

PM Modi says over Rs 18,000 crore transferred to farmers under PM-KISAN

GUJARAT: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that more than Rs 18,000 crore had been transferred to the bank accounts of nearly 10 crore farmers under the latest instalment of the PM&KISAN scheme, highlighting the government's focus on farmer welfare and agricultural development. Addressing a public gathering in Banaskantha, PM Modi said that more than 50 lakh farmers in Gujarat had benefited from the latest transfer, with over Rs 1,000 crore deposited into their accounts. In Banaskantha alone, nearly Rs 50 crore had reached the bank accounts of lakhs of farmer families, he added.

"Today, another instalment of PM&KISAN has reached the accounts of farmers of the nation. Our farmers, our 'annadatas', are one of the str-

ongest pillars of our country. Our govt has always prioritised empowering our farmers," the Prime Minister said.

He added that the country's agriculture budget had increased more than fivefold compared to 2013&14, while the PM&KISAN Samman Nidhi had become an integral part of the lives of crores of small farmers. "Today, an amount exceeding Rs 18,000 crore has been transferred into the accounts of nearly 10 crore farmers. Over 50 lakh farmers in Gujarat have also benefited from this. More than Rs 1,000 crore has been deposited into their accounts," he said.

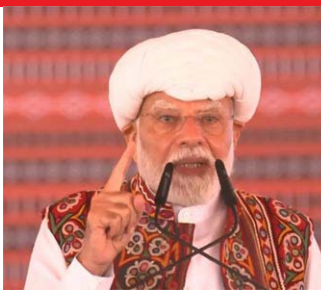
PM Modi further claimed that farmers had received or

saved more than Rs 50 lakh crore over the past years due to the government's policies. Citing the PM&KISAN scheme, he said nearly Rs 4.5 lakh crore had been transferred directly into the bank accounts of small farmers under it.

The Prime Minister also said that the government had protected farmers from the impact of rising fertiliser prices amid global uncertainties.

"Amid global uncertainties, there was a huge jump in the price of fertilisers, but our government, which is dedicated to the welfare of farmers, did not let the burden of this price rise fall on farmers. The government spent Rs 16 lakh crore on this," he said.

Referring to the gathering, where people were seated on traditional charpais, PM Modi said Banaskantha had revived the traditions of villages. "It must be a surprise for the people of the nation to see that all the people attending this event are seated on 'charpais' here. Banaskantha has revived the traditions of our villages. If the Guinness World Records were informed about this, they would have admitted this as a world record," he said. The Prime Minister also recalled his first major public gathering as Gujarat Chief Minister in 2001, held in Deesa in Banaskantha. He said around three lakh people



from a single district had attended the Lok Kalyan Mela, adding that he did not think the record had been broken since. PM Modi said that after completing 25 years of public service, he was returning to the region where his journey had begun. "It was mentioned just now that it has been 25 years since you entrusted me with this responsibility, serving you all this time. And look

at the coincidence... Upon completing 25 years, my first visit has been here to our Banaskantha," he said. He also referred to the inauguration and foundation stone laying of projects aimed at empowering women, children, farmers and livestock rearers.

During the address, the Prime Minister noticed a child holding a framed picture of him and asked SPG personnel to collect it so the child would not tire. "You have won over me! Your arms must be hurting," he said. Before the address, the Prime Minister flagged off the Ahmedabad (Sabarmati)&Varanasi Express and Mehana&Becharaji&Sabarmati MEMU train

services. During his visit to Banaskantha, PM Modi also held a roadshow and visited the Bharat Bovine Breeding and Research Centre (BBRC) cattle farm at Bhildi. The 127-acre facility is dedicated to the Kankrej cattle breed and aims to strengthen bovine breeding, genetic upgradation and advanced reproductive technologies. It is expected to accelerate breed improvement by 10&20 times.

The Prime Minister also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects worth over Rs 14,000 crore in Banaskantha. He released the 24th instalment under PM&KISAN, amounting to

Rs 18,000 crore, according to the background information provided. During his visit to the cattle farm, several women interacted with the Prime Minister and raised the slogan "Modi nah jayenge" during a group photograph. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi were also present.

The projects in the region include two Bio&CNG plants of Banas Dairy at Tharad and Radhanpur, with cattle dung processing capacities of 75 metric tonnes per day and 100 metric tonnes per day, respectively. Other projects include the expansion of potato processing facilities at Sanadar and an Automated Storage and Retrieval System for ultra&high&temperature products at Palanpur.

Elon Musk Warns of 'Game Over for America' if Democrats Sweep 2028 Elections

USA: Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has voiced significant concern over a potential Democratic sweep of the US House, Senate, and Presidency in the 2028 elections.

Musk claims such an outcome could lead to fundamental changes in the country's political landscape, calling it 'game over for America'.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Musk outlined his apprehensions. He sug-

sted that if Democrats gain control of all three branches, they might make Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico states to bolster their Senate majority, open borders to legalize undocumented immigrants for a permanent political advantage, and expand the Supreme Court to secure an immediate judicial majority. According to Musk, these actions would transform the US into a 'permanent one&party state' and effectively end



democracy. Musk urged voters to support Republican senators in the upcoming elections to prevent this scenario, stating that securing

51 Republican senators in 2029 is crucial. His remarks come amidst reports that he has become the largest individual political donor in US history, contributing over USD 442 million to Republican campaigns and political groups ahead of the November 3 midterm elections. Much of this funding has been directed towards helping Republicans maintain control of Congress, with significant contributions to the closely contested Texas Senate race.

This substantial financial backing marks a renewed commitment from Musk to Republican causes, following earlier concerns among Republicans that he might reduce his political involvement. The upcoming midterm elections are seen as a critical battle for control of both chambers of Congress, with significant implications for the legislative agenda and the balance of power in Washington, especially given President Trump's declining approval ratings.

The partnership emphasizes operational coordination, information sharing, and collaboration in defense industrial, science, and technology sectors. Its core objective is to advance cooperation across land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace, fostering a stronger strategic alliance between the two nations.

