

# Call for an International Framework to Combat Online Fraud and 'Deepfake' Threats

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Modi has called upon governments worldwide to unite and establish an international framework to eliminate threats such as cross-border online fraud and 'deepfakes'. The 10th edition of the India Mobile Congress began in Delhi.

The conference is being jointly organized by the Department of Telecommunications and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and will run until the 10th. Prime Minister Modi attended the

## PM NARENDRA Modi Urges Global Nations

inaugural session and addressed the gathering, stating: "You are well aware that online fraud and cybercrimes do not respect national borders; they have already transcended them. An individual in one country can commit a crime in a third country with the assistance of a fraudster located in a second country. Similarly, 'deepfake' videos have emerged as a major threat. Nations must develop an international framework

to eliminate the twin threats of online fraud and deepfakes. Governments, technology firms, telecommunications companies, and financial institutions must all align with this framework.

I call upon telecommunications companies across the globe to join in creating an international mechanism to prevent such fraudulent activities before they reach the public. India has gained significant



experience in this area and is ready to share its insights with the world. It is essential for the common citizen to be able to

be secure?" Mobile phones serve as vital tools not only for communication but also for governance and the delivery of public services.

We have transferred approximately ₹50 lakh crore via Direct Benefit Transfer schemes to mobile-linked bank accounts. This measure has prevented the diversion of about ₹5 lakh crore into the wrong hands. Given that this flow of ill-gotten gains has been halted,

will those affected like Modi? Was my action right or wrong? Should it have been done or not? No matter how much they protest, I remain firm in my resolve. Had the old system prevailed, ₹5 lakh crore of public funds would have lined the pockets of the undeserving. Modi has put a stop to this; funds now reach the genuine beneficiaries. In the telecommunications sector, India has evolved from being

a mere consumer to a creator. The country is advancing towards designing products and independently developing technologies and intellectual property.

This is what he said. Bharti Airtel Group Chairman Sunil Mittal, Jio Infocomm Chairman Akash Ambani, Kumar Mangalam Birla, and numerous other business leaders attended the conference. It is expected that 1.5 lakh people from over a hundred countries will participate in the event.

## TVK set to capture Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies

### Cadres celebrate by bursting firecrackers

CHENNAI: Vote counting for the by-elections in the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies—which have drawn the attention of the entire population of Tamil Nadu—began this morning and is currently underway. Postal votes were counted first, followed by the counting of votes recorded in

TVK candidate



MK candidate Bhanumathi is in third place with 31,067 votes. With TVK candidates Maragatham Kumaravel and Sathyabhama maintaining their leads in the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies, party cadres are celebrating—singing, dancing, bursting firecrackers, and distributing sweets—at various locations, including the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies and the TVK office in Panaiyur.



with 39,039 votes, and AIAD-

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). TVK has maintained the lead in the Maduranthakam constituency since the counting began. In Dharapuram, TVK was initially in the lead; however, after a short while, AIADMK overtook TVK to take the lead. Nevertheless, Maduranthakam remained firmly under TVK's control. After five rounds of counting, TVK regained the lead in Dharapuram, overtaking AIADMK. Since then, TVK has conti-

Maragatham Kumaravel is leading with 38,128 votes (a margin of 12,774). DMK candidate Paranthaman is in second place with 25,354 votes, while AIADMK candidate Kanitha Sampath holds third place with 21,537 votes.

In Dharapuram, at the end of the 16th round, TVK candidate Sathyabhama is leading with 48,615 votes (a margin of 9,636). DMK candidate Suganya is in second place



Party cadres were celebrating at the TVK office. Amidst the festivities, MLA Saravanan drew everyone's attention by feeding sweets to a photograph of Chief Minister Vijay.



Speaking at a press conference in Maduranthakam, Minister Sarathkumar said:

## "We are poised to win all 234 constituencies in the next election" – Minister Sarathkumar

"The significant number of votes secured by TVK in these two constituencies serves as the public's endorsement of our three months of good governance. We won

108 seats thanks to the support extended to TVK by the youth and women.

People now have greater confidence in TVK and are extending their support.

The people of Tamil Nadu are aware that the TVK administration is a transparent government. We are poised to win all 234 constituencies in the next election."

## DMK Loses Deposit in Thattanchavady By election

PUDUCHERRY: While the N.R. Congress emerged victorious in the Puducherry Thattanchavady by-election, DMK candidate K. Sethu Selvam lost his security deposit. A total of 11 candidates contested the Thattanchavady by-election, including Ashok Anand (N.R. Congress), Vinayagam (Congress), Sethu Selvam (DMK), and Salim (CPI). Polling took place briskly last Tuesday. A total of 21,756 people cast their votes, comprising 10,056 men, 11,695 women, and 5 transgender individuals. While the Thattanchavady constituency recorded a voter turnout of 87.10% during the general assembly elections held last April, the recently concluded by-election saw a turnout of only 80.81%—a decrease of

6.29% compared to the previous election. Following the conclusion of polling, all Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were stored in the strong room at Motilal Nehru Polytechnic in Lawspet and monitored under tight, three-tier police security. Vote counting began at 8:00 AM today at the Motilal Nehru Polytechnic center. Postal ballots were counted first, followed by the counting of EVM votes across four rounds. From the very beginning of the counting process, N.R. Congress candidate Ashok Anand maintained a lead that pointed toward victory. The Election Commission has officially announced that N.R. Congress candidate A. Ashok Anand has won the election. He secured a total of 13,358 votes (61.12%). The voter turnout in this con-

stituency was 80.81 percent. Congress candidate E. Vinayagam,

who finished second, secured 4,876 votes (22.31%); DMK candidate Sethu (alias K. Sethu Selvam), who came third, received 2,664 votes (12.19%); and Communist Party of India candidate A.M.

