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Pudukkottai: New Bus Stand Built at a Cost of Rs. 23.25 Crore

Inaugurated by Chief Minister Vijay

PUDUKOTTAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay is on a visit to the Pudukkottai district today. For this purpose, he traveled from Chennai to Trichy by flight this morning. Upon the arrival of his flight at the Trichy Airport, he proceeded to Pudukkottai by road. At the Trichy Airport, district office&bearers of the TVK (Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam) welcomed Chief Minister Vijay.

He then traveled by road—a distance of approximately 49 km—from Trichy to Pudukkottai. Along the route, party cadres and the general public gathered on both sides of the road to give the Chief Minister an enthusiastic welcome. Subsequently, Chief Minister Vijay arrived at the Pudukkottai Collector's Office, where he was accorded a ceremonial guard of honor by the police. Minister Parvez welcomed him by presenting a bouquet. MDMK MP Durai Vaiko and Congress MP Jothimani also welcomed the Chief Minister by presenting him with books. At the Collector's Office, an exhibition showcasing



traditional crop varieties and stalls featuring self&-employment ventures run by women's self&help groups had been set up. Chief Minister Vijay visited these exhibits and interacted with the farmers present there. Following this, Chief Minister Vijay arrived at the Pudukkottai Collector's Office, where he was accorded a ceremonial guard of honor by the police.

Minister Parvez welcomed him by presenting a bouquet. MDMK MP Durai Vaiko and Congress MP... Jothimani and others welcomed Chief Minister Vijay by presenting him with books. At the Collector's office, an exhibition of traditional crop varieties and stalls showcasing self&employment ventures run by women's self&help groups were set up.

Chief Minister Vijay visited these exhibits and interacted with the farmers present. Following this, Chief Minister Vijay inaugurated a new bus terminal on Sathyamurthy Road, which was reconstructed at a cost of Rs. 23.25 crore. The foundation stone for the project was laid in 2024 during the DMK administration, and the facility has now been completed and opened for use. After the inauguration, the Chief Minister inspected the amenities provided for passengers, including drinking water facilities, restrooms, a nursing room for mothers, and waiting areas.

Ministers Anand and Parvez, along with Members of Parliament Durai Vaiko, Navas Kani, and Jothimani, were present during the inauguration ceremony.



In Pudukkottai, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for new projects worth Rs. 100 crore and inaugurated projects that have been completed. Following this, he distributed welfare assistance—including free housing site pattas, sewing machines, bank loan support, tractors, agricultural implements, and educational loans—to 104 beneficiaries.

"Business boomed": Jairam Ramesh hits back at BJP over sale loss claims during INDIA bloc rally



NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Monday launched a scathing attack on the BJP, claiming that the ruling party's "propaganda has been punctured" after the opposition INDIA Bloc's anti&CEC rally in the national capital.

He claimed that the event boosted sales for local businesses. In a post on X, Ramesh alleged that the BJP was spreading fear of losses to traders and market shutdowns to defame the rally while discouraging people from coming to the national capital. He said it was obvious that people arriving from across the country would also shop.

"Every business operating in Delhi would benefit, directly or indirectly," he said. He alleged that this "false and irrational smear campaign" was aimed at diverting attention from the issues of "vote theft" and to "save" Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. "But the exact opposite happened," he said.

"The people of Delhi and those who came from across the country responded to this smear campaign in their own way. In response to Rahul Gandhi ji's appeal, people went shopping in Delhi's markets. Shops in the wholesale markets of Old Delhi opened, and business boomed. On top of that, people bought goods in abundance from small shopkeepers and street vendors too. Newspaper reports themselves are exposing the falsehood of this fake narrative," he said, citing a media report. Thanking traders, shopkeepers and Delhi residents, Ramesh said they had "embraced this appeal and stood with local business alongside democratic protest". "The BJP should understand that the voice of democracy cannot be suppressed by fear or smear campaigns," he said. Taking aim at the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the BJP, Ramesh said the country's people had been watching their "antics" for 12 years and were no longer "falling for their tricks". "The public will protect the right to vote, carry on with business, and demand accountability too. Vote thief, step down from power!" he said.

The Congress leader's statements contrast with claims made by the Chamber of Trade & Industry (CTI). CTI Chairman Brijesh Goyal on Sunday stated that Delhi's trading sector suffered an estimated loss of Rs 10,000&11,000 crore due to disruptions caused by the INDIA bloc rally at Ramlila Maidan. Goyal said around 20 to 25 major markets in the vicinity of the rally venue were affected, with approximately 2.5 lakh shops remaining closed out of the nearly three lakh shops in these markets.

Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah flagged the timing of the rally, pointing out how the opposition turned a blind eye to the business community ahead of the festive season. "Traders in Delhi pleaded with them, explaining that they have only one week in the entire year when the bulk of their business takes place. 'If we stock up on sweets and they don't sell, what happens? We suffer a loss. If we stock up on firecrackers and they don't sell, what happens? We suffer a loss...'" Shah said. "The traders held press conferences&&not once, but three times&&wrote letters, and implored them to hold their rally after Diwali. But no&they insisted on holding their rally on that very day&the same dark day when the anti&Sikh riots, the Sikh massacre, took place," the Home Minister remarked.

Prior to the rally, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi had accused the BJP of "forcibly shutting down" shops in Delhi's Connaught Place and inflicting financial losses on local traders ahead of the mega rally. In a post on X, Gandhi claimed that people participating in the event were urged to support local markets, but found commercial establishments closed upon arrival.

3 Day Police Custody for Anbil Mahesh: Special Anti-Corruption Court Grants Permission

CHENNAI: The Special Anti&Corruption Court in Chennai has granted permission for the police to take former DMK minister Anbil Mahesh into custody for three days for interrogation. This follows a case filed against him for allegedly collecting up to Rs. 400 crore—under the guise of "party funds"—in exchange for granting permanent recognition to private schools during the DMK's tenure. Anbil Mahesh was arrested in connection with this case and is currently lodged in Puzhal Prison. The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police had filed a petition with the Special Anti&Corruption Court, seeking five days of police custody to interrogate him.



