

‘Periyar Arivulaga Maiyam’ CM Vijay Inaugurates in Coimbatore

COIMBATORE: In Gandhipuram, Coimbatore, a grand library named ‘Periyar Arivulaga Maiyam’ has been constructed at a cost of ₹300 crore. Spanning 198,000 square feet, the facility consists of seven floors and houses over 100,000 books. It also features a science centre designed for the benefit of students. To inaugurate this library, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay arrived at the Coimbatore airport this morning, having traveled from Chennai on a private flight.

Following his arrival, the Chief Minister undertook an 11.4 kilometre roadshow along Avinashi Road,

It has been constructed on a grand scale, spanning an area of 198,000 square feet and featuring 7 floors

heading toward the venue in Gandhipuram, where he had the opportunity to meet with the public.

Thousands of people gathered on both sides of the road along his route to extend an enthusiastic welcome. Although the TVK (Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay arrived at the Coimbatore airport this morning, having traveled from Chennai on a private flight. Following his arrival, the Chief Minister undertook an 11.4 kilometre roadshow along Avinashi Road,



traditional drums, showered him with flowers, and raised spirited cheers.

The Chief Minister acknowledged the warm reception by waving to the people. Upon reaching the library, Chief Minister Vijay was presented with a ceremonial guard of honour by the Coimbatore City Police.

After accepting the salute, he unveiled a statue of Periyar and a commemorative plaque for the ‘Periyar Arivulaga Maiyam’ at the entrance. Subsequently, the Chief Minister officially

inaugurated the library by cutting a ceremonial ribbon. Following this, Chief Minister Vijay visited the ‘Knowledge Hub’ (Arivulagam), which includes a reception area, a science center, a children’s library, a reading section, and a digital library. Subsequently, the Chief Minister is set to inaugurate completed projects in the Coimbatore district today.

He will also lay the foundation stones for new projects and distribute welfare assistance to 100 beneficiaries. In light of the Chief Minister’s visit, security arrangements in Coimbatore have been intensified today.

India, Benin discuss ways to deepen ties, expand economic partnership

PORTO: India and Benin discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in defence, health, agriculture and other key sectors, while exploring avenues to expand their economic partnership, development cooperation and people-to-people exchanges. The talks were held between Indian Ambassador to Benin Abhishek Singh and Benin’s Vice President Mariam Chabi Talata, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to deepen bilateral ties.

At the outset, Ambassador Singh conveyed the warm greetings of Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan. “Discussions focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation, strengthening economic partnership in the areas of defence, health and agriculture. Discussions were also held in the area of



development partnerships, promoting capacity building, and expanding people-to-people exchanges. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening the friendly ties between India and Benin and exploring new avenues of cooperation for mutual benefit and shared prosperity,” the High Commission of India in Nigeria, concurrently accredited to Benin, posted on X. Earlier on Thursday, Ambassador Singh met Gildas Agonkan, Minister Delegate to the President of the Republic in charge of National Defence of Benin,

with discussions centred on further strengthening defence cooperation between India and the African nation. “Discussions focused on enhancing defence and security collaboration, capacity building, training, and strengthening institutional partnerships. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation and advancing shared priorities in regional peace, security and stability,” the Indian mission said in a post on X. India and Benin have friendly ties marked by democracy and secularism. Benin, as

a shining example of a tolerant, progressive multi-ethnic and multi-religious society with a multi-party democracy, is a natural partner to India, being the world’s largest democracy.

Beninese Armed Forces have been attending training courses in defence institutions in India under the ITEC program. In addition, the Benin Armed Forces have also regularly participated in various military exercises and events organised in India. The focus of defence cooperation remains on capacity building through training assistance, the Indian mission stated. The Benin delegation, led by the Chief of the Naval Staff, participated in the International Fleet Review 2026 (IFR 2026) and MILAN 2026 maritime exercises held in Visakhapatnam from February 15 to 20.

“True pride lies not in merely inaugurating things, but in planning and creating them.” - M.K. Stalin

CHENNAI: “What does it matter who inaugurates it? Is the mere act of inauguration a true achievement? The real accomplishment lies in the planning and creation of something! In Tamil Nadu, that distinction belongs solely to the DMK—a force defined by its constructive power,” stated DMK President M.K. Stalin, in light of the inauguration of the ‘Periyar Arivulagam’ in Coimbatore today.

In a statement issued regarding this, M.K. Stalin said, “Following the Poonamallee-Vadapalani Metro line, yet another monumental project by our ‘Dravidian Model’ government is being dedicated to the public today. Named after Periyar—who dedicated his entire life to propagating self-respect and rationalism, and who worked until his very last breath for the betterment of the Tamil people—the ‘Periyar Arivulagam’ is being inaugurated in Coimbatore today. My heart dances with joy! In the 2024–25 budget, we announced the establishment of a grand library and science center in Coimbatore, designed to further ignite the thirst for knowledge among the public, especially the younger generation. Following this, we laid the foundation stone on November 6, 2024. Built on land previously belonging to the Coimbatore Central Prison, this facility spans 198,000 square feet, comprising a ground floor plus seven additional levels, at a cost of approximately 300 crore rupees. The ‘Periyar Arivulagam’ is a temple of knowledge that we have created with great care and swift, decisive action. When I visited Coimbatore this past February, most of the work had already been completed.”

When many suggested opening it immediately, I replied, “There is no need to rush; it is better to wait until all the work is fully completed.” After all, what does it matter who performs the inauguration? Is the act of opening something truly a matter of pride? The real pride lies in the careful planning and creation of such projects! In Tamil Nadu, that distinction belongs solely to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)—a force defined by its constructive energy. Furthermore, to mark the centenary of Karunanidhi—the architect of modern Tamil Nadu, who established colleges, universities, parks, libraries, hospitals, industries,

Library in Chintadripet—preserving its original character—to coincide with its centenary. Both were inaugurated by the then & Deputy Chief Minister, Udhayanidhi. Following the initiatives in Chennai and Madurai, our ‘Dravidian Model’ government decided to establish large-scale libraries in other regions as well. It is in this spirit that we have established the ‘Periyar Arivulagam’ (Periyar World of Knowledge) in Coimbatore for the people of the western region—a facility being inaugurated today.

