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Horrific accident in Rajasthan as van rams into a lorry

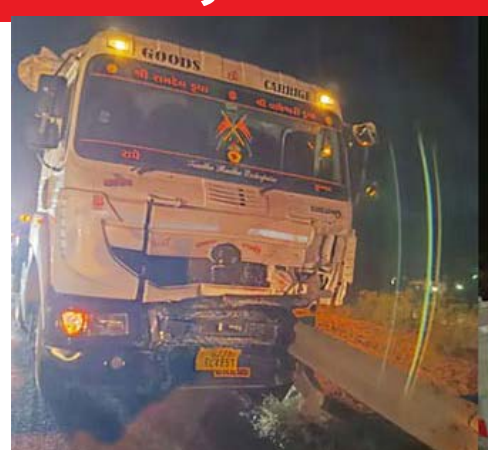
9 people killed, 7 critically injured

RAJASTHAN: Nine people died and seven others were seriously injured when a van collided with a lorry in Rajasthan.

Nine people died and several others were injured after a vehicle carrying pilgrims—who were returning from the Khatu Shyamji Temple—collided with a truck parked on the roadside along the Kota&Udaipur highway in Rajasthan, near Shambhupura.

Early this morning (Sunday), the 'Cruiser' type vehicle, in which the pilgrims were traveling back from the Khatu Shyamji Temple, struck a truck parked on the Kota&Udaipur highway. The accident, which occurred near Shambhupura village, claimed the lives of nine members of a single family from Maharashtra, while six others sustained injuries.

The vehicle, which hit the truck at high speed, was severely damaged, leaving the occupants trapped inside. With the assistance of local residents and the police, the injured were rescued and transported to a hospital in Kota, where they are currently undergoing treatment. According to officials, 16 family members were in the vehicle; nine died, and the others sustained serious injuries.





A relative stated that a group of 36 family members was traveling from Khatu Shyamji toward Dhar in three separate vehicles; the vehicle involved in the accident was in the lead, while the other two were following behind. The police are investigating the cause of the accident.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed his deepest condolences regarding the tragedy and announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs 2 lakh each to the families of the deceased, and Rs 50,000 each to those who were injured. Expressing her condolences over the accident, President Droupadi Murmu stated, "The news of the loss of lives in a road accident in Kota, Rajasthan, is deeply distressing.

I convey my heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured."

Thiruvannamalai Deepam Festival: Free Online Darshan Passes for 3,000 Devotees

CHENNAI: Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, P.K. Sekar Babu (referred to as 'Ramesh' in the source text), has announced that, for the first time, 3,000 free online darshan passes have been issued to devotees for the Deepam Festival at the Annamalaiyar Temple in Thiruvannamalai.

According to his statement, 1,500 passes have been allocated to residents of the Thiruvannamalai district, while the remaining 1,500 passes have been allotted to devotees from other districts. Necessary arrangements must be made to reduce traffic congestion during the festival period.

Furthermore, it must be ensured that devotees can perform the 'Girivalam' (circumambulation of the hill) without any difficulties.

All government departments are expected to work in coordination to carry out these arrangements, the Minister stated.

Madhya Pradesh: Over 100 children, 12 adults hospitalised after eating 'chowmein' at village fair in Balaghat

NEW DELHI: More than 100 children and 12 adults were hospitalised with suspected food poisoning after consuming "chowmein" at a village fair in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, with officials confirming on Sunday that all patients are stable.

The incident occurred on Saturday evening at a fair in Hiri village under the Kirnapur police station limits, where several visitors complained of acute stomach ache shortly after eating noodles, Balaghat Collector Aditya Singh said.

As many as 118 children were initially admitted to the community health centre in Kirnapur, of which 45 were shifted to the Balaghat district hospital for further treatment, while the remaining 73 were discharged after primary care, he said. Apart from the children, 12 adults were also admitted to the district hospital, Singh added.

The collector visited the hospital to enquire about the patients' condition and directed doctors to ensure proper medical care. Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Shatrughan Singh Dahiya said all 45 children admitted to the paediatric ward and 12 adults admitted to the medical ward were in stable condition.

"All patients are out of danger and receiving treatment under the supervision of doctors," he said. Nine members of a family returning from a pilgrimage to Khatu Shyamji temple were killed when an MUV carrying them crashed into a truck parked along the roadside on the Kota&Udaipur National Highway here early Sunday, police said. The accident took place at 1 am when the victims were returning to their homes in Dhule district of Maharashtra. Superintendent of Police Tejeshwani Gautam said nine people, including children and women, died on the spot while eight others were injured. The multi&utility vehicle (MUV) was carrying 16 members of a family comprising two brothers and their wives and children. A preliminary probe suggested that the MUV driver might have dozed off at the wheel.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi voiced grief over the loss of lives in the accident. The prime minister also announced that an ex&gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund would be given to the next of kin of each of those who lost their lives and Rs 50,000 would be given to each injured.

According to a family member, identified as Pradeep, a group of 36 relatives from Dhule set out in three MUVs on November 17 for a pilgrimage to Omkareshwar, Ujjain, Sanwariya Seth, Pushkar, Salasar Balaji, and finally Khatu Shyamji.

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy receives new AICC in-charge BM Sandeep at Gandhi Bhavan as TPCC PAC meeting begins

HYDERABAD: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Sunday received newly appointed All India Congress Committee (AICC) Telangana in&charge B M Sandeep Kumar upon his arrival at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad, where the Congress party's Political Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting commenced.



According to the Telangana Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Revanth Reddy, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, Sandeep Kumar, AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant and other committee members are attending the meeting.

The TPCC is holding a joint meeting of its Political Affairs Committee, PCC Advisory Committee and Extended Executive Committee at Gandhi Bhavan as part of Sandeep Kumar's maiden visit to the state following his appointment as Telangana in&charge in place of Meenakshi Natarajan. According to the party's agenda, leaders are expected to pass resolutions formally welcoming Sandeep Kumar and expressing gratitude to Natarajan for her tenure and services. The meeting is also scheduled to review three years of the Congress government's development and welfare initiatives under Praja Palana, discuss programmes conducted over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and chalk out a future roadmap. Organisational strengthening under the Sanghatan Srujan Abhiyan is another key agenda item.

