

Maduranthakam and Dharapuram MLAs take oath before the Speaker

CHENNAI: The TVK MLAs who won the by-elections for the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies were sworn in today in the presence of the Speaker. Maragatham Kumaravel and Sathyabham, the TVK candidates who contested the by-elections for the Maduranthakam and Dharapuram constituencies, emerged victorious. The results for these by-elections were announced on October 9. Subsequently, at the Chennai Secretariat today, Maragatham Kumaravel (Maduran-

TVK Strength Rises to 109

thakam) and Sathyabham (Dharapuram) took their oaths of office as Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in the presence of Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar. Ministers Anand, Sengottaiyan, Arunraj, and Rajmohan were present during the swearing-in ceremony. With these two assuming office as MLAs, the strength of the TVK in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has

risen to 109. Maragatham Kumaravel (Maduranthakam) and Sathyabham (Dharapuram) took their oaths of office in the presence of Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar. Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar congratulated Sathyabham and Maragatham Kumaravel on assuming office as MLAs. With the swearing-in of these two TVK MLAs, the party's strength in the Legislative Assembly has risen to 109. "I

express my immense gratitude to the people of the Maduranthakam constituency for delivering a hat-trick victory. I thank Chief Minister Vijay for the opportunity to contest the by-election. Opposition parties engaged in false propaganda and spread slander against us; this false campaigning caused us mental distress. They alleged 'horse trading,' yet we won the by-election without pay-

ing money for votes.

The opposition's false propaganda failed to resonate with the public. They disparaged us without regard for the fact that we are women. We will certainly fulfill the demands of the constituency's people. I won entirely on the strength of votes cast for 'Thalapathy' Vijay," she said. Sathyabham stated, "Heartfelt thanks to the people of the Dharapuram constituency



for this victory.

The people themselves are celebrating the win with

great enthusiasm. A solution to the water crisis will be found very soon. This victory is one

that will spark a resurgence among the people of Tamil Nadu."



The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh pays floral tributes to Shri Shivraj V. Patil, former Speaker of Lok Sabha on his birth anniversary at Parliament House, in New Delhi.

Udhayanidhi condemns the house arrest of medical personnel

CHENNAI: Opposition leader Udhayanidhi has issued a statement condemning the house arrest of medical workers who had planned to stage a protest. In his statement, he said: "I strongly condemn this 'Shobha' model government for placing medical workers under house arrest—workers who had come to Chennai to press for demands such as job regularization—m-

uch like how 'owners' arrest youths heading to Delhi to protest against electoral irregularities.

Why is this 'Reels government' engaging in such anarchy—arresting people at their homes before they can even set out to protest, a practice unprecedented in scale—after casting to the wind all the promises made to medical workers before coming to power?

Is 'Change' merely about unleashing repression on any group—be it farmers, students, or nurses—protesting democratically, without even inviting them for direct talks?

The 'Dummy Chief Minister' must step forward to immediately release the multi-purpose workers—who form the backbone of medical services—and hold negotiations with them.



I urge the government to take action to fulfill their legitimate demands."

High Court Stays Final Decision on TASMALC 'Reverse Vending Machine' Tender

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court has ordered the Tamil Nadu government not to take a final decision regarding the tender for installing reverse vending machines to collect used TASMALC liquor bottles. A scheme to collect bottles sold at TASMALC liquor shops is being implemented across the state for environmental protection purposes. Under this scheme, a tender was floated on August 31 for the installation and operation of reverse vending machines to collect empty bottles. The Bottle Traders' Welfare Association has filed a case in the Madras High Court seeking a stay on this tender.



The petition states that a single company is set to be appointed for this task across the entire state.

It notes that the tender document specifies a seven-year contract, with a provision for a three-year extension. The petitioners have

requested the cancellation of the tender and an order to revise the tender conditions to allow participation by those currently engaged in the business of collecting empty bottles at the district level. When the case came up for hearing before Justice N.

Senthilkumar, the Advocate General, representing the Tamil Nadu government, stated that October 22 is the last date for submitting tender documents and that the technical bids would be opened that evening. He further stated that there is no bar on anyone who meets the tender conditions from participating in the tender process.

Subsequently, the judge ordered the government to file a report on the number of participants in the tender; while permitting the opening of the tender, the judge directed that no final decision be taken and adjourned the case to October 26.



MLAs Maragatham Kumaravel and Sathyabham, who won the by-election, met Chief Minister Vijay in person at the Chennai Secretariat. They presented him with a bouquet and received his best wishes.

UK-India trade mission announces over £1 billion in new deals, boosting jobs and investment

NEW DELHI: A major UK trade mission to India has announced more than GBP 1 billion in new commercial deals, including a GBP 50 million investment in artificial intelligence research in the UK and an expansion of aviation services by Menzies Aviation, as both countries seek to strengthen trade and investment ties following the implementation of their landmark free trade agreement.

According to a release issued by the British High Commission, the announcement comes as a UK trade delegation comprising more than 100 businesses, the UK Business Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, seven mayors from northern England and a combined authority leader arrives in India to strengthen trade and investment ties between the two countries.

