

Prime Minister Modi praises the Indo-Tibetan Border Police

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Modi commended the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. Their selfless service and sacrifices serve as a great inspiration to the nation.

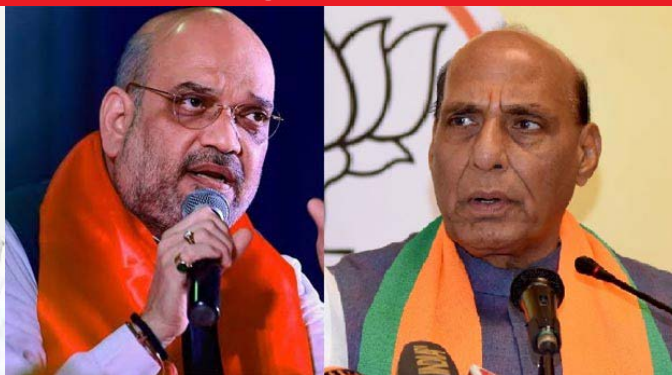
Today (October 24) marks the Raising Day of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). In a post, Prime Minister Modi extended his greetings to all ITBP personnel. They have left an indelible mark through their valour.

Their selfless service and sacrifices provide great inspiration to the nation

They have faced every challenge with determination. Their selfless service and sacrifices serve as a great inspiration to the nation, Prime Minister Modi stated.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah:

Greetings on the Raising Day of the Indo-Ti-



betan Border Police. Their battle cry echoes across the snow-capped mountains, shattering any threats to our nation's security. They remain steadfast even in the harshest of climates. A solemn salute to the brave hearts who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

Defence Minister Raj-

nath Singh:

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police have played a pivotal role in safeguarding India's borders, even under the most extreme weather conditions. They have also been instrumental in the nation's internal security efforts, including operations against Left-wing extremism. They serve the country with immense courage and dedication.

DMK has turned into the children of Satan: Minister Adhav Arjuna

CHENNAI: "The DMK has transformed into the children of Satan. Various new 'children of Satan' are attempting to disrupt the success of TVK (Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam). We are keeping a close watch on which actor traveled to Delhi during the Pongal festival," stated Minister Adhav Arjuna. A public meeting, themed 'Political Resurgence in the Path of Quaid-e-Millat', was organized by the youth wing of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) in Egmore, Chennai.

Adhav Arjuna, who serves as the General Secretary of the Election Management Wing of TVK, attended the event as a special guest. Speaking at the gathering, Minister Adhav Arjuna asserted that the victory for India in the 2029 Parliamentary elections would originate from Tamil Nadu. He claimed that certain actors have camped in Delhi with the intent to thwart this, but emphasized that no matter who intervenes, they will not be able to achieve their goal. Speaking on the matter, Adhav



Arjuna stated, "The DMK has not been sincere toward the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), an ally for 60 years. No matter how many elections may come, or even a hundred years pass, TVK (Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam) will never form an alliance with the BJP; there will be no association whatsoever. We might even end up in prison for our opposition to the BJP. Any actor entering politics with the intent to hinder or disrupt TVK's future success will achieve nothing.

An actor currently camping in Delhi cannot impact the success of the TVK Alliance. Let anyone come, from where

ever they may—the people are fed up with the DMK. The DMK has become like the children of Satan. Various new 'children of Satan' are emerging, attempting to sabotage TVK's success. We are well aware of which actor traveled to Delhi during the Pongal festival.

We are currently formulating strategies and working at the booth level for the upcoming elections. The DMK, which now claims to oppose the BJP, was actually the primary reason the BJP was able to form the government in 1999. Had Karunanidhi not extended his support to the BJP back then, that government would

not have survived. Without the Congress, VCK, IUML, and the Communist parties, the DMK would have lost in Chepauk. Had it not been for their alliances, the DMK wouldn't have even secured the status of an opposition party. In 30 constituencies, the DMK won by margins of fewer than 10,000 votes—these were, in fact, the votes of their alliance partners. Compared to the 2026 election projections, the DMK received 5,830 fewer votes in the Maduranthagam by-election. Similarly, in Dharapuram, they received 7,003 fewer votes. The DMK is concealing these facts and using second-tier leaders to deceive the public.

Once the elections are over and the alliance partners reach a decision, the DMK..." "You yourselves know how they criticized. It is the 'Secular Social Justice Victory Alliance' that will decide who the Prime Minister will be in 2029," stated Minister Adhav Arjuna.

Cooking gas cylinder price in Pakistan reaches Rs 7,000; supply severely affected due to closure of Iranian border

ISLAMABAD: The closure of the Iranian border has led to a severe shortage of cooking gas cylinders in Pakistan, causing the price of a cylinder to surge to Rs 7,000. The border crossings between Pakistan and Iran—Gabd-Rimdan and Taftan—were closed on the 17th of this month. Both countries have provided different explanations for this closure.

The government of Pakistan's Balochistan province, where these crossings are located, stated that the borders were closed temporarily to address security concerns and curb smuggling. Meanwhile, the Iranian Foreign Ministry has attributed the closure to technical issues.

Pakistan imports approximately 7,000 metric tonnes of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) from Iran daily. With the border now closed, the supply of LPG to Pakistan has been disrupted, resulting in a gas shortage.

Reports indicate that this has caused prices to skyrocket. Commenting on the situation, Shamsul Haq, former president of the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, stated, "Pakistan imports about 7,000 metric tonnes of LPG from Iran every day. The closure of the border has caused a major disruption to the gas supply." More than 4,000 tonnes of LPG were being imported into Pakistan daily through the Taftan & Rimdan



border crossing. These imports have now come to a complete halt. As a result, the price of a 12kg LPG cylinder has risen from Rs 4,500 to Rs 7,000. If the supply disruptions persist, prices could climb even further. The closure of the border has also impacted the movement of goods between the two nations; hundreds of trucks—including tankers carrying

LPG—are currently stranded on both sides of the border. Meanwhile, the Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan has traveled to Tehran to hold discussions with Iranian leaders regarding the border issues. The Iranian Foreign Ministry has also stated that consultations are underway concerning the resumption of trade between the two countries.