Beyond Coimbatore, our ‘Dravidian Model’ government has initiated the construction of grand libraries across Tamil Nadu: a

ge, rising in every corner of Tamil Nadu, were conceived by the DMK government and built by the DMK. No other administration has ever undertaken such an endeavor. It is said that the name ‘Naan Mudhalvan’ (I am the First/Leader)—inscribed on a pyramid-shaped computer desk within the Science and Technology hall of the ‘Periyar Arivulagam’—has been deliberately hidden. The very fact that our opponents fear that the mere sight of the word ‘Mudhalvan’ (Leader/First) will remind people of Stalin—even now, when he is the Chief Minister—is a testament to our success! It is a triumph for our ‘Naan Mudhalvan’ scheme! The antics of this group of fools—who have no connection to intellectual pursuits and harbor an aversion toward an enlightened society—will surely come to an end! The libraries we have established and the books we have published will undoubtedly play a vital role in bringing that about! “The ‘Periyar Arivulagam’ (Periyar World of Knowledge), set to open today, will henceforth stand as one of the proud landmarks of Coimbatore! My dear people of Coimbatore—just as you have been visiting the ‘Semmazhi Pongal’ (Classical Language Park) in large numbers—a project inaugurated by our ‘Dravidian Model’ government—I urge you all to visit the ‘Periyar Arivulagam’ as well. Make it a regular habit to visit. When your relatives or friends come to Coimbatore, take them there with pride and show them this ‘World of Knowledge.’ Let the doors of the ‘Periyar Arivulagam’ open! Let ignorance be dispelled! Long live Periyar!” wrote Stalin.



Prime Minister Modi to visit Canada on an official trip on December 11–12

OTTAWA: Prime Minister Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney (sic) recently held a telephonic conversation.

During the discussion, they pledged to further strengthen bilateral ties in the sectors of trade, energy, technology, and defense.

Prime Minister Modi noted that the relationship between the two nations continues with strong and constructive momentum. Against this backdrop, the Indian High Commission in Ottawa has announced that Prime Minister Modi will visit Canada on an official trip on

December 11–12. This announcement follows the telephonic conversation between the leaders of the two countries. In 2023, then & Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged that India might have been involved in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a member of the Khalistani

terrorist organization, in Canada—an allegation that India denied. This issue led to a strain in the relationship between the two nations. Both leaders have expressed confidence that Prime Minister Modi’s visit will further strengthen the ties between the two countries.

‘Hillary Rodham Clinton Award’ for Indian social activist Reema Nanavaty

WASHINGTON: Reema Nanavaty, a social activist from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, serves as a director of the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) of India.

Through this organization, she supports women in generating their own income and excelling in sectors such as textiles, food production,



agriculture, and energy. She has also spearheaded rehabilitation efforts for rural women affected by earthquakes, as well as for women in countries like Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. In recognition of her service, the Central Government of India honored her with the Padma Shri award in 2013.

Most recently, Reema Nanavaty has been honored in the United States with the ‘Hillary Rodham Clinton Award,’ which recognizes leaders who work toward peace and security. Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton presented the award at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security.

Today horoscope



–You will gain the friendship of people in positions of authority. Approval for your house construction plans will come through. In business, you will employ new strategies to attract existing clients. You will find solutions to ongoing problems at your workplace.



There may be a delay in the inflow of money. As the “Chandrashtama” continues, try not to dwell on unnecessary matters or become confused. Exercise caution while using vehicles. You will see progress in your career.



You will move forward toward your goals. Ego-related issues will be resolved, leading to greater harmony between spouses. Vehicle-related repairs will be sorted out. In business, your staff will be supportive and cooperative. Avoid getting into arguments at your workplace.



You will take the initiative to help resolve the problems faced by those close to you. Your tendency toward quick temper will subside. The arrival of guests may lead to some expenses, but it will also bring joy. At your workplace, you will locate a document you had been searching for. You will receive support from partners in business.



You will attend functions hosted by prominent individuals. The running around and tension related to your son's education or your daughter's marriage will subside. Your social standing will rise. Confusions within a partnership business will be resolved. It is advisable to maintain a calm demeanor at your workplace.



You will feel empowered, believing that you can achieve anything. You will make the acquaintance of some influential people. Students will show a keen interest in their studies. In a partnership business, you will receive support from your partners. You may need to travel out of town for work-related purposes.



You will overcome opposition and achieve success. Financial inflows will be satisfactory. You will get to know prominent figures. You will listen to your children's wishes and fulfill them. In business, outstanding dues will be recovered. At your workplace, you will locate a document you had been searching for.



You will replace faulty electronic or electrical appliances at home. Your mental strength to face and handle any problems will increase. You will find peace through your maternal relatives. Business activity will pick up momentum. Avoid arguments at the office.



With the Moon positioned within your zodiac sign, you will receive support from your family. It is advisable to keep your expenses under control. Pay attention to the health of your children. You may renovate or expand your ancestral home.



You will proceed according to your plans. There will be happiness within the family. You will make connections with business professionals, and bank loans may become accessible. At the workplace, it is best to mind your own business and focus on your tasks. Business will flourish.



New ideas will emerge. An influx of money will help clear old debts. The bond between spouses will strengthen. You will learn the nuances and intricacies of conducting business. The atmosphere at your workplace will be pleasant, and you may be recommended for a new position.



Tasks that were previously stalled will now reach completion. You will take the lead in organizing events at temples. You may gain financial benefits through your spouse's side of the family. You will attract customers by employing new strategies in your business.

