

PM Modi, Swiss President Guy Parmelin hold bilateral talks at Hyderabad House

NEW DELHI: Swiss President Guy Parmelin on Monday held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Hyderabad House, continuing his high-level engagements in New Delhi.

Earlier in the day, President Parmelin attended a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at Rajghat to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, accompanied by his wife, Caroline Parmelin.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also called on the visiting Swiss leader. Detailing the engagement in a post on X, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar stated, "Pleased to call on President Guy Parmelin @ParmelinG of the Swiss Confederation, visiting India on a State Visit. Deeply appreciate President Parmelin's sentiments towards deepening our partnership, building on the promise of India & EFTA TEPA."

Confident that this meeting

high level engagements in New Delhi

with PM @narendramodi will further our engagement across a wide range of domains."

Building upon these warm diplomatic exchanges, Swiss Confederation President Guy Parmelin stated on Monday that his visit serves as a "stepping stone" towards fortifying the "close and long-standing partnership" binding the two countries.

Marking the formal commencement of his itinerary, President Parmelin received an official ceremonial reception at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan, where he was greeted cordially upon arrival by President Droupadi Murmu alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing members of the press following the welcome ceremony, President Parmelin remarked, "The visit is an excellent opportunity to em-

phasise the importance that both Switzerland and India attach to this relationship."

He further noted that diplomatic ties connecting India and Switzerland are anchored upon "shared democratic values as well as on trust and mutual respect".

"My visit is a stepping stone towards further growth, deepening and strengthening of our close, broad and long-standing partnership. I am pleased and honoured that we have the chance to exchange views on matters of bilateral and global importance," the Swiss head of state stated. "I am especially glad that my stay in India will enable us to commemorate the first anniversary of the entry into force of the India & EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, TEPA," he added. The India & EFTA Trade and



Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) constitutes an expansive free trade pact established between India and the four European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member nations, comprising Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Having been formally signed on March 10, 2024, the

accord officially took effect on October 1, 2025.

"It is the right moment to celebrate how far we have come together, but even more importantly, to shape our joint future," President Parmelin observed. Having touched down in India on Monday to undertake a three-day State visit at the invitation

of Prime Minister Modi, the Swiss leader's high-level itinerary centres on enhancing bilateral collaboration across commerce, investment, scientific advancement, technological innovation and workforce mobility.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) noted that President Parmelin is travel-

ling alongside a prominent delegation consisting of senior officials and corporate executives, marking his maiden State visit to India and his second journey to the nation this year, following his participation in the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi in February 2026.

During the course of the visit, President Parmelin will likewise meet with President Droupadi Murmu, who is slated to host a ceremonial banquet in his honour.

The diplomatic engagement acquires distinct prominence given that President Parmelin is set to attend the second India & EFTA Prosperity Summit on October 7, signalling the inaugural anniversary of the operationalisation of TEPA. Emphasising Switzerland's critical standing as an

economic collaborator, the MEA noted that among EFTA member states, Switzerland functions as India's primary trade and investment partner, underscoring the enduring connections linking both nations and the necessity of maintaining consistent high-level dialogues. "India and Switzerland share long-standing friendly relations.

This visit will further strengthen bilateral relations, building upon the regular high-level exchanges and deepen cooperation in new areas of mutual interest," the MEA stated. The diplomatic undertaking transpires against a background of continuous high-level interactions between New Delhi and Bern, noting that the most recent State visit executed by an Indian President to Switzerland occurred in 2019, whereas Prime Minister Modi undertook official journeys to Switzerland in 2016 and 2018.

Toor Dal Procurement: TVK Government Saves Rs. 187 Crore

CHENNAI: The Civil Supplies Department has announced that the TVK government has saved Rs. 187 crore by procuring toor dal—distributed to the public through fair price shops in Tamil Nadu—at a lower price compared to previous periods. In Tamil Nadu, commodities such as rice, sugar, and wheat, along with toor dal, are sold at subsidized rates through fair price shops.

The state government procures the toor dal and supplies it to these outlets. According to data released by the Civil Supplies Department,



tment, expenditure has been reduced by Rs. 187 crore over the last three months due to the lower procurement cost of toor dal.

During the previous DMK administration, toor dal was procured at Rs. 109.15 per kilogram; however, under the

TVK administration, it has been procured at Rs. 77.89 per kilogram.

This represents a saving of Rs. 31 per kilogram compared to the earlier procurement price. Consequently, a total of Rs. 187 crore has been saved on

toor dal procurement costs over the past three months.

While Rs. 654 crore was spent on toor dal procurement during the same period last year under the DMK administration, only Rs. 467 crore was spent under the TVK administration, resulting in a saving of Rs. 187 crore. A total of 60,000 tonnes of toor dal has been procured for distribution to fair price shops.

The Civil Supplies Department has clarified that despite the reduction in procurement costs, there has been no compromise in the quality of the toor dal.

India-Canada Trade Agreement Crucial Talks Begin Today

CANADA: India and Canada are actively working to finalize a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement by the end of this year. The third round of bilateral talks to finalize the agreement took place in Ottawa, Canada, last July, while the fourth round concluded successfully in Delhi on the 18th of last month.

The fifth round of negotiations is now taking place in Canada. Trade officials stated the following regarding the talks: The negotiations, involving ministers and officials from both nations, are scheduled to last five days, with the



talks expected to conclude on October 9.

Both countries have set a target to finalize the trade agreement by the end of this year; consequently, the pace of negotiations has been intensified.

Once finalized, the agreement could lead to a reduction or complete elimination of tariffs on various goods traded between the two nations.

Additionally, the agreement will cover aspects such as simplifying regulations

for skilled professionals to work in either country and promoting investments.