The petition came up for hearing before Judge L.S. Sathyamurthy. After hearing arguments from both the prosecution and the defense, the judge delivered his order today.

In the ruling, the judge stated, "Permission is granted to take Anbil Mahesh into police custody for three days, starting from 1:00 PM today until the 4th, for the purpose of interrogation. He must not be subjected to any physical or mental harassment.

While his lawyer may be present, they must remain at a distance from which they cannot overhear the interrogation." Furthermore, the hearing for Anbil Mahesh's bail application and his petition seeking the return of seized electronic devices has been adjourned to November 5th. Previously, arguments from both sides were presented in court on October 30th. Representing Anbil Mahesh, Senior Advocate Abudu Kumar Rajarathinam and Advocate Richardson Wilson argued that, despite a court order granting him 'Class I' status in prison, Anbil Mahesh was not provided with appropriate food; instead, he was served the same *chapatis* given to other inmates. As a result, he has lost between 2 to 4 kilograms in weight.

They further stated that Anbil Mahesh has duly answered all questions posed by the police, and that they remain ready to provide any additional documents required for the investigation. Regarding the granting of recognition to private schools, Anbil Mahesh—in his capacity as Minister—along with officials from the Education Department, had participated in a meeting. Since the Kumbakonam school fire tragedy, permanent recognition is no longer granted to any institution. However, representatives of private school managements had requested that the recognition renewal process—previously required every three years—be extended to a 20&year cycle. A government order was issued only after consultations were held between the private school managements and the relevant officials. The government order, based on which the police have now arrested Anbil Mahesh, remains in force even today. Why have the police—who arrested Anbil Mahesh on charges of accepting bribes amounting to crores—not yet arrested those who paid the bribes? Furthermore, why have the very individuals who paid the bribes been included as witnesses in this case? Anbil Mahesh is not going to flee or go into hiding. This case has been filed entirely for political reasons.

Raging Forest Fires in Kashmir Hundreds of Acres Destroyed



SRINAGAR: A massive forest fire has been raging across the forests of Kashmir for the past two days, destroying hundreds of acres of woodland. An unprecedented and intense forest fire has broken out along the border areas of the Kishtwar and Doda districts in Jammu and Kashmir. The blaze, which has been burning fiercely for the last two days, has scorched and destroyed hundreds of acres of forest in the Trapshalla, Lithar, and Tral regions.

The primary cause of this inferno is believed to be the severe, dry weather conditions prevailing in the Kashmir Valley, compounded by a prolonged lack of rainfall. With low humidity levels, the fire is spreading rapidly toward nearby mountain villages.

Thick plumes of black smoke and towering flames, visible from a great distance, have sparked widespread panic among the local population. Upon receiving reports of the fire, forest department officials, fire services, and local rescue teams rushed to the scene and are working on a war footing to extinguish the flames. However, the steep, rugged terrain and strong winds are posing significant challenges to containment efforts.

There are fears that wildlife may have perished in the blaze, and authorities have issued a stern warning for the public to avoid entering the forest areas.

Today horoscope

You will recover items that were pledged or mortgaged at the bank. You will gain respect and esteem through your spouse's side of the family. Your enthusiasm and personal appearance will improve. In business, you will adopt new strategies to generate profits.

You will enhance the basic amenities and comforts of your household. You will fulfill a long-standing prayer or vow. You will receive greater support from your neighbors. You may replace old items or possessions. Be careful not to speak harshly or dismissively to anyone.

You will find joy in reminiscing about pleasant events from the past. Misunderstandings between you and your spouse will fade, giving way to greater harmony. Expenses related to vehicles will decrease. You will be able to curb unnecessary travel, running around, and wasteful spending.

Practice compromise within your family. While you may experience some running around or physical exertion, it will also bring gains. Old issues may resurface. You might encounter fleeting fears or worries. Exercise caution in your professional and business dealings.

Family members will listen to and follow your advice. A long-pending legal matter will take a favorable turn. Others will benefit because of you. You will take the lead in organizing events at a friend's home.

You will purchase modern electronic or electrical appliances. You will receive help whenever you ask for it. You will pay heed to the words of your family members. Neighbors will extend a hand of friendship. You will provide assistance to those who come to you seeking help.

Your home will become lively with the arrival of relatives and friends from out of town. An influx of money will lead to increased savings. Together with your family, you will fulfill long-standing vows or prayers. Old, complicated issues will be resolved.

You will feel energized by a new friendship. You will replace old items in your household. Your interest in spiritual matters will grow. Property-related disputes that had been dragging on will be settled amicably. Unnecessary running around will decrease.

Hidden talents within you will emerge. You will benefit through your siblings. Marriage-related discussions will conclude smoothly. You will receive good news from your spouse's side of the family. Your children will bring you increased respect and status.

Do not make any promises or commitments to others. Even if sudden expenses arise, you will be able to manage them. Pay attention to your parents' health. Curb unnecessary anger. You will develop an interest in spiritual matters.

By speaking tactfully, you will be able to accomplish even difficult tasks. Your children will act responsibly. You will visit sacred places you have long wished to see. You will reconnect with childhood friends.

Your standing among your maternal relatives will rise. Your home will become lively with auspicious events and the arrival of guests. Buying or selling property will prove profitable. In business, you will be able to recover long-pending dues.



Thiruvarur: Due to the cool weather conditions, migratory birds from abroad are flocking to the Muthupet mangrove forest. Tourists are enjoying the sight of these birds.

People should contribute to Tamil Nadu's development: Governor R.N. Arlekar's call



CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has urged the public not to limit their civic participation to merely casting votes in elections, but also to contribute actively to the development of Tamil Nadu. 'Tamil Nadu Day' was celebrated with great enthusiasm yesterday at the Raj Bhavan in Guindy, Chennai. The event was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and ISRO Chairman S. Somanath (Narayanan), who lit the ceremonial lamp.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Suresh Babu, Director of the Madras Institute of Development Studies, and ISRO scientist Veeramuthuvel. Six individuals were honored with awards for their significant contributions to various fields, including social development, education, healthcare, science, and the economy. Among the recipients, A. V. Dharmakrishnan, CEO of Ramco Cements, received an award from the Governor for his outstanding service in the industrial sector.