The PAC meeting is also expected to deliberate on the party's political and organisational position in Telangana, coordination between the state government and the party organisation, and recent differences among party leaders. The participation of the Chief Minister assumes significance amid recent public statements by some legislators expressing dissatisfaction over governance, constituency development and the functioning of the party. Following the PAC meeting, an extended&level TPCC meeting is scheduled to be held at Gandhi Bhavan at 3 pm, with ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs and other senior party functionaries expected to participate. uring his two&day visit, Sandeep Kumar is also scheduled to hold separate interactions with state ministers, District Congress Committee presidents and heads of affiliated organisations on November 23.

He is further expected to visit Hyderabad on November 27 for individual interactions with MPs, MLAs and MLCs.

High Speed Bullet Train Service Next Year Planned Between Surat and Vapi in Gujarat

NEW DELHI: Reports indicate that the country's first indigenously developed high&speed bullet train service is set to launch by the end of next year. It has been decided to operate the service between the cities of Surat and Vapi in Gujarat, with track testing expected to take place over the next six months. While the country offers various modes of transport—including buses, trains, and flights—most people prefer traveling by train.

Following the success of express train services, the 'Vande Bharat' trains, which connect major cities, have been well&received. Building on this, the Central Government has initiated a high&speed bullet train project. The country's first high&speed bullet train service, designed to travel at speeds of 280 km/h, was originally planned to run between Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Ahmedabad (Gujarat); the foundation stone for this project was laid in 2017. The project faced a delay of two and a half years due to issues regarding land acquisition and the need for clearances from the Maharashtra state government. Subsequently, the bullet train project was further impacted for two years by the COVID&19 pandemic. Construction work then began in full swing in 2021.

The project involves construction spanning a 508 km stretch between Mumbai and Ahmedabad. Regarding this, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw (BJP) stated: As of last September, the construction of pillars has been completed for a 456 km stretch, and the construction of the elevated track (viaduct) has been finished for 371 km. Additionally, 600,000 noise&barrier panels have been installed along a 299 km stretch. Furthermore, 9,300 electric poles have been installed along the 206 km elevated corridor.

Tunneling work for four mountain sections has been completed. In Maharashtra, where a 21 km&long tunnel is being constructed, 5 km of excavation has already been finished using the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM). Construction of eight railway stations has also been completed. Railway maintenance depots are being established in three cities: Sabarmati, Surat, and Thane. The 21 km&long tunnel in Maharashtra includes a 7 km stretch that passes beneath a creek in Thane—this will be the country's first undersea (subaqueous) railway tunnel. For this project, the 'P&28' series bullet train is being indigenously manufactured through a collaboration between Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) in Bengaluru, Karnataka, and the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

The first coach has been produced and is currently undergoing structural testing. The train is designed to reach a maximum speed of 280 km/h. In the next phase, a 'P&35' series train, capable of speeds up to 350 km/h, will be developed. As a first step, bullet train services are set to commence between Surat and Vapi by the end of next year. Testing of the railway tracks is scheduled to take place over the next six months. Following the Surat–Vapi section, the service will be gradually expanded to cover the entire route up to Mumbai.

The 508 km journey between Mumbai and Ahmedabad can be covered in just 1 hour and 58 minutes. Currently, the same journey by road takes 8 to 9 hours. He stated this.

The bullet train has been designed with a focus on passenger needs, comfort, and safety. The train, which is 660 feet long, consists of eight coaches and has a capacity for 557 passengers. Two seats have been reserved for persons with disabilities. Seven coaches will feature standard&class seating, while one coach will be designated for luxury&class seating. In the standard class, seats are arranged in a 3+2 configuration, whereas in the luxury class, they are arranged in a 2+2 configuration. Driver cabins are located at both ends of the train, and the train's operation will be monitored through state&of&the&art control systems.

Two Army personnel, wives and 3 children among 7 killed in Gujarat truck-car collision

GUJARAT: Seven people, including two serving Indian Army personnel, their wives and three young children, were killed after their car was split in two in a head&on collision with a truck on the Bhuj&Khavda highway in Gujarat's Kutch district on Saturday night, police said.

The victims belonged to two families from Uttarakhand's Garhwal region. The accident occurred between 9.30 pm and 10 pm when the Hyundai Aura, travelling from Khavda towards Bhuj, collided with a trailer truck approaching from the opposite direction while travelling towards Khavda, Kutch (West) superintendent of police Vikas Sunda said on Sunday.

"The injured were rushed to hospital in an ambulance, but all seven succumbed to their injuries," Sunda added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the deaths and announced compensation of ₹2 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased and ₹50,000 for the injured from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

In a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office on Sunday, Modi said, "Saddened by the loss of lives due to a mishap in Kutch, Gujarat. My condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured."

The deceased were identified as Saurabh Singh Negi, around 30, his wife Savita, around 31, and their three&month&old daughter Sivika; Rajesh Singh Rawat, around 35, and his seven&year&old daughter Rakshita; and Rinki Nitin Gosai, around 30, and her four&year&old daughter Vamika. Negi and Rawat were serving in the Indian Army and were posted in Bhuj. The two families had travelled to Kutch to visit the Rann and were returning when the accident occurred. Sunda said an FSL team had examined the accident site and that further investigation was underway.

Today horoscope

There will be confusion in the family. It is better to give in to each other. As the Moon continues in your sign, do not make hasty decisions. You will get your vehicle repaired. Be considerate of new partners in business.

You will make an important decision for the future. The ego problem will be resolved and the relationship between the couple will increase. You will try to sell your ancestral house, land, and agricultural land. In business, old goods will be sold. You will get support from your partners.

The auspicious event that was being postponed will come soon. There will be closeness between husband and wife. You will spend time with your children. You will meet some people in business. You will attract old customers by using new strategies.

You will make changes in your ancestral property. You will get support from your siblings. Confusion will be resolved and happiness will prevail in the family. It is better to resolve any problem through discussion. You will try to expand your business. Your personality skills will increase.

You will pay off old debts with the inflow of money. Your reputation in the family will increase. The ancestral house will be sold. The health of the mother and children will improve. Vehicle expenses will decrease. Some people will buy a new vehicle. Business competition will decrease.

As Chandrashtama continues, speak softly and finish your work. Confusions will be eliminated and there will be peace in the family. You need to be careful with your vehicle. Old goods will accumulate in business. Do not hold grudges against your partners.

You will work hard and complete some work. There will be a bond between husband and wife. Lack of money will go away. You will learn the ins and outs of business. You will get support from your partner. Profits will increase compared to last year.

