

PM Narendra Modi Strengthens Ties with Liechtenstein's Hereditary Prince Alois

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently engaged in significant delegation-level talks with Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein at Hyderabad House, marking the Prince's second state visit to India.

The high-level discussions aimed at bolstering bilateral relations, particularly in trade and economic cooperation.

Earlier in the day, Hereditary Prince Alois and Here-

Focus on Trade and Innovation

ditary Princess Sophie paid respects to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat, participating in a wreath-laying ceremony. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also met with Prince Alois, emphasizing the robust momentum in bilateral ties, particularly following the India-Europe Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade

and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) which came into force a year ago.

Prince Alois, during a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan where he was welcomed by President Droupadi Murmu and PM Modi, highlighted the importance Liechtenstein places on its relationship with



India. He expressed a strong determination to expand economic cooperation in critical sectors such as innovation, advanced manufacturing, financial services, education, and technology, recognizing the complementary strengths of both nations.

This state visit, which also included stops in Mumbai

and Vadodara, is seen as a crucial step to further diplomatic, trade, and economic engagement. India and Liechtenstein, having established diplomatic relations in 1993 and celebrating their 30th anniversary in 2023, are keen to leverage the TEPA for mutual benefit.

Prince Alois's repeated visits underscore the growing partnership, with this trip poised to provide renewed impetus to their collaboration.

Cabinet Meeting to be Held on the 29th Under the Leadership of CM Vijay



CHENNAI: A meeting of the Tamil Nadu Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Vijay, will take place the day after tomorrow (the 29th) at 10:30 AM.

According to reports, the Chief Minister is expected to consult with his ministers on several key matters, including precautionary measures for the Northeast monsoon, the current impact

caused by heavy rains, the state's development projects, and other significant issues. Furthermore, it is understood that discussions will be held regarding administrative decision-making.

There is also speculation that announcements could be made concerning law and order, rising prices, a potential cabinet reshuffle, or the launch of major state-level initiatives.

Veto Power for All Members of the UN Security Council

NEW YORK: Amidst reform initiatives, India has called for the extension of veto power to all members of the UN Security Council. Parvathaneni Harish, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, stated that as long as the veto power remains in practice, it should be granted to all permanent members of a reformed Security Council. He emphasized the need to curb the current five permanent members (the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and France)



from using their veto power for narrow political gains.

The current structure of the UN Security Council is based on the geopolitics of 1945.

It must undergo comprehensive reform to reflect today's global realities.

Regarding reforms to the UN Security Council, he

asserted that any newly added permanent members should also be granted veto power. Currently, only the five permanent members of the UN Security Council possess this special authority. When a significant resolution is proposed, even if a majority of nations vote in its favor, the resolution fails if any one of these five permanent members casts a vote against it.

Price Hike for Palani Temple Prasadam Effective November 1: Devasthanam Announces

PALANI: The Devasthanam (temple administration) has announced an increase in the prices of *prasadam* (consecrated food offerings) sold at the Palani Murugan Temple, effective November 1. At the Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple in Palani, Dindigul district, the temple administration provides *panchamirtham* as *prasadam* to visiting devotees. Additionally, the administration sells items such as *laddu*, *athirasam*, *murukku*, *thinai maavu* (foxtail millet flour), *puli-odharai* (tamarind rice), and *sakkarai pongal*

(sweetened rice & lentil porridge)—all currently priced at Rs. 15 each—which are highly sought after by devotees. Due to the rising costs of raw materials and in accordance with a standardized policy being implemented across all temples to ensure uniform pricing, a decision has been made to adjust the sale prices. To ensure that the *prasadam* continues to be prepared using high-quality ingredients, the prices will be increased starting November 1.



According to the Devasthanam, the revised prices will be as follows: *laddu* (50g), *athirasam* (50g), *sakkarai pongal* (150g), and *puli-odharai* (150g) will each be

priced at Rs. 20; *murukku* (50g) will be priced at Rs. 25; and *thinai maavu* (honey & mixed foxtail millet flour, 50g) will be priced at Rs. 15.

Liechtenstein's Hereditary Prince Alois Determined to Deepen India Ties, Boost Economic Cooperation

NEW DELHI: Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein, accompanied by Hereditary Princess Sophie, underscored the profound importance his nation places on its relationship with India during their first state visit. Speaking at a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan, where they were welcomed by President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prince Alois highlighted the historic nature of the visit.

He emphasized that the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), which came into force a year ago, marked a significant



milestone.

"We are determined to build on this momentum and strengthen our ties with India even further," Prince Alois stated, identifying innovation, advanced manufacturing, financial services, education, and technology

as key areas for expanded economic cooperation. He noted the complementary strengths of both nations that can be leveraged for mutual benefit.

The royal couple engaged with a high-level Indian delegation, includ-

ing External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Air Chief Marshal AP Singh.

The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed the visit would inject renewed impetus into bilateral relations. Prince Alois's itinerary included Vadodara and scheduled bilateral talks with Prime Minister Modi, along with meetings with other key Indian ministers. This visit, marking 30 years of diplomatic ties, aims to fortify diplomatic, trade, and economic engagement, building on Liechtenstein's growing interest in India, including Prince Alois's previous visits in 2010, 2018, and 2026.

