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Bihar: PM Modi to inaugurate a bridge worth Rs 5,500 crore tomorrow



The bridge has been named 'Nitish Sethu'

BIHAR: In recognition of the contributions made by former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to the development of Bihar, the six&lane bridge connecting Kacchi Dargah, Raghopur, and Bidupur has been named 'Nitish Setu'.

This six&lane bridge links Kacchi Dargah in the Patna district to Bidupur in the Vaishali district, via Raghopur.

It will reduce the travel time between Patna and Vaishali to between 20 and 25 minutes.

The traffic congestion on the Mahatma Gandhi Setu bridge is also expected to decrease significantly.

Opposition parties have expressed their dissatisfaction with the bridge being named after Nitish Kumar.

They had urged that it be named after a freedom fighter.

Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the bridge—constructed at a cost of Rs 5,500 crore—tomorrow (November 21).

Pakistani Minister Malik arrives in India for SCO forum event: First such visit in 3 years



NEW DELHIi: Pakistani Minister Musadik Masood Malik has arrived in New Delhi to participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) event on 'Inter&Civilizational Dialogue'. This marks the first visit by a Pakistani minister to India in the last three years.

The SCO event on 'Inter&Civilizational Dialogue' is scheduled to take place in New Delhi from November 20 to 22. India had extended invitations to the 10 member states and observer nations of the SCO. As a member state, Pakistan was also invited. Accepting India's invitation, Pakistan's Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Musadik Masood Malik, has arrived in India. Upon his arrival in New Delhi, he was welcomed by Saad Warraich, the Charge d'Affaires at the Pakistani High Commission in India. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the Pakistani High Commission in India stated: "Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, arrived in New Delhi today.

He was received at the airport by Charge d'-Affaires Saad Warraich." In a statement regarding the visit, Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs noted that Minister Musadik Masood Malik would participate in the SCO event on 'Inter&Civilizational Dialogue' being held in India. Representing Pakistan at this forum, he will share the country's perspective on the importance of dialogue between civilizations and its role in the realm of diplomacy.

The Minister's address will highlight the constructive contribution Pakistan has been making to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Pakistan's participation in this forum reflects its commitment to fostering dialogue, cooperation, and mutual understanding—in line with the 'Shanghai Spirit.'

Pakistan is set to hold the chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of Government for the 2026–27 term. In preparation for this, Pakistan will host ministerial&level meetings, expert&group discussions, and various other activities leading up to the next summit. It is worth noting that the initiative for a dialogue between civilizations within the SCO framework was proposed by India.

During the meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government held on October 20 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had announced that India would host an event dedicated to dialogue between civilizations under the SCO.



India's Cheetah Population Rises to 62; Minister Yadav Engages Global Leaders at COP31

TURKEY: Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, leading India's delegation at the COP31 climate summit, announced a significant milestone for Project Cheetah: India's cheetah population has now reached 62.

This comes after the birth of four cubs to a female cheetah brought from Botswana, highlighting India's commitment to wildlife conservation.

On the diplomatic front, Minister Yadav held extensive bilateral meetings with key global climate and energy leaders.

He engaged with UN climate chief Simon Stiell, Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, and his counterparts from Australia, Japan, the UK, Norway, Denmark, and China, as well as the European Commissioner.

These discussions focused on crucial aspects of climate action, including climate finance, adaptation, mitigation, and the implementation of global commitments. India has consistently advocated for a balanced and equitable outcome at the conference, emphasizing predictable climate finance, technology transfer, and respect for developing nations' circumstances. Minister Yadav also stressed the importance of a country&driven approach to the 'just transition' agenda, ensuring that climate action considers employment, livelihoods, and poverty eradication. While COP31 negotiations faced deadlocks on issues like fossil fuels and climate finance, India's proactive engagement underscores its resolve to move from commitments to tangible implementation.

Three killed in Russian ballistic missile attack on bridges in Kyiv

KYIV: ARussian ballistic missile attack hit three bridges on Kyiv's Dnipro River and killed three people, the city's mayor said on Friday, in the biggest strikes on outes connecting the left and right banks of Ukraine's capital since the start of the war. The missiles hit the Podilsko&Voskresenskyi Bridge crossing, and the Darnytskyi and Pivdennyi bridges, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on Telegram, resulting in closure or traffic restrictions in the city of some 3 million people commuting over six main bridges.

Three people were killed and some 15 others were injured, he added.



The strikes, which also caused fires and damaged critical infrastructure and buildings, come as Russian President Vladimir Putin promised to hit back hard after Ukraine hit the bridge linking Russia and Crimea for a third time this week.

A Reuters witness in Kyiv heard a series of explosions in the early hours of Friday.

Five people were also injured in the Dnipropetrovsk region after drones hit apartment buildings, and four others wounded in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second&biggest city, after Russian drones hit a hospital. One person was wounded in a drone attack on a tram in Zaporizhzhia, local officials said on Telegram.

Reuters could not immediately independently confirm the reports. Russia and Ukraine, in their fifth year of the war, deny deliberately targeting civilians.

The strikes follow warnings from European allies on Thursday against any attempt to decide a peace settlement over their heads, after President Donald Trump embraced Russia's Vladimir Putin as a "friend" at a summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Supreme Court dismisses Tamil Nadu's plea seeking a directive for Karnataka to release 11 TMC of Cauvery water

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has dismissed a petition filed by the Tamil Nadu government seeking a directive for the release of a 11 TMC shortfall in Cauvery water due to the state.