New ideas will come to mind. People born with you will understand you. A matter that has been dragging on for a long time will be resolved. Give importance to the opinions of partners in business. This will be the first step.

Don't regret old bitter incidents. Good things will happen in the family. You will renovate and expand your ancestral home. Your children's interest in studies will return. Business will pick up steam. You will complete tasks quickly.

Relatives and friends will come to you seeking your help. Delayed government work will be completed. You will go with your family and attend auspicious events at the homes of important personalities. The inflow of money will bring satisfaction. You will see a boom in business.

It is better to avoid arguments with family members. There will be cash inflow. Expenses will also continue. Important personalities will be introduced. You will make some changes in business. Do not be hostile to new partners.

Ancestral property issues will end. You will meet childhood friends. Your children will behave responsibly. You will expand your shop in a joint venture. You will attract customers by using new strategies.

Book Festival at Madurai Tamukkam Grounds

MADURAI: A book festival is currently underway at the Madurai Tamukkam Grounds, organized by the district administration, the South Indian Booksellers and Publishers Association (BAPASI), the Directorate of Public Libraries, and the School Education Department. The event will continue until the day after tomorrow (November 23). Hundreds of thousands of books are displayed across 236 stalls within a fully air&conditioned venue. There is a vast collection covering a wide range of topics, catering to all age groups—from children to adults.

Highlights include a photography exhibition titled 'Maamadurai Potruthum' (Praise to Great Madurai), which showcases the city's rich heritage and history, a dedicated reading area for children, and a section focused on the world of science.

The stalls are open daily from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Admission is free, and a 10% discount is offered on all book purchases, with special concessions available for students. On weekdays, between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM, the venue hosts cultural performances by school and college students. Each evening, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, there are lectures and debates featuring authors, poets, Tamil scholars, enthusiasts, and political figures. "I usually look forward to this book festival, which typically takes place in August; I even wondered if I had missed it this year! You can find books in English and from other countries all in one place.

I personally enjoy reading self&help, motivational books, and short stories. With the advent of the internet, visits to libraries have declined. School and college administrations should bring students to events like this—it is important to cultivate a habit of reading from a young age."

The venue is filled with a diverse array of books. There are many stories, comics, and drawing books intended for children. I enjoy reading books about sports, business, and the biographies of influential figures. I have purchased biographies of Ratan Tata, Abdul Kalam, and Swami Vivekananda. Simply touching each book and flipping through its pages brings a sense of excitement to my mind.



The Filmmaker Sudip Sharma and Barun Sobti, and Abhishek Banerjee attend the Gala Premiere of the upcoming Netflix series Pushpak Vimaan during the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Panaji, Goa

Congress wins Rajasthan panchayat elections: A major setback for the ruling BJP



NEW DELHI: The BJP is the ruling party in Rajasthan and the Congress is its main opposition. In this situation, the Panchayat elections were held last week. In this, the results for a total of 419 Panchayat Samiti seats covering 37 districts were announced yesterday. In this, the Congress has won 275 seats, while the BJP has won only 63 seats. This has been a big setback for the BJP.

In the Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti results, the Congress is ahead of the BJP. In many places, small parties and independent candidates have become a factor affecting the BJP's chances of winning. Out of the total 37 Zilla Parishad seats, the Congress has won 23 seats. At the same time, the BJP has won 5 seats and is ahead in another 6 seats.

The RLP won in Nagore. In Balotra, the Congress and the BJP won 12 seats each. The RLP, which won 7 seats, became the kingmaker. In Dungarpur, the Congress and the BSP won 14 seats each. The BJP, which won 9 seats, became the deciding force.

In Khairthal&Tijara, the Congress and BJP won 10 seats each, while independent candidates were the main force in deciding the outcome.

Parties like RLP, BSP and CPM won a total of 64 seats. However, no party got a clear majority in the 17 panchayat samitis.

There are a total of 1,275 wards in the Zilla Parishad. Of these, the Congress won 794 seats and the BJP 357. The RLP won 51, the BSP 43, the CPM 7 seats and independent candidates won 13 seats. In the total 7,543 Panchayat Samiti wards, the Congress emerged as the single largest party, winning 3,758 seats.

The BJP won 2,213 seats. The RLP also won 497, the BSP 278, and the CPM 50 seats. Independent candidates won 662 seats.

Commenting on this, Congress national president Mallikarjuna Kharge said, "People are teaching the double&engine administration a lesson. I thank the public for the election results."

'Sea ambulance project to be launched in April next year' - Minister Srinath informs



Thoothukudi: Minister Srinath said that we are working to implement the sea ambulance project in April next year.

Tamil Nadu Fisheries and Fishermen's Welfare Minister A. Srinath told reporters in Thoothukudi yesterday: The Chief Minister discussed with me four days ago the implementation of some schemes to support fishermen and their families.

The most important of these is the Sea Ambulance Project. We are working to implement this project in April 2027. Ash waste released from the Thoothukudi thermal power plants has formed patches in the sea. We are consulting with the technical committee regarding the removal of ash patches.

Fishermen are staging small protests at the instigation of some evil forces in Kasimedu. The Chief Minister is continuously talking to the Andhra Pradesh government. The Director of Fisheries of Tamil Nadu is going to meet the Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary tomorrow. The boats of the Kasimedu fishermen will be released soon. No one should believe the rumours. The tricks of the evil forces are not valid. He said this.

Bird flu outbreak echoes in Cuddalore Oman bans Indian egg imports

Monthly egg exports of 6 crore may be affected



NAMAKKAl: Due to the bird flu outbreak in Cuddalore district, Oman has banned the import of Indian ants. This could affect the value of the 6 crore ants imported from the Namakkal region every month.

The Namakkal region, which includes areas such as Namakkal, Salem, Erode, Perundurai, and Coimbatore, has more than 1,000 poultry farms. Out of these, 80 million broiler chickens are raised. Through these, about 60 million broilers are produced daily.

The products produced are supplied to the Tamil Nadu government's food aid scheme and to foreign countries. They are also sent by trucks to foreign states including Kerala and various districts of Tamil Nadu for sale. Eggs are exported from India to Arab countries and countries including Oman. Every month, 30 to 60 million eggs are exported to Oman from the Namakkal region. Currently, the country has completely banned the import of Indian eggs, which has affected egg importers, exporters and poultry farmers. Regarding this, Dr. Senthil, president of the Livestock and Agricultural Farmers and Traders Association and an egg expert, told the participants: Some poultry farms in Cuddalore district have been affected by bird flu. To prevent the disease from spreading further, the chickens raised in the poultry farms in that area have been completely destroyed. Chickens are raised in modern cages in the Namakkal area. Disinfection is done when outsiders and vehicles enter the farm. Since complete biosecurity procedures are followed, there is no chance of bird flu spreading in the Namakkal area.

