

Chief Minister Vijay Pays Tribute at the Police Memorial

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay paid tribute by laying a floral wreath at the Police Memorial located at the Director General of Police (DGP) office in Chennai. October 21st is observed annually across the nation as 'Police Commemoration Day' (Police Martyrs' Day). On this day in 1959, ten personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) lost their lives in a surprise ambush by the Chinese army in the Ladakh region. Police Commemoration Day is observed every year to honor the sacrifice of these brave personnel.

It also serves to remember all police and paramilitary

Planted a sapling on the DGP office premises



personnel from across India—including those from the Tamil Nadu Police—who laid down their lives in the line of duty over the past year. Today (October 21, 2026), to honor those who made

the ultimate sacrifice over the last year, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay laid a floral wreath at the Police Memorial situated at the office of the Director General of Police (DGP).

Following this, the Chief Minister was accorded a ceremonial police salute at the DGP office. Subsequently, Chief Minister Joseph Vijay planted a sapling within the DGP office premises.

After paying his respects to the fallen personnel, Chief Minister Vijay departed from the venue, waving to the members of the public who had gathered to see him.

Earlier, on the occasion of

Police Commemoration Day, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay stated the following in a social media post: "On this Police Commemoration Day—which honors the histo-

ric sacrifice of the 10 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who laid down their lives in 1959 while defending the motherland along the Ladakh border—I pay tribute to all police per-

sonnel who sacrificed their precious lives in the noble duty of maintaining peace, law, and order in the nation. The dedication of police personnel, who work with courage and vigilance while facing diverse challenges—such as natural disasters, accidents, criminal incidents, and situations that threaten public safety—is truly commendable.

As we bow in tribute to those martyrs who gave their lives in the line of duty, let us also honor the noble service of all police personnel, who work tirelessly, regardless of time or circumstance, to serve as a protective shield for our nation."

India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement Comes into Effect; Visas for 5,000 People

NEW DELHI: The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and New Zealand came into effect yesterday. Signed on April 27, this marks the seventh trade agreement India has entered into over the last five years, bringing the total number of its operational FTAs to 17.

In the 2025&26 fiscal year, bilateral trade between the two nations had declined by 11 percent to ₹11,000 crore (1.15 billion USD). This agreement aims to reverse that trend and double bilateral trade to ₹35,000 crore (7 billion NZD) by 2030. Furthermore, New Zealand has committed to investing ₹2 lakh crore (20 billion USD) in India over the next 15 years. From the very first day the



agreement came into force, Indian exporters have gained full duty&free access to the New Zealand market. Tariffs, which previously reached as high as 10 percent, have been eliminated.

Indian sectors—including textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, gems and jewelry, pharmaceuticals, and engineering goods—will benefit immediately.

India has also successfully safeguarded its highly sensitive domestic dairy and agricultural sectors from imports originating from New Zealand. Tariffs on more than half of the goods imported from New Zealand into India have been removed, effective from the very first day.

This coverage will gradually increase to 82 percent, and eventually reach 95 percent

once the agreement is fully implemented. High&quality New Zealand products—such as kiwifruit, apples, lamb, wool, honey, and timber products—will become available to Indian consumers at more affordable prices. Under this trade agreement, New Zealand will provide 5,000 temporary work visas to qualified Indian professionals. Furthermore,

visa restrictions for Indian students have been lifted; they will be permitted to work for 20 hours per week while pursuing their studies. Upon completion of their education, the right to stay and work has been extended—up to 3 years for science graduates and up to 4 years for those who have earned a doctoral degree.



Chennai: Chief Minister Vijay handed over insurance payouts totaling Rs. 5.96 crore to the families of police personnel who lost their lives while on duty.

Trade Agreement Between the US and India Expected Soon

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Currently Visiting India, Shares Update

MUMBAI: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has indicated that a trade agreement between the United States and India is expected to be signed soon. The US is currently facing a severe shortage of diesel; the price of a liter of diesel, which was 85 rupees last January, has now risen to 155 rupees. Against this backdrop, elections for 435 seats in the US House of Representatives and 35 seats in the Senate are scheduled for November 3rd. It is believed that the surge in diesel prices could pose a significant setback for the ruling Republican Party. To address the diesel shortage, the US has already entered into an agreement to procure diesel from Russia.

As a further step, the US government plans to purchase a large quantity of diesel from the Indian conglomerate, Reliance. In connection with this, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived in Mumbai yesterday for a three&day visit. He is set to travel directly to the Reliance refinery in Jamnagar, Gujarat, where he will meet with individuals including Reliance Group Chairman Mukesh Ambani. Earlier, he met with India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Mumbai.



Following this, Marco Rubio paid tribute to the victims of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks at a memorial located at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel. Speaking to reporters afterward, he stated that negotiations are underway to finalize a trade agreement between the United States and India. While there are differences of opinion on certain issues, these will be resolved.

A trade agreement between the U.S. and India is expected to be signed very soon. India's practice of procuring crude oil from various countries is a sound commercial strategy; indeed, India has emerged as a "superpower" in the crude oil refining sector. He added that they are prepared to supply crude oil from Venezuela to Indian companies.

CM Vijay congratulates the athlete from TN who won a silver medal in powerlifting



CHENNAI: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has extended his congratulations to an athlete

from Tamil Nadu who won a silver medal in powerlifting at the Para Asian Games.

In a statement issued regarding this, he noted the following: "I extend my heartfelt appreciation and best wishes to athlete Kasturi Rajamani, who has brought pride to both Tamil Nadu and India by winning a silver medal in the women's 67kg powerlifting category at the 5th Para Asian Games currently being held in Japan.