Sea Sponges Wash Ashore Near Ramanathapuram



RAMANATHAPURAM: Sea sponges have washed ashore along the Manangudi beach, near Uchipuli. The Gulf of Mannar, off the coast of Ramanathapuram district—an area encompassing 21 islands—is home to approximately 3,600 species of rare marine life, including dugongs, dolphins, seahorses, porpoises, and coral reefs. Recently, a large quantity of red and colored sea sponges has been found washed up at various points along the coastline, stretching from Pudumadam—near Uchipuli—to Manangudi and Nochiurani. While the dried and out sponges appear white, those that have washed ashore more recently retain a faint red hue. Local fishermen have requested that the Forest Department investigate the phenomenon, as it is speculated that these sponges may have washed ashore due to climate changes triggered by the El Niño effect. A Forest Department official explained that sea sponges—which are invertebrate animals—play a vital role in purifying seawater. They typically inhabit areas near underwater rocks and coral reefs. By feeding on small microorganisms, these sponges contribute significantly to the cleansing of seawater and the preservation of the marine environment. While it is common for sea currents and rough sea conditions to wash up vegetation such as seaweed, algae, and seagrass, the appearance of these sea sponges is also believed to be linked to the climatic shifts caused by the El Niño phenomenon.

33 children die as school roof collapses in Pakistan, 19 critically injured; admitted to hospital



ISLAMABAD: In Peshawar, the capital of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a school roof suddenly collapsed yesterday in the densely populated residential area of Dir Colony. In this tragic incident, 34 people—including 33 children under the age of 13 and a female teacher—lost their lives. Additionally, more than 19 people have been admitted to the hospital with severe injuries; many of them are reported to be in critical condition. Distraught parents gathered at the school and the hospital, weeping as they sought news about their children.

The police have arrested the owner of the school, Bilal Faizi, a spokesperson for the emergency services, stated that more children might still be trapped under the debris, and rescue operations are currently underway. The police have indicated that the school building was in a very dilapidated state, and an investigation into the cause of the collapse is ongoing.

Rolls-Royce Opens New Showroom in Chennai with Bespoke Design Facilities

CHENNAI: The world-renowned luxury automaker Rolls & Royce, celebrated for crafting vehicles tailored to individual customer preferences, opened its new showroom in Meenambakkam, Chennai, yesterday. The facility was inaugurated by Julian Jenkins, Director of Brand and Sales at Rolls & Royce.

Speaking at the event, Jenkins noted that for the past 122 years, Rolls & Royce has maintained a unique, preeminent position globally within the 'super & luxury' segment. The new showroom features a dedicated 'Bespoke Commissioning Atelier,' where customers can personalize their vehicles by selecting their preferred colors, interior finishes, and other bespoke elements. To facilitate this, Rolls & Royce offers a palette of 44,000 color options.

The Rolls & Royce 'Spectre' electric car, introduced in 2024, has received an overwhelming response and has emerged as the company's second best-selling model. Following this, the company's new model, the 'Ghost Series II,' is set to be launched in India this coming November—this was stated during the event. Present at the event were Vasanthi Boopathy, the principal dealer for Rolls & Royce Motor Cars in Chennai; Kenny Aulia, Regional General Manager (Asia & Pacific); and Venkatesh, Chairman of the KUN Group, among others.



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Delhi Police ACP files complaint of 'atrocities' against three individuals, including a female journalist

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Vivek Bhagat has filed a complaint of 'atrocities' (under the SC/ST Act) against three individuals, including a female journalist. On October 3, a protest was launched at Jantar Mantar in Delhi against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.



investigation into this matter is currently underway.

On the first day of the protest, two female journalists filed a complaint at the Parliament Street Police Station, alleging sexual harassment by an ACP who was on security duty. An investigation into this matter is currently underway.

Against this backdrop, ACP Vivek Bhagat filed a complaint at the Parliament Street Police Station on the 13th of this month against three people, including one of the aforementioned female journalists.

In his complaint, he alleged that the three individuals subjected him to caste-based insults and obstructed him from performing his official duties during the protest at Jantar Mantar.

Based on this, the Delhi Police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The accused include a female journalist named Rosie, a man named Gajendra Singh—who is associated with a news website—and an unidentified individual.

ACP Vivek has alleged that the journalist, Rosie, noticed his name on his shirt and made derogatory remarks regarding his caste.

According to the ACP, this incident took place in the presence of Rosie's colleague, Gajendra Singh, and others. ACP Vivek Meghwal belongs to a Scheduled Caste community. He further alleged that on the evening of the incident, Rosie and her associates gathered in front of the police station to protest against him, during which they portrayed him as a sex offender.

Youth from Bihar runs to visit 12 Jyotirlinga shrines to fulfill a vow following his mother's recovery

Has covered 8,000 km so far

PATNA: A young man from Bihar is fulfilling a religious vow by running to visit all 12 Jyotirlinga shrines across India, following his mother's recovery from a severe illness. The youth, 19-year-old Monu Mathurbala from the Araria district of Bihar, had made a pledge when his mother was suffering from a serious health condition.



Monu had vowed that if his mother recovered, he would run to visit all 12 Jyotirlinga shrines across India.

Following his mother's recovery, he is now in the process of fulfilling this vow. He began his spiritual journey on March 15.

Running approximately 50 kilometers each day, he has covered about 8,000 kilometers so far. Videos documenting Monu's spiritual journey have gone viral on social media. In one of the videos, police officers—noticing his unique pilgrimage—stop him and engage in an interested conversation about his journey.

As Monu traveled on foot through various parts of the country, many people he encountered along the way touched his feet as a gesture of respect to seek his blessings. Others offered encouragement and well-wishes, expressing their support for his spiritual journey.

Monu's dedication and deep love for his mother have garnered a warm response on social media. In particular, many have compared him to Shrivana Kumara—a figure from the Ramayana revered as the ultimate symbol of devotion toward one's parents—and have praised him accordingly.

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Alleging that the Tamil Nadu government has shown negligence in its preparations for the Northeast monsoon, the DMK held a protest yesterday near the 'Kalaigarn Golden Jubilee Arch' in Saidapet, Chennai. The demonstration was led by R. S. Bharathi, with other DMK functionaries—including Ma. Subramanian, Deputy Mayor Mahesh Kumar, and Chittarasu—also in attendance.

