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Kanda Sashti Festival at Tiruchendur Commences with Yagasalai Puja

Soorasamharam will take place on the 15th of this month

THOOTHUKUDI: The Kanda Sashti festival for this year began today at the Tiruchendur Subramania Swamy Temple—the second of the six abodes (*Arupadai Veedu*) of Lord Murugan. The *Viswarupa Deeparadhana* took place at 1:30 AM, followed by the *Udhaya Marthanda Abhishekam* at 2:00 AM. At 5:00 AM, Lord Jayanthinathar was ceremoniously brought to the *Yagasalai* (sacrificial hall). Subsequently, the Kanda Sashti festival officially commenced at 7:00 AM with the *Yagasalai Puja*. Following this, at 9:00 AM, the *Uchikala Abhishekam* and *Deeparadhana* will be performed for the presiding deity (*Moolavar*). At 12:00 PM, *Deeparadhana* will take place at the *Yagasalai*.

Thereafter, Lord Jayanthinathar, accompanied by his consorts Valli and Deivanai, will proceed in a golden palanquin to the Shanmukha Vilasa Mandapam, where a *Maha Deeparadhana* will be conducted. At 3:00 PM, the *Sayaratchai Deeparadhana* will be performed for the presiding deity. Subsequently, Lord Jayanthinathar, along with Valli and Deivanai, will move to the Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam Sashti Mandapam.

There, the deity will undergo *Abhishekam* (ritual bathing) with various sacred



substances, followed by *Alankaram* (adornment) and *Deeparadhana*. Following this, the Lord and his consorts will be taken in a procession around the temple streets (*Giri Veedhi*) in a golden chariot. The *Soorasamharam*—the pinnacle event of the festival—will take place on the sixth day, Sunday, the 15th of this month. On this occasion, following the *Deeparadhana* at the *Yagasalai* in the morning, Lord Jayanthinathar, accompanied by Valli and Deivanai, will proceed to the Shanmukha Vilasa Mandapam, and from there, move to the Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam Sashti Mandapam.

From there, the deity proceeds to the 'Sashti Mandapam' of the Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam. At 4:00 PM, Lord Jayanthinathar sets out for the 'Soorasamharam' (the ritual slaying of the demon Surapadman).

This event takes place on the seashore, where the Lord vanquishes the demon. On the 7th day, the 16th of the month, at 6:00 PM, the divine wedding (*Thirukalyanam*) of Lord Kumaravidanga Peruman and Goddess Deivayanai will be celebrated. Devotees observing the *Kanda Sashti* fast began arriving at the Tiruchendur temple complex as early as yesterday morning. Various arrangements have been made for their accommodation.

It is expected that 100,000 devotees will visit during the first five days of the festival, while 600,000 are anticipated on the day of the *Soorasamharam*. At the Tiruchendur temple, arrangements have been made to provide food for approximately 15,000 people daily. Water distribution points have been set up in 10 locations, and 600,000 water bottles have been arranged for distribution along the *darshan* (viewing) queues. Additionally, 300 temporary toilets have been installed within the temple complex.

For the safety and well&being of the devotees, 493 CCTV cameras have been installed, and a surveillance tower has been set up on the beach. In Tiruchendur, 12 temporary bus stops have been established, and additional bus services have been arranged. LED screens have been set up at 26 locations to broadcast the *Kanda Sashti* events. Throughout the festival, 5,000 police personnel will be deployed on a rotational basis to ensure security.

Rs. 500 Crore Allocated for the Procurement of 1,000 AC Electric Buses for the Metropolitan Transport Corporation

Chief Minister Vijay Issues Directive

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay has issued a directive allocating Rs. 500 crore for the procurement of 1,000 air&conditioned (AC) electric buses for the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC).



According to a press release issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister Vijay has sanctioned Rs. 500 crore to enable the Metropolitan Transport Corporation to acquire 1,000 new AC electric buses and to establish the necessary infrastructure for these vehicles at bus depots. This initiative aims to provide an eco&friendly, safe, and comfortable public transport service in Chennai.

The move will modernize the city's public transport system, reduce environmental pollution, and offer passengers a superior and more comfortable travel experience. Currently, the Metropolitan Transport Corporation operates 755 electric buses in Chennai. Of these, 355 buses are air&conditioned. On September 8, Transport Minister S.S. Sivasankar announced in the Legislative Assembly that vehicle tracking systems and emergency panic buttons would be installed in government buses—at an estimated cost of ₹17.99 crore—to enhance passenger safety and enable real&time monitoring of bus operations. Accordingly, the Chief Minister has approved the release of ₹17.99 crore to the transport corporations for the installation of vehicle tracking systems in 13,490 buses and emergency panic button units in 13,776 buses, the statement noted.

Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman Heads to Turkey for Crucial Climate Summit COP31

BANGALADESH: Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has departed from Dhaka for Antalya, Turkey, to attend the significant United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31).

His three&day visit, which began on Tuesday, underscores Bangladesh's commitment to addressing global climate challenges.

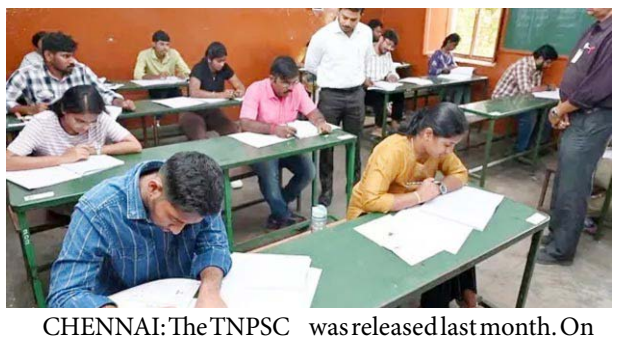
Accompanied by his wife, Zubaida Rahman, the Prime Minister took a Turkish Airlines flight from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 7:30 am local time. Senior government officials and prominent Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leaders, including Finance Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and BNP Acting Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, were present to bid him farewell.



During his visit, Prime Minister Rahman is slated to participate in the climate summit on Wednesday. He is also expected to engage in bilateral discussions with various heads of state and government, focusing on matters of mutual interest. The Prime Minister is scheduled to return to Bangladesh on Friday.

COP31, hosted by Turkey, is a vital platform bringing together world leaders and representatives to advance international cooperation on the climate crisis. The conference aims to discuss strategies to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, bolster climate adaptation efforts for vulnerable communities, and accelerate the path towards net&zero emissions by 2050. This summit also fosters dialogue among business leaders, scientists, and civil society, emphasizing inclusive climate action.

