

India's 'Iron Man', Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birthday

AHMEDABAD: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Prime Minister Modi paid floral tributes to his statue in Gujarat. In a post, Prime Minister Modi stated, "I pay my respectful tributes to the 'Iron Man' of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, on his birth anniversary. He dedicated his entire life to building a strong and prosperous nation.

The sacrifice and dedication he demonstrated in his service to Mother India continues to serve as a great source of inspiration for building a developed and self-reliant India."

Prime Minister Modi and other leaders pay tribute

President Droupadi Murmu said, "I pay tribute on the 151st birth anniversary of the 'Iron Man', Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. His contributions as a key leader in the freedom struggle and as one of the primary architects of modern India remain unforgettable. He played a historic role in uniting the nation.

To honor his unparalleled contribution to the country's unity and integrity, we celebrate his birth anniversary as 'National Unity Day' (Ras-

htriya Ekta Diwas). I trust that all citizens will dedicate themselves to the mission of building a developed India." Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar remarked, "The nation remembers with gratitude the immense contribution of Sardar Patel to nation-building.

His legacy will continue to guide India's journey toward unity and progress." Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi (Arlekar) stated: "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was



affectionately called 'Sardar' (Leader) by the people, as he successfully led the struggle against the British in Bardoli to protect the interests of the farmers."

While he was in the midst of presenting a case as a lawyer, he received news of his wife's

passing; yet, he waited until the proceedings concluded and the case was won before informing others and taking his leave.

During the freedom struggle, he forged a close friendship with Gandhi while imprisoned in Yerawada Jail.

Following independence, at Gandhi's request, he stepped aside to allow Nehru to take the position of Prime Minister—a role that had otherwise been destined for

him. He served as the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of independent India.

He unified 565 scattered princely states in a remarkably short span of time, forging a united India. He is revered as the "Iron Man of India" and is credited with establishing the Indian administrative services. Let us honor and pay tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel—whose legacy is now immortalized by the world's tallest statue on the banks of the Narmada River—on his birth anniversary, October 31st. This was stated by Arlekar.



The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah addressing at the flagging-off ceremony of the 'Run for Unity' on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas at Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium, in New Delhi.

2,880 Projects Worth ₹377 Crore in Urban Local Bodies, Including Parks and Playgrounds

CHENNAI: A government order has been issued granting administrative sanction for 2,880 projects in urban local bodies, with an outlay of ₹376.65 crore, under the Chief Minister's Integrated Urban Development Mission. Under this mission, a 'General Project Sanction and Monitoring Committee'—chaired by the Secretary of the Municipal Administration Department—has been established to ensure that projects in urban local bodies are executed in a transparent and cost-effective manner.

The Managing Director of the Tamil Nadu Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TUFIDCO) serves as the coordinating officer for this committee.

Other members include the Commissioner of the Greater Chennai Corporation, the Managing Director of the Chennai Metropolitan

Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB), and the Director of Municipal Administration. The committee's inaugural meeting, held recently, focused on the projects to be undertaken during the current financial year.

Approval was granted for 1,513 projects (worth ₹154 crore) across various municipal corporations and municipalities, 680 projects (worth ₹138 crore) in the Greater Chennai Corporation, and 687 projects (worth ₹84.49 crore) in various town panchayats. In total, administrative sanction has been granted for 2,880 projects across urban local bodies, amounting to ₹376.65 crore.

Following this, the government has issued an official



order granting the necessary administrative approval to carry out these projects within the Greater Chennai Corporation, as well as in other municipal corporations, municipalities, and town panchayats. Accordingly, to increase the green cover within the Greater Chennai Corporation, 36 new parks will be established at a cost of Rs. 34.46 crore, and 11 new playgrounds will be developed at a cost of Rs. 9.52 crore as part of the first phase. The Directorate of Municipal

Administration in Tamil Nadu has invited tenders to select a system integrator for the design, development, integration, implementation, and maintenance of a real-time monitoring system for urban local bodies. It is noteworthy that under this initiative, services such as water supply, sewage disposal, and waste management can be monitored in real-time from a control room, enabling issues to be resolved even before the public lodges a complaint.

GSLV-F18 successfully launched into space PM Modi congratulates ISRO scientists

NEW DELHI: Following the successful launch of the GSLV-F18 rocket, Prime Minister Modi has commended the ISRO scientists. In a statement, he said: "Congratulations to the ISRO scientists on the successful launch of the GSLV-F18 rocket, carrying the state-of-the-art navigation satellite 'NVS-03'.

This marks a sig-

nificant milestone in strengthening our indigenous satellite navigation system, 'NavIC'. "Equipped with advanced technology, the 'NVS-03' satellite provides a boost to our efforts toward achieving self-reliance in space technology.

It will also support navigation services that benefit the public. The inge-



enuity of our space scientists continues to bring pride to the nation," Prime Minister Modi stated.

The CM cannot control the police force, nor can he even control his own party members

DMK's criticism

TRICHY: Vijila Sathyanand, Deputy Secretary of the DMK Women's Wing, has alleged that "the Chief Minister is unable to keep either the police force or the members of his own party under control." Protest demonstrations were held across Tamil Nadu today by the DMK Women's Wing to condemn the breakdown of law and order, the lack of safety for women and children, and the rising cost of living under the current administration.

In Trichy, a protest took place near the District Collector's office, organized by the Women's Wing and the Women's Volunteer Wing from the Trichy Central and North districts, as well as the East constituency. Leading the protest, DMK State Women's Volunteer Wing Deputy Secretary Vijila Sathyanand stated: "Since this government took office, there have been nine

murders in Thoothukudal alone within a single week. Various issues are plaguing the entire state—a situation unprecedented in Tamil Nadu's history.

Drugs are being sold in broad daylight, and when the police are informed, they refuse to take action. In Senji, a young girl went missing, and the police have yet to locate her. The Chief Minister lacks the capability to oversee the police force. Furthermore, members of the ruling party are sexually harassing women within their own ranks; the Chief Minister cannot even keep his own party members under control."