Therefore, to protect the poultry industry, which is currently suffering from the current crisis, the central and state governments should declare the Namakkal region as a separate egg export region. Talks should be held with Oman, the ban on egg import should be lifted and steps should be taken to resume exports, he said.

Tenkasi/Nagercoil: Bird flu outbreak confirmed in poultry farms in Alappuzha district of Kerala To prevent the spread of the disease in Tamil Nadu, special checkpoints have been set up by the Tamil Nadu Animal Husbandry Department in Puliyarai, Tenkasi district, on the Kerala border, and in the Patanthalumoodu area near Kaliyakavilai, Kanyakumari district, and officials are engaged in intensive surveillance.

The import of chickens, ducks, eggs, meat, poultry waste, and poultry feed from Kerala has been banned. Vehicles carrying these are being sent back to Kerala.



The 75th anniversary (platinum jubilee) celebration of the New Century Book House was held yesterday at a private hall in the Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai, under the chairmanship of its president, Stalin Gunasekaran. Former Chief Secretary Irai Anbu attended as the chief guest and released the commemorative souvenir. During the event, he remarked that it is essential for every household to have books.

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Agniveers Deserve Recognition and a Secure Future



The Agniveer scheme, launched in June 2022, is entering a new phase. The decision to offer an additional two years of service to eligible Agniveers who wish to continue is a significant step towards retaining trained personnel and strengthening the armed forces.

Soldiers gain valuable experience through training and service. Releasing them after four years can mean losing skills that have taken time and resources to build. An extended term gives them more time to develop their abilities and allows the armed forces to benefit from their experience. Improved pay, Seva Nidhi contributions and protection of seniority are also welcome measures.

The revised arrangement must be implemented with clear rules. Agniveers should know in advance how permanent enrolment will be decided, what criteria will apply and when selections will take place. Those who leave service should receive practical support, including skill training and help accessing suitable employment.

Agniveers commit their youth and energy to the country's security. Their service deserves lasting respect and recognition. The scheme's success will depend on how well it serves both the needs of the armed forces and the futures of the young people who wear the uniform. Make the promised opportunities clear, fair and accessible to every eligible Agniveer.

By the Editor,
New India Flash

Development projects worth Rs 34,470 crore launched in Bihar



PATNA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday launched development projects worth Rs 34,470 crore in Bihar. As part of this, he also inaugurated the Nitish Bridge over the Ganga river, built at a cost of Rs 4,280 crore.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Bihar's capital Patna yesterday afternoon. At a function held there, he inaugurated development projects worth Rs. 34,470 crore. As part of this, he inaugurated a 19.7 km long suspension bridge over the Ganga river connecting Kachi Dargah in Patna district and Pidipur in Vaishali district at a cost of Rs. 4,280 crore. He handed over 26,900 houses constructed under the Prime Minister's Urban Housing Scheme to the beneficiaries. Speaking at the function, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said:

Former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been a good leader in Bihar. Due to his efforts, a new bridge over the Ganga river has been opened for public use. This will greatly benefit the people and farmers of the surrounding areas. The new bridge has been named after Nitish Kumar in recognition of his public service.

There was a time when Bihar was associated with corruption. Now, Bihar is associated with development projects. Investments are pouring into this state.

The National Democratic Alliance government in power in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar has been prioritizing the interests of the people. The leaders of the National Democratic Alliance parties should work together and work tirelessly to create a prosperous, strong and self&reliant Bihar.

This was said by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The National Skill Awards ceremony is held annually on behalf of the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

This year's ceremony was held in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, yesterday evening. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in this. At that time, Prime Minister Modi presented awards to 52 national toppers from vocational training institutions, national skill training institutions, and training institutions for students operating across the country.



Karthigai Festival at Tirupparankundram

MADURAI: On the sixth day of the Karthigai festival (November 21) at the Subramanya Swamy Temple in Tirupparankundram, the *Pancha Murthis* (the five principal deities) emerged for a procession as part of the *Saiva Samaya Sthapitha Varalatru Leelai*—a divine enactment depicting the historical establishment of the Shaivite tradition. The deities—Govardhanambika (mounted on a silver *Rishabha*—bull—vahana), Subramanya Swamy and Deivayanai (on a golden peacock vahana), Sathyagireeswarar and Priyavidai (on another silver *Rishabha* vahana), and Seevalinayagar along with Thirugnanasambandar (in a *palanquin*)—proceeded to the area in front of the 16&pillared *mandapam*. There, following the enactment of the historical establishment of the Shaivite tradition, a temple *Oduvar* (hymn singer) recounted the associated *puranic* (mythological) narrative to the devotees. After the *Deeparadhana* (offering of sacred lamps), the *Pancha Murthis* moved through the temple chariot streets, bestowing their blessings upon the devotees.

Dengue Fever

MADURAI: In Madurai, 8 people were affected by dengue fever yesterday. Currently, 75 individuals are undergoing treatment for the illness in government and private hospitals. Additionally, 20 people were admitted yesterday due to a flu&like illness.

In total, 184 people are receiving treatment for various fevers across government and private hospitals.

Please take a moment to listen to what the party workers have to say

S.P. Velumani's appeal to Palaniswami

CHENNAI: Former minister S.P. Velumani has urged AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami to take a moment to listen to what the party's 20 million (2 crore) members have to say. Speaking to reporters at the Coimbatore airport yesterday (Nov. 21), Edappadi Palaniswami was asked about former minister S.P. Velumani and minister Sengottaiyan being seen together at a wedding function. In response, Palaniswami stated, "You yourselves released that video. Questions regarding those who have left the party should be directed to their respective parties.

