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From 248 Km To Nearly 1,200 Km : PM Modi Highlights India's Metro Boom Since 2014

This is the change we are driving for India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday highlighted the expansion of India's metro network over the past decade, saying the country has made rapid progress in urban transportation since 2014. In a post on X, PM Modi said India's operational metro network has grown from 248 km across five cities in 2014 to nearly 1,200 km across 26 cities.

He added that more than one crore people now travel by metro every day.

Taking a swipe at the pace of metro expansion before 2014, the Prime Minister referred to cities like Pune and said they would have had to wait for decades for metro connectivity if the network had continued growing at the earlier rate.

"Let me ask you... If India's Metro network had continued expanding at the pace it did before 2014, how long would the wait be for cities like Pune to have a metro? YEARS, no DECADES, perhaps. And that was UNACCEPTABLE. In 2014, India had just 248 km of Metro lines across 5 cities. Today, we have nearly 1,200 km across 26 cities. Over 1 crore people travel by Metro every day," he said.







Highlighting the benefits of metro connectivity, PM Modi said the expansion was not just about increasing the number of routes but also about making everyday life easier for people.

He added, "The impact goes beyond statistics or numbers. It means less time in traffic, more family time, greater productivity and better opportunities. This is the transformation we are working towards for urban India!"

PM Modi's remarks came two days after he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for Pune Metro projects worth around Rs 21,800 crore through video conferencing. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also attended the event.

The Prime Minister inaugurated Pune Metro Line 3, also known as the Pink Line, built at a cost of over Rs 8,300 crore. The 23&km corridor connects Maan to District Court Metro station and will link the Hinjewadi IT hub with Shivajinagar.

The new line is expected to improve connectivity for thousands of IT professionals and other daily commuters. PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for Phase II of Pune Metro, which will be developed at an estimated cost of around Rs 13,500 crore.

The second phase includes four metro lines & 2A, 2B, 4 and 4A & and will expand connectivity across major residential, commercial and IT areas.

& Line 2A: Vanaz to Chandani Chowk.

& Line 2B: Ramwadi to Vitthalwadi.

& Line 4: Kharadi to Khadakwasla, covering around 25.52 km.

& Line 4A: Nal Stop to Manik Baug, covering around 6.12 km. The expansion is aimed at improving connectivity across Pune and making daily travel easier for residents.

Deleted voters should get justice: Karnataka CM DK Shivakumar as INDIA bloc protest against SIR

BENGALURU: As the INDIA bloc's Karnataka unit held a protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that all voters whose names had been deleted, except those who are deceased, should get justice, and asserted that the protest would continue until their demands were met.

"We don't agree with the way SIR is ongoing. All the voters whose names have been deleted, except for the deceased, should get justice. Until justice is served, we will continue to fight," Shivakumar said. Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the Election Commission had failed to address questions over the SIR and voter deletions. "We have made our demand very clear. Gyanesh Kumar should resign; he should go. Today the country has seen mandates being manufactured because of the Chief Election Commissioner. It has been proved. People are asking questions; the CEC is missing. There have been five U-turns by the Election Commission about its stand on Form 6 and Form 7, about the software that has been manipulated for deletions, and they are unable to answer any questions that are being posed," Kharge said.



Earlier in the day, KPCC President BK Hariprasad said that the INDIA bloc's protest against SIR of electoral rolls would continue until Gyanesh Kumar resigns. "Today, the INDIA bloc is organising a massive protest against Mr Gyanesh Kumar and the SIR. This is in continuation of the November 1 Ramlila rally, where my leader Rahul Gandhi ji, All India Congress Committee President Mallikarjun Kharge ji, and all INDIA bloc leaders had gathered at Ramlila to seek the resignation of Gyanesh Kumar and to scrap the SIR," Hariprasad said.

He said that INDIA bloc leaders and members had assembled at Freedom Park to continue the protest. "In continuation of this, the INDIA bloc has assembled today at Freedom Park, and we are going to start our protest today. All our INDIA bloc members are here. And till Gyanesh Kumar resigns, this protest will continue," he said.

Hariprasad further said that the protest would be extended across Karnataka, with District Congress Committee presidents holding rallies at district headquarters on Thursday. "Today, all my District Congress Committee presidents are also holding protest rallies at all the district headquarters. From tomorrow onwards, it will reach the talukas and blocks. This will continue till Gyanesh Kumar resigns," he added.

The protest, which started at 11 AM and will go on until 2 PM, is being organised by the Congress, CPI(M), CPI, CPI(ML) Liberation, Forward Bloc and Samajwadi Party, along with other progressive parties, social organisations and student and youth organisations involved in the anti-SIR agitation. The protest is being presided over by Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President BK Hariprasad. Multilingual film actor Prakash Raj, CPI(M) State Secretary Prakash K, CPI State Secretary Sathi Sundaresh, CPI(ML) Liberation State Secretary Clifton D'Rozario, Forward Bloc President JR Shivashankar and Samajwadi Party President N Manjappa are also participating.

Meanwhile, police personnel have been deployed in adequate numbers at Freedom Park to maintain security and manage the gathering. The protest comes as opposition parties continue to raise concerns over the SIR exercise and seek accountability from the Election Commission.

Tamil Nadu Governor Arlekar meets President Droupadi Murmu



NEW DELHI: Tamil Nadu Governor Arlekar met with President Droupadi Murmu today.

The meeting took place at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi. Arlekar was appointed as the full-time Governor of Tamil Nadu two weeks ago. Following this, he met the President in Delhi today.

During the meeting, Governor Arlekar extended his Diwali greetings to President Droupadi Murmu. It is understood that this was a courtesy call.

DMK President M.K. Stalin donates 10,000 books to three libraries

CHENNAI: Responding to requests from individuals who had gifted him books during personal meetings, DMK President M.K. Stalin donated 10,000 books today to libraries in the districts of Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, and Tiruvannamalai. In a press release, the DMK stated that M.K. Stalin accepted the requests made by those who had met him in person—who asked that the books they gifted to him be donated to libraries in their respective colleges or local areas.