The latest announcements build on the momentum generated by the UK&India Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with nearly GBP 12 billion worth of deals announced since the agreement was signed in July 2025.

Among the key developments, Meta for Data Technologies

(MFD) has announced a GBP 50 million investment to fund AI research in the UK, while UK&based aviation services company Menzies Aviation is seeking to generate more than GBP 600 million in revenue through an expanded presence in India. The trade mission aims to strengthen commercial partnerships across sectors, including advanced manufacturing, technology, aviation, education, agriculture and food and drink, while opening up new opportunities for businesses in both countries.

UK Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said the trade agreement had created opportunities for regional businesses, with northern England's mayors playing a key role in developing partnerships to drive jobs, investment and economic growth. "From advanced manufacturing to education, we want to continue to deepen ties with one of the world's fastest-growing economies to bring opportunity for businesses and consumers in all corners of both countries," Reynolds said. The delegation also includes representatives from Scottish and British food and drink industries, including the Agriculture and

Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), the British Meat Processors Association, Fever&Tree, Kendamil, the National Farmers' Union, Salmon Scotland, the Scotch Whisky Association and Walker's Shortbread.

Scotland Secretary Douglas Alexander said the trade agreement would create opportunities for Scottish exporters, particularly producers of salmon and whisky, while encouraging inward investment and supporting employment in Scotland.

"Scotland's success in markets like India is supported by the strength, reach and influence that come from being part of the UK. Boosting export opportunities and encouraging inward investment in Scotland means real benefits back at home in economic growth and jobs," he said. Environment,

Food and Rural Affairs Secretary Angela Eagle said the government was working with British farmers and food and drink companies to translate the agreement's commitments into tangible export opportunities.

"We're in India alongside food and drink exporters, helping them showcase the best

of British produce, build new trading relationships, and unlock the export opportunities for communities across the UK," she said. During the visit, Reynolds is scheduled to meet Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in the national capital to co-chair the UK&India Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO).

He will also co-chair the UK&India Science and Innovation Council with Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh.

In Mumbai, the Business Secretary will meet Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to discuss closer regional economic cooperation and attend a trade marketplace showcasing British products and services. The visit comes three months after the UK&India trade agreement entered into force.

The agreement is expected to increase bilateral trade by GBP 25.5 billion annually in the long term, according to the release. The mission underscores the two countries' efforts to translate the trade pact into new business opportunities, export growth and employment across the UK and India.

Today horoscope



Good news will come from abroad. You will know and fulfill the wishes and desires of your family. You will no longer spend money on a vehicle that breaks down frequently, and you will replace it.

You will enjoy buying new electronic, electrical appliances, and household appliances. You will find peace of mind in your family. Someone you have been wanting to see for a long time will come looking for you. There will be an influx of money.



You will pay off old debts with an unexpected income. You will feel the need to save. Your children will behave responsibly. Your workload will decrease at work. Patience is needed in speech.

You will discuss important decisions with your family. Your children will be supportive. Friends who have moved away will understand you. Old debts in business will be collected.



There will be a lively atmosphere in the family. You will enjoy buying gold and silver ornaments. Higher authorities in the workplace will trust you and entrust you with some responsibilities. Patience is essential in matters.

Close family ties may lead to unnecessary expenses. There will be resentment between husband and wife. Sudden trips will cause restlessness and restlessness. Work load will increase in the office. Spiritual inclination will increase.



You will be unable to complete the work you have undertaken. It is better not to get involved in useless discussions. Do not make hasty decisions in business. You should handle important files carefully.

The cash flow will be satisfactory. You will complete the payment of the amount you had bought in exchange for an emergency. Your reputation among your maternal relatives will increase. Business will be brisk. Old debts will be collected. It is good to maintain peace in the office.



There will be happiness in the family. You will buy art supplies. The tension between siblings will go away. You will get a new job. You will try to expand your business. Your partners will be supportive.

You will make new plans for future development. You will provide all possible help to those who come to you. You will gain the friendship of the authorities and gain from it. You should not speak negatively about anyone.



You will resolve old issues through peaceful discussions. Your children's health will improve. You will get experienced employees in business. Your hard work will be recognized in your profession. Your spiritual pursuits will increase.

You will be seen anxious due to the delay in the work you have undertaken. It is better to give in to family matters. Even though there will be turbulence in business, there will be profits. Care should be taken while travelling by car.



Work on installing 9 electric lifts and 10 escalators at Tambaram railway station in full swing



CHENNAI: Railway officials announced that the work of installing 9 additional electric lifts and 10 escalators at Tambaram railway station is in full swing.

Tambaram Railway Station is described as one of the major stations on the Chennai Division of the Southern Railway.

At this stage, work is underway to improve passenger facilities, including the installation of additional electric lifts and escalators.

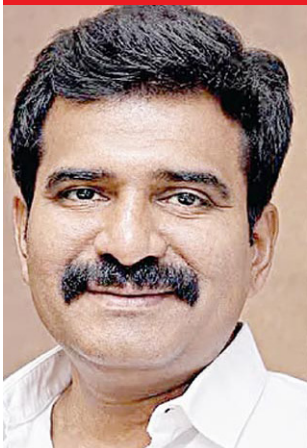
Regarding this, Chennai Railway Division officials said: Considering the continuous increase in passenger traffic at Tambaram railway station, priority is being given to improving infrastructure facilities. The main objective of the current works is to ensure safe, convenient and uninterrupted movement between platforms, overpasses and the entrance and exit sections of the railway station.

