

15,000 police personnel deployed in Chennai ahead of PM Modi's visit



CHENNAI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be arriving in Chennai tomorrow (October 11).



5 layer security, drones banned from flying

He will inaugurate the 14.64 km long Poonthamally & V-adapalani stretch, which is a part of the Chennai Metro Rail Phase 2 project. He will then travel with Chief Minister Vijay from Poonthamally to Porur in the metro train.

He will also meet and interact with the founders of over 10 leading start-up companies operating at IITs. Later, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the 'Musician Ilayaraja Centre for Music Learning and Research'. He will dedicate various national highway projects to the nation and lay the

foundation stone for new projects.

Under the 'Amrit Bharat' scheme, the Prime Minister will also inaugurate projects worth Rs. 700 crore, including the upgraded Palani, Paramakudi, Namakkal, Amba Samudhiram, Vellore Cantonment railway stations, 3 railway flyovers

in the Coimbatore region and a 23 km new railway line between Karaikkal and Peralam.

Not only that, he is going on a 'road show' from the airport to the Parangimalai military stadium, near the Saidapet Justice Hall and to Anna University.

15,000 police personnel

will be deployed for security during the Prime Minister's visit to Chennai. Five-tier security arrangements have been made. For security reasons, Meenambakkam, Guindy, Kotturpuram, Porur, Nandambakkam and the routes along which the Prime Minister will travel have been declared red zo-

nes on the 11th.

In addition, the flying of drone cameras and unmanned aerial vehicles in these areas has been banned. All areas where the Prime Minister visits have been brought under police surveillance. Not only this, the police are also engaged in intensive vehicle checks on those staying in lodges, hostels, and hotels, and on major roads.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim quoted the Thirukkural in the Malaysian Parliament



KUALA LAMPUR: A video of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim quoting the 'Thirukkural' during his address in the Malaysian Parliament has gone viral online.

While presenting the budget for 2027 in Parliament, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim cited the 'Thirukkural' to illustrate the qualities essential for a great nation.

He quoted the 'Thirukkural' verse:

"Thalla vilaiyulum thakk-aarum thaazhivila / Selvarum servathu naadu" (A nation is one blessed with abundant harvests, virtuous people, and wealthy citizens who do not falter in their duties). This video is being widely shared across the internet. The Malaysian Prime Minister holds deep affection for Indians, particularly Tamils, and holds the 'Thirukkural' in high regard.

During the 2023 budget presentation, he had previously quoted the 'Thirukk-

ural' verse:

"Iyattralum eettalum kaathalum kaatha / Vaguthalum vallaarasu" (A capable ruler is one who excels in generating revenue, accumulating wealth, protecting it, and distributing it wisely). It is also noteworthy that during the 2024 budget presentation, he quoted and explained the meaning of the 'Thirukkural' verse: "Urupasiyum ovaappiniyum serupagaiyum / Seraa thiyalvathu naadu" (A nation is one free from severe hunger, incessant disease, and hostile enemies).

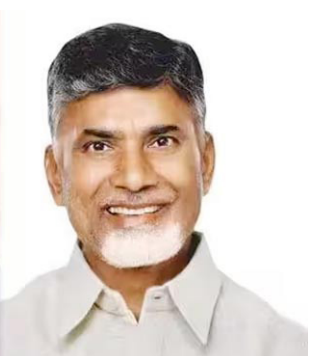
CM Vijay plans to meet Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu in Vijayawada on Oct. 13

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay is scheduled to meet Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in Vijayawada on October 13. Under the Telugu Ganga Project agreement, Andhra Pradesh is required to supply 12 TMC of Krishna river water to Tamil Nadu annually at the state border.

However, as of October



9 this year, Tamil Nadu has received only 2.251 TMC



of water. Furthermore, the Andhra Pradesh govern-

ment is taking steps to construct dams on rivers flowing from that state into Tamil Nadu. Chief Minister Vijay is visiting Vijayawada on the 13th to hold discussions regarding these issues and to consult on river interlinking. Reports indicate that he will meet Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and other ministers during his visit.

Powerful earthquake in Panama 7.7 recorded on the Richter scale

PANAMA CITY: A powerful earthquake struck the Central American nation of Panama. Measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale, the quake caused damage to houses and buildings. A tsunami warning was issued but subsequently withdrawn. The US Geological Survey reported that the earthquake's epicenter was located at a depth of approximately 12.6 km underground, near La Pitalosa in the Herrera province along Panama's southern coast.

Tremors were felt across the country, including in the capital, Panama City. Following the initial quake,

more than 40 aftershocks occurred, causing people to rush out of their homes in panic and seek refuge in the streets.

Consequently, flight services were temporarily suspended. Metro rail services in the capital were halted, and schools and colleges were closed. Power outages were reported in various parts of the country.

Officials stated that the Panama Canal—a world-renowned trade route located approximately 203 km from the epicenter—remained unaffected and continued to operate as usual.

Following the earthquake, a tsunami warning was issued for Pacific coastal nations,



including Panama, Colombia, and Mexico.

However, the US Tsun-

ami Warning Center later withdrew the alert after the situation stabilized. No infor-

mation regarding casualties or the extent of damage has been released so far.

Rahul is becoming a major threat to democracy itself: BJP strongly condemns



NEW DELHI: The BJP has strongly condemned Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi for making statements regarding his meeting with the President that are factually incorrect and politically motivated. Leaders of the 'INDIA' alliance—including Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, and Trinamool Congress le-

ader Mamata Banerjee—met President Droupadi Murmu in person and submitted a memorandum alleging irregularities and vote theft involving the Election Commission. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Rahul said, "The President neither denied nor questioned our allegations of vote theft."