Accordingly, Stalin handed over a total of 10,000 books to representatives of the respective institutions today (November 5) at the DMK headquarters, Anna Arivalayam, in Chennai. The distribution included 5,000 books for the library of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) in Palayamkottai (Tirunelveli district), 3,000 books for the Rahmaniya Educational Institution's training center in Vasudevanallur (Tenkasi district), and 2,000 books for the library of the Government Arts College in Chengam (Tiruvannamalai district). To date, M.K. Stalin has donated a total of 710,000 (7.1 lakh) books—from those he has received—to various colleges and libraries. This was stated in a press release. Furthermore, regarding his meeting with senior DMK member Kasi and his family, M.K. Stalin wrote on social media:

"DMK members are not merely those who carry a party flag; they are people who live by their principles. I had the pleasure of meeting the esteemed Kasi, who stands as a true embodiment of this. Inspired by the ideals of Periyar, having made *Murasoli* (the party organ) his political classroom, and having wholeheartedly welcomed and proudly celebrated inter&caste marriages—in his eyes, I saw the very smile of Karunanidhi. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam is home to countless individuals like Kasi, who demonstrate that principles are not just for speeches on a stage, but are meant to be lived out in one's daily life. From the lives of such dedicated members—who have nurtured the DMK through their hard work and sacrifices—there is so much for all of us to learn: from me, as the party leader, down to the grassroots&level worker; from our seasoned veterans to the youth just beginning their political journey. Even after bidding farewell to the dear Kasi, my conversation with him continues to resonate in my heart."

Minister Nirmalkumar gives an interview regarding the arrest of former DMK minister Mahesh



MADURAI: Minister Nirmal Kumar spoke to reporters regarding the arrest of former DMK minister Mahesh. He stated the following:

* No one has been arrested without evidence; there is concrete proof. Funds were collected and handed over to Mahesh—we know where the money was collected, from whom it was collected, and the exact amounts involved.

* We also know where the money was handed over. These funds were treated as 'party funds,' and in exchange, safety standards for children in various schools were compromised to issue [compliance] certificates.

This is not a recent issue; we have received numerous complaints indicating that this collection racket has been ongoing for the past two years.

* Several educational institutions have come forward with complaints, backed by evidence. There is also proof of the financial transactions. Over Rs. 400 crore has changed hands, with the safety of students being compromised in exchange for issuing certificates to these schools.

* The High Court has observed that there are sufficient grounds [for the case] and that custodial interrogation is permissible. Action has been taken because there is evidence. Minister Nirmal Kumar stated this.

Three-storey building collapses suddenly in Delhi



NEW DELHI: Construction work on a three&story building is underway in the Chawri Bazar area of Delhi.

Work was continuing today when, around 10:00 AM, the building suddenly collapsed. It is feared that several people may be trapped in the debris. Three bodies have been recovered. Rescue operations are in full swing, and the police are investigating the cause of the incident.

Today horoscope

You will impress those around you with fresh, innovative ideas. You may purchase modern electronic or electrical appliances. In business, you will successfully recover long-pending dues. It is advisable to avoid arguments at your workplace.

You may experience some running around or tension regarding your son's education or your daughter's marriage. At work, you will locate a document you had been searching for. You will effectively handle competition in your business.

There will be happiness within the family. Your words will reflect your practical wisdom and experience. You will benefit from interactions with people who speak other languages. Unnecessary expenditures will decline. Your status and respect at the workplace will increase.

You will handle challenging tasks with ease. Family members will listen to and value your words. Sudden travel is likely. You will reconnect with old friends and relatives. In business, you will achieve success by employing new strategies. Your professional life will flourish.

You will gain the mental strength to endure any situation. Your siblings will be a source of great support. Avoid making enemies at your workplace. In business, consider and act upon the suggestions of your partners. You will overcome opposition and emerge successful.

With the Moon positioned within your sign, it is best to avoid arguments. Follow the advice given by your parents. Your workload may increase. In terms of business, you will meet with key individuals and sign new agreements; profits are likely.

Trips to other towns or regions will prove satisfying. You will find solutions to long-standing problems. You may feel inclined toward yoga and meditation. You might purchase modern electronic devices. Maintain a peaceful demeanor at your workplace. Business activities will be brisk.

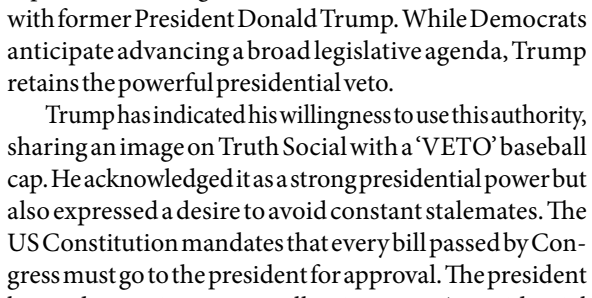
You will find yourself drawn to new clothing and ornaments. You may benefit through relatives on your mother's side. You will attend functions hosted by prominent or influential people. At your work place, it is best to focus solely on your own tasks.

You will move forward toward your goals. Your appearance and vitality will improve, and your social standing will rise. Good things will happen within your family, and your children will show a keen interest in their studies. In business, you will employ new strategies to attract customers. Your professional life will flourish.

Mental confusion will dissipate, giving way to clarity. There will be an improvement in your mother's health. You may visit sacred places, and you might renovate your ancestral home. At work, your superiors will become your friends. In business, you may relocate your shop to a different place.

Keep your temper in check and avoid criticizing others. You may sell an ancestral home or a plot of land. In business, you might have to navigate through some confusion. It is advisable to maintain a calm demeanor at your workplace.

You will make some important decisions with courage. Friends will be helpful, and your siblings will provide strong support. In business, you will successfully overcome competition. At the office, avoid interfering in other people's affairs.



Ro Khanna Predicts 'Democratic Tsunami' with Over 250 Seats, Trump Wields Veto Power

USA: Indian&American Congressman Ro Khanna has predicted a major Democratic resurgence in the US midterm elections, drawing comparisons to the 2008 electoral wave under former President Barack Obama.

Khanna stated, "It's going to be over 250 seats. This is a tsunami. It is a repudiation of Trump." He emphasized that voters are primarily concerned with the cost of living and international diplomacy, seeking solutions for lower food and fuel prices.

The Democratic party's focus will be on reducing costs for families, including childcare and healthcare. This shift in power in Washington could lead to direct confrontations with former President Donald Trump. While Democrats anticipate advancing a broad legislative agenda, Trump retains the powerful presidential veto.