Currently, 9 additional electric elevators are being installed. The target is to put them into service by November.

The construction of 10 escalators associated with the new overpass is also in full swing. The target is to have these in operation by December.

A total of 10 electric lifts and 16 escalators will be in use at Tambaram railway station, in addition to the existing facilities. This will significantly improve the accessibility and passenger movement throughout the railway station, they said.

'Central government's decision to seat BJP leader on ceremonial stage is a bad precedent' Minister Nirmal Kumar alleges



MADURAI: Chief Minister Nirmal Kumar has accused the Central government of setting a wrong and bad example by seating BJP state president Nainar Nagendhir on the stage of a function.

Speaking to reporters at the Madurai airport, he said: How was BJP state president Nainar Nagendran made to



sit at a central government function held in Chennai? This is a wrong and bad example. MLAs and MPs should not be made to sit on the stage at a function. From now on, this should be avoided at functions. The Chief Minister participates in the central government function considering the welfare of Tamil

Nadu. The Chief Minister will not see anyone with his face covered.

We are dependent on the central government for the implementation of Tamil Nadu development projects, including the National Highways Project.

For this reason, when the Chief Minister was celebrating the victory of the

by elections in Bangerbar, Tarapuram, and Madurai, the Chief Minister and the Ministers posted messages from the Chief Minister's Secretariat and extended their congratulations. This is usual. There are no children or friends of the son there.

In the past, everything was peaceful in Thirupparankuntra without any problems. Ever since the BJP came to power, it has been disturbing the peace of the people. Hindus and Muslims used to worship peacefully on the hill. Strict action will be taken if the BJP wants to disturb the peace of the people. The BJP should change its course. There is a power outage. We will take all measures to rectify this. He said.

Attack on protesters in Delhi: 4 Hindu organization members arrested

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police has arrested four people claiming to be members of the Hindu Raksha Dal in connection with the alleged assault on students and pushing and shoving women at DDU Marg during the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) protest in Delhi on October 10.

The arrest was made after a video of the incident went viral on social media. The video shows students being assaulted and women being pushed. A policeman is also seen nearby. The video was

shared on social media by accounts affiliated with the Youth Congress,

All India Students' Union and CJP.

No one filed a complaint in this regard. However, the police took action on their own after receiving information that the accused might try to flee the Delhi & NCR region. The protest was held with demands for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the cancellation of the Special Immediate Revision (SIR)



of the electoral roll.

The police had denied permission to hold a protest at Jantar Mantar. Thousands were detained that day. The Election Commission has been justifying the SIR

process and denying the allegations. The charges against those arrested have not yet been released. It is also not clear whether they are official members of the organization.

Onions sold at ration shops for Rs. 35 per kg

Special WhatsApp number announced to report any shortages

CHENNAI: The Cooperative Department has announced that the sale of onions at Rs. 35 per kg has begun in ration shops across Tamil Nadu.

The prices of essential commodities in Tamil Nadu are continuously increasing. In particular, the common people are being affected by the rising prices of onions. Accordingly, in order to reduce the burden on the common people, the Tamil Nadu government is purchasing onions and selling them at affordable prices



through ration shops.

For this, in the first phase, 910 metric tonnes of onion were procured and sold by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and 65 metric tonnes by the National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF).

In the second phase, 1,874 metric tonnes of onions were purchased from two companies and offered for sale. Following the response received, the Tamil Nadu government has purchased 700 metric tonnes of onions from the National Consumer Cooperative Corporation in the third phase for the public's needs. These are being sent to the districts. 1 kg of onion is being sold at Rs. 35 per ration card at 8,914 urban ration shops and cooperative stores of the cooperative department.

Accordingly, sales began on October 10th at urban ration shops in Chennai.

Following this, sales began yesterday at urban ration shops and cooperative stores in other districts. Family card holders can avail onions at urban ration shops across the state. The public can report any complaints regarding the sale of onions at ration shops or any other grievances on the dedicated WhatsApp number 9600561969.

A press release issued by the Cooperatives Department states that appropriate action will be taken against it.

Kerala: Three people, including women, die after car hits motorcycle

Man arrested for causing drunken accident

KOCHI: Three people, including two women, died after a car collided with a motorcycle in Kerala.

Devika (21), Gopika (22) and Ifjaz (21), who work at a handicrafts stall in Kochi, Kerala, had gone on a motorbike to have tea at midnight the day before yesterday. After having tea, they were returning to their place.

While traveling on the road near Nedumbassery, a



luxury car coming at high speed crashed into a motorcycle.

Three people were thrown onto the road and seriously



injured. Those present on the scene immediately rescued them and admitted them to the hospital. However, all three

died tragically without any treatment.

Suhail Sajeer (19), a youth who was driving at high speed and causing the accident, was caught by the onlookers and handed over to the police. Initial investigation revealed that he was driving at high speed while intoxicated and caused the accident.