India and Canada had originally initiated negotiations for this agreement in 2015. Subsequently, the talks were halted. Later, both nations decided to resume formal negotiations in November

2025. Meanwhile, Canadian Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu is scheduled to visit Delhi this month, accompanied by a 300-member trade delegation, officials added.

Anaimalaiyar- Nallar Irrigation Project: TN Ministers' Delegation Visit to Kerala Postponed



CHENNAI: The visit of a Tamil Nadu ministerial delegation to Kerala, intended for discussions regarding the Anaimalaiyar & Nallar project, has been postponed. The Anaimalaiyar & Nallar

project aims to divert water from the Anaimalaiyar—which originates in Kerala and currently flows wastefully into the Arabian Sea—via the Nallar stream to the Thirumoorthy Dam in Tamil Nadu.



Implementing this project to provide irrigation facilities for the Coimbatore, Tiruppur, and Erode districts has been a long-standing demand of Tamil Nadu farmers. The Tamil Nadu ministerial

delegation had planned to visit Kerala today to discuss the project's implementation with the Kerala government. The delegation comprises Tamil Nadu Water Resources Minister Anand, Revenue Minister Sengottaiyan, Health Minister Arunraj, and Tourism Minister Rajesh Kumar.

The team was scheduled to meet Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan and the state's Irrigation Minister. However, the planned visit by the Tamil Nadu ministerial delegation to Kerala for consultations on the Anaimalaiyar & Nallar irrigation project has been temporarily postponed. The visit has been postponed due to the enforcement of the election model code of conduct.

Depriving the right to vote cannot be justified Supreme Court Judge's significant remarks

HYDERABAD: Supreme Court Judge Ujjal Bhuyan has stated that any procedure which strips crores of Indian citizens of their voting rights—thereby reducing them to disenfranchised, second-class citizens in their own country—is fundamentally arbitrary.

He remarked that such actions strike at the very foundation of the Constitution and negate the constitutional order we have embraced under the Indian Constitution. Justice Bhuyan was ad-

ressing the valedictory function of the 19th NALSAR & Justice P.R. Sawhney Memorial event held at NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad, Telangana. He stated:

"The Indian Constitution does not create two classes of citizens—those with voting rights and those without. Any procedure that deprives crores of Indian citizens of their right to vote, turning them into disenfranchised, second-class citizens in their own country, is fundamentally arbitrary. No counter-



argument can justify it. It strikes at the very foundation of the Constitution. Article 14 guarantees the right to equality for all, and Article 26 grants voting rights to all adults. Therefore, such measures run counter to these provisions. I would even say that this negates the constitutional order

we have accepted under the Indian Constitution. Once a voter's name appears on the electoral roll, it cannot be removed—unless the person has died—without providing due notice and an opportunity for them to be heard." "An Indian citizen's right to vote or right to be included in the electoral roll cannot be separated from their citizenship. Separating them would be akin to removing the soul from the body," he said.

Today horoscope



You will successfully complete stalled tasks using your unique approach. You will realize that hasty decisions were the cause of certain problems. Avoid eating outside food; pay attention to your health.



You will receive timely assistance from unexpected sources. Your words will carry more weight within the family, and your social standing will improve. Old acquaintances may reach out to you. Workload at your job will decrease.



You will embark on new ventures. You will replace faulty electronic gadgets, electrical appliances, or household items with new ones. You will find peace and happiness through your children. Outstanding dues will be recovered in your business or trade.



Sudden travel or visits from relatives may lead to unexpected expenses. Exercise caution and patience in business dealings. Workload at the office will increase. You will develop an interest in spirituality, meditation, and yoga. Patience is required in all matters.



Auspicious events at home that were previously delayed will now be arranged. You will receive blessings from spiritual elders. Old acquaintances will seek you out. You will earn appreciation for your involvement in public activities. Avoid speaking harshly to anyone.



You will have open and heartfelt conversations with family members. Your status among relatives will rise. Some may get an opportunity to travel abroad. Your words will carry more weight at work. Vehicle-related repair issues will be resolved. You will extend help to those who come to you in need.



Financial and material gains will be satisfactory. Happiness within the family will increase. Siblings will provide timely assistance. Your parents' health will improve. Business profits will rise. You will experience peace of mind at the workplace. Exercise caution in your speech.



The arrival of relatives and friends will bring lasting happiness to your home. Your children's health will stabilize. Government officials will be helpful. Unnecessary arguments at the workplace will cease. You will recover old debts that you thought were uncollectible.



Practice compromise within the family. Handle expensive items, jewelry, and important documents with care. Workload will increase on various fronts. Exercise caution in business dealings. Interest in spirituality will grow.



You will take the initiative to handle multiple tasks yourself. Misunderstandings within the family will resolve, leading to greater harmony. Outstanding dues in business will be recovered. Expected assistance may be slightly delayed. You will acquire new possessions.



Your status and respect in social circles will rise. You will benefit through your siblings. Marriage-related negotiations will prove successful. Out-of-town trips will bring happiness. Workload at the office will decrease, and superiors will appreciate your efforts.



Your circle of friends will expand. You will replace your old vehicle with a new one. Financial assistance for purchasing a house or vehicle will become available. Government and banking-related matters will be completed swiftly and efficiently.

Relatives Carry Pregnant Woman in a Makeshift Sling for 8 km in Andhra Pradesh



SRIKAKULAM: In the Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh, many tribal areas still lack proper road connectivity, causing significant hardship for residents trying to reach hospitals and schools. Against this backdrop, Thamini (27), the wife of Mangaraju from Thadakapalli village in Alluri Sitarama Raju district, was nine months pregnant.

She went into labor last Thursday. Although a Primary Health Centre is located 8 km from their village, there is no proper road to reach it; the route involves traversing hills, forests, and small water bodies. Recent heavy rains in the area had further worsened the conditions. Consequently, her relatives seated Thamini in a makeshift sling and carried her for 8 km along the treacherous mountain path. Upon reaching a place called Samagatta, they transported her by jeep to the regional hospital in Chintapalli.