This came as a great surprise to me. She accepted our complaint and asked us to

submit evidence; we are ready to provide that evidence." BJP spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi issued a sharp rebuttal to Rahul's remarks. He stated, "The President is not merely an individual; she represents the nation's highest constitutional office. Rahul has distorted the facts of what actually transpired during the meeting."

His account is a fa-

lsehood driven entirely by political motives. "Initially, the Congress spun tales about Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) being hacked."

Now, they allege irregularities in the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the electoral rolls. Both claims cannot be true simultaneously. If there are doubts regarding election results, the Congress has a legal window of 45 days to file a formal challenge. It would be appropriate for them to approach the court and lodge a complaint.

Distorting the details of the meeting with the President and engaging in a malicious campaign against the Chief Election Commissioner only demonstrate that Rahul is becoming a major threat to democracy itself. He made these allegations.

Rahul Gandhi Arrives in Chennai; Congress Functionaries Accord Enthusiastic Welcome

CHENNAI: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Rahul Gandhi, has been engaging with students affected by issues such as irregularities in the Indian education system, exam paper leaks (including NEET), rising tuition fees, and unemployment through a program titled 'Voice of Students' (Maanavargalin Kural). Having previously conducted this program in cities like Kota (Rajasthan), Pune and Nashik (Maharashtra), and

Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to address students today at Island Grounds in Chennai. He arrived at the Chennai airport at 12:30 PM today to attend the event.

Congress party members accorded him an enthusiastic welcome. From the airport, he is proceeding to the residence of Chief Minister Vijay in Neelankarai. Vijay is set to host a lunch for Rahul Gandhi there. Subse-



quently, the two leaders will hold significant discussions. It is understood that various matters, including the current political climate, may be

deliberated during this meeting. Reports also suggest that a private one-on-one meeting between Rahul and Vijay is planned.

Muddy Flash Floods in Chile: Cars Swept Away



SANTIAGO: Cars were swept away by muddy flash floods in Chile, le-

aving six people injured. Heavy rains have been lashing Santiago, the capital of

Chile, and its surrounding areas over the past few days, causing flooding across various parts of the city.

Floodwaters surrounded homes, residential complexes, and other buildings, disrupting normal life. Amidst this, torrents of muddy water surged along the roads, sweeping away vehicles, including cars. A video capturing this scene has gone viral. A state of em-

ergency has been declared in the Las Condes area. Six people sustained injuries in incidents related to the flooding, which also saw water levels rise along riverbanks. Consequently, operations to safely evacuate residents in Santiago are underway. Landslide warnings have been issued for ten districts, and authorities have advised the public to remain cautious.

Today horoscope



You will achieve things by speaking tactfully. Those who have cheated you by borrowing money will return the money. Old goods will be sold in business. Do not reject the advice of your partners.

Everyone will appreciate your frank speech. There will be happiness in the family. Your involvement in spirituality will increase. You will attract customers by using new strategies in business. Your superior will appreciate you in the office.

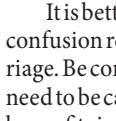


Confusion will be eliminated and there will be a lively atmosphere in the family. You will speak clearly about what is on your mind. Relatives will support you. Your career will be successful. Debts will be collected in business. You will give importance to the opinions of your partners.

There will be a sudden influx of money and influence. A broken vehicle will be fixed. Some people will buy a new vehicle. The fear in their minds will disappear. Business will be somewhat profitable. You will try to move the shop to another location. The workload in the office will decrease.



You will get help from your siblings. You will enjoy buying the things you like. Cooperation from your spouse will increase. You will buy modern electronic devices. Your career will be successful. Old debts in business will be collected.



It is better to avoid anger. There may be confusion regarding your daughter's marriage. Be considerate of family members. You need to be careful with your vehicle. There will be profits in business. Do not interfere in the affairs of others in the office.

You will hear good news through friendship. You will be immersed in old happy memories. Partners in a joint venture will be supportive. You will turn your shop into a place where people gather. Your respect and honor will increase in the office.



You will be happy with an unexpected influx of money. Relatives will start speaking in your favor. Your influence in external circles will increase. You will try to expand your business. Get used to being in the office and doing your own thing.



You will enjoy buying the things you want. You will think about the future of your children. You will expand and build your ancestral house. You will meet your loved ones. You will complete your work at the office. Business will flourish and you will make a profit.



You will meet relatives and old friends. Family members will accept your suggestions and act accordingly. There will be cash flow. Dues will be collected in business. Your superior will appreciate you in the office. Avoid interfering in other people's affairs.



You need to be careful in your speech. There may be a conflict of opinion with your family. You will incur expenses for a vehicle. You will take important decisions regarding your ancestral home after consulting with your siblings. You need to be calm in business. The workload at the office will increase.



You will act with excitement to keep your word. It is better to avoid anger. Expenses in the family will increase. You need to pay attention to your health. There will be profits in business. Do not hold any grudges against anyone in the office.



Events unfolding in Delhi evoke memories of the Emergency – M.K. Stalin

CHENNAI: DMK President M.K. Stalin has stated that the scenes unfolding in Delhi bring back memories of the Emergency. Congress members and parties within the INDIA alliance are protesting to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that he acted in favor of the ruling party during the special intensive revision of the electoral rolls.