Trump has indicated his willingness to use this authority, sharing an image on Truth Social with a 'VETO' baseball cap. He acknowledged it as a strong presidential power but also expressed a desire to avoid constant stalemates. The US Constitution mandates that every bill passed by Congress must go to the president for approval. The president has 10 days to sign, veto, or allow it to pass. A presidential veto can only be overridden by a two&thirds supermajority in both the House and Senate, a threshold the Democrats currently lack. This makes the veto a significant hurdle for new legislation.

'Annan Seer' Scheme for Weddings: Tender Issued for Procurement of Gold Coins and Silk Sarees

CHENNAI: In its election manifesto, the Tamil Nadu government announced the 'Annan Seer' scheme, under which it would provide an 8&gram gold coin and a silk saree to women on their wedding day. The state government issued a Government Order (G.O.) allocating Rs. 812 crore for the implementation of this scheme.



Following this, the Social Welfare Department has now released a tender notice for the procurement of 60,000 units each of 8&gram gold coins and silk sarees. Regarding this, the Social Welfare Department's notification specifies the following: The 8&gram gold coins must be of 22&carat (916) purity and bear the BIS hallmark. The coins, which should have a diameter of 22 mm, must feature the official state emblem of Tamil Nadu in Tamil script on one side. Bidders are required to provide an earnest money deposit (EMD) of Rs. 6 crore. Furthermore, the bidder must have an average annual turnover of at least Rs. 750 crore over the last three financial years.

The price of gold will be calculated based on the morning rate on the date of the purchase order; charges—including making charges—and GST will be added.

Delivery must be completed within 30 days. Applications must be submitted by December 4th. Additionally, the sarees must be made of 100% pure mulberry silk and bear the 'Silk Mark' and 'Handloom Mark' labels. Each set must have a total length of 6.20 meters—comprising 5.50 meters for the saree and 0.70 meters for the blouse piece—and a total weight of 430 grams (380 grams of silk and 50 grams of *zari*). Furthermore, a security deposit of Rs. 24 lakh is required. The bidder must have an average annual turnover of at least Rs. 30 crore over the last three financial years, and the sarees must be delivered within 120 days. Applications must be submitted by December 7th.

The documentation fee for this process is Rs. 5,725. Further details can be found on the websites www.tntenders.gov.in and www.tnsocialwelfare.tn.gov.in. This has been stated therein.

2 Year Service Extension for 'Agniveers' Recruited into the Armed Forces 4 Years Ago

Chief of Defence Staff General N.S. Raja Subramani Shares Update



NEW DELHI: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General N.S. Raja Subramani announced yesterday that the Union Cabinet has approved a 2&year service extension for 'Agniveers'. In 2022, the Central Government implemented the 'Agnipath' recruitment scheme to induct youth into the Indian Armed Forces (Army, Air Force, and Navy) on a short&term basis. Individuals selected under this scheme are known as 'Agniveers'.

They are provided with an opportunity to serve in the Armed Forces for a total of 4 years, which includes a 6&month military training period. Following this 4&year tenure, 25% of the personnel may be absorbed into permanent service based on merit, while the remaining 75% will be released from service.

Against this backdrop, while speaking to reporters in Delhi yesterday, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General N.S. Raja Subramani... Raja Subramani announced a significant update regarding the 'Agnipath' scheme.

He stated, "25% of the 'Agniveers' who complete their initial four&year service tenure will be inducted as regular soldiers into the armed forces."

"Regarding the remaining 75%, the three branches of the armed forces recommended a second term of service lasting two years. The Union Cabinet has approved this proposal, granting a two&year service extension to these Agniveers," he added.

In 2022, the first batch of Agniveers was inducted into the armed forces—19,000 in the Army, 2,850 in the Air Force, and 2,550 in the Navy—totaling 24,400 personnel. More than 18,300 of these Agniveers were set to complete their four&year tenure and exit the armed forces by December 31. Following this decision by the Union Government, it appears they will now be granted an additional two&year service extension.

Government Jobs for Families of Those Who Died in Karur

Supreme Court Grants Time for TN Government to Respond

KARUR: The Supreme Court has granted the Tamil Nadu government four weeks to file a response in an appeal challenging the cancellation of a government order that had provided state employment to the families of those who died in a stampede in Karur. In September 2025, 41 people lost their lives in a stampede during an election campaign rally held by the TVK (Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam) in Velusamipuram, Karur district.

To support the bereaved families, the Tamil Nadu government issued an order granting government jobs on compassionate grounds to 31 individuals from these families. Chief Minister Vijay personally handed over the appointment letters to the beneficiaries. Following a petition filed by Theeran Thirumurugan of the 'Naam Tamilar Katchi' party before the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, the court quashed the Tamil Nadu government's order that had granted government jobs to members of the affected families. Challenging this ruling, the Tamil Nadu government, along with individuals from the affected families—including Prabhakaran, Selvakumar, and Anandajothi—filed appeals in the Supreme Court. Upon hearing the case, the Supreme Court granted an interim stay on the Madras High Court's order.

The appeal subsequently came up for further hearing before a Supreme Court bench led by Justice J.B. Pardiwala. During the proceedings, Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing on behalf of the Tamil Nadu government, requested an adjournment, stating that additional time was required to file a rejoinder in response to the counter-&affidavit submitted by the opposing side.

At this point, the judges questioned why additional time was being sought to file an explanatory affidavit when there had been no change in the government's stance; they then granted the Tamil Nadu government four weeks to file the affidavit and adjourned the hearing of the case to December 8.