The police have arrested him, registered a case and are conducting an investigation.

October 12 Bhopal 2026

70 foot tall Durga Goddess made from 15,000 cement bags at Adani plant



Adani Cement has launched a series of Navratri and Durga Puja celebrations under the theme 'Jahan Vishwas, Vahan Shakti'. As part of this, it has created a grand idol of Goddess Durga using 15,000 cement blocks at its Kaimor cement manufacturing plant in Madhya Pradesh.

This work of art, measuring 70 feet tall and 70 feet wide (4,900 square feet), was created using 15,000 Ambuja cement and ACC cement bags weighing 750 tons. When viewed from the ground, the cement blocks appear as individual, precisely stacked units, but when viewed from a higher vantage point, known as the 'aerial view', they appear as a gigantic form of Goddess Durga.

Adani Cement has released a short film on social media that showcases this artistic journey and its stunning aerial view, complete with background music and emotional visuals.

Large quantity of arms, explosives seized from Jammu and Kashmir cave



SOPORE: Police have seized a large cache of arms, ammunition and explosives hidden in a natural mountain cave in the Camp Serhar forest near Sopore in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Based on intelligence inputs, the police conducted a search in the Camp Serhar forest area in the Bomai area. In a natural cave there, a blue plastic barrel and a bag were found hidden under a large rock. The bomb disposal squad was called in to safely dispose of them. The items seized included a multi-grenade launcher, two AK rifles, pistols, 11 grenades, and two remote-controlled IEDs. Eight detonators, two timers, a Y&SMS device, Prima cards, electrical wires, and battery cells, among other items used to make or detonate bombs, police said.

Authorities are investigating where these weapons and explosives came from and why they were stored. In particular, they said they are actively investigating whether they are related to any planned terrorist act.

109 refugees die in Yemen boat capsized: Search intensifies for 116 missing people



YEMEN: At least 109 people, including 15 children, died when a boat carrying migrants bound for Yemen capsized off the coast of Djibouti, the UN refugee agency said yesterday, adding that a search operation was underway for 116 people who are still missing.

The boat, carrying about 350 people, reportedly capsized on the night between October 8 and 9. The tragedy occurred near the Kuhere area, north of Djibouti's port city of Obock. More than 80 people survived the accident. All of the survivors were Ethiopian nationals. The cause of the accident was not immediately known.

There has been no official statement from the Ethiopian government. It is noteworthy that such tragic accidents continue to increase as refugees travel dangerous sea routes between Africa and the Middle East.



India Alliance to hold rally towards Supreme Court today

Rahul Gandhi calls on everyone to participate

NEW DELHI: A rally will be held in Delhi today from 'India Gate' to the Supreme Court on behalf of the India Alliance. The Youth Congress has invited the public to participate in this.

Various protests are being held on behalf of the India Alliance, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the Electoral Roll. On the 6th, a rally was held from the Parliament complex towards the Chief Election Commission. On the 7th, senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi staged a dharna near Delhi's Jantar Mantar.

On the 8th, leaders of the India Alliance held a prayer protest at the Gandhi Memorial. On the 9th, senior leaders of the alliance met President Draupadi Murmu and submitted

a petition demanding the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner.

In this regard, Rahul Gandhi said in a video posted on social media yesterday: We do not want this India. On October 12, we will march from 'India Gate' to the Supreme Court. I request everyone to participate in this without any discrimination of party, gender, caste, community or state. We must prevent vote rigging. We must ban the work of SIR.

We are going to submit a petition to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on behalf of the nation, urging the demands that Gyanesh Kumar resign. We will march together. Through this, we will express brotherhood and patriotism. Rahul Gandhi said this.

In this regard, the Youth Congress posted on social media yesterday, "A rally will

be held in Delhi on October 12th. All citizens should participate in the rally to save the Constitution and democracy," it said. Opposition MPs from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, leaders and workers of Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal and Left parties are expected to participate in the rally. At the end of the rally, the India Alliance leaders plan to meet Supreme Court Chief Justice Surya Kant and submit a memorandum of demands.

Lok Sabha Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi has written to the Chief Justice of India requesting time for this. Accordingly, the leaders of the India Alliance are expected to meet Chief Justice Surya Kant between 4 pm and 5 pm today.

VCK Will Exit if PMK Joins TVK: Minister Vanni Arasu

TINDIVANAM: Speaking at a VCK public meeting held in Tindivanam, Minister Vanni Arasu said: "Many have been asking what the VCK's stance would be if the PMK were to join the TVK alliance in Tamil Nadu. My mouth has grown sore from answering this question for the past ten years, and my ears ache from hearing it repeatedly.

There is only one answer. Our leader, Thirumavalavan, has emphatically declared that the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) will never form an alliance with the casteist and communal PMK or the communal BJP. I reiterate this now: there is absolutely no possibility of such an alliance. Our stance is clear—if the PMK enters the

fold, we will walk out. For us, holding office is not the priority. As grassroots cadres, we are in the field solely to carry out the commands of our leader. The VCK is a movement that once stood on the path of boycotting elections; the electoral path itself is not our primary concern. The VCK is not an ordinary party like the AIADMK or DMK; it is a liberation movement—a movement that fights for liberation.

