

PM Modi inaugurated the Chinmaya Amrita Mahotsav conference

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday outlined the philosophy behind declaring India's 75th year of independence as 'Amrit Mahotsav', viewing it as a launching pad to revive ancient values while advancing toward a developed nation by 2047. Addressing the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan at Bharat Mandapam, the Prime Minister emphasised that civil society participation is central

We must unite society against the forces that seek to divide us

to reviving India's ancient wisdom and realising the vision of a developed India by 2047. Unveiling the core vision behind the national observance of 'Amrit Mahotsav', PM Modi said, "As we approached the 75th anniversary of our nation's independence, I envisioned this occasion

not only as a springboard for a 'Viksit Bharat' but also as an opportunity to revive that essence of India which embraces 'Amrit' ideals. An India that, drawing upon the wisdom of countless centuries, remains deeply committed to the well-being of humanity across the ages. That is why I called for

this celebration to be observed as 'Amrit Mahotsav'."

PM Modi urged citizens to stand united against divisive elements, emphasising that addressing emerging challenges and societal distortions is a shared national responsibility. He urged citizens to stand united against societal distortions

and work toward self-reliance as the nation marches toward its centenary of independence in 2047, which coincides with Chinmaya Mission's own centenary year.

"Times have changed over the past few decades. New challenges have emerged before the nation, and new distortions have appeared in society. Today, the responsibility to address these issues rests upon us all. We must unite society against the forces that seek to divide us. We need to raise awareness among our fellow citizens about the importance of self-reliance. We must engage every individual in the resolve to build a Viksit Bharat by 2047. To achieve these goals, we must become even more proactive. In 2047, when India marks 100 years of its independence, Chinmaya Mission will also be celebrating its own centenary year," he said.

The Prime Minister praised spiritual, cultural, and social organisations for adopting 'Amrit Sankalps' during their key organisational milestones. "Numerous spiritual, cultural, and social organisations have

embraced 'Amrit Sankalps' at significant milestones in their own journeys, and now, the 'Chinmaya Mission' has also joined this national endeavour & this 'Amrit Kaal' & as part of the 'Amrit Mahotsav,' he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared a personal remembrance of his 1993 interaction with Swami Chinmayananda, saying that seeing and interacting with a holographic projection of the revered spiritual leader made him feel transported three decades back in time.

He commended the Chinmaya Mission for aligning its 75th & anniversary celebrations with the national journey of 'Amrit Kaal' and 'Amrit Mahotsav,' emphasising that empowering youth remains at the core of governance and nation-building. "The experience I felt in my heart upon arriving here today has been brought to life even more vividly through the use of modern technology in this event. Seeing the revered Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda in this

form & having the privilege of interacting with his holographic projection & made me feel as though I had travelled 33 years back in time. My meeting with Gurudev in Vadodara in 1993, our conversations, his affection, and his blessings & it all came flooding back before my eyes today... The core of that conversation centred on nurturing the power of the youth, and through that youth power, building a strong and capable India. A few years after meeting them, the public & who are akin to the Divine & bestowed their blessings upon me to serve as the Chief Minister of Gujarat," said PM Modi.

The Prime Minister reflected on the significance of the event, stating that the Chinmaya Mission represents a living vision of Vedantic philosophy. "I have had the opportunity today to participate in the 'Amrit Mahotsav' of the Chinmaya Mission. It is a truly unique spiritual experience. This reflects the special



affection and blessings that the saints have for me. The Chinmaya Mission is not merely an organisation; it embodies the 'Chinmaya' philosophy & a vision established by a 'Chinmaya' sage... Thus, the name of this event & the 'Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav' & being held here at Bharat Mandapam is deeply meaningful..."

"Our education system should be aligned with the needs of a new India. To this end, we have introduced a new National Education Policy. This policy places significant emphasis on the Indian knowledge tradition, education in the mother tongue, modern science, and new technology... Today, the Vivekananda Rock Memorial serves as a source of inspiration for lakhs of visitors from across the country and the world," he added.

Arrest action against those who use obscene language: Minister Ramesh

CHENNAI: Minister Ramesh conducted an inspection at the Parthasarathy Temple in Triplicane, Chennai. In an interview, he stated, "In over 35 temples across Tamil Nadu, 'prasadam' (offerings) is being prepared on-site. Arrangements are being made to ensure that the 'prasadam' provided in temples is of high quality. We are currently implementing this in temples where it is feasible. Regarding the rains, we are conducting a survey across the state, th-



rough officials of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department, to identify which temples are being affected. As a precautionary measure, we have issued instructions on how to drain rainwater should it accumulate.

We are now more proactive than before in addressing complaints raised by the public or reported in the media. We do not arrest anyone for mere criticism; arrests are made only against those who use obscene, defamatory, or disrespectful language—including those who speak disparagingly about the Chief Minister. The 'Tamizhaga Vettir Kazhagam' (TVK) is not afraid of criticism. We are all prepared to respond. Chief Minister Vijay himself is addressing every issue. Since our new

party came to power, we have responded to all the questions raised by a party that has been in the legislative assembly for 50 years. We have no issue with responding to criticism. If someone uses obscene or defamatory language, we will certainly take action. The media, when encountering such individuals, should ask them: 'Why are you using obscene or defamatory language? Please offer constructive criticism or present your political views instead.' This is what Minister Ramesh said.

All party meeting on electoral roll revision: TVK and DMK-led alliance parties stage a walkout

CHENNAI: An all-party meeting regarding the revision of the electoral roll was held today at the Secretariat. In Tamil Nadu, a special summary revision of the electoral roll is set to commence, with January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date.