"A government should



be proactive and take responsibility for its failures—yet this administration does neither," she added. The protest saw the participation of several key figures, including District Women's Wing organizers Kavitha,

Thuraiyur Kiruba, Ramya Begum, Kavitha, and Vijaya Jayaraj; Deputy Mayor Divya Dhanakodi; as well as Divya Kalaiselvi and Vasuki. The participants raised slogans condemning the current government.

MLAs raise the banner of revolt against Kashmir CM Omar Abdullah

JAMMUKASHMIR: A cabinet reshuffle has taken place in the Omar Abdullah-led government of Jammu and Kashmir. With the removal of Satish Sharma, only

one Hindu minister remains in the cabinet—marking the first time in 70 years that Hindu representation in the cabinet has been reduced. Disgruntled MLAs from the

party have raised the banner of revolt against the leadership. Twenty-four MLAs from the National Conference party held a secret meeting in Srinagar and drafted a joint resolution

against the Omar Abdullah administration. Senior leaders have expressed their dissatisfaction, alleging that they were denied representation in the recent cabinet reshuffle and

that merit and seniority were overlooked in favor of individuals close to the Chief Minister. The dissident group has issued a 158-day ultimatum, demanding the removal of

the Chief Minister's advisor, Nasir Aslam Wani, and Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, as well as a complete overhaul of the cabinet. Senior party leader Farooq Abdullah

and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah are currently attempting to bring the situation under control by engaging in talks with the disgruntled leaders.



Today horoscope



The tasks you undertake will flourish. You will confidently make some important personal decisions. Your reputation in your social circle will rise. Confusion will dissipate, bringing happiness at the workplace. In business, avoid making enemies with anyone.



Expected help will arrive just in time. Misunderstandings between spouses will be resolved. You may purchase modern electronic devices. At the workplace, it is best to focus solely on your own tasks. In business, old stock will be cleared out.



With the Moon positioned within your sign, exercise caution and restraint regarding financial and family matters. You may experience some running around and increased expenses. It is advisable to avoid new investments in business. At the workplace, you will locate an important document you had been searching for.



You will gain the friendship of people in positions of authority. Old friends may reach out to you. An opportunity to replace your vehicle will arise. In business, you will procure new stock, and you will receive support from your partners. At the workplace, your superior will commend your work.



Your children will behave affectionately. Your words will reflect your wisdom and experience. You may attempt to sell ancestral agricultural land. You will seek assistance from others to expand your business on a larger scale. At the workplace, you will receive support from your colleagues.



You will receive good news from your hometown. Your mother's health will improve. Pending tasks at the workplace will be completed. In business, you will attract customers by employing new strategies.



The arrival of guests will bring a lively atmosphere to your home. You will have the support of your family members. At the workplace, your superior will entrust you with key responsibilities. In terms of business, you will have the opportunity to meet prominent individuals.



Your mother's health will improve. Your children will act responsibly. Students will show a keen interest in their studies. You will win people over with your tactful and pleasant way of speaking. It is advisable to maintain a calm demeanor at the workplace. Business activity will pick up momentum.



Due to 'Chandrashtama' (the Moon's transit through the eighth house from your sign), avoid unnecessary anger. It is advisable to be accommodating within the family. Pay attention to your physical health. Workload at the office will increase. In business, avoid making enemies; you can expect a reasonable profit.



Confusion will dissipate, leading to contentment within the family. Your status among relatives and friends will rise, thanks to your children. You will resolve long-standing issues. Students will strive to turn their dreams into reality. You will see progress in both business and your professional career.



Close relatives and friends will reach out to you. Issues like stomach aches or heartburn will subside. Travels will prove beneficial. At the workplace, you may be recommended for a new position. You will employ new strategies to expand your business.



You will gain the mental fortitude to handle any situation. Avoid getting angry. Your siblings will provide strong support. You will overcome opposition and disappointments to achieve success. Business ventures will yield profits. Do not interfere in the affairs of others at the office.

No Alcohol for Those Under 23 New Restrictions for Bars in Kerala



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A ban has been imposed on the sale of alcohol to individuals under the age of 23 in Kerala. The State Excise Department has issued a strict directive requiring bars to verify the age of customers by checking government-issued identification documents, such as the Aadhaar card. Excise Minister M. Liju has warned that bars must verify the age of any customer who appears underage—using an Aadhaar card or other valid proof of identity—before serving them alcohol. He further cautioned that strict action will be taken against any establishment that violates this rule. This directive follows an incident in Nedumbassery, Kochi, where a 19-year-old named Suhail Sajeev—who was involved in a fatal accident while driving a Mini Cooper—had been served alcohol without any age verification. Consequently, orders have been issued to revoke the licenses of bars that serve alcohol to individuals under the age of 23. The Minister also stated that the United Democratic Front (UDF) government is currently formulating a new liquor policy, which will be announced in November, as previously communicated to the Kerala High Court.

Induction of LHB Coaches in Express Trains



To enhance safety and ensure a comfortable journey for passengers, the existing rakes of the following trains will be converted into LHB (Linke&Hofmann& Busch) Coaches as detailed below.

1. Train No. 16751/16752
Tambaram – Rameswaram –
Tambaram Express will
run with LHB Coaches

Ex. Tambaram with effect from 31st December, 2026 and
Ex. Rameswaram with effect from 03rd January, 2027.
2. Train No. 16344/16343
Rameswaram – Thiruvananthapuram Central –
Rameswaram Amritha Express will run with LHB Coaches Ex. Rameswaram with effect from 01st January, 2027 and Ex. Thiruvananth-

apuram Central with effect from 2nd February, 2027. Consequent to the conversion into LHB coaches, the composition for the above train services will be revised as 1 – AC First Class Coach, 1 – AC

Two Tier Coach, 4 – AC Three Tier Coaches, 10 – Sleeper Class Coaches, 4 – General Second Class Coaches, 1 – Second Class Coach (Divyangjan Friendly) & 1 – Luggage cum Brake Van.
3. Train No. 16349/16350
Thiruvananthapuram North – Nilambur Road – Thiruvananthapuram

North Rajya Rani Express will run with LHB Coaches Ex.