Dharmakrishnan received it. Speaking at the event, ISRO Chairman Narayanan said, "As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the formation of Tamil Nadu, we must reflect on the state's progress. A revolution has taken place in the education sector, with the literacy rate rising from 25 percent to 85 percent. Similarly, Tamil Nadu has emerged as a leading state across various industrial sectors, including automobiles, leather goods, and electronics. India, which began its space journey by procuring rockets from the United States, has now grown to the point where it can commercially launch satellites weighing up to 6,000 kilograms. The progress achieved by both India and Tamil Nadu across various fields is the result of the hard work and contributions of many generations." Following this, Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar remarked, "I take pride in serving as the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

This state possesses all the necessary capabilities and resources. Therefore, the power to drive the state's development forward lies within its own people." Announcing freebies and welfare schemes for political reasons has become a trend. Securing votes by promising free goods to the public should not be the sole objective.

Furthermore, the public's contribution to development should not end merely with casting a vote in an election People should participate directly and actively in the nation's administration and development initiatives. The involvement of society and the active participation of the people in the government's functions are essential.

This is what he stated.

40 Luxury Properties, Rs. 1.8 Crore in Rental Income Rajasthan IAS-IPS Couple Under Intense Investigation



JAIPUR: A Rajasthan&based IAS&IPS couple has acquired 40 luxury properties, generating an annual rental income of Rs. 1.8 crore. The Anti&Corruption Bureau (ACB) is currently conducting an intensive investigation into the couple regarding these assets. Shikhar Agarwal (56), a senior IAS officer from Rajasthan, and his wife, Prashaka Mathur (57)—a senior IPS officer in the same state—both hold key positions within the Rajasthan government. Between 2023 and March of this year, the couple purchased 40 luxury properties in Udaipur and Alwar, valued at Rs. 6.16 crore.

Udaipur and Alwar are home to historic palaces that attract hundreds of thousands of tourists from across the globe every year. Leveraging this, the IAS&IPS couple has rented out these 40 luxury properties.

Through this, they earn an annual income of Rs 1.8 crore. Following recent media reports regarding these luxury homes, both individuals were suspended on the 29th of this month.

The Rajasthan Anti&Corruption Bureau is currently conducting an intensive investigation into the matter. According to police sources, IAS officer Shikhar Agarwal and IPS officer Prashakha Mathur—a married couple—purchased 40 luxury villas from a Rajasthan&based firm, 'Goyal Fashions,' over the past few years. They subsequently leased all 40 properties back to the same firm. In return, the firm pays the couple a monthly rent of Rs 1.8 crore. The 40 luxury homes are registered in the names of the husband, wife, and their two sons.

While the property registration documents state the total value of these homes to be Rs 6.16 crore, it is believed that their actual market value is significantly higher.

It is alleged that the IAS&IPS couple extended various favors to the private firm from which they purchased the properties. In particular, the classification of various land parcels has been altered.

Last January, the IAS officer submitted a list of his assets to the government, in which he declared the ownership of 14 properties.

His wife, an IPS officer named Prashaka Mathur, stated that she held no assets in her name. However, it has now come to light—according to sources—that the couple had illicitly acquired 40 luxury properties in prominent tourist destinations.

System for booking and obtaining medicines via 'Nalam AI' app to be introduced soon – Minister Arunraj



CHENNAI: Health Minister Arunraj has announced that a system will soon be introduced, allowing patients to book and obtain medicines through the 'Nalam AI' app, thereby eliminating the need for long waits at government hospitals. Tamil Nadu Health Minister Arunraj traveled from Chennai to Trichy by flight yesterday.

Speaking to reporters at the Chennai airport prior to his departure, he stated that the dengue fever situation in Tamil Nadu is currently under control. Mosquito eradication efforts are being carried out intensively. Arrangements have been made in all government hospitals to monitor patients suffering from fever and to take immediate action. Adequate stocks of medicines are also kept ready.

There have been complaints regarding long wait times for obtaining medicines at government hospitals. Typically, a large number of patients arrive between 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM to collect their medications, leading to overcrowding and extended waiting periods. Measures are being taken to address this issue; specifically, we have developed a new application called "Nalam AI." Through this app, users can pre&book a specific time slot to collect their medicines. This will prevent large crowds from gathering all at once and help avoid delays. Users can simply arrive at their scheduled time to collect their medications. This system is set to be implemented soon.

A proposal to upgrade the Tambaram Government Hospital into a medical college hospital is currently under consideration. This will be formally announced following consultations with the Chief Minister, he stated.

Quad Crucial for Stable Indo-Pacific, Says Australian Envoy

AUSTRALIA: The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is vital for fostering a stronger, more prosperous, and secure Indo&Pacific region, emphasized Australian High Commissioner to India, Philip Green. He highlighted that Australia, India, Japan, and the United States are actively collaborating on economic opportunities and challenges pertinent to the region.

In a recent meeting in Atlanta, Quad foreign ministers, including India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, reaffirmed their dedication to a free and open Indo&Pacific. They stressed the importance of economic security for global stability and prosperity, committing to robust and transparent global supply chains and resilient infrastructure. Concerns were also raised regarding economic coercion, arbitrary export restrictions, and non&market practices that disrupt critical industries. The ministers underscored the necessity of protecting navigational rights and freedoms in key maritime routes like the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea. They also recognized the significance of Super Intelligence (SI) and initiatives like Pax Silica for future economic growth, pledging over $85 million in aid for trusted SI access across the Indo&Pacific. A strong stance was taken against online and cyber scams, with a commitment to dismantle criminal operations defrauding citizens of billions annually. The Quad also acknowledged India's leading role in disaster response, particularly its assistance to Nepal during recent flash floods.

Arrangements made to operate electric vehicles throughout the city

MADURAI: The Madurai Corporation administration has begun intensive work on preparing a five&year action plan for electric vehicles (EVs). As a first step, charging stations are set to be established at key locations across the city. Madurai is one of the six cities selected under the Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy 2023. To facilitate this, a 'City Electric Vehicle Cell' was established last February, headed by the Corporation Commissioner.