The Tamil Nadu government had approached the Supreme Court, stating that there was a shortfall of 11.719 TMC in the water to be released from the Cauvery river into Tamil Nadu via Biligundulu, and requested an order directing Karnataka to release the same. In its two petitions, the Tamil Nadu government argued that despite having sufficient water reserves, Karnataka was withholding the water due to Tamil Nadu, and urged the court to order the immediate release of the state's rightful share of Cauvery water.

The Tamil Nadu government further submitted that the water shortage was damaging crops and causing great distress to farmers. In response, the Karnataka government filed an affidavit pointing out that there were also drought&affected regions within its own state.

Furthermore, it stated that out of the 483 TMC of water that reached the Biligundulu gauging station, 404.25 TMC had already been released to Tamil Nadu.

After hearing arguments from both sides, a bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Apares Kumar Singh dismissed the petitions filed by the Tamil Nadu government. This Supreme Court ruling is seen as a setback for the Tamil Nadu government.

Pakistan: Bus collides with gas tanker; 10 dead



In a horrific accident in Pakistan, 10 people lost their lives after a bus collided with a gas tanker.

The bus, carrying over 30 passengers, was traveling from the city of Turbat in Balochistan province toward Karachi.

While passing through the Pasal area in the Gwadar district of Balochistan, the bus went out of the driver's control and collided with an oncoming gas tanker.

The impact caused the entire bus to catch fire. Ten passengers—including women and children—perished in the blaze,

while 20 others sustained serious injuries. Rescue teams arrived at the scene, transported the injured to a nearby hospital, and the police have launched an investigation into the cause of the accident.



The Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri meeting with Petroleum Dealers' Associations, in New Delhi.

Today horoscope

There will be a turbulent atmosphere in the family. Anger will decrease. Cash flow will bring satisfaction. There will be a successful sale of the house. The health of the children will be stable. Old debts will be collected in business. It is good to avoid arguments in the office.

You will get money where you asked. The ancestral property case will end. You will be happy in the open. Confusion will disappear and clarity will arise. The pending matter will be resolved immediately. Business competition will decrease. Utthiya Yoga will flourish.

New people will become friends. Cash flow will be satisfactory. There will be a smooth situation in the bank - bank. In business, goods will be sold due to new customers. Do not hate anyone in the office.

You will be proud of your children. You will purchase new land. The heated arguments that existed in the family will disappear. You will gain the friendship of good people. You will succeed in business by adopting new strategies. A high-ranking official in the office will extend his hand of friendship.

There may be wasteful expenses. You should not make any promises to anyone. Leave the family alone. You need to be calm in business. In the office, follow the advice of your superiors. The workload will increase.

There will be a new solution to an old problem. People in positions of authority will be introduced. Good deeds will come from unexpected places. You will expand your business. It is good to be in the office and feel like you have your own job.

The arrival of guests will brighten up the house. People in positions of authority will help. Siblings will share your work. In business, you will move your shop to another place. The document you were looking for will appear in the office.

You will make new friends in your travels. A pending case will receive a favorable verdict. Government matters will be completed. You will meet new people. Don't hate anyone in the office. Business will flourish and be profitable.

Mental confusion will disappear. Happiness will prevail in the family. Relatives and old friends will come looking for you. You will change the vehicle that has been causing trouble. You will try to sell the old house. You will collect the bills in business. You will avoid arguments in the office.

You will be involved in efforts to replace electrical appliances. Do not think about old debts. A new path will be born. Superiors will support you in the office. Give priority to the ideas of new partners in business.

Everything you touch will be balanced. Obstacles will be removed. Delayed tasks will be completed. Government-related matters will be completed immediately. You will be recommended for a new position in the office. Business will be brisk.

Watch out for health issues. There will be worries and expenses regarding your daughter's marriage. |Don't make hasty decisions in business. Partners will be supportive. Avoid interfering in the affairs of your superiors in the office.

Quarry scam case: Police raid former DMK minister Murthy's house

MADURAI: The District Crime Branch police are conducting searches at the homes of former minister P. Murthy and his relatives.





A quarry tenant at Chathiravellalapatti near Vadipatti in Madurai district has reported that he has illegally extracted excessive amounts of gravel from land without permission, causing a loss of Rs. 2.32 crore and Rs. 3.07 crore to the government, respectively, based on a report by the Mineral Resources Department.

Based on this report, the Madurai District Crime Branch Police have registered two cases.

In connection with this case, the police, led by DSP Ponram, went to the house of former minister Murthy at Roja Street, Ezhil Nagar, Madurai Iyer Bungalow. They handed over a letter to Murthy to conduct a search at his house and are continuing to conduct searches. They are investigating whether there are documents and materials related to the quarry where the red soil and stones were illegally mined.

They are also investigating whether stones were illegally brought to the quarry, as P. Murthy Crusher runs a gravel factory in the Palamedu area.

The Madurai District Central Crime Branch police are also investigating the houses of his relatives Dhanraj, Alanganallur Ponram, and his brother&in&law Rajamani in the Poovanthi area. This led to a stir as a large number of DMK members gathered at Murthy's house.

Special polio vaccination camp to be held in 6 districts including Chengalpattu on Nov. 22

CHENNAI: A special polio vaccination camp will be held in 6 districts of Tamil Nadu on November 22. The target is to administer polio drops to 9.16 lakh children.

A press release issued by the Tamil Nadu government in this regard: As polio vaccination camps are being conducted successfully in Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu has been a polio&free state for the last 22 years.

