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Pakistan to Join SCO Civilisations Dialogue in New Delhi scheduled from Nov. 20 to 22

NEW DELHI: A Pakistani delegation, led by Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Musadik Masood Malik, is set to participate in the first Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisations Dialogue Forum in New Delhi.

The event, scheduled from November 20 to 22, marks a significant diplomatic engagement between the two nations within the broader SCO framework.

Malik will present Pakistan's views on the importance of inter&civilisational dialogue and its role in fostering regional diplomacy.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs highlighted Pakistan's active contribution to the SCO, emphasizing its diverse civilisational and cultural heritage.

This participation underscores Pakistan's commitment to promoting dialogue, cooperation, and understanding, aligning with the 'Shanghai Spirit'.

India extended invitations to all 10 SCO member states, including observer countries and dialogue partners, for this inaugural forum. The initiative, proposed by India, aims to strengthen cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and people&to&people ties across the expansive Eurasian region. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had previously announced India's plan to host this dialogue, which brings together nations like India, Pakistan, China, and Russia, all full members of the SCO since 2017.



Significant transformation in the Indian economy over the last 12 years – PM Modi expresses pride

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Modi addressed the centenary conference of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, he noted that the Indian economy has undergone a major transformation over the past 12 years. Throughout the last century, the Indian economy has navigated various phases. The situation has shifted significantly in the last 12 years, driven by the hard work of the nation's youth and farmers. Today, India stands as the world's fastest&growing major economy, with a projected growth rate of around 7%. In October, India's merchandise exports reached Rs 4.67 lakh crore—a record high for a single month. The nation will prosper only when due value is accorded to farmers, small&scale entrepreneurs, and the industrial sector. Do not underestimate the 140 crore people of India by assuming they will buy anything offered to them; products sold to my fellow citizens must be of the highest quality.

India has signed free trade agreements with several major economies, opening doors for you. Invest in understanding the needs of global customers and in creating products that meet international standards. India attained independence 20 years after the inception of this chamber (FICCI). Similarly, as you mark your centenary in 2027, you must pledge to help build a developed India (*Viksit Bharat*) over the next 20 years. *Viksit Bharat* is not merely a slogan; it is a commitment, he stated.

33rd Asia- Pacific Economic Summit Xi, Trump, and Putin Participate



SHENZHEN: The 33rd Asia&Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Summit began in a grand manner today (November 19) in the city of Shenzhen, located in China's Guangdong province.

A key highlight of the summit was the participation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, U.S. President Donald Trump, and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Speaking at the summit, U.S. President Donald Trump stated: "We will continue to work toward enhancing the growth and stability of the Asia&Pacific region. For centuries, the United States has been a Pacific power. The American economy is currently experiencing unprecedented growth.

The U.S. will remain committed to safeguarding sovereignty, prosperity, and peace." "We spy on China, and they spy on us. We will not accept restrictions that stifle the field of 'Super Intelligence' (SI). While Super Intelligence offers positive aspects, it also carries certain risks." Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin, addressing the Asia&Pacific summit, noted: "Russia has achieved significant milestones in Asia&Pacific trade, recording one&third growth over the past eight months.

Furthermore, Russia's trade with Asia&Pacific nations has expanded by 60% over the last decade." Furthermore, it was stated that "Russia is focusing intensely on non&energy sectors and new innovations. Russia will ensure food and energy security for the Asia&Pacific nations. I assure you that Russia will continue to provide an uninterrupted supply of energy, food grains, and fertilizers. Friendly nations can place full trust in the quality and reliability of Russia's supplies." Chinese President Xi Jinping has made a significant announcement, pledging 20 million US dollars to support APEC cooperation.

President Xi emphasized that free trade and investment are the only paths to growth for the Asia&Pacific region, and that open cooperation is essential for its development. He added, "20 million dollars will be provided for practical cooperation within the APEC framework. We must expand collaboration on green development and low&carbon initiatives." Meanwhile, reports indicate that a bilateral meeting took place between Trump and Putin in the Chinese city of Shenzhen, with discussions reportedly aimed at bringing an end to the Russia&Ukraine war.

It is understood that the two sides also held consultations regarding nuclear arms agreements between the United States and Russia, as well as the use and regulation of artificial intelligence. Earlier, world leaders—including US President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Chinese President Xi Jinping—posed for a group photograph at the 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Summit.

Renault Group Representatives Meet CM Vijay Request Made to Increase Investment



CHENNAI: François Provost (Chief Executive Officer), Fabrice Cambolive (Chief Development Officer) of the French&based Renault Group, along with Stéphane Deblais (CEO of Renault Group in India),

Hamza Thir (Vice President of Communications, Media Relations, and Public Affairs), and Narasimhan Purushothaman (General Manager of Corporate Affairs), met with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, S. Joseph Vijay, at the Secretariat today.

During the meeting, Chief Minister Vijay urged the Renault Group to continue increasing its investments in Tamil Nadu, assuring them that the Government of Tamil Nadu would provide all necessary support to facilitate this.

Indira Gandhi's 109th Birth Anniversary Sonia and Kharge Pay Tribute



NEW DELHI: On the occasion of the 109th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, political leaders paid floral tributes at her memorial, Shakti Sthal, in Delhi.