S.P. Velumani is one of the 20 million members of the AIADMK; please do not raise questions about him here." By referring to S.P. Velumani—a sitting AIADMK MLA and former minister—merely as "one of the party workers," Palaniswami's remarks highlighted the ongoing friction between the two. In light of this, S.P. Velumani has now responded to Edappadi Palaniswami's comment. In a social media post regarding this, he stated, "Even if he (Edappadi Palaniswami) intended to belittle me, what greater honor could I possibly ask for? My primary identity is that of a cadre of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). No position is greater to me than being a cadre who carries the party's flag. I thank the General Secretary for referring to me as 'one of the cadres.' It is precisely because of these 20 million (2 crore) cadres that you hold the position of General Secretary today.



The cadre who carries the flag is the very root of this movement; if he sways, the entire movement sways. If such a cadre makes a decision… anything can happen. A good leadership must recognize this. It is a hallmark of true leadership to listen to the voice of every single cadre. In the past, if even the humblest cadre organized a wedding, 'Puratchi Thalaivar' MGR would be present. If a humble cadre raised his voice, even Jayalalithaa's convoy would come to a halt. Our leaders cherished and respected the grassroots cadres—who loved the movement as their own life—far more than they valued those holding official positions! Is it just one cadre named Velumani who says, 'Everyone who loves this movement should work together in unity, without any divisions'? Certainly not—if you were to ask any of the 20 million cadres, they would all say the same. Before starting their own separate movements, V.K. Sasikala and T.T.V. Dhinakaran had, on several occasions, expressed their willingness to work together within our party. Former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam and former Minister R. Vaithilingam did not arrive at the decision to join the DMK easily. Prior to that, they made numerous attempts to continue their journey within this very movement that had nurtured and shaped them. Similarly, the person who is a minister toda" Despite multiple attempts by individuals—including K.A. Sengottaiyan and General Council member J.C.D. Prabhakar—to join and work alongside the party, they ultimately moved to the 'Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam' (TVK) solely because you, and you alone, remained adamant in your refusal to accept them. We find ourselves in this current situation precisely because those who remained loyal—refusing to abandon the very movement that gave them their political identity—were, as usual, disregarded and effectively driven away. I have always had one request for the General Secretary: please, take a moment to listen to what the 20 million (2 crore) party workers—including Velumani—are trying to say. "If all these cherished members, bound by a common heritage, unite and follow the right path, then tomorrow shall be ours!" he stated.



'No one can hide the achievements of Kamaraj's regime' - Vice President praises

KOTTIVAKAM: The 42nd anniversary of Nellai Nadar Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Kottivakam, Chennai was held yesterday. Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan participated in the event.

He said: Kamaraj did not accumulate anything for himself and worked only for the welfare of the people. No one can hide the achievements of his tenure. Education is an indestructible treasure. It is not only the duty of schools to make students more respected; they should also shape students into good morals and humane people. Students should give priority to research and innovative ideas. If the Tamil language, Tamilism and culture are to be protected, then the nation of India must also be protected.

New train to Tiruchendur: I assure you that the demand for a new train service from Chennai to Tiruchendur will definitely be fulfilled, he said.

Earlier, the school's sports hall, Nellai Nadar Engineering College, inaugurated the boys' hostel. Started in 1985 with 85 students and 7 teachers, the school currently has about 3,500 students. 200 teachers and staff are working. The function was attended by school president Anandaraj, talakalar R. Prabhu, executive secretary Chandrasekhara Pandian, treasurer Ravichandran, and principal Thomas.

International Book Fair from Jan. 16 to 18: Minister Rajmohan informs, Publishers from 100 countries participate

CHENNAI: The International Book Fair has been organized in Chennai since 2023 by the Public Library Department and the Tamil Nadu Textbook Association. The 5th annual 'International Book Fair' is scheduled to be held at the Chennai Trade Centre on January 16, 17 and 18, 2027. The logo for this was released by Public Education Minister Rajmohan at the Anna Library Complex in Chennai yesterday.

Speaking, he said, "Publishers and target agents from over 100 countries are participating in the International Book Fair. This is the first international book fair to be organised by a state government in India." He also inaugurated a training course for target agents.



Tamil Nadu Textbook Association President Loyola Mani, Public Library Department Director Shajeevana, Anna Centenary Library Information Officer Sridevi Bhaskar and other officials were present at the event. It is worth mentioning that the Thai Publishers Association 'Pupat' will participate in the book fair as a special invitee.



Chennai: On the occasion of the 5th Skill Convocation ceremony in Tamil Nadu, Minister Mohamed Parvez presented National Trade Certificates to 520 students from Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) yesterday.

Army families returning from Rann of Kutch die in highway collision near Bhuj

BHUJ: A weekend outing to the Rann of Kutch ended in tragedy on Saturday night, when seven members of two Army families, three of them young children, were killed on a national highway in Gujarat's Kutch district. The crash happened at about 10 pm on November 21. The families were driving back to Bhuj after a day at the Rann when a speeding truck hit their car, an official from the Kutch West police control room said on Sunday.

According to the official, the collision was so violent that nobody in the car survived. All seven died at the scene, among them a three&month&old girl.

Reports from the site say the car was torn into two pieces, and rescuers needed hours to pull the bodies out of the wreckage.

The dead came from Garhwal in Uttarakhand and were relatives of Army personnel posted in Bhuj. Police named them as Saurabh Singh Negi (30), his wife Savita (30) and their infant daughter Sivika; Rajesh Singh Rawat (35) and his seven&year&old daughter Rakshita; and Rinki Gosain (30) and her four&year&old daughter Vamika.



Some local reports place the crash on the Bhuj&Khavda highway and describe the other vehicle as a trailer truck. Police have not yet said what caused the accident or where the truck driver is now.

The Army has not yet issued a detailed statement on the deaths. Further details are expected as the investigation proceeds.

Two Indian- origin persons killed in targeted shooting outside Walmart in Canada's Surrey

A 23 year old Indian origin man and his 24 year&old woman were shot dead in the parking lot of a Walmart store in Surrey, British Columbia, in what investigators suspect was a targeted attack linked to organised crime. The victims were identified as Gaganpreet (Garry) Rehal, 23, and Sukhjeet Kaur, 24, both residents of the neighbouring township of Delta.

The shooting took place on the night of November 15. Both were rushed to hospital but later succumbed to their injuries, CBC News reported.

The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) said at approximately 10:38 pm on November 15, Surrey Police Service (SPS) officers and BC Emergency Health Services (BC EHS) staff responded to a parking lot in the area of 88 Avenue of 124 Street for a report of a man and a woman suffering from apparent gunshot wounds.