Salim, who finished fourth, obtained 310 votes (1.42%). Consequently, DMK candidate Sethu, who was pushed to third place, has forfeited his security deposit. Election rules stipulate that a candidate must secure at least one-sixth of the total votes polled to reclaim the security deposit.



Puducherry: N.R. Congress candidate Ashok Anand won the Thattanchavady by-election by a margin of approximately 8,500 votes and received his certificate of election. Later, accompanied by Chief Minister Rangasamy, he offered prayers at the Appa Paithiyam Sami Temple, placing the certificate before the deity.

## 13 Bonded Laborers Rescued from Tiruppur Knitwear Unit

TIRUPPUR: Numerous workers from other states and districts are employed in private knitwear companies in Tiruppur. Allegations have also surfaced that some companies employ minors. Officials periodically conduct inspections and take action regarding this issue. Meanwhile, Childline and the police received information that a private knitwear unit in the 'Kodi Kambam' area of Tiruppur was employing minors and other workers as bonded laborers. They alerted the Lab-

our and Revenue Departments. Subsequently, Tiruppur Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) Sivaprakash, Tahsildar Govindasamy, and other officials rushed to the site and conducted an inspection. They discovered 13 individuals working as bonded laborers, four of whom were minors. Officials collected their details and found that they hailed from various parts of Tamil Nadu, including Thoothukudi, Theni, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, and Erode. Investigations revealed

that some of them had come to Tiruppur after quarreling with their parents and were intercepted at the bus stand by individuals who recruited them for this knitwear unit. The inquiry also disclosed that they were paid meager wages and were confined within the company's premises, cut off from the outside world while they worked. It is reported that they had been held as bonded laborers for over two years. Officials rescued the 13 individuals—comprising seven men

and six women—and brought them to the Tiruppur RDO office for questioning. Their parents have been informed of the rescue. They are currently being housed in a shelter. Once their parents arrive, they will be handed over to them with the District Collector's permission. Steps are also being taken to provide them with relief assistance. Furthermore, officials have initiated rigorous action against the knitwear company that had employed them as bonded laborers.

## Today horoscope



You will win everyone over with your tactful speech. Your mother's health will improve. Your children will conduct themselves responsibly. You will renovate or rearrange your home to suit your taste. Profits in business will increase.



Every task you undertake will succeed. You will boldly make important decisions with the future in mind. Your influence and social standing will rise. Relatives with whom you had drifted apart will willingly reconnect with you.



You will find solutions to long-standing problems by adopting a different approach. You will repay borrowed money. A relative from your spouse's side will seek your assistance. Expenses related to home and vehicle maintenance will increase.



You will meet prominent people. You will take the lead in organizing family functions. Differences of opinion with siblings will be resolved. Some of you will take on significant responsibilities. Competition in business will decrease.



Lingering confusion in your mind will clear up. You will feel enthusiastic about meeting new friends. You will plan to expand your business. Some of you will replace an old vehicle with a new one. You will undertake an out-of-town trip.



Any task you undertake will face delays before completion. Differences of opinion may arise within the family. Caution is required in business dealings. Workload at the office will remain high. It is best to postpone important decisions.



Feelings of inferiority will vanish. Money will arrive from unexpected sources. You may experience some affectionate but bothersome attention from neighbors. The arrival of guests will make your home lively. You will meet childhood friends. Your mother will be supportive.



Tasks that had stalled will regain momentum. Avoid showing anger toward family members. Your interest in spiritual activities will grow. Maintain a cooperative attitude with colleagues at the workplace.



You will feel rejuvenated. You will fulfill vows made to your family deity. There will be an improvement in your mother's health. You will receive support from superiors at work. You will purchase necessary electrical appliances for your home.



You will attend special events hosted by prominent people. You will enjoy purchasing clothes and jewelry. You will gain benefits through maternal relatives. Business will yield profits. The actions of neighbors might cause irritation.



Unexpected expenses may lead to a situation where you need to borrow money. It is advisable to keep an eye on your children's activities. You will strive to handle competition in business. Avoid interfering unnecessarily in other people's affairs.



Tasks that had been dragging on will finally be completed. You will feel refreshed. Differences of opinion between husband and wife will be resolved. You will benefit from relatives and friends. You will plan a trip with your family.

## Elderly Woman's Funeral Procession in UP Features Two Elephants and 100 Tractors



NEW DELHI: Ram Pethi Devi, an elderly woman, passed away yesterday in Pyura village, Sambhal district, Uttar Pradesh. Her children organized a unique funeral procession. Two elephants raised by Ram Pethi led the procession, followed by her mortal remains. A convoy of approximately 100 tractors followed, accompanied by decorated floats featuring images of Hindu deities such as Shiva and Krishna.

Around 1,500 friends and relatives participated in the procession, which made its way to the banks of the Ganges River at Rajghat. Speaking about this, Manveer Singh—the son of Ram Pethi's granddaughter Devi—said, "Our family has been raising elephants for about 200 years; consequently, we are commonly known in this area as the 'Elephant Family'.

My mother had raised the last two elephants, Mohan and Burma, with great affection. Following her passing, both elephants were plunged into deep sorrow. Recognizing the bond they shared with her, we arranged her funeral procession in this manner."