It is a movement that lives for liberation, moves towards liberation, and cherishes liberation. Liberation is our very lifeblood. That is the spirit with which everyone of us cadres fights on this soil. While opportunists,

fake Tamil nationalists, and casteists exploit the name of Prabhakaran for their own gain, we alone remain committed to acting based on principle.

The foundation of this principle is the annihilation of caste. For us, elections will come and go." "But the liberation of the people means liberation from caste oppression and liberation from *Sanatana*. This is our very lifeblood." That is how he spoke.



Study Warns of Risk of Human Extinction by 2100



A new study published in the renowned medical journal *The Lancet* warns that escalating risks of nuclear war and the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) technology could pose major threats to humanity in the future. The report indicates that a situation endangering the very existence of humanity could arise by the year 2100. Nuclear conflicts carry the risk of causing global catastrophe.

Similarly, the study points out that irresponsible use of AI technology could lead to severe consequences. The report emphasizes the

necessity for nations to work together to avert these risks. It suggests that future threats can be mitigated through international cooperation, responsible technology use, and appropriate policy decisions.

The study also lists various other threats, including climate change, air

pollution, infectious diseases, and malnutrition. However, the report does not definitively state that humanity will go extinct by 2100. It stresses that although the likelihood of such events occurring may be low, their consequences could be catastrophic; therefore, nations must unite to implement preventive measures.



The festival of the Ellaippidari Amman Temple was held in Mudhunadu village, Ramanathapuram district. More than 5,000 men participated in the event and enjoyed a meat feast.

New ideas of youth will guide the world

PM Modi hopes at school function

Students are the future heroes of the country

CHENNAI: The 50th anniversary celebrations of Jaigopal Garodia Hindu Vidyalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School in West Mambalam, Chennai were held yesterday at the Chennai Trade Centre in Nandambakkam.

Prime Minister Modi graced the occasion as the chief guest and released the Golden Jubilee Special Flower. He also inaugurated the Artificial Intelligence (AI) lab set up in the school campus via video conferencing.

Speaking at the event, the Prime Minister said: Today's youth aspire to become pillars towards achieving the goal of 'Developed India'. The new values and solutions required for that will determine not

only the future of India but also the future of the world. Today, the world is searching for solutions to many problems. You have the power to provide those solutions. The new ideas and solutions of the youth will guide the world.

Today's youth have more opportunities than ever before. The number of universities has increased from 750 in 2014 to over 1,300 today. The number of colleges has increased from 38,000 to over 52,000.

The number of Indian universities in the QS World Rankings has increased from 14 to 52. India is also moving towards big goals in the field of sports. Efforts are being made to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and the 2036 Olympic Games in India.

I have full faith in your talent and self-confidence. You are the future 'heroes' of India. Thus he spoke. Governor R. V. Arlekar, Union Minister of State L. Murugan, Tamil Nadu BJP President Nainar Nagendran, Presi-



dent of Vishwa Hindu Vidya Kendra R.R. Gopalji, General Secretary Dr. G. V. Girija Shadri and school students and teachers participated in the event. Around 1,000 students were supposed to arrive at 10 am to participate in the ceremony. However, Prime Minister Modi's arrival was

delayed until 3.45 pm, leaving the students waiting for a long time.

This caused about 8 students to faint. In this situation, Prime Minister Modi, who came to the stage, apologized for his late arrival and the inconvenience caused to the students.

Action to get real estate project approval soon

Minister Shahjahan assures at CREDAI conference



CHENNAI: "Steps will be taken to ensure speedy completion of real estate project contracts," assured Minister Shahjahan at the CREDAI conference held in Chennai.

The 5th 'StateCon 2026' two-day conference of

CREDAI Tamil Nadu, a federation of real estate associations of India, began in Chennai yesterday. It was inaugurated by Minority Affairs Minister Shahjahan.

The conference discussed the role of the real estate sector in the vision of increasing Tamil Nadu's economy to 1.5 trillion US dollars by 2036, and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and robotics in the construction sector.

As part of the conference, the 'FairBuild 2026'

trade fair for durable goods and technologies is also being held.

Speaking at the conference, Minister Shahjahan said: This new government, formed on the demand for change by the people of Tamil Nadu, is working with the primary objective of creating a state free from bribery and corruption. This firm stand of Chief Minister Vijay will be a permanent solution to the challenges faced by the real estate sector so far. The real estate sector is offering unprecedented job opportunities in

the world.

The government will extend its full support to the relevant departments working with the government to realize the dream of infrastructure facilities and a home of one's own for all. The conference also called for making it easier and faster to obtain government contracts for projects, in order to promote the development of the real estate sector.

This request will be brought to the direct attention of the Chief Minister and the difficulties in obtaining

the contracts will be resolved soon, he said.

CREDAI Tamil Nadu President W.S. Habib said in his speech, "The real estate sector will fully cooperate with the new government and its goals.

The role of the real estate sector is very important in achieving the state government's \$1.5 trillion economic target. At present, this sector is contributing 8 to 9 percent. We are planning to accelerate this to 12 to 13 percent. A strong real estate sector will create a strong Tamil Nadu," he said.