This anniversary comes shortly after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met his US counterpart Pete Hegseth in Cebu, Philippines, on the sidelines of the 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus.

The meeting reaffirmed the commitment to the 10&-year framework, which aims to transform the India&US

Let us walk the path of the ideals set by Muthuramalinga Thevar: CM Vijay

CHENNAI: On the occasion of the 119th birth anniversary and 64th 'Guru Puja' (commemoration day) of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, Chief Minister Vijay paid tribute by garlanding his statue and offering flowers at Nandanam, Chennai. Following this, Chief Minister Vijay shared a post on the platform 'X' (formerly Twitter), which reads as follows: "On the birth anniversary and 'Guru Puja' day of the freedom fighter Pasumpon

Muthuramalinga Thevar—who cherished both nationalism and divinity as his two eyes—I honor his patriotism, sacrifices, and contributions toward social justice. A noble and divine figure, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar ignited the flame of freedom among the people through his powerful and courageous oratory.

He ardently propagated the principles of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, rallied sup-



port for the Indian National Army (INA), and fought for the nation's liberation. Let us continue to walk the path of the ideals set by Pasumpon

Muthuramalinga Thevar, who transcended the boundaries of caste and religion, living with humanism as his very breath."

India-US Defense Partnership Completes One Year, Focus on Land, Sea, Air, Space, Cyber Cooperation

NEW DELHI: The US Embassy in India recently marked the first anniversary of the US&India Major Defense Partnership framework. This landmark agreement, signed in October 2025 by US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has laid the groundwork for enhanced defense cooperation across various domains.

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defense relationship. The framework, officially signed in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in October 2025, provides a unified vision for deepening defense cooperation.

Working Group on Counter&Terrorism with Malaysia for 2024&2027, underscoring its commitment to peace and stability in the Indo&Pacific.

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North Korea Unveils AI-Powered Drones, 'Sniper' Rocket Launcher in Show of Force.

Brutal Murder in Manamadurai: Woman's Throat Slit Inside Her Home in Broad Daylight

MADURAI: Eswaran and his wife, Vasantha Mallika, resided on the premises of the CSI School on the Manamadurai&Sivagangai road. The couple has two daughters; one is married and lives in Theni, while the other works for a private firm in Madurai, where she also resides. Vasantha Mallika was a retired warden from the CSI School hostel.

Her husband, Eswaran, works at an optical shop. Yesterday, as Eswaran left for work as usual, Vasantha Mallika remained at home alone. During this time, unidentified individuals entered the house, struck her on the back of the head, and slit her throat.

They also stole a 7& sovereign gold necklace from her neck and ripped the earr-

ings from her ears—severing part of her earlobe in the process—before fleeing the scene. Upon returning home at 3:00 PM, Eswaran discovered his wife's body with her throat slit and broke down in shock and grief.

Local residents alerted the police, and officers from the Manamadurai station arrived to begin an investigation.

District Superintendent of Police Abhishek Gupta also visited the scene and has directed police teams to track down the perpetrators.

The incident—a murder committed in broad daylight in a busy, populated area, solely for the sake of gold jewelry—has left the residents of Manamadurai in a state of shock and fear.

Today horoscope



Your expectations will be met. You will receive blessings from elders. Your children will bring you peace of mind. Efforts toward marriage will conclude successfully. Professionally, you may have the opportunity to meet prominent individuals. You will expand your business on a large scale.



Auspicious expenditures will bring you satisfaction. You will purchase modern electronic appliances for your home. You may move into a new, more spacious residence. Business will pick up, leading to reasonable profits. It is advisable to avoid arguments at your workplace.



You may face unnecessary running around. A shortage of funds might force you to borrow money from others. Sudden, unplanned journeys may prove frustrating. At work, you will locate an important document you had been searching for. In business, you will learn the nuances and intricacies of the trade.



You will devise new plans. Your children will be a source of happiness. You will get acquainted with influential people. Your interest in meditation and spirituality will grow. In business, you will attract new clients. A superior at the office will offer praise.



You will visit your family deity's temple with your family. Your children's health will improve. You may replace your vehicle. In business, you will employ new strategies to attract existing customers. At the workplace, you will receive support from your colleagues.



You will experience favorable developments regarding relatives. A marriage proposal for your daughter, which had been delayed, will now come together successfully. You will achieve success in a property-related legal matter. Avoid arguments at the workplace. In business, ensure you do not fall out with your partners.



Feelings of inferiority will fade away. Cash flow will increase, and you will earn respect in your social circles. You may attempt to sell ancestral property, such as land or agricultural plots. Long-standing confusion at the workplace will be resolved. In business, your stock will sell out completely.



Minor issues may arise within the family. You may experience physical fatigue and the need for frequent running around. At times, you might find yourself struggling in awkward or difficult situations. Do not give any kind of commitment to anyone. There will be an upward trend in business.



You will enhance your educational qualifications. You will gain the friendship of learned individuals. Siblings will be supportive. Some may be entrusted with new responsibilities. At the workplace, treat your colleagues with kindness. In terms of business, you will meet with key, influential figures.



New ideas will emerge. You will reconnect with childhood friends and relatives. You will repay money that you had borrowed. Business will be satisfactory. At the workplace, it is best to focus solely on your own tasks.



You will accomplish tasks by communicating clearly. The bond between spouses will strengthen. You will settle outstanding debts. By learning the nuances of business, you will achieve success. Problems will be resolved, bringing peace of mind at the workplace.



Moving past a period of uncertainty, you will begin to make decisions with confidence. You will receive support from your maternal side. You may undertake work-related travel to other towns or cities. In business, accept and act upon the views of your partners.

North Dakota Unveils First Life-Size Mahatma Gandhi Statue at Peace Park

BISMARCK: A significant moment in India-North Dakota relations unfolded on Thursday (local time) as the first-ever life-size statue of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled at Peace Park in Bismarck.