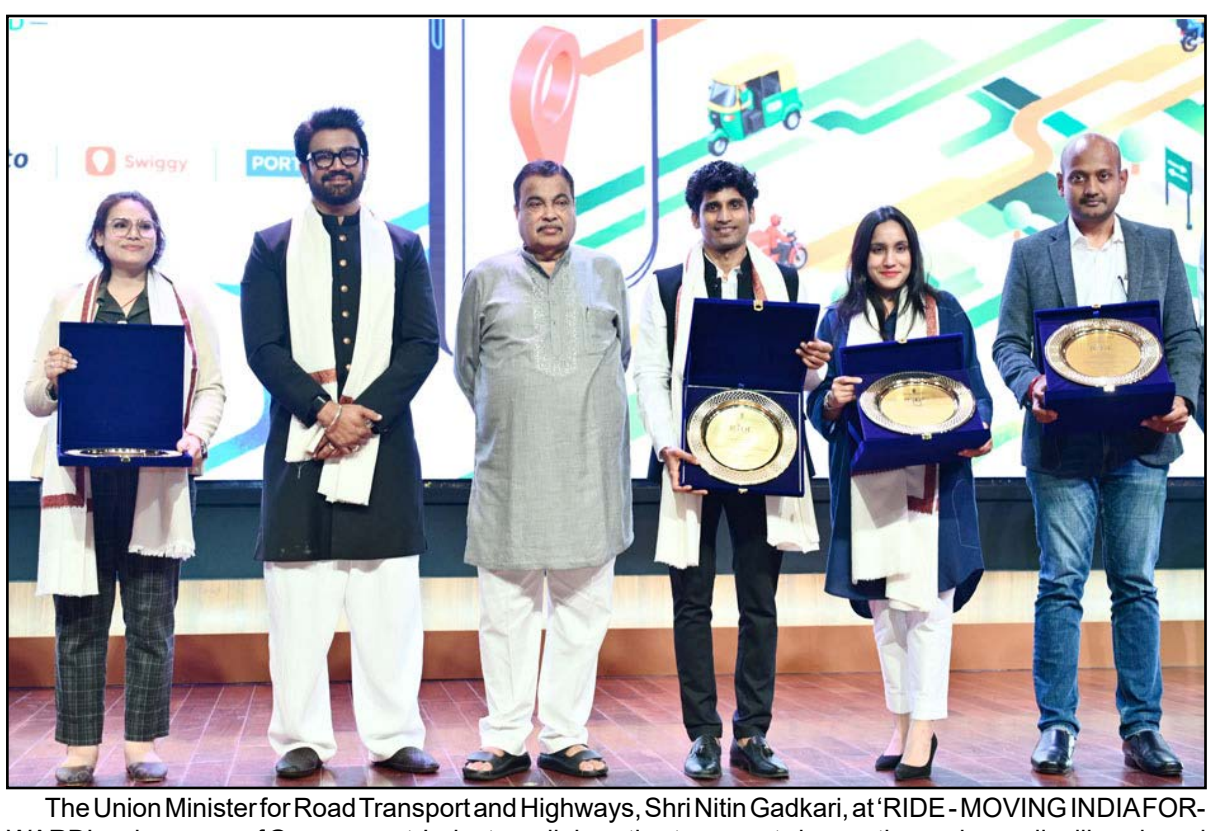
Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge offered floral tributes at the memorial.

Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was born on November 19, 1917. She served as India's third Prime Minister—first from 1966 to 1977, and subsequently from 1980 until her assassination on October 31, 1984.

She holds the distinction of being India's first female Prime Minister.

Following her, her son, Rajiv Gandhi, assumed the office of Prime Minister. Having served as Prime Minister for a total of 15 years and 350 days, she stands as the second longest&serving Prime Minister, following her father, Jawaharlal Nehru.

It is noteworthy that this record has since been surpassed by the current Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.



The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, at 'RIDE - MOVING INDIA FORWARD', a showcase of Government-Industry collaboration to promote innovation, enhance livelihoods and shape the future of India's mobility ecosystem, at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi.

Today horoscope

Money will flow in your hands. Siblings will be very interested in your well-being. Someone you have been wanting to see for a long time will come looking for you. You will collect debts in business. Avoid arguments at the office.

You will get help from an unexpected place. Your respect among relatives will increase. You will understand the taste of your customers in business. It is good to give priority to the opinions of your partners. You will be respected by your colleagues in the office.

Old problems will be resolved. Maternal relatives will come looking for you. Money will flow in your hands. Official problems will be resolved. You will attract old customers by using new strategies in business.

You will complete many tasks with a timely mind. You will understand each other between husband and wife. Your house, land, and agricultural land will be sold. You will collect the dues in business. The chaos will end and peace will prevail in the office.

You need to be careful with your vehicle. As Chandrashtam continues, you will have to struggle to complete the planned work. There will be confusion in business. Do not hate your partners. There will be profit from traveling abroad. Udthiya Yoga will be successful.

You will think of ways to control your anger and improve your mood. Children will act responsibly. There will be increased involvement in the divine. You will make profits in your business. It is good to be in the office and think that you have your own job.

There will be gains from the government. People in positions of authority will be introduced. Money will come through shares. It is good to reduce anger. You will meet important personalities in the office. You will collect debts in business.

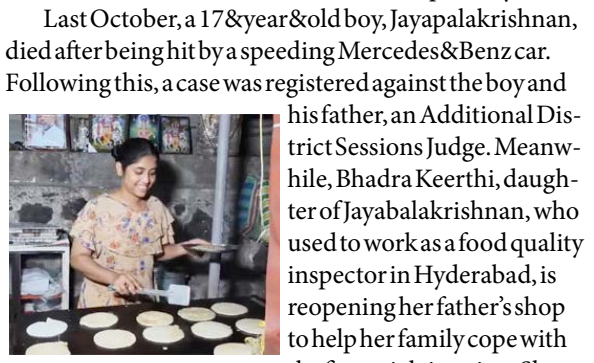
You will engage in public affairs with self-confidence. You will benefit from friends. You will visit the temple of the family deity with your family. The confusion with business partners will be resolved. The workload in the office will decrease.