As part of this process, polling stations will be reorganized on November 2, and the integrated draft electoral roll will be published on November 12. Applications for the addition, deletion, or correction of names in the electoral roll can be submitted until December 11. These applications will be processed by December 28, and the

final electoral roll will be published on January 4 of next year. Applications may be submitted on working days at the offices of the Booth Level Officer (BLO), the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), or the Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO). The public may also submit

extended to seven state-level parties—including TVK, DMK, and AIADMK—as well as six national parties, including the BJP and the Congress. During the meeting, the ruling party, TVK, staged a walkout to demand the resignation of Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Additionally, parties allied with or supporting the TVK—including the Congress, VCK, and Left parties—also walked out of the meeting.

Following this, the DMK & led alliance parties and the Naam Tamilar Katchi staged a walkout from the all-party meeting.

Madurai turns into a pond following sudden heavy rain



MADURAI: A sudden, heavy downpour in Madurai yesterday left the city waterlogged, causing severe hardship to the public. With the Northeast Monsoon intensifying across Tamil Nadu, heavy rain lashed the Madurai district from Thursday evening through the night, submerging large parts of the city.

The intense, sudden rainfall—which lasted for over 4

to 5 hours—turned the entire city of Madurai into a waterlogged expanse.

In the Sellur area, floodwaters entered hundreds of homes along the 50-foot and 60-foot roads, leaving residents in great distress during the night. Similarly, in low-lying areas such as the Mattuthavani vegetable market, Goripalayam, Anna Nagar, and the Periyar bus

stand, water accumulated to depths exceeding knee level. Key transport arteries, including the 'Garudan' (eagle) bridge and various railway underpasses, were completely submerged, bringing vehicular traffic to a standstill. As the floodwaters have yet to recede, many residents and motorists remain confined to their homes, unable to step out even for essential needs.

In the affected areas, the Madurai Corporation Commissioner and local public representatives are overseeing emergency operations to

drain the accumulated water using high-capacity motors. Corporation officials have announced that a new drainage project, with an allocation of Rs. 23 crore, will soon commence to provide a permanent solution to the recurring waterlogging issues in areas like the Madurai railway station and the 'Masi' streets.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department has warned that rain is expected to continue across Tamil Nadu until October 26, and the public has been advised to remain vigilant.



The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attends the FSDC meeting at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi

Election Commissioners lodge complaint against Deputy Election Commissioner; letter sent to Cabinet Secretary

Revealed via the Right to Information Act

NEW DELHI: Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi have separately written to Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan, calling for action against the Election Commission's senior Deputy Election Commissioner, Manish Garg. This matter has now come to light through the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Opposition parties across the country are staging protests demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that he has been acting unilaterally. These protests, which intensified in the national capital, Delhi, saw the participation of parties including the Congress and the BJP. The Congress party has also raised questions regarding elections held following the tenure of the official in question.

The issue gained traction after an English & language news outlet reported that there were disagreements between Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the two Election Commissioners, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, regarding key decisions made by the Election Commission—a claim the Commission has denied. The matter has since garnered national attention. Against this backdrop, Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi have separately written to Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan, seeking action against Deputy Election Commissioner Manish Garg. This development has now been uncovered through the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The letters were written on July 29. The key details mentioned therein are as follows:

Cabinet Secretary, they have referred to Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Manish Garg and an order he issued to reallocate duties among senior officials. Both individuals have alle-



ged that these changes were implemented without any prior consultation with the Commission or the relevant authorities.

They have stated that Manish Garg was given additional charge of the administrative division because the Deputy Election Commissioner, Bhanu

Prakash, had gone on leave.

They have alleged that within hours of assuming this charge, Manish Garg issued an order reallocating duties among the officials.

They have further alleged that Manish Garg's actions were in violation of the rules.

They have also alleged that they were denied access to a file requested from the administrative division, and have demanded that appropriate action be taken against him.

The Cabinet Secretary has responded to these letters, acknowledging receipt of the communication regarding Manish Garg's work & related matters.

However, the response—provided under the Right to Information (RTI) Act—contains no information regarding any subsequent action taken or any inquiry initiated into the matter.

Today horoscope



You will find joy in purchasing items you have long desired. Marriages that were previously delayed will now come to fruition. You may renovate and expand your ancestral home. Financial shortages will be resolved. You can expect profits in business and advancement in your career.



Confusion will dissipate, bringing clarity to your mind. You will act with self-confidence to complete various tasks. By reducing extravagant expenses, you will increase your savings. Auspicious events will take place within the family. Both business and professional life will flourish.



You will receive support from your family members. You will find happiness in buying things that your spouse and children desire. At your workplace, it is best to focus solely on your own responsibilities. In business, you will receive support from your partners.



You will overcome challenges and disappointments to achieve success. It is advisable for spouses to practice compromise with one another. You will have sufficient income to settle your debts. Main tain a peaceful demeanor at your workplace. You will also learn the nuances and intricacies of conducting business.



You may incur expenses due to your children. As you are under the influence of 'Chandrashtama' (the Moon in the eighth house from your sign), avoid criticizing anyone. Refrain from making sudden decisions in business. You may need to undertake work-related travel.



You will gain the strength to handle challenges. There will be a moderate inflow of money. An ancestral property (house) may be sold. Legal disputes will reach a resolution. In business, you may have the opportunity to meet influential people. At your workplace, you will receive support from your superiors.



You will impress others with your articulate and engaging speech. Ego-related issues will be resolved, leading to greater closeness between you and your spouse. You may replace a vehicle that has been causing you trouble. At work, you will locate a document you had been searching for.



You will receive good news from another town or city. You will make important decisions after consulting with your family members. You will have the support of your siblings. In business, do not dismiss the advice offered by your partners. Your reputation and standing at your workplace will improve.



Troubles caused by those around you will fade away. You will replace faulty electronic items. You may gain benefits through your spouse's relatives. Business will be profitable. You will undertake a work-related trip to another town.