Government must investigate the Rs 1,000 crore investment by Nobel Steel - Annamalai

CHENNAI: Annamalai, leader of the 'We the Leaders' organization, has urged the government to conduct an investigation into the Rs 1,000 crore investment by the company 'Nobel Steel', involving former DMK Minister Anbil Mahesh. In a post on X (formerly Twitter) regarding this, he stated: "We welcome the action taken to arrest former School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh, following allegations of irregularities within

the School Education Department.

There is no room for disagreement on the principle that anyone who has committed wrongdoing must face appropriate legal action. When we released the 'DMK Files' in 2023, we raised questions regarding a Rs 1,000 crore investment by 'Nobel Steel' in Tamil Nadu; the then DMK government failed to provide a proper explanation. To this day, there has been no response to our allegation that



this was an illicit investment and that the funds never actually reached Tamil Nadu. Furthermore, there has been no response to reports suggesting that a trust associated

with Udhayanidhi Stalin operated from the same address as 'Nobel Bricks'—another entity under the Nobel Group. What is the connection between Nobel Bricks and the Udhayanidhi Stalin-linked trust? What are the answers to the questions surrounding this Rs 1,000 crore investment? I urge the government to conduct a transparent investigation into this matter as well and reveal the truth to the public."

It is not a haphazard game; it is a game played with a philosophy: Minister Arunraj

CHENNAI: Two years ago, on October 27, 2024, the first conference of the Tamizhaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) was held in Vikravandi, Villupuram district, under the leadership of its president, Vijay. Regarding this, Minister Arunraj issued the following statement: "Today, October 27, marks a significant day—not only in the political history of Tamil Nadu but in the political history of India as well.

The Vikravandi conference, along with the inaugural address delivered by our president, Vijay, swept away—like a powerful storm—the myriad criticisms that had emerged like a swarm of termites, questioning what an actor could possibly achieve or what ideological commitment he might possess. President Vijay clearly defined the po-

litical path of our Tamizhaga Vetti Kazhagam, asserting that this is not a haphazard or aimless endeavor, but one grounded in a firm philosophy. Our political journey, which began with a massive, spontaneous turnout of hundreds of thousands of party members and the public, will continue steadfastly on the road to success.

Guided by the philosophy

that 'all living beings are equal by birth', we will continue to work tirelessly for the sake of Tamil Nadu.

Under the guidance of our ideological leaders and the leadership of President Vijay, our victorious journey—aimed at bringing about a change in governance and a transformation in politics—will always continue for the benefit of the people."

Today horoscope



You may struggle to keep the promises you have made. You might experience headaches or digestive issues (gas-related problems). Vehicles may incur unexpected expenses. Do not make any commitments to anyone in your business dealings. Avoid getting into arguments at your workplace.



You will speak your mind openly and directly. Confusion will dissipate, leading to a lively atmosphere at home. You will find peace of mind through your relatives. In business, former clients will return to you. At the workplace, your superiors will appreciate your efforts.



You will successfully accomplish even difficult tasks. Your children will act responsibly. Valuable items will arrive at your home. In business, you will attract customers by employing new strategies. Unnecessary tension at the workplace will fade away.



You will be full of energy and vigor. Ego-related issues will be resolved, bringing you and your spouse closer together. The arrival of guests and friends will fill your home with joy. You will gain the upper hand at your workplace. In business, do not dismiss the suggestions offered by your partners.



Old memories will bring joy. Confusion will dissipate, leading to peace of mind. You may purchase luxury items. In your social or professional circles, others will entrust you with significant responsibilities. Business will see an upward trend, and you will receive praise from superiors at your workplace.



You will regain your energy after a period of fatigue. Your mother's health will improve. You will recover money that you had previously lent to others. A lively and cheerful atmosphere will prevail at home. In business, you will give importance to the ideas of a new partner. Your standing at the workplace will rise.



Be affectionate toward your children. Expenses may become a burden. With the support of your siblings, you may expand or renovate your ancestral home. Your workload at the office will increase. In business, you will learn the nuances of the trade and achieve success.



You will successfully complete your planned tasks. You will focus on raising your children with a sense of responsibility. The health of your mother and children will be satisfactory. Your reputation among colleagues at the workplace will grow. Business activity will pick up momentum.



Confusion will dissipate, bringing a sense of relief to your family life. You will listen to your children's wishes and fulfill them. Siblings will offer their support. In business, you will have the opportunity to meet influential people. At your workplace, you will receive support from your superiors.



Old friends may reach out to you. There will be happiness within the family. You will make efforts to expand your business; however, be careful not to antagonize your staff. At work, you will locate a document you had been searching for, and your superiors will commend your efforts.



You will earn respect among your relatives. You will benefit through your siblings. Your enthusiastic way of speaking will captivate those around you. You will attend to repairs for your home or vehicle. It would be wise to curb any tendency toward impulsive anger. You will see progress in both your business and professional life.



You will enjoy an outing with your family. Your father's health will remain stable. You will receive special recognition or priority at events in your hometown. You will undertake business-related travel. At your workplace, your overall workload will decrease.