226 candidates competing for each post in Group 4 exam; complaints raised against TNPSC regarding 'General Tamil' questions



CHENNAI: The TNPSC Group&4 examination for 2026 has been announced for 6,574 vacant positions. A total of 1,489,025 candidates have applied, meaning there are 226 applicants for every single vacancy. The number of applicants has seen a decline since the 'General English' section was removed from the Group&4 exam. Furthermore, some applicants have alleged that questions in the 'General Tamil' section are being drawn from outside the prescribed syllabus and that the questions are not structured in a proper, systematic manner.

The notification for the 2026 TNPSC Group&4 vacancies was released last month. On October 6, the TNPSC announced that eligible candidates could apply for a total of 6,574 Group&4 posts, which include 291 Village Administrative Officers (VAO), 3,798 Junior Assistants, 107 Tax Collectors, 97 Bill Collectors, 1,572 Typists, 404 Steno&Typists, 60 Personal Clerks, 40 Forest Guards, as well as positions for Senior Laboratory Assistants, Record Clerks, Sales Assistants, and Forest Guards with a valid driving license. The application process concluded the day before yesterday. Initially, November 5 had been set as the final date for submitting applications for the Group&4 exam. However, the government subsequently increased the upper age limit for candidates applying for these competitive government examinations.

In light of this, the TNPSC extended the application deadline to the 8th to provide candidates with an opportunity to apply. The window for submitting applications for a total of 6,574 vacancies closed the day before yesterday. Reports indicate that a total of 1,489,025 candidates have applied—meaning there are 226 applicants competing for each available position. As of the 4th, 980,000 applications had been received; subsequently, over 500,000 more applications were filed in the following four days.

The application process has now concluded. Candidates have been granted until the 11th to make any necessary corrections to their applications. It has been announced that the written examination for these posts will be held on January 10, 2027, from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Many candidates have requested that the TNPSC clarify the scope and standards for the 'General Tamil' (Podhu Tamil) section.

They argue that it is inappropriate to source questions from arbitrary books; instead, questions must strictly adhere to the prescribed syllabus. This is particularly critical because a minimum score of 60 marks in the 'General Tamil' section is mandatory—failing this, the answer scripts for the remaining sections will not be evaluated. Consequently, 'General Tamil' is not merely a qualifying test; it also plays a decisive role in determining the final ranking. There are now calls for the government to intervene in this matter.

TVK MLAs Ordered to Reach Chennai Tomorrow

CHENNAI: An emergency consultative meeting of the MLAs of the Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) is set to take place in Chennai tomorrow, the 11th, under the leadership of party president Vijay. The party leadership has issued a directive for all TVK MLAs to arrive in Chennai by tomorrow.

The party leadership believes that the involvement of some TVK MLAs in recurring public controversies is tarnishing the party's reputation.

Specifically, the party is currently investigating several incidents—including an alleged assault by TVK MLA Ravishankar on an individual who raised questions regarding the basic issues faced by the people in his constituency, as well as reports concerning the sending of obscene text messages to a District Collector. It is understood that during this meeting, TVK president Vijay—along with senior party officials—will issue strict instructions and warnings to the MLAs on how to conduct themselves with decorum, both in the public sphere and within their respective constituencies, in order to safeguard the party's standing among the public. Furthermore, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly has recently issued notices regarding the potential disqualification of four MLAs who left the AIADMK to join the TVK.

It is expected that the legal and political steps to be taken in this regard will also be discussed during the meeting.

Boats carrying refugees capsize off the coast of Senegal; 51 dead

DAKAR: Due to the prevailing poverty in African nations like Senegal and Mali, many citizens—particularly the youth—frequently attempt to flee to European countries in search of a better livelihood. These individuals often undertake dangerous sea journeys in small fishing boats, aiming to reach the Canary Islands, which are part of Spain. In a recent incident, a small, flat&bottomed fishing boat carrying hundreds of refugees capsized in the open sea near the Loumpoul sandbar, off the northwest coast of Senegal.

Caught in violent waves, the vessel overturned, leaving those on board with no means of escape as they plunged into the sea. Upon receiving news of the disaster, Senegalese rescue teams rushed to the scene and launched an intensive search operation.

The Senegalese Ministry of the Interior has officially confirmed that only one person was rescued alive, while the bodies of 39 individuals who drowned have been recovered so far. Since the beginning of this month, more than 3,300 refugees have arrived in Spanish territory via over 30 boats, prompting the declaration of an emergency. It is worth noting that more than 600 refugees have drowned at sea this year alone while attempting to reach Europe. Similarly, a boat carrying refugees met with an accident in the open sea south of the Greek island of Crete. Twelve people drowned in the incident. The Greek Coast Guard, having rushed to the scene, rescued 18 individuals who were struggling in the water. In a separate development, more than 180 refugees—who had arrived by sea from Libya in three other boats—were also safely rescued and brought to the island.

Today horoscope

Practice compromise within the family. You might attempt to sell ancestral homes, plots, or agricultural land. Business will be profitable. It is advisable to maintain a calm demeanor at the workplace; your colleagues will hold you in high regard.

Your wishes will be fulfilled. Ego-related issues will be resolved, leading to greater harmony between spouses. Your children will act with an understanding of the family situation. You will successfully navigate business competition. Avoid getting into arguments at the workplace.

Your needs will be met, and your social circle will expand. You will make efforts to clear old debts. Do not make any promises or commitments to anyone. Tension in business matters will subside. At work, you may receive appreciation from your superiors.

You will be recognized and praised for the help you provided in the past. You will earn respect among your relatives. You may visit the temple of your *Kula Deivam*. You will achieve success in business. At the workplace, ensure you do not make enemies with anyone.

You might say one thing, but others could interpret it differently. It is best to be very cautious when speaking to anyone. In business, give importance to the opinions of your partners. You will locate an important document at the office that you had been searching for.

You may consider purchasing a new house, a plot of land, or a vehicle. Trips to other towns will prove profitable. Try to maintain a harmonious relationship with your neighbors. Your workload at the office will decrease, and you will receive support from your superiors.

You may have to overcome several obstacles to complete your planned tasks. A lively and cheerful atmosphere will prevail at home. Pay attention to your mother's health. At the office, avoid interfering in matters that do not concern you.

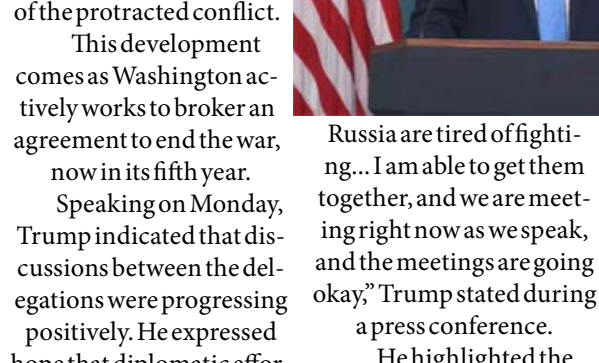
You might face some difficulties or stumbles while completing certain tasks. Practice compromise within the family. You will receive a favorable verdict in a legal case concerning ancestral property. In business, you will be successful in collecting outstanding dues. Avoid getting into arguments at the office.