A massive protest organized by the alliance was announced to take place today at Jantar Mantar in Delhi; however, the police have denied permission for it. Heavy police security has been deployed to prevent any

outbreak of violence. M.K. Stalin remarked that the crackdown unleashed against the protesters evokes painful memories of the Emergency era.

In a statement regarding this, he said: "The scenes unfolding in Delhi today and the crackdown unleashed against peaceful protesters bring back painful memories of the Emergency era that I lived through. All political leaders, students, and young protesters detained in Delhi and across the country must be released immediately. I strongly condemn the actions of the government in Delhi, which is operating as



an extension of the BJP, for unleashing police repression against protesting students. The Central Government must immediately halt attacks on young people who are peacefully exercising their democratic right to protest. Dissent is not a crime; democracy cannot survive by silencing those who rise up to protect it.

The demand for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar is non-negotiable." Beyond his resignation, all damage caused to the institutional structure of the Election Commission must be rectified, and its independence and integrity restored; this is what has been stated therein.

Skill development Ministry felicitates 'Team India' for historic WorldSkills Shanghai performance



NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship hosted a felicitation ceremony for Team India's young competitors following their historic performance at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, where India secured its first-ever position among the world's top 10, finishing 10th globally with six silver medals and 20 Medals for Excellence.

Speaking toin Delhi on Friday, Chairman of Jindal Steel & Power Limited (JSP-L), Naveen Jindal, expressed delight at India's performance and said he was confident that the country would do even better in the next edition of the competition.

"I feel absolutely thrilled at India's performance at the World Skills Competition in Shanghai. I was there with my wife to see them perform, to cheer them. I was really happy that they did so well... India did so well, and we moved up from the last competition, where we were ranked 13 all over. Now we moved up to the 10th rank. The way the Indian govt is supporting skills training in the

country, I'm sure in the next competition, we are going to do even better..." Jindal said.

Smriti Nambiar, India's 'Best of the Nation' awardee and a silver medallist at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, spoke about the overwhelming support she received after the competition and her experience of meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to ANI, Nambiar said, "The amount of love and support I've received after the competition has been so overwhelming. There have been so many people who have approached me and congratulated me... It's not every day you can say that you had the opportunity to meet the Prime Minister. It was really amazing that he took the time to come out and speak to us and really give that stage to the skills that we deserve. The kindness and patience with which he interacted with us were really lovely."

WorldSkills Shanghai silver medallist Mehruissa Begum also described meeting the Prime Minister as an amazing experience, saying the interaction made the competitors feel comfortable and

gave them an opportunity to share their ideas and listen to his experiences.

"It's an amazing experience. I am still recovering from the high of the medal and winning at WorldSkills. Also, today we met the Prime Minister, and that was an amazing experience, to be honest. The aura that he had when he entered the room..."

We actually got the opportunity to talk to him... We felt comfortable around him and felt really very comfortable giving all the ideas and listening to his experiences as well. It was wonderful," Begum told ANI.

The felicitation ceremony was also attended by Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and the Minister of State for Education and senior officials of the Government of India. Earlier on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the representatives of Team India at the WorldSkills Competition, Shanghai 2026, at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, on Friday.

During the interaction,

the participants shared their experiences during the competition. They expressed pride in representing their country at the world stage. The participants discussed adapting to new tools, software, technical systems and work processes during the international competition. They also spoke about the work being done by the government towards skill development, which is helping youth.

Prime Minister congratulated the participants for representing India on the global stage. He urged them to become ambassadors of skill development. He said that practical skills are as important as academic degrees. WorldSkills is the world's leading international skills competition, bringing together young professionals from participating countries and regions to demonstrate excellence across a wide range of vocational and technical skills.

WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, the 48th WorldSkills Competition, was held from September 22 to 27, 2026, at the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai. Team India secured 10th position at the 48th WorldSkills Competition, Shanghai 2026, winning 6 Silver Medals and 20 Medals for Excellence. India was represented by its largest-ever contingent of 70 competitors participating across 63 skills.

The interaction was also attended by Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and the Minister of State for Education and senior officials of the Government of India.

October 10 Ranchi 2026
A Run-Fest in Ranchi Three Massive Records Set by India

The Indian team has set three new records in international T20 cricket. In the second T20 match against the West Indies, India amassed 249 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in 20 overs. Explosive batting performances by Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan, Shreyas Iyer, and Tilak Varma propelled the team to this massive total. However, the West Indies chased down the target of 250 runs in 18.3 overs, securing a victory by 6 wickets. Despite the disappointing loss, by scoring 249 runs, India achieved three new milestones in international T20 cricket. This marked the first time India scored over 200 runs in an international T20 match at Ranchi, setting a historic record for the venue. Previously, the highest score recorded by India at this stadium was 196 runs against Sri Lanka in 2016; that record has now been surpassed. This is the highest score India has ever amassed against the West Indies in international T20 matches. The previous highest was 244 runs, scored against the West Indies in 2016. By scoring 249 runs, India has now set a new record. No other team has achieved such a high score against the West Indies in international T20 cricket this year. The previous highest score against the West Indies this year was 225 runs, set by South Africa in January. India has now broken that record.

Police Inspector Arrested for Accepting ₹5 Crore Bribe



THANJAVUR: The CB&CID police arrested Police Inspector Sukumaran following a complaint from the Managing Director of 'A to Z Hospital' regarding a ₹5 crore bribe. A search was conducted at his residence for six hours. Raman is a resident of the eastern side of 3rd Cross Street, Rahman Nagar, Thanjavur. His son, Saravanan (37), runs a hospital named 'A to Z' on the Thanjavur & Vallam Road in partnership with others and serves as its Managing Director. Meanwhile, a dispute arose among the partners, and one faction took various measures with the aim of forcing the hospital to close.

