

# Who Will Emerge Victorious in the Maduranthakam, Dharapuram Byelections? – Political Parties on Tenterhooks

CHENNAI: With the vote counting for the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram byelections scheduled for tomorrow (Oct. 9), there is great anticipation regarding who will emerge victorious. Byelections were held the day before yesterday (Oct. 6) for two of the seven vacant Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu: Maduranthakam (Reserved) in Chengalpattu district and Dharapuram (Reserved) in Tiruppur district. As these byelections are taking place just four months after the new TVK government assumed office, they are viewed as a litmus test for the new administration. The TVK had formed a coalition government after failing to secure the 118 seats required for a simple majority on its own. Although the Congress, the two Communist parties,

the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUM) have extended their support to the TVK, the two Communist parties have continued to create friction. Consequently, a victory in the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram byelections is considered crucial for the TVK government.

Conversely, if opposition parties like the DMK or AIADMK were to win these seats, it would be seen as a setback for the TVK government and could even risk destabilizing the administration. It is amidst this critical situation that Chief Minister Joseph Vijay, DMK leader M.K. Stalin, and AIADMK... General Sec-



retary Edappadi Palaniswami and Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin engaged in intensive campaigning in the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies.

Although the ruling party candidates initially appeared to have the upper hand, that advantage seemed to wane as the election drew closer. With the outcome hanging

in the balance, polling began at 7:00 AM the day before yesterday.

Amidst a five-cornered contest, the candidates in the fray for the Maduranthakam

constituency were Maragatham Kumaravel (TVK), Paranthaman (DMK), Kanitha Sampath (AIADMK), Suganthi (CPI&M), and Janakiraman (NTK). Similarly, the candidates contesting in the Dharapuram constituency were Sathyabama (TVK), Suganya (DMK), Banumathi (AIADMK), Lakshmanan (CPI), and Karthika (NTK). A total of 213,788 voters were eligible to cast their ballots in the Maduranthakam constituency; this electorate comprised 104,926 men, 108,797 women, and 65 transgender individuals. Likewise, a total of 223,306 voters were eligible in the Dharapuram constituency, consisting of 107,285

men, 116,013 women, and 8 transgender individuals. During the general assembly elections held last April, voter turnout was 93.22% in the Maduranthakam constituency and 89.89% in the Dharapuram constituency. However, in the byelection, the turnout dropped to 85.99% in Maduranthakam and 80.31% in Dharapuram—a decline of 7.23% and 9.58% respectively. This drop in voter turnout has caused concern among political party leaders. It is reported that young people and students showed little interest in voting this time; many students studying in Chennai reportedly did not travel back to their hometowns to cast their votes. The enthusiastic participation

of youth in the general assembly elections had previously secured a victory for TVK.

However, with the decline in turnout during the byelection, TVK members—including Chief Minister Vijay—are apprehensive. Regardless, vote counting is scheduled to begin tomorrow (October 9) at 8:00 AM. Postal votes will be counted first, and early trends will emerge from that stage. A fierce contest is expected between TVK and AIADMK in both the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies. Since the candidates who previously won on the AIADMK ticket are now contesting for TVK, the outcome remains highly uncertain—akin to a cat sitting on a wall. It is also predicted that the margin of victory will be very narrow, whoever wins.



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami offered prayers at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Uttarkashi, seeking a long life and continued success for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## Delhi: Additional 26,000 Central Armed Police Force personnel deployed for security duty



NEW DELHI: The issue regarding the special intensive revision of electoral rolls is causing significant ripples across the country. The 'INDIA' alliance parties have launched a series of protests demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over this matter. As part of this, opposition MPs—including Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi—were arrested during a march towards the Election Commission office the day before yesterday.

After a nine-hour protest, those arrested were released around 10 PM. Amidst this, reports indicate that an additional 26,000 Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel have been deployed for security duties in Delhi. With protests demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar intensifying, and in anticipation of a massive protest called by the 'Karappanpoochi Janata Party' (CJP) for the day after tomorrow (Saturday), reports state that approximately 11,000 additional CAPF

personnel are being deployed in the capital over the coming days. With this additional deployment, the total number of central force personnel in Delhi is expected to rise to around 26,000.

This marks one of the largest deployments in the city since the 2020 North & East Delhi riots. Earlier, on Wednesday, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs approved the deployment of 110 CAPF companies in Delhi from October 8 to 12. Each Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) company has a sanctioned strength of 120–130 personnel, with typically around 75–80 deployed for duty at any given time. These additional forces will join the

15,000 CAPF personnel—comprising 111 companies—already stationed in the capital. Of the newly deployed 111 companies, the largest contingent comes from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) with 85 companies; the others include seven companies from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), 10 companies from the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), and one company from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Their deployment begins today (Thursday). Officials stated that these forces would bolster the Delhi Police, which has a strength of approximately 5,000 personnel. They also indicated that the Delhi Police is likely to increase its own security personnel strength to around 15,000. This security reinforcement is significant, coming at a time when opposition parties and civil society organizations have intensified their protests demanding Kumar's resignation.



PM at the inauguration of the 10th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) at Yashobhoomi, in New Delhi.

## India takes pride in Air Force personnel: PM Modi



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Modi has stated that India takes pride in its Air Force personnel. Air Force Day is celebrated annually on October 8th to honor the dedication of these personnel. Air Force personnel are engaged in both national defense and rescue operations during natural disasters. In a message released today (Thursday) to mark Air Force Day, Prime Minister Modi said: "India is proud of its Air Force personnel; on Air Force Day, we salute the courage and dedication they demonstrate in safeguarding our skies." This is what Prime Minister Modi stated in his message.