Thiruvananthapuram North with effect from 31st December, 2026 and Ex.

Nilambur Road with effect from 01st January, 2027.

Consequent to the conversion into LHB coaches, the composition for the above train services will be revised as 1 – AC Two Tier Coach, 2 – AC

Three Tier Coaches, 6 – Sleeper Class Coaches, 4 – General Second Class Coaches, 1 – Second Class Coach (Divyangjan Friendly) & 1 – Luggage cum Brake Van.

Organic Produce to be Available at Farmers' Markets Starting November 1

MADURAI: The Department of Agricultural Business and Marketing is launching an initiative to sell organically grown produce at farmers' markets (Uzhavar Sandhais) every Sunday, beginning tomorrow (November 1). In the Madurai district, a limited quantity of traditional rice varieties, vegetables, fruits, millets, and greens are culti-

vated using organic farming methods. Currently, vegetables, fruits, and greens are sold daily at farmers' markets in Anna Nagar, Chokkikulam, Palanganatham, Anaiyur, Melur, Thirumangalam, and Usilampatti.

Because organic produce is priced slightly higher than crops grown using chemical fertilizers and pesticides, it

often faces limited market demand. To address this, the Department of Agricultural Business and Marketing has established a dedicated space for organic produce within these farmers' markets. For this purpose, 100 farmers in the district who practice organic cultivation have been identified and granted organic certification by the Seed

Certification and Organic Certification Department. Organic agricultural produce will be available for sale at the seven farmers' markets in Madurai every Sunday, from 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Consumers can begin purchasing these organic products at these markets starting tomorrow (November 1).

Sudden transfer of 6 Joint Commissioners of temples Order issued by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department

CHENNAI: K. Ramu, who was serving as the Joint Commissioner of the Devi Karumari Amman Temple in Thiruverkadu, has been appointed as the Joint Commissioner of the HR&CE Department (Chennai&1). The previous appointment of P. Vijaya to this position has been cancelled. The appointment of Ki. Rengadevi, who was previously assigned to the Madurai zone, has been cancelled; she has now been appointed as the Joint Commissioner of the Devi Karumari Amman Temple

in Thiruverkadu.

The appointment order for T. Anitha, who was assigned to Kanchipuram, has been cancelled, and she has been transferred as the Joint Commissioner of the HR&CE Department (Chennai Zone&3). The appointment of K. Ramani, who was previously assigned as the Joint Commissioner for Chennai Zone&3, has been cancelled; she has now been appointed as the Joint Commissioner of the Verification Division



at the HR&CE Department headquarters. P. Vijaya, whose previous appointment (Chennai&1) has been cancelled, has been transferred and posted as the Joint Commissioner of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department for

the Tiruvannamalai zone.

The appointment of C. Kumaradurai—who was previously designated as the Joint Commissioner for the Headquarters Inspection Wing—has been cancelled, and he has now been appointed as the Joint Commissioner for the Kanchipuram zone. All the officers who have been transferred have been instructed to assume their new responsibilities immediately.

Plan to build 8 state of the art warships for Rs 40,000 crore to expand the Navy

Approval granted by the Cabinet Committee on Security

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved a project worth Rs 40,000 crore for the construction of 8 state-of-the-art warships to expand the Indian Navy. The Cabinet Committee on Security, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has cleared the defense project, which entails building 8 advanced warships for the Indian Navy at a cost of Rs 40,000 crore.

This project, aimed at expanding the Indian Navy, will be executed by two major public sector shipyards: Kolkata-based Garden Reach

Shipbuilders & Engineers' (GRSE) and Goa-based 'Goa Shipyard Limited' (GSL).

Reports indicate that the government will soon enter into formal agreements with these two entities regarding the project. Regarding this, officials stated: The eight new warships being built will be high-speed surface combatants, capable of reaching speeds of approximately 30 knots.

A target has been set to deliver the first warship by 2030, and efforts are underway to accelerate the construction schedule. Building all eight vessels within India is ex-



pected to bolster domestic shipbuilding capabilities and strengthen the nation's indigenous defense manufacturing ecosystem.

These state-of-the-art warships will serve as versatile, adaptable platforms, capable of undertaking a wide range of

maritime security operations. Their induction will enhance the Indian Navy's combat readiness and operational presence across the Indian Ocean Region—a maritime area of critical strategic importance. This is what the officials conveyed.

Madurai: Car catches fire while occupants arrive for temple visit

MADURAI: In an incident near Madurai, a car caught fire while its occupants were arriving for a temple visit; fortunately, everyone in the vehicle escaped unharmed. The individuals involved—Suresh (37), Bharathi (38), Prakash (38), and Krishnan (35)—hail from the Udumalaipettai area in Tiruppur district. The four friends were traveling by car from Udumalaipettai to Madurai to visit the Pandi Kovil temple,

with Krishnan driving the vehicle. While driving along the four-lane highway near Thoppur, close to Thiruparankundram in Madurai district, thick black smoke suddenly began to emerge from the front of the car. Realizing the danger as the volume of smoke increased, Krishnan promptly pulled the vehicle over to the side of the road near the Thoppur bus stop and ensured that all the passengers got out safely. Shortly thereafter, the car caught fire

and was quickly engulfed in flames. Upon receiving the information, firefighters from Thiruparankundram rushed to the scene and extinguished the fire. However, the entire car was gutted, and the belongings inside were destroyed. The Austinpatti police have registered a case



and are conducting an investigation into the incident.

October 31 EDITORIAL – NEW INDIA FLASH 2026

INDIA CONQUERS SPACE! ISRO'S HISTORIC TRIUMPH!



India's space programme has reached another important milestone with the reported successful launch of the GSLV&F18 rocket carrying the advanced NVS&03 navigation satellite. This achievement reflects the dedication, scientific excellence and determination of ISRO's scientists.