She received immediate medical attention there and gave birth to a healthy baby girl. Doctors confirmed that both the mother and the infant are doing well. Residents of the area have appealed for the provision of road and street lighting facilities connecting their village to Samagatta.

"I will not remain silent if mothers or sisters are spoken of disrespectfully" CM Vijay speaks passionately

DHARAPURAM: During an election campaign in Dharapuram, Chief Minister Vijay urged the public not to vote for or support those who speak disrespectfully or abusively about women. Yesterday (Oct. 4)—the final day of campaigning for the by-election in the Dharapuram constituency of Tiruppur district—TVK leader and Chief Minister Vijay conducted a roadshow to garner public support.

The Chief Minister arrived in Coimbatore from Chennai via a private jet and then traveled to Dharapuram by helicopter. Boarding a campaign vehicle, he commenced the roadshow, waving and offering greetings to the crowds gathered on both sides of the street. Addressing the people gathered in the heart of Dharapuram town, he said: "Voting for the DMK and its alliance parties is tantamount to supporting



those who speak abusively about women. Those who speak disparagingly about the mothers and sisters of our families should never be forgiven." I am not saying this merely for electoral gain. The recent remarks made by DMK leader M.K. Stalin and his son during their visit to Dharapuram have caused great shock. The words they used regarding Sister Sathyabhama were appalling and unfit to be heard. I can tolerate any criticism directed at me personally.

However, I certainly will not remain silent if the women

of our families—our mothers or sisters—are spoken of in a derogatory manner. This is the nature of the DMK's conduct. We must teach them a fitting lesson in this by-election.

The Chief Minister spoke in this vein. Rekla Cart Ride: The heat was more intense yesterday than usual.

Yet, thousands of people gathered along the route to welcome Vijay. Upon reaching the Amaravathi River bridge in Dharapuram, Vijay stepped down from the campaign vehicle, boarded a

Rekla cart (traditional bullock cart) parked by a farmer, and rode it for a short distance. Throughout the journey, he enthusiastically accepted gifts offered by volunteers at various locations.

On the way to Moolanur, upon spotting decorated Kangayam bulls, he stepped out of his vehicle to take photographs with them. In the Moolanur area, the Chief Minister visited a drumstick grove and interacted with the workers there.

He then harvested drumsticks using a bamboo pole fitted with a hook. Farmers and workers took photographs with the Chief Minister at the site. Following this, he visited the Vanchiyamma Temple in Moolanur to offer prayers. Upon leaving the temple, Vijay walked along the road for about half a kilometer, canvassing for votes among the gathered crowd.

India Finishes 4th in Medal Tally Asian Games Conclude with Spectacular Cultural Performances

NAGOYA: The 20th Asian Games, held in Japan, concluded with spectacular cultural performances. India secured the fourth position in the medal tally with a total of 85 medals, comprising 21 gold, 27 silver, and 37 bronze. The Asian Games took place in the Aichi-Nagoya region of Japan. While all competitions concluded the day before yesterday, the closing ceremony was held in a grand manner yesterday.

China topped the medal tally by amassing 341 medals, including 169 gold, 89 silver, and 83 bronze.

Host nation Japan secured second place with 269 medals (83 gold, 95 silver, 91 bronze). South Korea took third place with 150 medals (39 gold, 43 silver, 68 bronze). India finished fourth, securing a total of 85 medals (21 gold, 27 silver, 37 bronze). Notably, at the previous Asian



Games held in Hangzhou in 2023, India had achieved a record-breaking performance by securing 106 medals, including 28 gold, and finishing fourth; however, the current tally is 21 medals lower than that achievement.

The games, which began on September 19, concluded the day before yesterday, with approximately 11,000 athletes participating. Indian shooter Neeru Dhandaputuri put up an impressive performance,

winning three medals. She brought honor to the Indian contingent by carrying the national flag during the parade at yesterday's closing ceremony. Tamil Nadu athlete Vithya Ramraj achieved a remarkable feat by winning three medals—one gold, one silver, and one bronze. Following the athletes' parade, a spectacular array of cultural performances and stunt shows took place, accompanied by laser displays within the stadium. Subsequently, the Asian Games were officially declared closed. The next Asian Games are scheduled to be held in Doha, Qatar, in 2030. Following this, Sheikh Jaoan bin Hamad Al Thani, President of the Olympic Council of Asia, handed over the Asian Games flag to Qatari officials.

889 Government Employees and Officials Sentenced to Prison for Bribery in the Last 10 Years

CHENNAI: In Tamil Nadu, 889 government officials and employees have been sentenced to prison over the past decade in cases related to accepting bribes. The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) takes legal action based on complaints and through covert surveillance of government

offices across the state.

They conduct surprise raids and seize unaccounted bribe money. In this regard, ₹2.15 crore was seized last month alone. Of this amount, ₹1.87 crore had been received by government officials and employees via 'Google Pay'. In bribery cases, the police successfully

prove the guilt of the accused in court using appropriate documentation and witness testimony,

ensuring they receive prison sentences. So far this year, 73 individuals have been sentenced to prison, bringing the total to 889 government employees and officials over the last 10 years.

Officials from the anti-corruption wing stated that the highest number of convictions—126 officials and employees—was achieved in the 2024–2025 period. They noted that due to the COVID-19 outbreak, convictions were limited to 41 individuals in 2020–2021 and 51 individuals in 2021–2022.

IT Engineer Arrested for Deceiving Over 15 Women with Marriage Promises

CHENNAI: A 39-year-old man from Chennai has been arrested by the police for swindling money from more than 15 women by promising to marry them. Police sources provided the following details: A young woman from Coimbatore, who works in Malaysia, had registered her profile on a popular matrimonial website.