"When first responders arrived on scene, attempts were made to resuscitate the male and female. Both victims were transported to the hospital where, a short time later, they were pronounced deceased," IHIT said in a statement.

Investigators are also probing a possible link between the shooting and a vehicle that was set ablaze shortly afterwards. At around 10.51 pm, approximately 15 minutes after the shooting, emergency services received a report of a vehicle on fire in the 9700 block of Princess Drive.

CBC News quoted IHIT Sgt. Freda Fong as having said that police believe a nearby car fire reported at 10.51 pm is linked to the shooting. The burnt vehicle is believed to be the suspect vehicle, she added.

In a Wednesday statement, IHIT said it believes the shooting was targeted and linked to organised crime. "This shooting has left two families grieving the loss of two lives lost too soon," Fong said in the statement. Earlier in August, two men were injured at the Nanaksar Gurdwara temple in Canada's Edmonton after a man armed with a screwdriver entered the Sikh place of worship and interrupted morning prayers, police said. The incident took place at around 5 am at the sprawling Nanaksar Gurdwara complex in northeast Edmonton. A 27&year&old man was taken into custody following the stabbing, CBC News reported.

Edmonton Police Service (EPS) Acting Inspector Eric Stewart said during a news conference that police received a report of a man walking in traffic shortly before officers were called to the temple. The suspect then entered the gurdwara and attempted to access the prayer room before allegedly stabbing two men.

TVK functionary arrested in double murder case; was the victim's illicit lover

TIRUPATTUR: A functionary of the TVK (Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam) has been arrested in connection with a double murder case near Tirupattur; he was the illicit lover of the murdered woman. Ranjithkumar (30), a resident of Pachal village near Chengam in Tiruvannamalai district, and Malini (31)—wife of Chiranjeevi from Thippasamuthiram village near Tirupattur—arrived by car at a residential layout in Venkateswara Nagar, near Thoranampathi in Tirupattur district.

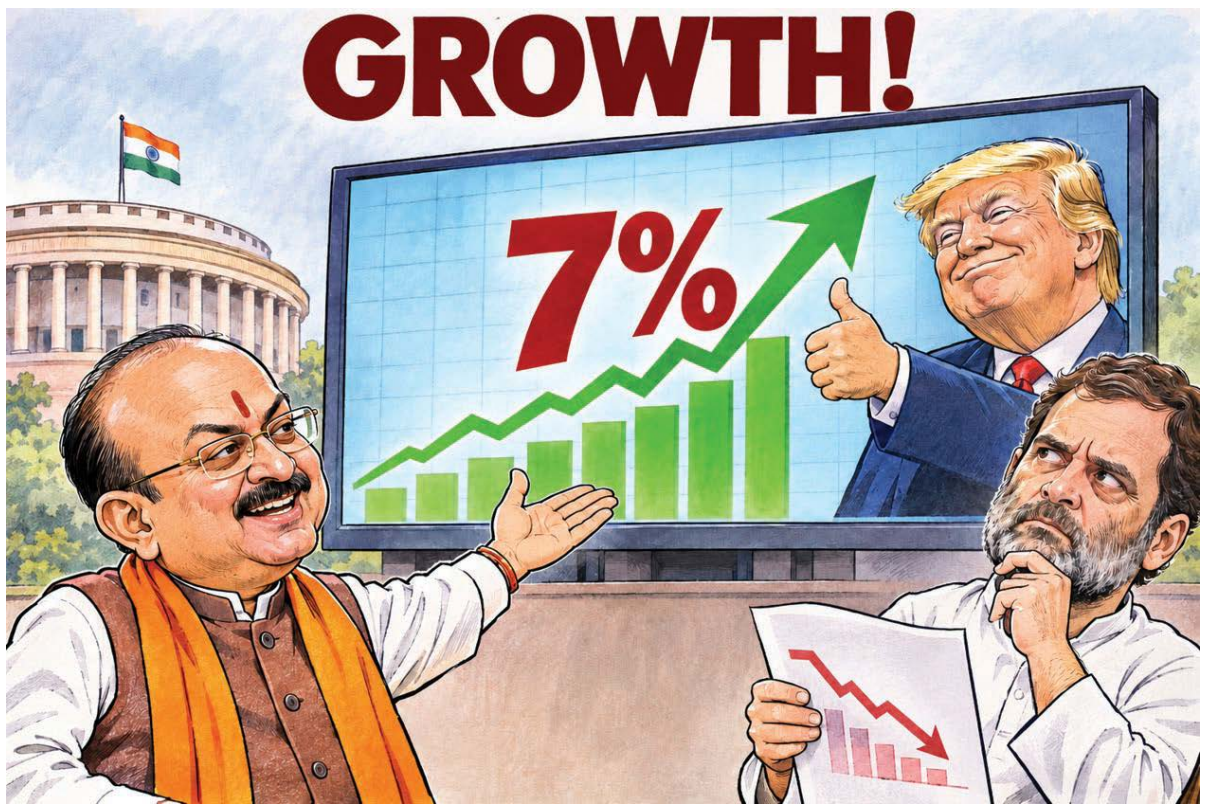


Upon stepping out of the vehicle, they were attacked by unidentified assailants who hacked them to death with machetes before fleeing the scene. Upon receiving information, Tirupattur District Superintendent of Police Akshay Anil Waghmare, Deputy Superintendent of Police Murali, and officers from the Tirupattur Taluk police station rushed to the location to conduct an investigation. The bodies of the two victims were recovered and sent to the Krishnagiri Government Hospital for post&mortem examinations. The Tirupattur Taluk police registered a case regarding the double murder and formed two special teams to apprehend the perpetrators.

During the investigation, it was revealed that the two victims were close relatives. Subsequently, when the police questioned Malini's husband, Chiranjeevi, they uncovered startling details regarding her extramarital affair. Malini, originally from Tiruvannamalai, and Chiranjeevi, from Thippasamuthiram, had been married for 16 years and have a son and a daughter. During her school days in Tiruvannamalai, Malini had developed a relationship with a man named Sanjeev Gandhi (35), who was also from the same area. Even after her marriage, Malini continued her relationship with her former lover, Sanjeev Gandhi. Her husband, Chiranjeevi, objected to this, leading to frequent arguments between the couple. It is reported that this caused a rift between Malini and Sanjeev Gandhi, prompting her to stop communicating with him. A few days ago, Sanjeev Gandhi checked Malini's mobile phone and discovered that she was having an illicit affair with a close relative named Ranjith Kumar. This reportedly led to a confrontation between him and Malini. Subsequently, when Sanjeev Gandhi tried calling her over the past two days, Malini did not answer.