The bitterness between husband and wife will disappear. They will settle the dispute by giving the money that was borrowed. Previous anger will disappear. Debts will be collected in business. New partners will be found. Avoid arguments in the office.

You will fulfill the wishes of your parents. You will complete anything with mental strength. You will excel in the office. You will learn the ins and outs of business. Be considerate of your partners.

Due to the presence of the Moon in your sign, there will be arguments with family members. It is good to speak carefully. Traveling abroad will bring excitement. You will get recognition for your hard work in the office. Do not hate anyone in business.

You will take some important decisions after consulting a trusted person. There will be peace in the family after getting rid of troubles. You will replace old employees in business. You will travel on official business. Your superior will appreciate you.



Chennai : In the retail market in Chennai today (Nov. 19), the price of 22&carat gold per gram fell by Rs. 235 to Rs. 11,980, and the price of a pound fell by Rs. 1,880 to Rs. 95,840. It has fallen by up to Rs. 10,000 in the last 10 days alone.

Daughter of man killed in Mercedes car accident that rocked Kerala takes over restaurant

KOCHI: Jayapalakrishnan has been selling food items including tea, dosa, and omelettes under the name Sri Krishna Tea Stall' in Kochi, Kerala, for the past 26 years.

Last October, a 17&year&old boy, Jayapalakrishnan, died after being hit by a speeding Mercedes&Benz car. Following this, a case was registered against the boy and his father, an Additional District Sessions Judge. Meanwhile, Bhadra Keerthi, daughter of Jayabalakrishnan, who used to work as a food quality inspector in Hyderabad, is reopening her father's shop to help her family cope with the financial situation. She says, "Currently, this shop is the only source of income for our family.

"I cannot meet my family's monthly expenses with my salary alone. Also, I have an emotional connection with this 26&year&old shop. I cannot close this shop. We are fighting for justice. I believe that one day justice will definitely be done. We will fight for justice all the way to the Supreme Court," he said.

EAM Jaishankar Meets Japan's LDP Vice President Taro Aso, Discusses Strengthening Bilateral Ties



TOKYO: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar recently met with Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Vice President and former Prime Minister, Taro Aso, in Tokyo.

The high&level discussion focused on bolstering bilateral cooperation across various crucial sectors, underscoring the growing strategic alignment between India and Japan.

During their meeting, both leaders emphasized the urgent need to deepen collaboration between the two nations. Jaishankar expressed his appreciation for Aso's steadfast commitment to the India&Japan partnership, highlighting its significance in the evolving global landscape. The discussions encompassed strengthening strategic, economic, and energy security cooperation, reflecting a shared vision for regional stability and prosperity. This engagement is particularly relevant as both countries navigate complex geopolitical shifts and economic challenges.

Jaishankar also held a separate meeting with former Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono at the LDP headquarters. These high&level interactions come on the heels of Jaishankar's address at the Raisina Tokyo 2026 event, where he stressed that India and Japan must enhance their cooperation and national capacities to maintain a free and open Indo&Pacific. He pointed out that the current global order, marked by repeated shocks and the weaponization of resources, necessitates closer bilateral ties.

He further elaborated that the Indo&Pacific region is significantly impacted by these global dynamics. As leading nations in the region, India and Japan are committed to securing their national interests, promoting freedom of choice, and fostering growth and stability.

This, he noted, is central to the India&Japan agenda. The minister underlined that the current global context provides a strong rationale for both countries to reinforce their national strengths and expand collaboration, viewing each other as complementary partners.

Historically, India and Japan have maintained cordial relations with no major clashes of interest, a foundation upon which their contemporary strategic partnership is built.

Both nations are key members of the Quad and actively participate in forums like the G4 initiative for UN reform and the East Asia Summit, further solidifying their shared objectives for a stable, multipolar world.

4 members of the same family quit textile business that generated a profit of Rs. 15 crore and embraced Jainism

SURAT: Four members of a family in Gujarat are set to give up all their comforts and take Jain initiation. Dilip Bhai Bhokar (47), a resident of Jaswantgarh village in Udaipur district of Rajasthan, migrated to Surat, Gujarat, as a result of a mistake at a young age.

He started his business there with a small textile shop, and through hard work, he expanded his business to an annual turnover of about Rs. 15 crore with three shops and several machines. Dilip Bai met a Jain religious leader (Acharya).

This deepened his enthusiasm for Jainism.

His wife and 3 daughters also developed enthusiasm for it. In 2023, Dilip Bai's eldest daughter Shaili accepted Jain monasticism and took the name 'Sadhvi Darshita'. This decision of the daughter also affected the family. Dilip Bhai started giving up the textile business. He was also ready to accept Jainism.

Along with him, his wife Jyothi Ben (45) and younger daughters Savi (22) and Sarvi (14) also decided to accept ordination. For this, Savi, who had done a B.B.A. in graphic design and was working in the handicraft business, gave up his job. Sarvi, a district&level football player, dropped out of class 9 midway.



Currently, all four are staying with Jain monks and preparing themselves for the rigorous ascetic lifestyle. They are undergoing training that includes walking barefoot and following strict dietary restrictions.

After all the formalities are completed, all four will be formally ordained as Jains on February 8, 2027, in a ceremony to be held in Surat.

Mysterious death at Madurai police station Family receives body of lorry driver after 5 days

MADURAI: After 5 days of protest, the family of lorry driver Balakrishnan, who died at the Madurai Sekkanurani police station, received the body.

