court's Strong Stance

MADURAI: The High Court has suggested that the confiscation of assets amassed by government employees through corrupt means should be made mandatory. Observing that such confiscation is essential, the Court stated that it would instill fear in the minds of officials who currently enjoy the fruits of their corrupt activities. Thangavelu, a former Sub-Registrar in Trichy, was arrested for accepting a bribe and subsequently sentenced to imprisonment; the court also ordered the confiscation of his assets, a process that has since been carried out. Challenging this, Thangavelu filed a petition with the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, seeking to quash the order confiscating his assets. In his petition, Thangavelu



stated, "The Trichy court had sentenced both me—formerly a Sub-Registrar—and my wife to imprisonment following a case filed by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption regarding the acceptance of a bribe. The judge also ordered the confiscation of our assets. I request that this order by the Trichy court be set aside."

The case came up for hearing before Justice Pugazhendhi of the Madurai Bench of the High Court. Subsequently, in the order issued, the judge

stated, "The Prevention of Corruption Act contains guidelines for the confiscation of assets; an order issued for such confiscation cannot be deemed to be without jurisdiction. Corruption and corrupt practices must be viewed far more seriously than any other crime."

Furthermore, mandatory attachment and confiscation are absolutely essential to combat the evil of corruption, which has permeated every segment of our society.

To this end, the government must undertake necessary amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act (in force since 1988). This High Court is of the view that the confiscation of assets—suspected to have been acquired through corrupt means and amassed disproportionately to known sources of income—must be made mandatory.

Only then can a sense of fear be instilled in the minds of government officials who enjoy the fruits of assets acquired through corruption. Otherwise, these provisions will remain merely on paper, devoid of any deterrent effect. This Court trusts that the Tamil Nadu government will take the initiative to introduce appropriate amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act in this regard."



An International Horticulture Centre and an Indian School of Agriculture are set to be established at a cost of ₹1 lakh crore in Madanapalle, Annamaya district, near Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stones for these two major projects yesterday.

Denial of Entry to Gandhi Trust Officials MP Su. Venkatesan Criticizes CM

MADURAI: The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the renovated Madurai Gandhi Memorial Museum—refurbished at a cost of ₹10.25 crore—on September 28. Madurai MP Su. Venkatesan has criticized the officials from the Chief Minister's office for their incompetence in handling the situation, noting that Gandhi Trust officials were denied entry under the pretext of security protocols for the Chief Minister.

In a post on X regarding this matter, he stated that for the past decade, Gandhian memorials, publishing offices, and properties belonging to "Seva Sangh" organizations across India have been systematically dismantled and plundered by right-wing groups using various tactics. Amidst these trying times, the Madurai Gandhi Museum has been revitalized through a renovation costing ₹10.25 crore. This is no mere coincidence; it is a significant development in contemporary politics.

This event must not go unrecorded; hence, I am documenting it even amidst the hectic travel and demands of by-election work. Gandhi was assassinated by Godse in an act of religious fanaticism. The blood-stained garment worn by that great soul—who collapsed to the ground after being struck by a bullet—rests within a glass case at the Madurai museum. Gandhi, who had visited Madurai five times, sent only the garment he had worn during his visits for the sixth time. That blood-stained cloth will forever speak of the story, history, and principles of Gandhism. Following the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, the "All India Gandhi Smarak Nidhi" (Gandhi National Memorial Fund) was established, and various locations across India were considered for setting up a Gandhi Memorial Museum. Madurai held special significance: it was the place where Gandhi adopted the simple loincloth attire and where the

temple entry movement was successfully conducted. Citing these two key reasons, a letter was written to the Trust urging that the museum be established in Madurai. The letter was authored by the respected Soundarammal and Amirtham Ramakrishnan—two distinguished figures from Madurai.

Their letter, combined with the persistent follow-up actions taken by N.M.R. Subbaraman regarding this request, paved the way for the project. The Gandhi Memorial Trust decided to establish museums at seven locations across India, and Madurai was selected as one of them. It was during his visit to Madurai in 1921 that Gandhiji switched to wearing only a loincloth; consequently, an initial attempt was made to set up the museum at the very site where he had stayed at that time. However, since that property was privately owned, it could not be immediately transferred to the Trust—a complication that also arose with the other selected sites across the country. In this context, the "Mangammal Palace"—which served as the District Collector's residence at the time—was identified as a suitable location for the Madurai museum, and the proposal was conveyed to the Trust. Originally a summer palace built by Queen Mangammal several centuries earlier, it had been converted into the Collector's residence during British rule and continued to serve that purpose even after independence.