## "PM Modi has murdered democracy" CJP founder Abhijit criticizes



BENGALURU: A protest demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar was held yesterday at Freedom Park in Bengaluru. Writer

Devanur Mahadeva, actor Prakash Raj, and YouTuber Dhruv Rathee participated in the protest led by Abhijit Dipke, founder of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP). Speaking at the protest, Abhijit Dipke said, "The Chief Election Commissioner has removed

13 crore names from voter lists across the country using the SIR method. He has removed the names of living individuals from the lists. It was due to his fraud that the BJP won the recent Lok Sabha elections. Due to this fraud, M.K. Stalin and Mamata Banerjee, who opposed the BJP, faced defeat. Modi has become Prime Minister again through vote theft. He has murdered democracy through the SIR method. Let us, the youth, unite to reclaim the nation and democracy from Modi."

## Key Department Secretaries, Including TN Home Secretary, Transferred

CHENNAI: Secretaries of key departments, including the Tamil Nadu Home Secretary, have been transferred. The details are as follows: Tamil Nadu Home Secretary K. Manivasan has been transferred.

Karthik, IAS, has been appointed in his place. K. Manivasan has been appointed as the Commissioner

of Land Administration. Ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, the Election Commission had transferred the then Home Secretary, Dheeraj Kumar, and appointed K. Manivasan as the new Home Secretary. Now, the Home Secretary has been changed; Karthik, IAS, has been appointed to the post. Similarly, Theni

District Collector Vaithianathan has been transferred and appointed as the Joint Managing Director of the Water Supply and Drainage Board. Sivakrishnamoorthy, who was the Joint Managing Director of the Water Supply and Drainage Board, has been appointed as the Collector of Theni. N. Venkatesh has been ap-

pointed as the Secretary of the Agriculture Department. Rajesh Lakhani has been appointed as the Chairman of the Electricity Board. Arun Roy has been appointed as the Secretary (Expenditure) of the Finance Department. These details were announced in a press release issued by the Chief Secretary.

## 'Roomi Twin Mission' Created by Young Scientist Two Rockets to Launch Simultaneously!

KELAMBAKKAM: Two rockets manufactured at a private facility are set to be launched into space simultaneously tomorrow (Oct. 10). Under the 'Roomi Twin Mission' project, two rockets named 'Roomi 1' and 'Roomi 2' will be launched from Thiruvandhanthai, near Mamallapuram. Young scientist Anand Megalingam operates a rocket manufacturing facility called 'Space Zone' at Thaiyur, near Kelambakkam.

Last year, following various stages of research, the facility successfully launched and tested its first rocket. Subsequently, research for a mission to launch two rockets



simultaneously has been underway for the past two years. This initiative is reportedly being undertaken based on the guidance of Myswamy Annadurai, the former Project Director of the Chandrayaan mission.

Both rockets have been designed using hybrid rocket

technology that is 100% indigenous. Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi is among those scheduled to attend and offer their best wishes at the event. Other attendees include Myswamy Annadurai, DRDO scientist Manickavasagam, and former Sri Lankan Minister Senthil Thondaman.

Anand Megalingam, a native of Kelambakkam, completed his schooling at Bhuvana Krishnan Matriculation School in the area.

He subsequently pursued higher studies in rocket research at Bharath University in Tambaram. Driven by his passion for the space sector, he established and runs the 'Space Zone' center with an investment of approximately ₹4.5 crore. The center houses 12 research and testing laboratories. Anand Megalingam stated that the facility employs 28 young scientists and has created job opportunities for a total of 75 people.

## Akasa Air extends Riyadh flight cancellation till Oct 10 amid evolving security situation

MUMBAI: Indian airline Akasa Air has extended the cancellation of its flights to Riyadh till October 10, citing the evolving security situation in the Saudi Arabian capital.

In a post on X on Thursday, issuing a travel update, the airline said, "In view of the evolving security situation in Riyadh, Akasa Air has extended the cancellation of its Riyadh flights till October 10, 2026." <https://x.com/AkasaAir/status/2108236356606705812>

The airline added that it was closely monitoring the situation. It said, "We continue to closely monitor and assess the situation on a real-time basis." The post said that passengers "impacted by these cancellations may opt for a full refund, credited to the original source of payment within 7 days, or reschedule their travel at no additional cost."

It further advised passengers "whose bookings were made through a travel partner are requested to contact them directly for assistance." Reiterating its commitment to passenger safety, the airline said, "The safety and well-being of our passengers and crew remain our highest priority."

The extension comes amid a security situation involving attacks on two airports in Saudi Arabia earlier this week on October 6 and 7. The evolving security situation also affected travel of other airlines, as an Air India Express spokesperson on Thursday said that flights to and from Riyadh had also been cancelled until October 10. "In view of the evolving situation in the region, we have cancelled flights to and from Riyadh until 10 October. Affected guests

are being offered complimentary rescheduling or a full refund on cancellation. We continue to monitor the situation closely," the spokesperson said.

The travel updates came as earlier on Thursday, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh advised Indian nationals in Saudi Arabia to remain alert, stay indoors as necessary and follow instructions issued by local authorities after attacks targeted Abha International Airport and King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, leaving three people dead and 36 injured. "In view of the current situation, all Indian nationals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are advised to remain alert and vigilant, stay indoors as necessary, and follow the instructions issued by local authorities through official channels. Indian nationals are strongly advised to refrain from circulating or reposting any videos or news related to the ongoing events," the Indian Embassy in Riyadh said in an advisory.

"The Embassy of India, Riyadh and the Consulate in Jeddah and its outsourced services through VFS, are continuing to function normally and will issue updates and advisories as and when necessary. The 24x7 helpline of Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra (PBSK) remains available on Toll free No: 8002471234," it added.