In the case of a lorry carrying cardamom catching fire, the driver of the vehicle, Balakrishnan (42), a resident of T. Azhagarnayakkanpatti area of Theni district, who was summoned for questioning at the Madurai Sekkanoorani police station, died mysteriously in the early hours of the 14th. The police have registered a case of suicide by hanging himself in the toilet. In this regard, three people, Inspector Muthu, who was the investigating officer at the Sekkanoorani police station, and constables Palanivel Rajan and Kalaishelvi, have been suspended. Furthermore, the case has been transferred to the CBI CID investigation and investigation is underway.

Following this, Balakrishnan's body was post&mortem at the Madurai Government Rajaji Maruthuwa Mana that night. The post&mortem report indicated that there were injuries in 5 places on his body. In this situation, his wife, children and other relatives refused to receive the body, demanding that the case be registered as a murder case. His relatives, who had been involved in the continuous protest, agreed to receive his body on the 5th day yesterday.



Following this, Balakrishnan's body was handed over to his family. His wife Sudha, who saw his body and cried, said, "I had gone to the police station with my husband, so this should not have happened." She said, "No one should ever have to go through the same death that happened to my husband." "Sir Chief Minister..! You say you are doing good for everyone; won't you listen to the plight of my daughter who is suffering alone after losing her father?" she cried, leaving everyone in shock.

Following this, a large number of police personnel were deployed in the morgue area of the Madurai Government Rajaji Hospital.

70 kg of Heroin worth Rs. 140 crore seized in Chennai; 2 arrested

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government is taking all necessary measures to completely eradicate the movement of narcotics in the state. To implement this, a special anti&narcotics task force has been established in every district, and these units are actively conducting operations.

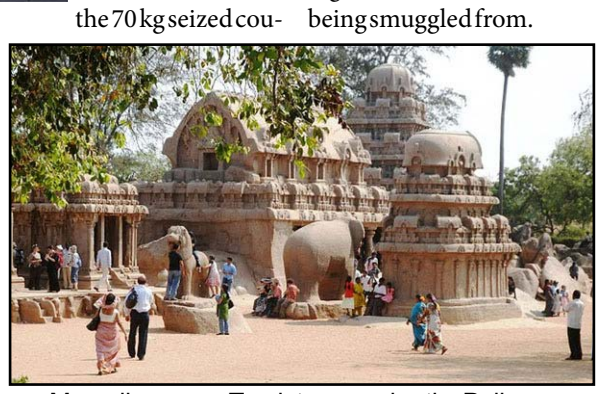
In this context, approximately 70 kg of heroin, valued at Rs. 140 crore, was seized during a vehicle check near Madhavaram, Chennai.

Officials from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had received a tip&off that heroin was being smuggled into the state from elsewhere in India. Acting on this information, DRI officials conducted vehicle checks near the Madhavaram roundabout.



During the operation, they intercepted a car and discovered 70 kg of heroin hidden inside. The authorities seized the contraband and arrested two individuals involved in the smuggling.

Depending on its quality, the market value of heroin can range from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 7 crore per kilogram; consequently, reports suggest that the total value of the 70 kg seized could be between Rs. 150 crore and Rs. 300 crore. The two arrested individuals were produced before a court in Alandur. DRI officials are currently investigating to determine which state the high&value narcotics were being smuggled from.

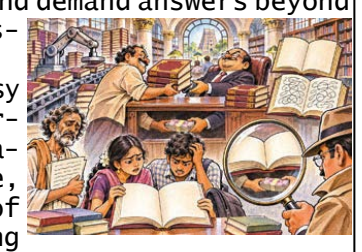


Mamallapuram : Tourists can enjoy the Pallava period artefacts for free in Mamallapuram today (Nov. 19).

Nov. 19 NEW INDIA FLASH | EDITORIAL 2026

Fraud on the Shelves?

A public library holds more than books. It holds the trust of readers who enter its doors seeking knowledge. Allegations that government libraries in Tamil Nadu were supplied with fake books strike at that trust–and demand answers beyond political accusations.



The controversy centres on the grand E.V.R. library in Coimbatore, built at a cost of ₹300 crore during the DMK administration and inaugurated by Chief Minister Vijay on the 16th of last month. Attention has now shifted from the building's scale to the authenticity of the books purchased for it.

Writer Perumal Murugan has raised allegations of serious irregularities in purchases made during the DMK administration, including books allegedly produced using artificial intelligence under fictitious author names. An investigation by the vigilance and anti&corruption police has begun.

According to the reported findings, more than 3,808 fake books were identified during an inspection of the Coimbatore library. Inspections of government libraries across Tamil Nadu reportedly uncovered and removed over 70,000 such books, together estimated to be worth more than ₹7 crore. If confirmed, these figures would point to a substantial failure of procurement oversight. The allegations describe books supplied under the names of nonexistent or questionable publishing houses, carrying inflated prices that enabled the misuse of public money. Complaints have named publishers including Agalvilakku, Phoenix and Vintage Press. These remain allegations requiring examination of the records and responses from those concerned.

The Booksellers and Publishers Association of South India, known as BAPASI, has reportedly stated that these publishers are not members of its association. That warrants further checks, but non&membership alone does not establish fraud. The decisive evidence must come from the books, invoices, publishing records and procurement documents. Another allegation concerns the misuse of titles of copyright&free works and the names of established writers to obtain identification numbers, print books and supply them to libraries. A number on a cover cannot substitute for scrutiny of what lies inside it.

Who verified the authors? Who checked the publishers? Who assessed the content and approved the prices? These are administrative questions that require documented answers. Instead, the ruling TVK and the opposition DMK have traded accusations. Political exchanges cannot account for public expenditure. PMK president Anbumani's demand for a white paper and a proper investigation deserves serious consideration. Readers are entitled to know what was purchased, who approved it and where the money went. Meanwhile, the Directorate of Public Libraries has ordered the suspension of officials associated with the book procurement monitoring committee. Those affected include officials from the Anna Centenary Library, an official from the Kalaignar Centenary Library, the person responsible for the Coimbatore E.V.R. knowledge library and an official from the public libraries department. Further questioning is expected.