New electronic goods and decorative items will arrive at your home. You will benefit from old friends. Misunderstandings between spouses will resolve, leading to greater harmony. In business, you will successfully attract customers. Your professional life will flourish.



With the Moon positioned within your sign, you may have to struggle to complete planned tasks. Differences of opinion may arise between spouses. Pay attention to your children's health. At work, you may be recommended for a new position. Business will yield profits.



Negative thoughts may arise but will soon pass. Confusion will dissipate, bringing happiness to your family. You may experience some running around due to your children. Plots of land or agricultural property may be sold. In business, you will effectively handle competition.

UAE Closes Umm Al Quwain Beaches After Tanker Oil Spill, Cleanup Operations Underway

QUWAIN: The United Arab Emirates has temporarily closed all beaches and coastal areas in Umm Al Quwain following a significant oil spill detected from a tanker.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment confirmed the spill, which has led to marine pollution and noticeable oil&related odours in Sharjah, Ajman, and Umm Al Quwain.



Authorities initiated immediate containment, cleanup, and remediation operations in coordination with various local and federal agencies. While the odours

have been detected, the Ministry has assured residents that these do not pose health risks. The closure of beaches is a precautionary measure to ensure public safety and protect the delicate marine environment.

Technical teams are currently conducting assessments to determine the extent of the pollution and its impact on the marine ecosystem. Cleanup efforts are in full swing to minimize environmental damage. Residents, particularly fishermen and other sea users, are urged to follow official instructions and avoid affected areas.

The Ministry emphasizes obtaining information from official channels to prevent the spread of misinformation and has committed to providing regular updates on the situation.

These temporary closures and ongoing environmental assessments are crucial steps to contain the spill, safeguard coastal ecosystems, and ensure the long&term health of the affected regions. Further actions will be decided based on the findings of the ongoing technical evaluations.

Intensification of Northeast Monsoon: CM Vijay Holds Consultations with District Collectors

CHENNAI: With the onset and intensification of the Northeast Monsoon in Tamil Nadu, the state government has ramped up precautionary measures. In this context, Chief Minister Vijay visited the State Emergency Operation Centre of the Department of Disaster Management at Ezhilagam in Chennai yesterday. During his visit, he reviewed the precautionary steps taken in districts across the state, excluding Chennai. He also inspected the integrated multi&hazard monitoring system established at the



centre. Subsequently, Chief Minister Vijay held a video conference with the District Collectors of regions for which the Meteorological Department has issued warnings of extremely heavy rainfall. He instructed the Collectors to ensure that robust safety

technical unit responsible for monitoring weather forecasts.

At that time, it is essential to continuously monitor weather conditions and work in coordination with district administrations and relevant departments. Chief Minister Vijay instructed that preventive measures be taken immediately, based on early warnings, to safeguard the lives and property of the public. Present during this review were Revenue Minister K.A. Sengottaiyan, Chief Secretary M. Saikumar, and various government officials.

Karthika (NTK) and 8 others released from Coimbatore prison



COVAL: Nine individuals, including Karthika—the state coordinator of the women's wing of the Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK)—were released from Coimbatore prison this morning (Oct 23). It is noteworthy that the court had granted them bail yesterday. On October 4, during the by-election campaign for the Dharapuram assembly constituency, actor Vijay (leader of the TVK) was conducting a vehicle&based campaign

in support of his party's candidate, Sathyabama. Shortly before Vijay was scheduled to arrive in an area called Veerachimangalam, Karthika—the NTK candidate—arrived at the location with her supporters as part of a vehicle rally. Citing security concerns, police officers stationed there for the actor's visit instructed the group to take an alternative route. A heated argument ensued between the NTK members and the police.

Meanwhile, the vehicle carrying Vijay began approaching the area. A case was subsequently registered in connection with this incident. Furthermore, following the removal of a banner during the election campaign, NTK members—led by Karthika—staged a protest by surrounding the police station; a case was registered against her in this matter as well. On October 20, police arrested Karthika at her residence in Coimbatore. The arrest, which took place in the early hours of the morning—with police taking her in for questioning while she was still in her nightwear—drew significant criticism. In total, 12 members of the NTK, including Karthika, were arrested in connection with these events. Leaders from various political parties, including NTK Chief

Coordinator Seeman and DMK President Stalin, condemned the arrest of Karthika. Following the arrests, the police produced the NTK members before the court, after which they were remanded to judicial custody and lodged in the Coimbatore Central Prison.

Subsequently, all 12 individuals filed bail applications at the Dharapuram Judicial Magistrate Court. The hearing for these petitions took place yesterday, and Judge Uma Maheswari granted bail to nine of them, including Karthika and her husband, Muruga Chandrakumar. Following this, the nine individuals, including Karthika, were released from the Coimbatore Central Prison this morning. They were given an enthusiastic welcome by fellow NTK members.

Automatic Braking in All Cars to Prevent Road Accidents

Central Government Decides to Make It Mandatory from 2030

NEW DELHI: The Central Government has decided to make automatic braking systems mandatory in all cars starting from 2030, with the aim of preventing road accidents. The Central Government is taking various measures to reduce road accidents across the country.

As part of this initiative, the government has decided to mandate certain safety features under the Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) for cars. According to reports, the Central Government has decided to make the Advanced Emergency Braking System (AEBS) mandatory for all new



car models from October 2030. For existing car models currently in production, the AEBS will become mandatory starting from October 2032. A draft notification detailing the timelines for these ADAS safety features is expected to be released soon.

It is also noted that significant emphasis will be placed

on incorporating these safety features into commercial vehicles. Accordingly, systems such as blind&spot monitoring, driver drowsiness detection and alerts, and lane departure warning systems have been made mandatory. ADAS (Advanced Driver Assistance Systems) is a suite of over 100 electronic technologies de-

signed to enhance safety by identifying potential hazards, alerting the driver, and—in some instances—automatically controlling the brakes or steering to prevent a collision. Currently, some cars are already equipped with ADAS features. The AEBS (Advanced Emergency Braking System) detects an impending collision with another vehicle or an obstacle and automatically applies the brakes if the driver fails to take appropriate action, thereby preventing an accident.