This landmark event, celebrating Gandhi's enduring message of peace, non-violence, and harmony, signifies a deepening bond between India and the American state. The ceremony saw the presence of First Lady Kjersti Armstrong, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, other local dignitaries, and members of the vibrant Indian-American community. The Consulate General of India in Seattle



officially announced the unveiling, highlighting it as a 'special milestone in India-North Dakota friendship'.

Local school students added a poignant touch to the ceremony with soulful renditions of Gandhi's favorite hymns, echoing his timeless ideals. Prakash Gupta, Consul General of India in Seattle, emphasized the global relevance of Gandhi's message, particularly in a world grappling with numerous conflicts. Speaking to KFYR-TV, Gupta stated, "Today, when the world is very divided and we have conflicts raging across the world, to have Gandhi's message of nonviolence emanate out of North Dakota... is very important, because that reflects the founding basis of how India and the U.S. look upon each other as the world's largest democracy and the world's oldest democracy."

This unveiling follows a similar initiative earlier in March, when the first bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Montana was unveiled at the Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana in Missoula. That event, attended by Montana Governor Greg Gianforte and Consul General Gupta, further solidified cultural ties between the two nations.

Satellite to be launched into space today via GSLV rocket



Chennai: Much like the 'GPS' system used by the United States, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) decided to develop the 'Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System' (IRNSS) to assist with land, sea, and air

transportation, as well as defense applications in India. To complete this infrastructure and ensure the receipt of precise data, a constellation of 7 satellites under the IRNSS series must be positioned in space.

Of the navigation satellites launched to date, only

3 remain operational. ISRO is currently in the process of deploying new satellites to replace those that have become faulty. In line with this, the NVS-03 (IRNSS-1L) navigation satellite—designed by ISRO—is scheduled to be launched tonight at 11:51 PM.

It will be carried by a GSLV-F18 rocket, lifting off from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space

Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The countdown for this mission began last night. The NVS satellite weighs 2,250 kilograms and is set to be placed into a geosynchronous orbit. This satellite will provide precise positioning, navigation, and timing services for national security and public use. Notably, it is equipped with a highly accurate, indigenously developed atomic clock.

Corruption in electricity procurement through the deliberate creation of shortages in TN

Palaniswami's allegation

MADURAI: AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami has alleged that a power shortage is being deliberately created in Tamil Nadu to facilitate corruption in electricity procurement. Speaking to reporters in Madurai, he stated that during the AIADMK's tenure, the cost of procuring one unit of electricity was ₹4.75 in 2011, ₹6.35 in 2012, between ₹5.20 and ₹5.40 in 2013-14, ₹5.50 in 2014-15, and ₹5.48 during 2018-19 and 2019-20. He claimed that since the change in government in 2021, the DMK administration has been procuring electricity at rates ranging from ₹11 to ₹20 per unit.

Palaniswami further noted that a minister—who is known for making tall claims—had alleged corruption in power procurement during the previous AIADMK regime; yet, this same minister entered into

a contract to purchase electricity at ₹20 per unit, only to cancel it later. For the past five months, the government has failed to procure electricity in a systematic manner, artificially creating a power shortage; now, they have announced the purchase of electricity at a rate of ₹s. 37.50 per unit. This clearly reveals where the corruption lies. Law and order are in a state of disarray—perpetrators of crimes remain unidentified, and the state cannot even ensure the security of those already convicted and imprisoned. Two inmates escaped from Puzhal Prison—the very facility the Chief Minister had personally inspected; perhaps he visited the prison only because an astrologer told him to.

In Theni Prison, 17 inmates were able to walk out with complete ease. This is a disastrous administration. The Chief Minister takes time off just like government employees



do on weekends. It is reported that once he enters his residence at 6:00 PM, he does not meet with officials until after 9:00 AM the following day. He is a truly peculiar Chief Minister. Since he assumed power, the only 'gift' he has given the people is a sharp rise in the cost of living. The prices of sweets at Aavin have been increased. Please do not spread false information claiming that I am meeting Sasikala or TTV Dhinakaran in Pasumpon. TTV Dhinakaran is already working alongside us. For the past 10 years, there has been talk of a "unified AIADMK." Ever since I assumed the role of

Chief Minister, some individuals have been attempting to create confusion within the party.

Those who work hard for the party will receive the respect they deserve. The AIADMK will rise again, much like a phoenix. Anyone is free to start a political party. Just as Vijay hit the jackpot, some believe that Dhanush might also hit a jackpot. When film stars enter politics, they often go about waving to people at airports and along the roads. In the short time since the TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam) came to power, they have already borrowed Rs. 40,000 crore. He stated this.

Smith Machar, who cheated death twice: Insights from senior neurologists

NEW DELHI: On September 30, a Flydubai flight departed from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, bound for Tel Aviv, Israel, carrying 180 passengers. The aircraft was operated by Indian pilot Smith Machar and co-pilot Hamam Al-Hamami from Oman.

During the flight, Hamam Al-Hamami—intending to crash the plane—attacked Smith Machar with an axe while

they were in the air.

Despite being severely incapacitated, Smith Machar



managed to open the cockpit door, effectively thwarting the plot. Having sustained serious injuries, Smith has since recovered and returned

to his home in Dubai. Surgical scars are clearly visible on the back of his head.

Commenting on this, a senior American neurologist named Deekshit wrote on social media, "Pilot Smith Machar's skull was fractured, resulting in severe injuries. Looking at the surgical marks, it is possible that a major blood vessel—which carries blood to the brain—was severed. The doctors performed the surgery on Pilot Machar under extremely challenging circumstances."

Dr. Rahul Chawla, a senior neurologist based in Delhi, stated, "It is highly likely that Pilot Machar's skull was fractured, leading to bleeding in the brain.

He must have undergone complex surgical procedures." Senior medical experts remarked, "It is a remarkable miracle that Pilot Smith Machar survived the brutal attack by co-pilot Hamami. It is yet another miracle that he survived the complex surgeries he underwent. He has cheated death twice and managed to survive."