Four Illegal Dyeing Units Demolished in Edappadi

SALEM: In the Avaniyur and Jalakandapuram road areas, falling under the Edappadi Municipality in Salem district, four dyeing units that were operating illegally without proper authorization have been demolished by officials from the Pollution Control Board and the Revenue Department.

For a long time, there have been allegations that illegal dyeing units were operating along the banks of the Sarabanga River in and around Edappadi, and that untreated chemical dye effluents were being discharged directly into the river. As these chemical effluents seeped into the groundwater and nearby wells, agricultural lands in the vicinity were severely affected. Consequently, local residents and farmers had been repeatedly lodging complaints with the Pollution Control Board and the district administration. Following these persistent complaints, a team of officials—led by Pollution Control Board Assistant Engineer Ibran and Edappadi Tahsildar Jayakumar—conducted a surprise inspection today (Tuesday) in the Avaniyur and Jalakandapuram areas of the Edappadi Municipality. During the inspection, it was confirmed that the dyeing units were operating illegally without government authorization. Subsequently, under police protection, the buildings and infrastructure of the four dyeing units—owned by Velumani, Sumathi, Arumugam, and Dharmalingam—were completely demolished by the authorities. During the operation, officials warned that strict legal action would continue to be taken against anyone operating dyeing units in violation of regulations or in a manner that pollutes water bodies. This incident has caused a stir in the area.

“A ‘good for nothing’ government” – Stalin lashes out following the escape of 17 prisoners

CHENNAI: “Criminals on the outside commit offenses with total freedom, while those on the inside escape with complete audacity. This government is incapable of protecting the public.

Tamil Nadu has reached a pathetic state where people are left to fend for themselves,” remarked DMK leader M.K. Stalin. Following the escape of 17 prisoners from the Theni District Jail, DMK leader M.K. Stalin took to the social



media platform ‘X’ (formerly Twitter) to state: “After ‘Breaking Bad,’ now we have a ‘Prison Break’ in Tamil Nadu!

I thought it was only those released on bail who went unmonitored, but this administration is so incompetent that it even lets prisoners escape from within the jails.

Before we could recover from the shock of two inmates escaping from Puzhal Prison, 17 prisoners have now escaped from the Theni District Jail. It is said that this is the first time since 1995 that such a large number of prisoners have escaped at once.

In 2026—an era with

advanced security measures and surveillance systems—such an incident is absolutely unacceptable. Criminals on the outside commit offenses with total freedom, while those on the inside escape with complete audacity. In short, this is a ‘good&for¬hing’ government—a regime of fools.

They are not going to protect the people; Tamil Nadu has reached a dire state where citizens are forced to protect themselves.”

Indians do not engage in violence

Piyush Goyal expresses pride, citing protests in Europe

BERLIN: Union Minister for Commerce Piyush Goyal has praised the Indian diaspora, stating that Indians living abroad do not engage in violence.

The Union Minister is currently on a two-day official visit to Germany. Addressing members of the Indian community in Berlin, he remarked: “In several European countries—including France, Spain, and Italy—protests over rising costs of living and demands



for wage increases have turned violent, resulting in damage to public property. In contrast, the Indian community is known for valuing peace and caring

deeply for the well-being of their families. Indians are welcomed warmly in countries across the globe precisely because there is confidence that they will not take to the streets to engage in violence or cause disruption to society.”

Indians who have long resided in Germany should extend their support to Indian students arriving in the country for higher education—particularly

those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The Indian diaspora plays a crucial role in strengthening economic and people-to-people ties between India and Germany. During his visit, Minister Piyush Goyal met with German government officials, business leaders, and representatives from research institutions to discuss enhancing cooperation between the two nations in the fields of trade, investment, and emerging technologies.

Maximum height limit for tall buildings set at 19.5 meters

Government order issued amending the regulations

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government has amended the Unified Development Building Rules, increasing the maximum permissible height for tall buildings in the state from 18.30 meters to 19.50 meters.

In a government order regarding this, Kirlosh Kumar, Secretary of the Housing and Urban Development Department, stated that in areas zoned for residential use in Tamil Nadu, plots abutting a road with a width of 12 meters will be considered eligible for commercial use. Outside the Chennai Metropolitan Area, a road width of 9 meters is sufficient. This road width must be maintained continuously



for a length of 100 meters. For the construction of convention centers, multi-level parking facilities, and single-screen air-conditioned cinema theaters, a road width of 12 meters is required. For exhibition halls and wedding halls located within municipal corporations or municipalities, a road width of 15 meters is mandated, while

in other areas, a width of 12 meters is required. Star hotels, multiplex cinemas, and malls must be located on roads with a minimum width of 18 meters.

Furthermore, the Floor Space Index (FSI) has been set at 2.0, 2.5, and 3.25 for developments situated on roads with widths of 12, 15, and 18 meters, respectively.

For hotels, one sleeping space for drivers must be provided for every car parking slot. In IT office buildings, one car parking space is required for every 75 square meters of floor area. Buildings comprising more than 50 residential units must include provisions for fast-charging facilities for electric vehicles. A completion certificate will be issued only after facilities for persons with disabilities have been installed. Regulations concerning swimming pools have also been revised. Additionally, amendments have been made to the rules governing side setbacks for buildings.

Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faces Democratic Crisis, HRCP Raises Alarm



PAKISTHAN: The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has strongly condemned the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a move they warn gravely endangers democratic institutions, fundamental rights, and political freedoms in the region.

This province, notably

the only one led by the opposition, is experiencing a severe erosion of democratic space, marked by arbitrary detentions and restrictions on political activities.

HRCP highlighted the concerning detention of the province's elected chief executive, calling it a serious violation of democratic norms. The commission

also pointed to a broader crackdown, citing arrests of elected representatives and political workers, including women affiliated with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Punjab.

While condemning militancy and terrorism, HRCP emphasized that counter-terrorism operations must always adhere to legal frameworks, stressing that they should not be used to justify collective punishment or excessive force.

The commission voiced concerns over potential civilian casualties and mass displacement from military actions, asserting that force alone cannot secure lasting peace.

Further concerns were raised regarding preventive and unlawful detentions,

with HRCP advocating for transparent legal processes, including informing detainees of their charges and granting access to lawyers and family.

Despite mobile and internet services being restored, the full impact of earlier disruptions on access to information and livelihoods remains unclear. Ongoing curfews and military deployments in North and South Waziristan, Bannu, and Miranshah continue to disrupt civilian life, with HRCP urging authorities to disclose information on casualties and assist displaced families.

Reports of police raids on PTI workers in Peshawar, Swat, and Khyber, alongside the dispersal of public gatherings, further underscore the deteriorating situation.

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TN Government to Launch ‘e-Sevai 2.0’ Initiative Soon

The Tamil Nadu government’s e-Sevai (e&Service) centers currently provide over 200 services, including land record (patta) transfers, as well as the issuance of caste, income, and residence certificates. To make these services faster and more accessible to the public, the Tamil Nadu government is set to introduce a new initiative called “Vetri Tamil Nadu e-Sevai 2.0.” The government has issued a tender for this project, and eligible technology firms have been instructed to submit their applications by November 3rd. This initiative will facilitate a comprehensive technical upgrade of the existing e&Sevai platform.

Regarding the services that will be available through this new



technology, an official from the Department of Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence stated: “We have received numerous complaints that the current e&Sevai portal slows down or crashes when a large number of users log in simultaneously. The ‘Vetri Tamil Nadu e&Sevai 2.0’ platform will resolve this issue, ensuring high-speed service delivery. Over 200 services—such as patta/chitta documents, caste and income certificates, and electricity bill payments—will be accessible with greater ease, often requiring just a single click.” The new 2.0 platform is designed to be fully mobile-compatible. Users will no longer need to search for computer centers or physical e-Sevai outlets; instead, they will be able to submit applications directly from their mobile phones, from the comfort of their own homes. Furthermore, state-of-the-art security technology is being integrated to protect sensitive data, such as Aadhaar information and personal details, from hacking.

Users will also be able to track the status of their applications and receive updates on when their certificates will be issued directly via SMS and WhatsApp. “In essence, the ‘Tamil Nadu e&Sevai 2.0’ initiative is being introduced to ensure that even the person living in the most remote corner of a village can access government services from the comfort of their own home,” he stated.



Alanganallur: Local residents have requested that the bathing tank at Chinna Ilanthai Kulam, which has fallen into disrepair due to a lack of maintenance, be restored for public use.

Dengue Fever in Madurai

MADURAI: In Madurai, 3 new cases of dengue fever and 42 cases of other viral fevers—including the flu—were reported yesterday. Currently, 13 people are undergoing treatment for dengue fever, and 112 people are being treated for other types of fever in various government and private hospitals. Doctors state that 3 to 5 people are contracting dengue fever in Madurai every day. They advise the public to consume only boiled and cooled drinking water.

If a fever develops, one should visit a hospital; if the fever persists for more than two days, a test for dengue fever should be conducted. Commissioner Gaurav Kumar announced that special fever&prevention camps have been set up in areas within the city corporation limits affected by fever. He explained that the corporation's public health department has intensified precautionary measures and fever&prevention efforts in preparation for the northeast monsoon. As rainfall is expected to increase, residents are urged to ensure that water does not stagnate around their homes.

Children and the elderly are at a higher risk of contracting these fevers. The health department has deployed 1,200 mosquito&control workers to areas affected by fever; they are actively eliminating mosquito&breeding sources. Furthermore, instructions have been issued to conduct special fever&prevention camps at the corporation's primary health centers from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and through mobile medical teams from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, as needed.

Sabarimala Mandala Puja Darshan: Online Booking to Begin the Day After Tomorrow

SABARIMALA: Online booking for 'Mandala Puja' darshan at the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple in Kerala will commence the day after tomorrow (the 29th) at 10:00 AM. To manage the influx of devotees, the Sabarimala Temple requires visitors to book their darshan slots online.

This year's 'Mandala & Makaravilakku' pilgrimage season begins on November 16th. The Travancore Devaswom Board has announced that online booking will open at 10:00 AM the day after tomorrow. Devotees can make their reservations via the website: www.sabarimala-online.org. A total of 60,000 devotees will be permitted daily via the Nilakkal & Pamba route. Additionally, 3,000 devotees per day will be allowed through each of the following routes: the Erumeli traditional path (Peruvazhipatha) and the Vandiperiyar & Sathram path.