## Fire Accident at Petrol Bunk on Karnataka Border: Employee Critically Injured

HOSUR: A person sustained severe injuries in a fire accident at a petrol bunk in Attibele, located on the Karnataka border near Hosur. Late last night, a car arrived at the petrol bunk in Attibele to refuel. While an employee was dispensing petrol into

the vehicle, the fuel nozzle unexpectedly caught fire. The flames spread rapidly across the area. Muthukumar (32), the employee who was dispensing the fuel, sustained burn injuries as the fire engulfed him. Bystanders immediately rescued him and sent him

to the Hosur Government Hospital for treatment. He is currently receiving intensive care at the hospital. Upon receiving information about the incident, the Karnataka Fire and Rescue Services arrived and brought the fire

under control after a prolonged effort. The car that had come for refueling was completely gutted in the fire. The Attibele police have registered a case regarding the incident and are investigating the cause of the fire.



## Today horoscope



Long-awaited events will come home. Ego issues will be resolved and a bond will be established between the spouses. Brothers will cooperate. New customers will come to the business.



You will get a chance to meet celebrities. You will find a favorable position in government affairs. You will get rid of the bitterness of your relationship with your maternal relatives. You will decorate your house. You will maintain peace in the office.



All new endeavors will be successful. Think about your children's higher education. You will benefit from people who speak other languages. You will expand your vocabulary. It is better to stay in the office and do your work.



Long-term efforts will bear fruit now. You will fulfill your children's wishes. You will start saving by reducing your personal expenses. You will learn new strategies in business and gain success. You may gain respect and admiration in the office.



It is good to give a break in the family as the Moon continues to move in the zodiac. Children may get diarrhea and stomach ache. Act calmly in the office. Do not make sudden decisions in business. Do not hold grudges against your partners.



Relatives and old friends will come to visit you and talk to you. You will get benefits from the government. You will get success in a case. People of other religions will help you. You will destroy the competition in business. You will accept the advice of new partners. Uddhiya Yoga will be successful.



Travel will be arranged as per the plan. You will fulfill the wishes of family members. Children will behave responsibly. Friends and relatives will visit you. Business will heat up.



The resentment towards your mother will be resolved. With the help of government officials, you will resolve some issues. You will get a new job. Goods will be sold in the market. The document you were looking for will appear in the office. Your superiors will appreciate it.



Siblings will be supportive. Buying and selling a house or plot will be profitable. You will meet celebrities. Avoid arguments at the office. You will have to travel for business purposes.



You should not talk about old issues among family members. Do not indulge in spiritual activities. You will make efforts to expand your business on a large scale. Partners will support you. You should not criticize anyone in the office.



You will take bold steps. Your income will be satisfactory. Some people will seek your help. You will benefit from foreign trips. You will make some profit in business. You will be recommended for a new position in the office.



You will impress some people with your truthful words. Relatives and friends will give you great importance. You will get a victory in a case. You will pay off an old loan. Don't get involved in the affairs of the next person in the office.

## Documents including subdivisions to be registered paperless from Nov. 2



CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay inaugurated the process of registering the first land title deeds and the first residential title deeds in Tamil Nadu through direct non-visiting document registration on August 17.

Following this, the absentee registration system was made mandatory for the submission of title deeds (MOD), registration of receipt documents and registration of loans from banks and non-banking financial institutions.

Following this, as announced by Registration Minister Lokesh Tamilselvan, four types of family arrangement documents, namely arrangement, release, partition, and withdrawal of arrangement, will be registered in the paperless registration system. A government order has been issued for this.

Through this, after uploading the documents online, the document holders only need to visit the relevant Sub-Registrar's office in person and register their photograph and fingerprints. The document will then be registered and sent online, it has been said.

## PM Modi to visit Chennai on October 11 BJP to organize 'roadshow' at 2 places



CHENNAI: Prime Minister Modi, who will be visiting Chennai on October 11 for a day-long visit, will inaugurate the metro rail service between Poonthamally and Vadapalani and will participate in various programs.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Chennai on October 11. He will inaugurate the 14.64 km long metro rail service between Poonthamally and Vadapalani, which is a part of the Chennai Metro Rail Phase 2 project. After the event at Poonthamally Metro Station, Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Vijay will travel together in the metro train from Poonthamally to Porur. This will be the first government event that Vijay will participate in together with the Prime Minister after taking charge as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Following this, he will travel by car from Porur Metro Station to the IIT Chennai campus. There, he will visit

the newly established Brain Research Centre.

He will also meet and interact with the founders of more than 10 leading start-up companies operating at IIT. He will also interact with differently-abled children. Later, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the 'Musician Ilayaraja Music Learning and Research Centre'. At the government function held there, he dedicated various National Highway projects to the nation and laid the foundation stone for new projects. He also inaugurated 3 National Highway projects and Indian Oil Corporation projects. Under the 'Amrit

Bharat' project, the Southern Railway has improved Palani, Paramakudi, Namakkal, Ambasamudhram, Vellore Cantonment railway stations, 3 railway flyovers in Coimbatore and a 23 km stretch between Karaikkal and Peralam. Prime Minister Modi will also inaugurate projects worth Rs. 700 crore, including a new railway line.

