

Buy domestic products: Prime Minister Modi in 'Mann Ki Baat'

CHENNAI: Speaking on the 'Mann Ki Baat' programme, Prime Minister Modi said: "Through 'Mann Ki Baat', I bow to the 'people power' (Jan Shakti) of our nation. It provides an opportunity to connect with families across the country and converse with them as one of their own. This affection from the listeners is an invaluable treasure to me.

This journey, which began 12 years ago on the auspicious day of Vijayadashami, continues to progress suc-

Greetings for Diwali and Chhath festivals

cessfully with the overwhelming support of the people." "Over the past 12 years, 'Mann Ki Baat' has brought to light the inspiring stories of countless achievers—individuals engaged in unique work that often goes unnoticed. In Punjab, the 'Kheti Virasat Mission' is spearheading a revival of organic farming and traditional agricultural practices."

"Our nation's traditional skills

have been an integral part of our identity for generations. For the first time in the world, the Sudha Gopalakrishnan Centre for Brain Imaging at IIT Madras has developed a brain imaging technology platform that creates high-resolution 3D images of the human brain. In the Malwa region of Punjab, the 'Nav Trinjan' initiative promotes the cultivation of cotton using

natural, chemical & free methods.

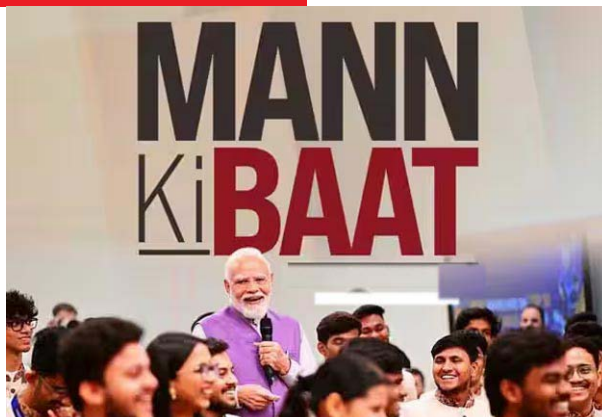
By using naturally coloured cotton, there is no need for any additional chemical substances in the production of yarn and fabric—just imagine how significant a contribution this is to the environment." "Everyone should encourage organ donation; it helps save lives and advances medical research.

Furthermore, the 'Ayushman' scheme has enabled people to access better healthcare facilities." People should participate enthusiastically in the 'Run for Unity' (Unity Marathon) on October 31st, the birth anniversary of Vallabhbhai Patel; it will strengthen India's unity and reaffirm the people's commitment to the nation. Please also extend your support to local products.

Happy Diwali! People should incorporate millets into their diet. My dear fellow countrymen, the coming days will bring festivals like Diwali, Chhath, and many others. Celebrate these festivals with your entire family, while staying healthy and safe.

Include others in your joy. I extend my best wishes to all of you for the

upcoming festive season. Prime Minister Modi said this.



Tourists advised not to visit Yercaud – Urgent appeal from the Salem District Collector!



SALEM: Due to extremely heavy rainfall in the Yercaud region, the Salem District Collector has urged tourists to avoid visiting Yercaud today. Furthermore, traffic diversions have been implemented on the hill roads to prevent any untoward incidents. With the onset of the Northeast Monsoon in Tamil Nadu on October 15, various

parts of the state have been experiencing widespread rain. Salem district has been receiving heavy rainfall since yesterday; significant downpours were recorded last night in the Attur and Vazhapadi areas, while the Yercaud hill region also experienced intense, heavy rain. The Meteorological Department

has forecast extremely heavy rainfall for Yercaud today.

Given the severity of the rain, there is a risk of rockfalls along the hill roads. Consequently, Salem District Collector Elam Bhagavat has requested that tourists refrain from traveling to the Yercaud hill region. Due to the extremely heavy rainfall, tourists are advised not to visit Yercaud, as there is a risk of landslides and rockfalls on the hill roads.

The District Collector has also urged local residents to completely avoid traveling

by vehicle during this period of heavy rain.

Additionally, the Collector has requested local residents to avoid using vehicles during the rain and has asked for public cooperation with the police, as certain traffic diversions have been put in place on the roads leading to Yercaud. The public is also advised not to touch electricity poles or power lines during the rain. Tourists are further cautioned to remain extremely vigilant in areas prone to landslides. It is also worth noting that the district collectors of the Nilgiris and Valparai regions have issued orders for tourists to refrain from visiting these areas until tomorrow.

"Just as Lord Rama's sandals once ruled Ayodhya, it is Stalin's sandals that are ruling Tamil Nadu"

Dindigul I. Leoni's controversial remarks

CHENNAI: A highly controversial statement by Dindigul I. Leoni—claiming that Tamil Nadu is being governed by former Chief Minister Stalin's sandals, much like how Lord Rama's sandals once ruled Ayodhya—has caused a major stir. During a wedding ceremony held in Thiruvannamiyur, Chennai, for the family of former minister K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran—an event attended by former Chief Minister Stalin and his wife, Durga—DMK speaker Dindigul I. Leoni remarked:

"Just as Lord Rama's sandals ruled Ayodhya, it is the sandals that Stalin left behind that are ruling Tamil Nadu today. Every scheme currently being implemented was initiated by Stalin. Whether it is the financial assistance for women, the breakfast scheme, the Periyar Knowledge Centre in Coimbatore, or the free bus travel scheme for women—the people think

of you in all of these. It is your sandals that are ruling Tamil Nadu! And there is no 'Bharata' [to represent you] here. In the past, sandals ruled Ayodhya for 14 years; but this current regime will come to an end in 14 weeks or 14 months, and the rule of the 'Rising Sun' [the DMK symbol] will return." These controversial comments, made in the very presence of former Chief Minister Stalin, have sparked a significant uproar. Since the formation of the TVK (Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam) government, several DMK officials have

made inflammatory remarks. Former DMK minister Anita R. Radhakrishnan used derogatory, singular & form language when referring to Chief Minister Vijay; he was subsequently arrested and later released on bail. Furthermore, Vilathikulam MLA Markandeyan threatened in the Legislative Assembly that he would "break Vijay's bones"—a statement for which he was also arrested and later released on bail.

