Ours bank with
Bank of Baroda

NewIndia FLASH
ENGLISH NEWS DAILY
Informing, Inspiring, Innovating

New College House
(A Heritage Hotel)

2342971 (3 Lines)
4372900 (4 Lines)
99526 02900
95669 84900
E-Mail: collegehouse_mdu@yahoo.co.in
College House
Annameenakshi Resturant (Veg.)
2, Town Hall Road,
Madurai-625 001.

CHENNAI Edition ■VOL 03■ Issue 216 Local 23.11.2026 Out Station 24.11.2026 Price Rs.3/ Email: newindiaflash@gmail.com

Direct Train Service Between Ayodhya and Janakpur to be Launched via Video Conference Today

PM Modi and Nepalese PM Balendra Shah to Inaugurate the Service

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepalese Prime Minister Balendra Shah will inaugurate the 'Sarayu-Kamla Express'—a direct train service connecting Ayodhya in India and Janakpur in Nepal—via video conference today (November 23). During bilateral discussions between the two nations, the focus is expected to be on expanding cooperation in sectors such as energy, hydropower, railways, transport connectivity, and infrastructure. The Sarayu-Kamla Express will commence regular passenger services starting November 28. The train will cover the approximately 604 km distance between Ayodhya Cantonment and Janakpur Dham in about 19 hours, with no need for passengers to change trains along the route. From Ayodhya: The train will depart every Monday at 5:50 PM and arrive in Janakpur on Tuesday at 12:40 PM (Nepal Standard Time). From Janakpur: The train will depart every Saturday at 1:10 PM and arrive in Ayodhya on Sunday at 8:10 AM. This direct train service connects Ayodhya—the birthplace of Lord Rama—and Janakpur—believed to be the birthplace of Goddess Sita—both of which hold immense significance in the Ramayana tradition. This initiative is set to strengthen 'Ramayana tourism' and promote spiritual pilgrimages. Furthermore, it is expected to create new opportunities for trade, local business, and employment in the border regions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepali counterpart Balendra Shah arrived at Hyderabad House on Monday to hold bilateral talks to review India-Nepal relations and explore avenues for strengthening cooperation across key sectors. The discussions are expected to focus on strengthening economic cooperation, particularly in trade, transportation, investment and infrastructure development.



Both countries are also expected to exchange memorandums of understanding (MoUs) covering several areas of mutual interest, including education, health, agriculture, sports, disaster management and human resource development. Connectivity and energy cooperation are also expected to feature prominently during the visit. The two sides are expected to inaugurate several completed projects in these sectors and lay foundation stones for upcoming initiatives, reflecting their efforts to expand cross-border cooperation.

Beyond government-level engagements, the visit will also feature a Nepal-India Business Forum aimed at attracting Indian investment to Nepal. The forum will provide a platform for business representatives from both countries to explore opportunities for collaboration and strengthen commercial ties.

Prime Minister Modi will also host an official luncheon in honour of his Nepalese counterpart and his 34-member government delegation.

The Nepal Prime Minister is accompanied by Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle, Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister Kumar Byanjankar and other senior government officials. Earlier in the day, Balendra Shah on Monday paid tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, by laying a wreath at his memorial in Raj Ghat, as part of his state visit to India.

The Nepal PM also signed the guestbook at the memorial site after he paid a floral tribute to the Father of the Nation. Prior to this, PM Shah received a ceremonial Guard of Honour at Rashtrapati Bhavan, with Prime Minister Modi in attendance.

The two-day State visit is expected to provide an opportunity for both sides to take stock of their bilateral partnership, review ongoing cooperation and explore ways to expand engagement across areas of shared interest.

Thiruparankundram Issue: CM Holds Key Consultations with Advocate General

CHENNAI: The issue concerning the lighting of a lamp (*Deepam*) atop the hill at Thiruparankundram in Madurai has sparked significant attention. On the 20th of this month, the Supreme Court issued an interim order permitting the lighting of the lamp on the *Deepa Thoon* (lamp pillar) specifically for the festival of Karthigai Deepam, which falls on the 24th.

This permission was granted subject to several conditions. The Commissioner of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department, T. Vijay, has filed a review petition on behalf of the Tamil Nadu government, seeking a reconsideration of this order.

The petition states that lighting a lamp on the *Deepa Thoon* is contrary to traditional worship practices and could potentially disrupt social harmony and law and order in Tamil Nadu. It further requests that no permission be granted to light the lamp on the pillar until a final verdict is reached in the case.