Shortage of Elephant Dung Hinders Production of Large Clay Oil Lamps in Vilacheri



*MADURAI: The production of large clay oil lamps in Vilacheri, near Thiruparankundram, has been hampered by a lack of elephant dung—a key ingredient mixed with clay to create these items. In Vilacheri, over 200 families are engaged in crafting figurines using a mixture of clay, paper pulp, and cement. With the month of Karthigai approaching, the artisans are busy making clay oil lamps (*agal vilakkus*). For the Karthigai Deepam festival, six "mega&sized" clay lamps—each measuring two feet in height and two feet in width—are being prepared for the temple in Thiruvannamalai (near Srivilliputhur). These large lamps, which can hold 30 liters of oil, are designed to burn continuously for three days.*

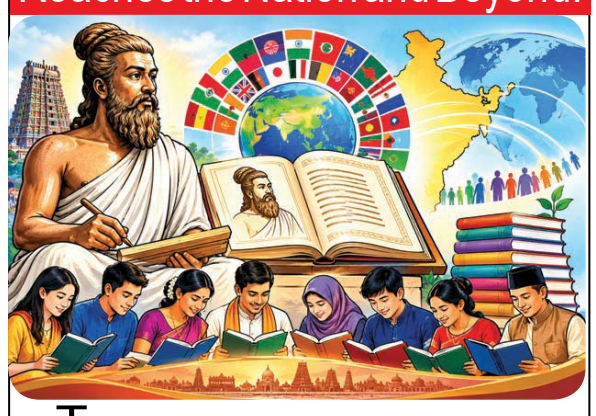
In addition to these, the artisans are preparing 25 medium&sized lamps (one foot tall, with a 2&liter capacity) and 3,000 smaller lamps (each with a 100&milliliter capacity) to be sent for the Thiruvannamalai Deepam. Gauri Shankar, who is involved in this work, stated: "We have been making these clay lamps for 32 years. To craft lamps larger than one foot or to create deity idols, we must mix the clay with fine sand and elephant dung.

We are unable to obtain the dung because the elephant from the Thiruparankundram temple has been moved to an elephant camp. For the past two years, we managed to source it from those who care for elephants at the Kallazhagar Temple." "We are currently reaching out to various places to secure a supply. Once we obtain it, we will proceed with the production of the large lamps." "In the meantime, we are focusing on producing the 3,000 smaller lamps, each with a 100&milliliter capacity," he added.

November 05 EDITORIAL – NEW INDIA FLASH *2026*

THIRUKKURAL TO ECHO IN 22 INDIAN LANGUAGES!

Tamil's Timeless Wisdom Reaches the Nation and Beyond!



The initiative to introduce Thirukkural in 22 Indian languages and English through Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0 marks a proud milestone in Tamil's cultural journey.

The Central Institute of Classical Tamil's effort to spread the teachings of Saint Thiruvalluvar deserves appreciation. Thirukkural is not merely a Tamil literary masterpiece; it is a universal guide to morality, justice, governance and humanity.

Translating its timeless wisdom into multiple languages will strengthen cultural understanding and national unity while introducing younger generations to India's rich intellectual heritage.

However, translation alone is insufficient. Thirukkural should become part of educational programmes, digital libraries and international academic discussions. Its original meaning and philosophical depth must be preserved.

Tamil's greatness lies not only in its ancient heritage but also in its power to enlighten humanity.

Let Thiruvalluvar's wisdom cross every linguistic boundary and inspire generations worldwide.

– Editor,
Madurai Mani News



Varanasi: To mark the 250th birth anniversary of Sri Muthuswami Dikshitar—one of the 'Trinity' of Carnatic music—Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman released a special commemorative coin worth Rs. 250, featuring his image, the day before yesterday.

Sri Lanka's Youth Get Innovation Boost

Atlas Axillia, Nalanda College Launch Tinkering Lab

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's future innovators and entrepreneurs are set to receive a significant boost with the inauguration of a Tinkering Lab at Nalanda College.



This initiative, a collaboration between Atlas Axillia, a subsidiary of Hemas Holdings PLC, and Nalanda College, aims to prepare the nation's youth for a technology&driven world.

The Nalanda Innovation Center, housed within the college's Centenary Building, will provide hands&on learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). The project benefits from technical expertise from India's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and facilitation by the High Commission of India, highlighting a strong regional partnership.

India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha, emphasized the shared vision: "This collaboration reflects our shared aspirations and commitment to empowering our youth through education, science and innovation. India's Atal Innovation Mission has sparked a nationwide culture of curiosity across thousands of schools in India."

Ashish Chandra, Group CEO of Hemas Holdings PLC, noted the lab's role in nurturing future problem-&solvers. "True empowerment begins with giving our children the tools and confidence to shape their own futures. The Tinkering Lab marks a natural evolution of that journey, nurturing curiosity, creativity and resilience."

Nalanda College alumnus Mahela Jayawardene, representing the Centenary Committee, highlighted the need for adaptability in a rapidly changing world. "The world is evolving at an unprecedented pace, and our students must graduate with capacities in adaptability, teamwork and creative courage." The lab will offer students a resource&rich environment to experiment with robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), and design thinking, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

Facilities include a DIY Innovation Lab, an advanced fabrication lab for 3D printing, and dedicated spaces for augmented/virtual reality (AR/VR) and agricultural technology. This collaborative effort underscores a commitment to accessible, technology-&based education for Sri Lankan students.

CM inaugurates 768 housing units built by the Housing Board and Urban Habitat Development Board at a cost of Rs. 1,021 crore



CHENNAI: The Chief Minister inaugurated 768 apartment units and commercial complexes—constructed by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board and the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board at a cost of Rs. 1,021.53 crore—via video conference. According to a press release issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Tamil Nadu Housing Board has constructed 304 apartment units and an 11&story commercial complex in Arumbakkam, Chennai, at a cost of Rs. 588.10 crore.

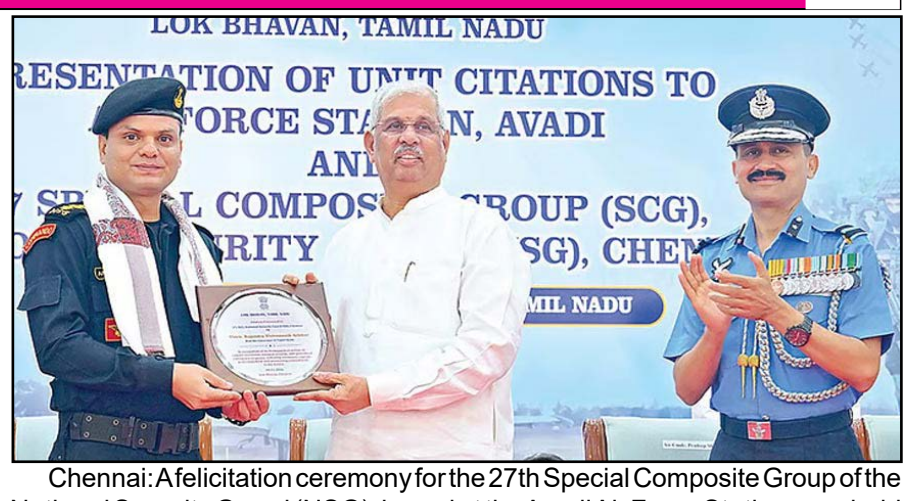
Chief Minister Vijay inaugurated—via video conference yesterday—643 apartment units and commercial complexes across five locations, constructed at a total cost of ₹1,003.97 crore. These include a commercial complex and 216 apartments for the high&income group in Ashok Nagar (₹307.89 crore); a commercial complex, 8 high-&income group apartments, and 8 middle&income group apartments in Besant Nagar (₹23.79 crore); 80 high&income group apartments in Padi Kuppam (₹80.24 crore); and 24 apartments for the economically weaker section in Karumangulam (₹3.95 crore).

