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CHENNAI Edition ■VOL 03■ Issue 199 Local 04.11.2026 Out Station 05.11.2026 Price Rs.3/ Email: newindiaflash@gmail.com

CM Vijay urges the Central Government committee to cancel the NEET examination



A resolution against the NEET examination was passed unanimously in the Legislative Assembly

CHENNAI: Nandan Nilekani, Chairperson of the High&Level Task Force on Examination Reforms, along with members Professor V. Kamakoti, Anita Karwal, and Shankar Maruwada, met with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, S. Joseph Vijay, at the Secretariat today. During the meeting, the Government of Tamil Nadu expressed its opposition to the conduct of NEET—or any NEET&like examinations—for admission into higher educational institutions.

The State government urged that, instead, the marks obtained in Class 12 examinations should serve as the sole basis for admissions.

Reaffirming the State's stance, the Chief Minister pointed to the unanimous resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on August 11, 2026, which opposed NEET.

Furthermore, the State government recommended the complete abolition of NEET and similar examinations for admissions into medical and other higher education courses.

Also present during the meeting were the Minister for School Education, Tamil Development, and Information & Publicity, Mr. Rajmohan; Chief Secretary Dr. M. M. Saikumar; and other senior government officials.

US President Donald Trump to Halt $38,000 Crore in Financial Aid to Israel



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has made a surprise announcement that the $4 billion (approximately Rs 38,000 crore) in annual financial aid provided by the United States to Israel will be discontinued by the end of this year.

The US has long provided billions of dollars in military and economic aid to Israel. Trump has now firmly stated that this financial assistance is coming to an end. Explaining his decision, Trump said: "We have been providing Israel with up to $4 billion annually in goods and cash. Having now grown into a nation with a strong economy, they no longer require this funding. After the end of this year, no further financial aid will be provided to Israel."

"I have discussed this matter in detail with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. We have been deliberating on this for several years, and Netanyahu has fully understood and accepted my decision."

"In the US, the political left and the Democratic Party have criticized the practice, arguing that it is unjust for taxpayer money to be sent to Israel.

This decision effectively removes the basis for such criticism. At the same time, Israel remains free to purchase military equipment from the United States; we are always prepared to manufacture and sell them the arms they need," Trump added.



The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah graced the concluding ceremony of the Chhattisgarh Rajyotsav at Raipur, in Chhattisgarh.

Chief Minister Vijay to Honor High Achieving Students Today



CHENNAI: Minister Anand has announced that Chief Minister Vijay, in his capacity as the leader of the Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), will honor students who secured the highest marks in the Class 10 and Class 12 public examinations (categorized by legislative constituencies). The felicitation ceremony is scheduled to take place today at 2:00 PM in Neelankarai, Chennai. A press release issued in this regard states the following: Greetings to all.

The leader of the Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has made it an annual practice to personally invite and honor students from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry who achieve the highest marks in their Class 10 and Class 12 public examinations.

In line with this, the first phase of the felicitation ceremony for this year's high&achieving students will be held today (Wednesday, November 4, 2026) at the R.K. Convention Center in Neelankarai, Chennai. Students and their parents are requested to arrive at the venue by 11:00 AM today for the verification of certificates. Lunch will also be provided to them.

The leader of the Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is placing special emphasis on ensuring that the future society is prosperous and healthy.

We are pleased to announce that the leader of the Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu will attend the event today at 2:00 PM to present certificates and incentive awards to the students in the presence of their parents, and to offer them his congratulations. This has been stated in the release.

ED raids premises linked to BLM founder Premkumar; investigation into a Rs 5,000 crore fraud case

CHENNAI: Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials are conducting surprise raids today at locations linked to R. Premkumar, the founder of the organization BLM (Bharat Lajna Multi&State Housing Cooperative Society).

The searches, which include the BLM office in Koyambedu and several other sites across Chennai, are being carried out in connection with an alleged fraud amounting to approximately Rs 5,000 crore.

The involvement of the Enforcement Directorate has caused a stir, especially given that Premkumar had previously been arrested in this matter and subsequently released by the court. The Bharat Lajna Multi&State Housing Cooperative Society (BLM) was established in 2006 by R. Premkumar and other founding members. The organization operates 155 branches across Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry, with a membership base of approximately 4.64 lakh people.

The society has reported an annual turnover of around Rs 162 crore. Meanwhile, Naveen, the former CEO of BLM, had filed a complaint against the founder, Premkumar, with the Kozhikode Crime Branch. Following the registration of a case, Premkumar petitioned the Kerala High Court to have the proceedings quashed. It is reported that Naveen subsequently filed an affidavit stating that the complaint was based on a misunderstanding and that he wished to withdraw it. Against this backdrop, the Kerala Crime Branch police arrested Premkumar in Chennai on October 29.

They also initiated steps to produce him before a court in Saidapet to obtain a transit warrant for his transfer to Kerala. As he reportedly fell ill and fainted, medical assistance was provided via an ambulance. Subsequently, during a hearing at the Kozhikode Criminal



Court No. 4 on October 30, the court ordered the unconditional release of Premkumar, stating that his arrest was unlawful and that due legal procedures had not been followed, according to the PLM company. Meanwhile, S. Murugan, Vice President of PLM, and K. Manoharan, Managing Director, issued a joint statement yesterday asserting that the allegations against Premkumar are false and that there are attempts to tarnish the company's reputation.

They stated that for the past 20 years, deposits from members and investors have been returned upon maturity along with the due returns, and that the company's accounts are regularly audited and submitted to the Office of the Registrar.

Furthermore, they affirmed that the company would address any complaints filed against it through legal channels. Against this backdrop, Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials have launched raids today at locations linked to PLM founder Premkumar. The searches are being conducted at the PLM office in Koyambedu and several other sites across Chennai. Reports indicate that the ED is investigating potential money laundering in connection with an alleged fraud amounting to approximately ₹5,000 crore.

This case—which has already seen an arrest, a court&ordered release, and a formal clarification from the company—has now drawn further attention due to these Enforcement Directorate raids.