Against this backdrop, the Advocate General of Tamil Nadu, Vijay Narayan, met with Chief Minister Vijay at the Secretariat in Chennai for key consultations. It is reported that the discussions focused on the review petition filed by the Tamil Nadu government regarding the Thiruparankundram issue, the upcoming hearings, and the subsequent legal steps to be taken.



A scene depicting Chandrashekhara, mounted on a horse vehicle in front of the chariot of Lord Arunachaleswarar, expressing gratitude to Brahma, who served as the charioteer.

UP Assembly Elections 2027: INDIA Bloc Gears Up for polls; SP-Congress to Hold Seat-Sharing Talks

NEW DELHI: Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress have intensified their electoral preparations for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

The first round of discussions regarding seat&sharing between these two key constituents of the INDI alliance is taking place in New Delhi on today on Monday. The meeting is being held at the residence of Congress leader Pramod Tiwari.

The two&day deliberations, scheduled for November 23 and 24, will focus on potential coordination between the two parties across all 403 Assembly constituencies in Uttar Pradesh. For the seat&sharing talks, Congress MP Imran Masood and Samajwadi Party MP Rajiv Rai arrived at Pramod Tiwari's residence, accompanied by senior SP leader Ramgopal Yadav. Ahead of the meeting, Imran Masood expressed optimism about the discussions, stating, "Everything will proceed smoothly." Samajwadi Party has entrusted the responsibility for these talks to National General Secretary Ramgopal Yadav, State President Shyam Lal Pal, and MPs Iqra Hasan and Rajiv Rai.



Prior to this meeting, SP President Akhilesh Yadav had constituted a four&member committee&comprising Ramgopal Yadav, Shyam Lal Pal, Rajiv Rai, and Iqra Chaudhary to engage in seat&sharing discussions with the allies of the INDIA coalition. Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Congress President Aradhana Mishra 'Mona' has welcomed this move by the SP. She stated that the Congress is consistently working to strengthen the alliance and remains prepared to fulfill its responsibilities in the 2027 elections.

In the 2022 Assembly elections, both parties contested separately. The Samajwadi Party fielded candidates in 347 constituencies and won 111 seats, whereas the Congress, despite fielding candidates in 399 constituencies, secured only 2 seats.

Following this, both parties performed well under the INDIA alliance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The SP won 37 out of 62 seats, while the Congress secured 6 out of 17 seats.



Virudhunagar: On the occasion of the 'Somavaram' in the Tamil month of Karthigai, a special 'Sangabhishekam' (consecration using 1,008 conch shells) and other special rituals were performed for the presiding deity, Lord Chokkanatha Swamy—enshrined alongside Goddess Meenakshi—at the temple, with prayers offered for the welfare of the world.

"Ready to discuss the Indus Waters Treaty if India invites us" – Pakistani Minister Malik

NEW DELHI: Pakistani Minister Malik, who participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum held in New Delhi, stated that Pakistan is prepared to discuss the Indus Waters Treaty if India extends an invitation.

Meanwhile, Union Culture Secretary Vivek Agrawal clarified that no formal bilateral talks have taken place with Pakistan.

The SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum was held over three days, from November 20 to 22, at the historic 'Purana Qila' complex in New Delhi. Pakistan's Federal Minister Musadik Masood Malik attended the event.

Speaking to reporters at the conclusion of the conference, Union Culture Secretary Vivek Agrawal was asked whether any formal bilateral talks had occurred between India and Pakistan.

In response, Agrawal clarified, "No formal bilateral discussions of any kind have taken place between the two sides." He further added, "Bilateral consultations were held between India and Iran regarding the expansion of cultural exchanges. While various ideas were proposed, no specific plans have been finalised yet; however, discussions are ongoing." He also noted that, much like the interactions with ministers from other nations, some informal conversations took place with the Pakistani delegation during the hosted events and on the sidelines of the conference.



Speaking further to reporters, Pakistani Minister Musadik Masood Malik stated, "If India extends an invitation to discuss the Indus Waters Treaty, Pakistan is certainly prepared to engage. However, on this occasion, we have been invited solely to participate in the SCO forum, which focuses on regional affairs and culture."

BJP is swallowing up Nitish's party Prashant Kishor alleges



PATNA: Jan Suraj founder Prashant Kishor has accused the BJP of gradually devouring and destroying Nitish Kumar's JDU party in Bihar. Jan Suraj founder Prashant Kishor said:

The BJP is destroying Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) party.