It is reported that, starting from January 2027, new models of trucks and buses will be equipped with the AEBS.

No Physical Education Directors in 97 Government Colleges Demand to Fill Vacancies



He pointed out that in 97 of these institutions—representing 50 percent of the total—the posts of Physical Education Director have remained vacant for several years.

He urged the government to fill these positions without delay. Furthermore, he emphasized that funds should be allocated annually for the development of sports in government colleges. Additionally, he requested the appointment of dedicated coaches for students in government colleges who show an interest in sports. Students undergoing training should be provided with snacks. The government should allocate funds to cover the costs of taking students to sports competitions held at other colleges,

CHENNAI: Out of the 188 government colleges in Tamil Nadu, 97 currently have vacant positions for Physical Education Directors.

A request has been made to the government to fill these vacancies immediately. In a statement issued yesterday, So. Suresh, General Secretary of the Government College Teachers' Association, noted that there are 188 government colleges in Tamil Nadu, comprising 181 arts and science colleges and 7 colleges of education.

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Rare Pink Dolphins Spotted Leaping in the Sea off Oman



Two rare pink dolphins have been spotted leaping and swimming off the coast of Oman. A video of the encounter is currently going viral on social media. Last week, a group of tourists on a boat trip near the popular Qantab Beach in Muscat, the capital of Oman, observed a pod of common grey dolphins swimming in the sea. Among them were two rare, entirely pink dolphins, which were seen leaping through the water. The tourists, amazed by the sight, captured the moment on their mobile phones. The video, recorded by the tourists, is spreading rapidly across the internet. While pink dolphins are typically associated with freshwater river systems like the Amazon, their appearance in the waters off Oman has generated great excitement among marine enthusiasts. Commenting on the sighting, marine life experts stated, "These are likely 'Indo&Pacific humpback dolphins.' Although they are born grey, they can turn pink as they mature—a change that may be linked to aging or shifts in blood flow near the skin's surface, which helps the animals regulate their body temperature."

4th short-term tender issued for electricity procurement from the open market

Chennai: The Electricity Board has issued its fourth short-term tender for the procurement of electricity from the open market. It plans to procure 4,900 megawatts (MW) of power for the period from November to January. The tender specifies the procurement of 1,400 MW in November, 700 MW in December, and 2,800 MW in January. Electricity is being procured from the open market to address power shortages.



The municipal administration has introduced a floating device equipped with a modern camera at Kodaikanal Lake to prevent crimes.

'Irumudi' bags made from free dhotis provided by the Tamil Nadu government sold for Rs. 300 at Sabarimala

PUDUPETTAI: Navaneethakrishnan (35), a resident of Anguchettipalayam near Panruti in Cuddalore district, recently traveled to the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple with his friends. En route, at a shop in Pamba—operated by the Kerala government's Devaswom Board—Navaneethakrishnan and his companions purchased bags used for carrying the 'Irumudi' (the sacred bundle carried by pilgrims).



The pilgrims were shocked to discover that these bags had been fashioned from the free dhotis distributed by the Tamil Nadu government to ration cardholders during the Pongal festival.

The fabric bore the Tamil Nadu government's emblem, along with the inscription "Pongal 2025," details regarding the dhoti and saree distribution scheme, a registration number, product category, batch number, and the name of the agency—the

Tamil Nadu Textile Corporation. Each 'Irumudi' bag was sold for Rs. 300. Pilgrims have raised questions about how dhotis, provided free of cost by the Tamil Nadu government to the poor and needy, ended up for sale in a shop run by the Kerala government.

They have demanded a thorough investigation into whether these free dhotis were sold off in bulk.



At an event held at the Secretariat in Chennai, Chief Minister Vijay handed over a government order for the provision of 45 kilograms of 'Jaipogal' (second-grade) sandalwood, supplied free of cost, to the Nagore Dargah.

CM congratulates athletes from TN for winning gold and bronze medals at the Asian Para Games

Incentive of Rs. 1.65 crore announced



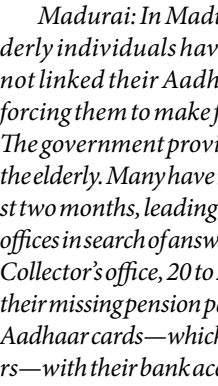
CHENNAI: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has extended his congratulations to athletes from Tamil Nadu—Solairaj Dharmaraj (who won gold), and Naveen Sivakumar, Manisha Ramadass, and Nithya Sre (who won bronze)—at the Asian Para Games. He has also announced a total incentive of Rs. 1.65 crore for them. In a statement issued regarding this, he said:

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Indian team that won a bronze medal in the mixed doubles (SL3&SU5 category) in badminton at the 5th Asian Para Games currently being held in Japan, and to Manisha Ramadass, the athlete from Tamil Nadu who was part of that team."

Similarly, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Indian team that won the bronze medal in the mixed doubles SH6 category in badminton, as well as to Nithyasree, the athlete from Tamil Nadu who was part of the team. To honor the achievements of the athletes from Tamil Nadu—Manisha and Nithyasree—who won medals in this competition, the Government of Tamil Nadu will provide an incentive of Rs. 30 lakh to each of them. I wish them continued success in the future, bringing further glory to both Tamil Nadu and India.

This was stated by the Chief Minister. Likewise, the Chief Minister has extended his congratulations to the Indian team that won the bronze medal in the men's doubles badminton event, which included Naveen Sivakumar, an athlete from Tamil Nadu. In recognition of his achievement, the Chief Minister has announced an incentive of Rs. 30 lakh. Furthermore, the Chief Minister has congratulated Solairaj Dharmaraj, an athlete from Tamil Nadu who won the gold medal in the men's long jump, and has announced that the Government of Tamil Nadu will provide an incentive of Rs. 75 lakh to honor his accomplishment.