However, due to the spread of polio virus in neighboring countries, the Indian Polio Virus Expert Advisory Group has identified 272 districts in 21 states of the country as vulnerable areas.

Accordingly, 6 districts have been selected in Tamil Nadu. Accordingly, on the occasion of the Sub&Special National Polio Drops Day, a polio drop camp will be held in 6 districts namely Chengalpattu, Mayiladuthurai, Sivaganga, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli and Virudhunagar on November 22 (Sunday). For this, a total of 6,647 centers have been set up, including government primary health centers, government hospitals, anganwadi centers, nutrition centers, schools, and important locations.



The centers will be open from 7 am to 5 pm that day. All children under the age of 5 will be given polio drops. Even if the drops have already been given as per the national vaccination schedule, they must be given again on the day of the camp.

It is also necessary to administer polio drops to newly born children. The target has been set to administer polio drops to 9.16 lakh children through these camps. This is stated in the statement.



The festival of Hethai Amman—the primary clan deity of the Badaga community residing in the Nilgiris district—has begun with great fervor, featuring traditional rituals, dance, and music.

2 year old boy who mixed style with substance

Two wheeler showroom owner pays for entire education



MUMBAI: A couple from Yavatmal, Maharashtra, went to the Sai Point Honda showroom in Allur on the 9th to buy a new Honda Activa scooter. They also brought their 2&year&old son Rudransh Singh Thakur.

After buying a new scooter, the couple posed with their son Rudransh in front of the scooter for a photo. The little boy posed stylishly, wearing cool glasses like an adult and with his hands in his pants pockets.

His parents captured the beautiful moment on video and posted it on Instagram, where it went viral. The video has since garnered over 137 million views and over 68,000 comments, setting a new record.

Amazed by the boy's immense popularity, 'Sai Point Honda' showroom owner Dilip Bobade Patil invited Rudransh and his family back to his showroom and felicitated them. He also promised to bear Rudransh's entire education expenses from LKG to college graduation.

Final hearing on Dec. 18 in case seeking removal of religious converts from BC, MBC, and DNC lists

MADURAI: The High Court has announced that the final hearing for a case seeking the removal of individuals who have converted to another religion from the lists of Backward Classes (BC), Most Backward Classes (MBC), and Denotified Communities (DNC) will take place on December 18.

Koteeswaran, a resident of South Street in Melur, Madurai district, had filed a petition before the Madurai Bench of the High Court, requesting the removal of those who converted from Hinduism to Christianity from the BC, MBC, and DNC lists. A bench comprising Justices G.R. Swaminathan and M.D. Sumathi heard the petition and observed, "This case calls into question the foundational legal principles governing reservation in Tamil Nadu and raises significant constitutional issues."

Consequently, the court admitted the petition for hearing and directed the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) to file their respective counter&affidavits.

The court further noted that the petitioner could file a separate application if interim relief was sought. In accordance with this, the petitioner, Kotheeswaran, filed an application seeking interim relief. The application states that the TNPSC issued a notification on October 6 to fill 6,574 vacancies across four categories under the 'Group 4' recruitment, with the examination for these posts scheduled for January 10 of the following year.



Of these positions, 26.5 percent are reserved for the BC (Backward Classes) category, and 20 percent are reserved for the MBC (Most Backward Classes) and DNC (Denotified Communities) categories.

In every block of 200 vacancies, 53 are allocated to the BC category, and 40 are allocated to the MBC and DNC categories.

In reality, the reservations intended for these groups are not reaching those who truly belong to them. Many individuals from various castes who have converted from Hinduism to Christianity continue to be classified under the BC, MBC, and DNC categories.

These converts secure government jobs meant for members of these specific categories, which undermines the very purpose of the reservation system. If the reserved positions for the BC, MBC, and DNC categories continue to be filled according to the current schedule, it will negatively impact individuals like me.

Therefore, the petitioner requested that an injunction be granted to prevent the publication of the selection list for Group 4 posts—based on the reservation categories for BC, MBC, and Denotified Tribes (DNT)—as well as to halt the conduct of interviews and the issuance of appointment orders.

The petition came up for hearing yesterday before a division bench comprising Justices G.R. Swaminathan and M.D. Sumathi. Representing the government, the counsel argued, "There is no urgent need to hear this case at this stage.

The Group 4 examination is scheduled only for January. The petitioner has filed this in an individual capacity; it should not be treated as a Public Interest Litigation (PIL). Consequently, there is no necessity for an urgent hearing or the issuance of an interim order."

The government side further requested time to file a detailed counter&affidavit. Accepting this, the judges adjourned the hearing to December 18, stating that the final hearing would take place on that date.

Nov. 20 NEW INDIA FLASH | EDITORIAL 2026

Seats for Women, Justice for States



India's political parties speak passionately about empowering women. That commitment must translate into meaningful representation in Parliament and state assemblies. Women's reservation is a democratic obligation that deserves a clear path to implementation.

Passing legislation is an important milestone. Its purpose, however, is fulfilled only when women occupy the seats it promises. An entitlement that remains dependent on an uncertain timetable risks becoming another pledge postponed.

Women's participation in local government offers valuable experience. Despite social barriers and institutional challenges, opportunities in public office have helped women enter political life and exercise leadership. Parliament and state assemblies must open their doors more widely.

At the same time, concerns about linking women's reservation to constituency delimitation deserve serious attention. States that have made progress in population control, education and public health should have confidence that their achievements will receive fair consideration when political representation is reviewed.