The Corporation administration is currently consulting with officials from various departments—including Transport, Highways, and the Pollution Control Board—to draft the five&year EV action plan.

A workshop was held to raise awareness on this initiative. Speaking at the event, Corporation Commissioner Gaurav Kumar stated, "The future for Madurai city begins now. A coordinated effort from all stakeholders is essential for the transition to electric vehicle&based transport.



He added, "The Corporation itself will undertake the task of developing the infrastructure for charging stations at suitable public locations within the city. It is crucial for all departments to work in unison to facilitate the adoption of electric vehicles throughout Madurai."

It is necessary to assess the impact of charging stations and the broader EV infrastructure, and to commence work with a clear timeline. This initiative is expected to contribute to the state government's ambitious goal of establishing 20,000 charging stations across Tamil Nadu by 2031.

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PRISON BREAKS: WHO IS GUARDING THE GUARDS?

Security Under Fire! Prison Reforms Can No Longer Wait!



Recent reports of prisoners escaping from Puzhal Central Prison in Chennai and Theni Prison have raised serious concerns over the security of Tamil Nadu's correctional institutions.

Two inmates reportedly escaped from Puzhal Prison, while 17 prisoners allegedly fled from Theni Prison. Although they were subsequently apprehended, these incidents expose worrying questions about prison surveillance, administrative accountability and security preparedness.

Suspending prison personnel or transferring senior officials alone cannot provide a permanent solution. Allegations of corruption, the smuggling of mobile phones and narcotics, and shortages of prison staff demand urgent investigation and corrective action.

With thousands of inmates housed across Tamil Nadu's prisons, the government must strengthen security infrastructure, recruit adequate personnel, improve surveillance and ensure transparent administration.

Prisons must serve as institutions of justice and rehabilitation, not centres of illegal activities or administrative negligence.

The real question is not how escaped prisoners were caught, but how they managed to escape in the first place.

Strong prison walls mean nothing without honest administration and effective supervision!

– Editor, Madurai Mani



Sudden Hike in Golden Chariot Fee at Palani Murugan Temple to Rs. 2,500; Devotees Shocked

PALANI: The sudden increase in the fee for the 'Golden Chariot' (Thanga Ratham) procession at the Palani Murugan Temple—from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500—has come as a shock to devotees.

At the Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple in Palani, Dindigul district, a Golden Chariot procession takes place every evening at 7:00 PM. By paying Rs. 2,000, three individuals are permitted to pull the Golden Chariot, and five people are granted 'special darshan' (priority viewing of the deity).

Devotees who participate in pulling the chariot are also provided with a special 'prasadam' (consecrated offering) package. On regular days, between 50 and 100 devotees participate, while on special occasions, the number ranges from 200 to 400. The fee for this ritual had remained unchanged for 15 years, since 2011. Citing rising costs, the need to ensure the quality of the 'prasadam' provided to participants, and the necessity of preventing financial loss to the temple, the temple administration proposed increasing the fee from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500.

They had sought feedback from devotees regarding this proposal last July.

Despite objections raised by many, the fee was suddenly increased to Rs. 2,500, effective yesterday (November 1). The prices of 'prasadam' items have also been raised as of yesterday. While the temple administration had issued an advance notice regarding the price hike for 'prasadam', no such announcement was made concerning the increase in the Golden Chariot fee. Consequently, this sudden hike has come as a surprise, and devotees are now calling for the increase to be withdrawn.



'Traditional Attire Day' to be observed once a week in government offices, with employees encouraged to wear *veshti* and shirt

Announcement also made regarding the establishment of a 'Tamil Sangam' with the CM as its president

CHENNAI: Minister Raj Mohan announced that a 'Traditional Attire Day' will be observed once a week in government offices, and that a 'Tamil Sangam' will be established under the leadership of the Chief Minister. The 'Tamil Nadu Day' (Tamil Nadu Naal) celebration, organized by the Department of Tamil Development and Information, was held yesterday at the Government Museum in Egmore, Chennai.

The event was attended by Ministers N. Anand, Adhav Arjuna, Raj Mohan, Vanniarasu, and Vijayalakshmi, as well as Pushpavanam Kuppusamy, President of the Eyal Isai Nataka Mandram (Council for Literature, Music, and Drama). During the event, a government order (G.O.) was presented, announcing an increase in the financial assistance provided to the 'border guardians' (*ellai kaavalargal*)—those who fought to protect the boundaries of Tamil Nadu during the linguistic reorganization of states. Furthermore, 'Tamil Semmal' (Excellence in Tamil) awards were presented to Tamil scholars who have contributed significantly to the growth and advancement of the Tamil language. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Raj Mohan noted, "The Chief Minister himself wears a *pattu veshti* (silk *veshti*) and shirt to work one day every week."

Similarly, I requested the Chief Minister to take steps to ensure that ministers and government officials—at the Secretariat and all other government offices across Tamil Nadu—wear a *veti* (dhoti) and shirt on one day each week. Recognizing that wearing a *veti* and shirt honors Tamil tradition and supports the livelihoods of weavers, the Chief Minister has issued orders to make the necessary arrangements. Accordingly, under the aegis of the Tamil Development Department, a "Traditional Attire Day" will now be observed once a week in all government offices. Furthermore, a 'Tamil Sangam' (Tamil Association/Council) will be established at the Secretariat. Existing Tamil associations will be integrated, with the Chief Minister himself serving as the head of this body.

Efforts will also be made to revive the World Tamil Conference, beginning in Tamil Nadu and extending globally. Additionally, various competitions will be held in schools under the theme, "Speaking Tamil is our very lifeblood." He stated this while sharing these details. Speaking at the event, Minister Adhav Arjuna stated that a separate flag for Tamil Nadu—one that reflects the greatness of the Tamil language and the identity of the state—should be created, to be displayed alongside the national flag.

He further asserted that when it comes to Tamil Nadu and Tamil culture, they would remain steadfast in their principles—no matter what form of hegemony is imposed from Delhi—even if it costs them their lives.