There, she met a man named Kannan (39). He claimed to be a software engineer working for a private firm in Ambattur, Chennai. He told her that he was previously married but had separated from his wife and was looking for a partner for a second marriage.

Believing his claims, the woman from Coimbatore continued to interact with him. They met whenever he visited Chennai. Kannan promised to marry her, invited her to a lodge, and spent time alone with her on several occasions. It is alleged that Kannan obtained approximately ₹11 lakh from the woman by citing various reasons. Later, when the woman happened to check Kannan's mobile phone, she found videos showing him in intimate situations with several other women. When she confronted him about this, Kannan failed to provide a satisfactory explanation and tried to evade the issue.

It was revealed that he had deceived more than 15 women—including her—by engaging in intimate relationships, filming the encounters, and then using the footage to blackmail and extort money from them.

The woman lodged a complaint with the State Commission for Women in Chepauk, stating that out of the ₹11 lakh he had taken from her, Kannan had returned only ₹4.15 lakh and had cheated her by failing to pay the remaining amount. An investigation into the matter was ordered, to be conducted by the Vepery All-Women Police Station. The inquiry revealed that, in addition to the woman from

Coimbatore, Kannan had used the same modus operandi to deceive women residing in Chennai, Madurai, Bengaluru, and Mumbai, as well as in countries such as Canada, Singapore, and Malaysia. Police stated that many of the women affected by him might have refrained from filing complaints, fearing that the disclosure of the matter would cause problems in their married lives and families.

Following this, the police apprehended Kannan—the person facing the allegations—and are interrogating him. However, he continues to deny the accusations leveled against him. The investigation into the matter is ongoing.

October 05 Patna 2026

School Benches Serve as Pillars for Bihar School Building

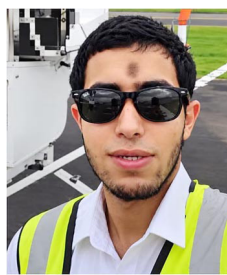


A government primary school operates in Kiratpur village, near Alinagar in Bihar's Darbhanga district. The school building is in a severely dilapidated state; recently, one of its pillars collapsed. Following this, a temporary arrangement was made to prevent the building from collapsing by stacking students' seats, benches, and bricks to act as supports. Local residents and teachers explained the situation: 190 students study at the Kiratpur Government Primary School, where 10 teachers work. Currently, the school has only two rooms. One room is used for administrative work, while classes for all 191 students are conducted in the other. The school building is crumbling and on the verge of collapse. With the recent collapse of a pillar, benches have been repurposed to serve as structural supports. The building also leaks during the rainy season. Local residents and teachers have expressed the need to demolish the old building and construct a new one, as well as to build adequate classrooms. Maithili Thakur, the MLA for the Alinagar constituency in Bihar, raised the issue of the dilapidated state of the Kiratpur school building in the Legislative Assembly. Following this, the Bihar government has ordered the demolition of the old building and the construction of a new one. Government officials stated, "While records show an enrollment of 191 students, our inspections reveal that only 50 students actually attend. The school is currently operating from a different building to ensure student safety, and a new building will be constructed soon."

Trade agreement negotiations are favorable to India: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

NEW DELHI: A conference of municipal leaders began in Delhi yesterday. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the event and spoke about the ongoing trade agreement negotiations. She stated that trade agreement talks are currently underway with several countries. Regarding the negotiations with the United States, a significant stage has been reached, and the outcome is favorable for India; the US aims to reduce the trade deficit. She emphasized that the India-European Union trade agreement is of paramount importance, as it represents one-third of the global economy and a population of two billion people. She added that if the prevailing conditions remain favorable, trade agreements with three countries could be signed within this year.

'Flydubai' Co-pilot Faces Potential Death Penalty



DUBAI: Hamam Al-Hamami, an Omani co-pilot who attacked Indian pilot Smith Machar on a 'Flydubai' passenger flight, has confessed to plotting to destroy the aircraft. Amidst this, reports indicate that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is considering imposing the death penalty—a severe measure—for this crime.

An Israeli news agency published this report. Co-pilot Hamam Al-Hamami, currently in UAE custody, is undergoing intense interrogation; reports suggest that Israeli security officials are also participating in the process.

A US news agency reported his confession to Saudi Arabian police, stating, "He planned to destroy the plane. He had no fear of death." It is against this backdrop that information has emerged regarding the UAE's move to seek the death penalty for Hamam Al-Hamami. The 'Flydubai' flight departed from Dubai, UAE, bound for Tel Aviv, Israel, last Wednesday (Sept. 30) morning with 180 people on board.

The flight carried 174 passengers and a crew of six, including two pilots. Indian pilot Smith Machar (39) was operating the aircraft, accompanied by the Omani co-pilot. Suddenly, the co-pilot attacked Indian pilot Smith Machar using an axe kept in the cockpit. Although caught off guard, Machar fought back bravely against the co-pilot. He helped open the cockpit at the right moment and, with the assistance of fellow passengers, landed the aircraft safely in Saudi Arabia, thereby saving the passengers' lives. World leaders, including Prime Minister Modi, have expressed their appreciation for his actions.

Kerala Government Orders Probe into Old Case Against Gyanesh Kumar

Political Leaders Welcome the Move

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Kerala government has ordered the Vigilance Department to conduct an inquiry into a complaint filed 20 years ago against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Opposition parties have been leveling serious allegations against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar regarding issues such as the special intensive revision of electoral rolls. Furthermore, protests demanding his resignation have been taking place following accusations that he made unilateral decisions, overriding the objections of fellow Election Commissioners.