To recognize her achievement, the Government of Tamil Nadu will award her an incentive of Rs. 50 lakh. This remarkable victory—attained through self&confidence, tireless hard work, and perseverance—will serve as a great inspiration for young para&athletes across Tamil Nadu. I wish her continued success in the future, bringing further glory to Tamil Nadu and India!"

Rice prices will decrease; says Minister Venkata Ramanan

TRICHY: In an interview with reporters at the Trichy airport, Minister Venkata Ramanan stated that rice is being sold at Rs. 30 per kilogram through cooperative stores and 'Amudham' outlets. The initiative to provide rice at Rs. 30 has been well-received. So far, 25,000 metric tonnes

of rice have been sold.

The price of rice will certainly decrease; we also expect the prices of all other commodities to fall. The TVK (Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam) government will demonstrate its commitment through action, Minister Venkata Ramanan added.



Today horoscope



—You will receive support from your family. Acting with energy and enthusiasm will lead to success in your endeavors. The health of your children will improve. Business will pick up momentum. It is advisable to maintain a calm demeanor at your workplace.



Support from family members will increase. Harmony and affection will grow between spouses. The health of your children will improve. In business, you may unexpectedly recover outstanding dues. At the workplace, it is best to focus solely on your own tasks.



Previously stalled tasks will reach a successful conclusion. Those who have been seeking employment will secure positions in good organizations. Travel to other towns or cities will prove favorable. You will see good profits in business. Avoid getting into arguments at your workplace.



As you are under the influence of 'Chandrashtama' (a period requiring caution), avoid unnecessary arguments with family members. You may experience physical fatigue due to a heavy workload. In business, you will attract customers by employing new strategies.



Ego clashes and unnecessary suspicions between spouses will fade away. You may receive new responsibilities or positions in your social or professional circles. Business will pick up, yielding decent profits, and you will have the support of your partners. At the workplace, you will make steady progress toward your goals.



You will take the lead in organizing events or functions in your hometown. You will have a good flow of cash. Ego-related issues will be resolved, leading to greater closeness between spouses. Your health will improve. You will see advancement in both your business and career.



Trips to other towns or regions will bring you peace of mind. The arrival of friends will fill your home with joy. Any issues with your vehicle will be resolved. In terms of business, you will have the opportunity to meet influential or prominent individuals. Superiors at the office will be supportive.



You will attend functions hosted by prominent or influential people. Your children will act responsibly. You will be able to identify the genuine, well-meaning people among those around you. You can expect growth in your business and professional life.



Discussions regarding your son's marriage will conclude smoothly within the family. Any bitterness with your spouse's relatives will fade away. Your children will act responsibly. Business will pick up momentum. Maintain a peaceful atmosphere at your workplace.



Tasks you thought could be completed easily may end up being delayed or drawn out. It is advisable to keep an eye on your children's behavior. You may experience some mental confusion. At work, your superior will offer praise. In business, avoid making enemies with anyone.



You may face indirect competition. Unexpected expenses may arise. It is best to focus on completing your tasks at the workplace. You may be recommended for a new position, which will bring increased responsibilities. You can expect good profits in business.



You will move forward despite facing opposition. Expenses related to home maintenance may increase. Your social circle and external connections will expand. You may find joy in purchasing electronic gadgets. Maintain a calm environment at work. In business, you will succeed by employing new strategies.

PM Modi pays tribute on National Police Commemoration Day

NEW DELHI: On the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, Prime Minister Modi has lauded the contributions of the police force.

In his message, he stated: "Police Commemoration Day is an occasion to express gratitude to our police personnel, who serve with immense dedication even in the most challenging circumstances. From maintaining law and order and preventing crime to responding swiftly during emergencies and ensuring the safety of the public, their contribution is truly unparalleled." "I pay tribute to the brave police personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.



Their courage, commitment, and sacrifice will always be remembered." This is what Prime Minister Modi has said.



To showcase India's rich culture and heritage to the world, Amar Kale, a young artist from Karnataka, has set a new world record by creating a painting using only kitchen ingredients—turmeric and chili powder.

'There should be no place in this world for those who support terrorism' – Rajnath Singh

DUSHANBE: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is on a two-day visit to Tajikistan. In the city of Dushanbe, he participated on behalf of India in the meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar was also present at the meeting.

Speaking in his presence, Rajnath Singh stated: "Terrorism has emerged as one of the gravest threats to peace and development. Beyond harming innocent people, terrorism disrupts investments and trade. Terrorism radicalizes societies and deprives the youth



of legitimate opportunities. Terrorism cannot be justified; there should be no double standards in addressing it. There should be no place in this world for those who provide funding, support, or shelter to terrorists. The ecosystem of terrorism must be eradicated firmly and collectively.

Since 2014, the lifespan of terrorists has been reduced to less than a year; security forces neutralize them within a year of them taking up arms against India.

India supports the implementation of the action

plan for multilateral trade and economic cooperation for the period 2026–2030. We desire that our economic engagements benefit every member nation. We are moving forward with the goal of expanding supply chains, trade, and investment."

Ensure Uninterrupted Supply of Milk and Drinking Water Amidst Rains! Chief Minister Vijay's Directive to Officials

CHENNAI: With the Northeast Monsoon intensifying across Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister Vijay is holding a consultative meeting at the Secretariat.

Senior ministers, ministers in charge of the Chennai region, and municipal corporation officials are participating in the meeting. The Northeast Monsoon, which commenced in Tamil Nadu on the 15th, has now intensified, bringing heavy rainfall to several districts, including Chennai.