October 16 Chennai 2026

Don't throw away your future

Traffic police warn youth against bikeracing and dangerous stunts

There have been growing complaints about young people engaging in bike racing and dangerous stunts on public roads—driven by a desire to gain likes on Instagram Reels or to appear as a “hero” among their peers. In light of this, the Chennai Traffic Police have issued a warning, urging youth and students not to jeopardize their futures by participating in such activities. In Chennai, some young people have been observed occasionally engaging in bike racing and stunts on several major thoroughfares, including Anna Salai, East Coast Road (ECR), Poonamallee High Road, and areas in Adyar. In particular, some individuals engage in dangerous behaviors on the roads—especially at night—such as speeding on motorcycles, performing “wheelies” (lifting the front wheel), weaving recklessly through traffic, and maneuvering in a hazardous, zigzagging fashion. Their friends often record these acts on video and post them on social media platforms like Instagram. Driven by a desire for more views and “likes,” some go to extreme lengths, pushing the boundaries of safety to perform these stunts. However, even a momentary lapse in concentration while performing such stunts can lead to a loss of control over the vehicle, resulting in a serious accident. Innocent bystanders—including other motorists and pedestrians—can also be harmed as a result. Risking one's life for a few fleeting moments of fame is a dangerous pursuit that can easily end in tragedy. Furthermore, young people who participate in these bike races and stunts often overlook the fact that surveillance cameras are installed along the roads. In Chennai, 855 cameras have been installed across 119 locations to detect and take action against traffic violations. Operating under the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS), these advanced cameras not only monitor traffic but also help identify various types of violations, such as jumping red lights and speeding. Drivers who commit violations are also identified using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology. Some of these cameras automatically record violations, facilitating the issuance of fines. For footage captured by other cameras, traffic police personnel in a control room review the visuals and take appropriate action based on the violations observed. Additionally, traffic police officers on duty on the roads also identify violations and impose fines. Between January 1 and October 7, 24 cases were registered in connection with bike racing. A total of 73 individuals—including youths, college students, and school students—have been arrested in these cases, and 67 vehicles have been seized. The traffic police are also taking continuous action against various traffic violations. Over the past 10 months, 571,973 cases have been registered for offenses such as driving against the flow of traffic, riding without a helmet, triple riding on a motorcycle, speeding, driving a car without a seatbelt, using a mobile phone while driving, and jumping traffic signals. Do not throw away your future: Regarding this, Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic, Chennai), Chamundeswari, stated, “Under the guidance of Chennai Commissioner of Police Amalraj, the traffic police are working in a coordinated manner.”



India is a reliable nation for hosting international sporting events: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: At the recently concluded 20th Asian Games held in Nagoya, Japan, India secured 4th place by winning a total of 85 medals—21 gold, 27 silver, and 37 bronze. Yesterday, Prime Minister Modi met with the medal winners and participants to commend their achievements. During the interaction held at the Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium in Delhi, the Prime Minister engaged enthusiastically with the athletes, listening with keen interest to their experiences. The men's and women's cricket teams, who won gold, were present, alongside athletes from disciplines including hockey, track and field, shooting, archery, and boxing. The athletes presented the Prime Minister with mementos. Addressing the gathering, Prime Minister Modi said: "You have made 1.4 billion Indians proud. Seeing our national flag flying high is the greatest victory. Therefore, this success is not yours alone; it is the achievement of crores of our fellow citizens. On behalf of the entire nation, I extend my congratulations to you. India is emerging as a reliable and hospitable nation for hosting international sporting events. We have submitted a bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games, and we are firmly committed to bringing this event to India. In this year's Asian Games, many members of the Indian contingent were between 15 and 17 years old. At such a young age, these athletes have brought glory to the nation through their exceptional performances. They have won the hearts of the people of this country." This goes to show that age is no barrier to success. In sports, starting on-

Transparency Required in Appointment of Temple Trustees Madurai High Court Judges Issue Directive

MADURAI: The judges of the Madurai Bench of the High Court have directed that there must be transparency in the appointment of temple trustees. Ramkumar Adithan, a resident of Tiruchendur, filed a petition in the Madurai High Court stating the following: A notification was recently issued for the appointment of non-hereditary trustees for temples, inviting applications from eligible candidates. The notification did not specify that any of the appointees must belong to the Scheduled Castes (SC) or Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities, nor did it mandate the inclusion of a woman. In July, the government constituted a seven-member committee to evaluate and select candidates for these positions. It is essential that individuals with no prior vested interests or specific affiliations are appointed as temple trustees. Therefore, all applications submitted for the position of temple trustee, along with the accompanying documents, should be uploaded to the website of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department. Furthermore, the petitioner requested that the reasons for selecting a particular individual as a trustee be made public, and that the appointment orders be published on both the HR&CE Department's website and the website of the respective temple. He also sought the estab-

Largest IPO in Indian History: Jio Platforms Aims to Raise ₹30,213 Crore



MUMBAI: Jio Platforms Limited, the country's leading digital and telecommunications service provider, is set to launch its Initial Public Offering (IPO). This will be the largest IPO in the history of the Indian stock market. Regarding this, Akash Ambani, Managing Director of Jio Platforms, stated that the company is preparing to enter the market with an IPO. The company plans to raise ₹30,213 crore through the issuance of 27 crore new shares. The price band for each share has been set between ₹1,065 and ₹1,119. Bidding for anchor investors will begin on October 19, while the public offering will open on October 21. The final date for submitting applications is October 23, and the shares are scheduled to be listed on the stock exchange on October 28. Jio's primary objective is to connect every citizen

in the country, in alignment with the Prime Minister's vision of a 'Digital India' and a 'Developed India 2047' (Viksit Bharat 2047). Over the past 10 years, Jio has acquired more than 53 crore customers. Jio handles over 60% of India's total digital data traffic, with an average monthly data consumption of 43.7 GB per user. Regarding the company's financial position, the profit before tax has crossed Rs 76,000 crore. In the first quarter of the current financial year, the company's profit margin was recorded at 53.3%. Jio is the only Indian company to feature among the top 20 entities globally in terms of patent applications. Jio's engineers have collectively secured over 7,220 patents. The company has set a target to add 340 million (34 crore) new customers over the next five years, including 240 million (24 crore) users transitioning from 2G to 4G/5G. The company already possesses more than 360,000 towers and 1 million (10 lakh) kilometers of fiber-optic cables. Akash Ambani stated that the existing infrastructure is prepared to support future 6G technology through software updates alone, without the need for additional infrastructure expenditure.