Surjewala is not needed to comment on this. Anyone who understands Bihar politics at all knows that the JDU is gradually disappearing and that the larger party, the BJP, is slowly swallowing it and its leadership.

Theft and corruption have worsened under the NDA government in Bihar. There were corruptions earlier and people talked about them.

Now, corruption and looting are happening in the name of good governance. If we look at corruption alone, more money is being stolen now than the cattle feed scam that people are talking about. He said this.

Today horoscope

Give in to your family. Don't argue with anyone. A sudden trip is coming. Children's health needs attention. There will be profits in business. Workload will increase in the office.

Delayed marriage efforts will be fruitful. Traveling abroad will bring happiness. Your status in the outside world will rise. You will expand and build your house. Business and career will be satisfactory.

Peace and happiness will return to the family after a long time. You will get a visa for a foreign trip. You will benefit from new people. You will use new strategies for business growth.

The house will be filled with guests. There will be an influx of money in various ways. You will enjoy buying the things you want. Old debts will be collected in business. A higher authority will be supportive in the workplace.

You will find an alternative way to get rid of the problem. Your hand in the family will be lifted. Your enthusiasm and appearance will increase. You will complete your work quickly in the office and will receive praise from your superiors.

It is necessary to make concessions in the family. Handle money, jewelry, and important files carefully. You will cope with competition in business. Unnecessary anger will come and go. There will be chaos in the office.

You will solve some problems with your frank speech. You will find happiness in everything. The resentment between husband and wife will be removed and mutual love will be born. You will be appreciated by higher authorities in the workplace.

Pleasant news will come from abroad. Physical fatigue and stomach ache will go away. Old debts in business and profession will be collected. Employees will be supportive. Spiritual involvement will increase.

You will work diligently to keep your word. Your mother's health will improve. Relatives and friends will be supportive. Your children will increase your respect and status. You will help those who come to you.

You will buy new types of electronic and electrical appliances. You will get financial help from your spouse. Vehicle repairs will be resolved. There will be gains from meeting important personalities in business.

Your reputation and respect will increase in the external circle. Good things will happen in the family. You will get the expected help from friends. Business will pick up steam. You should not speak badly of anyone. Goods will accumulate.

Your hand in the family will increase. You will start saving by reducing unnecessary and luxurious expenses. You will meet important people to expand your business. Office-related problems will disappear. Spiritual pursuits will increase.

Madurai jewelry store robbery: Chengalpattu SP consults with jewelry store owners



CHENGALPATTU: Following the incident in which jewellery worth several crores of rupees was stolen from a famous jewellery shop in Madurai, District Superintendent of Police Ayman Jamal held a consultation with jewellery shop owners on preventive measures to prevent theft and theft incidents at jewellery shops in Chengalpattu district.

Then, all jewelry stores should be equipped with high-quality surveillance cameras. Surveillance cameras should be installed not only at the front of the store but also at the back, entrance, and exit areas, and they should be ensured to function continuously.

The footage recorded by the cameras should be stored securely for a specified period of time. Shops should be equipped with modern alarm systems, sensor devices, and a facility to notify the police in case of emergencies.

Locker facilities for storing jewelry should be improved, and security guards should be appointed during the night.

Don't be indifferent.

Stores should conduct proper background checks on new employees. They should monitor the movements of suspicious individuals entering the store. Appropriate security procedures should be followed when opening and closing the store.

If any suspicious incidents or movements of persons are observed, they should be reported to the police immediately.

Owners of jewelry stores should not be negligent in the security of their stores and should cooperate with the police.

Metro Rail Phase 2 to be extended up to Panagal Park by July next year

CHENNAI: The Metro administration is working hard to extend the train service from Vadapalani to T. Nagar Panagal Park.

Chennai Metro Rail Corporation officials said: We have completed the work from Vadapalani to T. Nagar Panagal Park and are planning to extend the train service in July next year.

This route, which is a total distance of 8 km in both directions, has the following stations: Kodambakkam Power House, Kodambakkam and Panagal Park.

Till now, the track work has been completed for a distance of two and a half km. The remaining work is in full swing. The work will be completed first on Arcot Road. Notably, 6 entry and exit sections are being constructed at Panagal Park Station, they said. The Koyambedu-Alandur metro rail service, as part of the Madhavaram-Shozhinganallur section of Route 5, is scheduled to be operational by June next year.