Following this, during a protest led by Udhayanidhi Stalin against the Karnataka government over the Cauvery water dispute, someone in

the crowd mentioned the name of an actress. Udhayanidhi responded with a comment about her that carried a double entendre; consequently, the police arrested him and took him all the way to Thanjavur. He was later released on bail after the court intervened and expressed its disapproval. Subsequently, while campaigning for the Dharapuram by-election, M.K. Stalin made remarks about Sathyabhama—who had switched from the AIA-DMK to the TVK (Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam)—implying that she had accepted a "box of money" (bribe) to make the switch. Stalin referred to her as "Petti Bhama" (Box Bhama) who had "performed a somersault" (switched sides), and mocked her physical appearance in the context of this "somersault."

These comments, which amounted to body-shaming, drew widespread condemnation.

Another Decisive Blow by the BJP Government Against Drugs

Union Home Minister Amit Shah



NEW DELHI: In a statement, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the BJP-led government has

dealt another fatal blow to the drug menace through 'Operation Trident'. Raids conducted across 38 locations in the states of Assam, Mizoram, and Manipur led to the arrest of 18 individuals linked to an international

drug trafficking syndicate. The operation uncovered 'hawala' (illegal money transfer) transactions amounting to ₹100 crore.

Additionally, 1,424 bank accounts were frozen, assets worth ₹17.82 crore were seized, and 500 detonators along with ₹12 lakh in cash were recovered. This operation underscores the central government's firm commitment

to making India a drug-free nation by December 31, 2029.

"India will continue its fight until the final nail is driven into the coffin of drug trafficking syndicates," Amit Shah stated. He further extended his heartfelt congratulations to the central agencies, the police forces of the three states, and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) for their efforts.

Terrorism Unacceptable, Never Justified Jaishankar Calls for Stronger Global Resolve

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has strongly asserted that terrorism can never be justified or rationalized, calling it a "deadly threat to peace."

Speaking at the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan on UN Day at Bharat Mandapam, Jaishankar emphasized the need for a stronger global resolve to counter terrorism in all its forms. He criticized states that fail to demonstrate zero tolerance towards this threat, highlighting how political

calculations sometimes overshadow historical lessons.

Jaishankar underscored that the use of terrorism as an instrument of statecraft is unacceptable. He urged the world to develop a sharper awareness of this common threat. His remarks came as India condemned a recent deadly attack on a church in Karak, Jordan, which claimed seven lives. The Ministry of External Affairs termed the incident a "heinous" and



"cowardly" act, reaffirming India's unwavering commitment to combating terrorism globally.

The Minister also linked peace with economic

progress, warning that unequal development in an interconnected world could lead to continuous instability.

He called for reforms within the United Nations, stating that its shortcomings must be recognized and addressed. Jaishankar stressed that large parts of the world cannot be excluded from decision-making and that the UN must show leadership in global crises, not merely be a spectator.

7 dead after explosives detonate in a lorry in Andhra Pradesh

ANANTHAGIRI: Seven people have died following an explosion of explosives stored in a lorry in Andhra Pradesh. Road construction work is currently underway in the Pinakota area of Ananthagiri Mandal, located in the Alluri Sitarama Raju district of Andhra Pradesh. Lorries are being used to transport crushed stone (gravel) for this project.

When one of the lorries ran out of diesel, the driver returned with fuel from a petrol station and was in the process of refilling the tank.

The lorry was carrying explosives intended for use in a stone quarry.

While the diesel was being poured, the explosives unexpectedly detonated. The blast caused severe damage to the lorry and an auto-rickshaw that was parked nearby. Six individuals—including five workers engaged in the road construction (identified



as Mani, Narayana, and Pavan Kumar, among others) and the lorry driver—died on the spot.

A government school

teacher named Sunitha, who was passing by on her way to school, sustained critical injuries and passed away while being transported to the hospital.

Today horoscope



Your wishes will be fulfilled. You will regain your lost standing within the family. Expected funds will arrive. You will gain the friendship of influential people. Work pressure at the office will decrease. In business, you will achieve success by navigating the nuances of the trade.



You will feel self-confident. Financial inflows will be satisfactory. You will receive support from family members. Your children will act with a sense of responsibility. You will successfully handle business competition. It is advisable to avoid arguments at the workplace.



You will reconnect with old friends. Your children will open up and share their thoughts with you. You will be firm and disciplined regarding financial matters. You will receive support from colleagues at work. In business, you will employ new strategies to attract long-standing clients.



You will understand the feelings of your family members and adapt accordingly. Financial gains will bring peace of mind. You will now be able to resolve long-pending disputes through discussion. Business will pick up momentum. Avoid making enemies at the workplace.



You will receive good news from afar. You will fulfill the wishes of your family members. You may replace a vehicle that has been causing frequent trouble. An important document you were searching for at the office will be found. You will expand your business significantly.



Expenses may exceed your income. Unnecessary arguments with family members could arise. As you are under the influence of 'Chandrashtama' (a period requiring caution), think carefully before taking any action. Avoid getting angry with staff in your business. Your status and respect at the office will increase.



Tasks that were previously stalled will now be completed successfully. You will find effective solutions to old problems by adopting a different approach. You may undertake a work-related trip to another location. In business, you will accept advice from your partner.



The arrival of guests will bring joy to your home. You may purchase a new electronic device. You might renovate or expand your ancestral home. Practice compromise within the family. In business, you will be able to collect outstanding dues. Avoid getting into arguments at the office.