Chennai experienced very heavy rainfall last night, leading to waterlogging on roads today. Schools in Chennai have also been declared closed. Municipal Commissioner Sameeran stated that 10 cm of rainfall was recorded in Chennai last

night. He has advised the public to avoid stepping out unnecessarily and to refrain from visiting waterlogged areas—even for the purpose of taking photographs.

As this is an 'El Niño' year, higher and than average rainfall is anticipated. In light of this, Chief Minister Vijay is chairing a meeting at the Secretariat to ensure preparedness for potential weather events in the coming days, such as low and pressure systems, upper and air cyclonic circulations, or cyclones. During the meeting at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister—joined by senior ministers, ministers overseeing the Chennai region, and various officials—discussed matters including stormwater drain maintenance, canal restoration, and the setup of relief camps.

Furthermore, Chief Minister Vijay has directed officials to ensure the seamless, uninterrupted supply of essential commodities, including milk, drinking water, and vegetables.

Two days ago, the Chief Minister also visited the Ripon Building to inspect the impact of the rainfall in Chennai. In a statement issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu, it is noted that Chief Minister Vijay held a review meeting with ministers and senior officials at the Ripon Building—the headquarters of the Greater Chennai Corporation—to discuss the precautionary measures taken in preparation for the Northeast Monsoon.

Chief Minister Vijay inspected the Integrated Command and Control Centre located within the Ripon Building

complex. He reviewed data on rainfall recorded since yesterday, monitored the surveillance efforts at subways, canals, and river mouths, and examined the actions taken in response to public complaints.

He inquired about the grievances received from the public and instructed officials to take swift, immediate action to address them. The Chief Minister also commended the officials of the Greater Chennai Corporation and other departments for their excellent work following the heavy rains yesterday. Furthermore, he directed that any complaints regarding rain-related damage reported to the control centre must be resolved immediately. Additionally, he is receiving hourly updates on the rainfall situation and any resulting impacts.

Sale of Methamphetamine: 3 arrested, including a college student and a makeup artist Investigation reveals drugs were sourced from Bengaluru and Hyderabad

CHENNAI: Police have arrested three individuals, including a college student and a film industry makeup artist, for the sale of the drug methamphetamine. The special team under the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Kilpauk) received a tip-off that methamphetamine was being sold near the Gengu Reddy subway in Kilpauk, Chennai. Following this, the police began closely monitoring the area. The night before last, they apprehended three individuals—including two women—who were

found moving around the area under suspicious circumstances. Upon searching them, the police discovered methamphetamine in their possession. All three were subsequently taken to the police station for questioning. Regarding this, the police stated: The individuals apprehended have been identified as Mohammed Azharuddin (30) from Mannady, Fathima alias Sara (24) from Thiruvottiyur, and Asma Nasreen (20) from Nungambakkam. Mohammed Azharuddin works as a

fashion designer, while Sara is employed as a makeup artist in the film industry. Asma Nasreen is a college student in Anna Nagar. The three became acquainted while frequenting star-rated hotels and pubs. Subsequently, they began procuring the narcotic substance 'methamphetamine' from places like Bengaluru and Hyderabad to sell in Chennai. They would supply the drugs to young people living in rented apartments across Chennai, as well as to attendees of parties held

at star-rated hotels and pubs. Furthermore, for the past two years, they had been procuring methamphetamine from associates in Bengaluru and selling it. The three arrested individuals were taken to locations including Nungambakkam and Thousand Lights, where searches were conducted. During these searches, 50 grams of methamphetamine—which had been stashed away—along with several mobile phones, were seized, the police stated. Meanwhile, the police are continuing their investigation to identify others connected to these three individuals, as well as those who supplied the drugs to them.

30foot-tall cockroach effigy burned alongside Ravana in Delhi



NEW DELHI: On the occasion of Vijayadashami, a 30-foot-tall effigy of a cockroach was burned in Pitampura, Delhi, alongside the traditional effigies of Ravana, Kumbhakarna, and Meghnada. This act is being viewed as a satirical gesture directed at CJP (Citizens for Justice and Peace).

A video showing the burning of the cockroach effigy is currently circulating. Res-

ponding to this, CJP founder Teesta Setalvad (referred to here as Abhijit Dipke)—*note: the original source text contains a discrepancy regarding the names* and the head of the legal division, Ratna Singh, remarked, "Thank you for the free publicity." They further commented, "Just keep staging these farces in this country." These remarks have sparked discussions on social media, with many users drawing parallels between the burning of the cockroach effigy and the victory of good over evil.

October 21 New Delhi, 2026

Jio Platforms Sets a Record with Its Public Share Offering

The public share offering for Jio Platforms Ltd, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, commenced today. It achieved full subscription within just 100 minutes. Jio Platforms Ltd, the digital services arm of Reliance Industries, initiated the process to raise approximately ₹30,213 crore through the stock market. The company announced that the initial public offering (IPO) would remain open for three days, starting today. The price band for each share has been set between ₹1,065 and ₹1,119. Subscriptions for the shares opened this morning. Investors were permitted to apply for a minimum of one lot and a maximum of 14 lots, with one lot consisting of 12 shares. The offering reached full subscription in record time—just 100 minutes after opening. As of 10:36 AM, the issue was subscribed 1.03 times; against an offering of 19.75 crore shares, investors had applied for approximately 20.25 crore shares. The applications will now be reviewed, and the final allotment of shares is expected to be determined by October 26. Furthermore, the company's shares are scheduled to be listed on both the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on October 28.