Launched from Sriharikota, the satellite is designed to strengthen India's indigenous NavIC navigation system. Its advanced technology is expected to support national security, transportation, telecommunications, disaster management and public navigation services.

Scientific independence is the foundation of a strong and self-reliant nation. By developing its own satellite navigation technology, India is taking significant steps towards reducing dependence on foreign systems.

The achievement is particularly meaningful following the technical difficulties experienced during the earlier NVS&02 mission. Scientific progress demands courage, patience and the ability to learn from setbacks. ISRO's continued efforts demonstrate that challenges can become opportunities for innovation.

However, the true value of space technology lies in its benefits to ordinary citizens. Advanced navigation systems must improve public safety, strengthen infrastructure and support national development.

India must also invest more in scientific education, research institutions and opportunities for talented students, particularly in rural areas. Every successful space mission should inspire a new generation of scientists and innovators.

Reaching space is a great achievement, but using science to improve human lives is an even greater responsibility.

ISRO's progress is a source of national pride and a reminder that sustained investment in science is essential for India's future.

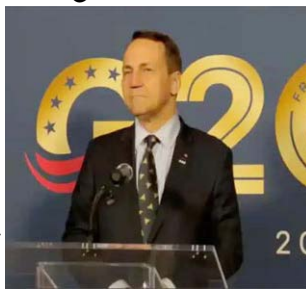
India's future belongs to knowledge, innovation and scientific excellence!

– EDITOR

NEW INDIA FLASH

PM Modi Commits India's Support for Poland's G20 Bid, Says Polish Foreign Minister

NEW DELHI: Poland's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski has expressed deep gratitude for India's commitment to supporting Poland's ambition to become a permanent member of the G20.



Speaking in Atlanta, Sikorski highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's direct assurance of India's backing, which was conveyed during Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk's recent visit to New Delhi from October 21&23.

Sikorski emphasized his positive working relationship with India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, underscoring the growing diplomatic ties between the two nations. He also recalled India's significant role in the G20's only formal expansion to date, which saw the African Union join as a permanent member during India's presidency, showcasing New Delhi's leadership in global forums.

The Polish Foreign Minister revealed that the United States has formally proposed Poland's inclusion in the G20, and he has been actively lobbying various countries, including India, to support this resolution. This development follows a highly successful visit by Prime Minister Tusk to India, which aimed to strengthen bilateral cooperation and economic alignment.

During his visit, accompanied by Finance Minister Andrzej Domański and a large business delegation, Prime Minister Tusk met with PM Modi to review the India&Poland Strategic Partnership, elevated in August 2024. Discussions covered trade, investment, defence, technology, renewable energy, and education. Tusk also participated in business forums in New Delhi and Bengaluru, focusing on IT, space, and economic collaboration, signaling a robust new phase in India&Poland relations.

Children’s Day Celebration: CM Vijay to Celebrate in Ambasamudram



CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay has decided to celebrate Children’s Day in Ambasamudram, located in the Tirunelveli district.

Children’s Day is observed across the country on November 14th. In Tamil Nadu, the government has decided to distribute cakes to school students to mark the occasion.

The tender process for the procurement of these cakes has been finalized. Starting October 26th, the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation will conduct quality inspections at the manufacturing facilities. Should any defects or issues be identified, they will be

immediately reported to the head office. Each cake is being produced to a high standard and will weigh 45 grams. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Vijay is set to celebrate Children’s Day in Ambasamudram, Tirunelveli district. Reports

indicate that the Chief Minister plans to visit all constituencies where by-elections are scheduled to take place. In line with this, he is expected to visit the Perundurai and Viralmalai constituencies during the first week of November.

EAM Jaishankar, US Secretary Rubio Discuss Bilateral Cooperation at G20 Meet

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Atlanta on Friday, on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting.

The leaders reviewed the ongoing bilateral cooperation between India and the United States. This meeting follows Rubio’s recent visit to India from October 20&21, where discussions focused on advancing economic and strategic priorities in the region.

During the G20 session, Jaishankar emphasized that military solutions are ineffective for global challenges, advocating for diplomacy. He also highlighted concerns over attacks on civilian shipping and seafarers, stressing the need to uphold freedom of navigation and halt ass-



aults under international law, particularly UNCLOS. Jaishankar pointed out that developing economies face hurdles like market flooding and weaponization of supply chains, urging for resilient, alternative connectivity networks. He also cautioned against overlooking the dangers of terrorism, calling it a high&risk activity.

The minister noted the disproportionate impact of attacks on civilian shipping on the Global South, affecting

fuel and food availability. Statistics indicate that at least 22 Indian nationals, including 14 seafarers, have lost their lives since the West Asia conflict began in February. Rubio, opening the deliberations, acknowledged the severe threats posed by interconnected economic and geopolitical crises to global economic order, supply chains, and freedom of navigation. He urged G20 nations to collaborate on strengthening financial resilience and safeguarding commercial markets. The G20 discussions are set against a backdrop of significant international divisions, with the US slated to host the G20 Leaders’ Summit in Miami on December 14&15.

High Court Orders Appointment of New Jeeyar for Madurai Kallazhagar Temple

MADURAI: The Madurai Bench of the High Court has ordered the selection and appointment of a new Jeeyar for the Madurai Kallazhagar Temple. Sathyanarayanan, a resident of Thirumullaivoyal in Thiruvallur district, filed a public interest litigation (PIL) requesting that the Secretary of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department and the Commissioner be directed to fill the vacant position of Jeeyar at the Madurai Kallazhagar Temple. In an order issued by a division bench comprising Justices G. R. Swaminathan and P. Murugan, the court noted: The petitioner pointed out that the position of Jeeyar—a role traditionally associated with the Madurai Kallazhagar Temple—has remained vacant for over 80 years.

When questioned by the court, the counsel for the temple (including the Additional Advocate General) acknowledged that the position of Jeeyar did indeed exist. The last person to hold the position relinquished the office in 1940, and it has remained vacant ever since.