Furthermore, 'spot booking' (in-person registration) facilities have been arranged at Nilakkal, Erumeli, and Vandiperiyar. Devotees are advised to book their slots in advance before arriving for darshan.

Mysterious death of a boy in Melur, Madurai victim found with tongue protruding Another boy and his mother arrested



MADURAI: In connection with the mysterious death of a young boy in Melur, Madurai, police have arrested another boy and his mother, Sandhya. Speaking to reporters, Madurai Superintendent of Police (SP) Devanathan stated that an investigation into the death of the boy, Muthuvel, revealed the involvement of a playmate and the latter's mother.

He used a rope to tighten around Muthuvel's neck. As a result, Muthuvel's tongue protruded, and he began to struggle.

Frightened, the other boy fled to his own home. Shortly after, Muthuvel—likely seeking water—arrived at the boy's house, where he collapsed and died. When the boy's mother, Sandhya, asked what had happened, her son confessed. Fearing that her son would face legal trouble, Sandhya—in an attempt to protect him—did not inform the police or Muthuvel's parents; instead, she moved the body and left it in a dilapidated, abandoned location. Consequently, the boy has been taken into custody and placed in a juvenile observation home.

Price Hike for Aavin Dairy Products Effective from Tomorrow

CHENNAI: Aavin, a cooperative organization operating under the Tamil Nadu government's Dairy Development Department, sells a wider range of dairy products. In addition to milk, Aavin offers over 100 other items, including 'palkova' (milk fudge), ghee, butter, milkshakes, health mixes, yogurt, milk biscuits, chocolates, 'kulfi', various ice creams (cup, choco & bar, choco & feast, cassata, candy), and premium products. Due to rising costs—such as increases

in the prices of raw materials and production/procurement expenses—the prices of 63 Aavin products, including ghee, milkshakes, 'mysore pak', and butter, have been raised.

This price revision will come into effect tomorrow (Wednesday). Accordingly, the price of 100 grams of ghee has increased from ₹85 to ₹95. Other price adjustments include: 100 grams of 'rasagulla' from ₹45 to ₹50; 100 grams of butter from ₹60 to ₹70; 250 grams of 'gulab jamun' from ₹100 to ₹115; 250 grams of 'mysore pak' from ₹140 to ₹160; and 200 ml of 'lassi' from ₹20 to ₹23.

The price of 500 ml of Aavin ghee has risen from ₹365 to ₹400. Additionally, the price of a milkshake has increased from ₹30 to ₹35, and 500 grams of yogurt (curd) has gone up from ₹35 to ₹40. The price of 250 grams of Aavin Mysore Pak has increased from Rs. 140 to Rs. 160. The price of 10 varieties of milkshakes has risen from Rs. 30 to Rs. 35. A 50g gram 'premium cup' now costs Rs. 7 (up from Rs. 5), and the price of one kilogram of curd has gone up from Rs. 120 to Rs. 130.

17 Inmates Escape from Theni Prison; 4 Apprehended; Intensive Manhunt Underway Using Drones



THENI: Last night, 17 under-trial prisoners escaped from the Thekkampatti District Prison in Theni district after assaulting the prison guards. The incident has caused significant tension. A special police team has managed to apprehend 4 of the escapees, and authorities are now conducting an intensive search operation, utilizing drones to locate the remaining individuals. Incidents such as murder, robbery, sexual assault, and drug-related offenses have been on the rise in Tamil Nadu, with critics arguing that the current situation is even worse than it was during the previous DMK administration. While a 'Singa Pengal' (Lioness/Empowered

and managed to escape. The incident has sent shockwaves through the region. Seventeen special police teams, including personnel from the Naxalite Special Division, have been deployed to apprehend the escapees. A search operation is currently underway in the nearby hilly terrain, and vehicle checks have been intensified. The guards who were assaulted are currently undergoing medical treatment at a hospital. Search operations are also being conducted in areas along the Tamil Nadu & Kerala border, including Kumily, Cumbum, and Bodimetru. One inmate, identified as Praveen—a native of Perungudi, Madurai—was captured in the forested area behind the prison complex.

Additionally, this morning, a special police team arrested Silambarasan, a resident of the Devaram area in Theni district. Similarly, the police have arrested two individuals from Madurai, identified as Rajkumar and Raja Sikandar. Regarding the incident, the police stated, "All 17 escaped prisoners were housed in the same block; 15 of them are from Madurai. They executed this escape according to a premeditated plan. At the time, only four police officers were on duty—a significantly inadequate number to oversee 17 inmates. This escape was clearly planned well in advance. We will apprehend the remaining escapees soon." The police are actively searching for the 13 individuals who remain at large. They are utilizing drones to scan the areas surrounding the district prison—including villages like Panguvappatti and Manikkoondur, as well as the agricultural estates at the foothills and the nearby forest regions—to locate the escapees. Investigations are ongoing to determine if any of the fugitives are hiding in rural areas. Furthermore, police teams from Dindigul, Madurai, and Theni districts have been deployed across various locations in the Theni region to conduct intensive search operations.