While the track construction work on this route has been completed, the work on the entrance and exit sections of the railway stations is nearing completion. It has been announced that the morning metro train service on the Yellow Line from Poonamallee Bypass to Vadapalani via Porur Junction will start at 7 am from tomorrow (Nov. 24) instead of 6 am.



Representatives from BRICS countries grace the IFFI 2026 red carpet ahead of the festival's special BRICS Film section featuring diverse global stories during the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI 2026), in Goa.

No Sunrise for 62 Days in the City of Utqiaġvik



USA: In the city of Utqiaġvik, located in the U.S. state of Alaska, there will be no sunrise for the next 62 days. The sun will not rise again until January 23, 2027. Each year, this city experiences a remarkable natural phenomenon known as the "polar night." During this period, the sun remains below the horizon, meaning the city receives no direct sunlight.

Even at midday, there is no full daylight; instead, the city relies on faint natural ambient light and streetlamps for daily life.

Despite this, the local residents continue their daily routines—such as attending school and going to work—without any interruption. This extraordinary natural occurrence, which leaves the people of Alaska living without a sunrise for over two months, has captured global attention.

Researchers and meteorologists from the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks have monitored this seasonal cycle using astronomical data. It was confirmed that the sun dipped below the horizon at 1:42 PM (local time) on November 18. The sun is not expected to rise again until January 23, 2027. Scientifically, this happens because the Earth rotates on an axis tilted at 23.5 degrees. During the winter in the Northern Hemisphere, the North Pole is tilted away from the sun. Since the town of Utqiaġvik is located 320 miles north of the Arctic Circle, the sun's daily path remains entirely below the horizon. However, it does not stay completely dark throughout the day. To avoid vitamin D deficiency caused by the lack of sunlight, residents use special light therapy lamps and vitamin supplements.

Kadi Eisenkot's new attempt to form a government in Israel: Netanyahu calls on party to come to talks

ISRAEL: Media reports say that Kadi Eisenkot has been invited to join talks with caretaker Prime Minister Netanyahu's Likud party in a new attempt to form a government in Israel.

In the October 27 election, Netanyahu's coalition won 53 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, while Eisenkot's coalition won 48. Arab parties won 19 seats. Neither party secured the 61 seats needed for a majority.

Former army chief Eisenhower was then given the responsibility of forming a government. Eisenhower, who received the responsibility from President Isaac Herzog on November 8, is expected to form a government by December 6. In this context, the Likud party appears to have put forward a number of conditions, including that the Eisenhower party should abandon the plan to form a minority government with the support of Arab parties, that it should oppose a separate Palestinian state, that Israeli forces should continue to be present in the security zones, and that the prison terms for Hamas's "Nukba" faction should not be relaxed. The two parties have not yet commented on these demands.

There is continuing disagreement within the opposition over the exclusion of the 19-seat Arab parties. Avigdor Lieberman has said that he will not join a government that relies on the support of Arab parties.



It is said that Eisenhower may hold a confidence vote for a minority government in the parliament, as talks with the Likud party have stalled.

It is noteworthy that it was in this context that caretaker Prime Minister Netanyahu invited Gadi Eisenkot to hold talks with his Likud party.

Netanyahu, 77, has led the far-right government since December 2022. He is facing charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust.

Approval for construction of Rs 53,928 crore tunnel in Mumbai

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government has given in-principle approval for a mega tunnel project to connect the Bandra-Worli Sea Bridge, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Dharavi and the international airport to ease traffic congestion in Mumbai.

This project of the Mumbai Metropolitan Development Authority is to be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 53,928 crore.

There are tunnels for a total distance of about 61.74 km, 30.87 km each on both routes.

The central part of the project will go under the Mithi river and connect Bandra-Kurla Complex and Dharavi. From there, the tunnels are designed to branch out in four directions. Currently, vehicles on Mumbai's main roads crawl at a speed of only 15 to 20 kmph.

The alternative tunnels (14 meters in diameter) will allow vehicles to travel at a speed of 80 km/h without any obstruction. Crosswalks will be constructed every 300 meters for the safety of passengers.



Since the mine is being constructed under the Mithi River and near mangrove forests, the project requires 20 clearance certificates, including Coastal Regulation Zone approval.

Nov. 23 NEW INDIA FLASH | EDITORIAL 2026

Tamil Nadu Must Prepare for an Ageing Population



Tamil Nadu's population is growing slowly, while the number of older people is rising. Lower birth rates and longer life expectancy are changing the state's age profile. Projections indicate that Tamil Nadu's population may reach about 7.8 crore by 2036, with people aged 60 and above making up around 20.8 per cent. The state is already among those with the highest share of older residents in India.