In response, Saravanan lodged a complaint with the Thanjavur Medical College Police Station and subsequently with the Trichy Central Zone IG, Balakrishnan. The opposing faction also lodged a complaint with the IG. Subsequently, a case was registered at the Medical College Police Station against Saravanan, his paternal uncle and Administrative Chairman R.M. Bhaskaran, and Hospital Manager Bhaskar under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Following this, the Thanjavur Medical College police arrested R.M. Bhaskaran under three sections, including the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act; he was later released on bail.

Meanwhile, alleging that a high-ranking police official was acting with ulterior motives and abusing his authority in an attempt to oust them from the hospital, a request was made to transfer the case to the CB&CID... Saravanan submitted a complaint to the Tamil Nadu DGP, requesting that the matter be transferred to the police for investigation and that the Director of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) be ordered to take legal action against an official who was unlawfully interfering in the hospital's affairs. An order was subsequently issued for the CB&CID police to investigate the matter. Following this, the CB&CID police questioned Saravanan, the Managing Director of A to Z Hospital. During the inquiry, he stated that the police had acted in a biased manner regarding a dispute among the partners and that a high-ranking police official had demanded ₹5 crore to clear him of the case; he further revealed that he had handed over ₹3.25 crore in cash and ₹1.75 crore via cheque to the police side. Subsequently, the police conducted inquiries with the partners and several other individuals.



In the shops of the Thoothukudi bazaar, the sale of various costumes and garlands—intended for devotees to wear during the Dussehra festival—is proceeding briskly. Devotees are eagerly competing to purchase these items.

Gujarat: 7 Killed in Truck-Vehicle Collision

PM Modi Expresses Condolences

KUTCH: Seven people were killed in a collision between a truck and another vehicle in Gujarat. A truck was traveling towards a renewable energy park near Khavda in the Kutch district of Gujarat.

A pick-up vehicle, carrying more than 20 workers, was approaching from the opposite direction. Unexpectedly, the two vehicles collided head-on. Chavda, the Sub-Inspector of the Khavda police station, stated that the pick-up vehicle was mangled in the accident; seven workers trapped inside lost their lives. The bodies of the workers trapped in the vehicle were retrieved using a crane. Twenty people were injured and have been taken for medical treatment.

A case has been registered at the Khavda police station, and an investigation into the cause of the accident is underway. Prime Minister Modi has expressed his condolences for those who lost their lives in the accident and wished the injured a speedy recovery.



A young man tragically died on the spot after being attacked by a wild elephant that had strayed from the forest near Kotagiri in the Nilgiris district.

Three people, including a Saudi Airlines pilot, were killed in an attack by Houthi rebels

RIYADH: Three people, including a Saudia Airlines pilot, were killed in an attack by Houthi rebels on the international airport in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. A civil war has been ongoing for years in Yemen between government forces and Iran-backed Houthi rebels. Saudi Arabia-led coalition forces have been supporting the government troops in this conflict. Amidst this, Houthi rebels launched missile and drone attacks yesterday targeting the 'King Khalid' International Airport in Riyadh. The Saudi government confirmed that three individuals, including Saudia



Airlines Captain Hamoud Ali Al-Galthami, lost their lives in the attack.

Additionally, a passenger aircraft parked at the airport complex sustained damage;

however, it was reported that there were no passengers on board at the time. Debris from missiles intercepted and destroyed by air defense forces caused minor

damage to a kindergarten and a medical complex in the city. Flight operations were suspended for several hours due to the attack, and high tension prevailed across the capital. In retaliation, Saudi coalition forces launched intense airstrikes on the airport in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, and on rebel positions; Houthi sources reported that two people were killed in these strikes. With the conflict escalating between the two sides, war tensions in the Middle East have reached a critical peak.



Chennai: The results of the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram by-elections have once again demonstrated the pre-eminent position TVK holds in the minds of the people. Chief Minister Vijay described the outcome as a “victory against personal attacks of a low nature.”

Indian pilot Smith Machar awarded bravery award by Israeli government



TEL AVIV: Indian pilot Smith Machar, who prevented a plane hijacking, is receiving praise from all over the world. In this situation, the

Israeli government's heroic act award has been presented to Smith Machar. Israeli President Isaac Herzog has made an announcement in

this regard. The six people who saved the Fly Dubai plane and its passengers were awarded at a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace in Tel Aviv yesterday. At the time, President Isaac Herzog said, “Israel's highest gallantry award will soon be presented to Pilot Smith Machar. I wish him a speedy recovery. The award will be presented to him when he recovers and returns home.”

Trouble in fixing underground sewer blockage in Tambaram

Jet trading vehicles parked for 3 years without obtaining a certificate of suitability

PALLAVARAM: The underground tunnel project is in operation in Pallavaram, Chromepet, West and East Tambaram areas under Tambaram Municipality. To clear the blockages in the underground sewers in these areas, 2 Jet trading vehicles were purchased about 5 years ago. It is said that these vehicles were in operation for only 2 years at most. After that, they were parked near the Pallavaram Taluk Office without renewing their certificates of competency. Similarly, a vehicle was parked idle in Mummurthy



Nagar. One of the reasons for this is said to be the lack of qualified drivers to operate the vehicles. Social activists allege that the public's tax money is being wasted as the vehicles have been parked idle for 3 years. If the underground se-

wer gets clogged during the monsoon, there is a risk of difficulty in clearing it immediately. Therefore, the social activists have demanded that these vehicles be renovated and FC. They should be put back into use.