Senior RSS Pracharak from Srirangam passes away



CHENNAI: Sadagopan, a senior RSS Pracharak from Srirangam, has passed away. Sadagopan Narayanan (64) was a resident of South Chithirai Street in Srirangam. A senior RSS Pracharak and a member of the North Tamil Nadu state executive committee, he had also served as the

editor of the magazine 'Vijayabharatham' and as a national secretary of the ABVP, the student wing of the BJP. He passed away yesterday due to ill health. His mortal remains were kept at 'Shakti Karyalaya'—the RSS headquarters in Chennai—for people to pay their final respects. Subsequently, his body was brought to Trichy yesterday evening and placed at his residence on South Chithirai Street in Srirangam for final tributes. The last rites will be performed this morning (October 21).

Vegetable Prices Drop at Thennampalayam Market

TRIPUR: Every day, tons of vegetables are brought to the Thennampalayam market in Tiruppur from surrounding areas and neighboring districts. A significant portion of the produce, including carrots, arrives from outside the district. This year, the consecutive holidays declared for Ayudha Puja and Dussehra led many people who live and work in Tiruppur to travel back to their hometowns. Consequently, there was a low turnout of shoppers at the market yesterday, resulting in sluggish sales. While the number of customers decreased, the volume of vegetable arrivals actually exceeded the usual levels. As a result, vegetable prices saw a decline. For instance, a 15-kg bundle of bottle gourd, which had been selling for Rs. 250 over the past few days, dropped to Rs. 200 yesterday. Similarly, the price of a bundle of ridge gourd fell from Rs. 600 to Rs. 500, and a bundle of snake gourd decreased from Rs. 500 to Rs. 400. Prices for brinjal and broad beans also saw a decline: a 20-kg sack of brinjal dropped from Rs. 600 to Rs. 400, while a sack of broad beans fell from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 800. In addition to this, a sack of chillies was sold for Rs. 600, okra for Rs. 600, beetroot for Rs. 800, radishes for Rs. 400, cauliflower (a bundle of 20 heads) for Rs. 600, a 5-kg lot of ash gourd for Rs. 900, and pumpkin for Rs. 800. It is said that this price decline is likely to continue for the next day or two.



The 'Soorasamharam'—the climactic event of the Dasara festival at the Mutthamman Temple in Kulasekarapattinam—took place late last night. Hundreds of thousands of devotees participated and offered their prayers.



The Navaratri Brahmotsavam festival in Tirupati concluded yesterday with the 'Chakrasnanam' ritual. Over the past eight days, devotees have contributed a total of Rs. 25.79 crore through the temple 'hundi'.

The Police Force is a Protective Shield for Society – DMK President M.K. Stalin’s Statement

CHENNAI: The police force is not merely an institution that upholds the law; it serves as a pillar of trust and a protective shield for our society, says DMK President M.K. Stalin. In a post on the social media platform X, he stated the following: The police force is not just an organization that enforces the law; it is a source of trust and a protective shield for our society! On #PoliceCommemora-



tion Day, let us remember with gratitude the duties performed by police personnel and the immense sacrifices they have made. I offer my valiant salute to all the

police personnel who laid down their lives while serving with dedication—facing dangers to ensure the safety and peaceful existence of the people! This is what he stated.

Rajasthan Congress chief Dotasra injured after slipping during protest at Jaipur police Commissionerate

JAIPUR: High drama unfolded in Jaipur as senior Rajasthan Congress leaders staged a sit-in protest (dharna) at the Jaipur police Commissionerate office. A heavy police deployment remains in place around the commissionerate premises, with barricades erected to prevent unauthorised entry. Amid the protest, Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra injured his leg after slipping.

“He (State Congress President Govind Singh Dotasra) has sustained an injury to his leg; a doctor has just examined him. He will not be able to move around for the next several days. These people have locked the toilets,” Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Rajasthan Assembly Tikaram Jolly said. Congress is demanding a Zero FIR in connection with the alleged assault on National Students’ Union of India (NSUI) National Secretary Ritu Barala.

Congress leaders and party workers gathered in large numbers at the Commissionerate, raising slogans against the state government and the police administration, alleging a complete breakdown of law and order in the state. The protest was triggered over alleged police inaction following an assault on NSUI leader Ritu Barala. The Congress delegation demanded immediate lodging of a Zero FIR and prompt action against those responsible for the incident.

Rajasthan LoP Jolly launched a scathing attack on the state government and police administration, alleging “hooliganism” inside the Jaipur Police Commissionerate

and questioning the refusal to register a ‘Zero FIR’ in the alleged assault on NSUI National Secretary Ritu Barala. “This is hooliganism.

We are sitting here peacefully. They themselves



suggested that we sit in room number 9, so we are sitting in room number 9. Why are they not registering our FIR? Tell us the reason. Given that the constitutional framework, specifically Section 173 of the BNS, provides for the registration of a ‘Zero FIR’ anywhere in the country.

Why is it not being registered here? Meanwhile, the BJP state president claims that we are ruining their festival. They have no intention of listening; there is no dialogue, no message from the Chief Minister, Home Minister, or Director General (DG),” he said.

As the Congress party’s high-voltage sit-in protest inside the Jaipur Police Commissionerate, senior party leader and former state minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas launched a fierce attack on the state government and police administration, warning errant officials of

legal and administrative accountability.

“We have kept the Commissionerate hijacked for the last 24 hours. The reason is this: you allow daughters to be beaten and abused, yet you refuse to register a case. Under Section 173(3), it is our right, and mark my words, even if we have to approach the court, legal action will be taken against them... If any girl is subjected to atrocities anywhere, a Zero FIR must be registered.