Double Allowance for Drivers and Conductors

CHENNAI: A statement from Transport Minister Parthiban: Buses must be brought to a proper halt at designated bus stops to ensure passengers can board and alight safely.

Branch managers and regional managers must take immediate action regarding any complaints or petitions received concerning the conduct of drivers and conductors. Drivers and conductors operating special bus services during consecutive holidays must stay exclusively in the rest rooms provided at the respective bus terminals.

It has been ordered that drivers and conductors working on these special service buses be provided with a double allowance.

Elon Musk Sarcastic After Republican Losses: 'Space Lasers Didn't Work', Pitches Data Centers in Space

USA: Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has reacted to the sweeping Democratic victories in the 2026 US midterm elections with sarcastic remarks on X.

His comments came after Republicans suffered major electoral setbacks despite his extensive financial support for their candidates.

Musk, one of the biggest financial backers of Republican candidates, reportedly spent around USD 250 million to aid the party's congressional campaigns. Despite this significant investment, Democrats made substantial gains, reclaiming control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, a notable shift in Washington's power balance.

In two separate posts, Musk quipped, "Data centers in space looking pretty appealing right now," followed by, "Guess my election&interfering space lasers didn't work this time." These remarks highlight his apparent frustration with the election outcomes.

A key defeat for Republicans, despite Musk's backing, was in the Texas Senate contest. Republican candidate Ken Paxton lost to Democrat James Talarico, marking a



significant Democratic breakthrough in a traditionally Republican area. Talarico, during his victory speech, likened his campaign to the biblical David and Goliath story, positioning Musk, alongside Donald Trump and the Washington DC establishment, as the powerful forces his campaign overcame.

Musk's comments about space&based data centers also hint at the possibility of moving some of his business interests beyond Earth, especially as the Democratic victories raise questions about the future policy environment for the AI and data center industry. The election results have strengthened the Democrats' position, giving them more scope to influence future legislation and scrutinize the current administration.

Today horoscope

Aries

You will take new initiatives to increase family income. Your children will act responsibly. You will be able to discern who among those around you are truly well-intentioned. At your workplace, you will receive appreciation from your superiors.

Taurus

Your social circle and external connections will expand. You will make efforts to settle old debts. Confusion will dissipate, bringing peace to your family. There will be a pleasant atmosphere at your workplace. Do not make promises or commitments to anyone.

Gemini

A marriage that had been delayed will now come to fruition. You will be able to purchase items you have long desired. You will take steps to renovate and expand your ancestral home. There will be an inflow of money. Business will be profitable. Avoid getting into arguments at your workplace.

Cancer

Basic amenities and comforts will increase. There will be happiness within the family. Misunderstandings with friends will be resolved. Issues regarding ancestral property will come to an end. In business, you will be successful in collecting outstanding dues. At your workplace, you will gain the support of your superiors.

Leo

With the Moon moving through your sign, you may experience tension and a temporary shortage of funds. Be careful, as a quick temper could cost you the friendship of good people; it is best to avoid arguments. In business, your partners will be supportive.

Virgo

Your wishes will be fulfilled. You will regain your lost standing within the family. Expected funds will arrive. Your workload at the office will decrease. In business, you will attract customers by employing new strategies.

Libra

Everything you touch will turn out well. Mental confusion will fade, replaced by clarity. You will speak from a place of experience. New avenues will open up to help you settle old debts. Your siblings will value your words. You will see progress in your business.

Scorpio

Your words will carry more weight within the family. Others will benefit because of you. You will renovate and expand your ancestral home. The arrival of friends will bring a lively atmosphere to your household. You will also get your vehicle repaired or serviced. Business and employment will flourish.

Sagittarius

You will gain the mental fortitude to handle any challenge. Siblings will provide strong support. Travels will leave you feeling refreshed. Business will be brisk. It is advisable to maintain a calm demeanor at the workplace.

Capricorn

You will impress others with your articulate speech. Ego-related issues will be resolved, fostering greater harmony between spouses. You will make significant decisions regarding the future. Financial inflows will bring satisfaction. Business will be profitable. Avoid getting into arguments at the workplace.

Aquarius

Negative thoughts may arise but will soon pass. Seek advice from the elders in your family. You may attempt to sell an ancestral property. Business-related activities will involve increased running around. Do not make enemies at the workplace.

Pisces

Your standing among relatives will improve. You will cut back on extravagant expenses and save for the future. Past misunderstandings will be cleared, bringing happiness to the family. You will achieve success in business. Workload at the office will decrease.

US Midterms 2026: Democrats Make Historic Gains in Texas, Kansas, and Iowa, Reshaping Political Landscape



USA: The 2026 US midterm elections have seen a significant shift in the political landscape, with Democrats achieving historic victories in traditionally Republican strongholds like Texas, Kansas, and Iowa.

This marks a notable change from past electoral trends, suggesting a broader realignment of voter preferences across the nation.

In Texas, Gina Hinojosa made history by defeating Republican Governor Greg Abbott, becoming the state's first Latina governor and ending over three decades of Republican gubernatorial dominance. Hinojosa secured 57.1% of the votes against Abbott's 41.7%. Similarly, James Talarico's victory in the Texas Senate race further solidified the Democratic advance in the state.

Kansas also witnessed a major political upset, with Democrat Adam Hamilton winning the Senate race against Republican Senator Roger Marshall. This is the first time in 94 years that Kansas will send a Democrat to the US Senate, reflecting Hamilton's ability to attract independent and rural voters.

Iowa joined this trend, as Democrat Rob Sand triumphed over Republican Zach Lahn in the gubernatorial election, securing 56.7% of the vote. This victory is particularly significant as Iowa has leaned Republican in recent years. Additionally, Josh Turek is leading in the Iowa Senate contest, further indicating Democratic momentum.

These gains extend beyond these states, with Democrats also making inroads in South Carolina and flipping the North Carolina Senate seat, while maintaining their position in Georgia.