The Chief Minister inaugurated 125 apartment units, constructed at a cost of Rs. 17.56 crore under a redevelopment project in the Kolantha Goundanur area of Karur district, as part of the 'Housing for All' scheme implemented by the Urban Habitat Development Board.

The Chief Minister inaugurated buildings constructed at a total cost of Rs. 71.36 crore. This includes police infrastructure worth Rs. 8.90 crore—comprising four police stations in Erode, Ramanathapuram, Chennai, and Tiruvarur, as well as an SBCID office building in Perumbakkam, Thiruvallur district—and fire and rescue service facilities worth Rs. 8.41 crore, consisting of fire stations in Medavakkam (Chennai), Needamangalam (Tiruvarur), and Odukkathur (Vellore).

Furthermore, the Chief Minister inaugurated new industrial estates established by the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation (TANSIDCO) under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department: one in Perundurai Phase&II (Erode district), spanning 17.95 acres at a cost of Rs. 15.23 crore, and another in Nayanur (Villupuram district), spanning 29.44 acres at a cost of Rs. 5.57 crore. He also inaugurated a Common Facility Centre for the coir cluster in Mudhalipalayam (Tiruppur district), established by the Department of Industries and Commerce at a cost of Rs. 13.95 crore.

Additionally, the Chief Minister inaugurated an integrated government cocoon market complex in Sogathur, Dharmapuri district, constructed at a cost of Rs. 19.20 crore. These events were attended by Ministers Rajkumar and Madanraja; K.P.K. Krishnan, Chairman of the Urban Habitat Development Board; Shiva, Chairman of the Housing Board; Chief Secretary Sai Kumar; DGP Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal; departmental secretaries Karthik (Home), Kirlosh Kumar (Housing), Pradeep Yadav (MSME), and Lilly (Handlooms); as well as Prabhakar, Managing Director of the Housing Board, and P. Ramana Saraswathi, Managing Director of the Urban Habitat Development Board, among others.



Chennai: A felicitation ceremony for the 27th Special Composite Group of the National Security Guard (NSG), based at the Avadi Air Force Station, was held yesterday at the Bharathiyar Hall in the Raj Bhavan, Guindy, Chennai. Tamil Nadu Governor R. N. Ravi attended the event and honored the NSG personnel by presenting them with medals and certificates of appreciation.

Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu and PM Modi hold telephonic conversation



AMARAVATHI: Prime Minister Modi spoke with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu over the phone yesterday to inquire about the damage caused by the cyclones 'Arnab' and 'Murasu'.

The two leaders discussed the agricultural losses, casualties, and property damage for about half an hour. Chandrababu Naidu informed the Prime Minister that the coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions had suffered significant losses, but noted that proactive precautionary measures had largely prevented a high death toll. He also requested that adequate relief assistance be provided at the earliest.

In response, Prime Minister Modi commended him, stating, "You handled the cyclones effectively, drawing on your experience. By cutting off power, you saved the lives of livestock, and you have also ensured that restoration work is being completed rapidly."

Diwali: 15,659 Special Buses from Chennai to Operate from Today until November 7

Information provided by Minister Vijay Thamizhan Parthiban



CHENNAI: Transport Minister Vijay Thamizhan Parthiban has announced that 15,659 special buses will be operated from Chennai between today and November 7, in view of the Diwali festival. In an interview yesterday, he stated that for the Diwali period—from November 5 to 7—a total of 15,659 buses are planned to operate. This includes 6,573 regular scheduled buses and an additional 9,086 special buses. Furthermore, 26,000 special buses will be operated between other districts.

Following the Diwali festival, on November 9 and 10, a total of 11,197 buses—comprising 4,382 regular buses and 6,815 additional special buses—will be operated from various locations back to Chennai. Buses will depart from five designated terminals in Chennai. Buses heading towards Puducherry, Cuddalore, Chidambaram, Trichy, Madurai, Thoothukudi, Sengottai, Tirunelveli, Salem, and Coimbatore will operate from an open space near the CMDA park at Kilambakkam. Buses bound for Vandavasi, Polur, and Tiruvannamalai will also operate from this same location.

Meanwhile, buses heading towards Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, and Nagapattinam will operate from the temporary bus stand at Maraimalai Nagar. Buses heading towards East Coast Road, Kanchipuram, Vellore, Bengaluru, and Tiruttani will depart from the Koyambedu Bus Terminus. Buses bound for the state of Andhra Pradesh—via Ponneri and Uthukottai—will operate from the new Madhavaram Bus Terminus. Additionally, regular bus services to Trichy, Salem, Kumbakonam, and Tiruvannamalai will continue to operate. Furthermore, buses will be available from 16 locations across Chennai—Thiruvanmiyur, Avadi, Tambaram, Tiruvottiyur, Siruseri, Adyar, Broadway, Egmore, Ambattur, Taramani, Island Grounds (Theevu Thidal), Guindy, Velachery, Ashok Pillar, Poonamallee, and Saidapet—for passengers who have made advance bookings.

This was stated by the official. In total, 5,061 buses will be operated from Chennai today; this includes 2,191 regularly scheduled buses, 2,316 additional special buses, and 554 private contract buses.

A total of 5,431 buses will be operated tomorrow. Regarding special trains for Diwali, Southern Railway has issued a press release: A special train (06111) will depart from Tambaram at 7:30 PM on November 6 and reach Tirunelveli at 9:20 AM the following day. In the return direction, a special train (06112) will depart from Tirunelveli at 7:00 PM on November 9 and arrive at Tambaram at 9:00 AM the next day.