Liechtenstein's Prince Alois to Visit India, Strengthening Ties and Trade

NEW DELHI: Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein, the Acting Head of State, is set to undertake a significant state visit to India from October 25 & 28, 2026.

This visit, at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to bolster cooperation across various sectors.

Prince Alois will be accompanied by Hereditary Princess Sophie, a high-level official delegation, and a business delegation comprising prominent industry leaders, signaling a strong focus on economic collaboration. During his stay, Prime Minister Modi and Prince Alois will engage in bilateral talks covering trade, investment,

science, technology, innovation, and people-to-people exchanges.

They are also expected to discuss regional and global developments, reflecting the growing strategic alignment between the two nations.

Additionally, Prince Alois will meet President Droupadi Murmu, who will host a state banquet in his honor, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will also call on the visiting dignitary. This marks Prince Alois's second visit to India in 2026, following his attendance at the AI Impact Summit in February, and his previous visits in 2010 and 2018.

The visit gains particular



significance following the operationalization of the India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement in 2025. This agreement has paved the way for deeper economic engagement, and the current visit is

expected to further accelerate these partnerships, exploring new avenues of mutual interest. India and Liechtenstein established diplomatic relations in 1993, and this visit underscores the enduring and evolving friendship between the two countries.

Pakistan: Bus-van collision leaves 12 dead, 24 injured

PAKISTHAN: Quetta In Pakistan, 12 people were killed and 24 others injured following a collision between a bus and a van. A passenger bus was traveling toward Karachi from the town of Lasbela, located in the Balochistan province in southwestern Pakistan.

While moving along the Quetta & Karachi highway

near the Uthal area, the bus collided with a passenger van coming from the opposite direction (from Karachi). Twelve people, including three women, lost their lives in the accident.

Upon receiving the information, police arrived at the scene, rescued the injured, and transported them to hospitals in Karachi, where

they are currently undergoing intensive medical treatment. The accident caused a disruption to traffic in the area, and police worked to restore the flow.

On the 19th of this month, a collision between a car and a truck near Darbi Ghar in the Bolan district resulted in the deaths of four people, including women

and children.

Additionally, four people died in an accident in Quetta on the 13th of this month, and 40 people lost their lives in another accident that occurred in July. The cause of this latest accident is not yet known. The police have registered a case and are conducting an investigation.

Major Overhaul in Driving License Procedures

Mobile Number and Blood Group Now Mandatory Distinct Color-Coding for Indian Citizens and Foreign Nationals

NEW DELHI: The Central Government is planning to introduce significant changes to the process of issuing driving licenses. The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has released a draft notification proposing major reforms to the existing system. According to the proposal, it will be mandatory to include the holder's blood group, mobile number, and emergency contact details on their driving license.

Applicants who utilize specific driving license-related

services—such as updating their address, name, or contact number—via online Aadhaar verification will be eligible for a discount on the applicable fees. Furthermore, there are plans to implement a color-coded system to distinguish between driving licenses issued to Indian citizens and those issued to foreign nationals. Under the new procedure, the submission of separate sets of documents as proof of address, age, and identity will be made mandatory. Proof of age documents include

passports, school mark sheets, birth certificates, and identification cards issued by government departments. Aadhaar cards, passports, e-ration cards, and PAN cards are accepted as proof of identity. According to this proposal, safe driving training must last for at least 30 minutes. Furthermore, the qualifying score for the assessment following online safe driving training will be increased from the current 60%

to 75%. Licensing authorities must approve or reject online applications for changes to driver's license details—such as name or address—within 15 days, while also specifying the reasons in the event of a rejection. This has been stated in the notification.



Today horoscope



You will shake off fatigue and become energetic. Your thinking capacity will sharpen. A lively atmosphere will prevail at home. Unnecessary expenses related to vehicles will cease. Business will pick up momentum. It is advisable to maintain a calm demeanor at the workplace.



Some of you may be entrusted with significant responsibilities. You will gain the friendship of prominent individuals. Your siblings will be supportive. You may have the opportunity to meet influential people in a professional capacity. You will overcome competition in business.



You will achieve success by making bold decisions. You will earn respect in your social circles. You will cut down on extravagant spending. You will find happiness through your siblings. Business will flourish and yield good profits. It is advisable to maintain a calm demeanor at the workplace.



You may receive visits from relatives or friends living in other towns. You will fulfill the wishes of your family members. You might initiate efforts to expand your ancestral home. Business ventures will prove profitable. Confusion will clear, and a sense of peace will emerge in the workplace.



Due to the ongoing 'Chandrashtama' (a period where the Moon is in the eighth house from your sign), you may find yourself in awkward or uncomfortable situations caused by people close to you. Avoid unnecessary arguments. Business will be profitable. At the workplace, it is best to focus solely on your own tasks and responsibilities.



You will handle tasks efficiently and bring them to a successful conclusion. Ego-related issues will be resolved, leading to greater harmony between you and your spouse. Your reputation in your social circle will grow. At the workplace, avoid making enemies. Business will yield a reasonable profit.



There will be happiness at home, and your circle of friends will expand. You will take the time to understand your children's wishes and fulfill them. Your mother's health will improve. In business, you may have to put in extra effort to recover outstanding dues. Your standing at the workplace will rise.



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.



Tensions within the family will dissipate, bringing peace. You will begin to save money by cutting back on extravagant expenses. Avoid arguments at the workplace. Despite competition in business, you will earn good profits, and you will receive support from your partners.



Misunderstandings will fade, and the bond between spouses will grow stronger. Your children will bring you respect among your relatives. You will take steps to expand your business and move steadily toward your goals through hard work.



You can expect an inflow of money. You will find joy in meeting people who are dear to you. Your health will improve, and you will guide your children onto the right path. Students will show a keen interest in their studies. Your standing at the workplace will rise, and you may be recommended for a new position.