Nationally, projections suggest Democrats will reclaim control of the House of Representatives, potentially paving the way for Hakeem Jeffries to become the first African American Speaker. This shift could significantly alter the balance of power in Washington, impacting legislative agendas and oversight during the remainder of President Trump's term. Trump, however, has distanced himself from the results, attributing the Republican setbacks to his absence from the ballot.

Second day of questioning for Anbil Mahesh: More individuals implicated in Rs. 400 crore scam case

Police gathering details on the exchange of funds



CHENNAI: Police conducted an intensive interrogation of Anbil Mahesh for the second consecutive day in connection with a Rs. 400 crore scam case. Following a complaint filed by Ilangovan, General Secretary of the Private Schools Association—alleging that over Rs. 400 crore was collected illicitly in exchange for granting permanent recognition to private schools during the previous DMK administration—former minister Anbil Mahesh was arrested on October 26 and subsequently remanded to Puzhal Prison.

The court later granted permission for the police to hold Anbil Mahesh in custody for three days, from November 2 to November 4, for further questioning. Following this, the police began their interrogation, posing a series of questions to him on the first day. The investigation intensified yesterday, on the second day. It is reported that Anbil Mahesh was questioned based on documents seized during a recent search at the residence of Shanmugapriya, a businesswoman and fashion designer. Furthermore, the police are investigating whether the funds obtained through this malpractice were distributed among various individuals, and they are looking into who else might be involved.

The police also plan to question Anbil Mahesh's wife, Janani.

Meanwhile, police sources indicate that, based on information gathered during the questioning of Anbil Mahesh, several other key individuals could potentially be implicated in this case. The interrogation is set to continue for the third consecutive day today. Once the questioning concludes, the police intend to produce Anbil Mahesh before the court at 5:00 PM, after which he will be remanded back to prison.



Electricity Minister C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar released the 'Tamil Nadu Battery Energy Storage Policy - 2026' document yesterday, which aims to develop 10 gigawatts of battery energy storage capacity in the state by 2029. TANGEDCO Chairman Rajesh Lakhani and other officials were also present.

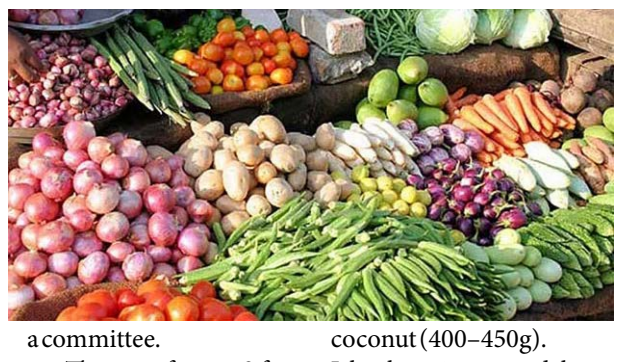
'Vetri Special Vegetable Pack' starting tomorrow 10 varieties of vegetables for Rs. 100

CHENNAI: The Government of Tamil Nadu has announced the launch of the 'Vetri Special Vegetable Pack'—a collection of 10 types of vegetables—to be sold for Rs. 100 in light of the upcoming Deepavali festival.

A statement issued by the Department of Cooperation explains that, to help the public celebrate Deepavali joyfully and to ensure that essential vegetables for daily cooking are available at a fair price, a 'Vetri Special Vegetable Pack' containing 10 varieties of vegetables will be offered at a special price of Rs. 100.

This initiative will run for three days, starting tomorrow (Thursday) through the 7th of the month.

The packs will be available at 218 selected outlets—including cooperative wholesale stores and various cooperative retail stores—as well as through 4 mobile vegetable carts (in Chennai only). Each vegetable pack must be sold to consumers for exactly Rs. 100; no more or less may be charged. Each individual is entitled to purchase only one pack. The procurement cost for the 10 types of vegetables included in the pack will be determined by a committee.



The cost of an eco&friendly bag, amounting to 2.50, has also been factored in. This package includes: large onions (500g), tomatoes (500g), brinjals (250g), potatoes (250g), carrots (200g), beans (200g), green chillies (100g), lemons (100g), ginger (50g), and coconut (400–450g).

It has been instructed that sales operations should be conducted by taking into account the procurement cost, the government&fixed retail price of 100, distribution charges, and the 2.50 contribution toward the cooperative education fund.

Cake for School Students on Nov 13



CHENNAI: A circular issued by the Director of Elementary Education, P. A. Naresh, to all Chief Educational Officers states that, in celebration of Children's Day, cakes will be provided to students, teachers, and staff in government and government&aided schools.

Vendors are required to deliver the packaged cakes by November 10. Subsequently, the cakes—along with greeting cards for the students—are to be distributed on November 13 (Friday). Since November 14 falls on a Saturday, the distribution is being scheduled for the preceding day. It must be ensured that every student receives a greeting card, the circular specifies.

Raid in Usilampatti

MADURAI: Officials from the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti&Corruption (DVAC) conducted a raid at the Sub&Registrar's office in Usilampatti yesterday evening. During the operation, they seized Rs. 7.20 lakh from a woman who had arrived to register a document through irregular means.

Additionally, sums of money were recovered from assistants to the document writers: Rs. 14,000 from Rajesh, Rs. 3,000 from Pothiraja, Rs. 4,000 from Alagumalai, Rs. 8,000 from Kalanjiyam, and Rs. 16,000 from Venugopal. In total, the anti&corruption officials seized Rs. 7.65 lakh from the office. An inquiry is currently underway, with the Sub&Registrar, Tamilselvi, being questioned regarding the incident.