You will charm everyone with your tactful speech. Your personal appearance and charisma will be enhanced. Your children will be a source of confidence and pride. Journeys will prove to be excellent. Competition in business will decrease. At your workplace, it is best to focus solely on your own tasks.

You will gain a better understanding of the feelings of your family members. You will take pride in your children's achievements. Stagnation in ongoing legal matters will come to an end. You may undertake work-related travel. Business ventures will yield profits.

Auspicious events that had been delayed will now come to fruition. With an influx of funds, you may upgrade your home or vehicle. In a partnership business, your partners will be supportive and cooperative. At your workplace, you may be recommended for a new position.

You will learn the nuances and intricacies of life. Try to maintain harmonious relations with your spouse's family. With the help of friends, you may secure a new job. Business will be profitable. At your work place, avoid interfering in the affairs of others.



Another direct cargo shipping service has been launched between Thoothukudi and Vietnam. The vessel that arrived at the V.O.C. Port was accorded a welcome.

High Court dismisses plea by TVK MLA seeking rejection of election petition filed by Anbil Mahesh



CHENNAI: The High Court has dismissed a petition filed by Thiruverumbur TVK MLA Navalpattu Viji, which sought the rejection of an election petition filed against him by former minister Anbil Mahesh. In the Thiruverumbur constituency of Trichy, former DMK minister Anbil Mahesh secured 81,132 votes. His opponent, TVK candidate Navalpattu Viji (also known as Vijayakumar), received 89,837 votes, winning the election by a margin of 8,705 votes. Subsequently, Anbil Mahesh filed an election petition in the High Court, requesting that Navalpattu Viji's victory be declared invalid.

The case is currently pending before Justice K. Kumaresh Babu. In the meantime, Navalpattu Viji had filed an application in the High Court seeking the dismissal of the election petition at the preliminary stage. Justice K. Kumaresh Babu, who heard the matter, stated that the Election Commission's directive prohibiting the use of children during election campaigns carries legal authority. Observing that the veracity of the allegations against the TVK (Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam) MLA can only be determined following an inquiry, the judge dismissed his petition. Furthermore, in the election case involving Anbil Mahesh, the judge directed MLA Navalpattu Viji to file a response within four weeks and adjourned the hearing.

US Democrats Grill Trump Admin on AI Chip Exports Amid China Spy Allegations



WASHINGTON: Top US Democratic lawmakers are pressing the Commerce Department for answers on the Trump administration's artificial intelligence (AI) chip export policies, following concerns over alleged Chinese espionage targeting Nvidia.

Representatives Gabe Amo, Gregory W. Meeks, and Sydney Kamlager&Dove have written to Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, questioning authorizations that permitted advanced processor shipments overseas.

This comes as intelligence reports suggest a Chinese Ministry of State Security operative, Alice Huang, maintained a personal relationship with Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang. Alice Huang, a former executive at Singapore&based Megaspeed, reportedly gathered intelligence on Nvidia's AI architecture and facilitated technology acquisition for Beijing, as detailed by The New York Times. Megaspeed itself procured Nvidia hardware and set up data facilities in Southeast Asia for Chinese firms like Alibaba. Lawmakers emphasized, "You cannot claim to be protecting American leadership in artificial intelligence while allowing our most advanced technology to reach a strategic competitor. National security must come before corporate sales targets." They highlighted that allowing China access to advanced US AI chips jeopardizes national security, as these chips are crucial for future AI development, military modernization, and economic competition.

Nvidia's board has launched an internal inquiry into the connection between Alice Huang and its CEO, while Republicans are also seeking a closed&door deposition from Jensen Huang to investigate potential proprietary leaks.

Gold worth Rs 2.30 crore seized at airport; man from North India arrested

CHENNAI: Gold valued at Rs 2.30 crore has been seized at the Chennai Airport. An IndiGo Airlines flight arrived in Chennai from Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. Officials from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and the Customs Department were conducting thorough checks of the passengers arriving on the flight and their belongings. During this process, the officials grew suspicious of a passenger named Rajeev Ibram Shah (42), who hails from North India.

When they stopped him for questioning, he engaged in a heated argument with the officials.

Subsequently, upon opening and inspecting a parcel he was carrying, the officials discovered 1.60 kilograms of gold paste—valued at Rs 2.30 crore—hidden inside. After seizing the gold, the authorities arrested the individual and conducted an interrogation, which revealed that he had previously traveled to several countries, including Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Kuwait, Singapore, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka.

The authorities are continuing to question him.

Iran Issues Warning to US, Demands Seven Conditions After Trump Hints at West Asia Military Ops End



IRAN: Tehran has issued a stern warning to the United States, demanding adherence to seven conditions for peace in West Asia.

This comes after former US President Donald Trump indicated a potential end to military operations in the region. Major General Mohsen Rezaei, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, stated that the 'war against Iran has torn the U.S. government apart.'

He urged Washington to 'stop playing' and 'surrender to Iran's seven conditions.'

These conditions include an immediate end to hostilities, lifting the US naval blockade in the Strait of Hormuz, reopening shipping lanes, removing economic sanctions, releasing Iranian assets held abroad, and ceasing interference in Iran's internal affairs.

Trump had previously suggested that the conflict with Iran was 'effectively over' and expressed optimism about de&escalation, noting that Iran was 'talking to us and they're talking very politely.' However, he also emphasized that if military action were necessary, American forces remained 'locked and loaded.'

Earlier, Trump had revealed that key Gulf allies, including Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, and Kuwait, supported a joint land and sea blockade against Iran under 'Operation Iron Gate.'

He reiterated their unified stance that Iran must never acquire nuclear weapons, calling it 'non&negotiable.' While hinting at de&escalation, Trump maintained that American forces were on high alert should regional dynamics worsen.

Trump Optimistic About Russia- Ukraine Peace Talks in Abu Dhabi, Cites War Fatigue



WASHINGTON: Former US President Donald Trump has voiced optimism regarding ongoing peace negotiations between Russia and Ukraine in Abu Dhabi, suggesting that both nations are weary of the protracted conflict.

This development comes as Washington actively works to broker an agreement to end the war, now in its fifth year.

Speaking on Monday, Trump indicated that discussions between the delegations were progressing positively. He expressed hope that diplomatic efforts would ultimately lead to a cessation of hostilities. "I just think that Ukraine and Russia are tired of fighting... I am able to get them together, and we are meeting right now as we speak, and the meetings are going okay," Trump stated during a press conference.