Everything you touch will turn to success. Mental confusion will fade, giving way to clarity. You will speak from a place of experience. New avenues will open up to settle old debts. Siblings will value your words. You will see progress in both business and your career.



You will tend to avoid arguments. You will find joy in reflecting on pleasant memories and past achievements. You will hold the upper hand in most situations. Maintain a calm demeanor at the workplace. In business, ensure you give due importance to the opinions of your partners.



You will experience happiness through your children and gain benefits from relatives. You may purchase modern electronic gadgets. Long-held dreams will come true. You may be recommended for a new position at work, and you will find success in business.



With the Moon transiting through your own sign, you may encounter unplanned expenses or unexpected travel. Family members will be supportive. In business, treat your employees with kindness.

Target of 50 rocket launches annually

ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan shares update



CHENNAI: The convocation ceremony of the Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (SRIHER) in Porur, Chennai, was held yesterday. At the event, V. Narayanan, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation

(ISRO), awarded degrees to 455 students across various disciplines, including Nursing, Medical Research, Bio-medical Sciences and Technology, Audiology and Speech & Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, and Social Sciences.

The ceremony was attended by V.R. Venkataachalam, Chancellor of the Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research; R.V. Senguttuvan, Pro-Chancellor; Dr. K. Balaji Singh, Dean of the Medical College; Dr. S. Senthil Kumar, Registrar; Dr. P. Venkataachalam, Dean of Research; Dr. R. Padmavathi, Controller of Examinations; and J. Ravishankar, Director of Finance, among others. Speaking at the event, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan stated:

"A target has been set to increase India's share in the global space economy to 10 percent. Work is progressing intensively on 'Gaganyaan'—India's historic human spaceflight mission. To achieve the goal of launching 50 rockets annually, the space sector can be strengthened through private sector participation in areas such as launch infrastructure and rocket manufacturing technology. In Tamil Nadu, new launch infrastructure is currently being developed at Kulasekarapattinam."



Chennai: Commissioner Amalraj presented rewards and certificates of appreciation to 20 police personnel for their meritorious service in the police force.

Caste-based attacks on students: Minister Rajmohan assures action against those responsible



CHENNAI: It is distressing that caste-based attacks on students are taking place in schools. School Education Minister Rajmohan has stated that a fair investigation will be conducted, and action will be taken against anyone found responsible, regardless of who is involved or what their background may be, a fair investigation will be carried out, and appropriate action will be taken." He added that just as physical education classes exist for the physical well-being of students, teachers should set forward and looking goals

dless of their background. Speaking to reporters in Chennai yesterday, Minister Rajmohan said, "It is painful to see caste-based attacks occurring against students in schools.

Regardless of who is involved or what their background may be, a fair investigation will be carried out, and appropriate action will be taken." He added that just as physical education classes exist for the physical well-being of students, teachers should set forward and looking goals

to address students' mental well-being. Regarding the issue of missing children in Tamil Nadu, the police are handling the matter with great seriousness.

The police have also advised the installation of CCTV cameras in rural areas, similar to those in cities. Furthermore, the police are conducting an intensive investigation into this matter. The government is also taking appropriate action regarding cases involving sexual offenses. "TVK office bearers have

not engaged in any sexual harassment. Those who have associated themselves with us through online platforms supporting the TVK are not, in fact, office bearers of our party. Regarding the inspections conducted by the Municipal Corporation, Mayor Priya has not been sidelined or excluded; she was not left out of the invitations. She need not wait for a formal invitation to attend—she is more than welcome to join these inspections, regardless of any established conventions," he stated.

Saudi Arabia Intercepts Houthi Missile Targeting Riyadh, Flights Resume

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's air defenses successfully intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched by Houthi rebels from Yemen towards the capital, Riyadh, on Sunday. This incident follows claims by the Houthi militia that they targeted several key installations, including King Khalid International Airport, and energy infrastructure across the kingdom.

The Saudi-led coalition confirmed the interception, with spokesperson

Colonel Turki bin Saleh al-Maliki stating that air defenses neutralized the threat. Simultaneously, the General Directorate of Civil Defense in Riyadh issued an alert, reassuring residents that the danger had passed and urging them to follow safety instructions.

Amidst the heightened security concerns, King Khalid International Airport announced the resumption of flight operations from its two terminals. Terminal 1 is now designated

for domestic flights, and Terminal 2 for international flights operated by national carriers. Passengers have been advised to contact their airlines to confirm flight details before heading to the airport.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree claimed responsibility for the widespread attacks, stating targets included King Khalid Airport in Riyadh, Aramco facilities in Yanbu, Rabigh Refinery, the East-West oil pipeline, King

Fahd International Airport in Dammam, Najran Airport, and Khamis Mushait Airbase. The Houthis reiterated a warning to airlines and travelers, labeling King Khalid Airport as a 'military target'.

In response to the escalating regional tensions, the US has updated its travel advisory for the United Arab Emirates, highlighting an increased threat of potential armed attacks by 'Iranian & supported Houthi forces'.

Conference on Future Skills and AI

MADURAI: A conference organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was held at the GRT Hotel on the Madurai Ring Road.

The event focused on the evolving educational landscape, technology, and strategies to prepare the next generation for the future.

Balaji Venkataraman, Vice-Chairman of the CII Madurai Zone, delivered the welcome address.

Uma Bhaskar, Principal of Mangayarkarasi College of Arts and Science, explained the objectives of the conference. Balasubramanian, former Director of

Academics at CBSE (Delhi), and Muthaiah, Registrar of Madurai Kamaraj University, spoke extensively on the expectations of today's younger generation, bridging the gap between education and industry, integrating AI technology into classrooms, and ensuring the mental

well-being of students. Technical sessions were conducted on topics such as future-ready skills, practical-oriented learning, and the use of AI tools for educators. Sevugan, Convener of the CII Zonal Education Panel, proposed the vote of thanks.