With the Moon's current transit, it is advisable to keep your temper in check. There will be a reasonable sense of peace at home. Avoid interfering unnecessarily in the affairs of others. Exercise caution and patience in your business dealings. Do not make enemies of anyone at the office.

12 Migrant Workers Fall Ill After Consuming Wild Mushrooms Sprouted in Rain



PONNERI: Twelve migrant workers fell ill—experiencing vomiting and dizziness—after cooking and eating wild mushrooms that had sprouted in various places due to the rain.

In several parts of the Thiruvallur district, paddy transplantation work is currently in full swing.

In Ponneri, Minjur, and the surrounding villages, a large number of agricultural laborers from Andhra Pradesh and various North Indian states are staying and working on these transplantation tasks.

In this context, a group of agricultural laborers from West Bengal, who are staying in Periya Karumbur village near Ponneri, were engaged in paddy transplantation on a local farmer's land on the 21st of this month. While returning to their living quarters after work, they gathered wild mushrooms that had sprouted in the fields due to the rain, cooked them, and consumed them.

Shortly after eating the mushroom dish, 12 individuals—including 6 women—began to suffer from vomiting and dizziness. Shocked fellow workers, with the help of local villagers, rescued the affected individuals and sent them to the Ponneri Government Hospital.

After receiving treatment there, they returned to their living quarters the night before last. The Gummidipoondi police are investigating the incident.

Government Bus Trapped in Landslide in the Nilgiris: Driver Dies

NILAGIRI: Heavy overnight rainfall in the Nilgiris district triggered landslides and caused trees to fall at 11 locations along the Coonoor–Mettupalayam road and at 4 locations along the Kotagiri road. Last night at 10:00 PM, a government bus traveling from Ooty toward Mettupalayam—carrying passengers—encountered a fallen tree near the Burliar police checkpoint.

As the bus could no longer proceed toward Mettupalayam, the passengers disembarked and headed toward Burliar, leaving only the driver and the conductor on board. A massive landslide, consisting of earth, rocks, and trees, then collapsed onto the bus, burying it completely. The driver and conductor remained trapped inside throughout the night.



Upon receiving the information, rescue teams and police personnel rushed to the scene and began intensive efforts to recover the buried bus. The conductor, Kesavan, was rescued with injuries and admitted to the Mettupalayam Government Hospital. The driver, Janagaraj, was found dead. Landslides also occurred at more than five locations along the Mettupalayam–Coonoor mountain railway line. Consequently, the mountain train service from Mettupalayam to Ooty has been cancelled for today and tomorrow.



Ministers and senior police officials—including the IG, DIG, and SP—visited the site to inspect the situation. The conductor, who survived with injuries, stated: "There were no passengers on the bus when the incident occurred; only the driver and I were present. Trees had fallen across the road in succession." "We got caught in a landslide while trying to park the bus safely," he said. Due to continuous rain, Collector Lakshmi Bhavya has advised tourists to avoid visiting the Nilgiris from today (Oct 24) until October 26.

Construction of Ayodhya Mosque Faces Financial Crunch

Design Altered, Size Reduced to 3,500 Square Feet

NEW DELHI: In the Ram Janmabhoomi & Babri Masjid case, a 58-acre plot of land was allocated to the Muslim community for the construction of a new mosque in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.

Due to a financial crisis, the planned size of the mosque has now been reduced to 3,500 square feet, and its design is set to be altered. The verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi & Babri Masjid case was delivered on November 19, 2019.

As part of the judgment, 5 acres of land in Dhannipur, near Ayodhya, were allotted to the Muslim side for the construction of a mosque.



The initial plan included the construction of a library, a hospital, and a lodging facility alongside the mosque. However, the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation, the trust tasked with the project, has been unable to secure sufficient funds.

Consequently, the size of the mosque is being reduced

to 3,500 square feet, and its design is also being altered. An application for a land & use certificate for the mosque in Dhannipur has been submitted to the Uttar Pradesh government, but it has not yet been received. Once this certificate is obtained, the blueprint for the mosque will be submitted to the Ayodhya Development

Authority for approval. Zufar Ahmad Faruqi, president of the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation, stated, "The size and design of the mosque have been changed due to a shortage of funds. The project was initially estimated to cost Rs 300 crore."

"However, with the revised design, the construction cost will decrease to approximately Rs 5 crore. Currently, the foundation has only Rs 15 lakh.

A fundraising campaign will be launched to collect the remaining funds. The interior area of the mosque will be 3,500 square feet, and the entire complex will span 15,000 square feet," he added.

'Hindu Tamil Thisai' to host a 'Women's Festival' in Chennai tomorrow under its 'Penn Indru' initiative

The event will feature discussions and cultural performances throughout the day

CHENNAI: A 'Women's Festival' (Magalir Thiruvizha), organized by 'Hindu Tamil Thisai', is set to take place in Chennai tomorrow (October 25).

The event, designed exclusively for women, will include engaging competitions, discussions, cultural performances, and the distribution of prizes.

As part of the 'Penn Indru' (Women Today) segment—one of the many special features of the 'Hindu Tamil Thisai' newspaper—similar Women's Festivals were successfully held this year in Thoothukudi, Cuddalore, Madurai, Vellore, and Coimbatore.

Following these, the Women's Festival will now be held in Chennai at Vels University, Thiruvannamiyur.

The event will begin at 9:00 AM and continue until the evening. Former Additional Director General of Police, V. Vanitha, IPS, will attend as the special guest and deliver a talk on women's safety.

This will be followed by a series of captivating cultural performances. For the female participants, a variety of lively competitions are planned, including a fashion show, balloon bursting, and a tug-of-war. Winners of these contests will receive special prizes, and all participants will be given



gifts. 'Hindu Tamil Thisai' is organizing this event in association with 'Udhayam'—a brand with an 85-year legacy known for its idli rice and various lentils (pulses). Additionally, the event is co-presented by Lalitha Jewellery, Sri Aishwarya Sarees, Repute Watches, Mahathri Foods, Health Basket, Sathya Agencies, Ruchi Pickles, Adventure Media House,

Varthamanan Pathippagam, Sowbaghya Enterprises, Cotton House, and DOMS Stationery.