This shift is more than a demographic statistic. It will shape healthcare, pensions, employment and family life. A smaller working-age population could place pressure on production and public finances.

At the same time, more older people may need support with healthcare, daily activities and social connection.

Any discussion about raising birth rates must respect families' choices. Better childcare facilities, parental leave, affordable education and workplaces that support family life can help young parents. At the same time, the state must strengthen primary healthcare for older people, home-based care, mental-health support, accessible transport and community services.

Older citizens should not be viewed as a burden. Their experience, knowledge and skills remain valuable to society. Opportunities for them to contribute, alongside reliable care and social protection, can help people age with dignity.

Tamil Nadu needs a long-term population policy that supports young families while protecting the rights and well-being of older residents. Preparing now will help the state meet the needs of every generation and sustain its social and economic progress.

Editor, New India Flash

Thiruparankundram Deepam issue

BJP protests against Tamil Nadu government

CHENANI: The Supreme Court has issued an interim order allowing the lighting of the Karthigai Deepam at the top of the Thiruparankundram hill, and a review petition has been filed by the Tamil Nadu government against this.

In protest against this move by the Tamil Nadu government, a protest was held yesterday on behalf of the Tamil Nadu BJP in the Chennai Purasaivakkam area.

BJP state secretary Vinoj P. Selvam, district president Giri and other administrators and volunteers participated in large numbers, holding torches and chanting slogans against the government.

Participants in the protest said, "It is wrong for the Tamil Nadu government to file a review petition. The petition should be withdrawn immediately. Steps should be taken to light a lamp at the Thirupparangkunram Deepapathi."

Digital transaction of more than Rs. 1,000 at TASMAC



CHENNAI: The policy of accepting sales of more than Rs. 1,000 only through digital transactions at TASMAC stores comes into effect from today.

Sales at TASMAC stores in Tamil Nadu are accepted in cash, UPI, and credit and debit cards.

However, a large portion of sales are received in cash, which is a challenge for employees to handle.

In this situation, it has been announced that this system will be implemented in Chennai Mandal and Thiruvallur East districts from today.

New India FLASH
ENGLISH NEWS DAILY



NEW DELHI: Kurukshetra Knights have strengthened their preparations for the second edition of the Kabaddi Champions League (KCL) by securing the services of star raider Naveen Goyat and appointing former Indian captain Anup Kumar as head coach.

Tragic Accident Near Tindivanam

Private Bus Collides with Van Carrying Ayyappa Devotees – 2 Dead



VILLUPURAM: In a tragic accident near Tindivanam in Villupuram district, a private bus collided with a van carrying Ayyappa devotees, resulting in the deaths of two people, including the van driver. Thirteen others sustained serious injuries and have been admitted to the hospital.

A group of devotees was traveling in a van to visit the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple. The vehicle was moving along the national highway near Tindivanam when a private bus, approaching at high speed from behind, struck the van with great force. The impact caused the driver to lose control, leading the van to overturn on the road. In this horrific incident, the van driver and one of the devotees became trapped in the wreckage and died on the spot.

Thirteen other devotees in the van sustained severe injuries and were left in critical condition. Upon receiving information about the accident, local residents and highway patrol police rushed to the scene to carry out rescue operations.

The 13 injured individuals were transported by ambulance to the Mundiyambakkam Government Medical College Hospital, where they are currently undergoing intensive medical treatment. The police recovered the bodies of the two deceased and sent them to a government hospital for post-mortem examinations.

The accident caused a temporary disruption to traffic in the area. The Tindivanam police have registered a case and are conducting a rigorous interrogation of the private bus driver.

Two Ayyappa devotees traveling to Sabarimala have died in an accident, an incident that has caused great sorrow.

Loss of Rs. 2,300 crore to Coimbatore Corporation due to various irregularities during the DMK regime

COIMBATORE: An audit has revealed that the Coimbatore Corporation suffered a loss of Rs. 2,300 crore due to various irregularities that took place during the DMK administration. Previously, the 'Arappor Iyakkam' (an anti-corruption organization) had filed a case in the Madras High Court against former minister S.P. Velumani, alleging tender irregularities worth Rs. 100 crore in the Chennai and Coimbatore Corporations during the AIADMK regime.