G20 Foreign Ministers Gather in Atlanta: Lavrov, Jaishankar, Rubio to Tackle Global Challenges

USA: The G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting is underway in Atlanta, bringing together top diplomats from around the world to address pressing global economic and geopolitical issues. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov arrived on October 30th for the two-day summit, as reported by Sputnik. He is joined by a high-profile roster including US

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, and representatives from China and other key nations. The agenda focuses on the global economy and what Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova described as 'destructive trends' in geopolitics.

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is

also a prominent participant. The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed his attendance, noting he will engage in a QUAD Foreign Ministers' Meeting and hold several bilateral discussions on the sidelines. Following the Atlanta deliberations, Jaishankar will travel to St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, to lead the Indian delegation at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) from November 1st to 4th. This year's CHOGM theme is 'accelerating partnerships and investment for a prosperous Commonwealth'.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is hosting the G20 meeting, aiming to foster practical cooperation on shared economic and security challenges. The US State Department highli-



ghed that discussions will prioritize mitigating supply chain disruptions, safeguarding freedom of navigation, and ensuring energy and food security. These high-level talks are crucial in setting the stage for President Donald Trump's upcoming G20 Leaders' Summit, emphasizing the inseparable link between global security and economic prosperity. The G20, representing 85% of global GDP and two-thirds of the world's population, remains a vital forum for addressing international economic and financial concerns.

MADURAI MANI | EDITOR'S PAGE | 30 OCTOBER 2026

Arab Parties' Historic Rise in Israel: A New Test for Democracy!



The true strength of democracy lies not merely in the authority of those who govern, but in the protection of the rights and voices of minorities. The reported electoral gains of Arab political parties in Israel have brought this fundamental democratic principle into renewed focus.

Israel's political landscape has long been shaped by complex relationships among Jewish and Arab communities, competing national identities, security concerns and the unresolved Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The growing political significance of Arab representation raises an important question: Can democratic institutions translate electoral participation into meaningful equality, political inclusion and lasting peace?

A New Chapter in Israeli Politics

Arab citizens of Israel have participated in parliamentary politics for decades. Their political representatives have advocated civil equality, improved public services, economic opportunities and greater recognition of the concerns of Arab communities. Their participation also reflects the diversity of political opinion within Israel's Arab population. Different parties hold different positions on cooperation with Jewish-led parties, Palestinian national aspirations and domestic social policies. The significance of increased Arab representation, therefore, extends beyond parliamentary arithmetic. It highlights the continuing importance of political participation in a society divided by longstanding historical and national disputes.

Democracy Must Respect Every Vote

Elections are not merely contests for political power. They are public expressions of the right of citizens to determine their representation. Every legitimate vote deserves equal respect, regardless of the religion, ethnicity, language or political affiliation of the voter. Allegations of electoral irregularities must be examined independently and transparently. At the same time, allegations should not be used to undermine confidence in an entire community's democratic participation without credible evidence.

The legitimacy of democratic institutions depends upon both electoral integrity and equal citizenship. The Challenge of Political Cooperation Israel has previously witnessed cooperation between Arab and Jewish political parties. In 2021, the Arab Ra'am party participated in a governing coalition led by Naftali Bennett. That experience demonstrated that political cooperation across communal divisions is possible, although the coalition's collapse in 2022 also illustrated the difficulties of maintaining such arrangements.

Today, the fundamental questions remain: How can competing political groups work together on common public concerns? Can differences over national identity and security coexist with cooperation on education, employment, healthcare and economic development? These questions cannot be answered through election results alone. They require sustained dialogue, institutional trust and respect for constitutional and legal safeguards.

A Lesson for Democracies Across the World The developments in Israel also offer an opportunity for reflection in India and other democratic nations. A democracy must provide equal political rights to citizens belonging to every religion, language and community. Majority rule determines who forms a government, but constitutional principles protect the rights of all citizens. Political disagreements are inevitable. Yet disagreements must not become grounds for denying communities meaningful participation in public life.

Peace Requires More Than Political Victory The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains one of the world's most difficult political and humanitarian challenges. Questions concerning Gaza, the West Bank, Israeli security, Palestinian self-determination and the protection of civilians cannot be resolved through parliamentary negotiations alone. Political representation can, however, create additional channels for dialogue and accountability. Whether the latest election produces such opportunities will depend on the decisions of the parties involved and the policies pursued by any future government.

The Final Word

The reported electoral gains of Arab parties in Israel are significant not simply because of the number of parliamentary seats involved, but because they bring questions of political inclusion, equal citizenship and cooperation into sharper focus. An election decides who holds power. The treatment of every citizen, including those outside the majority, reveals how democratic institutions function. The challenge before Israel is therefore larger than forming its next government. It is to reconcile political differences with the rights, security and dignity of all communities. Democracy is strengthened when every legitimate voice can be heard, every vote is respected and every citizen enjoys equal protection under the law.

— EDITOR
MADURAI MANI DAILY

Cyclone ‘Arnab’ causes losses of Rs 4,600 crore Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu



AMARAVATI: The Andhra Pradesh government, in its preliminary report, has stated that Cyclone ‘Arnab’ has caused losses amounting to approximately Rs 4,600 crore across the state’s coastal districts. Cyclone ‘Arnab’, which formed in the Bay of Bengal, crossed the coast near Yanam and Narsapuram on Wednesday

morning. As a result, the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh—including Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Bapatla, Anakapalli, and the Godavari districts—are experiencing persistent heavy rainfall. In Srikakulam district, heavy rains combined with the opening of sluice gates

at the Baghalati Dam in the neighboring state of Odisha have caused water from the Bahuda River to flow into Andhra Pradesh. This has led to the flooding of the Chennai&Kolkata National Highway near Ichhapuram, bringing vehicular traffic to a halt. Furthermore, railway tracks in the district have been washed away by the heavy rains, causing a complete disruption of train services. Narasamma (52), a resident of Kommarikunta in the East Godavari district, went up to the roof of her house to hang out wet clothes. Unbeknownst to her, a high-voltage power line had fallen onto the roof. As she proceeded to hang the

clothes, she was struck by an electric current. Her husband, Bangarayya (57), who was nearby, rushed to save her but was also struck by the electricity. Both were thrown from the spot and died instantly. Due to Cyclone Arnab, which caused disruptions to information technology and communication systems, a large vessel became stranded at sea near Antarvedi in the West Godavari district. The Navy deployed a helicopter and successfully rescued 13 people; efforts are currently underway to rescue the remaining 7 individuals. Yesterday, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu

Naidu conducted an aerial survey by helicopter of the areas affected by Cyclone Arnab. Following this, a cabinet meeting was held under his leadership. Speaking on the occasion, Chandrababu Naidu said, “Cyclone Arnab has caused the destruction of approximately 200 boats. Eight people have lost their lives, and the total loss is estimated at around Rs 4,600 crore. Rain continues to fall in several districts. By tonight, 90 percent of the power supply will be restored. Officials have been instructed to submit a report to the Central government soon, seeking compensation.”