Trump Demands Ilhan Omar's Resignation Over Name Controversy, Cites Fox News Report



USA: Former US President Donald Trump has called for the immediate resignation of Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, who represents Minnesota's 5th District. Trump's demand stems from a Fox News report suggesting Omar's real name is 'Ilhan Nur Said Elmi,' not 'Ilhan Omar,' the name she used to be elected. In a post on Truth Social, Trump claimed, "It was just revealed that Ilhan Omar's name is not Ilhan Omar... but rather, it's an entirely different name, Ilhan Nur Said Elmi." He further alleged that her last name is the same as her brother, Ahmed Nur Said Elmi, whom she was accused of marrying. Trump implied this constitutes fraud and that she should resign from Congress immediately.

Omar's office has strongly refuted these claims, stating to Fox News Digital, "This is completely false. Ilhan Omar is her real name." The controversy intensified after Fox News reported that U.S. District Attorney Jeanine Pirro referred to the Congresswoman as 'Ilhan Nur Said Elmi a/k/a Ilhan Abdullahi Omar' in a motion related to a federal search warrant for Omar's home. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) searched Omar's Washington, D.C., home on October 13 as part of an ongoing federal criminal investigation focusing on her immigration paperwork. Omar criticized the raid as an "outrageous abuse of power" and an attempt by Trump's administration to intimidate political opponents. As the US midterm elections approach, this controversy adds to the political tensions surrounding the Congresswoman.

Pension for 6,500 elderly individuals discontinued

Madurai: In Madurai district, the pensions of 6,500 elderly individuals have been suspended because they have not linked their Aadhaar cards with their bank accounts, forcing them to make frequent trips to the Collector's office. The government provides a monthly pension of Rs. 1,200 to the elderly. Many have not received their payments for the past two months, leading them to visit the Taluk and Collector's offices in search of answers. At the grievance redressal cell in the Collector's office, 20 to 25 people arrive daily to inquire about their missing pension payments. Many have failed to link their Aadhaar cards—which are connected to their mobile numbers—with their bank accounts. Officials explained that the pensions have been suspended because the Central government has made it mandatory to link Aadhaar cards with all bank accounts. Officials stated that 1.53 lakh people in Madurai district receive financial assistance from the Central and State governments. This group includes 53,000 elderly individuals, 29,000 widows, and 1,500 persons with disabilities, with the remainder receiving various other forms of government assistance. In the district, 6,500 individuals have yet to link their Aadhaar cards to their bank accounts. Officials noted that those who have completed the linking process receive their payments without delay.

"The voices of movements are being lost due to the 'parasite' that is the Congress" - PM Modi's criticism

NEW DELHI: "There are certain movements that seek to bring about systemic reforms. Such movements are essential in a democracy; their objective is to effect change. However, the voices of these movements are being lost because of the 'parasite' that is the Congress," stated Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Opposition parties are currently staging protests across the country, demanding the resignation of Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in connection with the 'SIR' (Election Commission & related) issue.

The protests intensified in the national capital, Delhi. There are many capable, young parliamentarians in the opposition—we have seen in Parliament that they wish to present their views and critique the government. Yet, the Congress party does not even allow Parliament to function. The Congress acts this way to ensure that no one else gets an opportunity, and solely to keep one particular individual in the spotlight. That same individual even goes abroad and engages in actions that insult the nation, going so far as to

appeal to foreign powers to intervene in our national affairs. All efforts by the Congress to project this one individual have failed. There are certain movements that seek to bring about systemic reforms—such movements are essential in a democracy, as their goal is to effect positive change. However, the voices of these movements are stifled by the 'parasitic' Congress party. Let the Congress party invite its own destruction; that is its own affair.

But in their desperate attempt to save their own family, they are now calling into question India's achievements and progress. In reality, this family has become a burden on the Congress party. Senior leaders within the party are well aware of this—they have even confided as much to us—yet they choose to endure it and remain silent," Prime Minister Modi stated.



Doctors should also embody humanism An appeal by Legislative Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar

CHENNAI: Legislative Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar stated that doctors should not merely act as saviors of human life, but should also embody humanism. An awareness event for 'World Trauma Day' was held yesterday at MIOT International Hospital, located in Manapakkam near Guindy, Chennai. The event, presided over by the hospital's Managing Director, Dr. Prithvi Mohandas, was inaugurated by Legislative Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar. Emergency medicine specialists and medical professionals participated in the event. Earlier, the hospital's for

under, Dr. P.V.A. Mohandas, presented a memento to J.C.D. Prabhakar. The hospital's Chairperson, Mallika Mohandas, was also present. Speaking at the event, Legislative Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar remarked: "The Government of Tamil Nadu is taking various measures to improve the medical sector." In particular, efforts are being made to completely address the shortcomings in government hospitals. Once, when I was traveling in a car with former Chief Minister MGR, we saw pedestrians waiting to cross the road. Our driver continued driving without paying any heed

to them. MGR immediately reprimanded the driver and instructed him that everyone must respect traffic rules. The current Chief Minister, Vijay, shares this same quality—much like MGR. He ensures that no vehicles are stopped along his route, so that the public is not inconvenienced by his movement. No one else has ever taken such an initiative before. An accident does not affect just one individual; it impacts their entire family—both psychologically and financially. Everyone should be mindful of this and act accordingly. The medical profession is noble; doctors should not



merely act as saviors of lives, but also as upholders of humanity, he stated. Speaking at the event, Dr. Prithvi Mohandas said, "Unexpected accidents can leave anyone completely devastated.