Bihar: 5 killed in explosion during illegal firecracker manufacturing

PATNA: Five people have died following an explosion that occurred during the illegal manufacture of firecrackers in Bihar. In a village in the Siwan district of Bihar, firecrackers were being illegally produced inside a two-story house, where a large quantity of the items was also stored.

A massive explosion suddenly ripped through the building. Three people died on the spot. Two others

were rescued and rushed for medical treatment, but they succumbed to their injuries, bringing the death toll to five.

Additionally, three other individuals sustained injuries. It is reported that none of the injured informed the police about the incident.

The deceased have been identified as Amrudin Ahmed (70), Muskal Siddiqui (20), Khushboo Siddiqui (10), Arshad Siddiqui (10), and Rajkumar (35). The police



are currently investigating the source of the explosive materials.

Among those who died



in the blast was a firecracker seller; the victims also included members of his family and two workers.

Tender for the Procurement of 4,900 MW of Electricity



CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) has issued its fourth

tender to procure electricity from the open market on a short-term basis. This initiative aims to meet the state's power demand

during the upcoming festive season, covering the

period from November 1, 2024, to January 31, 2027. The target is to procure a total of 4,900 MW of electricity over this period.

Specifically, the plan includes the procurement of up to 2,800 MW in January—a month when electricity demand is projected to be at its peak.

Electricity Board officials stated that these proactive measures have been taken to ensure the state can meet its power requirements during the festive season—encompassing Diwali, Christmas, New Year, and Pongal—especially as the Northeast monsoon intensifies across Tamil Nadu.

October 25 Chennai 2026

Palani Temple Ranks First in Revenue Generation Among Temples in TN



The Palani Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple has secured the top position among temples under the control of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department in terms of revenue generation. The annual income of this temple stands at Rs 233.50 crore. An official list of the top 10 highest-earning temples in Tamil Nadu has been released. The Palani Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple in Dindigul district leads the list with an annual revenue of Rs 233.50 crore. The combined annual revenue of these top 10 temples amounts to Rs 941.99 crore. Regarding this, officials from the HR&CE Department stated that hundreds of thousands of devotees from various parts of the country visit these temples daily. To cater to their needs, the department undertakes initiatives such as improving basic infrastructure, implementing *annadhanam* (offering of food) schemes, and maintaining cleanliness. They emphasized that the revenue generated by the temples is utilized entirely for such purposes.



In the Palar River near Ambur, in Tirupattur district, a thick, white chemical foam has once again risen several feet high, causing a major stir in the area. Local residents have alleged that untreated chemical effluent is being discharged into the river.

Tender for Sweets Production at Ambattur Aavin Dairy

CHENNAI: The Aavin administration has issued a new tender for the production of sweets at its manufacturing facility in Ambattur.

Under this one-year contract, an allocation of Rs. 36.48 lakh has been made for the production and supply of 28.50 tonnes of Kaju Katli and Cashew & Pista Rolls, while Rs. 35.52 lakh has been allocated for the production and supply of 27.75 tonnes of Cashew Halwa and Ghee Badusha.

The tender stipulates that the sweets must be prepared, packaged, and supplied in accordance with the quality standards and specifications set by Aavin. Interested bidders are required to pay an earnest money deposit (EMD) of Rs. 36,000, which must be submitted exclusively through online channels. The application process is currently underway, and submissions will be accepted until 3:00 PM on November 9. A clarification meeting regarding this is scheduled for October 28, and it has been announced that the technical bid documents will be opened on November 10 at 3:00 PM.

Conditions: Companies participating in this contract must have a minimum of 20 employees and possess statutory registrations such as EPF and ESI. Furthermore, they are required to appoint a qualified head chef and an assistant chef—who hold a diploma or degree in culinary arts—to properly oversee the production of sweets. Additionally, contractors must obtain medical fitness certificates for their staff in accordance with the regulations of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). It is noted that those who are qualified and interested may apply for this tender through the government website: tntenders.gov.in



Chennai: With the Northeast monsoon intensifying, Municipal Commissioner Sameeran has stated that steps are being taken to utilize drones for relief operations.



Chennai: The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has presented the “National Commendation Award for Urban Transport” to the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC), Chennai, under the category of “City with the Most Viable Financing Mechanism for Urban Transport.”

Florida: 11 Injured, Including Six Juveniles, in Shooting Near A-M University



FLORIDA: A shooting incident near Florida A&M University’s Bragg Stadium has left at least 11 people injured, including six juveniles. The incident, which occurred on Saturday just before 8 PM local time near the intersection of Perry and Manatee streets, saw 11 individuals sustain gunshot wounds. One

additional person, the grandmother of a gunshot victim, was injured while fleeing the scene. According to the Tallahassee Police Department (TPD), three victims were in serious condition as of 11:30 PM, while nine others were reported to be stable. Early findings suggest a physical altercation preceded the shooting. The TPD’s Violent Crimes Unit has taken over the investigation to determine the circumstances and identify those responsible. Tallahassee Police Chief Lawrence Revell expressed deep concern over the injuries, particularly those involving children. He commended officers for their immediate and heroic actions in assisting victims and transporting them to the hospital, even before the scene was fully secured. Chief Revell stated, “Tonight, our thoughts are with the victims and their families as they face the devastating impact of this violence. It is especially heartbreaking to know that children are among those injured.” The investigation remains active, with authorities urging anyone with information to come forward.

Passing of Former Chief Secretary Sukavaneshwar: CM Vijay Expresses Condolences



CHENNAI: Former Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu, Sukavaneshwar, passed away

in Chennai yesterday due to ill health. He was 82 years old. He held leadership positions in various key departments of the Tamil Nadu government. In 2002, during the administration of the late Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, Sukavaneshwar served as Chief Secretary for 175 days. Subsequently, he worked as the Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation (T-IIC) before retiring in 2004.