Attacks on commercial shipping legally, morally indefensible: India reiterates call for seafarer safety at UN amid West Asia conflict

NEW YORK: India on Thursday (local time) strongly condemned attacks on maritime navigation and commercial shipping amid the wider escalating conflict in West Asia, reiterating that such strikes are "legally and morally indefensible" and calling for the protection of seafarers, including Indian nationals. India also underlined the international responsibility to safeguard the Babal&Mandab Strait and the Southern Red Sea amid the conflict in Yemen, involving the Houthis and its internationally recognised government and Saudi Arabia. Addressing the United Nations Security Council's quarterly open debate on the situation in the Middle East, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, reaffirmed New Delhi's commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yemen and rejected any interference in



Sudha Yadav is set to take charge as the new Governor of Karnataka today. The Chief Justice of the High Court will administer the oath of office to her.

7 year old girl goes missing; police search enters 5th day



VILLUPURAM: A search operation involving 100 police personnel is underway for a 7-year-old girl who went missing near Gingee. Drones are being used to scan the surrounding hills. Vadivelu, a resident of Alampooni Kulakarai Street near Gingee in Villupuram district, lives there with his wife, Bhavani. Their second daughter, Hemavathi (7), had celebrated her birthday on the 11th and went to sleep at home with her parents that night. When the parents woke up at 5:00 AM the following day, Hemavathi was missing. Despite searching in various locations, she could not be found. Following a complaint filed by her parents, the Sathiyamangalam police registered a case. Eight special teams have been formed to locate the girl. Although the search has been ongoing for the past three days without success, it continues today—marking the fifth day of the operation. More than 100 police personnel are involved; they are visiting every house in the village to collect details and conducting thorough inspections of all areas within the homes. Furthermore, the search extends to the surrounding agricultural fields, thorny thickets, lakes, ponds, irrigation wells, as well as caves and crevices in the nearby hills. Fifty drones are being actively deployed to scan these areas to determine if the girl might be there.

its internal affairs. "We strongly condemn attacks on maritime navigation and on the seafarers, many of whom are Indian citizens. The protection of the Babal&Mandab Strait and the Southern Red Sea is a shared international responsibility and is a global interest," Parvathaneni said. Highlighting the growing threat to commercial shipping and merchant mariners, the Indian envoy cited a series of recent attacks on vessels, including the India&flagged MVD P World Cauvery earlier this week, MT Petro Dolphin and MT Valthera last week, and MT On Peace and MT Kazimah III the week before. "All attacks on commercial shipping and merchant mariners are legally and morally indefensible. Several of these ships have Indian seafarers, and their safety and security is our direct responsibility," Parvathaneni added, while thanking the Omani and UAE authorities for their support in ensuring the safety of Indian seafarers during the attacks. India called for an immediate de&escalation of hostilities and urged all parties to resolve the



conflict through dialogue and diplomacy. Outlining India's assistance to the Palestinian people, the envoysaid New Delhi had extended humanitarian aid during the ongoing conflict, including medicines, medical supplies and other essential relief, alongside development assistance and contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). He also highlighted India's development commitments, including a 200&bed super&speciality hospital, the Palestinian Institute of Diplomacy, a women's empowerment centre, an artificial limb fitting camp and a vocational training institute. India, he said, continued to support Palestinian capac-

ity&building and human resource development through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships. In August, another 32 Palestinian students, all from Gaza, joined colleges in India under the ICCR scholarship programme. Parvathaneni further said India had contributed more than USD 52 million cumulatively to UNRWA, describing the agency as having a distinct role in providing essential services, including education and healthcare, to the Palestinian people. "India believes that a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace with Israel, within secure and recognised borders, is essential to a comprehensive and lasting solution," he said. On Lebanon, India strongly condemned attacks on United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeepers, stressing that the personnel serving under UN Security Council mandates must not be targeted. "Their safety and security remains a high priority. The sanctity and inviolability of UN premises must be fully respected," Parvathaneni said, while underlining the importance of preparing for a post&UNIFIL scenario and supporting the Lebanese Armed Forces. On Syria, India reiterated its support for a Syrian&led and Syrian&owned political process in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254, emphasising that the country's sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity must remain a priority. Concluding his address, the Indian envoy stressed the need for lasting peace and stability across the Middle East, saying the people of the region needed normalcy and security. "The people of the Middle East need normalcy and lasting peace. Peace is not just the absence of war. It is imperative to strengthen stability and security for the people of the region," he said, reaffirming India's commitment to the well&being of the region and a more secure, stable and prosperous world.

Sexual assault of a 16 year old girl Life imprisonment for stepfather who had gone into hiding Verdict delivered by the POCSO Special Court

TIRUVALLUR: Following the death of her biological father, a 16&year&old girl from a village near Uthukottai saw her mother marry a man named Mani (38). After the mother had gone to sleep at night, Mani would sexually assault the girl. As a result, the girl became pregnant. Following a complaint filed on behalf of the girl, the Uthukottai All&Women Police Station registered a case in 2020 under the Indian Penal Code and the POCSO Act, subsequently arresting Mani.