The event's 'Divine Partner' is Giris; the 'Health Partner' is Rainbow Children's Hospitals; the 'Venue Partner' is Vels University (Thiruvannamiyur campus); and the 'Beverage Partner' is Gothas Coffee. All female readers who attend the Women's Festival will be provided with lunch and a guaranteed gift. The festival is open to all women over the age of 18; men are not permitted to attend. Entry to the event is free. To participate, please give a 'missed call' to the number 9600038796.



Near Gudiyatham in Vellore district, forest department officials captured a 12 foot long python that had swallowed a chicken and released it into the forest.

Nepal Braces for Heavy Rains as Bay of Bengal Cyclone Looms

KATHMANDU: Nepal is preparing for significant rainfall, with some areas potentially receiving up to 200 millimeters next week. This comes as a cyclonic storm develops in the Bay of Bengal, meteorologists have warned. Meteorologist Binod Pokharel highlighted the possibility of over 200 millimeters of rain between next Wednesday and Sunday. He clarified that this rainfall would not occur in a single day, and the exact timing and affected areas could still change.

Pokharel emphasized the potential dangers, especially during the paddy harvesting season and for travelers in the Himalayan regions. Heavy rainfall in a short period, even outside monsoon, poses a risk. In higher altitudes, this could lead to heavy snowfall, extreme cold, and avalanches. He urged everyone to check weather updates and official advisories before planning travel.

Comparing the current situation to the 2014 blizzard linked to Cyclone Hudhud, which claimed 43 lives, Pokharel noted similar weather indicators. He expressed hope that early alerts would lead to better preparedness this time.

The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology confirmed that a low pressure area in the Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into a cyclonic storm by Monday.

This system is likely to move towards India's northern Andhra Pradesh and southern Odisha coasts. Its effects are anticipated in Nepal from Wednesday (October 28) to Sunday (November 1).

While the precise impact on Nepal remains uncertain, the Department advised vigilance for sectors like agriculture and tourism. A slight drop in temperatures across the country is also forecast.

Landslide on Mettupalayam–Udhagamandalam Road Over 150 Students from Kerala Rescued Safely

NILAGIRI: More than 150 students, who were trapped following a landslide on the Mettupalayam–Udhagamandalam (Ooty) road, have been rescued. For the past few days, the districts of Coimbatore and Nilgiris have been experiencing heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds.

Consequently, landslides have occurred at several locations between Mettupalayam and Udhagamandalam, leading to the cancellation of the mountain railway service.

Similarly, landslides have taken place at 14 locations on the Mettupalayam–Coonoor road and at 3 locations on the Mettupalayam–Kotagiri road, disrupting traffic on both routes.

Restoration work on these roads is currently underway. Amidst these conditions, a landslide occurred in the Mettupalayam–Udhagamandalam area, trapping several tourists.

Among those affected were



over 150 students who had arrived from Kerala for a tour. Upon receiving information, police personnel, firefighters, and district administration

officials rushed to the scene. They rescued the trapped students using ropes and subsequently moved them to a safe location.

October 24 New Delhi 2026

WhatsApp and Telegram will not function without a SIM card

New rules to take effect from Jan. 1

New regulations from the Department of Telecommunications are set to come into effect on January 1 of next year. Under these rules, applications such as WhatsApp and Telegram will not function without a SIM card. In India, there are over 1.31 billion (131 crore)



active SIM cards. Across the country, more than 800 million (80 crore) people own smartphones, and over 500 million (50 crore) use social media platforms. Consequently, cybercrimes have seen a significant increase over the past few years. In 2023, 1.31 million (13.1 lakh) complaints regarding online fraud were registered nationwide, involving a total loss of approximately Rs. 7,465 crore. By 2024, the number of online fraud complaints rose to 1.92 million (19.2 lakh), and in 2025, this figure has climbed to 2.4 million (24 lakh). Through this, a fraud amounting to approximately Rs. 22,495 crore has been committed.

Most cyber & fraud gangs deceive people by using only the internet without a physical SIM card to make WhatsApp calls or send messages. To address this, the Union Department of Telecommunications has issued new guidelines (known as "SIM binding"). These rules will come into effect on January 1st of next year. Under these guidelines, eight applications—WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal, Snapchat, ShareChat, JioChat, Aratai, and Josh—will no longer function without a linked SIM card. The Central Government has issued a strict directive requiring the respective companies to fully comply with these SIM binding rules by December 31st.

This measure will make it easier to identify cyber & fraud perpetrators and will lead to a significant reduction in cybercrimes.



Flood Relief Center Named ‘Udhavum Kai’ Inaugurated by State Congress President Manickam Tagore

CHENNAI: To assist those affected by rains and flooding, the Tamil Nadu Congress has established a 24-hour flood relief center called ‘Udhavum Kai’ (Helping Hand) at Sathyamurthy Bhavan in Chennai. The center was inaugurated yesterday by the party’s state president, Manickam Tagore.

Speaking to reporters, he stated that the Tamil Nadu Congress has formed flood relief teams—each consisting of three members—for all 200 wards under the Greater Chennai Corporation.

These teams will provide direct assistance to people in the affected areas. The relief center will ensure the availability of essential supplies, including drinking water, food items, medicines, and other necessities required for relief operations. Furthermore, various relief arrangements have been made, including the deployment of two boats to assist those impacted by the floods.

Tourism Minister S. Rajeshkumar will serve as the head of this relief initiative. M.S. Thiraviyam, the Congress leader in the Municipal Corporation Council, will serve as the coordinator for this group to ensure that relief operations are carried out in full swing on the ground. The number 7871004668 has been announced for contacting the Congress assistance center. Those with a helping spirit may also contribute material aid to this center, he stated.