Sukavaneshwar is survived by his wife, Uma, his son, Shiva Prasad, and his daughter, Shiva Kiruba. Chief Minister Vijay has expressed his condolences on the passing of Sukavaneshwar. “I extend my deepest condolences and sympathies to the family members and relatives of the late Sukavaneshwar, who served with great competence in various significant positions,” the Chief Minister stated.

Passing of Chef Damu is deeply painful CM Vijay expresses condolences

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay has expressed his condolences over the passing of Chef Damu. Renowned culinary expert Chef Damu (72) passed away today while undergoing treatment for an illness at a private hospital in Chennai. In a post on his X (formerly Twitter) account, Chief Minister Vijay stated the following: “The passing of Damodaran, popularly known as Chef Damu, is deeply

painful. Through his culinary skills, unique approach, and television programs, he brought the art of cooking to the masses. He set a Guinness World Record in 2010 for the longest individual cooking marathon and was also a recipient of the Padma Shri award. His demise is a great loss to the field of culinary arts. I extend my deepest con-



dolences and sympathies to his grieving family, relatives, friends, and the many fans who cherish the culinary arts.” Thus, he stated.

‘Annabhishekam’ to be performed in Shiva temples today, coinciding with the full moon in the Tamil month of Aippasi

CHENNAI: In the worship of Lord Shiva, ‘Annabhishekam’—performed on the full moon day of the Tamil month of Aippasi—holds great significance, much like Maha Shivaratri. On this day, Lord Shiva is adorned with ‘annam’ (cooked rice). It is believed that witnessing Lord Shiva in this form—as opposed to the usual ‘abhishekams’ (ritual ablutions) performed on other days—helps in dissolving one’s ‘karma’ (past deeds/karmic debts). There is a traditional belief that at visiting a Shiva temple and



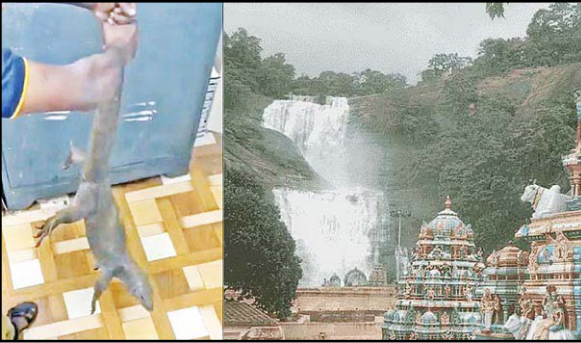
offering prayers on this day yields the merit equivalent to worshipping ten million (*koti*) Shiva Lingas. In light of this, special arrangements have been made today (Sunday) at various Shiva temples across Chennai

for the ‘Annabhishekam’ ceremony. The ritual will take place at several temples, including the Kapaleeswarar Temple in Mylapore, Karaneswarar Temple in Saidapet, and Adipureeswarar Temple in Chintadripet. As the ‘Pournami’ (full moon) ‘tithi’ continues until 10:16 AM tomorrow (Monday), some Shiva temples have sch-

Two Killed After Being Struck by Truck Carrying MSand

MADHRAI: Two people traveling on a two-wheeler were killed, and another person was injured, after being struck by a truck transporting M&Sand in Madurai. The truck, driven by 48-year-old Ramesh, was traveling from Rajampadi in Madurai district toward the city via Nagamalai Pudukottai, carrying a load of M&Sand. At the Keezhakuyilkudi junction, the truck hit two brothers who were attempting to cross the road on a two-wheeler. One of them, 47-year-old Syed Abuthahir—a painter from S. Alangulam—died on the spot, while his younger brother, 40-year-old Syed Ibrahim, sustained injuries. The truck then struck another two-wheeler waiting to cross the road from the opposite direction; the rider, 54-year-old Jayaraman—a carpentry workshop owner from Nagamalai—also died on the spot. Syed Ibrahim is currently undergoing intensive treatment at the Madurai Government Hospital. Inspector Ramya of the Nagamalai Pudukottai police station is investigating the incident. Another Accident:

In the Pechikkulam Panchayat area, near Thapal Thanthi Nagar in Madurai, a private sewage suction truck was engaged in clearing wastewater from a house this evening. During the operation, the truck was unexpectedly set in motion, causing an assistant named Bose Pandi, 35, to lose his balance and fall under the vehicle’s wheels, resulting in his death. The Tallakulam police are investigating the matter.



A monitor lizard weighing about 10 kilograms entered an office located within the premises of the Kutralanathar Temple, situated near the Main Falls in Courtallam, Tenkasi district. Temple staff were shocked to discover the animal.

Trump Claims France ‘Burning Down’ Over Immigration, Macron Slams ‘Stupid Comments’



USA: Former US President Donald Trump has reignited controversy by claiming France is ‘burning down’ due to its immigration policies. Speaking at a campaign rally in Perry, Georgia, Trump asserted that France has ‘open borders to people who hate it,’ linking the situation to US immigration debates. His

remarks come amidst widespread protests across France, where nearly 1,000 people were arrested in demonstrations against the rising cost of living and educational inequality. These protests, which saw clashes between demonstrators and police in Paris, Lyon, Marseille, and other major cities, have been ongoing for over a month, initially sparked by student grievances.

French President Emmanuel Macron, during a state visit to Qatar, strongly criticized ‘stupid comments’ from foreign leaders who exploit France’s domestic unrest for their own political gain. Without directly naming Trump, Macron indicated his remarks were aimed at leaders ‘on the other side of the Atlantic’ who are in ‘campaign mode.’ He also refuted claims of external interference, stating there has been ‘foreign manipulation of information’ leading to ‘unacceptable and stupid comments.’

Earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also weighed in, alleging France was facing an ‘invasion of extremist Islam’ and criticizing French authorities for not adequately preparing for the disorder. These international comments highlight the global attention on France’s internal challenges and the differing interpretations of their causes.

eduled the ‘Annabhishekam’ ceremony. Shiva temples are currently abuzz with activity and festive fervor in preparation for this auspicious event.



Chennai: The Tamil Nadu government has issued a government order to provide free electricity connections to 50,000 farmers in the state for the 2026&27 financial year.

Medal Haul at the Asian Para Games: CM Vijay Congratulates Athletes from TN

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay has extended his congratulations to the athletes from Tamil Nadu who won medals at the Asian Para Games. In a post on his ‘X’ (formerly Twitter) account, he stated: “I extend my heartfelt appreciation and best wishes to the para athletes from Tamil Nadu who represented India at the 5th Asian Para Games held in Japan.

They have achieved a remarkable feat by winning a total of 15 medals—3 gold, 5 silver, and 7 bronze. The hard work and success of each of these athletes—who overcame various challenges through relentless training, unwavering determination, and a dedicated focus on their

goals—are truly commendable. I wish them continued success in their journey. Their achievements have showcased Tamil Nadu’s sporting prowess and the energy of its youth to the world, further elevating India’s stature on the international stage. The Government of Tamil Nadu will always stand by these accomplished athletes, as well as the aspiring younger

generation, providing support at every level to help them further hone their talents and secure many more victories.” This is what he stated in his message.



Tragic end in Padi, Chennai Husband kills wife and dies by suicide, driven by despair over childlessness

AVADI: A tragic incident in Padi, near Korattur in Chennai—where a husband killed his wife and subsequently took his own life—has left the local community in a state of shock. Arunkumar (41) and his wife Malathi (38) resided on Padavattamman Koil Street in Padi, near Korattur. It is reported that the couple had been under significant mental distress, as they remained childless 14 years into their marriage.

Over the past three years, Arunkumar had stopped working and become addicted to alcohol, citing their lack of children as the reason. Consequently, Malathi had been supporting the household by working as a seamstress from home. It is understood that the



absence of children, combined with a lack of sufficient income, led to frequent arguments between the couple. Yesterday morning, neighbors noticed that neither Arunkumar nor Malathi had emerged from their home, and the house remained locked from the inside. Acting on the information provided, the Korattur police rushed to the scene, broke open the door to Arunkumar’s house, and entered. Inside, they discovered Malathi’s body with stab wounds on her neck, while Arunkumar was found to have

committed suicide by hanging. The police recovered both bodies and sent them to the Kilpauk Medical College Hospital in Chennai for post-mortem examinations. Additionally, the police seized a letter written by Malathi. In the letter, Malathi stated, “We no longer wish to live, as we have no children and lack sufficient income. Because of this, my husband, Arunkumar, is going to kill me and then take his own life. No one else is responsible for our deaths.” The Korattur police have registered a case and are conducting a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding Malathi’s murder and Arunkumar’s suicide.



The Minister of State for Science & Technology (Independent Charge), Earth Sciences (Independent Charge), Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh interacting with media during the inauguration of Advanced Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory (AATAL) at IITM, New Rajinder Nagar, in New Delhi.

France Unrest: 1,000 Detained Amid Cost of Living Protests, Clashes Intensify

FRANCE: Massive nationwide protests in France, fueled by rising living costs and underfunded public services, escalated into violent clashes, leading to nearly 1,000 arrests.

Interior Minister Laurent Nunez confirmed the rising detention toll, warning that the number could increase further as police operations continue across the country.

According to France 24, government estimates placed the number of protesters at around 410,000, while organizers claimed nearly 800,000 participated. The unrest, which saw police deploy tear gas and water cannons, was particularly intense in Paris, where authorities dispersed a demonstration along the Cours de Vincennes after projectiles were thrown. A Gendarmerie helicopter was



deployed to track remaining groups of rioters. Opposition leader Jean-&Luc Mélenchon criticized the police response, accusing authorities of using excessive force and manipulating public perception through media coverage. He urged citizens to form their own opinions, independent of mainstream narratives. The protests, initially sparked by student grievances over educational conditions, have expanded to

include trade unions, civil society groups, and the ‘Yellow Vests’ movement, highlighting widespread public anger. Clashes spread to major regional centers like Lyon, Lille, Marseille, Montpellier, Nantes, and Toulouse, where thousands marched despite bans. Former US President Donald Trump weighed in on the situation, linking the unrest to France’s immigration policies during a campaign rally.



Decision on playing in the 'IPL 2027' season to be made in December MS Dhoni shares

BENGALURU: Former Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain MS Dhoni has stated that he will decide in December whether or not to play in the 2027 IPL cricket season. Dhoni shared this while attending a private health and wellness event in Bengaluru on Saturday. "You will know my decision regarding playing in the 2027 IPL season in December. I need to undergo some medical check-ups and wait for the results."



Only then will it be clear whether I am physically fit enough to play in the next season. If I am not fit enough, it will be up to the doctors to 'repair' this 'old vehicle' and get it back on the road," Dhoni remarked.

Dhoni, 45, missed the entirety of the last IPL season due to injury. Since the 2023 season, the CSK team has not qualified for the play-offs. Ruturaj Gaikwad has been serving as the team's captain since 2024. CSK, a five-time IPL champion, will head into the upcoming season with a new coaching staff. Given this, fans of the team are eagerly awaiting to see what role Dhoni will play for CSK in the upcoming season.

'Hero' bags the free bicycle tender



CHENNAI: 'Hero' has emerged as the lowest bidder for the Tamil Nadu government's free bicycle scheme for students in the 11th grade for the current academic year. The tender involves the production and supply of 532,388 'modern' bicycles, with the cost per bicycle estimated at Rs 7,235 for male students and Rs 7,476 for female students. The Tamil Nadu government has decided to provide free bicycles to students in the 11th grade for the 2026-27 academic year.