Incident involving the deaths of 9 people, including an American millionaire: Intensive investigation underway into private jet crash

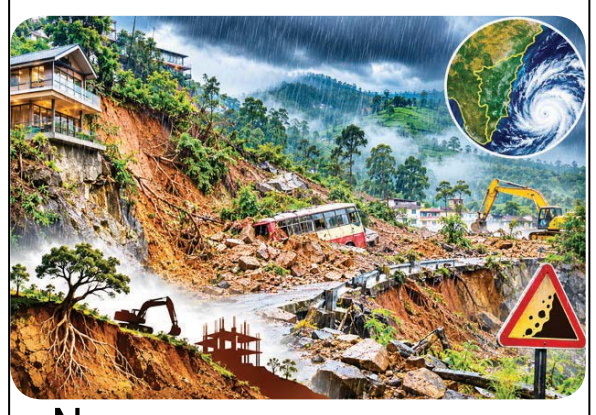


WASHINGTON: Adam Robinson (45), from Aspen, Colorado, was an entrepreneur who ran two software companies. These firms generate an average annual revenue of 3.313 billion rupees (approx. $40 million USD). On the 1st of this month, Robinson—a young businessman—was traveling in a private jet from Austin, Texas, to the Bahamas, accompanied by his wife, Helen (40), his daughter, Emma (4), and his son, Charlie (2).

Also on board were the family's domestic worker, Anita Maria Sedina, and family friends Rachel Reed and Charmi. The aircraft was operated by pilot Jeff Gregory (55) and co&pilot Natalia (20). While flying over the Palm Beach area in Florida, the plane crashed into a residential neighborhood and exploded. All nine people on board perished. In the final moments, co&pilot Natalia contacted air traffic control, stating, "The plane has lost control and is diving toward the ground." The aircraft disappeared from radar surveillance while flying at an altitude of approximately 9,000 feet. This is considered one of the worst accidents in the United States. The jet involved in the crash was 22 years old. Officials from the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board are conducting an intensive investigation into the accident.

November 04 EDITORIAL – NEW INDIA FLASH *2026*

SAVE THE HILLS, SAVE HUMAN LIVES!



Nature is warning us, but humanity continues to ignore its warnings. Mountains are collapsing, roads are disappearing, and precious human lives are being lost. The recurring landslides in Tamil Nadu's hill regions are not merely natural disasters. They are alarming reminders of environmental destruction, reckless development and administrative negligence.

The intensifying northeast monsoon has reportedly triggered severe landslides in the Nilgiris and Kodaikanal regions. Reports of landslides at 62 locations in the Nilgiris and the tragic death of a government bus driver near Coonoor raise serious concerns about disaster preparedness and public safety.

Mountains are not merely tourist destinations. They are nature's protective barriers, ecological treasures and vital sources of water. Unfortunately, uncontrolled construction, deforestation, illegal excavation and commercial exploitation are gradually destroying these fragile ecosystems.

Luxury resorts are rising on vulnerable slopes. Hills are being excavated for roads and buildings. Trees are disappearing in the name of tourism development. When disasters strike, authorities announce compensation and relief measures. But can financial assistance ever replace a lost human life?

Prevention must become the priority of governance, not merely compensation after tragedy.

Reports that landslide&prone areas in the Nilgiris had already been identified raise an important question: Why are construction activities allegedly continuing in environmentally sensitive locations?

The government must investigate these allegations transparently. Any official, contractor or influential individual found responsible for violating environmental regulations must face appropriate legal action.

Tamil Nadu urgently needs stricter monitoring of hill construction, scientific landslide&risk assessments, effective drainage systems, reliable early&warning mechanisms and comprehensive emergency evacuation plans.

Development cannot be measured by the number of luxury resorts, highways or towering buildings. True development must be measured by the safety of citizens, the protection of natural resources and the sustainability of future generations.

Political influence must never override environmental laws. Commercial interests must never become more important than human lives.

A government that protects its mountains protects its people. A society that destroys nature ultimately endangers its own future.

The message is unmistakable: Protect the hills today, or face greater disasters tomorrow.

SAVE THE MOUNTAINS BEFORE THEY BECOME GRAVEYARDS OF HUMAN NEGLIGENCE!

– Editor,
Madurai Mani Newspaper



Rs. 3,000 Crore Bank Loans for 26,000 Women's Groups

CM Vijay Launches Initiative in Perundurai

ERODE: At a government event held in Perundurai, Erode district, Chief Minister Vijay launched a scheme yesterday to provide Rs. 3,000 crore in bank&linked loans to 26,000 women's self&help groups (SHGs).

The event, organized by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj along with officials from the Women's Development Project, took place at the Lakshmi Narayana Wedding Hall in Karumandi Sellipalayam, Perundurai, as part of a state&level entrepreneurship development program. During the event, Chief Minister Vijay inaugurated the Rs. 3,000 crore loan scheme and handed over cheques to the beneficiaries. It was stated that the objective of this initiative is to improve the livelihoods of women and empower them to become entrepreneurs. Prior to this, the Chief Minister visited an exhibition showcasing products crafted by women's self&help groups from 38 districts.

He inquired about the production methods used for these items. He personally purchased several products, including a wooden carving featuring his own likeness, bedspreads, a Pathamadai mat, a painting of a dancing woman, and a bag made from banana fiber. He also sampled tea produced by the indigenous hill tribes of the Nilgiris.

Ministers Anand, Sengottaiyan, Vijay Balaji, Arunraj, Vijayalakshmi, and Sampathkumar were among those present at the event. Diwali Wishes for the Chief Minister: As he handed over the cheques to the women's self&help groups, the women extended their Diwali greetings to Chief Minister Vijay. He reciprocated the greetings. Furthermore, when women requested him to pose by forming a heart shape with his hands, provide autographs, and flash the 'victory' sign with his fingers, he obliged—much to their delight. Earlier, the Chief Minister arrived in Coimbatore from Chennai via a chartered flight to attend a government function, from where he traveled by road to Sengapalli in Erode district.

Along the entire route, members of the public and party workers gave him an enthusiastic welcome. A roadshow was conducted across seven locations—starting from Sengapalli and passing through Palla Goundampalayam, Vijayamangalam, SIPCOT, the new bus stand, the old bus stand, and the Anna statue. In light of the Chief Minister's visit, over 4,500 police personnel were deployed across the district to ensure security.