After concluding the IIT events, the Prime Minister will participate in the golden jubilee celebrations of Jaigopal Garodia Hindu Vidyalaya at the Nandambakkam Business Park. In it, he will inaugurate the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory set up in the school via video conferencing. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Governor R. V.R. Lekhar, Union Minister of State for Central Affairs L. Murugan and Tamil Nadu Public Education Minister Rajmohan Allidior.

As part of the Prime Minister's programme, he is said to have offered darshan at

the Jalakandeswarar temple at IIT. After concluding the programmes in Chennai, he will fly to Vellore by helicopter in the evening, where he will lay the foundation stone for various projects, including new infrastructure projects and the Vellore airport. On the 5th, top police officials, headed by Chief Secretary Sai Kumar, held a meeting to discuss security arrangements ahead of the Prime Minister's visit.

Prime Minister Modi will take out a 'road show' from the airport to the Parangimalai military stadium on his way to Porur by car. BJP officials and workers from three districts & Chengalpattu North, Chennai East and Kanchi & gave the Prime Minister a warm welcome.

Similarly, after concluding the Porur event, Prime Minister Modi will be going on a 'road show' from near the Saidapet Courthouse to Anna University on his way to IIT Chennai by car.

## Elderly man dies after water truck hits bike- People protest by capturing trucks



MEDAVAKKAM: Karuppaiah (75), a resident of S. Kolathur area near Kovilambakkam, was riding his bike on the S. Kolathur main road on the evening before yesterday.

While approaching the Anganwadi, he was hit by an oncoming water truck and fell down. At that moment, the wheel of the water truck ran over him and he died on the spot.

The youth of the area, who were shocked by the incident, gathered near the S. Kolathur Lake. They fought and seized the water trucks that were going to sell water from abandoned agricultural wells.

They stressed, "There is a risk of groundwater depletion in this area due to the illegal extraction of groundwater and its transportation by water trucks. Trucks are moving at high

speeds in residential areas, which is causing a series of accidents.

Therefore, the movement of water trucks in this area should be banned."

The Medavakkam police assured that "time restrictions will be imposed on water trucks and strict action will be taken against those driving at high speed." Following this, the youths released the captured trucks.

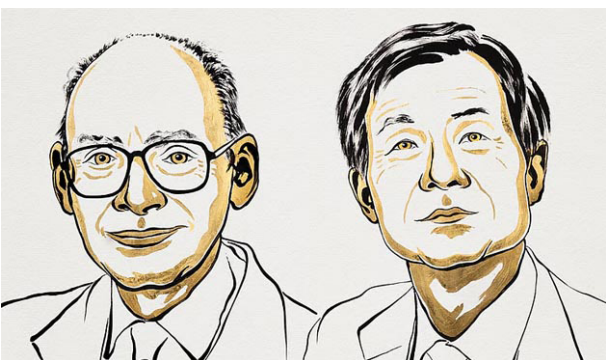
## Nobel Prize awarded to French, Japanese scientists for solving century-old chemistry puzzle

STOCKHOLM: The Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to two scientists from France and Japan for solving a century-old chemical puzzle.

The Nobel Prize is awarded annually to those who have made contributions to medicine, physics, chemistry, literature, economics, and world peace. The names of the Nobel Prize winners for 2026 are being announced. The Nobel Prizes for medicine and physics have been announced. Following that, the Nobel Prize for chemistry was announced yesterday.

The Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded to two scientists, Henri B. Kagan of France and Kenzo Choi of Japan, for their discoveries of nonlinear effects and self-catalysis.

"This year's prize is for basic chemistry," said Heiner Linge, chairman of the Nobel Com-



mittee for Chemistry. "Some elements, such as amino acids, exist in two forms that are mirror images of each other. However, biological elements only have one of these mirror images." How such chemical asymmetries can occur has long puzzled chemists. The 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded to Henry B. Kagan and Kenzo Choi for their discovery of a solution to this century-old puzzle.

Heiner Linge commented on the scientists' observation: "Like our left and right hands,

some elements exist in two forms that are mirror images of each other. Although the same atoms are combined in the same way, their properties are different. This difference is of great importance in biology."

Amino acids, the building blocks of proteins, are a good example. They can exist in two opposing forms. But organisms use only one of them to make proteins. This raises the fundamental question of how life chooses one structural form over another. For many years, chemists struggled to

answer this question. When they tried to form elements that could exist in two mirror images, chemical reactions generally produced both forms in roughly equal amounts. Henry B. Kagan made a major breakthrough in 1986.

His research showed that chemical reactions do not always have to occur in a perfect equilibrium. Then, in 1995, Kenzo Choi reported a chemical reaction that increased the bias of a single element. The reaction involved self-catalysis.

In 2003, Kenzo Choi demonstrated a reaction that could produce only one of the two possible mirror image forms. This was a milestone achievement, because no other scientists, apart from biological systems, had previously been able to spontaneously achieve such a high degree of chemical orientation, he said.

## New wave of terrorism: Israeli ambassador warns

NEW DELHI: The Israeli ambassador has warned India that a new wave of terrorism is spreading.

Reuven Azar, who serves as Israel's ambassador to India, recently said in an interview with a newspaper:

Recently, there was an attempt to hijack and crash a Fly Dubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv, Israel. But fortun-

ately, it was foiled. The attack was foiled due to the heroic actions of Indian pilot Smith Machar and the bravery of the passengers. Smith Machar is commendable.