Announcement on filling vacancies in the Electricity Board to be released soon

Minister Nirmal Kumar confirms

CHENNAI: Electricity Minister Nirmal Kumar stated that an announcement regarding the filling of vacant field & staff positions in the Electricity Board will be released within the next week. With the aim of addressing power outages during the Northeast monsoon and providing prompt service to the public, Electricity Minister Nirmal Kumar inaugurated new power & outage resolution centers and 12 specialized teams—tasked with identifying faults in high & voltage underground power cables—across four districts, including Chennai.

The inauguration took place yesterday at the Electricity Board office on Anna Salai, Chennai.

The event was attended

by Electricity Board Chairman Rajesh Lakhani, Green Energy Corporation Managing Director Sridhar, and Power Generation Corporation Managing Director Govinda Rao, among others. Speaking to reporters afterward, Minister Nirmal Kumar said: "In preparation for the Northeast monsoon, 82 additional power & outage resolution centers have been established in the four districts of Chennai, Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram, and Chengalpattu, supplementing the 70 centers already in operation. This brings the total to 152 such centers. A fleet of 152 contracted vehicles has been kept on standby for these operations. Approval has been granted to deploy 608 personnel, with 4 staff members assigned to each center." Furthermore, 12 specialized teams—comprising 36 personnel, including engineers—have been appointed to address faults in high & voltage underground power cables. These teams, led by an Executive Engineer in each district, have been formed specifically to handle and resolve power outages that occur during the night.

An announcement regarding the filling of vacant field & staff positions in the Electricity Board will be released within a week. We are currently awaiting clearance from the TNPSCT for this process.

A new policy is being formulated to promote battery storage systems for electricity conservation; discussions are also underway regarding the provision of subsidies for those who invest in these systems. So far, 28,000 applications have been received for the installation of solar power generation systems in homes, and these are currently under review. A target has been set to install solar power systems in 100,000 homes by this coming March.

This initiative will enable the generation of at least 500 megawatts of electricity within residential premises, he stated.



Parents of 21 children suffering from a rare genetic disorder stage a road blockade

Demand for the creation of a dedicated fund for treatment



CHENNAI: Parents of 21 children suffering from a rare genetic disorder staged a road blockade on Walajah Road in Chennai yesterday. Due to a genetic mutation, children can develop a severe condition known as Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA).

to procure this Rs. 16 crore medication through their own efforts, support from charitable organizations, and crowdfunding. Against this backdrop, parents from various parts of Tamil Nadu whose children suffer from this condition staged a protest by blocking Walajah Road in Chennai yesterday. Police intervened, pacified the protesters, and took them to meet with officials. Meanwhile, the parents participating in the protest stated: "The medication must be administered to the affected children before they reach the age of two. Any delay in treatment could lead to the children developing pneumonia, which could be fatal." "We have met with Ministers Anand and Adhav Arjuna and submitted a petition. When we presented our request to the officials, they stated that the government could not bear the cost of the medication."

"We have been trying to meet Health Minister Arunraj for the past three months, but have been unable to do so. Our demand is for the government to establish a dedicated fund to cover the cost of the medication for this disease," they said.

Israel Election: October 7 Victims' Families Demand Inquiry, Voting Underway

ISRAEL: Polling stations have opened across Israel as voters cast their ballots in a crucial election. Approximately 7.3 million eligible citizens are participating in the election for the 26th Knesset.

The election is seeing a close contest between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc and opposition factions led by former IDF chief Gadi Eisenkot's Yashar party. Families of those killed and taken hostage during the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack gathered at Tel Aviv's Hostages Square to observe a moment of silence.

They urged Israelis to vote for parties committed to establishing a state commission of inquiry into the attack.

Signal and Yoram Yehudai, parents of Ron Yehudai who was killed at the Nova desert rave, specifically called for such an inquiry to provide answers and bring peace to their 'weary souls'.

The opposition, particularly Eisenkot's Yashar Party, is campaigning on the issue of accountability for the October 7 attack and demanding an independent commission. Eisenkot, known as a security hawk, has centered his campaign on concerns regarding Netanyahu's leadership and its impact on Israel's security. Yair Golan of the Democrats



also echoed these sentiments, criticizing Netanyahu's government for resisting an independent probe.

After the votes are counted, President Isaac Herzog will consult party leaders to determine who has the best chance of forming a government. The chosen candidate will have 28 days, with a possible 14-day extension, to form a coalition. If this fails, another lawmaker might get a chance.

Should all attempts to form a government fail, Israel would face another election, with Netanyahu remaining as caretaker prime minister.

Worker dies after inhaling acid fumes Private factory in Manamadurai sealed



MANAMADURAI: A worker has died due to exposure to acid fumes at a private factory, leading to the facility being sealed. Jesudass (39), a resident of Panikkanthal village near Manamadurai in Sivanga district, was employed at a private factory located in the Manamadurai SIPCOT industrial estate.

The factory reportedly produces natural fertilizers from seaweed, as well as fragrances and food products.