"Naxalite extremism has come to an end in Chhattisgarh" PM Modi expresses pride on the state's formation day

Peace and hope have blossomed

RAIPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated that areas in the state of Chhattisgarh—once referred to as the 'Red Corridor' (regions affected by Naxalite activity)—have now transformed into hubs of peace, hope, and development. In a letter addressed to Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on the occasion of Chhattisgarh's state formation day, Prime Minister Modi noted that Maoist violence had long served as a major obstacle to the state's progress. The situation, however, has changed completely.

Regions that were known as the 'Red Corridor' of Naxalism just a few years ago are now emerging as new centers of peace, hope, and development. This transformation has accelerated the expansion of connectivity and modern infrastructure. Highlighting the progress, the Prime Minister pointed out that while only a single flight operated between Delhi and Raipur 25 years ago, the state is now home to four modern airports. Furthermore, railway projects worth over Rs 51,000 crore are being implemented



in Chhattisgarh. Vande Bharat and Amrit Bharat train services have also been launched, which has halved the travel time between Raipur and Bilaspur. New expressways will boost both business and employment opportunities. Through the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and various state government schemes, free food grains are being provided to 7.3 million (73 lakh) families.

Additionally, 2.2 million (22 lakh) houses have been constructed in rural and urban areas, and over 4.1 million (41 lakh) rural households have been provided with piped drinking water connections. The state's paddy procurement system strengthens the rural economy by ensuring better prices for more than 2.5 million (25 lakh) farmers. Under the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, over 6.8 million (68 lakh) women receive Rs 1,000 every month. Naya Raipur is emerging as a modern city. Opportunities are being explored in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, information technology, electricity, aluminium, and steel. Initiatives like 'Niyat Nellanar', livelihood development programmes, and the 'Chief Minister Swasth Bastar' scheme are helping to bring basic amenities to the people. Today, Bastar is moving forward on a new path of peace, good governance, and prosperity—so states the report.

Muslim Man Gifts Diwali Presents to 200 Families



MAYILADURAI: In a heartwarming gesture promoting communal harmony, a Muslim man near Mayiladuthurai has gifted boxes of firecrackers to 200 families for the festival of Diwali. He also honored the local sanitation workers by presenting them with new clothes and sweets. In Ward 3 of Uluthukuppai Panchayat, near Mayiladuthurai, reside about 200 families belonging to various religious communities.

Riyas, a former Panchayat member from the area, has been personally funding and distributing Diwali gifts to the villagers and sanitation workers for the past seven years. With Diwali approaching on the 8th of this month, Riyas once again spent from his own pocket to provide firecracker gift boxes to the 200 families in his ward, extending his Diwali wishes to them.

Furthermore, he honored the sanitation workers employed by the Panchayat by draping them with shawls and gifting them new clothes (dhotis, shirts, and sarees), boxes of sweets, and firecrackers. He personally visited each household to distribute the firecracker gift boxes. The children, delighted to receive the gifts, carried them away with great excitement. Riyas also took the opportunity to advise the children to burst the firecrackers safely. This gesture by the former Panchayat member—who belongs to the Muslim community—has deeply touched the hearts of the villagers.

Bangladesh Garment Workers' Wage Protest Enters Third Day, Factories Shut Amid Unrest

BANGLADESH: Garment workers in Bangladesh continued their protests for a third consecutive day on Monday, demanding a significant increase in their minimum wages.

The ongoing unrest has led to the closure of several factories in key industrial areas like Gazipur's Konabari and Chandra, near Dhaka, due to fears of attacks and security concerns.

The core of the dispute is the workers' demand to raise the minimum monthly wage from the current BDT 12,500 to BDT 30,000. This demand has gained traction following the government's recent announcement of a new pay scale for public employees, which roughly doubles their salaries.



However, factory owners are facing difficulties in meeting these demands, citing a decline in international orders, stagnant prices, and high raw material import costs. Bangladesh's Ready&Made Garment (RMG) industry is a cornerstone of its economy, accounting for over 80% of export earnings and employing around four million people, predominantly women.

The government has formed a wage board to address the issue, but workers have continued their demonstrations. Meanwhile, security forces and the government have alleged that the protests are being instigated by opposition elements, including supporters of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, to destabilize the country ahead of the upcoming December elections. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed even suggested external incitement, meeting with factory owners to discuss the volatile situation.

Youth must come forward to build a developed India

Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan's call during a meeting with a group of students from Tamil Nadu

NEW DELHI: Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan has urged the youth to come forward to strengthen national unity and contribute to the creation of a developed India. Under the 'Yuva Sangam' (Youth Union) initiative, 50 students from Tamil Nadu are being brought to Delhi, while 50 students from Delhi are being sent to Tamil Nadu. A group of students from Tamil Nadu has arrived in Delhi as part of the seventh phase of this initiative. Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan met with them and engaged in a conversation. Speaking during the meeting held at the Vice President's residence, C.P. Radhakrishnan said: "Interacting with the youth is always a joyful experience. Meeting the younger generation from my home state of Tamil Nadu, in particular, brings me even greater happiness and is deeply moving." During my visit to Tamil Nadu, I mentioned to the media that it is entirely possible for someone from Tamil Nadu to become the



Prime Minister of India.

This highlights the strength of India's democracy and the equal opportunities available to everyone in the nation. Today's youth should look to the ideals and patriotism of visionary leaders—such as Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Immanuel Sekaran, Tirupur Kumaran, and V. O. Chidambaram Pillai—as their guiding light. Young people must come forward to strengthen national unity and contribute to building a developed India.

Even a great national poet like Mahakavi Subramania Bharati is sometimes not accorded the respect he deserves, simply due to his caste background. Evaluating the contributions of such eminent figures through the narrow lens of caste does not serve the progress of society. He stated that their greatness should be celebrated based on the service they rendered to the nation and humanity. Under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' (One India, Great India) initiative, the Union Ministry of Education is implementing the seventh phase of the 'Yuva Sangam' (Youth Confluence) exchange programme.

As part of this, the University of Delhi, in collaboration with the Central University of Tamil Nadu in Tiruvarur, is hosting a group of students from Tamil Nadu from October 26 to November 1, 2026. The event was attended by the Vice&Chancellor of the University of Delhi, Professor Yogesh Singh, and the Member Secretary of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Professor Shyamal Roy, among others. Earlier, the students from Tamil Nadu met with Rekha Gupta, a representative in Delhi.