The trial took place at the POCSO Special Court in the Thiruvallur district, with public prosecutor Bhuvaneshwari representing the state. The charges against Mani were proven during the proceedings. Consequently, the judge of the District POCSO Special Court, Umamaheswari, delivered the verdict yesterday. In her verdict, Judge Uma Maheswari sentenced the foster father, Mani—who sexually assaulted a minor girl and caused her to beco-



me pregnant—to 32 years of rigorous imprisonment and life imprisonment, along with a fine of Rs. 60,000, under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the POCSO Act.

The judge specified that these sentences are to run concurrently and that Mani must remain in prison for the rest of his life. Furthermore, the judge ordered the government to provide compensation of Rs. 5 lakh to the victim. Mani, who had been out on bail, failed to appear in court when the verdict was delivered and has since gone into hiding. Consequently, the judge issued an arrest warrant, directing the police to apprehend Mani and produce him before the court.

Central Government's Immigration Department Orders Actor Imran Khan to Leave India Participation in a Protest Against the Chief Election Commissioner

MUMBAI: The central government has ordered actor Imran Khan to leave India following his participation in a protest in Mumbai, Maharashtra, which demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar took place in Mumbai on October 10. Actor Imran Khan participated in this event. He holds American citizenship and is an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder. An OCI

(Overseas Citizen of India) card is a document issued to individuals of Indian origin who are eligible for this status. Although the term "Overseas Citizen of India" is used, OCI status does not confer Indian citizenship. Even when residing in India, OCI cardholders continue to be considered foreign citizens. However, subject to certain regulations, they are granted specific privileges, including a lifelong "multiple&entry visa" for travel to and from India. OCI cardholders are not permitted to vote in Indian



elections, nor can they contest elections for the Parliament or State Legislative Assemblies. Furthermore, one cannot reside in India without adhering to specific conditions. In this context, the Immigration Department—which operates under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs—has

ordered actor Imran Khan to leave India by October 28. The central government took this action following a complaint filed by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya, who alleged that Imran Khan had violated the law by participating in a protest. Commenting on this, Somaiya stated, "There are thousands of 'Imran Khans' like him in India. While living here, they seek to bring disrepute to the nation. Action should be taken against all such individuals, and they must be made to leave the country."

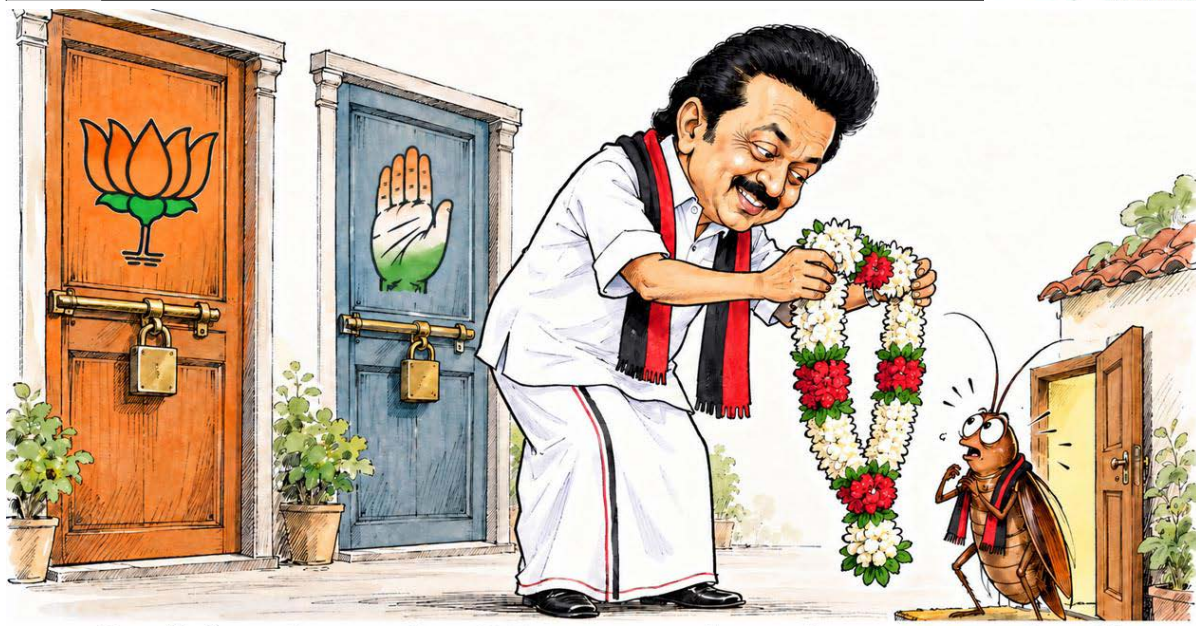
Magnitude 7.0 earthquake jolts Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula; no tsunami threat issued

MOSCOW: An earthquake of magnitude 7.0 on the Richter scale struck Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula region on Friday, according to the European&Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) and the National Centre for Seismology (NCS). The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said there was no tsunami warning, advisory, watch or threat following the earthquake. According to the NCS, the

earthquake occurred at 9:05 am IST today at a depth of 152 km, with its epicentre located at latitude 52.068° North and longitude 157.164° East. The EMSC reported a preliminary magnitude of 7.0, placing the earthquake approximately 123 km southwest of Vilyuchinsk in the Russian Federation. In a post on X, the EMSC said the earthquake had been confirmed by seismic data. Its data separately recorded the event at magnitude 6.9, with a depth of 130 km and coor-

dinate of 52.059° North and 157.234° East. The EMSC placed the earthquake approximately 146 km south&southwest of Petropavlovsk&Kamchatsky, a city with a population of around 187,000, and 80 km north&northeast of Ozernovskiy, which has a population of around 2,600. The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recorded the earthquake at magnitude 7.0, with a depth of approximately 148 km, and located it around 415

miles southwest of Bering Island in the Komandorski Islands region. In its assessment, NOAA stated that there was no tsunami warning, advisory, watch or threat. The earthquake's reported magnitude and depth varied slightly across monitoring agencies, with the EMSC recording a magnitude of 6.9 in its detailed data, while the NCS and NOAA reported a magnitude of 7.0. Further details on the impact of the earthquake are awaited.