The investigation can be conducted by the Delhi police... You have turned this into a matter of prestige... The government has taken the entire police administration under its direct control. But governments come

and go. Our turn will come again, and mark my words, those officials who are acting improperly will be held accountable...,” he said.

Earlier, Dotasra questioned the police over the registration of an FIR in Delhi and demanded a copy of the case registered there. “If an FIR has been registered in Delhi regarding the assault on Ritu Barala, then provide us with a copy of that FIR. We will head back home immediately.

The FIR registered by the Delhi Police, ostensibly to harass these youngsters, cannot possibly cover the incident involving the assault on Ritu; the complainant and the accused cannot be the same person; that is simply not possible.

Therefore, I believe that every argument or justification they are offering in their defence is entirely false,” said Congress President Dotasra.

Stone-pelting at train, One person arrested

MADURAI: On October 18, stones were pelted at the Bodi-Tambaram Express train between Usilampatti and Vadapalanjhi stations on the Madurai-Theni route. The Railway

Protection Force (RPF) was alerted about the incident.

A team led by Inspector Vinoth Kumar was formed to conduct surveillance in the area. Based on suspicion, the police questioned

26-year-old Sachin from Duraisamipuram, Usilampatti, and it was revealed that he was the one who had thrown the stones. The railway police have arrested him.

Asian Para Games: India wins 24 medals, including 5 golds, in a single day

NAGOYA: The 5th Asian Para Games are currently underway in the Aichi-Nagoya region of Japan. On the second day of the event, India’s Nishad Kumar secured the gold medal in the men’s T47 high jump, clearing a height of 2.04 meters and setting a new record. This marks Nishad Kumar’s second gold medal at the ongoing Asian Para Games; he had previously won gold in the T47 long jump event the day before yesterday. With this achievement, Nishad Kumar has become the third Indian athlete to win two gold medals in a single edition of the Games.

Prior to this, Ankur Dhama (in the men’s 5000m and 1500m events) and Sheetal Devi (in the women’s individual compound and mixed team archery events) had each won two gold medals at the Asian Para Games held in Hangzhou, China. In the men’s F44/64 discus throw, India’s Devender Kumar secured the gold medal with a throw of 49.71 meters. Other Indian athletes, Rakesh and Pardeep Kumar, won the silver and bronze medals, respectively. In the men’s F51/52/53 discus throw, India’s Pranav Soorma claimed the top spot and the

gold medal with a throw of 11.66 meters. Another Indian athlete, Ram Rattan Singh, secured second place with a throw of 10.35 meters, winning the silver medal. In the women’s 400m (T20 category), India’s Deepthi Jeevanji finished in 56.36 seconds, clinching the gold medal and setting a new competition record.

In the women’s 200m (T12 category), India’s Simran took the gold medal, finishing in 24.80 seconds and setting a new record. Another Indian athlete, Tejalben Damor (25.23 seconds), won the bronze medal. In the women’s individual compound archery semi-finals, India’s Sheetal Devifaced Japan’s Shinora Aya; the 19-year-old Sheetal Devi won the match 145–137 and advanced to the final. In the women’s W1 archery category, India’s Swati Chaudhari defeated South Korea’s Yunhee Lee 6–2 in the semi-finals. At the Asian Para Games, India’s Pradeep Kumar secured the silver medal in the men’s F54 javelin throw, recording a distance of 27.4 meters. Meanwhile, in the F53 category, India’s Ayush Kumar won the bronze medal with a throw of 17.88 meters.

In women’s table tennis



at the Asian Para Games, India won four bronze medals yesterday alone. In the Class 9 semi-finals, India’s Rabi Baby Sahana was defeated by China’s Mao Jingdian—a five-time Paralympic gold medalist—with a score of 8–11, 2–11, 4–11, earning Sahana a bronze medal. Sahana hails from Tamil Nadu. In the Class 6 semi-finals, Prachi Pandey lost to Iraq’s Paralympic champion Najlah Al-Dayyeni with a score of 9–11, 2–11, 8–11, and secured a bronze medal. With this, she became one of the first Indian Para table tennis players to win a medal at the Asian Para Games in the standing category. In the Class 6 semi-finals, Prachi Pandey lost to Iraq’s Paralympic champion Najlah Al-Dayyeni with a score of 9–11, 2–11, 8–11, and secured a bronze medal.

With this, she became one of the first Indian Para table tennis players to win a medal at the Asian Para Games in the standing category. In the Class 4–5 semi-finals, India’s Bhavina Patel lost to China’s Zhang Bian—an eight-time Paralympic champion—with a score of 7–11, 5–11, 7–11, and secured a bronze medal. In the Class 3 semi-finals, India’s Sonalben Patel was defeated by South Korea’s Ji Yoon with a score of 7–11, 5–11, 6–11, earning a bronze medal. In the men’s Class 1 category, India’s Jehan Madan lost to South Korea’s Kim Hyeon-uk with a score of 4–11, 7–11, 3–11, and claimed a bronze medal. In shooting, India’s Manish Narwal scored 233.7 points in the men’s 10m air pistol SH1 event, finishing in second place to win a silver medal.