The birth anniversary and ‘Guru Puja’ (commemoration day) of Muthuramalinga Thevar are observed as an official state event in Pasumpon, near Kamuthi in Ramanathapuram district. Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan participated in the event and paid tribute by garlanding the statue of Thevar. Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar also garlanded the statue to pay his respects. Subsequently, senior BJP leader Pon. Radhakrishnan also paid his tributes.



Ear bitten off in a fight

SAMAYANALUR: A clash broke out between two groups—led by 23-year-old Sivasankar from Mannadimangalam and 51-year-old Kamaraj from Thenur—during a Marudhu Pandiyar commemoration event in Thenur, stemming from a long-standing enmity. During the altercation, Kamaraj’s right ear was bitten off. The police have registered cases against 17 individuals from both sides.

Chief Minister’s Trophy Sports Tournament Concludes Chennai Secures Top Spot with 319 Medals CM Presents ‘Vijay Trophy’ and Commends Winners



CHENNAI: The Chennai team, which secured the top position in the Chief Minister’s Trophy sports tournament by winning 319 medals—including 142 gold—was honored by the Chief Minister, who presented them with the ‘Vijay Trophy’ and medals. The state&level competitions for the Chief Minister’s Trophy—which included participants from all 38 districts of Tamil Nadu across five categories: school students, college students, persons with disabilities, government employees, and

the general public—began on October 15. The tournament, which saw the enthusiastic participation of 32,603 athletes across 10 districts—including Chennai, Chengalpattu, Coimbatore, and Madurai—concluded the day before yesterday (October 28). In this event, the Chennai district claimed the first position by amassing a total of 319 medals, including 142 gold. Chengalpattu district secured second place with 143 medals, including 64 gold,

while Coimbatore district took third place with 118 medals, including 27 gold. Following this, the closing and prize&distribution ceremony for the Chief Minister’s Trophy sports competitions was held yesterday at the Jawaharlar Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai. Presiding over the event, Chief Minister Vijay honored the athletes and teams that secured the top three positions by presenting them with trophies, medals, and a total prize purse of Rs. 38 crore. Additionally, the Chief Minister awarded incentive cheques totaling Rs. 6.85 crore to nine athletes who achieved success by winning medals at the 5th Asian Para Games held in Japan. During the event, the Chief Minister interacted with the athletes, listened to their requests, and posed for a group photograph with them and their family members. Chief Minister Vijay inaugurated the newly established Tamil Nadu Olympic Aquatic Academy—built at a cost of ₹42.90 crore across 7.18 acres in Prappanvalasai, Ramana-thapuram—to provide world&class training for athletes from Tamil Nadu in aquatic sports. He also inaugurated a multi&purpose sports complex, constructed at a cost of ₹20 crore on the premises of the Government College of Engineering in Karuppur, Salem. Earlier, while speaking, Sports Minister Adhav Arjuna stated, “With the goal of ‘Dreams: Olympics,’ the Chief Minister’s

Trophy sports tournaments saw a record&breaking participation, with 27.82 lakh individuals registering—a figure never seen before. A total of Rs. 83.36 crore has been spent on organizing these events. Our Chief Minister has allocated the highest amount of funding for a ‘Chief Minister’s Trophy’ anywhere in India. Win just one Olympic medal. When you become the world number one, the entire economy—and indeed all of Tamil Nadu—will come looking for you. We must not just win in an ordinary way. We must create history.” The event was attended by Chief Secretary M. Sai Kumar, Sports Secretary Sandeep Nanduri, Member Secretary of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) Meghnatha Reddy, and S.P. Mayilvahanan—who serves as the Joint Secretary of the SDAT and Special Officer for the ‘Mission Olympics’ initiative—among others.



Ministers Nirmalkumar, Rajiv, Madanraja, and others paid tribute by placing garlands on the statue of Muthuramalinga Thevar in Madurai. Following this, the ministers visited the Thevar memorial in Pasumpon, where they laid garlands on behalf of the government to pay their respects.

VCK extends support to INDIA-bloc Nov 1 rally, Thirumavalavan says workers from 5 southern states to participate



CHENNAI: Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) chief Thirumavalavan on Friday extended support to the INDIA bloc November 1 mega&rally.

The VCK chief has said that party workers from at least 5 southern states are participating in the November 1 rally in Delhi. The rally at Ramlila Maidan is expected to have at least 10 lakh people attend at the newly designated protest site. “The Viduthala Siruthaigal Party will participate in the protest on the 1st. Viduthala Siruthaigal Party members from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka are particip-

ating,” Thirumavalavan told reporters at Chennai airport. The VCK chief has also expressed support for the proposed social justice survey, which has been approved by the Tamil Nadu cabinet on Thursday. The survey is expected to be carried out after the national census. The Commission for conducting the social justice survey will be headed by a retired High Court judge and is expected to be conducted in February or March of 2027. Minister CTR Nirmal Kumar told reporters in Chennai, “After the population census conducted by the central government, we will be doing a social status survey. So for that there will be one commission will be formed in with the headed by a retired High Court judge, headed by retired High Court judge, one commission will be formed. With that commission, the social status survey will be

conducted mostly after February or March.” Meanwhile, the November 1 mega&rally is expected to have an attendance of 10 lakh people, which has raised apprehension within traders’ bodies over how the area around Ramlila Maidan will be restricted, which will lead to businesses being impacted. The trade body highlighted that these hubs&some up to 300 years old&supply goods pan&India and depend on 5,000 daily trucks and tempos arriving from 56 industrial areas (including Narela, Bawana, Okhla, Mayapuri, Mundka, Udyog Nagar, and Mangolpuri). Meanwhile, the rally&dubbed the ‘Chalo Dilli Ramlila March’&has been called by the opposition INDIA bloc to demonstrate against alleged vote tampering. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi emphasised that the movement transcends individual party lines.