He highlighted the severe human cost, noting, "25,000 people a month are being killed."

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio underscored the critical importance of post&war security guarantees for Ukraine. He emphasized that any eventual settlement must ensure Kyiv's long&term security while also securing Moscow's acceptance of the proposed arrangements.

"Concepts have been discussed about what security guarantees could look like post&conflict... It will be key to ultimately being able to end the war is an understanding that Ukraine will feel secure after the war. It has to be something that Russia agrees to as well in order for it to work," Rubio explained.

The US&brokered trilateral talks in Abu Dhabi signify renewed diplomatic engagement among Washington, Moscow, and Kyiv. US officials have expressed cautious optimism about potential progress, though they caution that a comprehensive agreement will not be reached quickly.

Discussions are reportedly divided into two key areas: ceasefire monitoring mechanisms to prevent military build&ups during a truce, and addressing territorial disputes, particularly Russia's demand for the entire Donetsk region versus Ukraine's stance on current front lines.

November 10 EDITORIAL – NEW INDIA FLASH *2026*

Rescue operation of the avian kind

ONE morning, my wife and I found an owlet with round, yellow eyes in the damp patch around our custard apple plant. We were fascinated but worried.

A cat often appeared from nowhere and confronted our Labrador, Burfee. The little bird, whom we named Laddoo, was in danger from the fearsome feline.



I put it in a basket with bird feed and water. It sat unmoved. By evening, it had not touched a thing. At somebody's suggestion, we tried a little minced meat from Burfee's share. But the owlet would not eat it.

Next morning, my wife told me that we had to return it to the trees where it belonged. I carried it to the spot where I had found it and placed it in a planter. Two adult owls sat on a telephone wire, watching me intently. Perhaps they were its parents.

I placed it on our gate pillar, hoping that the parents would notice. It began to do what looked like stretching exercises. Then it suddenly jumped off. I rushed out and put it on a shrub by the wall. It made sharp "tak&tak" sounds with its beak, as if threatening to bite me. I retreated indoors but kept a watch. The cat could spring out from anywhere.

Soon, the neighbourhood birds joined in, saying things unintelligible to us ignorant humans. I fancied that one was shouting, "Mil gaya, mil gaya!" Looking up, I saw two owls in the hole in our first&floor wall, behind which was an exhaust fan that mynahs had long ago jammed with nesting material.

I decided to place the owlet in the hole. As I wrestled with the fan casing, Laddoo slipped from my hands but clung to my vest. At last, I pushed it onto the platform. Surely, its parents would return and feed it.

But it jumped out again. Had it fallen to its death, or had it flown to freedom? A few children from next door joined the search, but to no avail. Later that afternoon, there it was, sitting near our main door, as if waiting to be taken in.

I tried offering it water in my cupped hands. Most of it trickled down its downy chest. Then it suddenly went limp, drew its legs up and shut its eyes. It still refused to eat.

I called up the Forest Department. They had a facility to care for it and would release it into the forest when it was fit. Next morning, I carried Laddoo to the department's office. The staff took our photograph and placed the owlet in a clean, airy cage.

I was relieved. Laddoo would be among its own species, listening to the calls of other owls. Someone would feed it properly. Nonetheless, I was sad to part with it.

Patients suffer due to vegetable stalls and loudspeaker-equipped vans operating in front of Melur Government Hospital

MELUR: Patients at the Melur Government Hospital are experiencing significant distress due to vegetable stalls and vans equipped with loudspeakers operating right in front of the hospital. More than a thousand people—both inpatients and outpatients—receive treatment at this hospital daily.

Several permanent stalls have been set up, obstructing the hospital entrance, while vendors in vans use loudspeakers to conduct business, causing great hardship to the patients. Social activists state:



Yesterday, Municipal Commissioner Sameeran inspected the removal of firecracker debris on Karaneeswarar Pagoda Street in Mylapore. He was accompanied by senior municipal officials.

The presence of these stalls in front of the hospital hinders the entry of ambulances. For patients in critical condition, every minute is vital; these obstructions can lead to delays in receiving medical care.

Furthermore, vendors in vans compete with one another, blaring loudspeakers from morning until night, which causes severe mental distress to the patients. Additionally, the vegetable waste left behind by the vendors rots, creating a foul odor. Activists have urged the Highways Department, the Municipality, and the Traffic Police to work together to clear these encroachments in the interest of the patients' well&being.

Hospital administration officials stated that they have submitted petitions to the relevant authorities on multiple occasions.

Resounding Victory for Telugu Desam Alliance in Andhra Local Body Elections



AMARAVATI: Elections for municipalities, municipal corporations, and panchayat bodies were recently concluded in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

The ruling Telugu Desam&led alliance has secured a massive victory in these polls. Speaking to reporters in Amaravati yesterday regarding this, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu stated that the Telugu Desam Party and its alliance partners have achieved an even greater victory in these local body elections compared to the 2024 general elections. He noted that the alliance secured 58.90% of the votes, while the YSR Congress Party received 33.56%. Compared to the general elections, the YSR Congress Party's vote share has declined by 6.25%. In urban areas, the alliance garnered 59.9% of the votes.

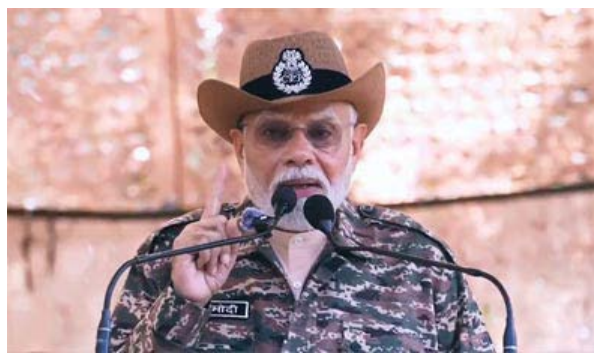
"This serves as clear evidence that we have delivered good governance over the past two and a half years," he said, adding, "We bow our heads in gratitude to the people who have placed such immense trust in us." "We have won 94% of the seats in the elections for Mayor and Chairperson positions. We have secured 12 out of 13 municipal corporations, and 82 out of 87 municipal chairperson posts. Furthermore, we have won 3,233 out of 3,941 wards," he stated.

Defeat the Naxalite Menace: PM Modi's Call Diwali Celebrations with CRPF Personnel

BASTAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for the defeat of the Naxalite menace. Every year, the Prime Minister celebrates Diwali alongside members of the security forces. This year, he marked the festival with CRPF personnel in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh.

Speaking on the occasion, he remarked that this year's Diwali holds special significance for India. Maoist and Naxalite extremism has been eradicated across various states in the country. He noted that he chose to celebrate Diwali with the CRPF in Bastar to express his gratitude to the security personnel who have served with a spirit of sacrifice and dedication.