This distribution will mark the first such initiative under the administration led by Chief Minister Vijay. This time, the students will receive 'modern' bicycles, which will come equipped with a helmet and a water bottle. The Tamil Nadu government invited tenders for the production of these bicycles, and 'Hero' submitted the lowest bid.

Including all applicable taxes, 'Hero' quoted Rs 7,235 per bicycle for male students and Rs 7,476 per bicycle for female students. The next lowest bidder, SK Bikes Private Limited, quoted Rs 7,422 for the bicycles for male students and Rs 7,716.20 for those for female students. 'Avon' Cycles Ltd. quoted a price of Rs. 7,449.39 for bicycles intended for male students and Rs. 7,610.04 for those intended for female students.

'Hero' Cycles submitted the lowest bid for the bicycles, and consequently, the tender is set to be awarded to them. According to 'Hero' Cycles, the cost per bicycle will be Rs. 7,235 for male students and Rs. 7,476 for female students. Under this free bicycle scheme, the Government of Tamil Nadu intends to procure 532,388 bicycles—comprising 237,133 for male students and 295,255 for female students.

The total expenditure for this initiative is estimated at Rs. 392 crore, which exceeds the Rs. 277 crore originally allocated by the Tamil Nadu government in the budget for this scheme. The contract includes several key specifications: the bicycles must strictly adhere to the ISO 10613:2023 standard; helmets must meet the IS 18808:2025 standard; and water bottles must comply with the IS 10910:1984 standard. The supplying company is required to manufacture the frames, forks, and other components themselves.

The bicycles must come in 'Lilac Mist' and 'Army Green' colors, and the emblem of the Government of Tamil Nadu must be permanently affixed to the bicycle frame. The company must rectify any defects that arise within 30 days of delivery, through its distributor. Key terms of the tender include the requirement that items—such as bicycles, helmets, and water bottles—must be delivered within 150 days from the date the purchase order is issued.

Commencement of the Aippasi Thirukalyana Festival at the Shenbagavalli Amman Temple, Kovilpatti

KOVILPATTI: The Aippasi Thirukalyana (Divine Wedding) festival at the Shenbagavalli Amman Temple in Kovilpatti began this morning with the hoisting of the temple flag.

The chariot procession, a key highlight of the festival, is scheduled for November 2nd. The 'Kaal Naattu' ceremony (the ritual planting of the ceremonial pole) for the Aippasi Thirukalyana festival at the temple of Lord Poovananathaswamy and his consort, Goddess Shenbagavalli Amman, took place on the 23rd. This was followed by the 'Angurarpanam' (sowing of ceremonial seeds) ritual at the temple last night.

The festival flag was hoisted early this morning (October 25th).

In observance of this, the temple doors were opened at 4:00 AM, followed by rituals such as 'Thirupalli Ezhuchi' (waking the deity) and 'Thiruvananthal' puja. A special 'Homam' (sacrificial fire ritual) was conducted at 6:30 AM.

Subsequently, the temple flag was carried in a procession around the four main chariot streets. At 7:15 AM, the festival flag was hoisted on the 'Kodimaram' (temple flagstaff) located in front of the sanctum of Goddess Shenbagavalli Amman.

Special 'Abhishekams' (ritual bathing) and 'Alankara Deeparadhana' (adornment and offering of lamps) were performed for the flagstaff, Nandi, and the 'Bali Peedam' (altar). A large number of devotees participated in the event.

Throughout the festival, special pujas will be conducted daily, sponsored by various 'Mandagappadi' (festival hosts). Each day, the Goddess will be taken out in a procession—carried in a palanquin during the morning hours, and mounted on various divine vehicles or floats in the evening.

On the 9th day of the festival, November 2nd, the chariot procession will take place at 9:00 AM, during which the Goddess will be seated on a grand chariot and paraded around the four main streets. On the 11th day, November 4th, at 1:00 PM, the Goddess will proceed to perform 'Thapasu' (a period of penance/meditation). On that night at 6:00 PM, the Lord,



mounted on the 'Rishabha Vahana' (bull vehicle), will appear before the Goddess in the form of Poovananathar. On the 12th day, the 5th of the month, the 'Thirukalyanam' (divine wedding) ceremony will take place.

Arrangements for these events are being made by the



Executive Officer (in charge), N. Gandhimathi, along with the temple staff and the

'mandagappadi' sponsors (organizers of specific ritual segments).

Nine workers from Attur, stranded in a flooded river in Perambalur, rescued safely

Incident triggered by water release from Thozhudhur Dam following heavy rains

PERAMBALUR: Nine workers from Attur, who were stranded in a sudden flash flood in a river in Perambalur district, have been rescued safely. Perambalur district has been experiencing intense Northeast monsoon rains over the past few days, leading to an increased inflow of water into various water bodies. In some areas, streams breached their banks, causing floodwaters to enter residential homes.

Revenue department officials visited the affected areas and issued warnings to residents living in high-risk, flood-prone zones to ensure their safety. Meanwhile, heavy rainfall occurred last night across the Veppur, Kunnam, Veppantattai, and Alathur taluks of Perambalur district. This resulted in severe flooding in the Kallar stream (Veppantattai taluk) and the river in Kunnam taluk. During this time, a group of nine individuals had arrived near the Thozhudhur Dam—located close to Lappaikudikadu in Kunnam taluk—to retrieve items from an exhibition. As it was nighttime, they decided to camp along the riverbank. At approximately 5:00 AM, 30,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) of water was released from the Thozhudhur Dam, causing a sudden surge in the river. Trapped by the rising waters,



the nine individuals alerted the Veppur Fire and Rescue Services.