CJP Founder Abhijit Deepke Arrested Aboard Aircraft



NEW DELHI: A stir was created when the Delhi Police boarded an aircraft and arrested CJP founder Abhijit Deepke. Allegations have arisen that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar acted unilaterally regarding the special intensive revision of the electoral rolls. Opposition parties are demanding his resignation, claiming that this pro-government actions resulted in a situation where over 13 crore voters were unable to cast their votes. The 'Karappan Poochi Janata Party' (Cockroach Janata Party)—which had previously demanded the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET issue—has now taken up this matter as well. In this

context, members of the party are staging a protest today (Saturday) at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Police have implemented various precautionary measures to prevent protesters from entering Delhi and to maintain law and order. A total of 25,000 police personnel and paramilitary forces have been deployed for security duties at key Delhi border points such as Singhu, Tikri, and Ghazipur. More than 300 state-of-the-art CCTV cameras have been installed at the borders to monitor the movement of protesters and prevent untoward incidents. Twelve temporary detention centers have been

set up across the city to temporarily detain those attempting to enter Delhi in violation of regulations. Roads at the borders have been completely sealed off using cement barriers, iron spikes, and barbed wire fencing. Amidst this situation, reports indicate that youths and CJP supporters from various parts of the country are converging on Jantar Mantar to participate in the protest. Meanwhile, Delhi Police arrested over 1,000 CJP supporters who had arrived at the protest site intending to demonstrate. Abhijit Dipke had announced a protest in Delhi starting today, demanding the resignation of Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. He traveled from Mumbai to Delhi to take part in the protest. Immediately upon landing, Delhi Police boarded the aircraft and arrested CJP founder Abhijit Dipke. Police forcibly arrested CJP members Abhijit Dipke, Saurav Das, and Ashutosh Ranna from amidst the passenger seats. Dipke was arrested for

Indian envoy Dinesh Trivedi attends Mahalaya celebrations at Dhakeshwari Temple in Dhaka

BANGLADESH: Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi on Saturday attended Mahalaya celebrations at Dhakeshwari Temple in Old Dhaka. Mahalaya marks the beginning of the countdown to Durga Puja and is associated with the invocation of Goddess Durga. The occasion also marks the conclusion of Pitru Paksha, a period dedicated to paying homage to departed ancestors. Trivedi's participation comes amid India's continued emphasis on constructive engagement with Bangladesh and stable bilateral relations. On Wednesday, Ministry

of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated India's commitment to positive and constructive engagement with Bangladesh, with a focus on mutual growth and prosperity. Addressing a press briefing on bilateral ties and regional cooperation, Jaiswal said India's engagement with Dhaka remained centred on the welfare of people in both countries. “Our approach towards Bangladesh is to have positive, constructive, and forward-looking engagement with a people-centric focus for mutual growth and prosperity. We remain focused on this objective during our



discussions with Bangladesh authorities,” Jaiswal said. Meanwhile, thousands of people gathered on the streets of Jorhat in Assam in the early hours of Saturday to mark

Mahalaya, an occasion that heralds the arrival of Goddess Durga and the approaching Durga Puja festivities. The annual gathering reflects the town's longstan-

ding cultural and religious traditions, with devotees observing the occasion through prayers, hymns and rituals. Mahalaya holds significance for devotees as it marks the transition from Pitru Paksha to the period associated with the arrival of Goddess Durga. It also signals the start of preparations for Durga Puja, which is celebrated across Assam and other parts of the country. In Jorhat and other parts of India, the early morning observance has become an annual tradition, bringing people together to welcome the festive season.

“I should have won 8 Nobel Peace Prizes”: Trump slams Nobel Committee for awarding Navi Pillay

WASHINGTON : US President Donald Trump on Saturday criticised the Norwegian Nobel Committee for awarding the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize to Indian origin South African jurist Navi Pillay, claiming that he deserved the honour for his role in resolving conflicts across the world. In a lengthy post on Truth Social on Friday (local time), Trump questioned Pillay's credentials and accused her of being opposed to Israel, while reiterating his claim that he had settled eight wars and deserved multiple Nobel Peace Prizes. “This is the woman who received the Nobel Peace Prize over the Great United States of America, whose Representative, ME, settled eight Wars, and many other things. I know nothing about this woman, and neither does anyone else!” Trump said. He added, “In fact, to the best of my knowledge, no one ever heard of her other than the fact that she, very obviously, hates Israel.” Trump listed eight conflicts that he claimed to have settled, including Cambodia and Thailand, Kosovo and Serbia, the Democratic

Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, Pakistan and India, Israel and Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, and Israel and Hamas. “I settled 8 Wars, with letters being sent from every President and Prime Minister from the countries that I helped to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, and I'm about to settle, or win, two more, Iran and, Russia/Ukraine,” he said. “Based on my record of PEACE, a record like no one else has ever achieved, I agree! I got back all of the hostages in Israel, including the final 28, both living and dead, and worked with Hamas to do it Nobody believed this was possible!” Trump added, while citing his other claimed achievements in international diplomacy and security. He further asserted that he had prevented Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and claimed to have helped avert conflicts in other regions, including tensions involving North Korea, South Korea, Japan, China and Taiwan. “In actuality, I should have won 8 Nobel Peace Prizes, not just 1,” Trump said, referring to the conflicts he claimed to have resolved. The US President also criticised the United