‘Thirukkural Learning’ for 1,000 College Students in 23 Languages at Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0

NEW DELHI: As part of Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0, a ‘Thirukkural Learning’ program will be conducted for 1,000 college students from across the country, covering 23 languages—22 Indian languages plus English. The Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), based in Chennai, is organizing this initiative. Under the noble vision of ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’ (One India, Great India), the Union Ministry of Education has previously organized four editions of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam.

The objective is to integrate India’s ancient cultural traditions and linguistic heritage. In this series, the fifth Kashi Tamil Sangamam is scheduled to take place from November 28 to December 12, with ‘Thirukkural Learning’ as its central theme. As part of this event, 1,000 college students from various Indian states will participate in the ‘Thirukkural Learning’ program, which is being facilitated by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai. Selected students will undergo

a one&month training course on the Thirukkural. The CICT will provide a stipend of ₹10,000 to each participating student. Eligible students will be selected through coordinating institutions in each state. Once selected, participants can register on the website www.kts.cict.in—developed by the CICT—and study the Thirukkural over the course of one month. To foster interest in the Thirukkural, the CICT will also conduct a two&hour introductory online session. Furthermore, translations of the ‘Thirukkural’—in English and the 22 Indian languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India—have been made available for students through the ‘Thirukkural Multilingual App.’ Speaking to the ‘Hindu Tamil Thisai’ newspaper during a visit to Delhi, Professor R. Chandrasekaran, Director of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), stated, “This platform has been designed not only to encourage students’ interest in learning but also to help them grasp the significance of the ‘Thirukkural’ in a simple and accessible manner.” This initiative will help transcend linguistic barriers to disseminate the ethical teachings of Thiruvalluvar and foster greater awareness of the ‘Thirukkural’ among the younger generation. Opportunities to explore the ideas contained in the ‘Thirukkural’ are now available in English and 22 Indian languages: Assamese, Bengali,

Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu. Through this, students from every state can understand the concepts and ethical principles of the ‘Thirukkural’ in their own mother tongue. The objective is to share the ethical wisdom of the ‘Thirukkural’—a work revered as a universal code of conduct—with a diverse audience. The platform features a wide array of learning resources, including commentaries on the ‘Thirukkural’, versions in sign language, audiobooks, stories, videos, short clips, posters, and interactive games,” he added.

Clash between two groups Police resort to a lathi-charge

VIRUTHUNAGAR: In Namaskaritan Patti, near Sivakasi in Virudhunagar district, police resorted to a lathi&charge following a clash between two groups. A group had set up a sound system in Namaskaritan Patti, near Sivakasi, for an event marking ‘Thevar Jayanthi’. Another group opposed this, leading to a confrontation

between the two sides. When the police attempted to intervene and stop the clash, individuals at the scene threw stones and wooden clubs at them. In response, the police carried out a lathi&charge. As the situation remains tense, a large number of police personnel have been deployed in the area to maintain security.



The opening ceremony of the 67th State-level Republic Day athletic meet took place the day before yesterday at the Mahatma Gandhi Sports Stadium in Salem. A controversy arose during the event—which was attended by a Minister, the District Collector, and an MLA—when the national flag was found flying upside down. Taking departmental action, the Chief Educational Officer, Ellappan, issued an order suspending the physical education teacher, John Zamindar, who had hoisted the national flag in an inverted position.

Honda India Foundation Donates 50 Motorcycles and a Car to Traffic Police



CHENNAI: Police Commissioner Amal Raj flanked off 50 motorcycles and one car, donated by the Honda India Foundation to the Chennai Traffic Police. The Honda India Foundation stepped forward to provide these 50 motorcycles and a car to support the emergency response operations of the Greater Chennai Traffic Police. The vehicles were flagged off by Police Commissioner Amal

Rajat at an event held yesterday morning at the Rajarathinam Stadium in Egmore, Chennai. The ceremony took place in the presence of Prabhu Nagaraj, Operating Officer at Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India. Additional Commissioners of Police Kapil Kumar C. Saratkar and Chamundeswari (Traffic), Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Pagalavan, and other police officials were also present. Speaking to rep-

orters, Police Commissioner Amalraj stated that the newly provided vehicles will be used to streamline traffic in Chennai and expedite emergency response services. In the last 10 months, 420 people died in road accidents in Chennai; this year, the number of fatalities from road accidents has decreased to 402. So far this year, 485,000 cases have been registered against individuals for failing to wear helmets. Most fatalities in two&wheeler accidents occur because the riders were not wearing helmets. Therefore, it is mandatory for those traveling on two&wheelers to wear a helmet.



CJP extends support to INDIA bloc protest: Abhijit Dipke makes announcement

NEW DELHI: The 'Karappan Poochi Janata Party' (CJP) has extended its support to the protest organized by the INDIA bloc in Delhi. CJP founder Abhijit Dipke has issued a significant statement regarding this protest, which is directed against Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The INDIA bloc is set to hold a protest at Delhi's Ramli Maiddan on November 1 (Sunday).

The demonstration aims to challenge the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls and express opposition to Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. CJP founder Abhijit Dipke has voiced his support for the protest; however, he did not clarify whether leaders from his party would share the stage with the leaders of the INDIA bloc. Previously, the CJP had staged a protest at Jantar Mantar, alleging irregularities in recruitment examinations—an event that saw the participation of

several Members of Parliament and leaders from the INDIA bloc, including members of the Congress party. Notably, senior Congress leaders—Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra—did not participate in that earlier protest. Regarding the upcoming INDIA bloc demonstration, CJP leader Abhijit Dipke posted on the social media platform X: "Gyanu (Gyanesh Kumar) must resign. Our 'Karappan Poochi Janata Party' extends its support to the INDIA bloc's November 1st rally. The nation comes first." "Jai Bhim, Jai Hind" Gyanesh Kumar has lost the trust required to conduct free and fair elections.