Recently, a wave of Islamic extremist attacks has been spreading across the world in a serious manner. The extremists are faster than us. We must become faster than

them. We must act with perseverance and thwart their attacks. There is certainly a possibility of the next wave of extremism.

Hamash has inspired extremist groups in the Indian region. We must remain vigilant to prevent such attacks from happening ag-



ain, Ambassador Rouhan Azhar said.

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## Amazon lays off 1,000 employees

Amazon has laid off 1,000 employees globally, a move that has affected many Indians. Amid the ongoing wave of job cuts in the global IT sector, e-commerce giant Amazon has initiated another round of layoffs. Indian employees are among those affected by this move to reduce the workforce by 1,000. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy explained that this action is part of a broader plan to cut costs and streamline the company's organizational structure. Employees working in customer care, marketing, and engineering departments across various countries—including India and the UK—have received layoff notices. Many are taking to social media to express their distress. Confirming the layoffs, an Amazon spokesperson stated: "We have made certain changes to provide faster service to customers and focus on priority areas. Consequently, we have taken the difficult decision to let go of a small number of employees." Regarding the layoffs, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos remarked: "During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a surge in demand as everyone shopped from home, leading to an intense workload. We hired more employees than necessary at that time, and that is the reason for the current changes."

## Rahul Gandhi's arrest condemned



CHENNAI: The TDP leadership issued a statement last night: "The Tamil Nadu Progressive Party opposed the SIR process even before coming to power. The Tamil Nadu Progressive Party maintains the same stance even now.

The SIR is closely monitoring the arrest of opposition leaders and members of parliament, including Rahul Gandhi, who were protesting in New Delhi, in line with the SIR procedures. It said.

## UP: 4 students die of suffocation in water tank

LUCKNOW: Four students—Manu Kattare (20) from Madhya Pradesh, Devansh Sharma (17) from Vidisha, Aryan Pandey (17) from Kaushambi, and Vishu Sharma (18) from Meerut—entered a water tank to clean it at a Sanskrit 'Gurukul' in Vrindavan, Mathura (Uttar Pradesh). While doing so, they inhaled toxic gas present in the tank, causing them to suffocate and lose consciousness. All four died while being taken to the hospital.

## 'A Plus' rowdy Ennoor Dhanasekaran's bail cancelled

PONMERI: Ennur Dhanasekaran, a prominent rowdy who was released from prison on bail, has had his bail cancelled after he repeatedly engaged in criminal activities.



Ennur Thanasekaran alias Dhanasekaran, who belongs to the Ennur division, is an 'A Plus' criminal with the Ennur police station. He has 9 murder cases, 11 attempt to murder cases, 5 kidnapping cases, 4 kidnapping, extortion and a total of 80 criminal cases pending against him, including robbery.

In this situation, Dhanasekaran called Sundaralingam, a resident of Tirunelveli district, who was selling old iron products in the Vazhuthikamedu area near Meencur, and threatened him with monthly payments. It is also alleged that Dhanasekaran's accomplice stole Rs. 5,000 from Sundaralingam's pocket.

Based on the complaint, the Minsur police registered a case and arrested Dhanasekaran and sent him to jail. In this case, Dhanasekaran was granted bail by the Ponneri JM1 Judicial Magistrate on July 11 last year. Following this, Dhanasekaran, who came out of jail, along with his accomplices, allegedly threatened and assaulted the officer of a private company undertaking the North Chennai Thermal Power Plant work last April, demanding Rs. 10 lakhs.

The Kattur police registered a case in this regard and arrested Dhanasekaran and his associates. Dhanasekaran, who was released on conditional bail, continued to engage in criminal activities, so the Ponneri JM1 Magistrate cancelled his bail the day before yesterday. Following this, Dhanasekaran was again lodged in Ennore jail.



## Encroachment of temple property

# Minister Ramesh instructs officials to file a police report and FIR

CHENNAI: A consultative meeting regarding the projects of the Hindu Religious Endowments Department, legislative assembly announcements, temple renovations, etc. was held at the office of the Commissioner of Hindu Religious Endowments Department in Nungambakkam, Chennai, under the chairmanship of Minister Ramesh.

In this meeting, he said: Honest, transparent and accountable governance

should be ensured in all temples. Encroachment, illegal name change or attempts to claim rights to temple lands and properties should not be allowed. If such incidents are detected, immediate action should be taken, a complaint should be filed with the police and an FIR should be registered.

When major changes are made in the rules including permission to visit temples, the headquarters should be

informed. Tamil should be given more importance in important events including Kumbabhishekam. No video or photography should be allowed in the temple. All officials should visit the temples every morning and evening and inspect them. He said this.

Earlier, the Minister issued compassionate appointment orders to the heirs of 5 temple employees who died while on duty.

# Lion and deer roaming areas in Vandalur Park to be closed for 20 days from Oct. 14

VANDALUR: The park management has announced that the lion and deer enclosures at the Arignar Anna Biological Park in Vandalur will be closed to visitors for 20 days from October 14th due to urgent repairs and maintenance work.

The notice issued in this regard: Keeping in mind the safety of visitors and the welfare of the animals in the park, necessary repairs and maintenance work will be carried out in the lion and deer viewing areas. Visitors will not be allowed to enter these areas for 20 days from the date of commencement



of the work, which is October 14. The date of re-opening of these areas after the completion of the maintenance work will be notified later.