Although the temple has been without a Jeeyar for 80 years, it is now time to revive this tradition. The last Jeeyar was appointed in 1937; it appears he disappeared from the public sphere in 1946 without leaving any information.

No action was taken at that time, but that cannot be used as a justification to refrain from taking action now. We have examined the appointment process for the Jeeyar of the Srirangam Temple in detail; the same legal principles apply to the appointment of a Jeeyar for the Kallazhagar Temple.

However, there is a key distinction: in the case of the Srirangam Temple, if a Jeeyar disappears without appointing a successor, the hereditary trustees—known as ‘Sthalathars’—are responsible for selecting a new successor. At the Kallazhagar Temple, there is no ‘sthalathar’ (traditional temple authority/committee) structure in place. However, this does not mean the situation should remain at a standstill. A previous legal judgment provided guidance for such scenarios, stating that “in circumstances

like these, the authority to appoint a new successor may be entrusted to the heads of the same tradition or related ‘mathas’ (monastic institutions).” Since the heads of relevant religious institutions are empowered to select a successor, the task of appointing a “Jeeyar” (pontiff) for the Kallazhagar Temple shall be undertaken by the Jeeyars of Thirukurungudi and Alwarthirunagari, along with Periya Nambigal Swami. Given that this significant and challenging responsibility has been entrusted to these venerable figures, we refrain from setting a specific deadline for the completion of this task. They may deliberate—either in person or via video conference—to select the “Jeeyar”. We trust that this process will be concluded expeditiously, ensuring that the Kallazhagar Temple receives an exemplary “Jeeyar”.

Once the “Jeeyar” has been selected, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department will issue an order formally recognizing the appointment. This was the order issued.

Action to be taken against violations in the preparation of Diwali snacks: Collector’s warning



CHENNAI: In a press release, Chennai District Collector S. Malathi Helen stated that all food business operators preparing sweets and savory snacks must mandatorily possess the appropriate license or registration certificate. Those preparing snacks in temporary setups, wedding halls, or at home based on orders must also register with the

Food Safety Department before commencing sales. Failure to comply will result in legal action. Furthermore, all boxes or packets of sweets and snacks offered for sale must be labeled with the date of manufacture, expiry date, Food Safety Department registration number, and the appropriate vegetarian or non-vegetarian symbol. Products must be sold only in a hygienic, contamination&free environment. Only permitted artificial colors may be used in the preparation of these snacks. The use of seven types of artificial colors—Carmoisine, Erythros-

ine, Fast Green, Metanil Yellow, Orange RN, Rhodamine B, and Tartrazine—is prohibited in savory snacks. Furthermore, the use of Orange RN, Metanil Yellow, and Rhodamine B is not permitted in sweets. Milk&based sweets have a shelf life of only 3 to 5 days. They should not be packed and sold in gift boxes alongside other types of sweets that have a longer shelf life. The public may register complaints via the WhatsApp number 94440 42322, the website foodsafety.tn.gov.in, or the ‘Food Safety Consumer’ mobile application. This has been stated accordingly.



A 9-year-old leopard was found dead in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. Forest department officials are conducting an investigation to determine the cause of its death.

Rs. 5 Crore Seized from Blue Drums Buried Inside House

UP Police Conduct Intensive Investigation



LUCKNOW: In Uttar Pradesh, police have seized Rs. 5 crore that was found buried in blue drums at the home of a farmer named Rakesh Yadav. Rakesh Yadav, a farmer from the Baraipur area in the Prayagraj district of Uttar Pradesh, had previously lived in poverty and worked for a low wage at a jewelry store in Pune, Maharashtra. Suddenly, he transitioned to a lavish lifestyle, acquiring 14 acres of agricultural land worth Rs. 10 crore and building a grand house in his native village. The police grew suspicious as to how an individual who had worked as a low&level employee at a jewelry store had suddenly come into possession of such a vast sum of money.

A few days ago, a team of over 40 police officers conducted a surprise raid on Rakesh Yadav’s residence. During the search, they discovered three blue drums buried underground, containing stacks of Rs. 500 notes. The currency was counted using note&counting machines. More than Rs. 5 crore in cash was found inside three drums. The police seized the money and arrested four individuals, including Rakesh Yadav and his younger brother, Rajesh Yadav. They failed to provide a satisfactory explanation regarding the source of these funds. DCP Sonam Kumar stated that an intensive investigation is underway into how they suddenly became wealthy. Meanwhile, Income Tax Department officials have initiated a separate inquiry into the seizure of the cash.



Chennai: Tamil Nadu BJP Secretary Ashwathaman has submitted a petition to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, requesting that express trains be made to stop at five major railway stations in Tamil Nadu.

Delhi: Fire at footwear factory; 4 dead

NEW DELHI: Four people have died in a fire at a footwear factory in Delhi, while two others are currently undergoing treatment. The incident occurred at a shoe manufacturing factory located in the Mangolpuri industrial area of Delhi.

A fire broke out suddenly in the first unit of the facility around 9:30 PM. Firefighters battled for several hours to bring the blaze under control.



The fire originated in the basement of the factory; firefighters worked immediately to contain the flames and prevent them from spreading to other parts of the building. During the subsequent rescue operation, six individuals were found unconscious inside the factory—one on the staircase of the third floor and five others on the fourth floor. They were transported to a hospital in Mangolpuri for medical attention. It has been reported that four of them passed away on the way to the hospital. The remaining two individuals are currently receiving treatment.



Chennai: The Tamil Nadu government has decided to sell a special kit containing 10 essential grocery items through cooperative stores across the state for Rs. 200. The scheme was inaugurated yesterday by the Minister for Cooperation, V. Kantharaj, at the ‘Marudham’ cooperative supermarket in Red Hills, Chennai.

Theni Incident Prison Superintendent in-charge suspended: CM Vijay issues orders

CHENNAI: Following the escape of prison inmates in Theni—an incident that has caused a major stir in Tamil Nadu politics—Chief Minister Vijay has ordered the suspension of the prison superintendent in&charge and the transfer of several prison department officials.