Firecracker Sales Surge in Sivakasi; Heavy Traffic Congestion Due to Out of Town Vehicles

SIVAKASI: Firecracker sales have picked up momentum in Sivakasi, leading to traffic congestion caused by vehicles arriving from other towns. The Diwali festival is set to be celebrated across the country on November 8th. In preparation,

firecrackers worth approximately ₹5 crore have been manufactured in Sivakasi's factories and dispatched for

sale nationwide.

Simultaneously, firecrackers worth several crores are being sold directly to the public at the town's 3,000 & plus outlets. For the past ten days, firecracker shops in Sivakasi and its surrounding areas have witnessed heavy customer crowds.

Yesterday, being a holiday, saw a particularly large influx of people arriving in cars and vans from districts

such as Madurai, Dindigul, Tenkasi, Thoothukudi, Nellai (Tirunelveli), Kannyakumari, and Theni to purchase firecrackers. Traffic congestion occurred on the Virudhunagar and Sattur roads as customers from out of town entered the city simultaneously between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, severely disrupting traffic flow. Despite traffic police regulat-



ing the movement of vehicles under the orders of Sivakasi Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Anil Kumar, the congestion could not be avoided.

With even higher volumes of vehicular traffic expected in the coming days, there is a strong likelihood of increased traffic congestion during this period.

10 pounds stolen from doctor's house maid, boyfriend arrested



PALLIKARANAI: Dr. Karthik (35), a resident of a tenement house in Kovilambakkam, Bhupathi Nagar, was found missing from his house. His suitcase, gold jewellery, cash and clothes were found missing.

Based on Karthik's complaint, the Pallikaranai police formed a special team and conducted an investigation.

While examining the surveillance camera footage of the residence, it was seen that Aarthi (19), a resident of Mayiladuthurai, who works as a maid at the house, was seen carrying suitcases and bags. Upon arresting and interrogating Aarthi, the police also arrested Abinesh, 22, as it was discovered that she had been involved in the theft along with her boyfriend.

10 pounds of jewelry, Rs. 30 thousand, and clothes were recovered from both of them. Both were produced before the court and remanded in custody.

Crude oil tanker catches fire after striking a mine while attempting to navigate the dangerous Strait of Hormuz

NEW DELHI: A crude oil tanker attempting to exit the Strait of Hormuz via an unauthorized and dangerous route has exploded, shattered and burst into flames after hitting a naval mine.

A statement issued by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said: "A large supertanker carrying crude oil was attempting to leave the Strait of Hormuz in an unauthorized and dangerous manner.

At that time, the ship hit a sea mine, exploded, shattered, and burst into flames." While trying to exit the strait, the vessel turned off its navigation and global positioning systems (GPS) before stri-



king a mine. Any oil tanker that attempts to violate the security and regulations of the Strait of Hormuz faces a huge firestorm.

The action against vessels using unauthorized routes will not stop at the Strait of Hormuz. They will be pursued and punished throughout the region. This is what it says.

The United States launched a war on Iran on February 28. Following this, Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz, a major sea route through which crude oil vessels travel to countries around the world. It is worth noting that sea mines have been placed in the area controlled by the IRGC.



The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman delivered the keynote address at the World Steel Association General Assembly held, in New Delhi.

Russia and Ukraine Agree to 'Energy' Ceasefire: Trump

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has announced that Russia and Ukraine have agreed to an "energy ceasefire," under which neither side will attack energy infrastructure. In a social media post regarding this, Trump stated, "An energy ceasefire has come into effect in the war between Russia and Ukraine.

Both sides have agreed to it. Let it not be violated." Fuel prices have risen globally, including in the United States. To address this situation, the US has moved to import diesel from Russia—a

move Trump recently announced, noting that Russia had agreed to supply diesel to international markets. Against this backdrop, he issued the announcement regarding the energy ceasefire. Ukrainian President Zelenskyy said, "We discussed the energy ceasefire announced by Trump.

Ukraine supports it. At the same time, Russia must also support it, and the US side needs to convey that information." Meanwhile, the Russian government has not yet issued any statement regarding the energy ceasefire.



Following Trump's announcement, reports emerged that Russia had launched a drone attack on energy infrastructure in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv. Earlier, Trump had remarked that the time had come

for a change in Ukraine's leadership. He alleged that he had not taken effective steps to bring the war between Russia and Ukraine to an end. Responding to Trump on this matter, Zelenskyy said, "If we are given a two-month period—that is, 60 days—to establish a complete ceasefire, we will hold elections.

Through that, we will accept the choice of the Ukrainian people. This [electing the president] rests entirely on the decision of our country's people."

Bribery for School Recognition: Minister Maria Wilson's Remarks in the Assembly



CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Maria Wilson had stated in the Legislative Assembly that she was a witness to bribes

being paid to obtain permits for schools during the previous administration. Subsequently, the High Court dismissed a petition seeking to register a case against Minister Maria Wilson regarding her remarks about bribes being paid during the DMK regime.