He also qualified for the 2028 Paralympic Games, which will be held in Los Angeles. In the Asian Para Games, India’s Ashok Kumar Malik won a silver medal in the men’s 65kg powerlifting event by lifting 192kg. In shooting, India’s Srushti Arora secured a bronze medal in the women’s 10m air pistol (SH1) event, scoring 214.7 points. In the men’s shot put (F11) event, India’s Praveen Kumar won a bronze medal with a throw of 13.86 meters. In the men’s 400m freestyle (S11) swimming event, India’s Himanshu Nandal finished in 3rd place with a time of 5:10.91, clinching a bronze medal. In the men’s 200m individual medley (SM7 category), India’s Niranjan Mukundan finished in 2:57.01, securing third place and a bronze medal. In the men’s SL3 category for badminton, India’s Pramod Bhagat and Kumar Nitesh have advanced to the semi-finals, ensuring at least a bronze medal for each of them. Yesterday alone, India won 24 medals—5 gold, 6 silver, and 13 bronze—at the Asian Para Games. So far, India has secured a total of 35 medals (9 gold, 11 silver, and 15 bronze) and currently holds the 6th position in the medal tally.

Plan to Beautify the Banks of the Cooum River in Chennai Tenders Invited for Development Works at 3 Locations

CHENNAI: Tenders have been invited for development works at three locations along the banks of the Cooum River, with the aim of beautifying the area through the inclusion of various amenities such as walkways, cycling paths, and parks. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had announced in the Legislative Assembly that the Cooum River—which has long suffered from issues including encroachments, the discharge of sewage, and pollution—would be restored. As a follow-up, the Government of Tamil Nadu has initiated the first phase of measures to restore the Cooum River and beautify its banks.



In this regard, bids have been invited from consultancy firms to prepare a detailed project report. A tender notice has been issued regarding this project, which is being undertaken by the Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust through the Tamil Nadu Urban Infrastructure Financial Services Limited (TNUIFSL). The project involves developing a plan for a 3.7 km stretch, covering the area from Napier Bridge

to the Cooum river mouth (0.5 km), from Swami Sivananda Salai to Periyar Bridge (1.2 km), and from the connecting road to Dams Road (2 km).

In the selected areas, studies will be conducted on factors such as river flow, flood risks, encroachments, points of sewage discharge, soil-bearing capacity, and existing infrastructure. Based on these studies, plans will be developed to include riverbank protection structures, walkways, bicycle paths, parks, and recreational spaces. Furthermore, recommendations will be provided for

solutions to control pollution in the river and protect the natural environment.

It has been stipulated that a detailed project report must be prepared and submitted within 30 days from the date the contract is awarded. A draft report, along with engineering designs and cost estimates, must be submitted within the first 21 days. The final report, the bill of quantities, and the implementation plan must be submitted within the subsequent 9 days. Tender documents for this work can be downloaded from the website <https://tenders.gov.in/>. Bids may be submitted online until 11:00 AM on November 3rd. The bids will be opened at

12:30 PM on the same day. The earnest money deposit (EMD) for this tender is Rs. 23,000. Consultancy firms participating in the tender must have experience in preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for at least one riverfront development project within the last seven years. Furthermore, only those firms that secure a minimum of 75 percent marks in the technical evaluation will be considered for selection. Through this project report, the designs for development works, cost estimates, and implementation strategies will be finalized. Based on this, steps will be taken to initiate the subsequent phases of the project, the statement noted.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Returns to Delhi After Key SCO Meeting in Dushanbe

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh concluded his visit to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on Wednesday, returning to New Delhi after representing India at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting.



He was seen off at the airport by Tajikistan Defence Minister Emomali Sobirzoda. During the high-level gathering, Singh engaged in crucial discussions with member states on regional cooperation, economic development, enhanced connectivity, and pressing security challenges. A significant announcement from India was its decision to host the first SCO Civilisation Dialogue Forum later this year, inviting all member nations to participate in this initiative aimed at fostering cultural ties and mutual understanding. Singh emphasized India’s deep-rooted friendship with Tajikistan and its strong bonds with Central Asian countries,

reflecting on the SCO’s 25-year journey and the imperative for future cooperation. On the sidelines of the summit, Singh held bilateral meetings with Tajikistan Prime Minister Qohir Rosulzoda and Iran’s First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref. A key focus of his address was the urgent need for a collective

and uncompromising approach to combating terrorism. He warned that terrorism not only leads to loss of life but also disrupts economic activity and deprives youth of opportunities, calling for an end to double standards in tackling this global menace. Singh urged SCO members to dismantle the entire ecosystem supporting terrorist activities, stressing that there should be no safe havens for those who finance or support terrorism. Earlier, he also paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi in Dushanbe.



Minister Arunraj conducted an on-site inspection early this morning regarding the precautionary measures taken to prevent rainwater stagnation in the Thiru. Vi. Ka. Nagar zone of Chennai.

Nigeria Confirms First Imported Ebola Bundibugyo Case in Abuja, 44 Contacts Monitored

NIGERIA: Nigeria has reported its first imported case of the Ebola Bundibugyo virus in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. Health authorities have identified and are currently monitoring 44 individuals who had contact with the patient.

This development makes Nigeria the fifth country to detect this specific strain of Ebola since an outbreak was declared in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on May 15, 2026, as per the World Health Organization (WHO).

The patient, a woman, recently traveled to Nigeria from Uganda. She began showing symptoms on October 7, four days after her arrival, and sought medical care at a private facility in Abuja on October 11. Laboratory tests confirmed the Bundibugyo virus infection on October 20. She is now in isolation and receiving treatment. Investigations are ongoing to determine the source of infection and her complete travel history.

Nigeria’s Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, alongside the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, has activated its incident management system. Efforts are underway to trace additional contacts, and infection prevention measures are being strengthened at the medical facility.