Therefore, the public visiting the park is requested to follow the instructions of the management and ask for their cooperation. During the

maintenance work, visitors should use only the areas that are open.

Visitors will be allowed to visit these areas only after the announcement of the park management. Therefore, people are requested to be careful and pay attention to avoid any inconvenience.

# ₹20 Fees at Madurai Gandhi Museum

MADURAI: The historic Gandhi Memorial Museum in Madurai had long been a place that the public and tourists could visit free of charge. With the noble aim of ensuring everyone could learn about Mahatma Gandhi's life story and legacy, no entrance fee had ever been charged here. Recently, the museum was reopened to the public after undergoing renovation funded by the government at a cost of approximately ₹10.25 crore.

However, within just a few days of its reopening, complaints have arisen regarding the collection of a ₹20 entrance fee from visitors. Writers and social activists are expressing strong opposition to this move. The museum's primary objective is to allow local residents, as well as domestic and



international tourists, to view the historical traces of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, without hindrance. However, the current ₹20 fee has significantly affected the poor and the underprivileged. People from marginalized sections who wish to visit the museum with their families often find themselves unable to afford the fee; consequently, they are forced to turn back in disappointment right at the entrance.

Commenting on this, social activists—including poet R. Ravi—have urged the

government to intervene immediately and restore free access, stating, "It is unacceptable to suddenly impose a fee on a historic memorial that has been free to visit for generations. This action deprives the poor and underprivileged of access to historical knowledge. Therefore, the government must step in and order a return to the previous policy of completely free admission." Meanwhile, although the administration maintains that this is not an entrance fee but merely an optional charge for the Gandhi historical guide handbook, a demand is gaining momentum in Madurai to stop the collection of fees from ordinary people at the entrance and to reopen the museum entirely free of charge.

# Skyrocketing Grocery Prices People of TN Face Hardship

CHENNAI: Across Tamil Nadu, the prices of cooking oil, lentils, rice, and everyday vegetables are soaring day by day. For the past few months, grocery prices in the markets have been rising unchecked. Specifically, the prices of cooking staples like \*toor dal\* (split pigeon peas), \*urad dal\* (black gram), and \*moong dal\* (green gram) have increased by ₹20 to ₹40 per kilogram. Similarly, the price per liter of cooking oil has risen significantly. The prices of vegetables used daily by the poor—such as tomatoes, onions, garlic, ginger, and green chillies—are also shooting up rapidly rather than remaining stable. With the open-market price of quality Ponni rice increasing per bag, ordinary wage laborers are struggling as their purchasing power erodes. The rise in the cost of living has completely disrupted the household budgets of salaried

employees and daily-wage laborers. Families earning between ₹10,000 and ₹15,000 a month are forced to spend a large portion of their income on groceries after covering rent and children's education expenses. This price hike has directly affected small traders as well as the general public.

Since procurement costs at wholesale markets are high, retailers are unable to sell goods at lower prices. Consequently, customers are reducing the quantity of their purchases. With sales declining, small grocery stores and roadside vegetable vendors are facing a threat to their livelihoods. Based on recent market trends, here are the previous and current average retail/wholesale prices for key grocery items in Tamil Nadu (per kg/litre): Toor dal (1 kg): Previously ₹125–₹130, currently ₹145–₹160 (wholesale price alone has risen to ₹143); Urad dal (1 kg): Previ-

ously ₹115–₹120, currently ₹130–₹140; Ponni rice (1 kg): Previously ₹55–₹60, currently ₹70–₹75; Sesame oil (1 litre): Previously ₹380–₹400, currently ₹440–₹460; Groundnut oil (1 litre): Previously ₹240–₹260, currently ₹280–₹295; Sunflower oil (1 litre): Previously ₹140–₹155, currently ₹170–₹190; Round red chillies (1 kg): Previously ₹320–₹330, currently ₹400–₹420; Coriander seeds (1 kg): Previously ₹180–₹190, currently ₹210–₹230; Sugar (1 kg): Previously ₹42–₹45, currently ₹52–₹56; Ghee (1 litre): Previously ₹680–₹720, currently ₹820–₹850. Generally, during periods of rising prices, it is customary for the government to intervene and sell groceries and vegetables at subsidized rates through special fair price shops or cooperative 'Farm Fresh' consumer outlets. Furthermore, the Civil Supplies CID and the Civil Supplies



Department must conduct rigorous inspections to prevent market hoarding.

However, the public accuses the TVK government, led by Vijay, of adopting a lax attitude regarding the issue of rising prices. People argue that whenever questions are raised in the Legislative Assembly, ministers offer only generic assurances that the situation is being monitored, yet no tangible changes are visible on the ground. Due to the lack of strict action against hoarders, middlemen are fixing prices at their own discretion and reaping exorbitant profits.

1. Groceries via Ration Shops: Essential items like Toor dal and palm oil must be supplied immediately and in sufficient quantities through ration

shops, without any shortages. 2. Expansion of Farm-Fresh Outlets: Vegetables should be procured directly from farmers and sold at lower prices in both rural and urban areas. 3. Anti-Hoarding Raids: Strict legal action must be taken against wholesale traders who hoard food supplies in warehouses to create artificial shortages. 4. Price Control Committee: Special monitoring committees must be strengthened in every district to track and regulate market prices. Acknowledging the daily hunger and financial burden faced by the common people, the TVK government must shed its inaction and take immediate steps to bring down prices. Otherwise, there is no doubt that public dissatisfaction will erupt into a massive protest.