During the budget session of the Tamil Nadu Assembly on the 24th, Finance Minister Maria Wilson had claimed she was a direct witness to bribes

being accepted for school permits during the past DMK government. Following this, Advocate K. Sivasubramanian filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Madras High Court seeking a case against her.

In the petition, he noted that since both giving and receiving bribes constitute a crime, he had lodged a complaint with the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) on August 26, requesting action under

anti-corruption laws. The petition sought a court order directing the DVAC to register a case against Minister Maria Wilson based on his complaint. When the case came up for hearing before a bench comprising Chief Justice S.A. Dharmadhikari and Justice G. Arulmurugan, the petitioner sought permission to withdraw the plea.

Accepting this request, the judges permitted the withdrawal and dismissed the petition.

Saudi Arabia running low on interceptor missiles to counter further Houthi strikes, reports WSJ

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia is running low on interceptor missiles needed to defend against further Houthi strikes, The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reported, citing Saudi officials, as intensifying attacks by the Yemeni rebel groups have led to the death of 13 people following strikes on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport on Saturday.

According to the WSJ, the escalating attacks have transformed parts of the Saudi capital, located more than 500 miles from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen, into a potential battle zone.

Debris from an intercepted ballistic missile has also hit a kindergarten and a medical clinic complex on Thursday. On Sunday, Houthi military spokesperson Brigadier General Yahya Saree reiterated the group's warning to international airlines, businesses and travellers against operating flights to Saudi airports, claiming they were unsafe.

"We reiterate our warning to all international companies, experts, employees, workers, and travelers from all over the world to not operate flights

to Saudi airports, as they are unsafe, except for the airports and airspace of the holy cities of Mecca and Medina," Saree said in a statement on Telegram.

The reported shortage of interceptor missiles comes amid a series of attacks targeting

care but are stable, two others are being treated in regular wards, while the remaining injured Indian nationals have been discharged. Earlier, the Embassy had confirmed the death of the Indian national and expressed condolences to the bereaved family, assuring

Aviation (GACA), in a statement issued on October 11, said the attack on King Khalid International Airport on October 10 had resulted in 12 fatalities, including four Saudi citizens and residents of several nationalities, and left 309 others injured.

According to GACA, the fatalities included two Bangladeshi nationals and one each from the United States, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Sudan. The latest incident follows earlier attacks targeting King Khalid International Airport and Abha International Airport on October 6 and 7, which GACA said had resulted in three deaths and 36 injuries.

Following the October 10 attack, airport operations were temporarily suspended while authorities assessed the damage and conducted safety inspections in coordination with relevant agencies.

The reported strain on Saudi Arabia's missile and defence capabilities, alongside the Houthis' continued threats against airports,

has heightened concerns over the security of civilian infrastructure and air travel in the region amid a border conflict in West Asia.



Coimbatore and Madurai Metro Rail projects must be reviewed and approved

CM Vijay urges Prime Minister Modi

CHENNAI: Speaking at a function held at the IIT Madras campus, Chief Minister Vijay stated that the State government must work in tandem with the Central government for the welfare of the people. Vijay further urged the Central government to review and grant approval for the proposed Metro Rail projects for Madurai and Coimbatore.

Prime Minister Modi listened intently to Vijay's speech and stood up to applaud him once he had finished. Prime Minister Modi arrived in Chennai today. He and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay inaugurated the Metro Rail service connecting Poonamallee and Vadapalani. Subsequently, both inaugurated the Brain Research Centre at the IIT Madras campus. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Vijay said:

"Tamil Nadu is a state with a culture spanning millennia

and a people who keep that culture alive to this day.

Home to the Tamil language—one of the world's oldest—this state is distinguished by its remarkable history, architecture, and values. In the 100 days since its formation, this government has functioned with a commitment to being corruption-free. Guided by the noble philosophy that 'all beings are born equal,' our government promotes inclusive growth, focusing on education, healthcare, employment, the welfare of fisherfolk, and overall economic development.

We are implementing schemes that prioritize the well-being of all sections of society, including children, women, farmers, fisherfolk, and weavers. Tamil Nadu continues to contribute significantly to India's progress across sectors such as industry, science, education, art, literature, and social



justice. 'Strong States make a strong India'—the Central and State governments must work together. Our approach is rooted in the belief that when the Central and State governments collaborate, the benefits must directly reflect in the lives of the people."

Tamil Nadu is creating new opportunities and implementing various schemes across sectors such as agriculture, industry, and information technology, aiming to become a \$1.5 trillion economy by 2036. We must take this growth to the next level. We are working with the objective of ensuring that the benefits of this growth

extend beyond Chennai to every district in Tamil Nadu.

The implementation of the Hosur-Bommasandra Metro Rail project would benefit both states. Tamil Nadu also requires Metro Rail projects for Coimbatore and Madurai, as well as the Chennai Metro 3.0 project; the proposals for the Coimbatore and Madurai Metro projects need to be reviewed and approved.