There is also a cost to Tamil literature. If legitimate writers were overlooked while purchases were made under invented author names and fictitious publishing identities, genuine creative work lost both recognition and opportunity. Such practices, if established, would damage the credibility of the literary and publishing community. The government must therefore introduce clear, enforceable rules for library purchases. Reviews should cover content quality, author identity, publisher credentials, identification numbers and reasonable pricing. A title should not qualify for purchase merely because its paperwork appears complete.

Procurement decisions must also become more transparent. Lists of purchased books, expenditure details and selection criteria should be published. Readers and legitimate publishers should have a clear way to report suspicious material, with complaints examined promptly. The investigation must proceed fully and fairly. Anyone whose wrongdoing is established must face legal action. Preventing a recurrence is equally important: replacing officials without repairing the purchasing system would leave the same weaknesses in place.

A library earns its standing through the quality of its books and the integrity of its purchases. Public money must buy knowledge–not a convincing cover for deception.

Editor Madurai Mani



CHENNAI: Justice Anand Venkatesh, former Justice Kannan Krishnamurthy, and former Union Law Secretary D.K. Viswanathan participated in the Mediation and Technology Conference.

Darshan timings at the Ayodhya Ram Mandir extended until 11 PM

Measures taken due to an increase in the arrival of devotees



NEW DELHI: The temple administration has announced that the darshan (viewing) hours at the Ayodhya Ram Mandir have been extended until 11 PM, following an increase in the number of devotees visiting the temple. Currently, the 'Chaurasi Kosi Parikrama'—a spiritual circumambulation—is underway at the Ayodhya Ram Mandir.

Additionally, the 'Panchkosi Parikrama' is scheduled to take place on the upcoming Ekadashi. These spiritual events have led to a rise in the number of devotees visiting the temple. In light of this, the time allotted for devotees to have darshan of 'Bal Ram' (the child form of Lord Ram) has been extended until 11 PM. Furthermore, the ongoing holy month of Kartika has also contributed to the increased influx of devotees.

This decision has been taken with the convenience of the devotees in mind; extending the darshan hours will allow more people the opportunity to offer their prayers. Speaking on this, Rajkumar Das, a member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, stated, "We are currently in the sacred month of Kartika. During this period, it is customary to observe spiritual events such as Akshaya Navami, Ekadashi, Panchkosi Parikrama, and Chaurasi Kosi Parikrama.

The decision to extend the darshan hours has been made for the convenience of the devotees." He added, "Previously, due to limited darshan hours, many devotees were unable to see Bal Ram and had to return feeling disappointed.

The objective behind this extension is to ensure that a larger number of devotees can easily have darshan of Lord Ram."



Chennai: DGP Mahesh Kumar Agarwal launched the new electronic social service register (e-CSR) facility of the Tamil Nadu Police Department at the DGP office yesterday.

Boat owner ordered to provide Rs. 1.50 lakh each as compensation to the families of 9 deceased fishermen

CHENNAI: Nine fishermen who went fishing from Kasimedu in Chennai were caught in a storm and died. The boat owner, T. Selvazhagan, was arrested by the Royapuram police in this connection. Hearing his bail plea, Judge V. Lakshmi Narayanan directed the boat owner to provide fair compensation to the families of the fishermen.

The case came up for retrial yesterday. The families of the nine fishermen and Selvazhagan appeared before the court. The judge appointed senior advocate Chitra Narayanan as the arbitrator to determine the compensation amount to be paid to the heirs of the deceased fishermen based on their ages.

Meanwhile, the boat owner had indicated that he was ready to pay Rs. 2 lakh each as compensation. The judge ordered the boat owner to pay the remaining Rs. 1.50 lakh after deducting the Rs. 50 thousand provided as interim relief. He then adjourned the next hearing to Dec. 4.

Case filed against teacher, assistant who tied boy's hands and attacked him at Thiruthuraipoondi private school

THIRUVARUR: Gopinath (33) is from Thiruthuraipoondi Kachcheri Salai area of Tiruvarur district.

His 3&year&old son Sharvin is studying Pre&K in a private school in the area. He had injuries on his body when he returned home after school the day before yesterday.

When his parents inquired about the matter, the boy stated that the teacher and a female assistant at the school had assaulted him.

Following this, the boy's father, Gopinath, went to the school to investigate and viewed the CCTV camera footage installed in the classroom.

At that time, the boy's hands were seen tied with ropes.

Following this, he filed a complaint at the Thiruthuraipoondi police station, demanding action in this regard. Accordingly, the police have registered a case against teacher Bhagyalakshmi and female assistant Selvi for assaulting the boy and are investigating.

Meanwhile, CCTV footage of a 3&year&old boy being tied up and beaten at school has gone viral on social media, causing shock among the public.



Ooty mountain railway service resumes after 26 days; tourists are delighted.

CM inaugurates completed projects worth Rs. 175 crore on behalf of Municipal Administration Department



CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay, who inaugurated projects worth Rs. 174.97 crore on behalf of the Urban Administration Department, laid the foundation stone for a green corridor worth Rs. 11.15 crore in Chennai.

The Tamil Nadu government issued a statement regarding this: On behalf of the Chennai City Corporation, the Kadappakkam Lake in Manali Mandal was renovated at a cost of Rs. 58.33 crore, the Pulianthope in Thiruvikam Mandal, the Waste Transfer Station in Thattankul at a cost of Rs. 35 crore, and the Water Absorption Park in Manali and Mathur MMDA area at a cost of Rs. 4 crore, which were completed at a cost of Rs. 97.33 crore, were inaugurated by Chief Minister Vijay yesterday via video conferencing.