Amidst this charged atmosphere, the Kerala government has ordered a Vigilance inquiry against Gyanesh Kumar. The details are as follows: Gyanesh Kumar, a senior IAS officer belonging to the Kerala cadre, served in various departments in the state before moving to a central government posting. A complaint has arisen alleging that he accepted a bribe to release funds for highway projects while serving as the State Public Works Department Secretary in 2006 (twenty years ago). Senior state Congress leader Venu-

gopal lodged a formal complaint regarding this matter the day before yesterday. Following this, State Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala ordered the Vigilance Department to conduct an inquiry against Gyanesh Kumar.

This Vigilance inquiry against Gyanesh Kumar has created significant ripples not only in Kerala but across the entire country. Speaking to reporters yesterday regarding this issue, Ramesh Chennithala said: "After reviewing the allegations against Gyanesh Kumar, I felt that a Vigilance inquiry was necessary." "After consulting Chief Minister Sathesan, I instructed Manoj Abraham, the Director of the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau, to initiate a comprehensive investigation. The MC Road stretch from Angamaly to Thiruvananthapuram was reconstructed in 2006.

A Malaysian company executed this project, costing ₹215 crore, with World Bank assistance.



Lee See Been, the project engineer for that company, raised various complaints during the roadworks. He later returned to his home country, where he committed suicide. In his suicide note, he explicitly named Ganeshkumar. At the time, the investigation into the case did not progress; it stalled after the government led by Achuthanandan assumed office. Issues such as demands for bribes to release payments for completed work and delays in disbursement are alleged to be linked to corruption.

Therefore, instructions have been issued to investigate all aspects of the complaint and take action accordingly. This investigation concerns an incident that occurred when the current Chief Election Commissioner was serving as the Secretary of the Public Works Department in Kerala. Consequently, he cannot claim the legal immunity afforded to the Chief Election Commissioner.

The complaint alleges that the investigation into this serious corruption case was derailed due to external interference.

This is a grave matter. In the interest of justice, the issue must be thoroughly examined, and urgent legal action must be taken." Thus stated Ramesh Chennithala. Parties belonging to both of Kerala's major political alliances have welcomed the order to investigate the corruption allegations against Ganeshkumar.

In this context, Govindan, the State Secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), has urged that all allegations raised against Gnanesh Kumar in Kerala be investigated. K.M. Shaji—a leader of the Indian Union Muslim League who served as the State Public Works Minister during Gnanesh Kumar's tenure as the Public Works Department Secretary—stated that a comprehensive inquiry must be conducted into the incident that led to the suicide of an engineer from a Malaysian company engaged in highway projects in Kerala, and that all related matters must be taken into account.



The Union Minister for External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar meeting with the President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Guy Parmelin, in New Delhi.

One Killed in Russian Drone Attack on Indian Pharmaceutical Plant in Ukraine

KYIV: The war between Ukraine and Russia has been ongoing for five years. Both sides have refused peace talks and are escalating mutual attacks. Recently, Ukraine launched an unprecedented attack on the Russian capital, Moscow, deploying over 1,000 drones in a single night, further intensifying the conflict. Amidst this situation, Russia launched a drone attack yesterday on a pharmaceutical plant owned by an Indian company in the Ukrainian city of Sumy.

One person lost their life, and several others sustained serious injuries. Videos showing plumes of black smoke rising from the plant were shared on social media. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy strongly



condemned the Russian attack and expressed his condolences to the family of the deceased. Kusum Healthcare began operations in 1994 as a distributor exporting Indian medicines to Ukraine.

In 2002, the company ceased distributing products from other firms and began marketing its own brands. Subsequently, it ventured into manufacturing, opening plants in India in 2007 and in the Ukrainian city of Sumy in 2009.

The company produces over 50 types of generic medicines and sells them in nine countries, including Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and the Philippines. It is currently managed by an Indian national, Rajiv Gupta. Reports indicate that the pharmaceutical plant, which had continued operations despite the Russia-Ukraine war, has been severely damaged in a recent drone attack, resulting in losses estimated at approximately ₹400 crore.

Polling in Maduranthakam and Dharapuram Tomorrow Results to be announced on Oct 9

Heavy security arrangements in place

CHENNAI: Campaigning for the by-elections in the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies concluded at 6 PM yesterday. Polling is scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday. Extensive security arrangements have been made for the event. TVK leader Vijay had contested the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly elections in two constituencies—Chennai Perambur and Trichy East—and won in both. Subsequently, after assuming the role of Chief Minister, Vijay resigned from his MLA seat for the Trichy East constituency. Six AIADMK MLAs—C. Vijayabaskar (Viralimalai), M.R. Vijayabaskar (Karur), Maragatham Kumaravel (Maduranthakam), Jayakumar (Perundurai), Sathiyabama (Dharapuram), and Isakki Subbiah (Ambasamudram)—resigned from their posts and joined the ruling TVK party. Following this, the Election Commission declared those seven constituencies vacant.

Election petitions concerning five constituencies—Tr-



ichy East, Viralimalai, Karur, Perundurai, and Ambasamudram—are currently pending. Consequently, on September 7, the Election Commission announced by-elections only for the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies. Following this, 28 candidates have entered the fray in the Maduranthakam constituency, including Maragatham Kumaravel (TVK), Paranthaman (DMK), Kanitha Sampath (AIADMK), Suganthi (CPI(M)), Janakiraman (NTK), and various independent candidates. Similarly, candidates contesting in the Dharapuram constituency include Sathiyabama (TVK), Suganya (DMK), Banumathi (AIADMK), Lakshmanan (CPI), and Karthika (NTK).

It is noteworthy that the two Communist parties, which support the TVK government, are contesting independently. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has fielded candidates in the Maduranthakam constituency, while the Communist Party of India has done so in the Dharapuram constituency. Consequently, a five-cornered contest is unfolding in this by-election. All parties—including the ruling TVK, the opposition DMK and AIADMK, NTK, and the Communist parties—have engaged in intense campaigning across both constituencies.