His resignation is essential to restore the credibility and independence of the Election Commission. The current 'SIR' (Systematic Identification and Removal) process—which has led to the deletion of eligible voters' names from the electoral rolls—is a cause for



concern. Instead of making it easier for citizens to exercise their right to vote, there is a growing fear among the public that their names might be removed from the voter list.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar fought to ensure that every Indian, regardless of their social or economic status, possesses an equal political voice. Every government and constitutional institution is obligated to uphold this principle. The responsibility of the Election Commission is to safeguard the voting rights of every eligible citizen, not to create obstacles in the electoral process. Our Constitution grants the right to vote to every adult citizen. It is our collective duty to ensure that no eligible citizen

is deprived of this right. Therefore, it has been stated that the CJP (Citizens for Justice and Peace) will support all organizations fighting for free and fair elections in our country. Earlier, the CJP had called for a protest on October 2nd, demanding the resignation of Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. However, CJP members Abhijit Dipke, Saurav Das, and Ashutosh Ranga were intercepted and stopped before they could reach the protest site in Delhi. Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi has also been leading protests against the 'SIR' procedure and the Election Commission.

However, he has temporarily suspended this protest due to the festive season. The next protest is scheduled to take place on November 1 at Delhi's Ramli Maiddan. Previously, he had stated that anyone could join the protest against the SIR (System of Internal Regulation/Rules) procedure.



Lamborghini worth Rs. 4 crore gifted to female employee in Dubai

DUBAI: A prominent Dubai-based real estate firm, 'Richee Properties', has surprised one of its female employees by gifting her a luxury Lamborghini Urus, valued at Rs. 4 crore. Natalia Chaves works as an agent at Richee Properties. She has achieved a remarkable feat by selling properties worth over \$500 million (approximately Rs. 4,750 crore in Indian currency) within just the last two years. During the company's 3rd

anniversary celebration, Natalia Chaves was invited onto the stage to receive an award as the 'Best Employee' for the year 2026.

As she was heading back to her seat after receiving the award, the company's CEO, Thaban Uthman, stopped her. "Natalia, where are you going? Do you think it's over? We have something else to show you," he said, and amidst the applause of everyone in the hall, he surprised

her by gifting her a brand-new blue Lamborghini Urus. Videos of this touching moment have gone viral on social media platforms, including Instagram. "This is proof of what happens when you work exceptionally well at the Richkee

company—big achievements and big dreams! Congratulations, Natalia; you truly deserve this," the company noted in the video. It is worth mentioning that in Dubai, the price of a Lamborghini Urus ranges from 2.3 crore to 4 crore rupees.

Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway: Tender worth Rs. 614 crore for a 14 km stretch

CHENNAI: An expressway is being constructed to connect the cities of Chennai and Bengaluru. Although the project was announced nearly 14 years ago, the foundation stone was laid only in May 2022. Currently, it takes 5 to 7 hours to travel from Chennai to Bengaluru by road; the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has stated that once the expressway becomes operational, the travel time will be reduced to three hours. The 263&kilometer&long expressway is being built at a cost of Rs 18,000 crore, with the work divided into 10 separate packages. So far, construction has been completed for 230 kilometers. Within the 263&kilometer



stretch, the 71&kilometer section from Hoskote to Be-thamangala—located within the Karnataka border—has been fully completed (100%) and opened to traffic.

In the Andhra Pradesh and the Tamil Nadu&Andhra Pradesh border regions, 90% of the work has been finished. In Tamil Nadu, 92 kilometers of the planned 106 kilometers have been completed. The project was initially scheduled for completion by March 2024, but due to various

reasons, it could not be finished within the planned timeframe. Consequently, the total project cost has increased to Rs 10,507 crore. The remaining 14&kilometer stretch in Tamil Nadu is now set to be constructed at a cost of Rs 614 crore.

Regarding this, officials from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) stated the following: In the Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway project, most of the work in the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh has already been completed. In the Tamil Nadu section, however, the project faced delays due to challenges in

land acquisition, difficulties in relocating infrastructure—such as power lines and water pipelines—and short-comings in the performance of contractors in various areas. Furthermore, a legal dispute currently pending in court has caused delays in the completion of a significant 25&kilometer stretch between Arakkonam and Kanchipuram. This issue has now been resolved; the first phase, covering 11 km, has already been completed.

For the next phase, spanning 14 km, a tender has been issued at a cost of ₹614 crore. A contractor will be selected soon to carry out the work. These remaining tasks will be completed and opened for public use within four months, the official added.

Indian Navy's First Training Squadron Concludes Colombo Visit with Joint Exercise

COLOMBO: The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS), comprising INS Tir, INS Sujata, and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi, recently departed Colombo, Sri Lanka, after a productive port call.

This visit, which concluded on Thursday, October 29, 2026, focused on strengthening maritime cooperation and enhancing interoperability between India and Sri Lanka. The port call featured a range of bilateral engagements, including training interactions, community outreach activities, and professional discussions.



A significant highlight was the 'Passage Exercise' (PASSEX) conducted at sea with the Sri Lankan Navy ship SLNS Nandimithra, aimed at refining operational coordination between the two navies. During their stay, the Senior Officer of the First Training Squadron met with the Commander of the Western Naval Area of the

Sri Lanka Navy, reaffirming the strong bilateral ties. Trainees from both navies engaged in reciprocal visits, with Indian sea trainees visiting the Naval and Maritime Academy in Trincomalee and Sri Lankan cadets touring the Indian squadron's ships. These interactions fostered professional camaraderie and shared learn-

ing. Community outreach efforts included Indian Navy personnel participating in a beach clean&up, promoting environmental sustainability. The ships were also open to the public, allowing locals and the Indian diaspora to learn about the Indian Navy's operations and training. This visit underscores the enduring maritime partnership between India and Sri Lanka, aligning with the MAHASAGAR vision for regional security and growth. Earlier, the squadron had also completed a similar port call and PASSEX in Malé, Maldives.