A government press release regarding this incident states: “On the night of October 26, 2026, 17 inmates held at the Theni District Prison attacked the prison guards on duty and escaped. Upon receiving information about the incident, the police acted swiftly, apprehended all 17 escapees, and returned them to custody.

Following this, Chief Minister Vijay has ordered strict action regarding the security lapses, negligence

in surveillance, and dereliction of duty within the prison administration. Consequently, N. Nageswaran, a Deputy Prison Officer who had been holding additional charge as the Superintendent of the Theni District Prison since August 6, 2024, has been placed under suspension—effective October 30, 2026, and until further orders—in accordance with the Tamil Nadu Civil Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, for failing to exercise due diligence in the supervision and control of inmates and staff. Furthermore, to strengthen oversight, accountability, and security measures within the prison administration, R. Krishnaraj, Superintendent of the Madurai Central Prison, has been transferred to the



position of Superintendent of the Salem Central Prison. It has been emphasized that prison department officials must carry out their responsibilities with the utmost attention and vigilance to ensure there are no lapses in prison security or surveillance.

It has also been stated that strict action will be taken against any official found to be negligent or careless in the performance of their duties.”

Employees Demand ‘Collection Based Allowance’ for ‘Vetri Payanam’ Scheme

MADURAI: Employees have stated that the refusal to provide a ‘collection&based allowance’ (batta) to drivers and conductors operating buses under the ‘Vetri Payanam’ (Women’s Free Travel) scheme is a violation of the terms of their agreement. Under the Tamil Nadu government’s ‘Vetri Payanam’ scheme, women are issued ‘zero&fare’ tickets.

These tickets are issued primarily to track the number of female passengers. Since no fare is collected, the total revenue has effe-

ctively halved, leading to a reduction in the ‘batta’ (allowance) paid to the staff, which has left them feeling demoralized.

Balakrishnan, State President of the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation Workers’ Federation, stated: “Even though no fare is collected, tickets must still be issued to women; therefore, the workload for the staff has not decreased.

Denying an allowance for the tickets issued is a violation of the agreement and deprives the employees

of their rightful dues. Consequently, an allowance must be provided for these tickets as well.”

Furthermore, several resolutions were passed during the executive committee meeting held in Salem.

These include demands to reinstate the Old Pension Scheme; to provide Rs. 1 crore in compensation and a government job to the legal heir of an employee who died in the Ooty landslide; and to ensure that technical staff are not appointed to administrative promotion posts, among other issues.

Three day lorry strike to begin tomorrow, demanding an end to the illegal transport of mineral resources

Announcement by the Sand Lorry Owners’ Association

CHENNAI: Yuvaraj, president of the Federation of Sand Lorry Owners’ Associations in Tamil Nadu, has announced that lorries will go on a three&day strike starting tomorrow to demand an end to the ongoing illegal transport of mineral resources. Speaking to reporters in Chennai regarding this, he stated: “Mineral resources are being illegally transported because lorries are loaded with up to 30 tonnes—exceeding the permitted limit of 22 tonnes.”

“Bribes are being collected by RTO (Regional Transport Office) officials and the police to allow for this excess loading. This results in significant losses for both the government and the public.” “During the first three months of the current administration, there was no bribery or looting of mineral resources.

However, much like the previous administration, bribery is now taking place



under this government as well. The plundering of mineral resources from hills continues unchecked. Furthermore, several brokers acting on behalf of the RTO are demanding ‘mamool’ (extorted payments) from us ahead of the Deepavali festival.” They are threatening us, demanding payments via GPay. Although this has been brought to the attention of the official from the Department of Mineral Resources, no action has been taken so far.

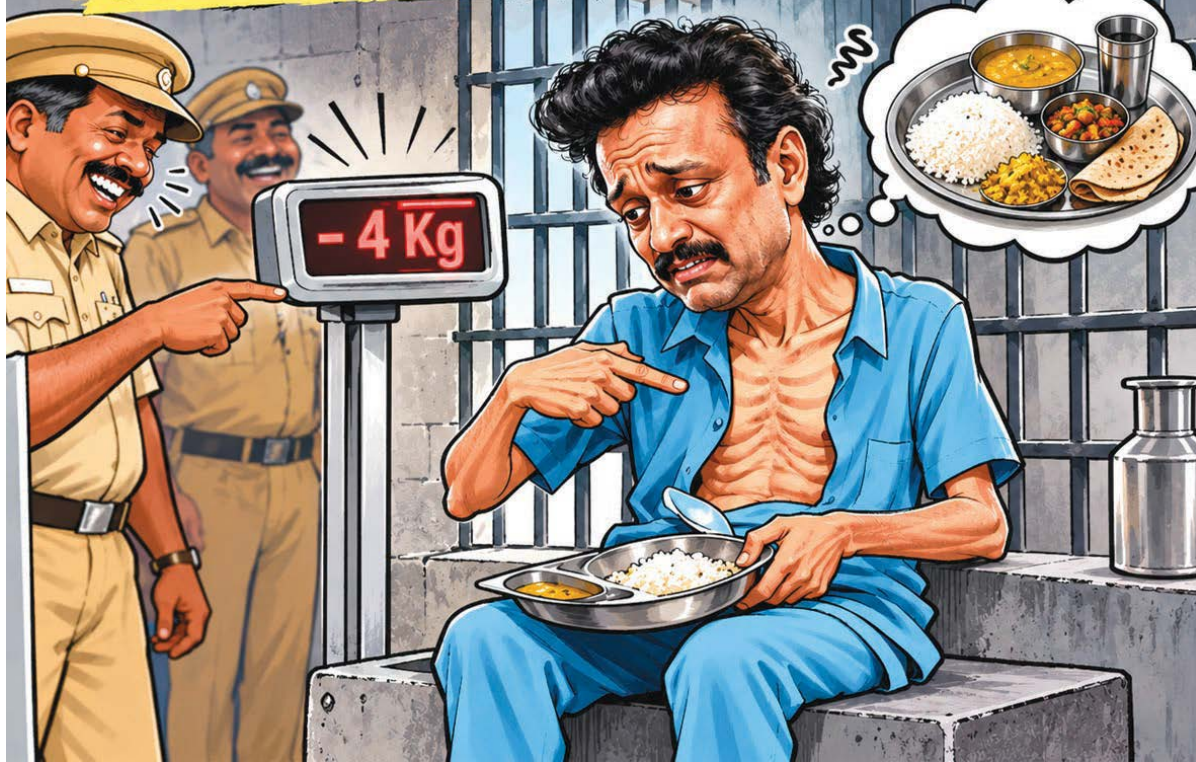
While it was stated that systems like GPS and e&way bills would be introduced to curb the illegal transport of