On Thursday, India also condemned the attacks on the two Saudi airports and called the targeting of civilian infrastructure "completely unacceptable".

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said, "India condemns the attacks over the past few days targeting Abha International Airport and King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, which have resulted in civilian deaths and injuries."

"The targeting of civilian infrastructure is completely unacceptable," the MEA said. India expressed condolences to the families of those killed and wished those injured a speedy recovery. "We express our deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost their loved ones. We wish speedy recovery for those injured," the statement said.

The MEA also expressed India's solidarity with Saudi Arabia. "We express solidarity and stand with the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," it added. According to the Kingdom's General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA), the attacks on Abha International Airport and King Khalid International Airport took place separately on October 6 and 7.

The attacks resulted in three deaths and 36 injuries, with two people killed and 28 injured at Abha Airport, while one person was killed and eight injured in the strike at King Khalid International Airport. The Saudi Civil Defence said its personnel responded to the incident on Thursday after the missile was launched by the Houthis militia. Following the attacks on Saudi civilian facilities, Saudi-led coalition forces said they had destroyed 82 military targets belonging to the Houthis militia in Yemen.

The Indian Embassy has meanwhile asked Indian nationals in the country to remain vigilant and comply with instructions issued through official Saudi channels, while its Embassy in Riyadh and Consulate in Jeddah continue to function normally.

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## Nandi Statue Emerges as Mettur Dam Water Level Drops



The Nandi statue has become visible due to the low water level in the Mettur Dam. When the Mettur Dam—a vital source of irrigation and drinking water for the Cauvery Delta districts—was constructed, local residents were relocated. Consequently, they left behind ancient structures, such as the Nandi statue from the Jalakanteswarar Temple and Christian church towers, as they moved away. These statues and towers remain submerged within the dam. The Christian tower typically emerges when the water level drops below 74 feet, while the Nandi statue becomes visible when the level falls below 69 feet. With the water level in the Mettur Dam currently receding below 67 feet, the Nandi statue of the Jalakanteswarar Temple—previously submerged in the Pannavadi reservoir area—has now begun to emerge.

## Immanuel Sekaran's Birth Anniversary: CM Vijay and Other Leaders Pay Tribute

CHENNAI: Leaders, including Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay and DMK President M.K. Stalin, have paid tribute to the martyr Immanuel Sekaran on the occasion of his birth anniversary. On his X (formerly Twitter) page, Chief Minister Vijay stated, "On the birth anniversary of the martyr Immanuel Sekaran—who dedicated his entire life to the socio-economic upliftment of the downtrodden and to the cause of social justice—I honor him and pay my spirited tributes.

The legacy of sacrifice left by Immanuel Sekaran—who championed equality and self-respect while fighting for the representation and rights of marginalized communities—is worthy of eternal praise. Let us pledge today to create a society free from inequality and to ensure that equality and brotherhood flourish everywhere, following the path shown by the martyr Immanuel Sekaran." DMK President M.K. Stalin said, "This is the birth anniversary of the martyr Immanuel Sekaran, who fought for the abolition of the caste system and for equal treatment for all. It was our 'Dravidian Model' government that issued orders to celebrate this day as an official state event and honored his memory by constructing a memorial hall for him."

He stated, "Let us all unite and work towards establishing equality, following the path of Immanuel Sekaran, who fought against both British dominance and caste-based oppression." AMMK General Secretary TTV Dhinakaran remarked,

"Today marks the birth anniversary of the martyr Immanuel Sekaran, who courageously raised his voice against caste atrocities and social injustices, and who steadfastly fought throughout his life to uphold the rights of the oppressed and ensure social justice. On this day of his birth, let us honor and pay tribute to the sacrifice and the struggle for social justice of Immanuel Sekaran—a man who dedicated himself to the rights of the oppressed with the noble vision of creating a society rooted in equality and brotherhood, transcending caste and religious divides."

## Rahul Gandhi to Visit Chennai Tomorrow

## Interaction with College Students Planned

NEW DELHI: Rahul Gandhi has been touring the country to meet students and listen to their views, the challenges they face, and their demands. As part of this initiative, he will attend an event in Chennai where he will hear students' opinions on various issues, including the education system, examinations, and employment opportunities. The Tamil Nadu Congress Committee is making arrangements for this event.

It has been announced that parents and teachers may also participate alongside the college students. Those wishing to attend are advised to register in advance. Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to arrive in Chennai by flight tomorrow morning and plans to meet with senior functionaries of the Tamil Nadu Congress party. Reports indicate that he will hold discussions regarding the current political situation in Tamil Nadu during his visit.



# Chief Minister Awards Cash Prizes to Asian Games Medalists

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay today awarded cash prizes to athletes from Tamil Nadu who excelled and won medals at the Asian Games and the Chess Olympiad; he also hosted a banquet for all the participants. The Asian Games recently concluded in Japan. Athletes from Tamil Nadu participated in various events and performed exceptionally well, amassing a significant number of medals.

Notably, in athletics, Vidya Ramraj won three medals—gold, silver, and bronze. In cricket, Kamalini and Washington Sundar won gold medals. Other achievements included a bronze medal for Paranika Elangovan in pole vault, a bronze for Abinaya Rajarajan in athletics, and silver and bronze medals for Vishal in athletic relay events;

in total, the athletes secured 19 medals. Through these achievements, Tamil Nadu's athletes made their mark on the international stage. Cash prizes had previously been announced for them by Chief Minister Vijay.