Democrats Take Control of US Congress; Trump Acknowledges Defeat, Vows Cooperation

WASHINGTON: The 'Blue wave' has swept through the US Midterm elections, with Democrats projected to gain control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. This significant shift gives Democrats considerable power to scrutinize President Donald Trump's administration during his remaining two years.

CNN reports that Democrats capitalized on President Trump's widespread unpopularity, securing a major victory. Despite the loss, Trump remained defiant, posting a picture of a 'Veto' embossed MAGA cap, signaling his intent to challenge Democrats in Congress. However, he also expressed a willingness to work with them.

In an interview with The New York Times, Trump stated, "I am absolutely willing to accept those results... We'll work with the Democrats, and we'll, you know, look forward to working with them. We'll probably work something out."

Earlier, Trump had attempted to distance himself



from the Republican losses, claiming on Truth Social that if he had been on the ballot, Republicans would have won by a landslide. This contrasts with his earlier mid&term campaign efforts where he urged voters to act as if he were on the ballot.

Fox News analysis indicates that key demographics, including young, independent, rural, and Hispanic voters, turned away from the Republican Party. These voters reportedly cited the Iran war and tariffs as major concerns. This shift led to Democrats winning in traditionally Republican strongholds, including a Senate seat in South Carolina and another in Texas, a state that hasn't voted Democrat for a Senate seat since 1994. The 'Blue wave' even broke a century of Republican dominance in Kansas, securing a Senate seat there. Voters' concerns over inflation, Trump's tariffs, the Iran war, and questions about Trump's conduct and self&enrichment appear to have played a crucial role in this election outcome.

A Democratic majority in Congress is expected to lead to increased oversight of the Trump administration through investigations, hearings, and subpoenas.



The rope car service in Palani has resumed today.

Gujarat: Rs 1,200 crore swindled from 6.52 lakh people with promises of daily interest

AMERLI: More than Rs 1,200 crore has been swindled from 6.52 lakh people across the country through a scheme that promised daily interest on investments. Dhaval Patel (40), a resident of Mehsana in Gujarat, launched two mobile applications—'ST Pay' and 'Apna Pay'—in 2024. He claimed that those who invested money through these apps would receive daily interest.

Trusting this, over 6.52 lakh people from various states invested amounts ranging from Rs 1,000 to several lakhs.

A few months ago, both the 'ST Pay' and 'Apna Pay' applications suddenly stopped functioning. Affected investors filed complaints with police stations in states including Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh.

A large number of complaints were registered at the Amreli police station in Gujarat.

The Amreli police have formed a special team, and an investigation into the matter is currently underway. Police officers from the special investigation team stated that 6.52 lakh people invested in the 'ST Pay' and 'Apna Pay' applications, lured by the promise of daily interest returns. Through this, a fraud amounting to Rs. 1,211 crore has been committed. A large number of people across the country have fallen victim to this scam.

The highest number of victims is in Gujarat, where 1.52 lakh people lost their money. Other affected states include Rajasthan (1.36 lakh victims), Maharashtra (74,000), Uttar Pradesh (45,000), Bihar (31,000), and Madhya Pradesh (30,000). Dhaval Patel, the mastermind behind the fraud, was arrested two months ago.

Eleven of his associates have also been arrested. The swindled funds were funneled into seven shell companies. An intensive investigation is underway, and efforts are being made to recover the money, the special investigation team officials added.

Andhra Pradesh Urban Local Body Elections

Resounding Victory for the National Democratic Alliance



AMARAVATI: Elections were held on the 1st of this month for 92 urban local bodies in Andhra Pradesh, comprising 13 municipal corporations, 79 municipalities, and town panchayats. The counting of votes took place yesterday under tight security. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA)—which includes the Telugu Desam Party (led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu), Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)—secured victories in the majority of these areas.

The NDA has taken the lead and won seats across all 13 municipal corporations. Notably, NDA candidates emerged ahead in key municipal corporations, including Tirupati, Chittoor, Guntur, Nellore, and Visakhapatnam. The opposition YSR Congress Party faced setbacks in most locations. NDA supporters across Andhra Pradesh celebrated the victory by bursting firecrackers and distributing sweets. It is worth noting that the counting process was delayed in some areas due to the impact of a storm and heavy rainfall.

Prisoner Attacks Prison Guard

MADURAI: A tense situation unfolded at the Madurai Central Prison when a 35&year&old inmate named Moorthy attacked a head warden, 52&year&old Deivanayagam. The incident occurred after the warden reprimanded Moorthy for attempting to bathe using drinking water and confiscated his bucket. There are over 2,000 inmates in the Madurai prison.

Yesterday morning, hundreds of prisoners—those awaiting trial—gathered in their designated area to bathe, with only four guards present to oversee security. Although water from a deep&bore well was available for bathing, an inmate named Moorthy began filling a bucket with drinking water. Head Warden Deivanayagam noticed this, reprimanded the inmate, and took away the bucket.

Enraged, Moorthy punched Deivanayagam in the face, causing injuries to the warden's eyes. Other inmates nearby did not intervene and merely watched the incident. Fellow guards arrived shortly after and rushed Deivanayagam to the prison hospital.

An investigation into the inmate, Moorthy, is currently underway. Prison guards stated, "Following the escape of inmates from the Theni prison, stricter controls have been imposed on the staff here in Madurai.

The prisoners are angry because we are performing our duties with heightened vigilance." They added, "We live in fear due to threats from the inmates; they are constantly looking for an opportunity to attack us. Twenty&five years ago, a prison official was burned to death within the facility. Authorities must take necessary measures to ensure that such a tragedy does not happen again."

Did investments meant for Tamil Nadu go to Andhra Pradesh?

Tamil Nadu Government's Clarification

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government has provided a clarification regarding whether investments intended for the state have shifted to Andhra Pradesh. DMK leader M.K. Stalin and AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi Palaniswami had alleged that investments meant for Tamil Nadu had gone to Andhra Pradesh.