Glacial Lake Outburst in Bhutan Red Alert Issued for Darjeeling and Other Areas in West Bengal

NEW DELHI: A red alert has been issued for parts of West Bengal following a glacial lake outburst in the Lemthang area of Bhutan, which has triggered flooding.

Authorities have initiated emergency precautionary measures in response. Following the outburst at the glacial lake in the Lemthang region, water is flowing through the Mo Chhu River toward the Sankosh River. Consequently, residents in the Darjeeling hills, Terai, and Doorga regions have been advised to remain vigilant. Raju Bista, the BJP MP for the Darjeeling constituency, urged residents living in the catchment areas of the Sankosh River and its tributaries to move to safer locations as a precautionary measure.

West Bengal Minister Nisith Pramanik stated, "The State Disaster Management team has been mobilized, and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is en route. Volunteers have also been asked to be present in potentially vulnerable areas."

There is growing concern regarding the risk of flooding, as the floodwaters are expected to reach the plains within the next five to six hours. Alipurduar District Superintendent of Police Amit Kumar Shah stated, "There is no need for the public to panic."

The situation is being continuously monitored in coordination with Bhutanese authorities and various disaster response agencies. The State Disaster Response



Force (SDRF) has already been deployed in the area, and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is also on its way.

Civil defense personnel have been mobilized to assist with emergency precautionary measures. Approximately 4,000 to 5,000 people have been relocated to safer areas, with school buildings being utilized as relief centers. Furthermore, over

6,000 more people are set to be moved to safer locations. The administration has ensured the availability of essential facilities at the relief centers, including dry rations, drinking water, and sanitation facilities.

While the speed of the water flow has decreased slightly, a 'red alert' remains in effect due to the potential risk posed by the Sankosh River.

Free Bus Travel Extended to Persons with Disabilities

CHENNAI: The free travel scheme on government buses has been extended to persons with disabilities. The Government of Tamil Nadu has issued a government order (G.O.) providing financial assistance of up to ₹30,000 for the purchase of modern, AI&based assistive devices. In the government orders issued regarding this, So. Madhumathi, Secretary of the Department for the Welfare of Differently Aabled Persons, stated that in Tamil Nadu, all persons with disabilities—with a disability level of 40 percent or more—along with one accompanying person, were previously permitted

to travel for free exclusively on ordinary city buses. In this context, the facility for free travel has now been extended to include various services operated by State Transport Corporations—specifically, ordinary city and town buses, express buses, low&floor buses, LSS (Limited Stop Service), deluxe buses (excluding air&conditioned buses), as well as ordinary&fare buses operating in suburban and hilly regions.

Persons with disabilities who wish to avail themselves of this benefit may travel on these buses by presenting their 16&digit Unique Disability ID (UDID) card—issued by



the Government of Tamil Nadu—to the bus conductor. An initial allocation of Rs. 7.90 crore has been sanctioned for this expansion, and an official order has been issued for its immediate implementation.

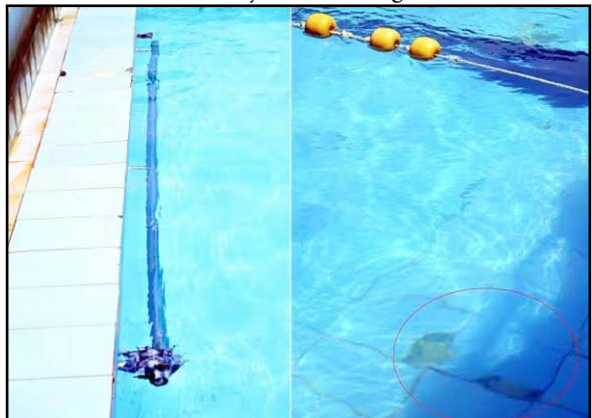
It has also been announced that the government will provide subsidies to persons with disabilities for the purchase of advanced, modern equipment—including devices based on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and specialized prosthetic limbs for sports—to help them lead independent lives.

Financial assistance will be provided, amounting to 50 percent of the total cost of the equipment or a maximum of Rs. 30,000—whichever is lower. Persons with disabilities who wish to benefit from this scheme may obtain a recommendation from a government doctor, purchase the required equipment, and submit an application—along with the necessary documents—to the District Welfare Office for Persons with Disabilities within 60 days of the purchase. This is as stated therein.

Interim Ban on Broadcasting Obscene Advertisements on Television

MADURAI: In a case seeking a ban on the broadcast of indecent programs and obscene advertisements on television—and requesting that such content be subjected to pre& censorship—the

Madurai Bench of the High Court has directed the Central Government to clarify whether any existing guidelines govern this matter.



During the district&level swimming competitions held (Oct 29) at the Madurai Race Course grounds, broken tiles in the swimming pool cut the feet of the participants, causing them to bleed.

In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Sahadevaraja from Rajapalayam, it was argued that television channels frequently feature unnecessary, semi&obscene content in advertisements for products such as condoms, male&potency enhancers, ice creams, perfumes, and innerwear.

The petitioner contended that broadcasting such material without prior censorship is detrimental to a civilized society. He noted that these obscene visuals leave an impact on children, potentially leading them toward sexual offenses or acts of violence.

The petitioner requested a ban on the broadcast of indecent programs and obscene advertisements, urged that all

advertisements be subjected to pre& censorship, and called for action against television channels that violate these norms. In 2020, a division bench of two judges issued an interim order, imposing a ban on the broadcast of indecent programs and obscene advertisements on television. During a hearing yesterday, a division bench comprising Justices P. Velmurugan and K.K. Ramakrishnan directed the Central Government's counsel to obtain information from the Secretary of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding the existence of any relevant guidelines, and to present these details to the court by November 19.