# Iran will never have nuclear weapon, says US Secretary of State Rubio

GREECE: United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio has asserted that Iran will be permanently barred from obtaining nuclear weapons under President Donald Trump, simultaneously accusing Tehran of amassing an extensive stockpile of ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial systems designed to insulate its atomic programme from foreign military intervention.

Addressing a joint media briefing alongside Greek Foreign Minister Giorgos Gerapetritis in Athens, Secretary Rubio stressed that Washington's stance remains unyielding despite ongoing speculation regarding whether the United States might tolerate restricted uranium enrichment by Tehran within the framework of a prospective accord.

"Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon, simple, period and end of story," Rubio said. While withholding specific parameters concerning acceptable

thresholds of nuclear activity during potential diplomatic negotiations, the Secretary reiterated that preventing Iranian nuclear acquisition remains the primary directive of the administration.

"Anything they agree to that would be acceptable to the United States has to be something that ensures that Iran will never have a nuclear weapon," he said. Secretary Rubio made these declarations in response to an inquiry regarding recent statements by Vice President JD Vance emphasising that Tehran must demonstrate tangible commitments regarding its enrichment capabilities.

The top American diplomat contended that Tehran deliberately pursued conventional military supremacy to create a deterrent shield protecting its nuclear sites from external air strikes. According to Secretary Rubio, the Iranian strategy relied on hoarding vast quantities of missiles



and drones capable of inflicting catastrophic retaliation upon any nation attempting to halt its atomic ambitions. He maintained that the Trump administration aggressively intervened to dismantle this tactical deterrent. "He destroyed their drone programme, their drone manufacturing capability," Rubio said, referring to Trump.

"He destroyed their missile capability. He severely eroded both of those capabilities in terms of current launchers. He destroyed their navy. He destroyed their air force."

These claims concerning the scale of the damage inflicted on Iranian military assets were not independently substantiated during the press briefing. Nevertheless, Secretary Rubio insisted that Iran's strategic posture has severely weakened, stripping Tehran of its conventional capability to shield its nuclear installations from punitive action.

"They will never have a nuclear weapon, period, not as long as President Trump is in office," he said. Furthermore, the Secretary of State delivered a scathing evaluation of the Iranian domestic economy, attributing the nation's compounding fiscal crisis entirely to the misrule of its governing elite. He observed that punishing international sanctions continue to exert crushing financial pressure on Tehran, forecasting an even steeper economic decline. "Their economy is in total and complete freefall,"

Rubio said. The Secretary denounced the regime for squandering national wealth on regional proxy groups rather than channelling funds into domestic development and public welfare.

Specifically, Secretary Rubio identified Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis and militias operating from Iraq as the beneficiaries of Iranian financial support. In addition to regional security matters, he reported that the Strait of Hormuz remains fully operational, noting that petroleum transit volumes through the critical maritime bottleneck have nearly rebounded to pre-& conflict levels.

"There's almost as much oil flowing out now as there was before this conflict began," he said. Secretary Rubio's wide-& ranging statements were delivered during discussions with Greece that also covered maritime security, energy supplies and the consequences of instability in the Middle East.

# Tender to purchase 4,500 MW from private parties

CHENNAI: To meet the increasing power demand in Tamil Nadu and avoid power cuts, the Electricity Distribution Authority has invited tenders to purchase 4,500 MW of electricity from the open market.

In Tamil Nadu, the demand for electricity increased manifold in September as the electricity demand remained high following the summer season. In September alone, electricity was purchased in the open market at an average price of Rs. 20 per unit, Power Minister Nirmal Kumar had said. In addition, 1,500 MW of electricity was also purchased on a short-& term basis. According to the estimates released by the Ministry of Power, Tamil Nadu's peak power demand is expected to reach 23,314 MW in the coming financial year 2026&27.

In this situation, the power supply department has issued a tender to purchase power from the external market to overcome the increasing power shortage in Tamil Nadu.

The tender has been invited for the purchase of 4,500 MW of power. 4,500 MW of power will be purchased from the 12th to the 31st. The 3,000 megawatts of electricity required during peak hours, which are 6 pm to 12 am, will be purchased. The 1,500 megawatts of electricity required between 12 am and 2 am will be purchased. To ensure uninterrupted power supply to consumers and avoid financial losses, priority will be given to purchasing



electricity at stable prices through long-& term power purchase agreements, the power department said.

Meanwhile, a special seminar and panel discussion on the Tamil Nadu Solar Rooftop Project and the

future of green energy is being held at the Kalaivanar Arangat in Chennai on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Developers Association. The auditorium was inaugurated by Chief Minister Nirmal Kumar.

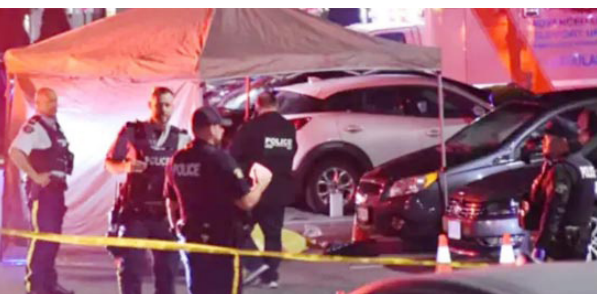
# 23 year old Punjab- origin man shot dead in Canada's Vancouver

CANADA: 23-year-old Punjab-origin man was shot dead in Vancouver, Canada. The incident took place at a plaza near 200 Street and 60 Avenue in Langley.