This train will pass through Villupuram, Trichy, Sivagangai, Manamadurai, Virudhunagar, Rajapalayam, and Tenkasi. Ticket reservations for these two special trains begin today (Nov 5) at 8:00 AM. Unreserved MEMU special trains will operate between Tambaram and Manamadurai on November 6 and 7, and between Manamadurai and Tambaram on November 7 and 9. Similarly, unreserved special MEMU trains will run between Chennai Egmore and Trichy on November 6 and 7, between Trichy and Tambaram on November 7, and between Trichy and Egmore on November 9.

No fatalities in the line of duty for 12 consecutive months: PM Modi commends CRPF personnel

NEW DELHI: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), one of the nation's paramilitary forces, has achieved a significant milestone by recording zero fatalities in the line of duty over the past 12 months. Prime Minister Modi has extended his appreciation to the CRPF personnel for this achievement. In a post on X (formerly Twitter) yesterday, Prime Minister Modi wrote, "For 12 consecutive months, there have been no fatalities in the line of duty within the CRPF. This is the first time in the last 47 years that such a feat has been achieved. This 'zero' speaks volumes."



This post features a photograph showing the number 'zero' alongside three CRPF personnel, each pointing their firearms in a different direction. A senior CRPF officer stated, "We have achieved this milestone despite the fact that our personnel remain actively engaged in intense operations across various conflict zones where they are deployed. CRPF personnel carry out internal security duties in several regions of the country that are highly prone to violence. Unfortunately, in the past, these operations have resulted in a significant number of casualties. The fact that not a single soldier or officer has lost their life in the last 12 months indicates an improvement in the security environment and demonstrates that the force has learned from its past mistakes and moved forward." With a strength of approximately 3.25 lakh personnel, the CRPF plays a pivotal role in the country's internal security. In particular, this force is engaged in anti&Naxal operations, counter&terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir, and counter&insurgency tasks in the northeastern states.



Chennai: Chief Minister Vijay inaugurated the disbursement of a special incentive of Rs. 709.50 per tonne of sugarcane. The event was attended by Minister R. Vinoth, Chief Secretary M. Saikumar, Agriculture Secretary Na. Venkatesh, Commissioner of Sugar R. Kannan, and Additional Director S. Arunraj, among others.

Karnataka: INDIA bloc stages protest against SIR, seeks CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation



KARANATAKA: The INDIA bloc's Karnataka unit is holding a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Thursday against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

The protest, which started at 11 AM and will go on until 2 PM, is being organised by the Congress, CPI(M), CPI, CPI(ML) Liberation, Forward Bloc and Samajwadi Party, along with other progressive parties, social organisations and student and youth organisations involved in the anti&SIR agitation. The protest is being presided over by Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President BK Hariprasad.

Multilingual film actor Prakash Raj, CPI(M) State Secretary Prakash K, CPI State Secretary Sathi Sundaresh, CPI(ML) Liberation State Secretary Clifton D'Rozario, Forward Bloc President JR Shivashankar and Samajwadi Party President N Manjappa are also participating. Representatives of various organisations, including Sarvodaya Karnataka, Eddelu Karnataka, the Federation of Dalit Organisations and the Republican Party of India are also attending the protest.

Meanwhile, police personnel have been deployed in adequate numbers at Freedom Park to maintain security and manage the gathering. The protest comes as opposition parties continue to raise concerns over the SIR exercise and seek accountability from the Election Commission. Hariprasad said on Wednesday the protest would be held in continuation of the November 1 demonstration.

"In continuation of the protest we had on November 1, the entire INDIA bloc alliance is organising a massive protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru. All our CPI(M), Forward Bloc, Samajwadi Party... and Muslim League leaders have agreed to participate in this," Hariprasad said.

Hariprasad added that the protest movement would be extended to almost all districts across Karnataka at the block level. "This protest will continue in Karnataka in almost all districts at the block level.

Tomorrow, we have requested all our district units to simultaneously hold protests against SIR and Gyanesh Kumar and demand his resignation," he said. The Congress leader said the party had requested its district units to organise simultaneous demonstrations, indicating that the protest against SIR would be taken up across the state.

Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi questions the TN government regarding crop loans for farmers

CHENNAI: Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi has issued a statement questioning the Tamil Nadu government regarding agricultural loans. In his statement, he notes that those who promised a complete waiver of agricultural loans—upon coming to power—instead categorized farmers into "slabs" and announced a waiver for only a meager portion of their debt. This move was met with strong opposition from the DMK, other opposition parties, and various farmers' unions. When farmers staged protests, the incompetent ministers promised to hold discussions once the by&elections in Dharapuram and Maduranthagam concluded. It has now been nearly a month since those by&elections, yet this inept government remains completely silent on the issue of the agricultural loan waiver. Farmers are concerned that this silence may signal an attempt to once again announce a waiver for only a trivial amount. Farmers, currently in distress and unable to even celebrate festivals, are now anxious about whether they will be able to celebrate the upcoming Pongal festival with any peace of mind. The *kuruvai* (short&term) crop failed because the government betrayed the farmers by failing to release water from the Cauvery river as required. When we raised the demand for drought relief in the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister confidently—and falsely—claimed that relief had already been provided, conflating a special *kuruvai* package with actual drought relief. What does he have to say now? I urge this "circus" of a government not to deceive the farmers once again; instead, it should—much like the DMK did during its tenures—waive all agricultural loans for all farmers.



In Thoothukudi, police arrested two individuals who were illegally transporting tobacco products by car; they seized 243 kilograms of tobacco products, the vehicle, and Rs. 2.75 lakh in cash from them.

Pete Hegseth Faces Impeachment Calls Amid Midterm Election Fallout

USA: US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth is under intense pressure to resign, with Republican Congressman Thomas Massie threatening to push for impeachment following the party's recent midterm election setbacks.

Massie stated he would withdraw his impeachment effort only if Hegseth steps down.

Reports from CNN indicate that Massie plans to initiate a House vote on impeachment when federal lawmakers return for the next session. Multiple Republican sources suggest the measure is likely to pass. This move comes as Democrats prepare to take control of Congress, and various conservative figures raise concerns about Hegseth's leadership and the administration's handling of the Iran conflict.