Enraged, Sanjeev Gandhi traveled by motorcycle to Thippasamudram to confront her. Upon arrival, he spotted Malini in a car with her other lover, Ranjith Kumar. Consumed by fury, Sanjeev Gandhi pursued the car. The vehicle eventually stopped in a private residential area near Thoranambathi, close to Tirupattur. Sanjeev Gandhi arrived at the scene, attacked Ranjith Kumar with a machete, killing him, and then proceeded to brutally hack Malini to death as she attempted to flee. Following the incident, two special police teams were formed to apprehend Sanjeev Gandhi.

The teams tracked him down in Tiruvannamalai, arrested him, and brought him to Tirupattur for interrogation. Sanjeev Gandhi, who has been arrested in connection with this double murder, is a member of the 'Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam' (TVK) party.



Nepal PM Balen Shah's First India Visit Begins Today, $2 Billion Package And Border Dispute On Agenda

NEPAL: Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah, popularly known as Balen Shah, is arriving in India on November 22 for his first official visit since taking charge in March.

The rapper&turned&politician is visiting India at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Shah's visit will last a little over 24 hours. He is scheduled to return to Nepal on 23 November after holding high&level meetings with India's leadership. Balen Shah To Hold Bilateral Talks With PM Modi

The main meeting between Balen Shah and Narendra Modi is scheduled for Monday, 23 November. Both leaders will review India&Nepal relations and discuss regional and international developments. The discussions will also cover emerging areas of cooperation, including startups, technology, innovation and sports. Cricket is another important part of the growing relationship between the two neighbouring countries.

According to Nepal's Foreign Ministry, PM Modi will also host an official luncheon for the visiting prime minister.

Meeting With President Murmu And Jaishankar Apart from meeting PM Modi, Shah will call on President Droupadi Murmu and hold discussions with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. India's Ministry of External Affairs has confirmed that Shah will receive full state honours during his state visit. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the visit reflects the importance India attaches to its relationship with Nepal under the Neighbourhood First policy.

$2 Billion Economic Package And New Cooperation Plan Economic cooperation



is expected to be an important part of the discussions. Nepal has reportedly proposed a $2 billion economic package, including $1 billion in grants, to support development projects and reconstruction work in areas affected by recent flash floods.

India has also proposed a joint vision document covering investment, trade, energy, transit, healthcare and digital connectivity. The document is expected to outline long&term cooperation and targets for development projects.

Border Dispute And Other Sensitive Issues The visit also provides an opportunity to address longstanding differences between the two countries. These include the territorial dispute involving Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura, along with disagreements over the recruitment of Nepalese Gurkhas into the Indian Army.

India maintains that the disputed territories are part of Uttarakhand. Shah is accompanied by Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal, Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle, his chief adviser Kumar Byanjankar and other senior officials. The visit comes as Nepal's new leadership seeks stronger economic ties, better connectivity and practical cooperation with India.

Minister Maria Wilson holds talks with fishermen in Chennai's Kasimedu, who are on the fourth day of a protest

KASIMEDU: On June 17, the Andhra Pradesh Coastal Guard seized eight fishing boats belonging to fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

Despite orders from the Andhra Pradesh Commissioner of Fisheries and the High Court to release the vessels, they have yet to be returned. A contempt of court case filed in this regard is scheduled for a hearing on the 24th. Meanwhile, fishermen in Chennai's Kasimedu area are protesting, demanding the release of the boats held by the Andhra Pradesh authorities. Due to the protest, approximately 800 fishing boats remain docked in Kasimedu instead of heading out to sea.

Fishermen from the Chennai, Thiruvallur, and Kanchipuram districts have joined the agitation, which has brought port&related commercial activities to a standstill.

As the indefinite strike by fishermen at the Kasimedu fishing harbour enters its fourth day, the Kasimedu fish market appears deserted.



With the supply of fresh catch dwindling, traders are currently selling only the stock that had been previously caught. In this context, Minister Maria Wilson is engaged in discussions with the protesting fishermen.

The talks, held at the office of the Deputy Director of Fisheries, are being attended by the owners of the seized fishing boats, representatives of fishermen's associations, and officials from the Fisheries Department.

Masked ICE Officers Drag Passengers from Seattle Flight, Sparking Outcry

SEATTLE: Two passengers were forcibly removed from an Alaska Airlines flight at Seattle&Tacoma International Airport by masked US immigration officers, leading to a chaotic scene and delaying a Los Angeles&bound flight.

The incident, which occurred on November 21 as passengers boarded Flight 1306, was captured on video and quickly circulated online, showing one individual struggling with officers on the jet bridge.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) later stated that their officers were conducting a targeted operation to arrest Ricardo Larrondo Mendoza, an undocumented Mexican national who had overstayed his visa.

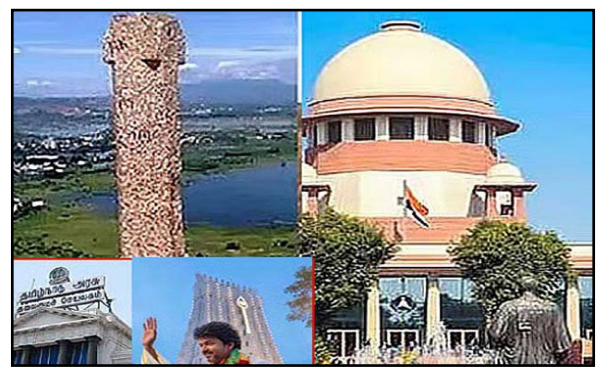
During the arrest, ICE claims other passengers obstructed and assaulted officers, with one individual, identified as Sofia Hernandez Mejia, allegedly throwing hot coffee. Mejia, also an undocumented Mexican national, was subsequently arrested and faces charges for assaulting a federal officer.

Alaska Airlines expressed deep concern over the enforcement action, particularly as it took place during boarding without prior notification to the airline.

The airline acknowledged the distress caused to passengers and crew, emphasizing its commitment to passenger dignity and well&being.

Alaska Airlines is now coordinating with the Port of Seattle to investigate the incident and ensure proper procedures were followed.

This event highlights growing tensions surrounding immigration enforcement at public transit hubs.