To support the TVK candidates, Chief Minister Vijay campaigned in the Maduranthakam constituency on September 25 and in the Dharapuram constituency on September 30.

DMK leader M.K. Stalin campaigned vigorously in the Dharapuram constituency on the 2nd and in the Maduranthakam constituency on the 3rd. Similarly, DMK Youth Wing Secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin canvassed for votes for DMK candidates in the Maduranthakam constituency on September 27 and in the Dharapuram constituency on the 3rd.

AIADMK General Secretary Palaniswami campaigned in the Dharapuram constituency on the 2nd and in the Maduranthakam constituency on the 3rd. Similarly, CPI(M) State Secretary P. Shanmugam, CPI State Secretary M. Veerapandian, and NTK Chief Coordinator Seeman also engaged in intensive vote-canvassing. Chief Minister Vijay, who had previously campaigned in the Dharapuram constituency, conducted a roadshow there yesterday as part of the final phase of campaigning. According to election regulations, all public campaigning must conclude

48 hours before polling begins; accordingly, campaigning in both constituencies ended at 6 PM yesterday.

Chief Electoral Officer Archana Patnaik announced that various restrictions have been imposed in both constituencies in view of the by-election. Accordingly, a ban has been imposed on political parties conducting campaigns, public meetings, or processions from 6 PM yesterday until 6 PM on the 6th (Tuesday), the day of polling. Similarly, orders were issued requiring outsiders, party workers, and non-voters to leave both constituencies after 6 PM yesterday.

Individuals staying in wedding halls, community centers, lodges, and private residences were required to vacate the premises. Polling is scheduled to take place tomorrow from 7 AM to 6 PM. In preparation for this, tight security arrangements have been put in place in the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies. Following the conclusion of polling, the votes will be counted on October 9th.

Hindu Munnani holds protests in Chennai demanding the lighting of the lamp at the Thiruparankundram beacon pillar

MADURAI: The Hindu Munnani held protests at 19 locations across Chennai, demanding that the lamp be lit on the beacon pillar situated atop the Thiruparankundram hill. The organization had previously announced plans to hold protests across Tamil Nadu on October 11 to press for the lighting of the lamp at the Thiruparankundram beacon pillar.

However, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Chennai on October 11 to inaugurate various welfare schemes, the protest in Chennai was held yesterday (in advance) due to security considerations. Accordingly, Hindu Munnani State General Secretary Manohar presided over the protest held near the Madhavaram Municipality area in Chennai. State Media Spokesperson Ilango van participated in the protest held at the

Kolathur Mookambikai junction.

Additionally, protests took place yesterday at 19 key locations across Chennai, including Manali, Perambur, R.K. Nagar, T. Nagar, Egmore, Pattalam, Anna Nagar, Villivakkam, Triplicane, Thousand Lights, Saidapet, Virugambakkam, Porur, Maduravoyal, and Velachery. Large numbers of Hindu Munnani functionaries and BJP members participated in these events. Speaking to reporters during the Kolathur protest, Hindu Munnani State Media Spokesperson Ilango van stated: "Although the High Court ruled that a lamp could be lit on the 'Deepa Thoon' (lamp pillar) at Thiruparankundram, the previous DMK government failed to implement the order and instead appealed against it in the Supreme Court.

The current TVK government



has adopted the same stance, halting the lighting of the lamp by citing the pendency of the case."

The Supreme Court has refused to stay the High Court's verdict. Therefore, the government must take steps to ensure that the sacred lamp is lit on the 'Deepa Thoon' (lamp pillar) atop the Thiruparankundram hill on the first day of the Karthigai month. The Hindu Munnani has been con-

tinuously campaigning for this cause for the past 40 years.

The State President of the Hindu Munnani has sent a letter seeking an appointment to meet the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in person and submit a memorandum. We will meet the Chief Minister and present our case if permission is granted. It is the government's duty to implement the Court's verdict. He stated this.

Tragedy in Chromepet: Bodies of 4 Children Recovered from Lake

CHROMPET: A tragic incident has occurred in which four school students drowned in Thiruneermalai Lake after going out to play near their homes. The four children—Yuvanesh (10, son of Dayalan), Devadharshan (12, son of Kirubakaran), Pooja (13, from Ranganathasamy 2nd Street), and Khushi (13, daughter of Lalchand from Ranganathasamy 1st Street)—all residents of Lakshmiapuram, Chromepet, had left their homes the evening before last. They did not return. Subsequently, their parents lodged a complaint with the Chromepet police. The

police registered a case and began searching for the students. Information regarding the missing children was also shared in local WhatsApp groups, and the public was asked to assist in finding them. Meanwhile, yesterday morning, members of the public informed the police that the bodies of four children had been found in the Thiruneermalai Lake in the Lakshmiapuram area. Police, along with fire and rescue personnel, arrived at the scene and recovered the bodies of the four individuals. Preliminary investigations suggest that the four had gone to a nearby lake to

bathe during the school holidays and likely drowned after getting trapped in the lake's silt.

The recovered bodies were sent to Tambaram Government Hospital for post-mortem examinations. The sight of the children's bodies caused their parents and relatives to wail in grief, casting a pall of gloom over the area. Chromepet police are continuing their investigation into the incident. Following the tragedy, the public has urged authorities to strengthen safety measures at lakes managed by the Tambaram Corporation and the Water Resources Department.



PM at ceremonial reception of the President of Swiss Confederation, Mr. Guy Parmelin at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi.

"My India visit stepping stone towards strengthening long-standing partnership"

Swiss President Parmelin

NEW DELHI: Swiss Confederation President Guy Parmelin stated on Monday that his visit to India serves as a "stepping stone" towards fortifying the "close and long-standing partnership" binding the two countries.