6 Indian tourists stranded by heavy snowfall in Nepal rescued safely

NEPAL: Six Indian tourists who were stranded due to heavy snowfall in the Shey Phoksundo National Park area of Nepal were rescued safely today. The group, consisting of 2 women and 4 men, had been cut off from the outside world since the 1st of this month due to the snowfall. Binaya Singh, a spokesperson for the Dolpa District Police Office, stated that they were rescued this morning via a private helicopter.

The six individuals have been admitted to the government hospital in Dunai, Dolpa district, for medical treatment. Police reported that their condition is stable. The Indian tourists had traveled to the 'Do' area—located in Ward 8 of the Shey Phoksundo Rural Municipality, approximately 300 km northwest of Kathmandu—where they became trapped following heavy snowfall.



An attempt to rescue them using an army helicopter was made yesterday, but the operation had to be abandoned as poor weather conditions prevented the helicopter from landing. Local authorities had previously issued warnings that the area was experiencing severe snowfall and was unsafe to visit; however, it is reported that the Indian tourists proceeded despite these warnings. Furthermore, Nepalese media have reported that the Indian tourists entered the Upper Dolpa region without obtaining the necessary administrative permits. Both local authorities and residents had advised tourists against traveling to these mountainous regions, citing the risks posed by adverse weather and persistent snowfall. This is not the first time that tourists have become trapped in snowfall in the Himalayan regions of Nepal.

In October 2025, 15 trekkers—including three British women—were caught in heavy snowfall in the 'Hidden Valley' of the Mustang region; they were subsequently rescued. Similarly, in November of last year, two Nepali tourists who became stranded in the snow near the Mustang&Dolpa border were rescued by helicopter.

Gujarat: 15 Day Parole Granted to 143 Inmates for Diwali Celebrations



GABDHINAGAR: The Gujarat government has ordered the release of 143 eligible inmates—comprising 103 elderly prisoners over the age of 60 and 40 female prisoners—on a 15&day parole, allowing them to celebrate the festival of Diwali with their families. This parole has been approved under the guidance of the state's Minister of State for Home, Harsh Sanghavi. The Gujarat government has taken this decision as part of its prison reform and prisoner welfare initiatives.

Dispute over 'spicy' food: Gang attempts to stuff noodles into restaurant owner's mouth



BENGALURU: Deepak Thapa, a native of Assam, runs a fast&food eatery in Thotathgur, located within the jurisdiction of the Electronic City police station in Bengaluru. He resides in the same area with his wife. One night, four individuals arrived at his eatery and ordered noodles. Deepak prepared the dish and served it to them. After tasting the food, the four men complained that the noodles were too spicy and inedible. They began arguing with Deepak, subsequently assaulting him by punching and kicking him. They even attempted to force the noodles into his mouth. Deepak's wife and another young man, witnessing the incident, rushed to intervene and save him. The four men attacked them as well, leaving three people—including the couple—with severe injuries. It was discovered that the assailants were in an inebriated state when they carried out the attack. The Electronic City police have registered a case and arrested four individuals—Nagaraj, Chandru, Devaraj, and one other—all hailing from Kollegal in the Chamarajanagar district. An investigation is currently underway.

Rowdy hacked to death in Madurai

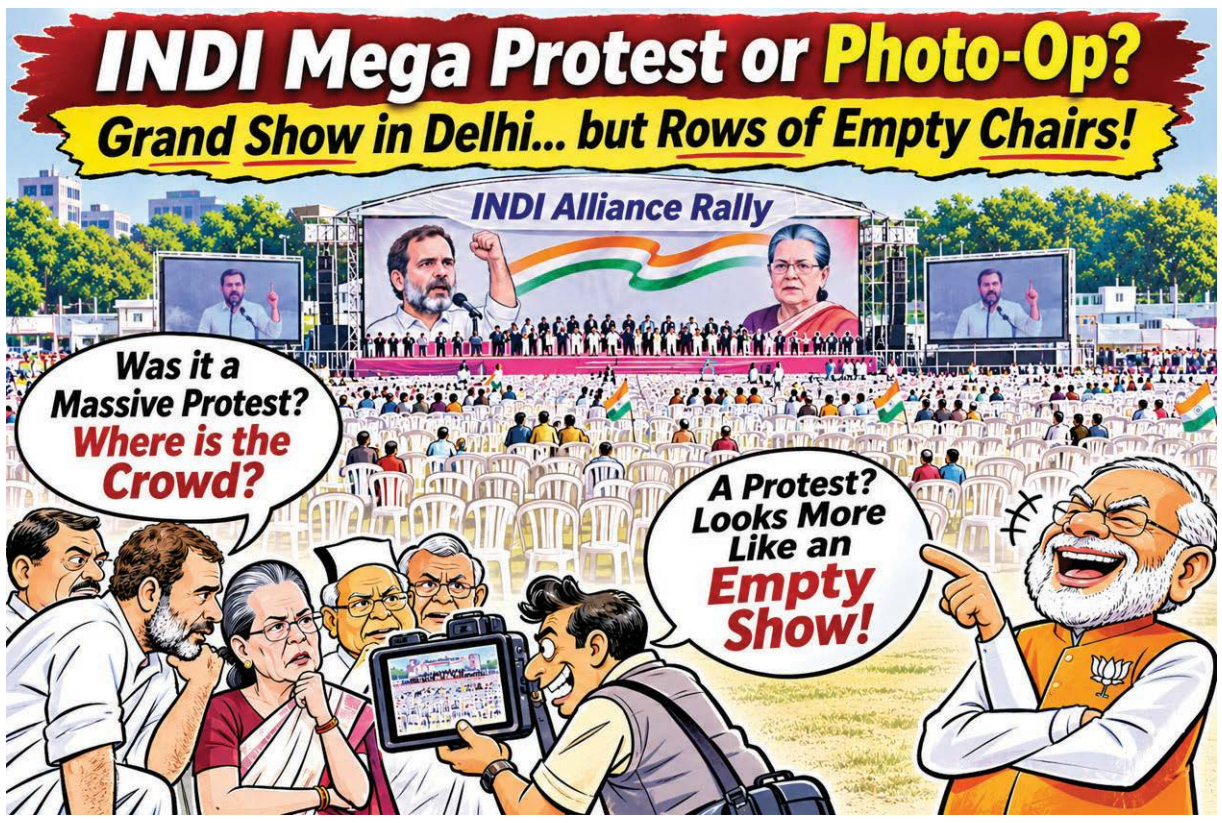
MADURAI: A young man was brutally hacked to death by unidentified assailants at an old panchayat office building, with his face left disfigured. The police have registered a case and initiated an investigation. The deceased has been identified as Surya, alias 'Kuttichakku', a resident of Sadachi Amman Nagar. Surya had over 10 criminal cases pending against him, including charges of murder and assault. Yesterday, while he was consuming alcohol inside the old panchayat office building located along the Madurai&Dindigul National Highway, a group of unidentified individuals arrived and launched a savage attack on him using lethal weapons. He died on the spot. Police personnel rushed to the scene, recovered the body, and sent it for a post&mortem examination. It is suspected that the murder may have been the result of a long&standing enmity.