Chennai: The Tamil Nadu government has filed a review petition in the Supreme Court, opposing the lighting of the *deepam* (lamp) on the *deepa thoon* (lamp pillar) at Tirupparankundram.

Cervical Cancer Prevention Program: 1 crore girls vaccinated against HPV in 9 months



NEW DELHI: Cervical cancer is the second most common sexually transmitted disease among women in India, after breast cancer. It is caused by a virus called HPV (Human Papilloma virus). To prevent this at an early stage, it is necessary to vaccinate girls.

Keeping this in mind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a nationwide free HPV vaccination programme in February. Under this, a single dose of HPV vaccine is being administered free of cost to girls aged 14 years and above at government health facilities, with parental consent. Vaccination booking and monitoring are being done through the 'U&Win' digital platform.

In a statement issued by the Union Health Ministry, it said, "India has achieved a major milestone in its efforts to prevent cervical cancer. This achievement is a significant step in protecting girls from HPV infections that can cause this disease."

It also reflects the increasing reach of preventive health services across the country. The campaign, which targets around 12 million girls, has vaccinated 10 million girls against HPV in just 9 months.

Among the state&level activities, six states & Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar & have achieved the 100 percent target. Assam (95.63%), Telangana (95.28%), Karnataka (93.16%) and Uttarakhand (90.17%) are also in the forefront. "In terms of the total number of people who have been arrested, Uttar Pradesh (29.33 lakh) tops the list, followed by Bihar (13.70 lakh) and Gujarat (7.75 lakh)," it said.

Mexican drug cartel leader arrested after shooting from helicopter



MAXICAN: Pasto Isidro Mesa Flores, the leader of the Los Mazatláncos drug cartel in Mexico, was arrested the day before yesterday in the Guazave area. He is on the FBI's most wanted list.

The Mexican military's operation to capture him resulted in a fierce clash between the military and armed gunmen.

Mesa Flores was captured by a barrage of gunfire from military helicopters circling the city of Guazave.

Videos of the incident have been released.

According to a statement released by the US FBI, he is alleged to be involved in the smuggling, distribution and importation of large quantities of drugs into the United States, including heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, pentane and cannabis.

FBI's Most Wanted Drug Lord 'El Chapo Isidro' Captured in Mexico with US Help

Fausto Isidro Meza&Flores, known as "El Chapo Isidro," one of the FBI's Ten Most Wanted fugitives, has been apprehended in Mexico following a joint operation with US assistance. This significant cross&border effort led to immediate unrest in parts of Mexico's Sinaloa state, with reports of armed clashes, road blockades, and vehicle fires.

Meza&Flores is accused of leading a major drug network within the Sinaloa Cartel, responsible for smuggling dangerous narcotics, including fentanyl, into American communities. His capture, confirmed on November 21, marks the 11th arrest of an FBI Ten Most Wanted fugitive under the Trump administration, as noted by FBI Director Kash Patel.



The apprehension took place on November 20 in Guasave, Sinaloa, as a result of an investigation by the Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF). Another alleged cartel figure, German Rolando Galvez Meza, or "El Serafin," was also captured. Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin praised the HSTF and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) for their role, emphasizing the strength of this collaborative effort.

Following the arrest, the US State Department issued an urgent security alert for American citizens in areas like Ahome, Guamúchil, Guasave, and Navolato. Americans were advised to stay indoors, avoid non&essential travel, and steer clear of Mexican Federal Highway 15 between Los Mochis and Culiacan due to the ongoing violence.

Sinaloa remains under a Level 4: Do Not Travel advisory, the highest warning tier from the US State Department.

Rs. 1.14 Lakh Crore Investment in Tamil Nadu Over 6 Months: Government Report

CHENNAI: In an official statement, the Government of Tamil Nadu has announced the following: Since the government led by Chief Minister Vijay assumed office on May 10, significant milestones in industrial development have been achieved over the 195&day period ending November 21.

During this time, 112 new Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed, attracting a total investment of Rs. 1,14,811.91 crore. These investments are expected to generate 132,771 job opportunities. New investment agreements have been secured across 23 sectors, covering key areas of industrial growth. Specifically, the state has attracted Rs. 17,073 crore in the automotive sector, Rs. 16,832 crore in electronics, and Rs. 7,871 crore in the textile sector. This paves the way for the establishment of new factories and business enterprises across various industrial domains.

Tamil Nadu continues to lead as a preferred destination, earning the trust of global investors. MoUs have been signed with foreign investors from 17 countries. Furthermore, 35 additional MoUs have been finalized.

Through Global Capability Centers (GCCs), 5,870 high&quality job opportunities have been created. Beyond merely attracting investments, Tamil Nadu is also focused on the implementation of these signed MoUs. Out of the 112 projects, 83 have reached the stage where land has been secured or have progressed even further. The overall implementation progress for these projects currently stands at 74.11 percent.

Furthermore, 23 projects have reached the stage where their foundation stones are ready to be laid. Several measures have been taken to make it easier for business enterprises to commence operations in Tamil Nadu. In this regard, a new procedure has been introduced to grant approvals within 21 working days. The Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Board, chaired by the Chief Secretary, has been established to facilitate the swift issuance of business clearances.

Additionally, more than 25 industrial reforms have been implemented across 11 departments to simplify the procedures for starting a business. Continuous efforts are being made to further establish Tamil Nadu as a leading state for industrial growth, to attract significant investments, and, in turn, to create a large number of job opportunities. This is stated therein.

Woman reclaims 4.5 acres of land lost for Rs. 25,000 loan after 30 years



LATUR: Mundubai Irappa Thavre, a woman from Kalkutty village, Sakur taluka, Latur district, Maharashtra, had taken a loan of Rs. 25,000 from a moneylender in Allur in 1995 to finance her daughter's marriage.

The moneylender, who had taken the land on loan under the pretext of sharing the produce, forged a sale deed in his name. A few years later, when Mundupai went to redeem the land for Rs. 2.5 lakhs, he refused to return the land, saying that the interest had increased to Rs. 10 lakhs. Following this, Mundubai approached the district administration with the help of his family. Latur District Collector Bharat Bastawat, Vattatsiyar and Police Inspector Amol Tambe conducted a thorough investigation into the matter.

As soon as the investigation revealed the fraud that took place in 1995, the land records were immediately amended and the land was transferred to Mundubai's name without any restrictions. He thanked the Collector, the Superintendent of Police and the Allur Vattadasiyar who helped in recovering the land.

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