Now that the competitions have concluded and the athletes have returned to Tamil Nadu, a felicitation ceremony—featuring the presentation of cash prizes and a banquet—was held today at a prominent private star hotel in MRC Nagar, Chennai. Athletes who participated in the games attended the event. Chief Minister Vijay presented cash prizes to the medal winners. Athlete Vidya Ramraj, who won three medals (gold, silver, and bronze) and broke P.T. Usha's 42&year&old record, was awarded an incentive prize of ₹55 crore. Similarly,

prize money was awarded as follows: ₹80 lakh to athlete Vishal; ₹75 lakh each to cricketer Kamalini and cricketer Washington Sundar; and ₹60 lakh to athlete Baranika Elangovan. Incentive awards were also given to other medal winners. Furthermore, players who triumphed at the Chess Olympiad in Pragmarkand—including Saggnanandhaa, Gukesh, Divya Deshmukh, and Vaishali—participated as special invitees and received prize money. Specifically, Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa, who won silver medals, were awarded ₹15 lakh each, while Savitha Shri and Vaishali, who won bronze medals at the Chess Olympiad, received ₹10 lakh each. It is noteworthy that a total of ₹8.57 crore in prize money was distributed to the medal&winning athletes at this event.

# “History will always remember the DMK’s contribution to the Metro project” - Stalin expresses pride

CHENNAI: DMK President M. K. Stalin has stated that history will always remember the role played by the DMK government in the Chennai Metro project. In a statement regarding this, he noted: The Chennai Metro project was launched during Karunanidhi's tenure—when I served as Deputy Chief Minister—with financial assistance from Japan. We expedited the second phase of works, which had stalled during the subsequent AIADMK regime, immediately after the DMK government assumed office in 2021. Even though the Central Government's share of funds

remained unreleased for over three years, and amidst a severe financial crunch, we carried out the work without interruption by spending a total of ₹18,564 crore—comprising ₹11,762 crore from the State Government's own funds and ₹6,802 crore through foreign loan assistance. Our request was accepted, and the Central Government's financial approval was secured in October 2024. We have made every effort to open this corridor by the end of 2025. However, the inauguration could not take place as planned due to a delay by the Railway Board in granting approval for the



signaling system, followed by the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct for the Assembly elections. I feel a sense of maternal pride as the Chennai Metro Rail project—a 'child' I nurtured and brought to fruition over the years—finally takes its first steps. Just as no one could erase the

history of the Valluvar Kottam—conceived by Karunanidhi in 1976—even though the DMK government was dismissed before its inauguration, history will always remember the role played by the DMK government in the Chennai Metro project. This is what she stated.

# Madurai’s Veeramani Swamped with Orders After Posting Address for a Free Sweet Box

MADURAI: Veeramani, a popular figure on Instagram hailing from Madurai, has been receiving a flood of online orders—specifically via the ‘Cash on Delivery’ method—over the past few days. Consequently, multiple delivery personnel have been arriving at his home simultaneously, presenting bills and asking him to accept the goods. Shocked and alarmed by this situation, he released a video expressing his exasperation, exclaiming, “What a terrible ordeal this is!” He had recently posted his home address on social media, hoping to receive a free box of sweets.

That was all it took; out of spite, some netizens began placing random online orders to be delivered to his address, effectively using the situation to harass him. In the video, a distraught Veeramani laments: “You hopeless people... I beg of you, I'm practically at your feet—please stop placing orders. I can't even look at my phone anymore. It's a problem whether I switch it off or keep



it on... I just can't take it! How many orders are you placing? When did you place them, and where are they coming from? All I wanted was a box of sweets, and now I'm suffering like this because I shared my address.

I don't want to ask anything of you anymore. Just stop placing orders; that's all I ask. A million thanks to you—it would be a good deed. Will you people ever be okay? You lunatics, you crazy fools... My blood pressure is shooting up, and I'm already on medication for it!” Veeramani's lament is certainly justified, as a massive volume of items keeps arriving simultaneously via cash&on&delivery. One person ordered a television worth

₹1,69,000, while another went as far as ordering a cannon. At one point, he even broke down in front of an Amazon delivery person who arrived at his home. Many who have watched the video are commenting, “Would people really go to such lengths just to exact revenge on someone?” Meanwhile, a netizen commented, “At first, it seemed funny. But this happens in all his videos. It is the delivery personnel who suffer because of this. He deliberately reveals his address in the videos and films people from distant locations placing ‘Cash on Delivery’ orders just for a prank.” Regardless, Veeramani has become completely fed up with the constant stream of online orders.

# Telangana Considers Adding Pending Traffic Fines (Totaling ₹925 Crore) to Electricity Bills

HYDERABAD: The Telangana government is planning to collect ₹925 crore in outstanding traffic violation fines from motorists by adding the amount to their electricity bills. Motorists must strictly adhere to traffic regulations to prevent road accidents. The Supreme Court recently advised state governments that the driving licenses of habitual offenders could be revoked. Furthermore, the



Court suggested that outstanding fines could be collected through electricity bills. In Telangana, 3.7 crore traf-

fic violations were recorded between January 1, 2024, and August 15, 2026. This averages out to 12 lakh violations per

month, 39,400 per day, and 27 per minute. In Telangana, fines amounting to ₹1,332.42 crore have accrued over the past 32 months; however, only 25% of the violators have paid the fines so far. An outstanding balance of ₹925.77 crore remains unpaid in the state. The Telangana Transport Department is currently deliberating on how to incor-

porate these outstanding fines into the electricity bills of the respective violators. Traffic violations include speeding, jumping traffic signals, riding without a helmet, failing to wear a seat-belt, driving against the flow of traffic, and using a mobile phone while driving. Many believe that merely collecting fines from violators is insufficient and that their driving licenses should also be revoked.