Chengalpattu: 25 cattle rescued from a container truck

CHENGALPATTU: Acting on a tip&off that cattle were being transported for slaughter, police took swift action and rescued 25 cattle that were packed into a cargo truck. The incident occurred the evening before last, near Maraimalai Nagar in Chengalpattu district, where a truck equipped with a large cargo container was seen traveling. A person named Sai Vignesh noticed cow dung and urine leaking from the back of the truck. Suspecting that cattle were being transported inside, he immediately contacted the police control room to report the matter. Following this, the police pursued the truck and intercepted it near Pazhaveli. Upon searching the vehicle, they discovered 25 cattle packed tightly inside.

*During the investigation, the driver reportedly stated that the cattle were being transported from the state of Andhra Pradesh to Kerala for slaughter. Inside the truck, there was insufficient space for the animals to stand or move, leaving them piled on top of one another. It is alleged that their nose ropes were tied to the roof of the truck, and the animals were suffering due to a lack of food, water, and proper ventilation. Following their rescue, the 25 cattle were immediately handed over to a *goshala* (cattle shelter) for medical treatment and care. In connection with this incident, the 'Almighty Animal Care Foundation'—an animal welfare organization—filed a police complaint, urging that appropriate legal action be taken against those responsible for transporting the cattle under such cruel conditions.*



Cyclone Impact: Chandrababu Naidu Seeks Assistance from CM Vijay

ANDRA PRADESH:- With Cyclone 'Murasu' approaching Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu contacted Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay via telephone to request the Tamil Nadu government's assistance in restoring power infrastructure. Cyclone 'Murasu', which has formed in the Bay of Bengal, is moving toward Andhra Pradesh.

Warnings have been issued indicating that the state could experience heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds, with a high risk of damage to numerous electricity poles. In light of this, Chandrababu Naidu requested Chief Minister Vijay to provide the necessary support to expedite the restoration of power distribution infrastructure. Specifically, he requested that electricity department personnel and the required machinery be sent from Tamil Nadu to Andhra Pradesh to carry out repair work in the event that power poles are damaged by the cyclone.



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay responded positively, assuring that the necessary personnel and equipment would be dispatched to assist, as stated by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Office on the platform 'X'. Meanwhile, Chandrababu Naidu has also sought assistance from Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. It is worth noting that personnel from the Telangana state electricity department are already involved in restoration efforts for power infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh, which had previously been affected by Cyclone 'Arnab'.

Chief Minister's Event Scheduled for Nov 3 in Perundurai Relocated

ERODE: Reports indicate that the event featuring the Chief Minister, originally scheduled for tomorrow (November 3) at Kongu Engineering College near Perundurai in Erode district, has been relocated. It had been announced that Chief Minister Vijay would attend a government&organized event at Kongu Engineering College—located in Vaikkalmedu near Perundurai—to distribute welfare assistance.

At this event, the Chief Minister was set to distribute aid worth Rs. 1,110 crore to 4,000 women's self&help groups from 13 districts, including Erode, Karur, Tiruppur, and Salem. Over the past week, preparations at Kongu Engineering College—such as the construction of a helipad and the implementation of heightened security measures—had been underway. Ministers and the District Collector had been visiting the site daily to oversee the arrangements.



However, with the event just a day away (November 3), the venue has been abruptly changed. Regarding this, the police stated: "The Chief Minister's event, originally planned for Kongu Engineering College in Perundurai, has been moved to the Lakshmi Narayana Wedding Hall in Kanchikovil. District Collector Kandasamy and District Superintendent of Police Kiran Shruti have inspected the new venue and issued orders to strengthen security arrangements.

There are no changes to the 'road show'," the police confirmed. Officials, members of the TVK (Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam), and the general public had been in a state of confusion since the event was first announced, as clear and comprehensive details were not provided. The sudden change of venue has left officials feeling dissatisfied.

Authorities also noted that more than 4,500 police personnel will be deployed for security duties in connection with the Chief Minister's visit.

Jet Crash in Florida: 9 Dead

FLORIDA: A small jet has crashed in the U.S. state of Florida. The American authorities have confirmed that all 9 people on board the aircraft lost their lives in the accident. According to reports, the crash occurred at 11:20 PM (Indian Standard Time) on November 1st.

The aircraft was en route from Austin, Texas, to the Bahamas when the tragic incident took place. U.S. authorities have ordered an investigation into the crash. The aircraft involved was a 'Learjet 60' that had departed from Austin. It lost control near the southern part of Florida, crashed onto a road, and exploded. Footage of the incident, which has surfaced on social media, is deeply distressing to watch. Within seconds of hitting the road, the aircraft burst into flames.



Upon receiving news of the crash, emergency response teams from various agencies rushed to the scene. It has been revealed that the aircraft was privately owned; however, the identities of those on board have not yet been disclosed. The crash has disrupted local traffic, and residents have reported power outages in the area. Before the crash, the pilot contacted air traffic control, reporting that the aircraft had lost control and was descending at a rate of 10,000 to 20,000 feet per minute. As air traffic controllers attempted to provide assistance, the pilot stated that the aircraft was about to hit the ground, shortly after which the crash occurred.