The WHO and its partners are collaborating with Nigerian health officials, providing support for case investigations, contact tracing, and supplying essential equipment like personal protective gear for healthcare workers. The WHO has urged regional countries to remain vigilant, especially as Kenya recently reported nine cases linked to an imported case. Countries are advised to enhance surveillance, ensure testing capabilities, and maintain preparedness for rapid response.

Resolution within 10 minutes of a complaint: Minister Anand's statement



CHENNAI: Minister Anand stated that any issue reported would be resolved within 10 minutes. Chennai and its surrounding areas have been experiencing heavy rainfall over the past few

days. Consequently, intensive efforts are underway to clear the rainwater that has accumulated in T. Nagar—a major commercial hub in Chennai—and its surrounding localities.

Ministers and officials are personally inspecting the water & clearing operations. Today, Tamil Nadu Water Resources Minister E. Anand toured the T. Nagar bus terminus and the internal roads of the area on a scooter to assess the waterlogging and the ongoing relief efforts. He instructed officials to expedite the removal of the water and met with members of the public to hear their concerns. Speaking to reporters later, he provided details regarding the water & clearing operations, stating:

"Following the Chief Minister's directives, we have deployed 30 motors.

In previous years, rain-water would remain stagnant on the roads for 4 to 5 days; however, we are now taking immediate action to clear the water. Government personnel are stationed everywhere, and they will reach the site and resolve any reported issue within 10 minutes of receiving a complaint." He said this during his interaction.

Horror in Australia: Attempted murder of female MP; suspect arrested after running her over twice with a car



MELBOURNE: An incident in Australia, where a man deliberately drove his car into a female Member of Parliament while she was loading items into her vehicle, has sent shockwaves globally. Helen Haines (65), an independent Member of Parliament,

resides in the city of Wangaratta in the Australian state of Victoria.

The day before yesterday, in the evening, she was loading items into the back of a car parked outside her constituency office. At that moment, a 43-year-old man, who was

driving by, suddenly accelerated and struck Helen Haines with his vehicle. Not stopping there, he reversed the car and ran over her a second time in an attempt to kill her. Shocked by the scene, bystanders rushed to the spot, surrounding the vehicle.

They apprehended the man, seized a knife he was carrying, and handed him over to the police. MP Helen Haines, who was crushed between two vehicles and sustained severe injuries, was immediately rushed to a government hospital in Melbourne. She underwent intensive medical treatment;

however, due to extensive damage to one of her legs, doctors had to amputate it.

Medical teams are continuing their efforts to save her other leg. The arrested individual has been identified as Brendan Nugent (43). Regarding this, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese condemned the incident, stating,

"This was not an accident; it was a deliberate and brutal attack." Australia's counter-terrorism police are conducting an intensive investigation to determine whether there is any terrorist plot behind the incident.

Warden forces boys in hostel into homosexual acts

CHENNAI: A case under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act has been registered against a warden at a government children's home in Royapuram, Chennai, for sexually harassing school students residing there.

There are also allegations that he assaulted the boys with an iron rod. Students aged 15, hailing from Thiruvottiyur and Aminjikarai, are currently studying in the 10th grade at a municipal higher secondary school in Royapuram, Chennai. They reside at a government chil-

dren's home located on Surya Narayanan Road in Kasimedu. It is alleged that the warden, Kumaresan, would frequently arrive at the hostel under the influence of alcohol and sexually harass the students. He reportedly demanded that the boys remove their clothes and coerced them into homosexual acts.

A complaint has been raised that, two days ago, Warden Kumaresan woke the boys up in the middle of the night and assaulted them with an iron rod. Furthermore, it is alleged that he forced the boys to strip and attempted to

commit sexual acts upon them. When the mother of one of the 15-year-old boys from Thiruvottiyur visited the home, she found her son looking extremely distressed; he remained silent when she tried to ask him what was wrong.

The following evening, the mother returned to the home and questioned her son again. The boy then revealed that the warden, Kumaresan, had subjected him to sexual harassment. Other students also came forward, tearfully recounting the abuse they had endured. Following this, the boy's mother confronted Warden Kumaresan and demanded an explanation regarding these incidents.

Furthermore, in a fit of rage, the warden, Kumaresan, slapped one of the boys on the cheek. Upon learning of this, the parents of the other children arrived at the scene.



They engaged in an argument with the warden and subsequently filed a complaint at the police station. Acting on this complaint, the Royapuram All-Women Police Station registered a case under the POCSO Act and arrested Kumaresan. Additionally, the police and officials from the Department of Child Welfare are conducting an investigation to determine whether other children residing in the shelter have been subjected to similar mistreatment.

The police have also interrogated the arrested warden, Kumaresan.



Due to the persistent heavy rainfall in Chennai, rainwater has accumulated within the Koyambedu vegetable, fruit, and flower market complex—one of the largest markets in Asia. This has caused significant hardship for both traders and the general public.

Those who observe the fast while staying at the temple are provided with thinai maavu, lemon juice, and milk as prasadam

MADURAI: During the Kanda Sashti festival at the Subramanya Swamy Temple in Thiruparankundram, thousands of female devotees observe a six-day fast. Traditionally, they stay within the temple premises—in the designated 'Sashti Mandapams' (halls) or open spaces—to perform their religious observances. To accommodate them, the temple administration constructed a new 'Sashti Mandapam' near the 'Poonga' (park) bus

stop at a cost of Rs. 4.50 crore, which was inaugurated a few months ago.

This facility can accommodate over 300 devotees. However, it is located 1.5 km away from the main temple. Devotees observing the fast bathe twice daily in the 'Saravana Poigai' (temple tank) and perform 'Girivalam' (circumambulation of the hill).