Apart from this, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for two new projects to construct a 5.30 km greenway from the park in the Chennai Airport area and Guindy, Kathippara to the Chennai Airport entrance gate at a cost of Rs. 11.15 crore.

On behalf of the Municipal Administration Department, Chief Minister Vijay inaugurated 8 projects worth Rs. 73.64 crore in Madurai, Virudhachalam, Thittakkudi, Ranipet, Villiputhur, Komarapalayam, Pollachi and Vellakkoil areas and brought them to the people's disposal.

Furthermore, the Chief Minister also inaugurated a wastewater treatment plant, set up with modern technologies and capable of treating 10 lakh litres (1 MLD) of wastewater per day and reusing it, in Kotturpuram at a cost of Rs. 4 crore, on behalf of the Chennai Drinking Water Board, under the social responsibility fund of Amazon.

The facility, which is being constructed on a 6,000 square foot land provided by the Water Resources Department, is equipped with modern technology at the confluence of the Buckingham Canal and the Attiyaru rivers.

The Chennai Metropolitan City has also been awarded the "City with the Best Non&Motorized Traffic Management System" award, while Theni&Allinagaram Municipality, which was selected as the first cleanest city in Tamil Nadu under the Central Government's Swachh India Mission, has been awarded the "Clean City" award. The officials presented these awards to the Chief Minister and received his congratulations.

Chief Secretary Sai Kumar, Departmental Secretary Gagandeep Singh Bedi, Chennai Water Supply Board Managing Director T. Anand, Municipal Administration Director Madhusudhan Reddy, and Chennai Municipal Commissioner Sameeran Ollidoor participated in the event.



In a case where a 24 year old man's leg had to be amputated due to improper medical treatment in Udumalaipet, Tiruppur district, the Tiruppur District Consumer Court has ordered the private hospital management to pay a compensation of Rs. 35.68 lakh.

Misdirected Correspondence Officials Express Frustration

MADURAI: Officials at the Chief Educational Officer's (CEO) office in Madurai have expressed frustration over receiving correspondence intended for the Directorate of Government Examinations—specifically requests for the verification of academic credentials for individuals joining government service.

Those entering government service, including the police force, are required to obtain verification certificates for their mark sheets and Transfer Certificates (TC). These certificates are subsequently recorded in the employee's Service Register (SR). While applications for mark sheet verification should be submitted to the CEO's office, those for Transfer Certificates must be sent to the office of the Assistant Director of the Directorate of Government Examinations.

However, 70 percent of these requests arrive at the CEO's office with both documents bundled together. A significant volume of such misdirected mail originates from police stations. Education department officials are burdened with the additional task of drafting responses and redirecting these documents to the appropriate office—the Directorate of Government Examinations. The officials stated, "We receive numerous such requests from police stations. The CEO's office is not authorized to verify mark sheets. Despite our repeated requests to send correspondence to the correct address, the issue persists.

It is an exhausting process to separate these documents and forward them to the Directorate of Government Examinations. Sending them directly to the right office would prevent delays. The Commissioner's office should issue instructions to all police stations regarding this."



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Congress functionary Suhail Shahjahan, who was arrested in a case of extorting Rs. 10 lakhs from a private fertility centre owner in Kerala, has been removed from the party's rank and file.



A massive fire has broken out in a pile of illegally dumped electronic waste along an irrigation canal near Kadayam in Tenkasi district, filling the entire area with thick, black smoke and a pungent, foul odor. Local residents and farmers have demanded strict action against the anti&social elements responsible for dumping and setting fire to the waste.

Bangladesh: Ex- Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid Detained Amidst Political Turmoil



BANGALADESH: In a significant development amidst escalating political tensions in Bangladesh, former Education Minister and senior Awami League leader Nurul Islam Nahid was detained early Thursday, November 19, from his residence in Dhaka's Uttara Sector 3.

The detention, occurring around 2:20 AM, comes as the nation grapples with widespread political unrest and a crackdown on opposition activities.

Actress Jyotika Jyoti was also reportedly detained from her Uttara residence as part of this broader crackdown. While authorities have not disclosed specific reasons for these detentions, they are seen in the context of the Awami League's ongoing efforts to organize despite a reported ban, leading to increased police deployment and scattered incidents of violence across the country.

Over the past three days, at least four lives have been lost in separate incidents in Faridpur, Pirojpur, and Narail, further highlighting the volatile political climate. The situation is particularly tense with the anticipation of Sheikh Hasina's planned return in December.

To maintain law and order, 96 platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) have been deployed across key districts including Dhaka, Chattogram, and Gazipur. This includes 23 platoons in Dhaka alone. BGB personnel, under directives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, are working with local administrations and other law enforcement agencies, utilizing technology like drones and body&worn cameras for round&the&clock surveillance. Their mandate is to ensure public safety, prevent disorder, and facilitate normal daily activities amidst the heightened security.

Protest demanding the lighting of the 'Karthigai Maha Deepam' atop the Thiruparankundram hill

as per a court order—leads to the arrest of 500 Hindu Munnani members



MADURAI: In Madurai, 500 members of the Hindu Munnani—including 50 women—were arrested after they attempted to stage a protest in defiance of a police ban. The group was demanding that the 'Karthigai Maha Deepam' (a sacred lamp) be lit atop the Thiruparankundram hill, in accordance with a court ruling.