He recalled that there was a time when the influence of Maoist and Naxalite extremists was rampant in states including Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. In the fight against this extremism, more than 1,000 security personnel have lost their lives in Chhattisgarh alone. Notably, the number of casualties was particularly high between 2004 and 2013. Following the BJP government's assumption of power, intensive measures were taken against Maoist and Naxalite extremism.



As a result, this menace has been eradicated across 230 districts in 20 states. In regions like Bastar—which were once severely affected by such extremism—developmental projects are now gaining momentum. Armed Naxalites who roamed the forest areas have been eliminated. However, there remains a group of "ideological" Naxalites—those who harbor Naxalite leanings—who are actively attempting to undermine the nation's democracy.

They have infiltrated various political parties and organizations.

It is essential to identify and defeat them to safeguard our country. According to a recent report by the World Bank, 500 million Indians have emerged from extreme poverty over the last 12 years—a truly historic achievement.

Various welfare schemes, including Jan Dhan bank accounts and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Prime Minister's Housing Scheme), have brought about a transformation in the lives of the poor. A new sense of self&confidence has emerged among them. We have set several goals—to build a drug&free India, a self&reliant India, and a developed India. All the citizens of the country must come together and work in unison to achieve these objectives. Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated this.

New Entity Established for Government Construction Projects Worth Over Rs. 200 Crore in TN Government Order Issued



CHENNAI: The Government of Tamil Nadu has established a new entity called the 'Tamil Nadu Infrastructure and Construction Corporation' to undertake government construction projects valued at over Rs. 200 crore.

According to a Government Order (G.O.) issued by R. Selvaraj, Secretary of the Public Works Department, the establishment of this corporation—with an initial corpus fund of Rs. 1 crore—was announced in the Legislative Assembly on August 18 by Minister Adhav Arjuna. To implement this, the Engineer&in&Chief and Chief Engineer (General) of the Public Works Department had submitted a proposal to the government.

In line with this, approval has been granted to establish the "Tamil Nadu Infrastructure and Construction Corporation' as a fully state&owned public sector undertaking. Through this entity, government construction projects in the state valued at over Rs. 200 crore will be executed.

There are also plans to generate revenue for the government by constructing buildings on underutilized government&owned land. The corporation may also participate in construction tenders floated by national and international private entities, following the prescribed procedures. Furthermore, the core functions of this corporation will include the development of infrastructure projects—such as those for metropolitan areas, industrial hubs, technology parks, IT cities, and commercial parks—as well as providing project management consultancy, architectural design services, and quality control services. The corporation is being established to cater to the specific requirements of the state.

Additionally, it will undertake tasks assigned by the government, executing them through contractors. The authorized share capital of the new entity has been set at Rs. 15 lakh, with an initial paid&up share capital of Rs. 10 lakh.

Funds will be allocated separately for each project, and an agency fee—as determined—will be collected from the respective department.

Furthermore, it is stated that commercial development activities concerning lands currently under the purview of Chennai Metro Asset Management Limited (CMAML) may be excluded from the operational scope of this new entity.



The Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan paid floral tributes to Bharat Ratna Shri C. Subramaniam at Uprashtrapati Bhavan on his death anniversary, in New Delhi.

Secret tip-off about drug possession

Police conduct surprise raid at the home of an actor who gained fame through 'Bigg Boss'



POONAMALLEE: Balaji Murugadoss resides in a private apartment complex in the Vanagaram area, near Thiruverkadu. Having participated in the 'Bigg Boss' reality show on a private television channel, he also acted in a film titled 'Fire'.

Recently, the Thiruverkadu police received a tip&off alleging that Balaji Murugadoss uses drugs and has been storing them at his residence. Acting on this information, an inspector and a team of police officers from Thiruverkadu arrived at his home to conduct a search. Taken aback by the arrival of the police, Balaji Murugadoss began recording the incident on his mobile phone. It is reported that he continued to record the video despite instructions from the police to stop.

The police stated, "We have come to conduct a search following a tip&off that narcotics are being stashed in your home." In response, Balaji Murugadoss reportedly argued with the officers, stating, "It is condemnable that you are searching my home without any proper documentation authorizing such a search. If you want to know whether I use narcotics, conduct a blood test on me." The police searched Balaji Murugadoss's residence for approximately five hours, but no narcotics were found. Balaji Murugadoss shared details about the incident on his social media pages and expressed his condemnation of the police's actions. While this incident has caused a stir, the police have clarified that the search was conducted based on a complaint filed by a woman who resides in the same apartment complex as Balaji Murugadoss.

Uncovered Stormwater Drain



MADURAI: The stormwater drain located in front of the Madurai Government Medical College campus is not fully covered, leading to the stagnation of rainwater and the proliferation of dengue&carrying mosquitoes. A stormwater drain has been constructed adjacent to the two&wheeler parking area. It is only partially covered with cement slabs, leaving the rest of it open. Following recent rains, water has stagnated in the drain, creating a breeding ground for dengue mosquitoes.

The drain remains open and uncovered near the entrance to the auditorium. There is a significant risk that someone walking by or riding a two&wheeler could accidentally fall into the trench. The college administration must take steps to fully cover these stormwater drains to prevent the breeding of dengue mosquitoes.

'Cruelty' is not limited to physical violence alone High Court ruling

MADURAI: Observing that "cruelty is not limited to physical violence alone," the Madurai Bench of the High Court has upheld a Family Court order directing a husband to resume cohabitation with his wife. A couple, married according to Hindu rites, saw the husband file for divorce in a Family Court, leveling various allegations against his wife—including an accusation of an illicit affair.

The wife contested this, leveled counter&allegations against the husband, and expressed her desire to continue living with him. The Family Court allowed the wife's plea and directed the husband to resume living with her. Challenging this, the husband filed an appeal, which was heard by a division bench of the Madurai High Court comprising Justices G.R. Swaminathan and M.D. Sumathi. The Court observed: "An allegation of an illicit affair with another person is a grave charge; it must be proven through firm and credible evidence. 'Cruelty' is not confined to physical violence alone.

Persistent mental harassment, making serious, baseless allegations, engaging in humiliating conduct, or any other behavior that renders it unreasonable to expect a spouse to continue the marital relationship can constitute mental cruelty." "At the same time, ordinary differences of opinion, personal conflicts, or general grievances regarding domestic responsibilities do not amount to cruelty within a marital relationship." "In the present case, the husband claims that his wife refused to cook meals, failed to attend to household duties, spent excessive time on the phone, and did not conduct herself in the manner expected of a wife."

It has not been proven, based on the evidence, that specific incidents occurred which could be considered severe enough to constitute cruelty. There are no sufficient grounds to interfere with the order of the Family Court.