IndiGo Expresses Gratitude to Chief Minister Vijay

CHENNAI: The airline IndiGo has welcomed the Tamil Nadu government’s decision to reduce the Value Added Tax (VAT) on aviation fuel. The airline also extended its thanks to Chief Minister Vijay.

In a statement posted on its official X (formerly Twitter) account, the airline noted: “We welcome the Tamil Nadu government’s decision to reduce the Value Added Tax (VAT) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to Chief Minister Joseph Vijay for this progressive initiative.

Such measures strengthen the aviation sector, support the state’s tourism and economic growth, and contribute to building a more robust aviation ecosystem in India.”

“We believe that such progressive initiatives will make air travel more accessible,” the statement added.

May the heroic legacy of the Maruthu Brothers endure through generations: Chief Minister Vijay

CHENNAI: The Maruthu Brothers, who fought against British rule, were executed on October 24, 1801. To honor their valor, the Government of Tamil Nadu observes the death anniversary of the Maruthu Brothers as an official state event.

Accordingly, the day is being commemorated today. On this occasion, Chief Minister Vijay stated, “May the heroic legacy of the Maruthu Brothers—who sowed the spirit of freedom in the soil of Tamil Nadu—endure through generations.”

In his message, he wrote: “On this memorial day of the Maruthu Brothers, who ruled the Sivaganga region and sacrificed their lives for the liberation of our motherland, I pay my tribute to their unparalleled bravery and immense sacrifices.”

“Long before India’s first war of independence, the Maruthu Brothers stood against British hegemony. Their dedication—ex-

mplified by the ‘Jambudvipa Proclamation,’ which sought to unite everyone on the path to freedom—is truly worthy of praise. May the heroic legacy of the Maruthu Brothers, who sowed the spirit of freedom in the soil of Tamil Nadu, endure through generations!” he stated.



India, Uzbekistan Bolster Anti-Terror Cooperation Amid Global Threats

NEW DELHI: India and Uzbekistan have reaffirmed their strong commitment to enhancing cooperation in the critical fight against terrorism. This significant development follows the 10th meeting of the India-Uzbekistan Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism in New Delhi.

Secretary (West) Sibi George, a key figure in India’s diplomatic outreach, recently met with Pirimkulov Gulomjon Shodmonkulovich, a high-ranking official from Uzbekistan’s Foreign Ministry and co-chair of the joint working group. Their discussions, as confirmed by Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, focused on strengthening bilateral efforts to combat terrorism and addressing other issues of mutual interest. This meeting underscores the shared resolve to tackle evolving security challenges.

During the working group’s session on October 22, 2026, both nations extensively discussed the growing threats posed by various terrorist groups, both globally and within their respective regions. They exchanged crucial insights on current and emerging counter-terrorism challenges.

Key areas of focus included countering extremism and radicalisation, disrupting the financing of terrorist activities, preventing the misuse of technology by terror outfits, and breaking the dangerous link between transnational organised crime and terrorism.

Both sides have agreed to intensify their collaborative efforts to address these threats, which pose significant risks to national and regional security. They also committed to enhancing information sharing, capacity building, and sharing best practices between their relevant agencies. This robust cooperation extends to multilateral platforms such as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation’s

Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO-RATS), and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG). The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Uzbekistan, continuing this vital partnership.



Residents of Vadugapatti have requested the removal of the dilapidated old panchayat office building in the area. Currently, there are cracks in many places, the plaster has peeled off, and the structure is in such a precarious state that it could collapse at any moment. It is also becoming a habitat for stray dogs and venomous creatures.

Shiromani Akali Dal President Sukhbir Badal seeks Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann’s dismissal

CHANDIGARH: Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Singh Badal and a party delegation, met the Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria and submitted a memorandum outlining four demands, including the dismissal of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. In a post on X, Badal said the delegation also sought immediate action against ministers, MLAs and bureaucrats allegedly patronising the drug trade amid the killing of Shaheed Bhai Parvinder Singh Jhota.

“Shiromani Akali Dal delegation met the Governor of Punjab over the killing of Shaheed Bhai Parvinder Singh Jhota and presented a memorandum with 4 key demands. Immediate dismissal of Guru Dokhi Chief Minister @BhagwantMann and Action

against all ministers, MLAs and bureaucrats patronising the drug trade,” Badal wrote.

The memorandum also sought a Class&I government job for the widow of Jhota, Bibi Manpreet Kaur, along with compensation of Rs 2 crore.

He said, “A Class&I job for the anti-drug crusader’s widow Bibi Manpreet Kaur and Rs 2 crore compensation on humanitarian grounds (though the family and action committee have not sought this).”

The party also demanded that the CBI investigation be expanded to include the cases of Gulzar Singh of Toor Banjara in Dirba and Bikramjit Singh of Sri Hargobindpur Sahib.

“Expansion of the CBI probe to cover the cases of Gulzar Singh of Toor Banjara (Dirba), who named FM

Harpal Cheema in his dying declaration, and Bikramjit Singh of Sri Hargobindpur Sahib, who was hacked to death for opposing the drug trade,” he said.

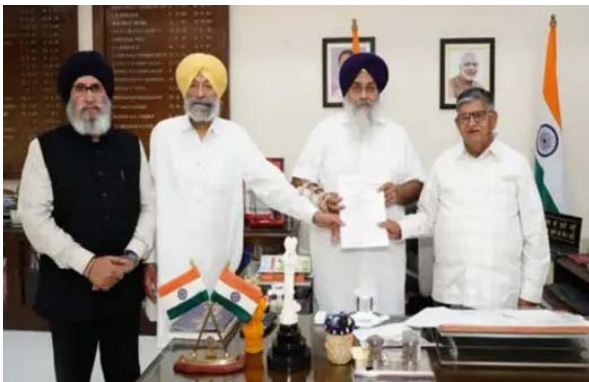
Meanwhile, anti-drug activist, v Parvinder Singh Jhota (45) was shot dead on October 13 in Mansa, Punjab, inside a chemist shop while live&streaming on Facebook. Jhota confronted chemist Ashwani Kumar in a Mansa market over the alleged illegal sale of addictive drugs to an elderly person.