In response, the Tamil Nadu government's official social media account—specifically its information verification unit—issued the following statement: Most of the supplier companies for Hyundai—which manufacture vehicle components and parts—have been operating in Tamil Nadu for over a decade. Specifically, Korean firms such as 'Seon E&Hwa' and 'Washin,' based in Tamil Nadu, have been supplying components to the Hyundai facility located in the state. Following the establishment of the 'Kia' plant in Andhra Pradesh, 'Seon E&Hwa' opened a manufacturing unit in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, as early as 2017.

Currently, in light of the expansion of the Kia plant, some of these supplier companies are expanding their production operations in Andhra Pradesh. Meanwhile, Hyundai's existing suppliers in Tamil Nadu continue to expand their investments within the state. Furthermore, these suppliers are also diversifying into the production of components for electric vehicles (EVs) and advanced automotive electronics.

Such investments are significantly contributing to industrial growth and the creation of job opportunities in Tamil Nadu.

Furthermore, these companies are taking steps to establish manufacturing facilities for electric vehicle (EV) components, as well as research and development (R&D) centers, in Tamil Nadu.

As an example, another Korean firm, 'Inzi Controls', has chosen Chennai over Pune to set up its new R&D center. In the next phase, a consultative meeting will soon be held to understand the investment plans of Hyundai and its supplier companies, and to provide them with the necessary support. The Tamil Nadu Guidance Bureau is spearheading these initiatives, the statement noted.



In the Ervadi police station limits of Tirunelveli district, police arrested the perpetrator involved in the snatching of a 15-sovereign gold chain from a woman within 48 hours and recovered the 15-sovereign chain from him.

Those who practice polygamy cannot continue in government service

Assam Chief Minister's bold move

NEW DELHI: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has announced that government employees in Assam who practice polygamy will be dismissed from service.

To this end, the Assam government has introduced a legal amendment. The government, led by BJP Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, has amended the 'Assam Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1964.' Under this amendment, any government employee who enters into more than one marriage will be dismissed from service.

Furthermore, such individuals will be barred from joining government service in the future.

A new sub&rule (6) has been added to Rule 7 of these service regulations. According to this provision, a government employee is prohibited from entering into another marriage while their first spouse is still alive.

Additionally, such an individual will be rendered ineligible for any state government welfare schemes. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has clarified that this rule applies equally to all, regardless of whether they are Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, or Christian. This proposal was announced during the presentation of the state budget in the Assam Legislative Assembly last July. The measure has been taken with the objective of empowering women and promoting gender justice.



Russian Attack on Ukraine: 31 Killed, Including 4 Police Officers; President Condemns the Act



KYIV: President Zelenskyy has strongly condemned a Russian attack on Ukraine that resulted in the deaths of 31 people, including 4 police officers.

The war between Russia and Ukraine has now persisted for over four years.

Despite mediation efforts by various nations, including the United States, the conflict continues. Russia is currently intensifying its attacks on Ukraine. In one such incident, Russia targeted a site in the Zaporizhzhia region—where people had gathered at a school to receive aid—using drones and missiles.

The attack claimed 31 lives. Among the victims were 4 police officers and 2 Ukrainian rescue workers. More than 12 people sustained injuries in the intense assault. Additionally, rescue operations are actively underway to locate and recover over 45 individuals believed to be trapped beneath the rubble.

Overnight, Russia launched 289 advanced drones and missiles, targeting Ukraine's power generation facilities and hospitals.

In retaliation, Ukraine launched hundreds of drones toward the Russian capital, Moscow. Following the deaths of the 31 individuals, a three&day mourning period has been declared in the affected region. Ukrainian President Zelenskyy has expressed his strong condemnation of this Russian attack.

20% Bonus for TASMAC Shop Employees: TN Government Announces



CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government has announced a 20 percent bonus for employees working at TASMAC liquor shops. In view of the Deepavali festival, the government has ordered the disbursement of a 20 percent bonus to TASMAC shop employees, comprising an 8.33 percent bonus and an 11.67 percent ex&gratia payment. The government stated that the funds will be transferred electronically today (Wednesday) to the operational accounts of the respective district managers.

Furthermore, the government has directed that the bonus and ex&gratia amounts be credited directly to the employees' bank accounts, and that proper receipts be obtained.

Consequently, it is expected that the 20 percent bonus will be credited to the bank accounts of the TASMAC shop employees today.



"Rahul Gandhi living in world of arrogance, no position to challenge PM": UP Dy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Wednesday asserted that the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was living in a world of arrogance and was in no position to challenge the Prime Minister.



The political face&off over Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for an open debate intensified on Wednesday. The BJP leaders dismissed the challenge and accused the Congress and INDIA bloc of pursuing anti&democratic politics. Speaking to ANI, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "He is living in a world of arrogance... Rahul Gandhi is in no position to challenge the Prime Minister of the country. The people of this nation have showered so much love upon PM Modi&they have elected him as Prime Minister three times, and are now preparing to elect him for a fourth term. Therefore, such a challenge holds no merit. The public will hold Rahul Gandhi accountable for the kind of language he is using; the people themselves will deliver a verdict through the democratic process."

Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Ashutosh Verma also alleged that the BJP had brought the entire city of Lucknow to a standstill on Tuesday during a massive rally, paralysing traffic movement and causing significant financial losses to traders during the auspicious occasion of Diwali.

Speaking to ANI, Verma said the disruption had triggered immense anger among the trading community, with traders estimated to have suffered losses amounting to crores. "The BJP brought the entire city of Lucknow to a standstill yesterday. The traffic system was left completely paralysed. There is immense anger among the traders... it is estimated that traders have suffered losses amounting to crores. How will the BJP justify this disruption caused to the traders' businesses during the auspicious occasion of Diwali?" Verma said.