To avoid such accidents, one must follow road safety rules. Furthermore, everyone should ensure they have accident insurance."



In observance of the founding day of the RSS, arrangements have been made to hold rallies in seven locations across Chennai—including Korattur, Perambur, and Chromepet—on October 25th.

Mega Job Fair in Srirangam Constituency Invitation from Minister Ramesh

TRICHY: A mega job fair is set to take place tomorrow in the Srirangam Assembly constituency. In light of this, Minister Ramesh has extended an invitation to the youth. In a post on the platform 'X' (formerly Twitter), the Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Ramesh, stated the following: "Under the effective governance of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, S. Joseph Vijay, many young people submitted requests seeking employment opportunities during the public grievance redressal camps held in the Srirangam Assembly constituency over the past few months.

To fulfill these requests and improve the livelihoods of the youth, a mega job fair is being organized in the Srirangam Assembly constituency. Various leading companies will participate in this fair, which is designed to benefit not only the youth and graduates from the Srirangam constituency but also those from across the entire Tiruchirappalli district. I cordially invite everyone to take advantage of this unique opportunity—one that will enrich your future—to secure employment and progress in life! Let us provide opportunities for the dreams of our youth! Let us create jobs and build a prosperous future!" This is what has been stated in the post.

Passenger Cooperation Essential for Cleanliness at Railway Stations

MADURAI: "Passenger cooperation is essential for maintaining cleanliness at railway stations," stated Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Om Prakash Meena during a cleanliness awareness event held at the Madurai railway station. Speaking on the occasion, he noted that cleaning operations are being carried out using modern machinery at 16 railway stations within this division. Following the introduction of 'bio&toilets' in train coaches, human waste is no longer found on the railway tracks. In major trains, a system has been implemented within these bio&toilets that uses pressurized water for cleaning. Coaches are also cleaned while in transit by mobile cleaning crews, while automated machinery is used for cleaning at maintenance depots. Complaints regarding cleanliness are addressed through platforms such as 'Rail Mitra' and 'Rail Madad'.

The fine for littering or dirtying railway station premises has been increased to ₹1,000. He emphasized that the cooperation of passengers is vital to maintaining cleanliness at the stations.

Powerful Earthquake in Tibet 16 Dead; 300 Houses Destroyed

BEIJING: A powerful earthquake struck the Tibet Autonomous Region in China last night, claiming 16 lives. According to Chinese state media, 32 other people have sustained injuries. The earthquake occurred at 10:33 PM at a depth of 11 miles in a high&altitude mountainous area east of Nagqu, Tibet. Registering

7.0 on the Richter scale, the tremor has caused extensive damage in the region. More than 300 houses collapsed, reduced to rubble by the tremors. This is considered one of the most severe earthquakes to hit the area in the last five years. As homes and buildings shook violently, residents fled in a panic, seeking refuge in the

streets or inside their vehicles. The main earthquake was followed by a series of smaller aftershocks, further fueling fear among the public. Firefighters and rescue teams have rushed to the affected areas to carry out relief operations, with efforts currently underway to locate and rescue anyone who may be trapped under the debris.

Following the earthquake, train services passing through the region have been temporarily suspended. Additionally, the China Earthquake Administration has immediately activated a Level 2 emergency response. Rescue operations and assessments of the damage are being intensified in the affected areas.

Suicide Case of Instagram Influencer YouTuber Arrested and Remanded to 15 Days of Judicial Custody

ALANTHUR: YouTuber Jason Samuel has been remanded to 15 days of judicial custody in connection with the suicide case of Instagram influencer Harish. Harish (27), a resident of Nagathamman Street in Kanathur, near Chennai, was a YouTuber who posted videos on Instagram regarding financial investments and savings. Originally from Puducherry, he had over 1.3 million followers on his Instagram account. It is reported that an online conflict arose between him and another Instagram influencer.

The latter allegedly posted videos criticizing Harish's content, which subsequently led others to also post defamatory remarks about him. Distressed by these events, Harish died by suicide by hanging himself at his home on the 19th, when no one else was present. The Kanathur police have registered a case and are conducting an investigation. Harish's father, Vinayagam, filed a complaint at the Kanathur police station,

stating the following: On the 18th, a YouTuber from Puducherry named Jason Samuel (30) posted baseless allegations of fraud against Harish across his Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube channels. Using his influence on social media, Samuel spread false information about Harish, publicly humiliated him, and engaged in online harassment. As a result, Harish's Instagram account was suspended, which caused him severe mental distress. Furthermore, in a post made before his suicide, Harish stated that Jason Samuel was the reason for his decision to take his own life. He alleged that Jason Samuel had demanded Rs. 3 crore from him and threatened that, if the money were not paid, he would shut down his social media accounts—and that even if he were to create new ones, those too would be taken down. This was mentioned in the complaint.

Following this, the Kanathur police, who had initially registered the case as a "suspicious death," reclassified it under the section for "abatement to suicide." Consequently, a case was filed against Jason Samuel for spreading defamatory content about Harish and abetting his suicide. The Kanathur police tracked him down in Puducherry, where he had been hiding, and have taken him into custody for questioning. Meanwhile, YouTuber Jason Samuel, who was arrested in connection with the suicide of Instagram personality Harish, has been remanded to 15 days of judicial custody. Jason, who was arrested based on a complaint filed by Harish's father—alleging that he had abetted the suicide by posting defamatory videos—was produced before the court and subsequently sent to prison.



A rainwater drainage project, designed at a cost of Rs. 22 crore to prevent waterlogging on the Chennai Airport runway during the rainy season, has stalled due to a delay in the allocation of funds by the Airports Authority of India.

On the draw



The 60th meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority is taking place in Delhi today. Invitations have been extended to the four states to participate in this meeting.