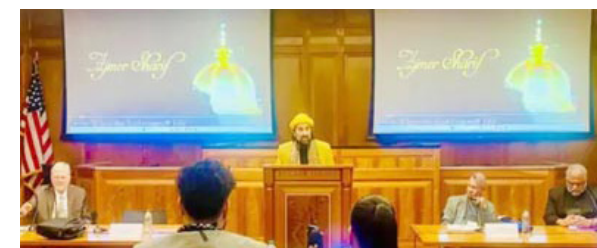
Chief Minister Vijay also stated that he has requested Prime Minister Modi to make Tamil the language of proceedings in the Madras High Court.

Ajmer Sharif's Haji Syed Salman Chishty highlights India's pluralism at US Symposium

USA: Highlighting India's tradition of religious coexistence and unity in diversity, Haji Syed Salman Chishty, the 26th-generation Gaddi-Nashin of Ajmer Dargah Sharif, represented India at the 33rd International Law and Religion Symposium at Brigham Young University (BYU) in the US, where he called for stronger efforts to protect religious freedom and promote interfaith harmony.

According to a release issued by the Chishty Foundation, Haji Syed Salman Chishty offered the opening prayers at the symposium, organised by the International Center for Law and Religion Studies under the theme "Building an Infrastructure for Freedom of Religion or Belief."

Addressing a panel titled "Religious Minorities in India: Experiences and Perspectives", Chishty presented Ajmer Sharif, the shrine of Sufi saint Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishty, as a living example of India's pluralistic traditions, where people from different faiths



come together in prayer, service and community meals.

"India's pluralism is one of the greatest gifts we can offer the world, and it is a gift we must also preserve, protect and enhance at home," he said, according to the release.

The panel was moderated by Professor W Cole Durham Jr, Founding Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies, and also featured Archbishop Felix Machado of the Diocese of Vasai and Pericho Peter Prabhu Rangaraj of the All Karnataka United Christian Forum for Human Rights. Chishty highlighted India's Constitution as a safeguard for religious freedom and described the country's diversity, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, as a source of strength and a contribution

to global harmony.

He also called for the establishment of interfaith councils at the district level to address rumours and hate, the inclusion of shared cultural heritage in classrooms,

responsible digital spaces and international partnerships connecting academic institutions with grassroots initiatives. The 33rd annual symposium brought together ministers, ambassadors, United Nations officials, jurists, scholars and faith leaders from across the world to discuss ways to strengthen freedom of religion or belief.

During his visit, Chishty met Dallin H. Oaks, President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and conveyed the greetings and blessings of Ajmer Sharif, al-

ong with the message of love, service and peace associated with Khwaja Gharib Nawaz.

He also interacted with members of the Indian community in Utah, appreciating their contributions to American society and encouraging them to uphold India's values of unity in diversity, service and harmony. Chishty expressed gratitude to Brigham Young University President C Shane Reese, J Reuben Clark Law School Dean David H Moore, Professor Brett G Scharffs, Professor Elizabeth A Clark, Professor W Cole Durham Jr. and the organising team for their hospitality. He also acknowledged the student ambassadors who assisted delegates during the event.

Chishty is the Chairman of the Chishty Foundation and the 26th-generation Gaddi-Nashin of Dargah Ajmer Sharif, the shrine of Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishty. He is associated with interfaith dialogue, peacebuilding and humanitarian initiatives in India and internationally.

Power Outage at the Secretariat: Ministers' Chambers Plunged into Darkness

CHENNAI: The issue of power outages has intensified in Tamil Nadu over the past few months. The public, facing severe hardship due to unscheduled power cuts, has even resorted to protests in some areas.

Power outages occurring during events attended by ministers had also beco-

me a recurring issue.

To tackle the power deficit, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has floated a tender to procure an additional 4,500 megawatts of electricity. Official sources attribute the worsening power situation to factors such as climate variations and a decline in wind power

generation. However, as the public continues to suffer due to frequent outages, there are growing demands for the government to find an immediate solution.

Amidst this situation, a sudden power outage in the ministers' chambers at the Secretariat today has caused a stir.

The sudden outage plunged the chambers of Ministers Sengottaiyan and Aadav Arjuna into darkness; the entire first floor, where the ministers' chambers are located, was affected. Electricity Board staff are currently investigating the cause of this sudden power failure.

700 kg of silver goods worth ₹15 crore stolen in Salem; police investigate

SALEM: An incident near Salem, where unidentified individuals assaulted a watchman and stole 700 kg of silver goods worth ₹15 crore from a workshop, has caused shock. The Pallapatti police are investigating the matter. Balasubramaniam, a resident of the Chinneri Vayakkadu area in Salem district, runs

a silver workshop near the Salem New Bus Stand.

He manufactures silver anklets and other silver items, supplying them to shops and various states.

With the Diwali festival approaching, production of these silver items had been in full swing at his workshop for over a month.

Late last night, a group of unidentified individuals assaulted the workshop's watchman, tied his hands, broke into the premises, and stole 700 kg of silver anklets and other silver goods. Based on a complaint filed by the owner, Balasubramaniam, the Pallapatti police have registered a case and are actively

searching for the perpetrators. Preliminary investigations revealed that the gang smashed and damaged the CCTV cameras at the workshop before carrying out the theft. Salem City Police Commissioner Babu visited the scene to inspect the premises and conduct an inquiry into the incident.