Women's representation and the rights of states are compatible democratic goals. Parliament must find a framework that advances both. This requires transparent proposals, meaningful consultation and a willingness to address concerns across party and regional lines.

The Union government should explain how any proposed changes would affect each state. Publishing the underlying calculations and allowing adequate parliamentary scrutiny would help build public confidence. A reform of this importance needs informed agreement.

A clear implementation timetable is equally essential. Women should not face another indefinite wait while political parties exchange assurances. The government must demonstrate resolve, and opposition parties must contribute constructively to a workable settlement.

Political parties also have responsibilities they can fulfil immediately. They can nominate more women in constituencies where they have a realistic chance of winning, appoint women to influential organisational positions and support candidates from ordinary backgrounds.

Meaningful representation requires opportunities for women across social and economic groups. Recruitment, campaign support and access to decision&making must extend beyond established political families.

The measure of this reform will be its practical outcome: more women participating in lawmaking, shaping policy and holding power.

Let women's seats become a reality, and let the federal balance remain secure. Delivering both would be a victory for Indian democracy.

Editor Madurai Mani

Tamil Nadu Ranks 3rd in Merchandise Exports: Rs 4.08 Lakh Crore Trade in 8 Months

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu continues to hold the 3rd position in India's merchandise exports, recording a trade value of Rs 4.08 lakh crore over an 8&month period.

India exports various goods—including petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, textiles, jewelry, electronic devices, and engineering goods—to destinations such as the United States, the United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, China, and several European nations.

According to data released by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Indian states and union territories collectively exported goods worth Rs 30,26,478 crore to foreign markets during the 8&month period from January to August 2026.



With exports valued at Rs 4,08,173 crore, Tamil Nadu accounts for a 13.49% share, securing the 3rd position among all Indian states.

Merchandise Exports by State (January – August 2026)

1. Gujarat – Rs 8,24,397 crore (27.24%)
2. Maharashtra – Rs 4,70,654 crore (15.55%)
3. Tamil Nadu – Rs 4,08,173 crore (13.49%)
4. Karnataka – Rs 2,34,983 crore (7.76%)
5. Uttar Pradesh – Rs 1,52,591 crore (5.04%)

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PM participates in the valedictory session of the Departmental Summit on Social Justice and Empowerment at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, in New Delhi.

Assets worth Rs. 22 crore belonging to Purasaivakkam Gangadhareswarar Temple recovered

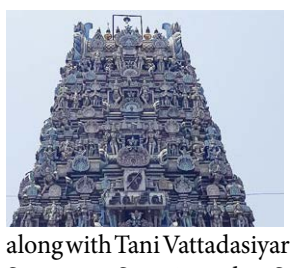
CHENNAI: The Hindu Religious Endowments Department is intensifying efforts to recover encroached properties belonging to temples across Tamil Nadu.

As part of this, 22,800 square feet of land, 2,134 square feet of which belonged to the Purasaivakkam Gangadareswarar Temple in Chennai, worth Rs. 21.88 crore, was occupied by individuals.

Subsequently, in the case filed in the Chennai Divisional Court, the Hindu Religious Endowments Department Act, Section 78(1)

An order was issued to evict the encroachers. Following this, the encroachers were removed and the lands were brought under the administration of the temple.

Temple Executive Officer Ma. Atchi Sivaprakasam,



along with Tani Vattadasiyar Saravanan, Superintendent S. Dhanasekar, Chennai Zone-&1 Assistant Commissioner Bhuvaneswari, and Elethar Vetri were involved in this.

If Great Powers Clash, the World Will Fall into Chaos

Xi Jinping's Remarks Following Meetings with Trump and Putin

SHENZHEN: Chinese President Xi Jinping has warned that a war between great powers would lead to global chaos.

He emphasized that these nations must work together to safeguard world peace. Chinese President Xi Jinping, U.S. President Donald Trump, and Russian President Vladimir Putin met yesterday in the Chinese city of Shenzhen for a trilateral summit.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Asia&Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. Speaking on the occasion, President Xi Jinping stated: "Good relations between major powers are not merely a matter of preference; they are an absolute necessity. If major powers remain in harmony, the world will remain at peace." Major powers bear a special responsibility.

China, Russia, and the United States must set an example of cooperation in addressing global challenges, safeguarding world peace and stability, and contributing to human progress.

Each nation must respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and core interests of the others. No party should cross the "red lines" of others regarding sensitive, core issues. The Cold War mentality must be abandoned, and there should be no attempts to sever economic ties.



High&level dialogues between the three nations must be maintained, and a communication mechanism for crisis situations should be established.

A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. The goal should be a nuclear&weapon&free world, achieved through a comprehensive ban on and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. This was stated by Chinese President Xi Jinping. At the conclusion of the summit, China, the United States, and Russia jointly issued a "Declaration on Peace."

V.S. Babu, MLA for Kolathur, passes away while undergoing treatment for ill health

CM Vijay, ministers, and fellow MLAs pay their respects

CHENNAI: V.S. Babu, an MLA who had been undergoing treatment for health issues, passed away yesterday following a heart attack. He was 75 years old. The Governor, the Chief Minister, various ministers, MLAs, and DMK leader M.K. Stalin have expressed their deep condolences on his passing. Twenty years ago, V.S. Babu was a prominent face of the DMK in North Chennai and served as the party's North Chennai District Secretary.