“Government proactive on citizens’ concerns”: Union Minister Rijiju on stranded Umrah pilgrims

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju on Friday said the government remains proactive in addressing the concerns of Indian citizens, adding that stranded Umrah pilgrims had returned safely to India while assistance was being provided to those still awaiting their return. In a post on X, Rijiju said that more than 10,000 other Umrah pilgrims had returned to India earlier.

“The government is always proactive on the issues and concerns of Indian citizens. The stranded Umrah pilgrims have returned to India safely, in addition to more than 10,000 normal Umrah pilgrims who have returned earlier. Remaining Umrah pilgrims are being assisted,” Rijiju wrote. The minister also shared contact details of the 24-hour control rooms at the Embassy of India in Riyadh and the Consulate General of India in Jeddah to assist pilgrims requiring support. The Embassy of India

in Riyadh can be contacted at +966&554412016 and +966&542126784. Its toll-free number, 8002471234, is available for calls from within Saudi Arabia, while WhatsApp messages can be sent to +966&536216082. The Consulate General of India in Jeddah can be reached at +966&12&2614093 and +966&556122301. WhatsApp messages can be sent to +966&536209704.

Earlier, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that around 3,000 stranded Indian Umrah pilgrims have returned home from Saudi Arabia over the past week through active coordination between Indian diplomatic missions, airlines, and tour operators. In addition to the stranded travellers, over 10,000 regularly scheduled pilgrims have also flown back to India during the same period, with authorities actively working to facilitate the return of the remaining pilgrims at the earliest. Taking to X, MEA



official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that the Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate General in Jeddah are monitoring the situation closely and providing comprehensive ground support. “Our Embassy in Riyadh @IndianEmbRiyadh and the Consulate in Jeddah @CGIJeddah are actively engaging with concerned airlines and tour operators to facilitate the early return of affected pilgrims. Over the past week, about 3,000 stranded Umrah pilgrims have travelled from Saudi Arabia back to India on available flights,” Jaiswal posted.

“This is in addition to more than 10,000 normal Umrah pilgrims who were booked on the available flights and have travelled back to India over the past week. Arrangements are being discussed to facilitate the return of other Umrah pilgrims at the earliest,” he added.

The spokesperson further noted that round-the-clock emergency support mechanisms have been operationalised across both diplomatic stations, backed by local community networks. “Our Embassy and Consulate, with the support from community volunteers, are extending all possible welfare assistance. 24x7 Control Rooms have been established to help Indian nationals, and regular advisories are being issued,” Jaiswal said.

On Thursday, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh said an Indian national was among two people killed in an attack on King Fahd International Airport in Saudi Arabia’s Dammam, while two other

Indian nationals were injured, citing Saudi authorities. In a post on X, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh said, “Saudi authorities have informed that one Indian national was among two people who unfortunately lost their lives in the attack on Dammam airport yesterday night and two Indian nationals were injured.”

The Embassy said it was ascertaining further details and contacting the affected families. “We are ascertaining further details and contacting the affected families. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and loved ones of the deceased and we wish speedy recovery of the injured,” the Embassy added. The incident took place on Wednesday evening, October 21, at King Fahd International Airport in Dammam. Saudi authorities said investigations and damage assessments were ongoing, with security agencies coordinating measures to ensure the safety of airport operations and personnel.

Polish PM Tusk in Bengaluru, Meets CM Shivakumar Explores Collaboration Opportunities

KARNATAKA: Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk arrived in Bengaluru today, meeting with Karnataka Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar. State Minister Priyank Kharge and other cabinet members were also present at the high-level discussion.

Leading a delegation of approximately 100 Polish business leaders, Prime Minister Tusk’s visit aims to identify and foster new avenues for collaboration, particularly within Karnataka’s burgeoning technology and space sectors. This visit follows earlier discussions in New Delhi, where Poland’s Finance and Economy Minister, Andrzej Domański, emphasized the significant potential for expanding trade and business cooperation between Poland

and India.

Minister Domański had previously highlighted that Prime Minister Tusk held crucial meetings with Indian political leaders, including a productive discussion with Prime Minister Modi, alongside engagements with prominent business figures. He noted that the Polish delegation, comprising leaders from their space and IT industries, specifically chose Bengaluru to deepen ties with India’s vibrant information and communications technology (ICT) sector.

Both nations are experiencing robust economic growth, with Poland recognized as Europe’s fastest-growing economy and India as one of the world’s fastest.

This shared trajectory presents a strong foundation



for enhanced bilateral trade, which has already seen a remarkable 192% increase between 2013 and 2025, climbing from USD 1.95 billion to USD 6.36 billion. India’s primary exports to Poland include textiles, chemicals,

pharmaceuticals, and engineering goods, while imports from Poland feature machinery, electrical equipment, and precision instruments, reflecting a diverse and growing economic partnership.



Distressed by this, he took his own life.” While the police have registered a case following protests

by the DMK, progressive organizations, and the student’s parents and relatives, they must now arrest everyone responsible for his death. The government must take immediate steps to ensure that schools do not become breeding grounds for caste-based hatred,” he added.

“Government must stop schools from becoming arenas for caste-based hatred”: Udhayanidhi

CHENNAI: Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin has urged the Tamil Nadu government to take immediate action to prevent schools from being turned into arenas for caste-based hatred. In a post on the platform X, he stated:

“I strongly condemn this ‘dummy’ (ineffective) government for failing to arrest

all those responsible for the suicide of a 15-year-old student from an oppressed community—a tragedy triggered by caste-based discrimination at a school in Coimbatore. When asked about his dietary habits at school, the student mentioned that he consumed beef, following which he was subjected to caste-based abuse.

Woman hacked to death after intruders break into home near Sathankulam; two girls abducted

THOOTHUKUDI: A shocking incident occurred near Sathankulam early this morning when unidentified individuals broke into a house, hacked a mother to death, and abducted two young girls. The Sathankulam police launched a search for the girls, who have since been rescued.