The said order is upheld. The petition is dismissed. They ordered accordingly.

National Silambam Championship: Silver for Tamil Nadu Athlete

CHENNAI: K. Bhuvanapriya, a student from Tamil Nadu, won a silver medal at the National School Games (SGFI) Silambam (Gatka) championship held in Delhi. The event took place in Delhi from the 23rd to the 28th of last month. Competing in the Under&17 category as part of the Tamil Nadu team, Bhuvanapriya secured second place to win the silver medal. This marks the first medal for Tamil Nadu in the SGFI Gatka championship.

Rs. 1 Crore for Families of Police Personnel Who Die in the Line of Duty

Government Order Issued

CHENNAI: The Government of Tamil Nadu has issued an order to provide a special ex&gratia payment of Rs. 1 crore to the families of police personnel who lose their lives while on duty. In a government order issued by Home Secretary A. Karthik, it is noted that Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had previously announced in the Legislative Assembly that a special relief of Rs. 1 crore would be provided to the families of police personnel who make the ultimate sacrifice while acting with exceptional courage during the maintenance of law and order. The Director General of Police (DGP) submitted a proposal to the government to implement this announcement. The proposal noted that, in such instances where police personnel lose their lives under heroic or high&risk circumstances while on duty, a sum of Rs. 1 crore has already been provided from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund. Furthermore, the DGP requested an annual allocation of Rs. 2 crore for this purpose. Accepting this proposal, the government has granted approval to provide a special ex&gratia payment of Rs. 1 crore to the families of police personnel who lose their lives under heroic or high&risk circumstances while performing law and order duties. Furthermore, approval has been granted for an annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 2 crore.

This expense will be covered under the head of "Police Personnel Welfare." The Director General of Police (DGP) will oversee the administrative responsibilities related to this fund allocation.

Meanwhile, in a statement, AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami noted that the Rs. 40 lakh financial assistance announced for the family of Special Sub&Inspector Senthilkumar—who was murdered in Theni—is insufficient.

He pointed out that, whether the AIADMK was in power or in the opposition, the party had ensured that a relief amount of Rs. 1 crore was provided to the families of police personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty.

It is surprising that the current government does not even seem to recall this precedent. Therefore, it has been urged that the government provide Rs. 1 crore in relief to Senthilkumar's family and offer a government job to one of his family members.

Terror in Nungambakkam at midnight: Gang arrested for hurling petrol bombs at a car and motorcycles, Male acquaintances, angered by being reprimanded for visiting female students, carry out the attack

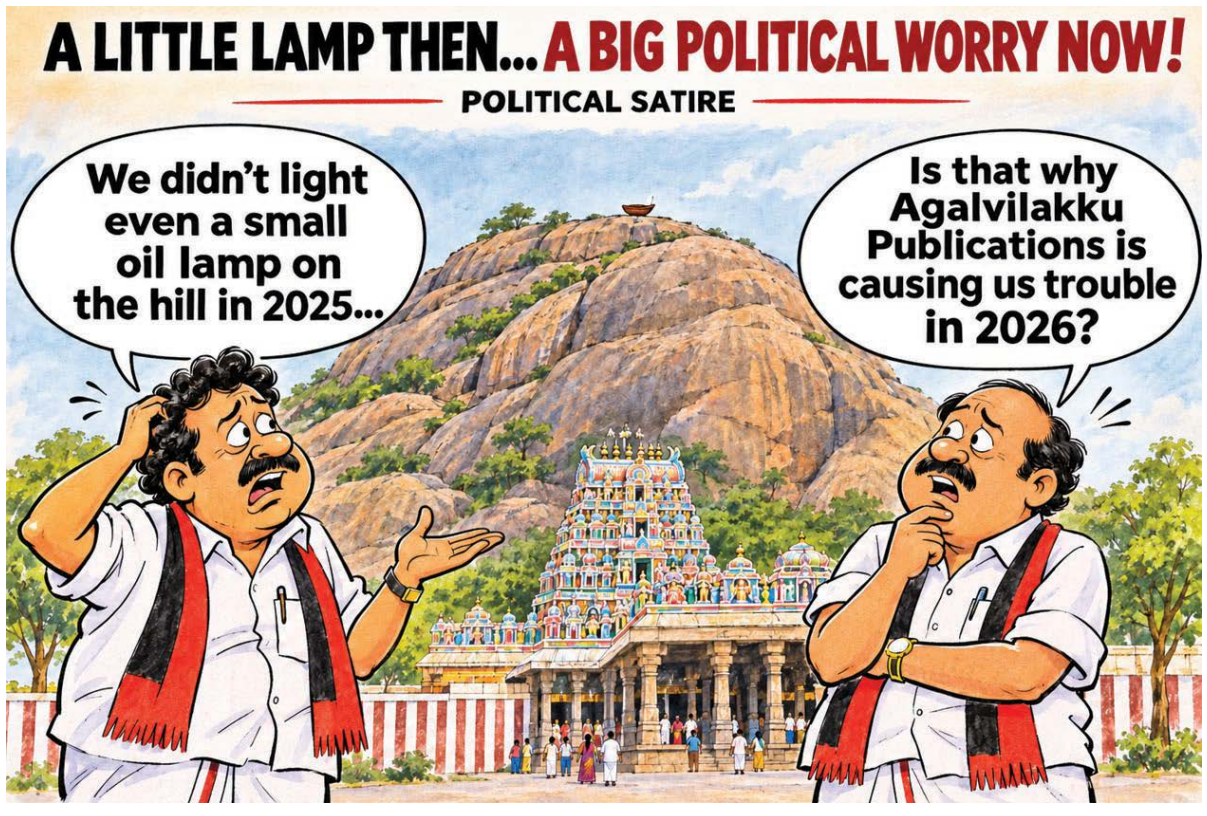


CHENNAI: A tense situation unfolded in the Nungambakkam area after a group of men, enraged by being confronted for visiting female students, hurled petrol bombs at vehicles in the middle of the night. Early yesterday morning, the Nungambakkam police received information that a car and several two&wheelers were on fire near the Ramalinga Vallalar Temple in Pushpa Nagar, Nungambakkam.

Police personnel rushed to the scene to conduct an investigation, and forensic experts also examined the site. It was discovered that the perpetrators had filled beer bottles with petrol, set them ablaze, and thrown them at the vehicles.

The car that was destroyed by the fire belongs to a resident of Pushpa Nagar named Venkatesan, who is reportedly an area organizer for the DMK's legal wing. A two&wheeler belonging to another local resident, Kamesh Kannan, was also damaged in the incident. As a first step, the police examined footage from surveillance cameras at the scene. The investigation revealed that, over the past few days, some male friends had been visiting two female students who reside in Pushpa Nagar; it is reported that some local residents, having noticed these visits, had confronted the young men. According to the police, the investigation indicated that some of the youths, angered by this, threw petrol bombs.