President Parmelin received an official ceremonial reception at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan. Upon reaching the presidential estate, the visiting dignitary was greeted cordially by President Droupadi Murmu alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing members of the press following the ceremonial welcome, President Parmelin remarked, "The visit is an excellent opportunity to emphasise the importance that both Switzerland and India attach to this relationship."

He further noted that diplomatic ties connecting India and Switzerland are anchored upon "shared democratic values as well as on trust and mutual respect". "My visit is a stepping stone towards further growth, deepening and strengthening of our close, broad and long-standing partnership. I am pleased and honoured that we have the chance to exchange views on matters of bilateral and global importance," the Swiss head of state stated.

"I am especially glad that my stay in India will enable us to commemorate the first anniversary of the entry into force of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, TEPA," he added. The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) constitutes an expansive free trade pact established between India and the four European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member nations, comprising Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Having been formally signed on March 10, 2024, the accord officially took effect on October 1, 2025.

"It is the right moment to celebrate how far we have come together, but even more importantly, to shape our joint future," President Parmelin observed. The Swiss leader touched down in India on Monday to undertake a three-day State visit, honouring an invitation extended by Prime Minister Modi. The high-level diplomatic itinerary centres on enhancing bilateral collaboration across commerce, investment, scientific advancement, technological innovation and workforce mobility.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) noted that President Parmelin is travelling

alongside a prominent delegation consisting of senior officials and corporate executives, marking his maiden State visit to India and his second journey to the nation this year.

The Swiss President journeyed to India in February 2026 to take part in the AI Impact Summit conducted in New Delhi. Later in the day, Prime Minister Modi and President Parmelin are scheduled to hold bilateral discussions to assess advancements in cooperation spanning diverse sectors, encompassing trade, investment, science, technology, innovation, mobility, cultural exchange and interpersonal engagement. Additionally, both leaders will confer regarding regional and global affairs, which includes collaboration across multilateral platforms.

During the course of the itinerary, President Parmelin will likewise meet with President Droupadi Murmu, who is slated to host a ceremonial banquet in his honour. Furthermore, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar will pay a call on the Swiss President. The diplomatic engagement acquires distinct prominence given that President Parmelin is set to attend the second India-EFTA Prosperity Summit on

October 7. The occasion will signal the inaugural anniversary of the operationalisation of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

Emphasising Switzerland's critical standing as an economic collaborator, the MEA noted that among EFTA member states, Switzerland functions as India's primary trade and investment partner. Moreover, the ministry underscored the enduring connections linking both nations alongside the necessity of maintaining consistent high-level dialogues to propel the bilateral relationship forward. "India and Switzerland share longstanding friendly relations. This visit will further strengthen bilateral relations, building upon the regular high-level exchanges and deepen cooperation in new areas of mutual interest," the MEA stated. The diplomatic undertaking transpires against a background of continuous high-level interactions between New Delhi and Bern. Historical records show that the most recent State visit executed by an Indian President to Switzerland occurred in 2019, whereas Prime Minister Modi undertook official journeys to Switzerland in 2016 and 2018.

28 Year Old Engineer Dies After Jumping from 43rd Floor Amidst Mental Distress

NOIDA: A 28 year old software engineer has died by suicide after jumping from the 43rd floor of a building, an incident that has caused shock.

Preliminary police investigations reveal that he was suffering from severe mental distress due to various factors, including stress, family issues, his child's medical expenses, and debt. No matter what problem arises in life, it can be managed—or resolved given time. Yet, failing to realize this, some people occasionally take drastic steps. One such tragic incident occurred in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, where a 28-year-old software engineer jumped to his death from the 43rd floor of a building. The deceased has been identified as Sambhav Jain, a resident of Manesar, Gurugram.

He had booked a room in the building and arrived alone; it was there that he took this extreme step. Police stated that Sambhav Jain married in 2024, and a



baby boy was born to the couple in 2025. His family informed the police that the baby was born prematurely—during the seventh month of pregnancy—and required prolonged medical treatment. The family reported that approximately ₹40 lakh had already been spent on the child's treatment, with ongoing medical costs running into lakhs of rupees. Sambhav was reportedly facing severe financial strain as a result. Furthermore, a few months after the child's birth, differences arose between Sambhav and his wife.

Consequently, his wife filed

for divorce, though both parties later reached a reconciliation. Police stated that while an initial alimony demand of ₹1 crore was made, a settlement was eventually reached for approximately ₹15 lakhs. The family informed the police that about ₹7 lakhs had already been paid by Sambhav and his family, with a balance of ₹7.50 lakhs still outstanding.

Police also noted that Sambhav had other debts and was dealing with health issues related to his weight. Burdened by these numerous problems, Sambhav was under severe mental stress. He had sent a

message to his father just last week; his father had asked him to return home and assured him that the family would handle the issues.

However, Sambhav did not heed his father's words and took the drastic step. It is reported that last Saturday afternoon, Sambhav was seen standing on the outer edge of a balcony in the high-rise building. A repair worker in a nearby apartment noticed him and attempted a rescue, but their efforts were unsuccessful. Sambhav jumped from the 43rd floor. Upon receiving the information, the police rushed to the scene and launched an investigation. CCTV footage from the building and surrounding areas is also being examined. A combination of factors—including mental stress, family issues, the cost of his child's medical treatment, divorce proceedings, and debt—drove Sambhav to take this extreme step.