Police received reports of a shooting at the location but could not locate the suspects. Two days after the incident, the Integrated

Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) began investigating the shooting death of the 23-year-old Langley man. Investigators are seeking witnesses and anyone with information about the incident. The incident occurred on October 5. Around 9:45 pm, Lang-

ley RCMP responded to reports of a shooting in the 6000& block of 200 Street. On reaching the spot, police found a man suffering from gunshot wounds in the parking lot of a business complex. Despite life& saving efforts by first responders, the 23-year-old Langley resident died at the scene, the RCMP said in a statement.



nt. Around 20 minutes later, police received a report of a vehicle fire near the 232 St-

reet and 75 Avenue area. A burnt sedan was recovered and is believed to have been

used in the shooting.

The IHIT has taken over the investigation and is working with the Langley RCMP, Integrated Forensic Identification Services and the BC Coroners Service. While the motive behind the shooting remains under investigation, preliminary information indicates that it was a targeted incident.

"This investigation is in its early stages, and it is essential for investigators to establish a timeline of events leading up to the shooting," said Sergeant Freda Fong of the IHIT. "A lot of work is underway as we continue an extended canvass for witnesses and video at both the shooting and arson scenes." The IHIT

has appealed to witnesses and sought dashcam footage from anyone who was in the area between 8:30 pm and 10:30 pm on October 5. The RCMP has withheld the victim's identity as the investigation is underway. So far, it is known that the youth was from Punjab, and the killing could be linked to a gang war.

## Nana Patekar's passing leaves an irreparable void: PM Modi offers condolences

NEW DELHI: Renowned Bollywood actor Nana Patekar passed away today (Thursday) at a hospital in Goa, where he had been admitted following chest pain; treatment proved unsuccessful.

He was 75 years old. Leaders from political parties and film personalities alike are expressing their condolences over the actor's demise. In this regard, Prime Minister Modi has expressed his condolences. In a state-



ment, he said, "Few actors possess the extraordinary intensity, uniqueness, and commanding presence that

Nana Patekar did. He brought his versatility and creativity to every role he played, creating characters that will be

remembered for generations. He was widely admired for his courageous outlook and for speaking his mind openly and without hesitation on matters he believed in.

Nana Patekar's contribution to the Hindi and Marathi film industries was immense. His passing has left a huge void in the film world.

I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and countless admirers. Om Shanti."

## ITEC is India's key platform for "capacity building", says EAM Jaishankar in Cote d'Ivoire



NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar highlighted the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme as one of India's "most important platforms for capacity building", saying New Delhi is a "reliable partner" in meeting Cote d'Ivoire's requirements for skilled human resources, technical expertise and institutional capacity.

Speaking at an interaction with ITEC alumni in Cote d'Ivoire's capital, Abidjan, on Wednesday (local time), Jaishankar said the progra-

mme, which began in 1964, has evolved into an important instrument of India's engagement with partner countries.

"This year marks the 62nd year of the ITEC programme. It started in 1964. And it has actually evolved into one of our most important platforms for capacity building and a way of engaging other countries," he said.

He noted that ITEC now extends to more than 160 partner countries and offers nearly 10,000 fully funded training opportunities every year across a wide range of disciplines. "Where Africa is concerned, development partnership has always been central to our engagement. And we have taken a view that what we do in India should respond to the demands and priorities of our African partners," Jaishankar said.



Ashutosh Ranga, Co-coordinator of the 'Karapann Poochi Janata Party' (Cockroach Janata Party), has announced that a protest involving slippers will be held against Gyanesh Kumar at Freedom Park in Bengaluru today at 10:30 AM.

## Complaint of human waste found in government school water tank; officials inspect

KEERANUR: A commotion ensued near Palani after parents gathered upon learning that human waste had been mixed into a government school's drinking water tank. A Panchayat Union Primary School is located in Manur, near Palani, where approximately 100 students from the area study. News spread yesterday that human waste had been found in the school's drinking water tank. Upon hearing this, parents gathered at the school and argued with the teachers.

Keeranur police arrived at the scene and questioned both the teachers and the parents regarding the incident. The inquiry revealed that the school had reopened

on the 5th following the quarterly exam holidays.



When the noon meal staff arrived for work in the morning and checked the plastic tank used to store drinking water for students, they discovered human waste inside.

They immediately informed the headmaster, who had the waste removed and the tank cleaned. School Headmaster Jayakumar explained, "Due to a shortage of drinking water, we use a plastic tank that is filled daily to supply water to the

students. When the school reopened on the 5th after the quarterly exams, staff members went to fill the tank in the morning and found human waste inside it. We subsequently cleaned and removed the tank, setting it aside. We also informed higher officials in the Education Department. Since there was no water in the tank at the time, there was no possibility of anyone having consumed it. Health officials also visited and inspected the site." Parents stated that the school lacks adequate basic amenities, including proper drinking water and sanitation facilities, and noted that the open area near the school is being used for open defecation.

Nevertheless, the school administration maintains the premises in a

clean condition. However, facilities such as drinking water, restrooms, and surveillance cameras need to be installed at the school. They urged the district administration to investigate the incident and take appropriate action, emphasizing the need to ensure the health and hygiene of the students. The police are currently investigating the matter. Meanwhile, officials conducted an inspection following complaints that human excreta had been mixed into the drinking water tank of a government school in Manoor, near Palani. Parents, suspecting that the water might have been used for the morning meal, had staged a protest; subsequently, the officials who inspected the site today ate the morning meal together with the students.