Nations, saying it had not helped in resolving the conflicts he cited. “In all of the Wars that I have settled, I never spoke to the United Nations—they were of no help,” he said. “The United States of America, represented by me, as your President, should have received the Nobel Peace Prize, but didn't. This is an indelible stain on Norway, one that will never be forgotten,” Trump added. He further declared that the Nobel Peace Prize had been “forever discredited by a handful of Radical Ideologues who are Anti Democracy, and Enemies of Civilization!” Trump's remarks came after Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterated his support for the US President's Nobel Peace Prize bid. “In recognition of his outstanding contribution, Pakistan had nominated President Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize,” Sharif said, adding that he hoped Trump's efforts to promote peace would receive recognition. Meanwhile, the United States announced additional sanctions against the International Criminal Court (ICC) on Friday (local time), citing concerns over American



sovereignty and the threat posed by the international judicial body. The announcement came on the same day the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Pillay. In a statement, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said Pillay had demonstrated exceptional courage and integrity in advancing a more comprehensive global legal order and had played a significant role in ensuring that war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide were prosecuted. Pillay, a former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has served as a judge on South Africa's High Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Court. She also chaired the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory until recently and is currently a

judge at the International Court of Justice in the case in which Myanmar stands accused of genocide. In response to the India & Pakistan ceasefire, New Delhi has consistently disputed Trump's claims while remaining steadfast in rejecting any external mediation. India has reiterated that the ceasefire understanding during Operation Sindoor was reached only after Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) reached out to his Indian counterpart to request a halt in military action. India had launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 last year as a decisive, targeted response to destroy terror infrastructure across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). The anti-terror operation was carried out to dismantle terror bases that were utilised to plan the horrific April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam. Following effective Indian strikes that dismantled key terror launchpads, the operation was paused on May 10 after a formal request from the Pakistani side.



PM chaired the valedictory session of the two-day National Departmental Summit on Women and Child Development at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, in New Delhi.

Offering Tarpanam to Ancestors on the Banks of the Thamirabarani River for Mahalaya Amavasya

TIRUNELVELI: On the occasion of Mahalaya Amavasya in the Tamil month of Purattasi, thousands of people gathered along the banks of the Thamirabarani River in Tirunelveli district today (Saturday) to offer *Tarpanam* (ritual offerings) and pay homage to their ancestors. It is customary for the public to offer *Tarpanam* to their ancestors on the new moon (*Amavasya*) day of every month. There is a specific belief that performing these

rituals during the *Amavasya* days of the Thai and Aadi months yields the spiritual benefits of worshipping one's ancestors throughout the entire year. Similarly, it is a belief among Hindus that performing ancestral rites (*Thithi*) on the Mahalaya Amavasya day in the month of Purattasi brings blessings to one's lineage and future generations. In observance of this, people flocked to water bodies across



Tirunelveli district from the early hours of today—Mahalaya Amavasya—to offer

Tarpanam to their ancestors. Large crowds gathered specifically along the banks

of the Thamirabarani River, a perennial river. Thousands assembled near the Kurukkuthurai Murugan Temple, took holy dips in the river, and performed rituals to honor their ancestors. Likewise, large numbers of people took holy dips and worshipped their ancestors at various other locations, including the *Padithurai* (river ghat) of the Vannarpettai Perachimman Temple.

“Victory in defeat for DMK... defeat in victory for TVK” – M.K. Stalin’s statement

CHENNAI: Maragatham Kumaravel (Maduranthakam) and Sathyabhama (Dharapuram)—who had previously won on the ‘Two Leaves’ symbol as AIADMK candidates in the general assembly elections held five months ago—have once again emerged victorious in the by-elections, this time contesting as TVK candidates on the ‘Whistle’ symbol. Although a five-cornered contest had emerged, the fierce competition was primarily between TVK, DMK, and AIADMK.

While key alliance partners like the Congress, Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), MDMK, CPI(M), CPI, and the Indian Union Muslim League had withdrawn from the coalition, the DMK faced this electoral battle with the support of parties such as the DMDK, Manithaneya



Jananayaga Katchi, and Manithaneya Makkal Katchi. In the general election held for the Maduranthakam constituency, Amulu Ponnalar, the DMK candidate, had secured 59,838 votes and finished in third place. In the current by-election, although DMK candidate I. Paranthaman faced defeat, he secured the second spot with 54,008 votes.

The DMK candidate had garnered 30.18% of the vote share in the general election, whereas in the by-e-

lection, the party secured 29.15%—marking a vote share decline of only 1.03%. In the Dharapuram constituency, Indrani, who contested on behalf of the DMK in the general election, secured second place with 64,373 votes, achieving a vote share of 32.20%. In the current by-election, DMK candidate Suganya also secured second place, polling 57,370 votes with a vote share of 31.78%.

The DMK’s vote share dropped by only 0.42% compared to the general election. The

DMK performed impressively in postal voting across both constituencies; DMK candidates secured 358 out of the 864 postal votes cast in the Maduranthakam constituency and 613 out of the 1,316 postal votes cast in the Dharapuram constituency.

Despite a weakening in the DMK’s alliance strength, its vote share remained unaffected; notably, the party moved up from third to second place in the Maduranthakam constituency. Against this backdrop, DMK President M.K. Stalin addressed the press in Kodambakkam, Chennai, regarding the by-election results. He remarked that, for the DMK, this by-election represented a “victory within defeat,” whereas for the TVK, it was a “defeat within victory.”