Gunfire broke out, killing Jhota and injuring four others. On Thursday (22 October), the four accused, Ashwini Kumar, Neelam Rani, Deepan Garg and Ladi, were remanded to judicial custody after being produced before a court through video conferencing.

Gulzar Singh, a 46-year-old daily wage worker from Toor Banjara village (Sangrur district), died on September 8 at a Ludhiana hospital after consuming poison. The incident occurred shortly after he publicly confronted Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema during a constituency visit regarding the widespread availability of synthetic drugs (chitta), a problem affecting his own son.

Following the confrontation, Singh was allegedly harassed and pressured by local leaders and panchayat members to issue a public apology.

Before his death, he recorded a video naming individuals involved in the pressure and the local drug network. Bikramjit Singh, of Punjab’s Gurdaspur, was allegedly killed after raising his voice against the drug trade on 15 October.



Ban on Non-Vegetarian Food at Kerala Raj Bhavan Om Prakash Issues Bold Directive Upon Taking Office



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Congress party has condemned a new directive issued by the Governor of Kerala, which prohibits the preparation of non-vegetarian food at the Kerala Raj Bhavan.

Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, who previously served as the Governor of Kerala and held additional charge as the preparation of non-vegetarian food at the Kerala Raj

Kerala and appointed as the Governor of Tamil Nadu. Following this, President Droupadi Murmu appointed Om Prakash Mathur—a native of Rajasthan and the former Governor of Sikkim—as the new Governor of Kerala. The swearing-in ceremony for Om Prakash Mathur, the 29th Governor of Kerala, took place yesterday at 12:30 PM at the Raj Bhavan (Lok Bhavan) in Thiruvananthapuram. Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, Soumen Sen, administered the oath of office. The event was attended by

Chief Minister V.D. Sathes-an, Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan, various ministers, the Chief Secretary, and other high-ranking officials. Upon assuming his official duties, Om Prakash Mathur issued an order to officials prohibiting non-vegetarian food at the Raj Bhavan. This move has sparked a major controversy in Kerala, with many expressing their opposition to the ban. All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, MP, has voiced his condemnation via a post on his Facebook page.

In his statement, he noted: “Kerala is a state with a diverse culinary culture.”

As a coastal state, there is an abundance of fish resources here. Consequently, both vegetarians and non-vegetarians live here in equal measure.

Any attempt to restrict dietary habits or dictate what people should eat is unacceptable. Such directives—which interfere with food choices and threaten the unique, pluralistic way of life of the people of Kerala—violate the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, he stated.

Confusion in Madurai as TVK members post ‘Reels’ claiming credit for Corporation works

AIADMK, DMK, and Communist parties raise allegations during the Council meeting

MADURAI: During a Corporation Council meeting, the AIADMK, DMK, and Communist parties alleged that members of the TVK (Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam) are creating confusion by posting ‘Reels’ (social media videos) claiming that they carried out various Madurai Corporation projects. The meeting was presided over by Deputy Mayor Nagarajan and Commissioner Gaurav Kumar.

Deputy Mayor’s remarks: Officials are not performing their duties properly. Several Corporation-owned properties across the city—including the former MP’s office in Tallakulam and Mangamma Chathiram—have been handed over to private parties through leases or rental agreements.



ts, and some have even been given to certain trusts. As a result, the Corporation is losing out on revenue.

These assets must be recovered. * Jayaram, DMK floor leader: We, the 65 DMK councilors, support you; please take action yourself. Officials seem to be listening only to what the TVK members say. The Commissioner must take action. * Commissioner: Action will be taken against any officials found to be acting in a biased manner. * Jayaram: Some officials disregard our requests. The DMK will return to power and regain control of the Corporation. We will track down these officials—wherever they may be—and hold them accountable for their current lack of respect toward us.

* Solairaja, AIADMK Leader of the Opposition: I commend the Commissioner for allocating ward&level funds. Meanwhile, Corporation Sanitary Inspector Ramesh and Assistant Engineer Sivankari have been subjected to physical attacks. A case has been filed against Ramesh for using caste&based slurs. Officials require protection, and the Commissioner should take steps to have this case quashed. The Municipal Corporation is showing favoritism to private entities regarding tax assessments, and the Corporation’s legal department has become dysfunctional. * Jayaram (DMK), Chairperson of the Health Committee: How can trade union members assault Municipal Corporation officials? Action must be taken against them. * Noorjahan (DMK): The rodent menace in the accounts department must be brought to an end.

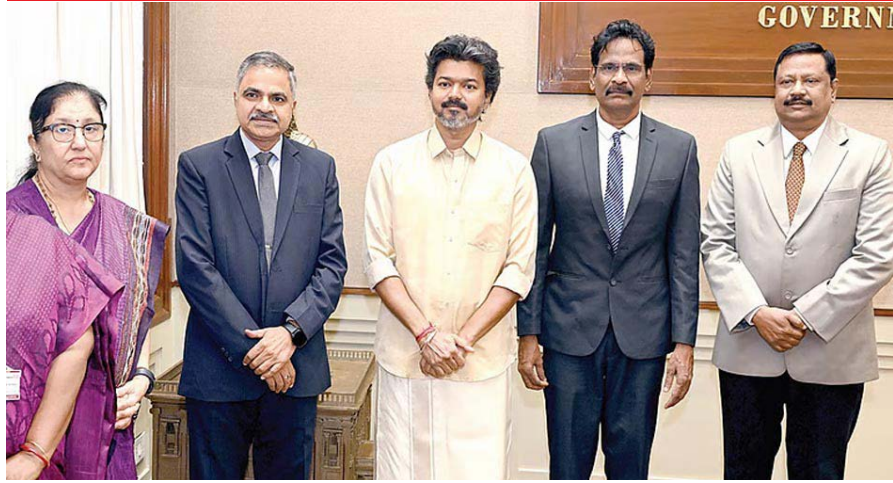
Support should be provided for the treatment of children with special needs who are studying in Municipal Corporation schools.