Taking aim at the BJP over its criticism of Opposition parties, the SP leader said the ruling party should examine its own actions before targeting others. "When the BJP targets others, it should perhaps take a look at its own actions... You hold power in the state, in the panchayats, and in the municipal corporations&so who, exactly, is 'looting' democracy?" he said. Alleging that democratic institutions had been compromised, Verma further said, "You have compromised&or 'hacked' &every institution. You manipulate everything to suit your own ends..."

Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi intensified his challenge to Prime Minister Modi by launching a poll on X, asking young Indians whether they wanted to see the two leaders engage in a face&to&face open debate. Tagging senior BJP leaders, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Gandhi urged them to convince the Prime Minister to accept his challenge. " Youth of India, do you want to see a Rahul Gandhi vs Narendra Modi open debate? @rajnathsingh ji, @nitin_gadkari ji, @ChouhanShivraj ji, @myogiadityanath ji & you always have the PM's best interest in mind, please convince him to come," Gandhi posted on Tuesday.

The poll featured two options: "Yes & Modi Ji, Daro Mat" and "No & Modi Ji, Dar Gaye". Meanwhile, BJP leader Dilip Kumar Jaiswal defended the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, saying that the exercise was aimed at cleaning up voter lists and had been part of the electoral process since Independence. "... the Election Commission began the SIR in Bihar ahead of the 2025 Assembly elections. Rahul Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders launched a campaign against it, but, according to me, their campaign lost momentum once people understood the process. SIR is aimed at cleaning up electoral rolls, a process that has continued since Independence, including removing the names of deceased voters..." Jaiswal said.

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak also targeted the Congress and INDIA bloc, announcing that BJP National President Nitin Nabin would lead a padayatra in Gorakhpur to highlight what the party described as the Opposition's alleged conspiracy against democracy. "Regarding the conspiracy that Congress is hatching against democracy, today BJP National President Nitin Nabin will lead a padayatra in Gorakhpur... Through these padayatras, we will expose the anti&democracy policies of Congress and the INDI alliance..." Pathak said.

The political exchanges come amid an intensifying confrontation between the BJP and Opposition parties over Rahul Gandhi's demand for an open debate with the Prime Minister, as well as disagreements over the SIR exercise.

Rs. 30 crore deal; DMK and AIADMK attempting to topple the government

Allegation by TVK MLA Mustafa



MADURAI: "The DMK and AIADMK are attempting to undermine the success of the TVK and its efforts to provide good governance. Both parties are once again engaging in 'horse&trading' (buying off elected representatives). They even approached me, offering a deal: 'Take Rs. 15 crore now, and once a no&confidence motion is brought against the TVK government, vote against the government and receive another Rs. 15 crore,'" alleged TVK MLA Mustafa, making a sensational claim. Speaking to reporters on this matter, MLA Mustafa said, "The DMK and AIADMK are attempting to undermine the TVK (Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam) and prevent it from delivering good governance. Both parties are once again engaging in 'horse&trading' (buying off elected representatives).

They even approached me, offering, 'Take 15 crore rupees now, and another 15 crore rupees after you vote against the TVK government during a no&confidence motion.' I have informed my party leadership about this. It is the AIADMK that is orchestrating this—an AIADMK functionary from Madurai reached out to me. They are trying to topple the TVK government by attempting to buy off our MLAs. The public is watching all of this. Even if offered 100 crore rupees, TVK MLAs will not be swayed. Both the DMK and AIADMK are colluding in this horse&trading. In a day or two, the identities of those behind this will be revealed.

R.B. Udhayakumar makes contradictory statements every single day, likely because he feels ignored by everyone. The DMK contested the election as part of an alliance of 35 parties, whereas no one was willing to form an alliance with the AIADMK. In contrast, the TVK, without any allies, secured 35 percent of the vote, created history, and formed the government. Furthermore, the people have also granted victory to the TVK in the by&elections. Seeman plays a double game. If he were to stand as a 'consensus candidate,' both the DMK and AIADMK would be ready to support him. However, Seeman is someone who has already faced defeat in the people's court."

"The current regime in Tamil Nadu is the rule of Narakasura; the day it is destroyed will be the true Deepavali" – DMK's Sekar Babu



CHENNAI: "The regime currently in power in Tamil Nadu is the rule of Narakasura. The day the Narakasura of Tamil Nadu is destroyed—that will be our true Deepavali," stated former DMK minister Sekar Babu. Former DMK minister Sekar Babu participated in an event held yesterday in Vepery, Chennai, to distribute Deepavali gifts. Speaking at the event, he remarked, "Some might even question the purpose of this celebration, and there may be those who suggest that the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) does not align with such observances." "The regime currently in power in Tamil Nadu is the rule of Narakasura. In mythology, Narakasura was one who tormented the *devas* (celestial beings); today, the people of Tamil Nadu are those *devas*. Narakasura had obtained a boon—he requested that his death should come only at the hands of his own mother.

Unable to bear the torment inflicted by Narakasura, the *devas* appealed to Lord Krishna, the ruler of the universe. When Lord Krishna set out to slay Narakasura, he granted the demon's final request: that the day of his death be celebrated as Deepavali. Thus, the day the Narakasura of Tamil Nadu is destroyed—that will be our true Deepavali," said the former minister.

The DMK, which advocates for rationalism, does not celebrate the festival of Deepavali. As a Dravidian movement, the party does not endorse festivals rooted in mythological tales, such as the slaying of Narakasura. In response to criticisms regarding why DMK leaders do not offer Deepavali greetings, party figures—including A. Raja—have, from time to time, explained the party's ideological stance on the matter. In this context, remarks by former DMK minister and Chennai East District DMK secretary Sekar Babu—stating that for us, Deepavali is the day Narakasura was vanquished—have caused a stir within the DMK ranks.

Two Bahrain passengers held with Rs 2.09 crore gold at Mumbai airport

MUMBAI: Two passengers who arrived in Mumbai from Bahrain were intercepted at the airport after allegedly attempting to smuggle 1.68 kg of gold dust worth around Rs 2.09 crore, concealed in their undergarments, customs officials said on Wednesday, reported PTI. The passengers were intercepted by personnel of the Customs Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on Tuesday, officials said, reported PTI.