# Supreme Court Orders Display of Drivers’ Names and Photos in Rental Vehicles



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has directed the Delhi Police to ensure that rental vehicles display

a board containing the driver's name and photograph, as a measure to ensure the safety of women. The Supreme Court has taken ‘suo motu’ cognizance of the rising number of sexual crimes against women and girls in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR). When the matter came up for hearing before a bench comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K. Vinod Chandran, the judges

ordered an immediate increase in police patrolling across Delhi. They specifically emphasized the need to intensify surveillance in areas such as educational institutions and locations prone to criminal activity. They ordered that drivers and assistants working in government and private buses, cabs, taxis, and auto&rickshaws must be mandatorily verified and registered, and that a display board containing

their names and photographs must be placed where passengers can see them. Furthermore, the judges ordered action against unauthorized liquor shops and measures to prevent the illegal handing over of vehicles to other drivers; they warned that if these orders are not properly implemented, the Delhi Police Commissioner and the Chief Secretary would be held personally accountable.

# Draft guideline values for Pudukkottai district placed for public inspection Objections and suggestions may be submitted within 15 days



PUDHUKOTTAI: Tamil Nadu Stamp (Constitution of Valuation Committee for Estimation, Publication and

by the Inspector General of Registration, Chennai (Ref. No. 29590/L2/2026, dated

## District Collector Aruna

Revision of Market Value Guideline of Properties) Rules, 2010, and following the guidelines and instructions issued

18.07.2026), a draft guideline has been prepared to rectify discrepancies in the existing guideline values across revenue villages in Pudukkottai district. This draft has been made available for public inspection at key government offices, including the offices

of the Revenue Tahsildar and Sub&Registrars in Pudukkottai district. The public is requested to submit any objections or suggestions regarding this draft within 15 days to the Valuation Sub&Committee, headed by the District Collector, either

in person or by post at the following address: Valuation Sub&Committee, District Registrar (Administration), Office of the District Registrar, Pudukkottai District. This information was announced by District Collector Mrs. M. Aruna, I.A.S.

# “ICE is rotten to its core”: NYC Mayor Mamdani slams federal agency after Bronx shooting; claims presence of 5 year old in car

NEW YORK: New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani on Thursday (local time) accused US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of operating with impunity after a man was shot by federal agents in the Bronx, alleging that a five&year&old child was inside the vehicle when the agents opened fire in a crowded residential neighborhood.

He alleged that ICE agents surrounded the man's vehicle before opening fire, at a time when school had just ended, and families and children were on the street.

“ICE agents surrounded the man's vehicle before opening fire. They wore construction vests and masks that concealed their faces. There was no reasonable way to identify them as ICE agents. School had just gotten out. The street was crowded with families and children. When ICE agents opened fire, a 5&year&old child, a 5&year&old child, was in the back seat of the car. Thank God that child is physically unharmed,” Mamdani said during the press conference.

“We know that ICE is rotten to its core. Today's shooting is only further devastating confirmation of what we have long known, which is that ICE operates with impunity, that they sow chaos and terror across our country, that they have killed far more of our neighbours than they could ever have claimed to save,” he added. Mamdani also said he had spent two hours speaking with US President Donald Trump and Secretary Mullen to negotiate the release of the injured man, but the discussions were unsuccessful.

“For the past two hours, I have been on the phone with President Trump and Secretary Mullen negotiating the release of the man ICE agents shot. Those negotiations were

unsuccessful. Just moments ago, ICE put the man in an unmarked vehicle and whisked him away. Let me say this plainly: what happened today was an outrage,” Mamdani said, according to Fox News.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said federal agents were attempting to arrest a man from the Dominican Republic when the shooting occurred. According to Fox News, the New York Police Department (NYPD) confirmed that its officers were not present at the scene during the encounter.

Earlier on Thursday (local time), the New York City Mayor had called for an end to all ICE enforcement operations in the city. In a post on X, he said early reports indicated that agents had surrounded the man and a five&year&old child inside the car before firing multiple rounds. “This is an unconscionable and incredibly serious situation. I have called the President; when we speak, I will demand that he ends all ICE enforcement actions in our city.

I will not stand by while ICE agents terrorize our communities. Our thoughts are with the injured New Yorker and his family tonight. We are praying for his recovery,” Mamdani added in the post. Calling for the agency to leave



the city, he said, “Get ICE out of our neighborhoods. Get ICE out of our hospitals. Get ICE off our streets. Get ICE away from our children.” He concluded the post with the words, “Abolish ICE.”

Meanwhile, ICE said in a post on X that the incident occurred at approximately 4 pm ET on October 8, when its officers were conducting an operation to arrest a Dominican Republic national with a prior criminal conviction for grand larceny and multiple previous arrests. The agency alleged that the man had associations with the Trinitarios gang.

ICE said an officer discharged a weapon during the incident, injuring the individual, and that officers immediately provided medical assistance. “The individual is alive and at a local hospital. The FBI and HSI are on the scene. The incident remains under investigation. More information will be shared

as it becomes available,” the agency said. ICE also criticised sanctuary policies, arguing that the release of individuals it considers dangerous makes enforcement operations more unpredictable and puts officers and the public at risk.

Following the shooting, anti&ICE protesters gathered outside New York&Presbyterian Allen Hospital, where the injured man was being treated, according to the New York Post.