While returning to the new Mandapam after their circumambulation, they are

forced to cross railway tracks, which is highly dangerous. The only alternative—avoiding the tracks—requires taking an overpass, traveling as far as Harvey Patti, and then walking back to the Sashti Mandapam; this adds a significant distance, causing great hardship to the devotees. Furthermore, those staying within the main temple complex are provided with daily 'prasadam'—specifically 'thinai maavu' (foxtail millet flour), lemon

juice, and milk—which may not be available to those staying at the new, distant Mandapam. Consequently, devotees are hesitant to stay at the new facility.

They are now requesting that the temple administration provide battery-operated vehicles to facilitate easy travel to and from the new Mandapam, and ensure that the 'prasadam'—'thinai maavu', lemon juice, and milk—is also made available at the new location.



President Droupadi Murmu, accompanied by Rekha Gupta, attended the Dussehra celebrations held at the Dwarka Shri Ram Leela on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the Vijayadashami celebrations held at the Indraprastha Ramlika grounds.

Minister Vanniyarasu Plays with the Waves

Impressive Surfing Display at Kovalam Beach

CHENGALPATU: Minister for Social Justice, Vanniyarasu—who is always a prominent figure in the political arena—has unveiled a new side of himself by taking up the adventurous sport of surfing. Amidst his busy political and official schedule, Minister Vanniyarasu visited Kovalam Beach in Chen-

galpattu district yesterday (Tuesday) morning. Dressed in proper protective gear, he headed into the sea with a surfboard. Navigating through the massive waves, he managed to maintain his balance perfectly while standing on the board—a feat that left onlookers amazed. Footage and photographs of the Minister's surfing



adventure have since gone viral across social media platforms and major news outlets. By venturing beyond the political sphere into

an adventurous sport that resonates with the youth, the Minister's latest endeavor has become a hot topic of discussion among netizens.

"Who is Mohan Bhagwat to comment on regime change?"

Priyank Kharge questions RSS's 'cultural' identity

BENGALURU: Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday questioned the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) claim of being a cultural organisation, asking RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat to clarify its nature and alleging that the organisation frequently comments on political, economic, defence and foreign policy matters.

Speaking to reporters reacting to Bhagwat's statement that "regime change has neither happened nor will it happen," while referring to protests in France and developments in Albania, Nepal and Bangladesh, Kharge questioned the RSS chief's remarks. "It is (regime change) not possible because they have captured the Election Commission, the Election Commissioner, the voter list, Form 6 and Form 7. Do you expect free and fair elections to take place in India after this? So, why does the Chief Election Commissioner need judicial immunity? Who is Mr Mohan Bhagwat to comment? Let him decide whether the RSS is a cultur-



al organisation or a political organisation. They only speak about politics, the economic situation, defence and foreign policy. They say we have to maintain close contacts with Pakistan. Who are these people? Are they cultural in nature or political? Let them shed this fake image of being a cultural organisation, register themselves, and come in as a political outfit," Kharge said. On the issue of permission for the RSS's Path Sanchalan (route march) in Karnataka, Kharge said, "In many places, they are saying that they are going to conduct a patha sanchalana (route march) and are submitting information to the police. They should not merely provide information. They should please seek permission so that the necessary arrangements can be

made." "The police department is not at the beck and call of the RSS. They cannot simply inform us, saying, 'We have given you the information. You make the necessary arrangements. We will come and leave.' Many people conduct events in different places. If you seek permission and the request is found appropriate, we will grant permission. We are not going to deny it," he said. "The same rules apply to everyone, including the RSS. The RSS is not above the law or the Constitution. If there are any problems with the route march they have proposed, the local authorities can discuss and resolve them. But please learn to respect the police department and the government," he added.

Kharge further questioned whether the RSS had formally sought permission for the route march, "They should seek permission. Have they written 'permis-

sion' in it? They submitted it for information, saying, 'We are conducting the event this way.

Please take appropriate action.' Do they think the police personnel work for them? We are the government. There is a procedure for everyone, including me. Follow the procedure."

Separately, commenting on the blast reported in Bengaluru's Pulikeshi Nagar, Kharge said the incident was under investigation and urged people not to speculate until the forensic report was available.

"It is still being investigated. This afternoon, we will get to know. Let us see what it is. It happened last night, that's all I can tell now. It went to the lab. Until then, we will not pay attention to any rumours. There have been some minor injuries.

One person has apparently suffered burns, and another person has also sustained minor injuries. We have taken a suo motu case since it's a blast. Whether it was a chemical reaction, whether there was an IED, or whatever it may be, we are investigating. Let the forensic report come," Kharge said.

Northeast Monsoon: Repair work on potholes in Chennai roads at a cost of Rs. 21.80 crore



CHENNAI: In preparation for the Northeast monsoon, repair work on potholes across roads in the Greater Chennai Corporation area is underway, with an allocation of Rs.

21.80 crore.

A press release issued in this regard states the following: Following the directives of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and as a precautionary measure for the Northeast monsoon, the Greater Chennai Corporation is carrying out repair work (patchwork) on roads across zones 1 through 15. This includes repairs to potholes on bus & router roads (at a cost

of Rs. 9.25 crore) and interior roads (at a cost of Rs. 12.55 crore), totaling an expenditure of Rs. 21.80 crore.

The repairs are being executed using concrete and bituminous (tar) mixtures. So far, 4,691 potholes across zones 1 to 15 have been filled and repaired using these concrete and bituminous mixtures. These operations are currently ongoing, the statement added.