He first entered the Legislative Assembly in 2006 after contesting from the Purasawalkam constituency on a DMK ticket. During the delimitation of constituencies in 2011, the Purasawalkam constituency was abolished; the Kolathur constituency was subsequently formed by incorporating major parts of the former Purasawalkam constituency along with portions of the Villivakkam constituency. V.S. Babu had intended to contest the 2011 Assembly elections on behalf of the DMK.

However, M.K. Stalin—who was the Deputy Chief Minister at the time—shifted his candidacy from the Thousand Lights constituency to Kolathur, leaving V.S. Babu without an opportunity to contest. Around the same time, P.K. Sekar Babu, who had moved from the AIADMK to the DMK, was appointed as the North Chennai District Secretary. Following this, V.S. Babu joined the AIADMK. After the passing of Jayalalithaa, he was expelled from the AIADMK for aligning himself with the faction led by T.T.V. Dhinakaran. Later, with the aim of fielding a strong candidate against DMK leader M.K. Stalin in the Kolathur constituency for the 2026 elections, Edappadi K. Palaniswami brought V.S. Babu back into the AIADMK fold and appointed him as an AIADMK District Secretary. In February, V.S. Babu joined the TVK (Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam) in the presence of Vijay and contested against the then&Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in the Kolathur constituency.

He garnered significant attention—not just in Tamil Nadu but across the country—by defeating Stalin by a margin of 8,795 votes. His signature hand&waving gesture became a trend among TVK supporters. Following his swearing&in as an MLA, he also participated in the Legislative Assembly's budget session.

On September 9, V.S. Babu was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) at MGM Hospital in Aminjikarai, Chennai, due to breathing difficulties and respiratory issues. Chief Minister Vijay, Health Minister Arunraj, and Assembly Speaker J.C.T. Prabhakar visited him in the hospital to inquire about his well&being and consult with the medical team regarding his treatment. After undergoing treatment for 72 days, V.S. Babu passed away at 2:24 PM yesterday following a sudden heart attack.

The hospital administration announced the news yesterday evening. Subsequently, Minister Adhav Arjuna rushed to the hospital to offer his condolences to the bereaved family. Following this, V.S. Babu's mortal remains were placed at his residence on Thirunavukkarasu Street—near the junction of Madhavaram High Road and Melpatti Ponnappan Street in Perambur—for the public to pay their final respects. Chief Minister Vijay visited the residence to pay homage to V.S. Babu and offered his condolences to the family.

Numerous political leaders, MLAs, party workers, and



members of the public paid their respects to the mortal remains of the late Babu. The funeral procession is scheduled to take place today after 2:00 PM, followed by the final rites at 4:00 PM at the Thangal burial ground on Pallavan Salai. Earlier, speaking to reporters on the hospital premises, Adhav Arjuna stated, "V.S. Babu worked closely with TVK leader Vijay. He served, in particular, as a prominent face of North Chennai and was someone who spoke the distinct dialect of the region.

He dedicated his life to the people of North Chennai. His passing is not merely a loss for his family; it is a profound loss for North Chennai itself." Following the demise of V.S. Babu, the TVK party has declared a seven&day mourning period, effective from yesterday. General Secretary N. Anand announced that all party events have been cancelled for these seven days, and the party flag will be flown at half&mast.

Condolences from the Governor, Chief Minister, and M.K. Stalin Following the passing of Kolathur MLA V.S. Babu, the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister, and leaders of various political parties have expressed their condolences. Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar: I am deeply pained and saddened to hear the news of V.S. Babu's passing.

I pray to the Almighty to grant his family the strength and courage to endure this irreparable loss. Chief Minister Vijay: The sudden demise of V.S. Babu—who dedicated his life to public service, lived closely among the people, and earned the love, support, and trust of all—is an irreparable loss. I extend my deepest sympathies to his grieving family, relatives, friends, office&bearers and volunteers of the TVK (Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam), and the people of the Kolathur constituency.

DMK President M.K. Stalin: Although there had been reports suggesting improvement in his health while he was undergoing treatment in the hospital, the sudden news of his passing comes as a shock. I offer my condolences to his family and the members of his party who are mourning his loss. AIADMK General Secretary

Edappadi K. Palaniswami: I am saddened to learn of the passing of Kolathur constituency MLA V.S. Babu. I convey my deepest condolences and sympathies to his grieving family. Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) National President K.M. Kader Mohideen: Kolathur constituency TVK MLA V.S. Babu was a close, long&time friend of mine. He was a vibrant individual, and the work he accomplished after joining the TVK was truly significant.

I express my condolences to his grieving family, members of the TVK (Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam), and the people of the Kolathur constituency.

Condolences have also been expressed by several leaders, including Tamil Nadu Congress President Manickam Tagore, MDMK General Secretary Vaiko, PMK leader Anbumani, VCK leader Thirumavalavan, DMDK General Secretary Premalatha, TMC leader G.K. Vasan, AMMK General Secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran, 'V The Leaders' organization head Annamalai, Puthiya Tamilagam party leader Krishnasamy, IJK party leader Ravi Pachamuthu, and TVK (Tamizhaga Valvurimai Katchi) leader Velmurugan.

Meanwhile, the mortal remains of TVK MLA V. S. Babu are set to be cremated today. A funeral procession will take place this evening, and the cremation is scheduled for 4:30 PM at the Thangal electric crematorium in Thiru. Vi. Ka. Nagar. It is noteworthy that the late TVK MLA V. S. Babu is survived by his wife, Parimala, four sons—Ramprakash, Satish, Vignesh, and Balasubramani—and a daughter, Saritha.