The newspaper reported that demonstrators called for ICE to leave the city and that a brief confrontation occurred when some protesters pushed against police barricades. At least one protester was arrested, the report said. A CBS News analysis found that there have been at least 30 shootings involving Department of Homeland Security officers during the second Trump administration, some of which have been fatal.

# Rs. 10,000 fine for rainwater stagnation at business premises: Minister Arunraj warns

## 21,655 Dengue cases reported in the last 10 months

CHENNAI: Health Minister Arunraj has warned that a fine of Rs. 10,000 will be imposed on large business establishments if they negligently allow significant amounts of rainwater to stagnate on their premises. A special medical camp for fever prevention, organized by the Chennai Corporation, was held yesterday on Gangaianman Koil Street in Vadapalani.

Health Minister Arunraj inspected the camp. He visited homes in the area to check on dengue prevention measures and distributed awareness leaflets to the public. Speaking later, he stated that efforts to eliminate mosquito breeding sites are being undertaken as a crucial part of



dengue prevention measures, and public cooperation is absolutely essential for this. Everyone should inspect the interiors and surroundings of their homes, particularly the terraces.

Please remove any items where rainwater could stagnate—such as discarded vessels, small containers, lids, grinding stones, or unused flowerpots. Large establishments, construction companies, and

major corporate entities that negligently allow rainwater to accumulate on their premises will face an immediate fine of ₹10,000. Repeated violations will result in additional fines. The Chennai Corporation has collected fines totaling ₹7.50 lakh in the last two months alone.

Fines have also been imposed on households that failed to take corrective action despite multiple warnings.

In Tamil Nadu, 21,655 cases of Dengue were confirmed between January 1 and October 7; ten people have lost their lives so far, and 301 individuals are currently undergoing treatment as inpatients. He stated that 3,700 mosquito control workers have been deployed by the Chennai Corporation alone for mosquito eradication operations in the city. Corporation Commissioner G.S. Sameeran, Deputy Commissioner (Health) Thackeray Shubham Dnyanadeorao, Central Region Deputy Commissioner H.R. Koushik, and Additional Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Sampath, among others, participated in this inspection.

# DSP Jaffer Siddique Arrested

## Following Wife's Complaint of Abuse

RAMANATHAPURAM: Jaffer Siddique serves as the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) for Paramakudi in Ramanathapuram district. His wife, Shobana, reportedly lodged a complaint with the Vellore police on August 4th, alleging that her husband had assaulted her.

Based on this complaint, the Vellore police

registered a case and conducted an investigation. The investigation confirmed the allegations.

Subsequently, the Vellore CB&CID police visited Paramakudi, questioned DSP Jaffer Siddique, and searched his office.

Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu Home Secretary issued an order suspending



Jaffer Siddique from service. Following the suspension over his wife's complaint of

abuse, DSP Jaffer Siddique was arrested by the CB&CID police last night and lodged in Vellore Central Prison.

This action was taken after his wife lodged a complaint with the Director General of Police (DGP), alleging that he had tortured and abused her and maintained relationships with multiple women.

# Dispute Over Cooking Permission for Festival Atop Thiruparankundram Hill



MADURAI: A controversy has arisen regarding the traditional practice of cooking and distributing \*Kathamba Sadham\* (mixed rice) to devotees during the \*Vel Edduppu\* (Spear & Retrieval) festival, scheduled to take place today atop the hill at the Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple

in Thiruparankundram, Madurai. A commotion ensued as members of the public engaged in an argument in front of the temple entrance after the Department of Archaeology reportedly denied permission to cook food on the hilltop.

It is customary for the

Subramania Swamy Temple. The practice of cooking \*Kathamba Sadham\* on the hill using traditional methods and distributing it to devotees has reportedly been followed for ages. Accordingly, permission was sought to cook food on the hilltop

for this year's festival as well. However, the Department of Archaeology reportedly denied permission to cook food on the hill and imposed seven conditions regarding the matter.

This has created an obstacle to the traditional cooking and distribution of \*Kathamba Sadham\* to devotees during the festival. Following the denial of permission, members of the public argued in front of the temple entrance, creating a tense atmosphere in the area. Meanwhile, a plea has been filed at the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court seeking permission to cook food on the hilltop. There is considerable anticipation regarding the decision the court will take on this matter.

# Odisha: Patient Dies After Oxygen Cylinder Explodes in Ambulance; Two Seriously Injured



ODISSA: In Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, a patient being transported for medical treatment died tragically on the spot after an oxygen cylinder inside a private ambulance exploded with a loud blast. Two individuals who attempted to rescue him sustained serious injuries. Sujosh Parik (35), a resident of Kundabhai village in Mayurbhanj district, had been

admitted to the Udala Sub-divisional Hospital due to a severe blood infection. His family decided to transfer him to a private hospital in Bhubaneswar for advanced treatment and hired a private ambulance for the journey. Around 8:45 PM yesterday (Thursday), the patient was loaded into the ambulance. When the driver opened the cylinder valve to administer

oxygen, an unexpected gas leak occurred, igniting a fire inside the vehicle. As the fire spread rapidly, the oxygen cylinder inside the ambulance exploded with a loud noise. The force of the blast blew the ambulance's roof off, sending it flying about 40 feet away. The ambulance was completely engulfed in flames, and the patient, Sujosh Parik, was burnt to death at the scene. Two individuals—Sarat Pradhan and Masi Munda—sustained severe injuries while struggling to rescue him. They were immediately rescued and admitted to Udala Hospital. Upon receiving the information, fire service personnel arrived and extinguished the fire that had broken out

in the ambulance. The incident caused shock and panic among those present on the hospital premises. The Udala police have registered a case regarding the accident and are conducting a thorough investigation into the exact cause of the cylinder explosion and any safety lapses.