A car and four two&wheelers were damaged in the incident.



Stalin and Rajini travel to Greece to attend Anirudh-Kavya Maran's wedding





CHENNAI: DMK leader M.K. Stalin has departed for Greece along with his family to attend the wedding of renowned music composer Anirudh Ravichander and prominent businesswoman Kavya Kalanithi Maran. The wedding of Anirudh Ravichander—one of the leading music composers in the Tamil film industry—and Kavya Kalanithi Maran—an executive director at Sun TV Network and co&owner of the IPL cricket team Sunrisers Hyderabad—is set to take place in Greece today and tomorrow (November 10 and 11). Close relatives and prominent figures have been invited to attend the ceremony.

Accordingly, to attend this wedding ceremony, DMK leader M.K. Stalin departed from Chennai yesterday at 3:50 AM on an Emirates Airlines flight, accompanied by his wife Durga Stalin, son Udhayanidhi Stalin, daughter&in&law Kiruthiga Udhayanidhi, and son&in&law Sabareesan. They are traveling to Greece via Dubai. Reports indicate that after the wedding proceedings, they will return to Chennai—again via Dubai—in the early hours of November 13th. Similarly, actor Rajinikanth has also left Chennai for Greece, accompanied by his daughter Aishwarya Rajinikanth, to attend the wedding. Photographs related to this have surfaced on social media and are going viral. Following the wedding in Greece, a grand wedding reception is scheduled to be held on November 21st at a star hotel in Chennai. The event is set to be attended by a host of prominent figures, including political leaders, celebrities from the film industry, cricket stars, and business magnates. Through this wedding, the families of M.K. Stalin and Rajinikanth are entering into a familial bond. Kalanithi Maran is the son of the late former Union Minister Murasoli Maran.

Murasoli Maran was the son of the sister of former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi. In this regard, M.K. Stalin and Kalanithi Maran are relatives, making Kavya Maran a granddaughter&figure to M.K. Stalin. Similarly, music composer Anirudh Ravichander is the son of Ravichander, who is the brother of Latha Rajinikanth—the wife of the renowned actor Rajinikanth. Thus, through this wedding, the families of M.K. Stalin, the Marans, and Rajinikanth—all of whom are highly well&known in Tamil Nadu—are becoming connected.

Vellore: Suspect in PMK functionary's murder case shot and apprehended





VELLORE: A PMK functionary was shot dead with a country&made firearm near Gudiyatham, following a long&standing personal enmity. Police have arrested an individual, who is a repeat offender with multiple cases against him, in connection with the murder. Earlier today (Nov 10) at dawn, while police were attempting to recover a country&made firearm hidden by the suspect, he attacked Sub&Inspector of Police Raja and tried to flee. In response, the police opened fire, striking the suspect in the leg, and subsequently took him into custody.

The deceased, Gnanavelu (46), was a resident of Sengundram village near Gudiyatham. He served as the district secretary of the 'Anbumani Thambigal' (Anbumani's Younger Brothers) wing of the PMK in the Vellore West district. Gnanavelu had several assault cases pending against him and was listed as a 'history&sheeter' (a person with a documented criminal record) at the Gudiyatham Rural Police Station. He had a long&standing feud with another local resident, Poovarasan (29). Poovarasan is also a history&sheeter, with seven cases pending against him, including charges related to ganja (cannabis) smuggling, theft, and a previous murder.

Yesterday evening, Gnanavelu was standing near a bus stop in Sengundram village alongside another local resident, Raghu (40). At that time, Poovarasan arrived and began an altercation with Gnanavelu. He then went to a house on the other side of the road, returned with a country&made firearm, and shot at Gnanavelu. Gnanavelu collapsed and died on the spot. Raghu sustained serious injuries after being struck in the right shoulder by pellets from the firearm. Following the shooting, Poovarasan attempted to flee the scene. Meanwhile, upon hearing the sound of gunfire, members of the public rushed to the scene, recovered Gnanavelu's body, and transported Raghu—who was in critical condition—to the Gudiyatham Government Hospital.

Following this, police from the Gudiyatham Rural Police Station arrived promptly and arrested Poovarasan under heavy security. Due to the tense situation that emerged in Sengundram village following the incident, police personnel have been deployed in the area. Raghu continues to receive medical treatment at the Gudiyatham Government Hospital, and the Gudiyatham Rural Police have registered a case and are conducting an investigation into the murder. Regarding the shooting: Poovarasan, who was arrested, claimed that he had hidden a country&made firearm at the foothills in Sengundram village. Consequently, a team led by Inspectors Tamilselvan (Gudiyatham Rural) and Prabhu (Peranambattu) took him to the foothills of Sengundram under heavy security today to recover the weapon.

After retrieving the country&made firearm, Poovarasan attacked Sub&Inspector (SI) Raja with a knife he had also hidden there and attempted to flee toward the hilly terrain. In response, SI Raja opened fire on Poovarasan. Both the severely injured Poovarasan and SI Raja were rescued by the police and admitted to the Gudiyatham Government Hospital. From there, both were subsequently transferred to the Vellore Government Medical College Hospital for further specialized treatment.

Gadi Eizenkot to become Prime Minister of Israel

intensive efforts underway to include Netanyahu's party in the new coalition government



TEL AVIV: With no coalition securing a majority in the Israeli parliamentary elections, President Isaac Herzog has invited Gadi Eizenkot, leader of the 'Yashar' party, to form a government. The Israeli parliamentary elections were held on October 27. To form a government, a party or coalition must secure 61 seats out of the total 120. In this election, the ruling Likud&led coalition won 53 seats, while the 'Together' coalition secured 48 seats.

The 'Joint List'—an alliance of Arab parties—won 11 seats, and another Arab alliance, 'Ra'am', secured 8 seats. As no coalition achieved a majority in the Israeli parliamentary elections, President Isaac Herzog officially invited Gadi Eizenkot, the leader of the 'Yashar' party, to form a government the day before yesterday. He has instructed that a government be formed and a majority proven within the next six weeks.

In this context, Gadi Eizenkot stated: "We are currently in an emergency situation. Recognizing this, I invite the Likud party and the parties in the ruling coalition to join our alliance.

Together, we can form a national emergency government. However, only those parties that accept me as Prime Minister will be included in this alliance. Furthermore, they must agree to our four key conditions: they must recognize and accept Israel as a Jewish, democratic state; they must endorse Israel's 1948 Declaration of Independence; they must commit to mandatory military service for all sectors of society; and they must designate Hamas as a terrorist organization. Only by accepting these four conditions can any party join our alliance."