Congressman Jason Crow, representing Colorado's 6th Congressional District, openly called for Hegseth's removal, labeling him "incompetent." Crow emphasized that every day Hegseth remains in the Pentagon puts service members at greater risk. Similarly, Patrick Ryan, a former U.S. Army intelligence officer from New York's 18th congressional district, echoed these sentiments, urging the public to support the 'firehegseth.com' campaign.

Massie had previously presented a 34&page resolution detailing grievances against Hegseth, including concerns over military operations, civilian casualties, and the Iran conflict. Despite these challenges, President Donald Trump publicly supported Hegseth, stating he was doing a "very good job." Pentagon representatives also defended Hegseth, affirming his dedication to the department through the remainder of Trump's term.



At the 15th Main Road outlet of the Poonganagar Cooperative Wholesale Stores in Chennai, the Minister for Cooperation, Gandhiraj, inaugurated the sale of the "Vetri Special Vegetable Kit"—an initiative by the Tamil Nadu Government's Department of Cooperation. Launched ahead of the Deepavali festival, this scheme offers essential daily cooking vegetables to the public at fair prices. The Minister marked the commencement of the sale by handing over the vegetable kits to members of the public.



Diwali Festival: Traffic Diversions in Madurai City Starting Today

MADURA: In view of the upcoming Diwali festival, traffic arrangements in Madurai city have been modified, effective today.

Diwali will be celebrated on the 8th of this month. To facilitate the movement of the public and ensure smooth traffic flow within Madurai city, changes have been implemented from today until the 8th. Accordingly, during the daytime, no goods vehicles—including light commercial vehicles—will be permitted on Mahal Road, Keezha Marret Street, the four Masi Streets, and the four Avani Moola Streets. Furthermore, lorries and heavy vehicles (excluding passenger vehicles) are prohibited from entering the city via the following junctions: Bypass Road, Kamarajar Road, Anna Nagar 80&Feet Road, K.K. Nagar 80&Feet Road, the Moondrumavadi junction on Alagar Kovil Road, the Ayyar Bungalow junction on Pudhu Natham Road, the Koodal Nagar junction on Dindigul Road, the Periyar Statue junction in Avaniyapuram, the Ring Road junction on Sivagangai Road, and the Meenakshi Hospital junction. Commercial vehicles will be permitted to pass through these junctions only between 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM the following day (until the morning of the 6th). On the 6th and 7th, lorries, heavy vehicles, and light commercial vehicles will not be allowed on these city roads at any time—neither during the day nor at night.

Additionally, in the interest of the public, on the 6th and 7th, no vehicles—except for two&wheelers—will be permitted on Netaji Road, Mela Masi Street, South Masi Street, Keezha Masi Street, Mela Avani Moola Street, Keezha Avani Moola Street, and South Avani Moola Street. Only vehicular movement will be permitted along Palace Road and Keezha Marret Street. In the interest of public safety, parking of four&wheeled vehicles is strictly prohibited from today until the 8th of this month in areas with high pedestrian traffic, including South Masi Street, Netaji Road, Mela Gopura Street, Keezha Marret Street, Keezha Avani Moola Street, and South Avani Moola Street. Vehicles must instead be parked at the multi&level paid parking facilities located near the Periyar Bus Stand or on North Avani Moola Street. Members of the public arriving from the Viraganur area and Kamarajar Salai are requested to park their vehicles at the Saurashtra Higher Secondary School grounds.

Those arriving from Keezha Veli Street, South Marret Street, and South Veli Street may park at the St. Mary's Higher Secondary School grounds on Chintamani Road. Those coming from Bypass Road, Kennett Road, and Ellis Nagar should use the parking facility on the 70&Feet Road in Ellis Nagar. Visitors from the Tirupparankundram area may park at the Madurai College grounds, while those arriving from Kalavasal and Mela Veli Street may use the railway parking facility or the Sethupathi Higher Secondary School grounds. For members of the public visiting commercial complexes on Gokhale Road—arriving via Natham Road or Alagarkovil Road—parking has been arranged at the school grounds on the new Natham Road. Additionally, two&wheeler parking for the public is permitted along the following stretches: from the Lemon Market junction on Keela Masi Veedhi to the Theradi junction; from the Manjanakkara Street junction on South Masi Veedhi to Maravar Chavadi; from Maravar Chavadi to the T.M. Court junction; from the T.M. Court junction to the Murugan Temple junction; from the Murugan Temple junction to the North Masi Veedhi–Melamasi Veedhi junction; and from the North Masi Veedhi–Melamasi Veedhi junction to the Thalavai Street junction. Similar parking arrangements for the public have been made in the areas of North Veli Veedhi, Mela Veli, TPK Road, the Crime Branch area, South Veli Veedhi, and South Vasal. Furthermore, a QR code has been generated to assist with parking. To connect these parking locations, city buses have been arranged to operate frequently along the outer streets (Veli Veedhis).



Glimpses of the exhibition during the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit- Expo 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi.

TET Case Pending: Teachers Distressed Over Lack of Promotions for 4 Years



KARUR: Teachers are deeply concerned as they have been unable to secure promotions for the past four years, due to a case regarding the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) currently pending in court. There are over 35,000 government schools in Tamil Nadu.

Teachers working in these institutions were traditionally granted transfers and promotions through an annual counseling process. However, a mandatory Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) was introduced for existing teachers under the age of 55. Challenging this, a teacher from a government&aided school approached the court four years ago. Because this case remains sub judice, only transfers have been facilitated through the counseling process over the last four years, while promotions have been completely halted.

Furthermore, while vacancies for headmaster positions in higher secondary schools have been filled, those for headmasters in high schools, middle schools, and primary schools have remained vacant for the past four years. As no promotion&related counseling has taken place during this period, many teachers have even retired without ever receiving a promotion.

Thousands of other teachers have continued to serve for the last four years without any career advancement. In Karur district alone, headmaster positions remain vacant in 27 high schools, over 50 middle schools, and more than 100 primary schools. Consequently, teachers are urging for an expedited resolution to the court case so that eligible educators can finally receive their promotions.

Commenting on the situation, A. Malaikozhundhan, State President of the Tamil Nadu High and Higher Secondary School Graduate Teachers' Association, stated: "Promotion counseling has not been conducted for the past four years—since 2022." He added that the absence of headmasters in many government schools is contributing to a decline in student enrollment.