Workers removed a Hindi nameboard from the area featuring a model of the Big Temple at the Thanjavur railway station.



The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman briefing the media on 57th GST Council Meeting, in New Delhi.

# Award for six Flydubai passengers

## Israel to present Presidential Medal to Indian pilot Smit Machar following his recovery

JERUSALEM: Six Israeli passengers were honored with awards for thwarting an attack on a Flydubai flight; Israel also plans to present a Presidential medal to the Indian pilot, Smit Machhar, once he recovers. Indian pilot Captain Smit Machhar is currently recovering after thwarting an attack by his co-pilot inside the cockpit of a Flydubai flight, thereby saving the lives of 174 passengers and crew members.

Despite sustaining serious injuries from an attack by the co-pilot—Hammam Al-Hammami from Oman—the Indian pilot managed to open the cockpit door.

This action enabled Israeli passengers to enter the cockpit and subdue the attacker. Israeli President Herzog presented a civilian bravery award to six Israeli passengers—Tali Manes, Zvika Manes, Yaniv Hayun, Dr. Shota Musayev,

Asaf Razuan, and Bartilov—for their role in preventing the hijacking attempt. President Isaac Herzog stated that the Indian pilot would also receive an award upon his recovery.

Speaking at the award ceremony, the Israeli President said: "Through their courage and presence of mind, these heroes prevented a catastrophic air disaster that could have shaken the world, saving 174 precious lives." Today,

the six Israeli passengers were honored with awards. We extend our heartfelt wishes for a speedy recovery to the Indian pilot, Captain Smit Machhar.

"Captain Smit & McHard's valor and courage helped avert a major disaster. Once he has recovered, it will be my privilege to present him with the Presidential Award for Valor on behalf of the people and citizens of Israel," he said.

# Third Phase of Measures to Reduce Onion Prices! 700 Tonnes Procured



CHENNAI: Minister for Cooperatives, Gandhiraj, inspected a consignment of 700 metric tonnes of onions—procured from the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF)—at the freight railway terminal in Tondiarpet, Chennai, today (09.10.2026) and inaugurated the process of selling them through fair price shops. A statement issued in this regard notes the following: To curb the recent rise in the price of onions—an essential commodity—in Tamil Nadu and to ensure their availability to the public at fair prices, the Tamil Nadu

government has initiated market intervention measures to procure onions and sell them through fair price shops operating under the Cooperative Department. Following an announcement made by the Minister for Cooperatives in the Legislative Assembly, arrangements have been made for the third phase of sales: 1 kg of onions will be sold at ₹35 per family card through 8,914 urban fair price shops and cooperative stores. Accordingly, in the first phase, 910 metric tonnes were procured through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and 65 metric tonnes through the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF). Subsequently, in the second phase, 1,414.33 metric tonnes were procured through NAFED and 460 metric tonnes through the NCCF. In continuation of this, and considering the

sustained demand and positive reception from the public, measures have been taken to procure 700 metric tonnes of onions from the National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF) as a third phase and sell them through the cooperative sector's fair price shops. Accordingly, today (09.10.2026), the Minister for Cooperatives, Thiru Gandhiraj, inspected the consignment of 700 metric tonnes of onions procured from the NCCF at the Goods Railway Terminal in Tondiarpet, Chennai, and inaugurated the sales operations through fair price shops. Through this initiative, the Government of Tamil Nadu has ensured the continued availability of onions at reasonable prices—particularly for poor and middle-class families—thereby alleviating the financial burden caused by rising onion prices. Officials from the Department of Cooperation, including the Additional Registrar (Consumer Affairs) Thiru Dharmabagaraj, and representatives of cooperative societies were present at the event. This was stated in the release.

# US Bans 8 IT Companies, Including Tata and Infosys, from Green Card Applications

WASHINGTON: The US government has taken action to bar eight major IT companies—including Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, and HCL—from the Green Card process, which allows foreign employees to obtain permanent residency in the United States. This move creates complications for thousands of Indian IT professionals working in the US who are seeking permanent residency. Since assuming office, US

President Donald Trump has consistently emphasized a policy of prioritizing American workers. Consequently, the administration is rigorously reviewing practices regarding the hiring of foreign workers to safeguard employment opportunities for Americans. As part of this initiative, specific companies have been barred from participating in the PERM (Program Electronic Review Management) process, which is the system for permanent labor certification. Eight companies—Microsoft, Adobe, Cognizant, Infosys, Tata, Wipro, HCL, and Capgemini—have been affected by this measure.

The US government has stated that it will neither accept new PERM applications from these companies nor process applications that are currently pending. A Green Card is the document that grants permission to reside permanently and



work legally in the United States. The PERM process is a crucial step for foreign workers seeking to obtain a Green Card based on employment. Under this process, the company must demonstrate that there is an insufficient number of qualified U.S. workers for the specific job and that hiring foreign workers will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of U.S. workers.

Many Indian IT professionals working in the U.S. on H-1B visas are in the process of obtaining Green Cards through their employers. This current

measure could delay the Green Card application processes for employees at affected companies, potentially creating additional complications—particularly for those who have been waiting a long time for permanent residency. However, this ban will not result in the revocation of Green Cards that have already been issued, nor will H-1B visas be automatically cancelled. Nevertheless, because a crucial pathway to permanent residency is being impacted, uncertainty may arise regarding the long-term stay and employment of Indian workers in the U.S.