The police are conducting an intensive investigation to determine whether the girls were abducted following the murder, and whether the crime was committed by an individual or a gang. Muthukrishnan and his wife,



Mary Vijila, resided with their family in Muduloor village, near Sathankulam.

Early this morning, unidentified assailants broke into their home and launched an attack. Mary Vijila was hacked to death with a machete, while

Muthukrishnan and his son sustained severe injuries. The abduction of the two girls has caused widespread shock.

The Sathankulam police recovered the body of the deceased, Mary Vijila, and have begun an investigation.

Muthukrishnan and his son have been admitted to a hospital for treatment. The two 15-year-old girls, who had been abducted, have been found and rescued from a locked, dark room in the Anandapuram area. This brutal incident, which took place in the early hours of the morning, has caused a major stir in the Sathankulam region.

The police are actively investigating to ascertain whether the murder and abduction were the work of a single individual or a group.

6.246 million cakes: Tamil Nadu government issues work orders worth Rs 7.54 crore to 4 companies

CHENNAI: In preparation for Children’s Day on November 14, the Tamil Nadu government has issued work orders to four companies for the procurement of cakes to be distributed to school students. The government will purchase a total of 6,246,412 cakes at a cost of Rs 7.54 crore. Ever since he entered politics, the actor & politician has encouraged children to address him as “uncle” (maama). Members of his party, TVK (Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam), have been visiting various government schools, aiming to establish the name “Vijay Maama” in the minds of the students.

Against this backdrop, the Tamil Nadu government has decided to distribute cakes to students on Children’s Day, November 14. A total of 6.246 million cakes were planned for procurement, with an allocated budget of Rs 9.27 crore.

A tender was issued, which included a condition that the cakes must remain fresh for at least 30 days.

With only three weeks left until November 14, the tender has been awarded to four companies. A total of 6.246 million cakes will be procured for Rs 7.54 crore. The four

companies that have received the work orders are Elite Natural, Dream Bake, Britannia, and ITC. Specifically, Elite Natural will supply 1,006,861

cakes—at a rate of 0.24 paise per gram—for a total of Rs 1.14 crore. Similarly, Dream Bake will supply 3,387,459 cakes—also at a rate of 0.24 paise per gram—for a total of Rs 3.84 crore. Britannia is set to supply 1,003,996 cakes—at a rate of 0.27 paise per gram—for a total value of Rs 1.28 crore, while ITC will supply

848,096 cakes—at 0.28 paise per gram—for Rs 1.08 crore.

The distribution of these cakes to students will be handled by the respective companies, with the state divided into specific zones.

This tender, too, has been awarded by the Tamil Nadu government at a low price. Much like previous instances—such as the ‘Thaimaman Thanga Mothiram’ (maternal uncle’s gold ring) scheme and the renovation work at the Chief Minister’s office,

for which tenders were secured at low bids—this cake contract has also been awarded at a low price.



Piyush Goyal: Government to Cover Entire Export Certification Costs for Small Businesses

NEW DELHI: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced that the government will bear the complete cost of export-related certifications for micro and small enterprises (MSMEs) under the Export Promotion Mission. This initiative aims to encourage more Indian businesses to enter global markets. Speaking in Berlin, Minister Goyal emphasized the government’s commitment to supporting smaller businesses, which often face significant financial hurdles due to high certification and compliance costs. He urged both new and existing

exporters across various sectors to contact the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to utilize this support.

The minister highlighted that for MSMEs, the government is prepared to cover the ‘entire cost’ of certifications. For other exporters, especially those with very expensive certification processes, financial support will also be provided through the Export Promotion Mission. Furthermore, Goyal mentioned that the government is exploring approving verification agencies within India. This move is intended to reduce compliance costs

associated with international regulations like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and deforestation-related requirements. He affirmed that almost the entire cost of compliance for these regulations would be covered for MSMEs, with graded financial assistance for larger exporters. Discussing India-Germany economic ties, Goyal noted the presence of approximately 2,000 Indian companies in Germany, some with long-standing operations. He envisioned significant future possibilities, particularly in connecting Indian MSMEs with



German quality standards. The minister also underscored India’s growing export capabilities, citing a rise in high-tech exports and agricultural/fisheries products reaching around ₹5 lakh crore. He projected a substantial increase in vehicle exports, foreseeing Indian-made cars entering the European market soon.

Jared Kushner Denies Middle East Slush Fund Allegations

ARABIA: Donald Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, has strongly refuted claims made in a new book linking him to alleged slush funds from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Israel.

These allegations, published in an excerpt by Vanity Fair from Matthew Cole’s book ‘Princes and Thieves: Jared Kushner and Mohamed bin Zayed’s Secret Plot to Remake the Middle East,’ suggest Kushner accessed a Dubai-based bank account with hundreds of millions of dollars from Azerbaijan,

allegedly transferring funds to individuals including a ‘warlord’ and ‘hit man’.

Kushner, in a post on X, called the allegations “outrageous and categorically false,” asserting that they are “completely insane and never happened.”

He highlighted that despite his denials, the author provided no verifiable evidence such as bank statements, wire transfers, or account numbers. Kushner pointed out that during the period in question, he was under intense scrutiny from media, congressional



investigations, and a special counsel, none of which ever uncovered such claims.

He further stated, “None of these allegations ever surfaced, because none of these

events ever happened. These are outrageous fabrications being presented as investigative journalism. This is not journalism. It is a mixture of fantasy, fiction, and advocacy, written by someone who is either deeply disturbed or acting with sinister intent.” The book’s author claims an intelligence operation hacked Kushner’s phone, supposedly revealing his access to Azerbaijani and Israeli bank accounts where Saudi and Emirati royals deposited money. Kushner’s lawyer has also denied the existence of such a bank account.