The State Government stepped forward to offer this magnificent, stately building for use as a museum, and the Trust accepted the offer. India's first Gandhi museum was established in Madurai. A mansion that had known only the taste of power for 350 years was transformed into a monument bearing the memory of a great man who fought against power—a structure that stands today holding the stain of his blood.

Decisions regarding which of Gandhiji's personal belongings should be housed in the museum were made after extensive deliberation. Fourteen items used by the Mahatma were sent to the museum established in Madurai.

Nehru's decision to send Gandhiji's blood-stained final garment to the Madurai museum was a gesture of profound historical significance and is worthy of great admiration. Other items, including the last pair of spectacles and the sandals he used from 1946 onwards, also arrived at the Madurai museum. Most notably, the original manuscript containing Gandhiji's Tamil handwriting and signature—written for the Mahakavi Bharati memorial volume with the message, "My blessings for the efforts to commemorate Bharati – M.K. Gandhi"—reached Madurai. Similarly, the original manuscript of his historic letter to Hitler—urging him to halt a war that threatened to plunge humanity into a state of savagery—also arrived at the museum. Fourteen artifacts and thirty-three replicas associated with the life of Mahatma Gandhi are currently on display at this museum. In recent times, both artistic and political imperatives arose to renovate the museum building while preserving its original heritage character. The nation is witnessing how properties associated with the Gandhi Memorial Trust are being dismantled and plundered in various ways during the Modi regime.

In Varanasi, the buildings of the publishing house linked to the Gandhi Trust (Sarva Seva Sangh) were demolished overnight. Apart from the five acres of the Sabarmati Ashram, the surrounding 100 acres were converted for commercial tourism purposes. The tragic story of what befell Gujarat Vidyapith also deserves to be documented in detail. Across the country, Gandhi Memorial Trust...

Maharashtra: 7 Killed in Accident While Transporting Durga Idol

AMARAVATHI: Seven people lost their lives in an accident while transporting a Durga idol in Maharashtra. Residents of the Wardha area had decided to install a Durga idol in their village for the Dussehra festival.

To procure the idol, they set out for the Shegaon area in a tempo van the

night before last. After collecting the idol, they were returning to their village in the van. Around 12:45 AM yesterday, while traveling along the Samruddhi Expressway near the Dhamangaon railway station in Amravati district—specifically at 'Channel 97'—a speeding

16-wheeled cargo truck approaching from behind lost control. It collided with the van traveling ahead of it. Five people inside the van died on the spot, trapped in the wreckage. Additionally, 23 others sustained severe injuries. The Durga idol being transported was also broken and damaged.

Upon receiving news of the accident, police rushed to the scene and rescued the injured, sending them to the hospital. Two of them succumbed to their injuries, bringing the total death toll to seven. The remaining 21 injured individuals are currently receiving intensive medical treatment.

Action taken against 63 establishments for failing to grant a holiday to workers on Gandhi Jayanti

KRISHNAGIRI: Action has been initiated against 63 establishments that failed to grant a holiday to their workers on Gandhi Jayanti. In this regard, a press release issued by the Assistant Commissioner of Labour (Enforcement), Krishnagiri, Mr. Shankar, states the following: Under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) Act, the Catering

Establishments Act, and the Motor Transport Workers Act, workers employed in various establishments—including shops, catering establishments, and motor transport companies—must be granted a paid holiday on national holidays. If such a holiday is not granted, workers employed on that day must be provided with double wages or a compensatory holiday.

Establishments were instructed to display a notice regarding this arrangement—a copy of which had to be sent to the Deputy and Assistant Inspectors of Labour—in a visible location within the premises on the holiday. Accordingly, on Gandhi Jayanti, inspections were conducted across Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri districts under the leadership of Assis-

tant Commissioner of Labour (Enforcement) Mr. Rajasekar. A total of 88 establishments—comprising 38 shops, 44 catering establishments, and 6 motor transport companies—were inspected. Legal action has been initiated against a total of 63 establishments—consisting of 26 shops and 37 catering establishments—for failing to comply with the statutory regulations.