Tamil Nadu ranks first in publishing research papers: Minister P. Viswanathan is proud

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu Technology Transfer Conference was held yesterday at Anna University, Chennai, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology and Anna University.

The conference was inaugurated by Higher Education Minister P. Viswanathan and said: "On the advice of the Higher Education Secretary, this conference will be held annually from now on."



We will operate not only in Chennai but also in cities including Madurai, Coimbatore, and Salem. According to a study published by the Central Government's NITI Aayog, Tamil Nadu has topped the list with 16,046 protection applications submitted and 44,611 research papers published.

It is necessary to get support for new discoveries to reach the production stage and reach the people. The State Council of Scientific Research is helping in many ways. He spoke like this.

Speaking at the event, Higher Education Secretary Dheeraj Kumar said, "Technological development is important. At the same time, it is also important for technologies to reach a commercial level.

In China, 80 to 90 percent of technologies reach a production level."

Chief Minister Viswanathan released a book containing details of products with Geographical Indication (GI) status in Tamil Nadu. On his behalf, 10 MoUs were signed with various institutions.

Earlier, Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology Member&Secretary S. Vincent, while delivering the welcome address, said, "The Council for Science and Technology is providing all possible assistance to the inventors to protect their technologies.

"97 technologies are ready for production," he said. Council Scientific Officer A. Ramanan, Anna University Registrar V. Kumaresan and other professors, students and industry members were present.

Later, speaking to the participants, Minister Viswanathan said, "It has been decided to appoint acting vice&chancellors in universities as a temporary arrangement. Good news will come soon regarding the appointment of permanent vice&chancellors."

'Pak fan boy': BJP hits out at Rahul Gandhi for describing India as 'side player' in global affairs

USA: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday accused Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi of being "obsessed with Pakistan" and acting as the neighbouring country's "fan boy" after he described India as a "side player" in global affairs during an interaction at the University of Chicago in the US on Wednesday.

In a series of posts on X, BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari accused the Congress MP of "idolising Pakistan". "Why is Rahul Gandhi so obsessed with Pakistan! At every global stage Rahul acts like Pak Fan Boy… Rahul Gandhi's love for terror state Pakistan made UPA compromise India's sovereignty," Bhandari said.

He also alleged that Gandhi's "love for Pakistan" made him overlook India's diplomatic efforts, particularly its peace initiatives in the Russia&Ukraine conflict. BJP national spokesperson CR Kesavan also criticised Gandhi, accusing him of "maliciously attempting to spoil India's international reputation" by portraying the country as a "side player". He described the Congress leader's remarks as "condemnable and inexcusable".

There was no immediate response from Gandhi or the Congress to the BJP's criticism. Speaking at the University of Chicago, the Lok Sabha LoP called for a stronger relationship with the US, Russia and China, while criticising the Union government for turning India into a "side player" in global affairs. "We need to be involved at the global level in these conversations. Frankly India is a side player. I'm pretty shocked that Pakistan is busy negotiating with the Iranians and America. And India is just looking," he said.

Gandhi added, "We are historically of a fundamentally different scale than Pakistan. We have relationships with all these countries. We have a



relationship with the United States, we have a relationship with Iran, we have a relationship with Russia. So we have sort of stepped back and suddenly decided we are not going to be players on the stage."

The 56&year&old politician referred to India's earlier role in the Non&Aligned Movement to criticise the government's current foreign policy approach. "Remember that we were the leaders of The Non&Aligned Movement when we got independence. And the Non&Aligned Movement had a stature on the planet. That voice, which I would like India to have on the global stage, I see missing," he said. On Pakistan, Gandhi reiterated that Islamabad's support for terrorism and attacks on Indian citizens remained a major obstacle to dialogue between the two countries.

"There is room but there is a big problem, which is the support and encouragement of terrorism by Pakistan in our country. And it is impossible for us to accept our innocent people being murdered and having a conversation with Pakistan. The moment that stops, then a conversation can potentially begin," Gandhi said in response to a questioner from Pakistan.



New Delhi: To deal with Cyclone 'Akwan', the National Disaster Response Force has put 31 teams on standby in 5 states and one union territory.



21 metric tonnes of organic fertilizer, produced from biodegradable waste collected in the Kovilpatti municipal area, were distributed free of charge to farmers in the surrounding regions.



Chennai: G. Nandakumar, Director of the Income Tax Department, has advised banks to exercise caution, as there is a possibility that loan accounts could be used to launder black money (convert illicit funds into legitimate ones).

2nd 'Vetri' Industrial Investors' Meet to be held on the 25th

CHENNAI: Following the assumption of office by the TVK&led government in Tamil Nadu, the first 'Vetri Tamil Nadu Investors' Meet' was held last August at a star hotel in Chennai. In the presence of Chief Minister Vijay, the Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department facilitated the signing of 97 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), representing an investment of ₹67,452 crore and the potential creation of 106,998 jobs.

Additionally, foundation stones were laid for 8 projects, involving an investment of ₹4,476 crore and the creation of 5,074 jobs. Chief Minister Vijay also inaugurated 5 projects, which entail an investment of ₹2,676 crore and the creation of 1,550 jobs. It has now been announced that the second 'Vetri' Industrial Investors' Meet will be held in Chennai on the 25th of this month (Wednesday), under the leadership of Chief Minister Vijay.