Coalition doors shut? Even a cockroach gets a garland! “Do you’ve capability to win Rae Bareli seat without Samajwadi?”

Rajnath Singh attacks Rahul Gandhi



LUCKNOW: Launching a blistering attack on the Congress over its allegations against the electoral process and the Election Commission, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday questioned Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi's capability to win the Rae Bareli Lok Sabha seat without the support of the Samajwadi Party.

He said Uttar Pradesh itself demonstrated how hollow the Congress party's claim of enjoying public trust was.

Addressing the press conference ahead of the forthcoming 2027 Uttar Pradesh assembly election, Singh said, "I would like to ask Rahul Gandhi whether he has the capability to win his Rae Bareli seat even without the Samajwadi Party. Uttar Pradesh itself serves as proof of how hollow the Congress

party's claim & that the public trusts them & truly is,"

Targeting the Congress over infighting within its state unit, Singh said its leaders did not trust one another and were seen opposing each other, with differences escalating beyond verbal exchanges to physical clashes.

"When the leaders of the Congress party's state unit do not even trust one another, and are seen opposing each other & clashing not just verbally, but physically as well & I want to ask the people in the Congress: is the BJP responsible for this, too?" he said.

Singh also accused Rahul Gandhi of making allegations regarding voter lists without evidence, citing his claims about alleged irregularities in electoral rolls.

"Rahul Gandhi once claimed that a 70 & year & old woman was a double voter. On another occasion, he alleged that a 35 & year & old woman was a 124 & year & old voter. At times, he even att-

empted to defame ordinary citizens by labelling them as fake voters," Singh said. He further claimed that the Congress had not filed a single formal appeal regarding the electoral rolls because it had "no evidence" to support its allegations. "His own party never filed a single formal appeal regarding the electoral rolls; the reason being that they had absolutely no evidence to support such claims," he said.

Defending the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's position on constitutional institutions and the electoral process, Singh said his party had never questioned the country's electoral system or sought to mislead the public by maligning constitutional bodies.

"We have never cast doubt upon constitutional institutions & that is simply our character. We have never questioned the nation's electoral system, nor have we ever sought to mislead the public by defaming constitutional institutions. We have always held the people of this country, the Constitution, and our

constitutional institutions in high regard," Singh said.

His remarks came amid the ongoing political confrontation between the ruling BJP and the opposition leaders, INDIA bloc parties and student organisation leaders over allegations of irregularities in electoral rolls and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists. Meanwhile, the opposition leaders are continuing protests by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) in the national capital. The party had earlier staged protests against former Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in June and July and is now seeking the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the allegation of irregularities in the electoral rolls revision process.

The Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) activist Abhijeet Dipke proposed a "Lehra Do Tiranga" rally on Friday. Security forces have been deployed in and around Connaught Place to maintain law and order ahead of a protest at Central Park.

Veerapandiya Kattabomman, the martyr who upheld the self-respect of the Tamil land – M.K. Stalin



CHENNAI: On the memorial day of the freedom fighter Veerapandiya Kattabomman, DMK President M.K. Stalin shared a post on the platform 'X' (formerly Twitter). He wrote, "Today marks the memorial day of the freedom fighter Veerapandiya Kattabomman, who walked toward the gallows with immense courage and pride. I bow to his valor—a man who lived by the principle that self & respect is paramount, and who sowed the seeds of resistance aga-

inst foreign rule in the hearts of the people." He further noted, "Under our 'Dravidian Model' government, we have honored Veerapandiya Kattabomman by installing his statue within the Gandhi Mandapam complex in Chennai.

Additionally, we took pride in naming the road overbridge—constructed between the Thirumangalam and Kallikudi railway stations in Madurai—after him. Long live the memory of Veerapandiya Kattabomman, the martyr who safeguarded the self & respect of the Tamil land!"

‘India’s healthcare infrastructure is better than England’s’ – Foreign couple’s praise

LUCKNOW: Dave Flew, a British national, has come to India with his wife for In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) treatment. They are currently undergoing the procedure at a hospital in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. In this context, he has expressed his appreciation, noting that medical treatment in India is both faster and more affordable than in England. Regarding this, Dave Flew stated in a video posted on his Instagram page, "India's healthcare infrastructure is better than that of England. My wife and I are currently



undergoing IVF treatment at Max Specialty Hospital in Lucknow.

The experience here has given me many new insights. In England, one might have to wait up to a month



to receive an X & ray report, whereas in India, you get the report within an hour. Not only is it easy to secure timely appointments for medical examinations, but you can also undergo various tests

all under one roof.

Still find it hard to fully grasp how it is possible to receive such prompt treatment at such a low cost in a facility with these kinds of amenities." The video has been viewed by over 168,000 people, who have 'liked' it and shared various comments. One person questioned, "Why should one have to wait a month for an X & ray report that can be completed in just 10 minutes?" Another person remarked, "It is pleasing to hear this. In India, domestic help and medical treatments are available at a low cost."

“Who will bear responsibility?": Amit Shah says MHA to seek report from Punjab govt on Jhota's murder

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) would seek a response from the Punjab government over the murder of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota in Mansa and a suicide in Dirba, while questioning the state's law and order situation. In a post on X, Shah questioned who would take responsibility for the safety of people in Punjab amid what he described as rising threats from drugs, gangsters and organised crime.

He referred to the daylight murder of Jhota, who had raised his voice against drugs, and the case of a father in Dirba who allegedly consumed poison under pressure. Shah said the incidents had raised serious questions about law and order in the state.

In a post on X, the Home Minister said, "Punjab is grappling today with the rising threats of drugs, gangsterism,



and organized crime. The biggest question before the Bhagwant Mann government is: ultimately, who will bear the responsibility for the safety of Punjab's people? In Dirba, a father succumbing to pressure and consuming poison, and in Mansa, the broad & daylight murder of Parvinder Singh Jhota & who had raised his voice against drugs & have raised serious questions about Punjab's law and order situation.