Vijay is the sole reason for the victory in the Maduranthakam constituency

Maragatham Kumaravel speaks

CHENNAI: Maragatham Kumaravel, the TVK candidate who won the Maduranthakam constituency, spoke to reporters, stating: “The people of the Maduranthakam constituency have handed me a ‘hat&trick’ victory. I express my gratitude for this.

Chief Minister Vijay is the sole reason for my success; the people voted for me and ensured my victory because of his face. I have achieved this win despite

facing various criticisms. Members of the DMK and AIADMK joined forces to spread various criticisms against me, citing my earlier resignation from the MLA post.

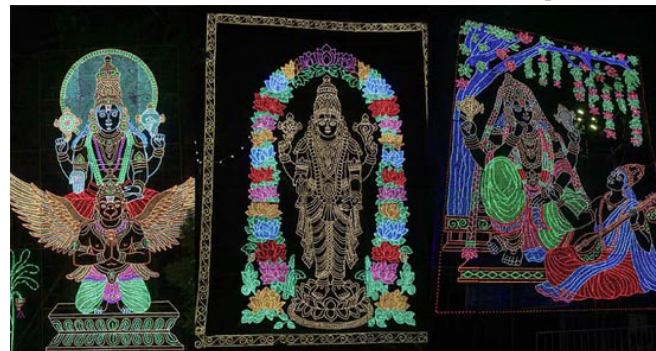
They conspired together to defeat me, but the people of the Maduranthakam constituency thwarted those efforts. I will fulfill the various demands of the constituency’s residents, including the request for a government arts college. Chief Minister Vijay has pro-



mitted to implement excellent schemes for the development of the Maduranthakam constituency. Since I have remained close to the peo-

ple, they harbored no ill will towards me. I will voice the constituency’s demands in the Legislative Assembly and ensure they are met.”

Brahmotsavam Festival: Tirupati and Tirumala Towns Aglow with Illuminations



TIRUPATI: The towns of Tirupati and Tirumala are dazzling with electric light decorations in preparation for the Sri-vari Navaratri Brahmotsavam. The Navaratri Brahmotsavam festival is being held at the Tirupati Lord Venkateswara (Ezhumalaiyan) temple for

nine days, from the 12th to the 20th. The Devasthanam has made elaborate arrangements to illuminate the towns of Tirupati and Tirumala with electric lights for the occasion. Inspecting these arrangements, the Devasthanam Joint Executive Officer noted that

the number of devotees expected to visit for darshan during the Navaratri Brahmotsavam is likely to exceed the crowds seen on regular holidays. Consequently, officials have been instructed to ensure adequate facilities are provided, keeping the influx of devotees in mind.

Special decorative arches have been erected to illuminate 20 locations across 14 roads—including the route from Tirupati to Alipiri—as well as 17 key junctions (such as Garuda Circle and Nandi Circle) and Devasthanam&-

owned temples and buildings in Tirupati and Tirumala. Key locations and eight parking areas are aglow with LED decorative arches, information boards, and high-intensity floodlights. Officials have been directed to ensure the proper functioning of parking facilities, sanitation, medical services, drinking water, restrooms, *Anna Prasadam* (food offerings), security, public announcement systems, and signage. He stated that coordination among all departments is essential to ensure that devotees can have a comfortable and hassle&free darshan.

US Decides to Purchase Diesel from Russia; Zelenskyy Furious

NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump has agreed to purchase large quantities of diesel from Russia in an effort to curb rising fuel prices in the United States. Ukrainian President Zelenskyy has expressed strong opposition to this decision, criticizing the move by noting that the revenue generated for Russia would help sustain the war against Ukraine. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has been ongoing for over four years. Although the US has made various attempts to bring the war to an end, no agreement has been reached, and the fighting continues. Trump had previously criticized nations like China and India for purchasing fuel from



Russia—thereby enriching the country and enabling it to continue the conflict—and had even imposed heavy tariffs on countries that bought Russian fuel. However, in a sudden turn of events, the US itself has now decided to purchase diesel from Russia. Trump stated that, following a telephone conversation with Russian President Putin, Russia

agreed to supply diesel to the US and international markets. Regarding this, Trump said that more than 300,000 metric tonnes of diesel would be supplied immediately, with an additional 500,000 metric tonnes to be delivered in November.

Following this, an additional one million metric tonnes of diesel will be supplied.

He stated that his primary objective is to lower prices, noting that farmers, livestock owners, and freight vehicle drivers in the United States have been affected by rising fuel costs. Ukrainian President Zelenskyy has opposed this decision by Trump. Criticizing the move, he remarked, “Concessions to Putin will not bring peace. Allowing Russia to sell petroleum products is an investment in prolonging a war that needs to be brought to an end.” He further emphasized that instead of easing sanctions against Russia, measures should be taken to de&escalate tensions between the two nations on a reciprocal basis.

25% of Mills Closed; Risk of Rising Rice Prices

Tenkasi Mill Owners Urge Government for a Solution

TENKASI: Due to rising production costs, 25 percent of rice mills in Tenkasi district have shut down. This has created a risk of rice prices increasing. Tamil Nadu consistently faces a deficit in paddy yield each year due to factors such as unseasonal monsoon rains and the conversion of agricultural lands into residential plots. Consequently, private rice mills procure paddy or rice from other states to meet demand.

Approximately 130 rice mills were operating in the Keelapavoor and Alangulam blocks of Tenkasi district; however, many have suspended operations over the past few months due to escalating production costs. C. Anbazhagan, President of the Tenkasi District Rice

Mill Owners and Paddy& Rice Traders Association, stated: “Paddy production has declined because the ‘Kar’ season cultivation failed in the Delta districts, which are the primary paddy&producing regions of Tamil Nadu.