'Government Holiday for 'Tamil Nadu Day' Starting Next Year'

Minister Anand Announces

CHENNAI: A 'Tamil Nadu Day' (Tamil Nadu Naal) celebration was held yesterday at the Government Museum in Egmore, Chennai. Speaking at the event, Minister for Rural Development and Water Resources, Anand, stated, "The Minister for Public Works had requested a government holiday for Tamil Nadu Day.

This year, Tamil Nadu Day falls on a Sunday. Chief Minister Vijay will take the necessary steps to implement this, starting from next year." During the event, a government order was issued to increase the financial assistance provided to 'border guardians' (those who fought for the inclusion of Tamil&speaking regions into Tamil Nadu). Additionally, compensation was awarded for the nationalization of literary works by five Tamil scholars. The 'Tamil Semmal' (Excellence in Tamil) award and the 'Kural' prize were also presented to several recipients, including Dr. M.A. Aleem, a professor of neurology. A formal request was also submitted to the Minister to establish a 'Thirukkural University.' Speaking at the event, Minister for Public Works and Sports Development, Adhav Arjuna, urged the Minister for School Education to make Tamil a compulsory subject in the Tamil&medium education system. He further proposed the creation of a dedicated flag to represent Tamil Nadu.



"Investments worth Rs. 1,614 crore meant for TN have gone to Andhra Pradesh" – Stalin's accusation

CHENNAI: "Korean investments worth Rs. 1,614 crore, which were destined for Tamil Nadu, have ended up in Andhra Pradesh due to the negligence of the current government. One must learn from them how to shift into 'reverse gear' so rapidly across every single sector," remarked DMK leader M.K. Stalin, criticizing the ruling administration.



In a post shared on social media, M.K. Stalin stated: "Two pieces of news caught my attention this morning: 1) Under the current regime, Tamil Nadu's growth in GST revenue has fallen below the national average. 2) Korean investments worth Rs. 1,614 crore, intended for Tamil Nadu, have moved to Andhra Pradesh due to the government's negligence. 'Guidance Tamil Nadu'—the agency that once brought prestige to the state by attracting investments—has now been sacrificed to the egos of a few individuals within this administration. One truly needs to learn from them how to move into 'reverse gear' with such speed across all sectors. Meanwhile, our Chief Minister—who seems either oblivious to or entirely unaware of these developments—has set off to stage a 'show' by waving at crowds in constituencies where by&elections are being held."

NSA Doval Reviews Defence Ties with Vietnam, Aims for Deeper Cooperation

NEW DELHI: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval recently met with Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence, General Phan Van Giang, in Hanoi.

The high&level meeting focused on reviewing the ongoing defence cooperation between India and Vietnam, with both sides agreeing to further deepen their engagement in the critical sector. This visit underscores the growing strategic partnership between the two nations.

NSA Doval's trip to Vietnam, which began on Sunday, included interactions with Vietnamese leadership to strengthen the Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

This partnership was significantly boosted during Vietnamese President To Lam's visit to India in May 2026, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Lam discussed various bilateral and global issues. Both leaders highlighted that stronger India&Vietnam ties would benefit their people and contribute to national development goals like India's Viksit Bharat 2047 and Vietnam's Vision 2045.



The discussions also build on recent security dialogues. Last month, India and Vietnam held their fourth Security Dialogue in New Delhi, co&chaired by India's Deputy NSA Pavan Kapoor and Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Public Security, Senior Lieutenant General Pham The Tung.

This dialogue covered cooperation in counter&terrorism, cybersecurity, maritime engagements, economic security, and emerging technologies, reflecting the continuous efforts to enhance security collaboration between the two countries.

Albanian- American Council Urges Calm Amidst Tirana Protests, Condemns Violence



TIRANA: The Albanian American Relations Council (AARC) has voiced deep concern over the escalating anti&government protests in Albania's capital, Tirana.

The council strongly condemned the violence and appealed to all parties to show restraint, respect democratic institutions, and uphold the rule of law. While acknowledging the fundamental right to peaceful protest, the AARC stressed that violence, property destruction, and physical confrontations undermine the very goals of peaceful demonstrators. The AARC highlighted that the grievances of citizens, especially students and youth worried about their future, deserve serious and respectful attention. They cautioned against dismissing public frustration or responding with excessive force, noting reports of over 70 police officers injured and extensive damage to public property. The council warned that such unrest jeopardizes Albania's progress towards European Union membership, sending a negative message to international partners. Furthermore, the AARC called for an immediate, transparent investigation into allegations of excessive force by law enforcement and attacks on journalists, stressing that those responsible for unlawful conduct must face accountability.

They also cautioned that internal instability could be exploited by forces opposing Albania's democratic advancement and Euro&Atlantic integration. The AARC urged the Albanian government to engage in genuine dialogue and ensure professional, proportionate law enforcement actions. They also called on political leaders, civil society, and protestors to reject violence, prioritizing the nation's long&term interests.

Protest by Private Contract Workers at Madurai Government Hospital: Risk of Disruption to Hospital Services



MADURAI: Hospital operations at the Madurai Government Hospital are at risk of disruption as private contract workers have launched a strike.

Madurai's Government Rajaji Hospital serves over 2,000 inpatients and approximately 3,000 outpatients daily. More than 750 contract workers, employed through a private agency, handle various tasks at the hospital, including sanitation. Last October, these workers staged a strike on the hospital premises, demanding better wages and weekly holidays. Following negotiations led by the Hospital Dean, Arul Sundaresh Kumar, it was promised that appropriate steps would be taken to address their demands for salary increases and weekly time off.

It was also agreed that all workers would receive monthly pay slips detailing any deductions, and that their daily working hours would be capped at eight.

However, as none of these demands have been met this month, the contract workers have resumed their strike, which began this morning. One of the workers stated, "We want the full daily wage of Rs. 710, and we are also requesting an advance payment of Rs. 10,000 from our earnings. If these two demands are met, we will end the strike and return to work; otherwise, we will continue our protest."

They have urged the government to take appropriate action. The strike has already begun to affect essential services, including hospital sanitation and the transport of patients via wheelchairs.

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