## Allowing foreign funding for religious conversion activities would endanger the country's sovereignty

### Madurai Bench of the High Court issues a warning

MADURAI: The Madurai Bench of the High Court warned that the country's sovereignty would be at risk if foreign funds were permitted without restriction for religious conversion activities. The management of the 'Consion Public Trust' in Kodaikanal, Dindigul district, had applied to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs for certification to receive foreign funding under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). A Deputy Secretary of the Union Home Ministry rejected the application. The Trust management filed a petition in the High Court Bench seeking to quash that rejection order. A division bench comprising Justices G.R. Swaminathan and M.D. Sumathi heard the matter. The counsel for the petitioner argued, "The Trust has established a meditation center. Its activities cannot be classified as religious

in nature; it is not a religious organization." Counsel for the Central Government, Thalai Mutharasu, argued, "The petitioner organization engages in religious activities. It is the policy of the Central Government to prevent the inflow of foreign funds intended for religious conversion and activities that could undermine the country's secularism. The petition should be dismissed." The founder of this Trust and the key figure behind the organization is a Christian clergyman. One cannot overlook the fact that Christianity is a religion centered on a 'Redeemer'. The Supreme Court has pointed out the possibility that foreign funding could influence the country's political structure and national policies. Such funding could disrupt the social order prevailing in the country. We have recently wit-

essed friction between Christians and Muslims in Kerala.

If foreign funds are permitted to flow into the country without restriction—facilitating religious conversion activities—national sovereignty itself could be jeopardized. However, we do not allege that the appellant trust harbors any such intent. Although the petitioner was engaged in religious activities, they had misrepresented themselves as a secular organization; this was the reason for the rejection. Any religious organization is eligible for FCRA registration provided its activities do not undermine the country's secular character or social harmony. Such registration should not be granted to organizations involved in religious conversion.

The petition is dismissed. The court issued this order.



## Honoured "to call on His Majesty" US envoy to India Sergio Gor meets Bhutan King, PM Tobgay

BHUTAN: US Ambassador to India Sergio Gormet Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay during his visit to the Kingdom of Bhutan, with discussions focusing on investment, innovation, cooperation, stability and prosperity in the region. In a post on X on Thursday, after meeting the Bhutanese King, Gorsaid, "It was an honor to call on His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck to discuss expanding opportunities for investment, innovation, and cooperation."

## Plague Scare: Trump Holds Urgent Talks with Putin

WASHINGTON: A female researcher at an infectious disease research center in Siberia, Russia, has died under mysterious circumstances due to the plague. Although the Russian government dismissed the incident as a case of ordinary pneumonia, precautionary measures were taken: the research center and five regional hospitals were sealed off, and over 200 individuals who had been

in contact with the affected persons were placed under close monitoring. Currently, another person who had been in contact with the deceased researcher is critically ill. The World Health Organization (WHO) has directed Russia to immediately provide the autopsy results of the deceased woman and comprehensive medical data regarding the second infected employee at the laboratory.



After holding urgent consultations with US intelligence agencies regarding the matter, Trump spoke by phone with

Russian President Vladimir Putin to inquire about the situation concerning the spread of this mysterious disease.

## Students Protest Against Tuition Fee Hikes in Belgium!

BRUSSELS: Students in Belgium have engaged in violent protests against tuition fee hikes. In the French-speaking regions of Belgium, student protests against increased tuition fees and inadequate school infrastructure have escalated into severe violence.

The situation has particularly worsened in the city of Liège and the capital, Brussels. Inspired by student protests in neighboring France, these spontaneous demonstrations began in Belgium on October 1st. The primary cause of the protest is the decision by the



French-speaking community government to raise annual higher education tuition fees from €835 to €1,194 (approximately ₹90,541.56 to ₹1,29,469.00). Additionally, students have taken to the streets to protest against a lack of adequate space in schools, dilapidated school buildings,

teacher shortages, and hikes in public transport fares. More than 1,000 students participated in a rally held in Liège. During the protests, some groups engaged in extreme violence; they smashed school windows, set fire to trash bins, blocked roads, and caused general mayhem.

Riot police deployed tear gas and water cannons to bring the situation under control. Twenty-two police officers were injured in the clashes. So far, over 100 protesters have been arrested in the Liège area alone for their involvement in the violence. This includes 17 children.

Due to the tense situation, school classes in the city of Liège have been temporarily suspended. It is worth noting that a joint protest by teachers and students in the capital, Brussels, against these same educational reforms in June 2026 had previously erupted into major violence.

## 2.5 kg Cement Stone Found in Ration Shop Lentil Sack; Public Shocked



THIRUVARUR: The public was shocked to discover a 2.5 kg cement stone inside a sack of lentils being

distributed at a ration shop. A ration shop operates in the Nachikulam area of Udhayamarthandapuram,

near Muthupettai in Thiruvapur district. It is customary for over a thousand ration cardholders to visit the shop to collect their supplies. Yesterday, essential commodities—including rice, lentils, and oil—were being distributed, and local residents had gathered to collect them.

During the distribution, a stone was found in the sack

of lentils being handed to a cardholder. The public was shocked by this discovery; those present estimated the stone to weigh approximately 2.5 kg. Residents recorded the incident on video and shared it on social media, questioning how a stone ended up in the lentil sack.

They have demanded that the concerned officials take appropriate action regarding the matter.