* Vijaya (CPI&M): Members of the TVK (Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam) are filming the work carried out by the Municipal Corporation and releasing it as ‘reels’ on social media, with the cooperation of the officials. This creates the impression among the public that the councilors are not doing their jobs (at this point, several AIADMK and DMK councilors from various wards echoed the same complaint). Furthermore, officials are demanding money to carry out Corporation-related tasks. * Deputy Mayor: If petitions submitted during zonal meetings remain pending, action should be taken against the responsible officials.

I myself had to pay out of my own pocket to get a particular task completed. * Nathanathan (DMK): Sanitation workers who file false complaints should be permanently dismissed. The Municipal Corporation should not engage in negotiations regarding sanitation worker issues with union representatives who are not officially registered or approved by the Commissioner. Additionally, neglected roads and non-functional streetlights in the wards must be addressed. This is how the discussion unfolded.

New Chairperson and Members Appointed to the Real Estate Regulatory Authority

They Met Chief Minister Vijay to Receive His Best Wishes



CHENNAI: Paneendra Reddy, who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TNRERA), along with the newly appointed members, met with Chief Minister Vijay to receive his best wishes. The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act reg-

ulates residential and commercial transactions between buyers and sellers in the real estate sector.

Under this Act, a Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) has been established at the state level to oversee the real estate sector and adjudicate disputes related to it. The Tamil Nadu Real Estate

Regulatory Authority functions in accordance with this mandate.

Last July, the Tamil Nadu government appointed retired IAS officer K. Phanindra Reddy as the Chairperson of the authority, with retired District Judge A. Nazeer Ahmed and retired IAS officer Rita Harish Thakkar serving as members.

The state government has now issued a Government Order (G.O.) introducing changes to the administrative body of this authority.

Accordingly, K. Phanindra Reddy will continue to serve as the Chairperson. The newly appointed members include retired IAS officers Rita Harish Thakkar and Maithili K. Rajendran, along with retired District Judge S. Kirubakaran Madhuram and retired Chief Engineer K. P. Sathiyamurthy (who replaces retired District Judge A. Nazeer Ahmed). Against this backdrop, K. Phanindra Reddy, the Chairperson of 'TNRERA' (Tamil Nadu Real Estate Regulatory Authority), along with the members, met with Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the Secretariat in Chennai yesterday to receive his well-wishes.



The Union Minister for Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh in a group photograph during the Army Commanders' Conference, in New Delhi.

Temple Administration Begins Preparation and Sale of Prasadam at Parthasarathy Temple, Triplicane

Minister Ramesh Inaugurates the Initiative

CHENNAI: Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department, P.K. Sekar Babu (referred to here as Minister Ramesh), inaugurated an initiative yesterday at the Parthasarathy Swamy Temple in Triplicane, under which 'prasadam' (consecrated food offerings) prepared by the temple administration will be made available to devotees.

During the presentation of the demand for grants for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, several announcements were made—including plans for temple renovation works, the provision of basic amenities for devotees, the expansion of 'annadhanam' (charitable food distribution) schemes,

and the development of educational institutions.

The Minister had previously announced that, instead of relying on 'prasadam' (consecrated food offerings) prepared by private parties, the temple administrations themselves would prepare and provide 'prasadam' to devotees within the premises of major temples.

Accordingly, in 37 major temples—including the Swaminathaswami Temple in Swamimalai (Thanjavur district) and the Vanabhadrakaliyamman Temple in Thekkampatti (Coimbatore district)—the temple administrations are now preparing and distributing high-quality 'prasadam' to devotees. As a continuation of this initiative,



the Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE), P.K. Sekar Babu (referred to here as Ramesh), inaugurated the scheme yesterday at the Parthasarathy Swamy Temple in Triplicane. On this occasion,

he distributed 'prasadam'—such as 'laddu', 'puliyo dhara' (tamarind rice), 'adhirasam', 'milagu vadai' (pepper 'vadai'), and

'thenkuzhal'—to the devotees present at the temple. It is noteworthy that 'thenkuzhal' is priced at ₹25, while the other 'prasadam' items are sold for ₹20 each.

The event was attended by the Commissioner of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Vinay; the Temple Deputy Commissioner, C. Nithya; and other departmental officials.

“Chief Minister Vijay is a dictator stripping away freedom of expression” – Criticism by Sellur Raju

MADURAI: Former Minister Sellur Raju has accused Chief Minister Vijay of becoming a dictator who suppresses freedom of expression, pointing to the directive that government employees are prohibited from expressing their opinions. On the occasion of the death anniversary of the Maruthu Pandiyar brothers, former Minister Sellur Raju paid floral tributes to their statues located in the Scott Road area of Madurai yesterday evening. Speaking to reporters afterward, he stated: “A democratisation has turned into an ‘ignorant’ (incompetent)

administration following the temporary success of the TVK (Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam).

When launching his party, Chief Minister Vijay promised to bring innovation, foster new development, and ensure freedom for all.

He even claimed that Tamil Nadu had been ruined under the rule of Dravidian movements; yet,

he is now following in the footsteps of those very movements and continuing their

legacy. Six months have passed, but he has failed to introduce anything new. Various sections of society, including government employees, are protesting to demand their rights.

To make matters worse, a circular has been issued forbidding government employees from expressing their opinions—a move that suggests Chief Minister Vijay has transformed into a dictator who stifles freedom of expression. “The government has failed to

take any action regarding rising prices, law and order issues, or the proliferation of narcotics. With crimes against women on the rise and children going missing, one has to wonder: what was the point of even forming the ‘Singapenn Padai’ (Lioness Force)?” “Those who captured power through roadshows and ‘Reels’ (social media clips) will only be accepted by the people if they deliver ‘real’ governance.” “If they believe they can run a government and a political party solely through ‘Reels’, the people will certainly teach them a fitting lesson very soon...”