The conference aims to attract new industrial investments to Tamil Nadu, propel industrial growth to the next level, and generate significant employment opportunities for the youth of the state. Official announcements regarding the specific agreements to be signed and the venue for the event are expected to be released soon.

India- Italy trade target of Rs 2 lakh crore by 2029

NEW DELHI: India and Italy have set a target of achieving a trade volume of Rs 2 lakh crore in the next 3 years.

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani jointly addressed the 23rd India&Italy Joint Commission meeting held in the Italian capital Rome.

Italy is India's fourth largest trading partner in the European Union. The two countries have decided to increase bilateral trade from Rs 1.45 lakh crore in 2025 to Rs 2 lakh crore by 2029. Minister Piyush Goyal has pointed out that there is a possibility of increasing this to Rs 5 lakh crore in the coming years.

India and Italy have agreed to set up special working groups in India to address regulatory and procedural hurdles faced by companies in both countries and to facilitate investment.



The 'India&Middle East&Europe Economic Corridor', which would connect Indian markets with Europe through rail and sea routes via the Middle East, was also discussed extensively in the meeting.

Son of BJP Official Killed After Being Struck by a Bulldozer During Akhilesh's 'Roadshow'

LUCKNOW: In Uttar Pradesh, the son of a BJP official died after being struck by a bulldozer during a 'roadshow' held by Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav.



With elections for the 403&member Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly scheduled for early next year, political parties have begun their election&related activities. Against this backdrop, a Samajwadi Party event took place the day before yesterday in the state's Gorakhpur district. Samajwadi Party leader and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav attended the event, traveling to the venue as part of a 'roadshow.'

Arrangements were made to welcome him with a massive garland, for which a bulldozer was brought to the site. The bulldozer was used to place the large garland on him. Following the roadshow, the bulldozer was moving along the road when it struck a 10th&grade student named Aryavardhan, who was walking nearby.

Bystanders rescued the critically injured student and rushed him to a nearby hospital. Despite receiving intensive medical treatment, Aryavardhan succumbed to his injuries. Meanwhile, police investigations revealed that the deceased student, Aryavardhan, was the son of Omkar Singh, a BJP official in Gorakhpur.

The police have registered a case in connection with the incident and have arrested five individuals, including the driver of the bulldozer. Furthermore, the police have registered a case against several individuals—including a party official named Sadhu, who organized the roadshow for Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh—and are conducting an investigation.

Actor Vivek's wife meets CM Vijay to seek support for tree planting project

CHENNAI: Arutselvi, wife of late comedian Vivek and founder of Green Column, met Chief Minister Vijay at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Chennai.

Later, she told the audience: Today (yesterday) is my husband Vivek's 66th birthday. I met him on this auspicious day as a mark of respect after Vijay took oath as the Chief Minister.

During this meeting, I spoke about the Green Kalam project, which my husband started in 2010, to plant one crore saplings. I asked for support for the project. The Chief Minister assured that the government would support it. He, who knows the family well, inquired about it with affection.



Vivek planted 37 lakh saplings in 11 years till 2021. After that, he planted only 80 thousand saplings in 5 years. He is acting slowly. We will continue to do this.

Project to build 6,157 houses at 9 locations in Chennai at a cost of Rs. 1,401 crore

Work is expected to begin in January

CHENNAI: 6,157 new apartment buildings have been constructed in 9 locations at a cost of Rs. 1,401 crore in Chennai. It has been reported that the concrete work for this will begin in January.

Housing facilities for the poor are being implemented through the Tamil Nadu Urban Housing Development Board.

In this situation, Chief Minister Vijay had announced that 6,157 apartment buildings will be constructed at 9 locations in Chennai at a cost of Rs. 1,401 crore.

A total of 6,157 houses have been constructed in 9 locations: Padi Anathakkuppam 64 houses, Vyasarpadi Old Block 1,158, Pattinapakkam 1,484, Rukmani Nagar 111, Mullai Nagar 462, Udayasuriya Nagar 850, Pachaikal Veerasamy Street 912, West Kalarai Road 792, and Kakkan Colony 324. Regarding this, Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board Managing Director P. Ramana Saraswathi said: By the end of this month, the work of completely evicting the people and demolishing the old structures will begin.



Construction on the new homes will begin in January and will be completed within 20 months. Each newly constructed apartment will have a one&bedroom (1BHK) facility of 420 square feet. When old settlements are demolished and new houses are constructed in the same area, the houses will be allotted to the eligible beneficiaries who were already living there.

They will have to pay Rs. 1.50 lakhs. Here, the houses allotted to the beneficiaries are not allowed to be sold.

He said that there is no connection between the new housing project in Pattnaik and the construction of the new Presidential Secretariat.

South Korea, US Reaffirm Alliance for Korean Peninsula Peace

SEOUL: South Korea's Unification Minister Chung Dong&young and US Ambassador to South Korea Michelle Steel met on Friday, reaffirming their commitment to a stable and peaceful Korean Peninsula.

This crucial meeting, the first official interaction between Minister Chung and Ambassador Steel, focused on North Korea policies and Seoul's efforts to foster lasting peace.

The discussions, held at Minister Chung's office in Seoul, highlighted the importance of the South Korea&US alliance as a cornerstone for peace and prosperity in the region. Minister Chung emphasized the urgent need to restart dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang, as well as between the two Koreas. He also sought Washington's support for Seoul's initiatives to prevent border tensions from escalating into accidental conflicts and to build a framework for peaceful coexistence.