It is understood that Jesudass, along with colleagues Palaniselvan and Balamurugan, was engaged in processing seaweed—a task that involved the use of a specific type of acid. Jesudass collapsed after inhaling fumes released by the acid.

His co-workers rushed him to a private hospital for treatment, but he unfortunately passed away. Upon receiving the information, police from the Manamadurai SIPCOT station arrived at the factory to conduct an investigation.

Jesudass's body was recovered and sent to the Sivaganga Government Hospital for a post-mortem examination.

The police have registered a case and are conducting an inquiry. Meanwhile, Sivaganga Sub & Collector J.P. Gracia conducted an investigation and ordered the temporary sealing of the factory. Tahsildar Mahadevan and Zonal Deputy Tahsildar Vinoth were also present during the proceedings.

Will Israel election result be dramatic enough to break your silence on this year's Nobel Peace?



Rajnath Singh Urges Stronger Strategic Partnerships at ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meet in Philippines



NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has called for exploring new avenues to strengthen strategic partnerships during his visit to Cebu, Philippines, for the 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting & Plus (ADMM&Plus).

The crucial meeting, held

from October 28 to 29, focused on regional and international security challenges.

Singh emphasized the ADMM&Plus as the premier platform for defence and strategic consultations in the region. He reiterated India's firm commitment to ASEAN centrality

and the peace, stability, and collective growth of the Indo-Pacific region, aligning with the nation's 'Act East Policy'.

During his visit, the Defence Minister engaged in several bilateral discussions with his counterparts from

participating nations. These interactions provided a vital opportunity to review existing defence cooperation and identify new strategies to enhance strategic ties.

ADMM&Plus serves as a significant forum for ASEAN member states and its eight dialogue partners, including India, to foster security and defence collaboration.

India, which became an ASEAN dialogue partner in 1992, actively participates in these mechanisms, underscoring its deepening defence diplomacy in Southeast Asia. This engagement aims to ensure lasting peace, stability, and collective prosperity across the region.



Puducherry: In view of cyclone warnings, two companies of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been dispatched to Yanam—a region of Puducherry located in Andhra Pradesh.

Son in law breaks into house and attacks father in law with a hammer and knife

KRISHNAGIRI: In the Kannanda Halli area near Mathur in Krishnagiri district, police have arrested a man for breaking into his father's house and brutally attacking the 70-year-old with a hammer and a knife, following a family dispute.

The victim, Narayanasamy (70), a resident of Kannanda Halli, was attacked by his son-in-law, Chandrasekaran.

The two had been embroiled in a long-standing family dispute, compounded by grievances related to financial transactions.

On the night of the 14th, Chandrasekaran arrived at Narayanasamy's home and began an argument. As the

confrontation escalated, a furious Chandrasekaran pulled out a hammer and a knife he had brought with him and launched a brutal assault on Narayanasamy, striking him on the head and various parts of his body.

Although his wife and other family members attempted to intervene, Chandrasekaran continued his attack.

By the time neighbors, alerted by the elderly man's cries, rushed to the scene, Chandrasekaran had already fled. Relatives found Narayanasamy lying in a pool of blood and rushed him to a nearby government hospital, where he is currently undergoing intensive medical treatment. Meanwhile,

shocking CCTV footage showing the son-in-law brutally attacking the elderly man with a hammer has surfaced on social media, causing a stir.

Following a complaint filed by the victim's family, the Mathur police registered a case and launched an investigation. A special team was formed to track down Chandrasekaran, who had gone into hiding, and an intensive search operation was carried out. Meanwhile, on the 17th, the police apprehended the son-in-law, Chandrasekaran—who had been in hiding—and, after producing him before the court, had him remanded to prison. This incident has caused a stir in the area.

Laptops to be provided to 1 million students soon – Minister Viswanathan's announcement

TIRUNELVELI: Higher Education Minister Viswanathan announced in Tirunelveli that laptops will soon be provided to 1 million (10 lakh) students. A consultative meeting was held yesterday at the Tirunelveli District Collector's office, involving students and professors from government and government-aided colleges across four districts: Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Kanyakumari, and Tenkasi.

The meeting was presided over by District Collector Anand Mohan, with Members of Parliament Robert Bruce and Vijay Vasanth, and Members of the Legislative Assembly R.S.

Murugan and Reddiarpatti Narayanan in attendance. Higher Education Minister Viswanathan participated as the special guest and engaged in discussions with the students and faculty. Following this, the Minister facilitated the disbursement of educational loans worth approximately ₹2 crore to 15 students. Addressing the gathering, he remarked, "In the past, I was denied an educational loan because I already had a home loan; I had to struggle to fund my child's education. The Higher Education Department is prepared to provide training to students in Artificial Intelligence (AI)



technology. Furthermore, laptops will soon be distributed to 1 million students."

In a subsequent interaction with reporters, the Minister stated: "In previous years, there was friction between the Governor and the Chief Minister; that is no longer

the case. The appointment of Vice-Chancellors has been delayed due to ongoing court cases. The government will soon implement a fee policy for private educational institutions. Additionally, 2,700 professors will be appointed to

government colleges within a month, and the remaining 9,000 vacant positions will be filled within the next two years." After 59 years—and as a result of the struggles of many leaders and a long period of waiting—the Congress party has been included in the Tamil Nadu cabinet, following discussions between Chief Minister Vijay and Rahul Gandhi. The administration of Kamarajar is currently under way in Tamil Nadu, with projects worth one thousand crore rupees being implemented in his name. He stated this.