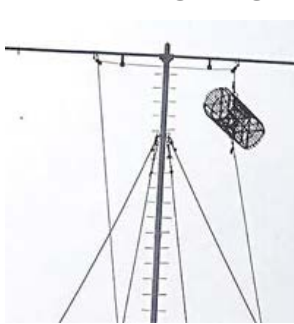
A team led by fire personnel Chandramohan and Thiagarajan arrived promptly and successfully rescued all nine people using ropes. Subsequent inquiries revealed that the rescued individuals were all from Attur in Salem district. For the past 20 days, a fair—featuring attractions like a Ferris wheel—was held near the Vellar River in Lappaikudikadu. Three days ago, the fair concluded, and workers began transporting the equipment to Attur using a mini-truck. Those who arrived the night before last to collect the items ended up staying near the riverbank. Early this morning, a sudden surge in the river's water level left them stranded.

Fire and rescue personnel, however, managed to rescue them safely. The mini-truck remains stuck in the middle of the river; fire officials stated that it can only

be recovered once the water level subsides completely. Speaking to 'Hindu Tamil Thisai' about the incident, Thiagarajan from the Veppur Fire and Rescue Services said, "We received information about the flooding in the Vellar River at 5:00 AM. Teams from Veppur, Perambalur, and Sendurai were involved in the rescue operation. All nine individuals were brought to safety."

Due to the high volume of water flowing through the river, we were unable to retrieve the truck." Meanwhile, Perambalur District Collector Abdul Rasik has issued a warning to residents in flood-affected areas. He stated, "The Northeast Monsoon has intensified in Perambalur. As a result, the Kallar River in Veppantattai Taluk and the Vellar River in Kunnam Taluk are experiencing flooding. Residents living along the riverbanks are advised to remain cautious and relocate to safer areas."

Impact of Cyclone 'Arnab': Distant Warning Signal No. 1 Hoisted at TN Ports



RAMESWARAM: Due to the formation of Cyclone 'Arnab' in the Bay of Bengal, Distant Warning Signal No. 1 has been hoisted at ports across Tamil Nadu.

A depression in the Bay of Bengal has intensified and is moving in a west-north-westerly direction, having now strengthened into a deep depression.

It is expected to develop into Cyclone 'Arnab' over the central and western Bay of Bengal by tomorrow. Furthermore, it is projected to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by October 27 and a very severe cyclonic storm by October 28. It is likely to make landfall as a very severe cyclonic storm between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh on the forenoon of October 28. The Meteorological Department has indicated that wind speeds could reach up to 140 km/h during landfall. Consequently, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has fo-

recast heavy to extremely heavy rainfall across Tamil Nadu and Puducherry over the next two days.

In light of this, Distant Warning Signal No. 1 was hoisted on Sunday at several ports in Tamil Nadu, including Pamban, Thoothukudi, Nagapattinam, Karaikal, Cuddalore, Puducherry, Kattupalli, Chennai, and Ennore. Fishermen have been prohibited from venturing into the sea from today, October 25, until October 29. Additionally, the Fisheries Department has advised fishermen along the coast to ensure their boats and fishing equipment are kept in a safe location.

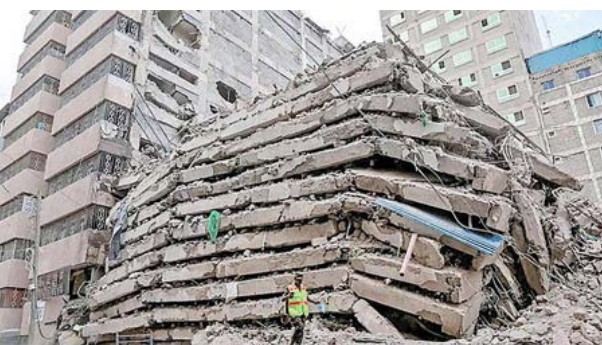
Multi story building collapses in Kenya: 2 rescued, 5 remain trapped

NAIROBI: An 18-story building has collapsed in Kenya. The fate of 5 people trapped inside remains unknown.

In Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, high-rise commercial and residential buildings are being constructed across the city to accommodate a growing population. Amidst these construction projects, there have been growing complaints that safety regulations are being disregarded.

In the Eastleigh commercial district—a densely populated area in eastern Nairobi with a large Somali community—an 18-story building had been under construction for the past year. While work was underway, the structure suddenly collapsed with a loud crash, folding like a house of cards.

The collapse left the area shrouded in a thick cloud of dust and debris. Several individuals, including workers in the ground-floor shops and construction



laborers, became trapped in the rubble. Fortunately, because the incident occurred during prayer time, 66 of the construction workers had stepped away to visit a nearby mosque, narrowly escaping the disaster. Nevertheless, 7 people—including shop occupants and some workers—remained trapped in the debris. Police and rescue teams arrived promptly at the scene and are currently engaged in an intensive operation to clear the wreckage using heavy machinery and rescue those still trapped inside. Meanwhile, two people have been rescued alive from the debris of the collapsed building, while five others remain unaccounted for. Search operations are currently underway.

Rescue teams are in communication with survivors trapped beneath the rubble, and the rescue effort has been intensified with the assistance of the military. Such building collapses have become a recurring issue in Nairobi. According to statistics from the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, 86 buildings have collapsed in recent years, resulting in approximately 200 deaths. Local residents allege that bribery and the issuance of improper permits are the root causes of these incidents. In response, Kenyan Interior Minister Kipchumba Murkomen has ordered a comprehensive investigation into the collapse.

TAMIL NADU | NEWS UPDATE

OFFICIAL COTTON LAPTOP BAGS



Tamil Nadu Forest Department introduces bags featuring only the Tamil Nadu Government emblem — with no political party symbols, leader images or promotional stickers.



மதுரை மணி
இன்றைய செய்தி நாளைய வரலாறு