Both officials concurred that the alliance remains pivotal for regional peace and prosperity, vowing to maintain close communication on these vital matters. Ambassador Steel, who arrived in late July, has been meeting various South Korean ministers. Her delayed meeting with Minister Chung had previously sparked speculation regarding US concerns over his alleged leak of classified information concerning North Korea's uranium enrichment facilities. Chung has consistently maintained that the information was already public.



Following his meeting with Ambassador Steel, Minister Chung proceeded to the inter&Korean border village of Panmunjom. There, he was scheduled to meet US Forces Korea (USFK) Commander General Xavier Brunson, who also leads the United Nations Command and the South Korea&US Combined Forces Command. This also marks their first official meeting since General Brunson assumed command in December 2024 and Minister Chung became unification minister in July 2025, underscoring ongoing high&level engagements to ensure regional stability.

Bihar: Jewelry worth several crore rupees looted at gunpoint from a jewelry store



NEW DELHI: In Bihar, an eight&member gang held employees at gunpoint in a jewelry store in broad daylight and looted jewelry worth several crore rupees.

The jewelry store, 'Senco Gold & Diamonds,' is located on Supriya Cinema Road in Bettiah, Bihar, within the jurisdiction of the Kalibagh police station. Yesterday, in broad daylight, an armed gang entered the premises. A group of six to eight individuals held the staff members at gunpoint. They then proceeded to loot gold and silver jewelry, as well as cash, that had been on display.

The employees were left in a state of shock due to the sudden attack. When one employee attempted to intervene, he was struck with the butt of a firearm.

The gang kept the staff under their control through threats while carrying out the robbery. According to preliminary information, the robbers made off with gold, diamond, and silver jewelry, along with cash. Staff members reported that the majority of the jewelry and cash in the store had been stolen.

The value of the looted items is estimated to be several crore rupees. After completing the robbery, the gang fled the scene. The robbers showed no concern for the CCTV cameras present in the store, and none of them made any attempt to conceal their faces. All these events have been clearly captured on the store's CCTV system.

This major robbery, which took place in broad daylight in a busy, high&footfall area, has come as a major shock to the police force. Occurring after a long hiatus, this brazen daylight heist has posed a significant challenge for the Bihar police. Upon receiving news of the robbery, Champaran Range DIG Har Kishore Rai and SSP Kumar Gautam arrived at the scene with a large police contingent. The officials inspected the site, questioned the staff, and gathered comprehensive details. The police are currently analyzing footage from CCTV cameras installed both inside and outside the shop to identify the perpetrators and trace their escape route. Investigators are working to determine the path the criminals took to reach the jewelry store, as well as the direction in which they fled after committing the crime. Every aspect of the incident is currently under investigation, and the search for the culprits is ongoing.

The fact that the robbers entered the jewelry store in broad daylight without even concealing their faces has drawn sharp criticism from opposition parties.

No prior government sanction required to take action against officials accused of bribery

Madurai High Court ruling

MADURAI: The Madurai High Court has ruled that prior government sanction is not required to initiate action against government officials accused of bribery, as demanding a bribe does not constitute an act performed in the discharge of their official duties. Ganesan, a resident of Seemanur in Pudukkottai district, filed an appeal with the Madurai High Court.

In his petition, he stated that an online tender was invited for the construction of a 'Chief Minister's Mini Sports Ground' in the Thirumayam Assembly constituency, during which forged documents were submitted. He further alleged that the tender was awarded to the firm that submitted these forged documents, without any verification of their authenticity. He requested the court to direct the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti&Corruption (DVAC) to take action against several officials: Jayasudha (Project Director, District Rural Development Agency), Parthiban (Executive Engineer, Public Works Department), Ramalingam (Accounts Officer), Sadaiyappan (Assistant Project Officer), and Susila (Assistant Executive Engineer). A single&judge bench initially dismissed the petition, prompting Ganesan to file an appeal.

The appeal was heard by a division bench comprising Justices P. Velmurugan and K.K. Ramakrishnan. During the proceedings, it was noted that while prior government sanction had been sought to initiate action against the officials, the Tamil Nadu government had refused to grant such permission in an order dated September 25, 2026. Furthermore, the petitioner's counsel pointed out that the government had denied permission without conducting any inquiry, despite the serious allegations that the tender had been awarded based on forged documents.

In their order, the judges stated the following: Under Section 17&A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, prior approval from the government is required to conduct an inquiry or investigation against a public servant.

This provision was introduced with the objective of protecting public servants from being subjected to legal proceedings. However, this protection—in the form of a requirement for prior approval—applies only when the conditions specified in the provision are met. It cannot be invoked in every case. The requirement for prior approval applies specifically to decisions made or recommendations offered by a public servant while discharging their official duties or functions. In the present case, the officials are accused of demanding illegal financial gratification (bribes). Demanding a bribe is not an act connected to the discharge of their official duties or functions.



Therefore, for such allegations, there is no requirement to obtain prior government approval under Section 17&A(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. Consequently, the order issued by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department—which refused to grant permission to initiate action against the concerned officials—is hereby quashed. Furthermore, the Director of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti&Corruption (DVAC) is directed to conduct an investigation into the accused officials without the need for prior government approval.

The Director of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti&Corruption, the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DVAC, Pudukkottai District), and the concerned Police Inspector have been impleaded as respondents in this case. A preliminary investigation must be completed, and a report submitted within four weeks. The hearing for this case has been adjourned to December 3rd. This is what the judges stated in their order.

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