The Hindu Munnani had announced plans to hold a protest yesterday evening at the '16&Pillar Mandapam' (16 Kaal Mandapam) in Thiruparankundram, calling for the lighting of the lamp on November 24th. The police had imposed a ban on the event. Over 500 members from the Hindu Munnani and the BJP gathered near the arch on Sannathi Street in Thiruparankundram at 4:00 PM yesterday. They recited the 'Kandha Sashti Kavasam' and raised slogans demanding that the lamp be lit.

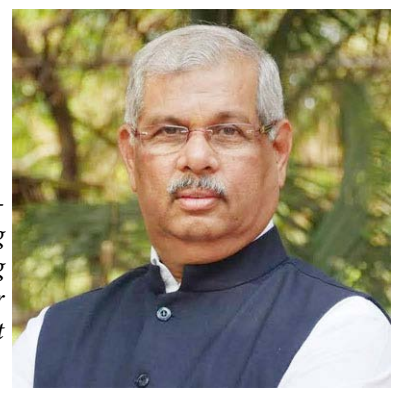
Subsequently, several leaders—including Hindu Munnani State President Kadeswara Subramanian, State Organizer Rajesh, BJP State Secretary Kathali Narasinga Perumal, District President Sivalingam, State Youth Wing Vice&President Vetrivel Murugan, Zonal President Velmurugan, and South India Forward Bloc founder Thirumaran—began moving toward the 16&Pillar Mandapam. They were promptly arrested by the police.

As there were insufficient buses to transport the remaining protesters, they continued their demonstration by staging a 'dharna' (sit&in protest) on the spot. Kadeswara Subramanian stated: "Vijay, the leader of the TVK (Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam), had promised to treat all religions equally, for which the Hindu Munnani had commended him. However, since becoming a political leader, he has not acted in accordance with his earlier assurances. Furthermore, the Tamil Nadu government has appealed against the court's verdict in the Supreme Court." As early as 1920, a London court ruled that the hill at Tirupparankundram belongs to Lord Murugan. A case regarding the lighting of a lamp on the 'Deepa Thoon' (lamp pillar) is currently being heard in the Supreme Court.

We have issued an invitation for everyone to visit Tirupparankundram on November 24th to witness the 'Karthigai Deepa' flame atop the pillar. During the DMK administration, officials apologized to the court for failing to light the lamp, despite a court order to do so. There are some who claim that lighting the lamp on the pillar would lead to unrest; in reality, it is they themselves who have decided to incite such unrest. The DMK administration acted in a manner hostile toward Hindus, and the current administration is likewise acting against the interests of Hindus, he stated.



Tamil Nadu Governor Arlekar admitted to hospital



CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has been admitted to Kauvery Hospital in Alwarpet, Chennai. Sources from the Raj Bhavan indicate that he will remain in the hospital for two days to undergo treatment. Preliminary reports suggest that he is being treated for a cold&-related ailment and is expected to return to the Raj Bhavan after two days. However, specific details regarding the treatment being provided to Governor Arlekar have not yet been disclosed.

Iron bridge collapses in Punjab; truck catches fire, causing alarm



CHANDIGARH: An iron bridge spanning the Bhakra Canal near Patiala in Punjab collapsed suddenly early this morning. Two trucks that were crossing the bridge at the time became trapped in the debris.

One of the trucks caught fire, sparking alarm in the area. The bridge is located near Pasiyana village on the Patiala&Sangrur bypass.

As the two trucks were crossing it early this morning, the bridge unexpectedly gave way, leaving both vehicles trapped in the wreckage.

Following the collapse, one of the trucks suddenly caught fire. Firefighters rushed to the scene and, after a prolonged effort, managed to extinguish the blaze, preventing further damage. Police arrived shortly after receiving the news and initiated rescue and safety operations.

Preliminary reports indicate that there have been no fatalities. The exact cause of the bridge collapse is not yet known. The incident has disrupted traffic on the Patiala&Sangrur bypass.

Chief Minister Vijay to visit Trichy tomorrow: A grand 16-km-long roadshow



TRICHY: Chief Minister Vijay will visit Trichy tomorrow (Friday). He is set to participate in a grand 'roadshow' and distribute welfare assistance. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay will arrive in Trichy from Chennai via a special flight tomorrow (Friday) at around 10:00 AM. He will be welcomed at the Trichy airport by state ministers and government officials.

Following the reception, he will travel by road in a van to the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital located in the Puthur area of Trichy. At the government hospital complex, he will inaugurate a new six&story building, constructed with modern facilities at a cost of Rs. 134 crore. This new facility is equipped with beds to accommodate 600 patients.

After the inauguration, the Chief Minister will visit the neonatal ward, where he will present gold rings to newborns under the 'Thaaimaman Seer' (maternal uncle's gift) scheme.

Subsequently, he will head to the government&run hotel—operated by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation—located on Race Course Road in Kajamalai, Trichy.

There, he will participate in an official government function to distribute welfare aid to beneficiaries. He will also inaugurate completed projects and lay the foundation stones for new initiatives in the district.

Following this, the Chief Minister will depart for the airport and leave for Chennai by a special flight at 1:00 PM. Throughout his journey—from the airport to the government hospital in Puthur, and from the hospital to the venue at the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation hotel—Chief Minister Vijay will conduct a grand 'roadshow' covering a distance of approximately 16 kilometers.

Work to install roadside barricades began yesterday at various locations, including in front of the General Manager's office.

In view of the Chief Minister's visit, elaborate security arrangements have been made under the leadership of Tiruchirappalli City Police Commissioner Rupesh Kumar Meena.

Tamil Nadu ministers urge Central Minister not to grant permission for Mekethatu Dam project



CHENNAI: The Karnataka government is actively making preparations to build the Megedhattu dam across the Cauvery river. The recent statement of the state's Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in this regard has created a lot of controversy.