Parvinder's father has leveled grave allegations against the 'AAP' government and their MLA. The Home

Ministry will also seek responses from the Punjab government on both these incidents." Reiterating the BJP's commitment to Punjab, Shah said his party would work towards making the state drug & free, free from gangsterism and secure if voted to power.

"Today, I reiterate my resolve before the people of Punjab that, upon forming our government in Punjab, we will work with full force to create a drug & free, gangster & free, and secure Punjab.

Our goal is clear & strikes against the drug trade, protection of our youth's future, strict action against criminals, and a rule of law in which no citizen is forced to live under the shadow of fear," Shah stated. Shah's remarks came after Jhota's father, Bhim Singh, demanded the resignation of the Chief Minister and the Director General of Police (DGP), along with a probe by

the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He also sought the dismissal of the SSP, DSP and SHO concerned and the release of activists detained during protests.

The case pertains to anti-drug activist Parminder Singh Jhota, who was allegedly shot by a medical shop owner and later succumbed to his injuries after being taken to a hospital.

The Punjab Police, in a joint operation with Rajasthan Police, arrested the alleged main shooter, Ashvini, from Salasar in Rajasthan, officials said. According to Salasar Station House Officer Shankar Lal Bhari, the accused was arrested from Shri Ganganagar Dharamshala near the Salasar Balaji Temple, where he was reportedly hiding in disguise.

Following the arrest, the Punjab Police team took the accused into custody. Further investigation into the case is underway.

India urges CICA members to unite against all forms of terrorism, stresses respect for sovereignty

ASIA: India has called on member states of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) to unite against all forms of terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, while stressing that regional connectivity projects must respect the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all member states.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, who led the Indian delegation to the 7th CICA Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Thursday, highlighted India's commitment to inclusive multilateral cooperation, regional security and peace during his address to the plenary session. According to a release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Singh underlined India's active participation in CICA activities and urged member states to strengthen collective efforts against terrorism.

The Minister of State reiterated that all regional connectivity projects must be



"transparent, financially viable, inclusive, and strictly respectful of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Member States," the MEA said. In a post on X, Singh said he had addressed the plenary session of the summit and emphasised India's vision of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, or "The World is One Family," as a guiding principle for peace, cooperation and friendship.

"Emphasized India's vision of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The World is One Family) for peace, cooperation, friendship and countering shared challenges. Called upon all Member States to unite against cross border terrorism," Singh said. The summit

brought together CICA member states to deliberate on strengthening regional cooperation, building mutual trust and promoting peace across Asia. Highlighting India's approach to multilateral engagement, Singh emphasised the importance of inclusive and consensus-based cooperation in addressing shared regional challenges, according to the MEA release.

The 7th CICA Summit adopted the Baku Declaration, which highlighted the importance of connectivity, digitalisation and sustainable growth across various dimensions of confidence & building measures to promote development in Asia. India, a founding member of CICA, reaffirmed its commitment to the forum as an important platform for fostering dialogue, consensus & building and cooperation across the continent. CICA is a multinational forum dedicated to strengthening cooperation, security and harmony across

Asia, based on the understanding that regional security is closely linked to global stability.

The initiative was first proposed by Kazakhstan's founding President, Nursultan Nazarbayev, during the 47th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1992, with the objective of establishing a framework for regional security and peace in Asia. The grouping's membership includes India, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cambodia, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, South Korea, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

India's participation in the summit reflects its continued engagement with the CICA process, with an emphasis on collective action against terrorism, respect for sovereignty and inclusive regional cooperation.

Fine-quality rice to be sold at Rs. 30 in cooperative stores

CHENNAI: One India Tamil was the first to report on the ground reality, highlighting how the rising price of rice has severely impacted the public. Despite this, government ministers attempted to downplay the situation, claiming that prices had not increased.

In this context, the government has now taken steps to sell fine-quality rice through cooperative stores at a price of Rs. 30 per kilogram. Given that ministers had previously insisted that rice prices had not risen at all, many are now questioning why the government has suddenly decided to sell rice at a lower price. In Tamil Nadu, rice production has been severely affected by factors such as insufficient monsoon rainfall and the delayed opening of the Mettur Dam. Consequently, prices have surged—increasing by up to Rs. 20 per kilogram, or Rs. 200–500 per sack. For



daily-wage workers earning Rs. 500 a day, spending Rs. 100 on rice raises a critical question: how can they manage to support their families with the remaining amount? Even rice traders are unable to predict what prices will be the following day; they complain that suppliers demand higher prices, and even when those demands are met, the rice often fails to arrive on schedule.

This is the situation even in the Delta districts—the very regions from which rice is typically exported. As the issue escalated, not only opposition parties but also allies within the ruling coalition began speaking out about the price hikes.

In response to this, the Tamil Nadu government has now initiated the sale of fine-quality rice at Rs. 30 per kilogram through co-

operative stores. Speaking to reporters on this matter, Minister Venkataraman stated, "The price of rice did not reach its peak in a single day. For instance, the price of a kilogram of fine-variety rice, which was sold for Rs. 53 in 2024, has risen to Rs. 65 in 2025.

This is how the prices of food items have gradually increased—a trend that perhaps went unnoticed by previous ministers. The supply of 'Ponni' rice arriving from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh has declined, yet this is the variety most preferred by the public. Starting today, we plan to

sell 25,000 metric tonnes of fine-variety rice through 250 'Amudham' retail outlets." Eligible members of the public will be able to purchase up to 5 kg of this affordable, fine-variety rice.

The government has announced that an initial stock of 25,000 tonnes has been released to meet immediate market demand. Furthermore, the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation has taken steps to procure a total of 100,000 tonnes of rice to ensure a continuous, uninterrupted supply. To prevent overcrowding, 260 outlets—operated under the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation and the Cooperative Department—have been selected across the state for the sale of this rice.

This includes 49 'Amudham' retail outlets run by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, as well as 211 supermarkets and mini-supermarkets managed by cooperative societies.