"The city of Ram is regaining its ancient glory" Adityanath highlights Ayodhya's transformation ahead of 10th Deepotsav

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday highlighted Ayodhya's transformation since 2017, stating that the city was regaining its ancient glory ahead of the 10th Deepotsav, which will feature millions of earthen lamps, tableaux depicting episodes from the Ramayana, grand processions and cultural performances.

In a post on X, Adityanath said Ayodhya, regarded as one of the Sapta Puris, or seven sacred cities, was preparing to celebrate the festival with religious fervour and cultural grandeur. "Foremost among the Sapta Puris (seven sacred cities), Shri Ayodhya Dham is thrilled to welcome its 10th grand and divine Deepotsav," Yogi said.

"Illuminated by the celestial glow of millions of earthen lamps, the banks of the Saryu, captivating tableaux bringing episodes of the Ramayana to life, grand processions, and cultural performances will revive the memories of the Treta Yuga during this festival. Every lamp will symbolise boundless devotion to Lord Shri Ram, and every flame will proclaim the glory of our Sanatan culture," he wrote.

The Chief Minister criticised previous governments over the alleged neglect of Ayodhya before 2017 and referred to incidents involving Ram devotees and the Hanumangarhi temple. "However, prior to the year 2017, Lord Shri Ram's beloved city, Ayodhya Ji, was enduring the agony of neglect, disorder, and plight. What concern could a government have for the development of 'Ram's Ayodhya' when it ordered firing upon innocent Ram devotees and committed the sin of having Namaz offered on the steps of the sacred Shri Hanumangarhi?" Adityanath said.

He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the state government with the city's development and cultural revival, alleging that Ayodhya is regaining its ancient glory with the development of the airport, developed ghats and modern amenities. "By the grace of Lord Shri Ram, a new dawn of development and cultural renaissance broke over Shri Ayodhya Ji after the year 2017," the Uttar Pradesh CM alleged. "Under the guidance of Respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji and through the efforts of the do-



uble & engine government, the city of Ram is regaining its ancient glory. The grand and divine Shri Ram Mandir, Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, the well-appointed Rampath, newly developed ghats, modern amenities, and its emergence as a Solar City have turned Ayodhya into a wondrous confluence of faith and modernity today," he said.

Adityanath said Deepotsav had become a symbol of devotion among Ram devotees in India and abroad, recalling that the festival began in 2017 with 1.71 lakh lamps. "The journey of Deepotsav, which began with 1.71 lakh lamps in 2017, has today become a symbol of the deep devotion and fervour of crores of Ram devotees across the nation and the world. Like

every year, this year too, the devotees of Ram are ready to set a world record in lamp lighting," he said.

He described the festival as a reflection of generations of devotees' desire to see Ayodhya restored to its former splendour and linked it to cultural pride and the goal of a developed India. "This Deepotsav is the radiance of the dreams of generations who, for centuries, cherished the longing to see their Ram's Ayodhya in its Treta Yuga splendour.

"Today, every lamp is being lit as a triumph of faith over the darkness of appeasement, an awakening of cultural self-pride, and a resolute pledge toward building a developed India (Viksit Bharat)



Chennai: "The Congress has no right to criticize the Prime Minister's father," stated senior Tamil Nadu BJP leader Tamilisai Soundararajan.

Israel Election: Voters, Leaders Golan and Ben-Gvir Cast Ballots Amid Calls for Change

JERUSALEM: Israel witnessed a crucial election day as citizens headed to the polls to decide the composition of the 120-member Knesset.

Among those casting their votes were prominent political figures, including Yair Golan, leader of the Democrats party, and Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israel's National Security Minister and head of the Otzma Yehudit party.

Golan, accompanied by his wife and grandson, voted in Rosh Haayin, emphasizing the day's significance by stating, "Today, we are saving Israel." Meanwhile, Ben-Gvir cast his ballot in Kiryat Arba with his wife, urging supporters for a strong turnout and warning against a potential "Mansour Abbas government," while asserting, "Netanyahu will be prime minister, and we will be the right-wing standard-bearer of that government."

Voters across the nation expressed a strong desire for change and emphasized the importance of participation. An anonymous voter in Jerusalem highlighted the civic duty: "It's very important that everyone should get out of their house and cast their vote... I just hope that the people who are going to vote will bring this country to a better place."

Uziel Khazan, another voter, described this election as the most vital he had ever participated in, lamenting a perceived loss of democracy and unity over the past two decades. He noted, "A quarter of a million Israelis left Israel—the best, the elite of Israel... and they want to come back here if they see that there



is a change." Gideon, a PhD student, echoed these sentiments, calling the election a "celebration of democracy" and urging young people to vote for change. Hana, another voter, expressed confidence in her chosen party, Amcha Yisrael, and its goal for a better future and peace.

President Isaac Herzog and his wife also cast their votes, with Herzog encouraging public participation and set to play a pivotal role in government formation after the results are tallied.