He stated that the cases related to this matter should be resolved expeditiously, and that the promotion counseling process should be conducted to fill the vacant headmaster positions.

Mayawati chairs meeting of BSP office-bearers, district presidents ahead of 2027 UP polls

LUCKNOW): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) President Mayawati on Thursday chaired a meeting of party office&bearers and district presidents in Lucknow to review organisational preparations and discuss strategies for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

The meeting is being held at the party's Uttar Pradesh State Office at 12 Mall Avenue, with office&bearers from different levels of the state unit and district presidents from all 75 districts in attendance.

According to a statement issued by the party, Mayawati will review the progress made on her earlier directives regarding strengthening the party organisation at the grassroots level. The meeting will focus on assessing organisational preparations and chalking out a strategy for the upcoming Assembly elections.

The meeting will also focus on assessing the party's election preparations, identifying suitable candidates and formulating strategies to expand its support base among all sections of society.

Mayawati is expected to issue fresh guidelines to party functionaries based on the progress report and the organisational work undertaken following previous directions.

The meeting comes ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, with the BSP focusing on strengthening its organisational structure and preparing for the electoral contest. BSP, which was in power in the state from 2007&12, was reduced to a single seat in the 2022 Assembly elections, despite over 13 per cent vote share. The party could not win a single seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.



Meanwhile, the Samajwadi Party, which is the principal opposition in the state, is accusing the BJP of electoral fraud in the run&up to the polls.

Samajwadi Party MP Dharmendra Yadav accused the BJP of manipulating voter lists through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, alleging that opposition votes were being deleted and fake votes added.

Yadav said, "BJP is trying to hide its actions, but the people know that SIR has been used to manipulate voter lists by deleting opposition votes and adding fake ones. Akhilesh Yadav has submitted evidence to the Election Commission, but no action has been taken."

EAM Jaishankar Urges Commonwealth to De-Risk, Diversify Supply Chains for Economic Resilience

NEW DELHI: St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has called upon Commonwealth partners to prioritize de&risking and diversifying supply chains through shorter, more trusted routes. He emphasized that enhanced connectivity corridors are crucial for boosting commercial interests and fostering resilient economic collaboration.

Speaking at the Commonwealth Heads of Government and Business Leaders Breakfast Meeting, held alongside CHOGM 2026, Jaishankar highlighted the need for Commonwealth nations to reduce their reliance on



single sources and expand their economic partnerships.

He stressed that shorter and reliable supply chains are essential for stability and growth, directly benefiting businesses and consumers across the member states. The Minister also underscored the importance of strengthening local distribution networks within the Commonwealth. He advocated for increased efforts in vocational training and institutional capacity building, viewing these as vital steps to provide strategic alternatives and empower local economies. Jaishankar pointed out that the global presence of the Indian business community serves as a significant strategic asset for the Commonwealth, bringing expertise and investment.

He further noted the transformative power of digital technology in promoting efficiency, good governance, and overall economic growth. Jaishankar suggested leveraging multilateral frameworks like the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure for joint climate action. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of facilitating workforce mobility and establishing local hubs for disaster response, drawing from India's 'First Responder' experiences. Earlier, during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Executive Session, Jaishankar showcased India's successful implementation of digital public infrastructure in ensuring transparent governance and fiscal accountability. He also discussed India's recent Free Trade Agreements and ongoing negotiations, which are designed to foster predictable trade and resilient supply chains within the global economy.

Registration Department Revenue Reaches ₹1,950 Crore in October: Minister Lokesh Tamilselvan

CHENNAI: Minister T. Lokesh Tamilselvan announced that the Registration Department generated a revenue of ₹1,950 crore in the month of October. A review meeting regarding the performance of the Registration Department—attended by Deputy Inspectors General of Registration, District Registrars, the District Revenue Officer, and the Tahsildar for the specific department—was held under the chairmanship of Minister Lokesh Tamilselvan at the North District Registrar's office in Parry's Corner, Chennai. Speaking at the meeting, the Minister stated, "The Registration Department earned a revenue of ₹1,950 crore in October, which is ₹147 crore higher than the revenue recorded for the same month in the previous financial year.



Through the 'registration without physical appearance' (contactless registration) facility, 246,260 documents—including first&sale deeds for plots and apartment units, as well as mortgage/assignment deeds and receipts for banks and financial institutions—have been registered up to November 3rd."

He urged all officials to focus diligently on ensuring that government revenue is collected without any leakage and to work effectively toward achieving the set revenue targets. Earlier, the Minister launched an AI&powered application designed to monitor court cases, assist in the rapid preparation of legal arguments, and expedite the department's legal proceedings. Meanwhile, at a performance review meeting for Joint Commissioners of the Commercial Taxes Department held in Chennai, Minister Lokesh Tamilselvan stated, "To address the grievances of taxpayers at the district level, 'Taxpayer Advisory Committees' will be established under the leadership of the respective District Collectors." "These committees will discuss and find solutions to the issues, grievances, and suggestions faced by taxpayers.

They must be established in the respective districts by November 30, and their first meetings must be held by December 15.

These committees will remain operational until November 30, 2029," he said.

Accidental Explosion of Diwali Firecrackers: One Dead



MADURAI: In Madurai, one person has died following an accidental explosion of firecrackers that had been purchased for the Diwali festival.

The victim, Manoj (21), was a friend of Yogesh (20)—a resident of Karungalakudi Keelatheru near Kottampatti in Madurai district. Both are students at a private college near Othakadai. In preparation for Diwali, they had purchased firecrackers and stored them on the terrace of their house. Last night, the firecrackers unexpectedly exploded with a loud blast, causing severe damage to the house. Yogesh, Manoj, and Yogesh's mother, Yogavani (45), sustained serious injuries in the incident. Upon receiving information, fire and rescue personnel and the police rushed to the scene. The three injured individuals were transported via a '108' ambulance to the Melur Government Hospital.

After receiving initial first aid, they were transferred to the Madurai Government Hospital for further specialized treatment. Tragically, Manoj, who was undergoing treatment for his injuries, passed away this morning.

The other two individuals remain under medical care. Melur Tahsildar Vasanth visited the hospital to inquire about the condition of the injured. Meanwhile, Melur Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Sivakumar and Tahsildar Vasanth inspected the site of the explosion. The Kottampatti police are currently investigating the incident, which has caused a stir in the local area.

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