mineral resources, these have not been fully implemented. In the last two meetings, it was promised that GPS devices would be installed/replaced, but that has not materialized either. Consequently, to bring these issues to the attention of the Chief Minister, lorry operators will go on a three&day strike starting tomorrow (November 1). As a result, 20,000 lorries across 8 districts will remain off the roads.

Strict regulations—similar to those in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka—must be introduced to curb the illegal transport of mineral resources, he stated.

TWO DAYS OF JAIL FOOD... 4 KG WEIGHT LOSS!

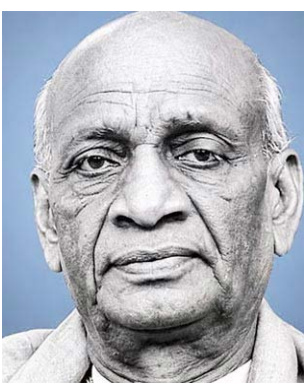
Former DMK Minister's Claim in Court!



Governor Arlekar pays tribute on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of a unified independent India

CHENNAI: Governor Arlekar has paid tribute on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who unified independent India. In a statement released on this occasion, he noted: "He was affectionately called 'Sardar' (Leader) by the people for his successful struggle against the British to protect the interests of farmers in Bardoli.

Notably, when he received news of his wife's passing



while he was arguing a case as a lawyer, he continued with the proceedings until the case

was won, only then informing others and departing. During the freedom struggle, he forged a close friendship with Mahatma Gandhi while imprisoned in Yerawada Jail. After independence, at the request of Gandhi, he stepped aside to allow Jawaharlal Nehru to take the position of Prime Minister. He served as the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of independent India. He unified 565 scattered

principally states in a remarkably short period, creating an integrated India—a feat that earned him the title 'The Iron Man of India.'

He also laid the foundations for India's administrative services. On his birth anniversary, let us honor and pay tribute to this great leader, whose legacy is immortalized in the form of the world's tallest statue, standing on the banks of the Narmada River."

"I'll break your bones you'll be left headless" Government veterinarian issues threats

VILLUPURAM: A video of a government veterinarian near Marakkanam in Villupuram district, hurling obscene abuses at a young man who brought his cow for treatment and threatening to "break his bones," has gone viral on social media, causing widespread shock. Sadashivam (28), a daily wage laborer from Ambedkar Nagar in Koonimedu Panchayat near Marakkanam, owns two cows. When one of them suddenly fell ill today, his son, Chandru, took the animal to the local government veterinary hospital for treatment.

The veterinarian on duty, Shankaranarayanan,

examined the cow and provided treatment. After the procedure, Chandru asked the doctor at what time he should bring the cow back the following day. Enraged by this simple question, Dr. Shankaranarayanan unleashed a torrent of verbal abuse, using foul language.

He threatened, "I will break every one of your 209 bones! You'll be left with just a body—no head; I'll chop it off, you rascal! There's a massive gap between us—you've studied up to the 5th grade, while I'm at the 50th-grade level. It would take you 2,000 lifetimes to reach my level of education." Boasting that he holds his



position thanks to the support of IAS officers, the doctor continued his tirade using highly vulgar language. A woman who had arrived at the clinic to get her goat treated was left stunned and horrified by the doctor's behavior.

When the doctor noticed Chandru recording the in-

cident on his mobile phone, he threatened him again, demanding that he stop filming. This threatening video is currently spreading rapidly across social media platforms, including WhatsApp and Facebook.

The incident has drawn strong condemnation from the public, and the victim, Chandru, has filed a complaint at the Marakkanam police station. The police are conducting an intensive investigation based on the complaint. Furthermore, the district animal husbandry department officials have been informed, and an inquiry has been set in motion.

France on High Alert for Halloween Protests; Germany's Gen Z Plans Rallies Over Living Costs



FRANCE: France significantly escalated security measures on Saturday, deploying approximately 70,000 personnel, ahead of nationwide protests coinciding with Halloween.

Authorities expressed concern that demonstrators might exploit festive masks to conceal their identities, potentially leading to unrest. French Interior Minister Lau-

rent Nunez warned of a "very high risk" of disturbance, assuring a firm response to any violence.

Shopkeepers across France boarded up their storefronts, anticipating potential vandalism, with the chamber of commerce president noting widespread anxiety among business owners. The protests in France, which gained momentum in late September, are linked to discussions around the 2027 budget, public debt, and rising borrowing costs. Students, trade unions, and the 'Yellow Vest' movement have joined forces, demanding action on deteriorating school conditions

and the surging cost of living.

Meanwhile, Germany is also bracing for widespread demonstrations led by young people. The "Gen Z regelt" movement has called for protests in 34 cities, including Berlin and Munich, against "broken schools and austerity," rising living costs, social injustice, and climate change. Organizers have explicitly distanced themselves from any violence, a sentiment echoed by German police who, while vigilant, emphasize protecting the right to assemble. However, concerns remain about extremist groups potentially infiltrating these rallies. These youth-led protests across Europe highlight growing dissatisfaction over economic prospects, educational facilities, and social inequality.

India at UN: Human Rights Best Advanced Through Dialogue, Not Politicisation

NEW YORK: India has strongly advocated for advancing human rights through constructive dialogue, capacity building, and genuine partnerships, rather than through politicisation, selectivity, or double standards.