Regarding this issue, Union Water Resources Minister C.R. Patil, Tamil Nadu Water Resources Minister N. Anand, Public Works Minister Aadhav Arjuna, and School Education Minister Rajmohan met in Delhi yesterday and submitted a petition.

The petition states: The Megedhattu Dam project proposed by the Karnataka government across the Cauvery River is contrary to the final judgment of the Cauvery Tribunal issued on February 5, 2007, and the judgment of the Supreme Court issued on February 16, 2018. If this project is implemented, the livelihood of Tamil Nadu farmers will be severely affected. It is worrying that the Karnataka government is trying to send the detailed project report for the Megedhattu project for the Central Government's approval. Therefore, the Union Ministry of Water Resources and the Central Water Commission should not take the Karnataka government's project report for construction of the Megedhattu dam into consideration. Appropriate legal provisions should be followed to protect inter&state river water rights and federal procedures. Appropriate instructions should be given to the relevant officials of the Central Water Commission in this regard. This is stated in the petition.

After the meeting with the Union Minister, Tamil Nadu Water Resources Minister N. Anand said, "The Union Minister said that the Central Government has not yet taken any decision regarding Karnataka's project report on the Meketatu Dam issue. The talks with the Union Minister were favorable for us."

"Under the TVK regime, Tamil Nadu has turned into a hub for rampant, unchecked crime" – M.K. Stalin



CHENNAI: DMK leader M.K. Stalin has alleged that under the 'Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam' (TVK) regime, Tamil Nadu has transformed into a place where crime runs rampant—a veritable "Vice City." In a post on the social media platform X, he stated: "Under the TVK regime, Tamil Nadu has become a 'Vice City'—a place where crime knows no bounds."

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), an agency under the Union Government, has seized heroin worth Rs. 140 crore in Chennai. This is the same DRI agency that, just last month in Nagapattinam, uncovered a drug&smuggling empire run by a TVK functionary known as 'Meth' Boopalan, involving narcotics worth Rs. 270 crore. Such seizures are happening in our state month after month.

The question that arises is: why is the state police force unable to detect the movement of such massive quantities of narcotics within Tamil Nadu? Are they truly unable to detect them, or are they choosing to turn a blind eye? Tamil Nadu, once the premier destination for investors, has now become a preferred hub for traffickers of 'meth' and heroin.

With the ongoing breakdown of law and order, unbridled sexual misconduct by TVK members, large&scale robberies, and chilling custodial deaths, Tamil Nadu is rapidly becoming a 'Vice City' under the TVK regime. What does the Director General of Police—who yesterday recited statistics in an attempt to divert attention from these issues—have to say about this heroin seizure? Instead of merely responding that 'a case has been registered' for every incident, he must explain why the state's own law enforcement agencies are unable to apprehend these drug traffickers.

"What are the 65 special task forces, established to curb drug trafficking, actually doing? So many issues are unfolding within the Home Department, which is under the control of Chief Minister Vijay. If he doesn't speak up now, then when will he? Under the TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam) regime, the party's 'Reels&obsessed' members are even going so far as to illegally open dam sluice gates.

Yet, it seems no one can get Chief Minister Vijay to open his mouth!" he stated.



Glimpses of Preparations for the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026, in Goa.

Farmers stage protest in the Cauvery River in Trichy against the Mekedatu project



TRICHY: Members of the National South Indian Rivers Interlinking Farmers' Association staged a protest today by burying themselves in the riverbed of the Cauvery. Opposing the Karnataka government's plan to construct a dam at Mekedatu—a move they argue would deprive Tamil Nadu of its rightful share of river water and severely impact agriculture—farmers, led by Ayyakannu, president of the National South Indian Rivers Interlinking Farmers' Association, began their protest at 7:00 AM today at the Odathurai riverbank in Trichy by burying their bodies in the riverbed.

The protest was called off after Trichy city police and revenue department officials assured the farmers that their demands would be brought to the attention of the Chief Minister.

The officials also requested that the protest be concluded, citing security concerns ahead of the Chief Minister's scheduled visit to Trichy on November 20th.

Parents of missing girl in Genchi questioned again: Search continues for a month

VILLUPURAM: A 7&year&old girl, who was sleeping with her parents in Nadupattu village of Alampoondi panchayat, next to Senji in Villupuram district, went missing in the early hours of last Oct. 12. The local police investigated for 10 days but found no clues. As a result, the case was transferred to the CBCID.

Even after a month since the case was handed over to the CBCID, no information has been found about the girl. Searches in forests, brick kilns, and water bodies have yielded no results. The CBCID police have been questioning the girl's parents again for a couple of days after questioning the suspects and criminals with a history of criminal records but no clues were found.

Uttarakhand mining accident becomes a web series!

UTTARAKHAND: The work is being carried out to connect the four major Hindu pilgrimage sites of Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath, known as the Chardham in Uttarakhand. As part of this, a tunnel is being built between Silkyara and Dhandalkhan on the Brahmagal&Yamunotri National Highway. During this work, the tunnel collapsed, trapping 41 workers inside.

All 41 workers trapped in the accident that took place in 2023 were rescued after 17 days after various efforts. A web series called 'Tunnel Man' is being made based on this incident.

Shiv Rawail, who directed the web series 'The Railway Man', is acting as the show runner for this film, produced by Yash Raj Films. Ambika Pandit and Manan Rawat are directing.

Made for Netflix, the series stars Madhavan, Sundeep Kishan, Mahesh Manjrekar and many others. Actress Tabu has joined the series. She is acting in the lead role of Kadabad. This marks her first time acting in a web series.



In Vellore, toll plaza staff raised awareness in a novel way to prevent accidents caused by fog: they offered tea to motorists and issued warnings via loudspeakers.

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