Gold dust concealed in undergarments During a search, AIU personnel found gold dust in wax form concealed inside the passengers' undergarments, an official said, reported PTI. BThe gold was subsequently examined and valued by a government-&approved valuer. Customs officials seized the contraband under the provisions of the Customs Act, reported PTI.

Investigation into smuggling attempt underway Officials said further investigation into the alleged smuggling attempt is underway. The authorities have not disclosed further details about the passengers or the circumstances surrounding the alleged attempt. Jewellers in Nagpur receive threat letters in name of 'Bishnoi gang'; police to register case

In a separate incident, at least eight bullion traders in the Sarafa Bazar area of Nagpur have received threatening letters demanding Rs 10 lakh each in the name of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, with police suspecting the role of local criminals, reported PTI. The senders have also threatened to kill the traders and their family members if they fail to pay the money or inform the police.

The letters started arriving four to five days ago. The traders were asked to write a particular slogan outside their shops to indicate their willingness to pay. They were told that further instructions about handing over the money would follow, according to the police, reported PTI.

"We have spoken to the traders. They are ready to submit complaints. An offence will be registered at Tehsil Police Station in this connection," said DCP (Zone III) Rahul Madne, reported PTI.

Police suspect that local criminals may be using the Bishnoi gang's name to frighten traders and extort money, a police official said. However, the identity of those behind the threats is yet to be established.

Rs. 20,000 Bribe for Patta Transfer: Female VAO and Middleman Arrested in Theni

*THENI: In Thamaaraikulam village, Theni district, a female Village Administrative Officer (VAO) and an accomplice—a middleman—have been caught red&handed and arrested by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti&Corruption (DVAC) for accepting a bribe of Rs. 20,000 to facilitate a *patta* (land record) transfer. Kaliraj, a farmer from the Thamaaraikulam area near Periyakulam in Theni district, approached the local Village Administrative Office to request a *patta* transfer for his land. Vidhya (32), the VAO in charge, demanded a bribe of Rs. 20,000 to process the request. Unwilling to pay the bribe, Kaliraj filed a complaint with the Theni district unit of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti&Corruption.*

Acting on the instructions of the anti&corruption officials, Kaliraj went to hand over currency notes—treated with a special chemical—to the VAO on Tuesday evening. Upon his arrival, Vidhya instructed him to hand the money over to a middleman named Maruthu, who was present at the scene. As Maruthu accepted the money and passed it to the VAO, a police team led by a Deputy Superintendent of Vigilance and Anti&Corruption swooped in and caught both individuals red&handed.

A chemical test performed on their hands confirmed that they had handled the bribe money. Following this, the police arrested both the VAO, Vidhya, and the middleman, Maruthu.

A case has been registered against them, and a rigorous investigation is underway. This incident has caused a major stir in the locality.

New Tender Worth Rs. 270 Crore Issued for Waste Collection and Recycling in Madurai Corporation

MADURAI: A new tender worth Rs. 270 crore has been issued for waste collection and recycling operations within the Madurai Corporation. Corporation officials stated that the current service provider, 'Averland', will continue the work until the new company takes charge. Approximately 950 tonnes of waste are generated daily across the Corporation's 100 wards.

The contract with 'Averland'—the firm currently responsible for waste removal—is set to expire on November 15. Following public complaints regarding the company's performance and protests by sanitation workers, the process for a new contract has been initiated.

Under this new arrangement, Rs. 270 crore has been allocated for an 18&month period to cover waste collection, segregation, and processing across 81 wards located in Zones 1, 2, 3, and 5. In Zone 4 (specifically Ward 84), sanitation tasks will continue to be handled by the Corporation's permanent staff.

Once the tender process is finalized, the new company will commence operations in December. The responsibility for maintaining waste transfer stations in Thathaneri and Kochadai, as well as 38 micro&composting centers, will also be entrusted to the new company.

It is mandatory for all waste collection vehicles to be equipped with GPS. A 24&hour control center will be established to handle complaints, with a target to resolve issues within six hours. Officials have warned that any violation of the terms will result in the immediate cancellation of the contract.

Successful Treatment for Brain Tumor in a 18 Month Old Child at JIPMER, Puducherry



PUDHUCHERRY: Doctors at JIPMER have successfully treated a brain tumor in an 18&month&old child from Andhra Pradesh using a stem cell transplant, enabling the child to return home in good health. The entire course of treatment, which spanned over a year, was provided completely free of charge. A female child from the East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh was diagnosed with medulloblastoma—a malignant brain tumor.

A multidisciplinary team of medical specialists at JIPMER successfully treated the condition through a coordinated approach, including a stem cell transplant. The child was referred to JIPMER for specialized care in early 2025, when she was six months old. Initially, the tumor was completely surgically removed. Subsequently, a team of experts—including specialists in pediatric oncology and other relevant fields—collaborated on her care. While radiation therapy plays a crucial role in treating medulloblastoma, administering it to very young children during a critical phase of brain development can lead to long&term side effects, such as cognitive impairment and developmental issues. Given the child's very young age, the medical team opted for a treatment strategy that avoided radiation therapy to prevent such complications.

The child underwent chemotherapy for 12 consecutive months. Following this, on September 20, an autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplant (using the child's own stem cells) was successfully performed at JIPMER.

Having recovered well, the child was discharged from the hospital last week and has returned to her hometown. At the time of discharge from the hospital, there were no signs of the disease remaining in the child.

Another notable aspect of this achievement is that the entire course of treatment—which spanned over a year and included surgery, chemotherapy, and a stem cell transplant—was provided to the child's family completely free of charge. This was made possible through the support of the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and various voluntary organizations dedicated to helping children affected by cancer.

Printed at : Meera Offset Printers, No.104, V.R. Pillai street, Triplicane, Chennai. - 600 005. Published By. Dr. P. Pandiarajan No. 5 Namasivayam nagar 2nd street, Madurai. Editor : Dr.P.Pandiarajan