This stance was articulated by India's First Secretary Bhavika Mangalanandan at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) during a debate on the Human Rights Council's report. Mangalanandan underscored the critical need for equal treatment of all human rights categories, emphasizing that economic, social, and cultural rights deserve the same attention as civil and political rights. She highlighted that for many de-



veloping nations, poverty, debt, and limited access to financing and technology remain significant barriers to human rights enjoyment, necessitating international cooperation over coercion. India, currently serving its seventh term on the Human Rights Council (2022&24), reiterated its commitment to promoting human rights through cooperation and mutual understanding. Mangalanandan stressed that the Council's

credibility hinges on its even-handedness and fair treatment of all countries, cautioning that country-specific mandates without the engagement of the concerned nation rarely improve conditions on the ground.

The Indian representative also pointed out that terrorism continues to be one of the gravest threats to human rights, particularly the right to life, urging the Council to address this issue with sustained attention and zero tolerance. India's consistent position has been that human rights should not be used as a tool for political pressure or to selectively target countries, a principle reaffirmed by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

India-Brazil Strategic Alliance Soars Eyes Set on USD 30 Billion Trade by 2030

NEW DELHI: India and Brazil are forging an increasingly robust strategic partnership, highlighted by growing high-level engagements and expanding cooperation across crucial sectors like defence, aerospace, and space.

Rudrendra Tandon, Secretary (East) at the Ministry of External Affairs, emphasized that this alliance significantly bolsters both nations' capabilities to navigate the rapidly changing geopolitical landscape. Speaking at Brazil's National Day celebrations in New Delhi, Tandon extended India's warm wishes and congratulated Brazil on its recent presidential elections, wishing



President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva success in his upcoming term. He noted that Brazil holds a special place in India's diplomatic history, being independent India's first embassy in South America, underscoring their shared history, global interests, and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Looking ahead, both countries have an ambitious bilateral agenda. Leaders have

set a formidable trade target of USD 30 billion by 2030, alongside plans to deepen collaboration in defence, aerospace, and space. Brazil's Ambassador to India, Kenneth Felix Haczynski da Nóbrega, echoed this sentiment, projecting bilateral trade to soon hit USD 20 billion. He highlighted expanding cooperation in critical minerals, defence, energy, pharmaceuticals, and artificial intelligence, marking a new phase of engagement ahead of their 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Ambassador da Nóbrega stressed that political vision and business dynamism are

converging to elevate India-Brazil relations. India has emerged as Brazil's fifth-largest trading partner, with significant progress made in expanding the trade agreement with MERCOSUR. The partnership, built on mutual trust over eight decades, is yielding tangible results in areas vital for future competitiveness and resilience, including rare earths, critical minerals, pharmaceutical research, and digital partnerships. Both nations are key partners in the Global South, actively collaborating in multilateral forums such as BRICS, G20, and the United Nations, working towards reforming global governance institutions.

"Proper security protocols are followed in Tamil Nadu prisons" – Minister Nirmal Kumar



MADURAI: "Proper security protocols are being followed in Tamil Nadu's prisons. Issues within the Electricity Board are also being addressed gradually," stated Tamil Nadu Law Minister Nirmal Kumar. Speaking to reporters on the matter, he said, "Appropriate security procedures are being followed in the prisons. Similarly, issues within the

Electricity Board are being resolved step by step.

A few days ago, false information was circulated via the media regarding a power issue at the Secretariat. We are procuring new transformers to streamline the Electricity Board and are also recruiting new personnel. Work is being carried out in full swing within the power sector. Regarding the

Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple, we had purchased a new generator.

During the testing process—at a time when it was assumed that the Vice President of India had already departed—the power connection was switched, which resulted in a brief, few-second interruption in the electricity supply," he explained.

Furthermore, in response to a question regarding allegations that a former Chief Minister was not provided with adequate security yesterday, the Minister stated, "Everyone is provided with the appropriate level of security; there are no shortcomings in this regard. We continue to follow the same protocols that have been in place in the past."



PM witnesses the 'Ekta Prakash Parv' at Ekta Nagar, in Gujarat.

Rs. 60,000 Crore Stolen from Binance Accounts The Largest Crypto Heist in History

WASHINGTON: Cryptocurrency giant Binance has fallen victim to a massive hack, with crypto assets worth \$6.3 billion—approximately Rs. 60,000 crore in Indian currency—stolen from its accounts. This marks the largest cyberattack in the history of cryptocurrency. The incident reportedly began when the laptop of a software engineer at Binance was compromised.

Binance management has clarified that this was not a routine attack, but rather a highly complex, multi-stage operation. It is suspected that state-sponsored hacking groups from North Korea may be behind this major heist. In collaboration with international cybersecurity agencies and blockchain firms, approximately \$3 billion worth of the stolen crypto assets have since been frozen. Co-founder Yi He has assured that customer deposits remain secure and that the finance company will take full responsibility for all losses resulting from this incident.

Prisoner escapes

KOVAL: Raghavan (25), who was arrested in connection with a case registered at the Annur Police Station in Coimbatore, has escaped from the entrance of the prison. About two and a half months ago, Raghavan had been brought to Coimbatore by the Karnataka Police in connection with a case.

At that time, near Kanuvakarai, close to Annur, he had managed to escape after getting out of the police van, claiming he needed to attend to a call of nature. Following a complaint filed by a Sub-Inspector (SI) of the Karnataka Police, the Annur police had registered a case and were conducting an investigation. Last night, he was apprehended by the Annur police. At 1:00 AM, Annur Police Sub-Inspector Muthalib and three other officers were transporting him to the Central Prison. It was at the prison entrance that the prisoner, Raghavan, managed to escape. The police have launched a manhunt to locate him. Special teams have been formed under the supervision of senior police officers to apprehend the escaped prisoner. Search operations are currently underway, utilizing drone surveillance, CCTV footage, and intensive vehicle checks.