The government procures the limited paddy produced here but fails to protect it properly, allowing it to get wet in the rain and go to waste. This compels private mills to purchase paddy from other states at higher prices.

We have installed state&of&the&art machinery in our mills using substantial bank loans, and interest rates on these loans have risen. Electricity charges have increased by 6 percent annually, and fixed electricity charges for Low Tension (LT) connec-

tions have surged from ₹35 to ₹170 per unit. Furthermore, we have to bring in workers from other states and provide them with food and accommodation to keep the mills running.”

Rice production costs have risen due to factors such as the 5% GST levy on 5kg and 10kg bags, the increased cost of diesel for operating generators during power outages, rising labor wages, and higher transportation expenses. In Tenkasi district, 20 to 25 percent of modern rice mills have shut down due to a shortage of paddy, escalating production costs, and the inability to meet loan repayment obligations; a similar situation prevails in



other districts as well.

The government must provide the necessary support to these mills to stabilize rice production. Otherwise, production will decline, leading to an unavoidable rise in prices.

“Scoundrels instead of engaging in corruption, they could go from street to street begging!”

High Court Judges lash out

MADURAI: During the hearing of a case at the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court—which sought to transfer the investigation into a multi&crore rupee fraud involving the Adi Dravidar student welfare fund to the CB&CID—the judges remarked sternly that those involved might as well have gone begging from street to street rather than committing fraud against a student welfare scheme.

They further questioned whether it was appropriate for government lawyers to appear on behalf of corrupt officials—using public tax money—in an attempt to shield them. Additionally, the Madurai Bench has ordered the filing of a detailed report regarding the number of officials involved in corruption across all government departments in Tamil Nadu, the actions taken against them, the number of cases registered, and the current status of those cases. Sakthivel, a native of Pathir-

akkudi in Sivaganga district, filed a petition alleging a massive fraud involving ₹2.35 crore in funds allocated for Adi Dravidar hostel students in the district.

He claimed that between 2017 and 2023, funds allocated by the government were misappropriated by officials—including Tahsildars—instead of being credited to the students’ accounts. Although complaints were lodged with the Revenue Department and the police, no proper action was taken against many of the accused Tahsildars; some even received promotions, and District Collectors permitted others to retire. Arguing that the police were acting in favor of those involved in the misappropriation of crores of rupees meant for Adi Dravidar students, he sought an order transferring the investigation to the CB&CID.

The case came up for hearing before a bench comprising Justices Velmur-

ugan and Ramakrishnan. The Additional Advocate General, appearing for the government, stated that investigating officers had been appointed and the charge sheet had been filed in the trial court. Angered by this, the judges questioned when the charge sheet regarding the corruption had actually been filed.

They remarked that officials involved in such corruption—stealing money meant for Adi Dravidar students—might as well beg on the streets; was such a livelihood necessary for them? They asked why such “dogs” were retained in service, noting that government lawyers appear and speak in support of the corrupt using public tax money.

Expressing extreme anger, the judges told the counsel to go ahead and report that the judge had used such harsh language. At that point, the government side... When the lawyer appearing for the case

requested a three&month adjournment, the judges remarked that while governments may change, the nature of government officials remains the same; 99% of them are prone to corruption. They observed that successive governments tend to protect corrupt officials, noting that individuals who specifically seek employment in this department immediately after their studies—often paying bribes to secure the position—are bound to engage in corruption.

The judges ordered the Tamil Nadu government to file a detailed counter&affidavit providing information on the number of officials involved in corruption across all government departments, the actions taken against them, the number of cases registered and their current status, and the number of cases for which investigating officers have been appointed. The hearing was subsequently adjourned for four weeks.

Fishermen Protest Against Desalination Project in Thoothukudi

THOOTHUKUDI: Claiming that the seawater desalination project severely threatens their livelihoods and the traditional shore-seine fishing trade, fishermen staged an intense protest today by anchoring their boats at sea near the Thoothukudi port area. This demonstration has caused a stir along the Thoothukudi coastline and within the port complex. Construction work is currently in full swing for a desalination plant—de-

signed to process 60 million liters of seawater daily—in the Mullakkadu area of Thoothukudi. Fishermen allege that the discharge of wastewater from the plant and the construction activities in the sea threaten to completely destroy the traditional shore-seine fishing industry practiced along the coast. They have also expressed concern that marine resources and fish stocks will be severely impacted. Fishermen had refrained

from venturing out to sea over the past few days due to strong winds.

However, as the winds subsided today (Saturday), they returned to the water. While doing so, they gathered with their fishing boats near the V.O.C. Port in Thoothukudi to stage a protest against the project, voicing their strong opposition to the threat it poses to their livelihoods. The protesting group has demanded that the government immediately



intervene to halt the desalination project and ensure adequate protection for the livelihoods of traditional shore-seine fishermen. Following this sudden protest

at sea, Coastal Security Group personnel and the police have stepped up surveillance to prevent any untoward incidents.



Tanzania is a country located in East Africa. A bus was traveling from the capital city, Dar es Salaam, to the city of Mbeya in the early hours of the morning, carrying more than 30 passengers. While passing through the Mbarani area on the Morogoro—Dar es Salaam national highway, the bus collided with an oncoming lorry. Following the collision, the bus caught fire, and 28 passengers tragically lost their lives after being burned to death.