Vallalar's Birthday: CM Vijay Pays Tribute

CHENNAI: Vallalar's birthday is being celebrated today at various locations across Tamil Nadu. In a statement issued on this occasion, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay said: "On this auspicious day marking the birth of Thiruvartuprakasa Vallalar—who embodied the 'Supreme Grace & Light' (Arutperunjothi) and 'Unique Great Compassi-



on'—I recall and reverently honor his noble ideals. Vallalar's lofty principles



stand as magnificent values of humanity: that feeding the hungry is service to the

Divine; that 'Sanmargam' (the path of truth) lies in loving all beings as one's own self, transcending caste and religious differences; and that compassion for all living beings ('Jeevakarunyam') is the guiding principle of life. Let us continue to follow the path of Vallalar, who viewed all living beings as one and embodied love and compassion."

Tragedy in Punjab: Bus Overturns; 3 Dead

CHANDIGARH: Three people lost their lives after a bus overturned on a road in Punjab.

More than 30 students from a university in Amritsar, Punjab, had gone on a trip to Manali.

They were returning to their college early this morning after completing the tour. The bus was traveling along the Banga & Phagwara high-

way in Punjab. Near the village of Majari, the bus overturned on the road.

Three people, including two college students, died in the accident, and 24 others sustained serious injuries. Upon receiving the information, rescue teams rushed to the scene, rescued the injur-



ed, and admitted them to a nearby hospital. The police

are investigating the cause of the accident.

Pledge to Build a Prosperous TN: Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai at a Program in Madurai



MADURAI: Free "Gurukuls" (residential schools) imparting value-based education are already operational in Dindigul and Kodaikanal. At the Sri Sathya Sai Meenakshi Niketan Gurukul in Dindigul, free education is provided to 54 female students ranging from Class 6 to Class 11 (Plus 1). Along with education, books, food, and accommodation

are also provided free of cost. Against this backdrop, an event titled 'Heart & Heart Conversation' was held in Madurai. Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai answered questions posed by prominent industrialist Hari Thiagarajan.

During the event, he announced that a 60-bed free hospital would be established in Mayiladuthurai in collabor-

ation with the Dharmapuram Adheenam, under the aegis of the 'One World One Family Mission'—which is headquartered at the Sathya Sai Village in Muttanahalli, Chikkaballapur district, Karnataka. Explaining the free medical services provided in Sri Lanka, Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai noted that approximately 30,000 women—including those in Jaffna—have been widowed due to the impact of the war.

They are plagued by poverty, and their children lack access to proper education and medical facilities. He asked what could possibly be wrong with serving them, adding that their mission also provides services in Fiji, Africa, and America.

Sharing the transformation in her life,

Sangavi, a student of the Dindigul Sri Sathya Sai Meenakshi Niketan Gurukul, said, "After my parents—who were in dire poverty—enrolled me here, I stepped into a new world. Having once lived within the confines of a single village, today I am a member of a global family." "I learned here that social service is the purpose of human life," he said.

Several prominent figures, including Sivagurunatha Thambiran of Dharmai Adheenam and Madras High Court Justice Karthik K., attended the event. Dr. S. Gokula Priya, Registrar of the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, anchored the program.

Husband drags wife on car bonnet after she intercepts him while he was out with his girlfriend

MEERUT: Mayank Singh, a resident of Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, was allegedly involved in a relationship with another woman and frequently went out with her.

On the evening of the day before yesterday, Mayank's wife, Sunita, was traveling along Hapur Road when she spotted her husband sitting in a car with his girlfriend, Mahi Verma, eating momos. Enraged by the sight, Sunita furiously approached the vehicle.

Noticing her, Mayank locked the doors and rolled up

the windows.

When Sunita angrily banged on the windows, Mayank attempted to drive away to escape. Sunita then moved to the front of the car and lay across the bonnet. Despite this, Mayank did not stop and continued driving. Sunita screamed in terror as she clung to the bonnet, yet Mayank drove the car for a distance of approximately 100 meters. She subsequently stopped the car after a large crowd of locals gathered at the scene; Sunita escaped without any injuries.

Following this,

she lodged a police complaint against her husband, accusing him of attempted murder, dowry harassment, and betrayal. Acting on the complaint, the police arrested Mayank and his girlfriend, Mahi, and seized the vehicle.

An investigation is currently underway. Meanwh-



ile, a video showing Sunita clinging to the car's bonnet while it was in motion went viral on social media.

Demand to Abolish 24 Hour Duty and Introduce a Shift System for Doctors

CHENNAI: Government doctors have expressed condemnation following an incident where Srivaikuntam MLA Saravanan inspected the Eral Government Hospital in Thoothukudi at midnight and questioned a doctor—who was resting—about how patients could be treated if the doctor was not present during the 24-hour duty period.

Government Doctors and Postgraduate Students Association: The Tamil Nadu Health Department has not issued any Government Order regarding a "24-hour duty" requirement. In the case at the

Eral Government Hospital, the doctor had arrived after answering a phone call from a nurse while staying in his duty room. Since there were no patients at the time, he had closed and latched the door of his duty room from the inside to rest.

The 24-hour duty system for government hospital doctors must be abolished, and a shift system should be introduced immediately. The Tamil Nadu Medical Officers' Association condemns the incident where an elected representative publicly misrepresented a doctor—who was

on 24-hour duty at the Eral Government Hospital—in a manner that cast aspersions on their conduct.

Resting in the designated staff room while remaining ready to respond immediately to emergencies does not constitute negligence. Therefore, appropriate guidelines should be issued to implement a shift system for doctors.

Flaws in Government Order 113: In a press release, the Association of Government Doctors and Postgraduate Students stated, "Government Order (G.O.) 113 has been issued in a manner that

involves the redeployment of doctors rather than the creation of new posts in government hospitals under the Directorate of Medical Services (DMS). Consequently, the number of sanctioned doctor posts has been reduced in 70 percent of government hospitals. Although the Health Minister had assured that new posts would be created based on patient volume and specialized services, this promise has not been fulfilled. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the Health Minister must intervene immediately to rectify the flaws in G.O. 113."