The two Arab alliances, the Joint List and Ra'am, have decided to provide external support to Gadi Eizenkot's coalition government rather than joining it. Nevertheless, Eizenkot is making concerted efforts to include Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party and its allied factions in the new government, even without the formal participation of the Arab alliances. Gadi Eizenkot, who is set to become Israel's new Prime Minister, served as the country's Chief of General Staff from 2015 to 2019. During this period—specifically in 2017—the then&Chief of the Naval Staff of India, Admiral Sunil Lanba, paid an official visit to Israel. He met with Eizenkot, who was the Israeli Chief of General Staff at the time, and held significant discussions—most notably regarding the supply of arms and military technology required by India. A staunch supporter of India, Gadi Eizenkot took swift action to facilitate the provision of necessary weaponry and technological assistance to the Indian armed forces.

It was following this that India and Israel began the joint production of the state&of&the&art Barak&8 missiles. During Eisenkot's tenure, defense agreements worth $2 billion were signed between the two countries.

Bodies of two more fishermen who died after being caught in a cyclone recovered

CHENNAI: The bodies of two more fishermen who perished after being caught in a cyclone were recovered the day before yesterday.

On October 29, a group of nine fishermen—including the boat operator, Surya—set out for deep&sea fishing from the Kasimedu fishing harbour in Chennai, aboard a mechanized boat owned by an individual named Selvazhagan. While fishing near Nizampatnam in Andhra Pradesh, the crew docked their boat at the Nizampatnam harbour as a safety precaution following a cyclone warning. Later, when they ventured back out to sea, the boat's engine broke down in the middle of the ocean. At 3:30 AM on the 3rd of this month, the crew managed to send a wireless message to another nearby boat, reporting the situation. Following this, all contact with the nine fishermen was lost. Meanwhile, the bodies of seven fishermen have since washed ashore near Ongole in Andhra Pradesh. It was confirmed that the recovered bodies were those of the missing fishermen from Tamil Nadu. Subsequently, the bodies of seven individuals—Mohan, Surya, Murugan, Vijayakanth, Kuppusamy, Kuppan, and Aravind—were identified and handed over to their respective relatives.

However, as there was no information regarding the status of the remaining two



fishermen, the Coast Guard intensified the search operation. Meanwhile, the bodies of two more fishermen washed ashore at Lakshmipuram beach, near Kothapattinam in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Following the recovery of these bodies, an investigation by the authorities confirmed that they were the missing fishermen, Rajesh and Narayanan. Thereafter, after post&mortem examinations were conducted, both bodies were transported to Chennai by ambulance and handed over to their relatives. It is noteworthy that the nine fishermen who had set out from Kasimedu in Chennai and gone missing in the waters off the Andhra Pradesh coast have now been recovered as bodies.

Rs. 22.10 Crore Stolen from Tamil Nadu Government Bank Accounts



CHENNAI: A sum of Rs. 22.10 crore has been stolen from bank accounts belonging to the Tamil Nadu government. Cybercrime police suspect the involvement of a Nigerian gang in this incident. Rs. 14 crore was siphoned off from the bank account of the Mandapam Panchayat Union in Ramanathapuram district. Similarly, the same gang stole Rs. 3.10 crore from the bank account of the Nagai (Nagapattinam) Panchayat Union, and Rs. 5 crore from the bank account of the Tambaram Panchayat Union.

The cybercrime police are conducting an intensive investigation into the matter. Reports indicate that the same group—which previously targeted the Mahatma Gandhi University in Puducherry—has now digitally defrauded and stolen crores of rupees from bank accounts maintained under the Tamil Nadu Rural Development Department. According to the reports, a total of Rs. 22.10 crore in government funds has been siphoned off: Rs. 14 crore from the Mandapam Panchayat Union (Ramanathapuram district), Rs. 3.10 crore from the Nagapattinam Panchayat Union, and Rs. 5 crore from the Dharapuram Panchayat Union (Tiruppur district). These funds were allocated under the 15th Finance Commission grants for the construction of health and wellness centers in rural areas. Specifically, funds had been earmarked for the construction of health and wellness centers—each valued at Rs. 50 lakh—across various village panchayats in Tamil Nadu.

A centralized, state-level bank account is maintained by the Rural Development Department to monitor these transactions. Funds are released only after the district administration submits a report confirming the completion of the work, following which the Block Development Officers (BDOs) disburse the payments to the contractors. This is the standard procedure that is always followed. These bank accounts are managed from Chennai. It is alleged that an online intrusion occurred, and funds were siphoned off through various transactions.

Government project funds, allocated for the construction of healthcare centers, have been misappropriated through fraud. Following similar incidents in Puducherry, there is suspicion that Nigerian cybercriminal gangs may be behind these frauds in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Cyber Crime Police are conducting an intensive investigation into the matter. The government-run Mahatma Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Dental Sciences is located in Gorimedu, Puducherry. The institute maintains a bank account with a private bank near Indira Square. To pay three months' worth of salaries to 260 staff members—including professors, doctors, and other employees—ahead of Diwali, a sum of ₹8.16 crore was released from the government treasury and credited to the institute's bank account on the night of the 3rd.

However, a total of ₹8.85 crore—comprising the newly credited funds and the existing balance—mysteriously vanished from the account. Within just two hours of the funds being deposited from the treasury, an unidentified group siphoned the money off digitally. The Puducherry State Cyber Crime Police investigated the case, which revealed that the fraudulent gang had operated from locations including Chennai, Coimbatore, and Tiruppur.

It was suggested that a Nigerian gang was responsible; it is now believed that the same group may be behind the incidents in Tamil Nadu as well.

Kanchipuram: Man recently released from prison murdered body with severe injuries found on railway tracks

KANCHIPURAM: A man who had recently returned from prison after being involved in a murder case has been murdered under mysterious circumstances. Police received information that the body of a man with severe head injuries had been found on the railway tracks near Ariyanth Avenue in Ward 21 of the Kanchipuram Municipal Corporation. Following this, officers from the Kanchipuram Taluk Police and the Arakkonam Railway Police arrived at the scene, recovered the body, and sent it to the Kanchipuram Government Hospital.

Preliminary police investigations have revealed that the deceased was Parthiban (32), a resident of Netaji Nagar near Thirukkalimedu. It is reported that he had previously been arrested and imprisoned in connection with the 2022 murder of a man named Elumalai, who had worked with him at a biryani shop. Police suspect that on the day of Deepavali, while he was drinking with friends near the railway tracks, an altercation broke out, during which he was struck on the head with stones and liquor bottles, leading to his death. The police have launched an investigation to identify those who were drinking with Parthiban and to determine whether the murder was the result of a pre&existing grudge or an escalation of a dispute that arose while they were consuming alcohol.

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