Elon Musk Becomes US's Largest Political Donor, Pumps \$442 Million into Republican Campaigns

WASHINGTON: Billionaire Elon Musk has emerged as the largest individual political donor in US history, injecting over \$442 million into Republican campaigns and political groups ahead of the November 3 midterm elections. This substantial spending highlights a significant shift in political financing.

Musk, the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, channeled an additional \$76.8 million into his America PAC over the past month, bringing his total contributions for the upcoming elections to more than \$442 million.

This PAC, established

during the 2024 election cycle, received these funds in October, adding to the \$366 million already spent supporting Republican candidates and their affiliated groups.

Reports from The Washington Post indicate that Musk's political spending is largely aimed at helping Republicans maintain control of Congress. A significant portion of his recent donations has focused on the closely contested Texas Senate race, where Republican Ken

Paxton is challenging Democrat James Talarico.

CBS News detailed that Musk donated \$158 million to the Senate Leadership Fund, a key PAC supporting Republican Senate candidates.

These funds were subsequently transferred to a Texas-based PAC backing Paxton. His contributions included \$75 million on September 9 and another \$83 million two weeks later, accounting for over half of the Senate Leadership Fund's total receipts in the third quarter.



Musk also contributed \$10 million to the pro-Paxton Lone Star Liberty PAC, \$20 million to the Congressional Leadership Fund supporting House Republicans, \$10 million to the Republican Governors Association, and \$2 million to the Republican Attorneys General Association. His America PAC has also backed Republican candidates in competitive congressional races.

This renewed financial backing marks a significant return to large-scale political contributions by Musk, impacting the balance of political power in Washington.

Torrential waters cascade down Thalaiyar Falls, the tallest waterfall in Tamil Nadu!

DINDUTAL: Heavy rainfall in Kodaikanal has caused water to cascade with great force down Thalaiyar Falls, the tallest waterfall in Tamil Nadu. Over the past few days, the Kodaikanal region in Dindigul district and its surrounding hilly areas have experienced heavy downpours. As a result, Thalaiyar Falls—the highest waterfall in Tamil Nadu—is seeing a massive surge of water. The continuous rain in the hills has led to a significant increase in water flow, creating a stunning spectacle as the water plunges 975 feet, appearing almost like a stream of milk. Similarly, the famous Silver Cascade Falls (Velli Neervizhchi), located at the entrance to Kodaikanal, has also experienced a sudden surge. The wa-

ter has turned brown and is cascading down with a thunderous roar. Due to this surge, floodwaters spilled onto the main road near Silver Cascade Falls, causing a traffic standstill that lasted for over two hours, affecting cars, buses, and other vehicles heading toward Kodaikanal. This caused significant hardship for both tourists and local residents. In the interest of public and tourist safety, the district administration has issued a warning advising people to stay away from the areas near the waterfalls.



Russian Rear Admiral Meets Indian Navy Chief in Kochi Amidst Pacific Fleet Visit

KERALA: Russian Rear Admiral Evgeny Myasoyedov, a senior officer from the Russian Navy's Pacific Fleet, met with Rear Admiral Prakash Gopalan, Chief of Staff, Southern Naval Command, Indian Navy, in Kochi on Saturday.

This high-level interaction is part of a goodwill visit by Russian naval vessels to India, underscoring the strong maritime ties between the two nations. The Russian

Embassy in India confirmed the meeting, highlighting the ongoing visit of the Pacific Fleet ships to Kochi. Three Russian naval vessels—the frigate Marshal Shaposhnikov, the large anti-submarine ship Admiral Tributs, and the tanker Pechenga—arrived at Kochi port on October 21. Such port calls are crucial for fostering international cooperation and understanding among navies. This meeting follows

closely on the heels of 'Exercise INDRA 2026', a bilateral naval exercise conducted by India and Russia from October 13 to 18. The exercise, which included a harbour phase in Vladivostok, aimed to bolster operational coordination, interoperability, and mutual understanding. Indian Navy's INS Sahyadri participated, engaging in professional exchanges and planning conferences with Russian counterparts.

The Indian Navy emphasized that these engagements reflect both countries' commitment to enhancing maritime cooperation. India's participation in such naval exercises aligns with the Government of India's 'MAHASAGAR' vision—Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions—further strengthening the broader defence partnership between India and Russia.

Uttarakhand youth creates a flying car without an engineering degree

DEHRADUN: Dehradun: Proving the wisdom of the ancient poet Valluvar—who stated that “diligent effort leads to success”—a young man from Uttarakhand named Ravi Tamta has achieved a remarkable feat. Without any formal engineering education, and by leveraging the internet alongside his own practical experience, he has developed a prototype of a flying car.

Ravi, who holds a B.A. degree, has named his single-seater, battery-operated flying vehicle “Habida Skynex.” The vehicle successfully

completed its test flight last August. It is capable of vertical take-off and landing, eliminating the need for a runway. Much like a drone, it utilizes electric motors and propellers.

However, it will be some time before it is ready for commercial passenger transport. Ravi grew up in Kafligan, a village nestled in the mountainous terrain of the Almora district in Uttarakhand.

Due to the rugged, hilly landscape, reaching medical facilities in an emergency of-



ten required traveling along long, winding, and difficult roads. To address this problem, he conceived the idea of a flying car. In 2015, he began working to turn this dream into reality. Without a laboratory or expensive equipment, he used the internet as his classroom and,

after years of experimentation, reached this significant milestone.

This is not the first time Ravi has created a unique invention; previously, he developed footwear that charges mobile phones, a smart stick for the visually impaired, a bamboo-cutting tool, and firefighting equipment for the forest department. Ravi Tamta serves as an excellent example that one can achieve great things through hard work and a passion for innovation, even without formal academic qualifications.



In the Rajkot district of Gujarat, police have carried out a swift operation and arrested 17 quack doctors who were providing allopathic medical treatment to the public without any medical degrees. Investigations have revealed that most of them had only completed the 10th or 12th grade.