The court granted permission to initiate legal proceedings against IAS officers K. Kandasamy and Vijay Karthikeyan. Furthermore, the contractors' association submitted a complaint to the Chief Minister alleging corruption in the construction of the 'Semmozhi Poonga' (Classical Language Park) during the DMK's tenure. Under the current administration, the Municipal Administration Department is under the direct supervision of the Chief Minister, who is committed to ensuring a governance free from bribery and corruption. A special audit was conducted for the Coimbatore Corporation covering the period from 2021 to 2026, and the report has been submitted to the government.

The audit department has identified a financial loss of Rs. 2,300 crore across several sectors, including property tax, solid waste management, and the procurement and maintenance of LED street lights. Specifically, there was a loss of Rs. 87.17 crore due to the misclassification of properties—applying residential property tax rates to commercial, industrial, and educational establishments.

Additionally, a loss of Rs. 158.31 crore (approximately Rs. 28 crore annually) occurred because water connections intended for residential use were diverted for commercial purposes. Furthermore, the unauthorized granting of property tax exemptions—in violation of the Finance Commission's recommendations—resulted in a loss of Rs. 34.60 crore. A loss of Rs 274 crore has been incurred due to the failure to initiate legal action while levying property tax on unauthorized buildings.

Furthermore, Rs 82.25 crore in revenue has been lost due to the non-collection of long-pending property taxes. Citing ongoing legal proceedings, a prominent hospital on Avinashi Road has failed to pay taxes since 1988; this institution alone has tax arrears amounting to Rs 2.4 crore. A loss of Rs 136.51 crore has resulted from the failure to collect taxes on vacant land over a long period.

Additionally, Rs 1,194 crore in revenue was lost because property tax data was not properly integrated into the UTIS server, as required by government orders. In the East Zone, mobile towers were installed on 15 buildings, yet no taxes were assessed for them. In total, the loss in property tax revenue alone over the last five years amounts to Rs 2,053 crore.

In Vellalur, two weighbridges for vehicles were installed for solid waste management; by preparing a price list with inflated values and awarding the contract to 'Southern Solid Waste Management,' a loss of Rs 53 crore was incurred. For the same solid waste management project, an additional 18% GST was paid to the contractor, resulting in a loss of Rs 26.97 crore.

Moreover, by granting a contract extension in violation of tender terms, the authorities incurred an additional expenditure of Rs 55 crore beyond the original contract value. A loss of Rs 3.36 crore occurred due to the payment of a 1% labour welfare cess for non-construction-related work. User charges for solid waste management are also being collected for commercial properties.

A loss of Rs. 8.30 crore has been incurred because the rates fixed were lower than those approved by the City Council. In total, the solid waste management sector has suffered a loss of Rs. 150 crore. During the fire at the Vellalur dump yard in 2024, an expenditure of Rs. 27.51 lakh—incurred for providing food, tea, coffee, snacks, soft drinks, and water to the staff—became a subject of controversy. Food worth Rs. 18,85,062 was procured from 'Selvamani Canteen' alone. Additionally, food was sourced from various other establishments, including Rathna, Sri Ananthas, Annapoorna, Aroma, Kokkarakko, S.S. Bhai Veetu Biryani, and Konar Mess. Most of the documents submitted to justify these expenses consist merely of handwritten receipts. These receipts lack details such as the quantity, the unit price, and the GST registration number.

Furthermore, no attendance register for the staff was maintained; consequently, it is impossible to verify how many individuals were provided with food or whether the claimed quantity of food was actually supplied. Regarding the installation of streetlights—carried out through public-private partnership contracts—the number of units billed exceeded the quantity specified in the tender agreements. This discrepancy, involving the contractors 'KCP Engineers' and 'Sabari Electricals,' has resulted in a loss of Rs. 2.5 crore. Moreover, a loss of Rs. 9.25 crore was caused by payments made to 'KCP Engineers' for streetlights and electrical equipment that were never actually procured. Violations have also occurred in the procurement of computers and related equipment for the City Corporation's main office and its zonal offices.

The majority of procurement orders have been awarded to a firm called 'Sri Sumithra Associates'. For the Municipal Corporation's computer division alone, they have supplied items worth Rs. 1.50 crore. They have also handled significant procurement for other departments of the Municipal Corporation. However, the firm is registered as a dealer of paper and stationery items.

The procurement of computers from these entities is highly irregular. The Municipal Corporation possesses no documentation to show that price quotations were ever requested from these firms; tender procedures were not followed. Furthermore, the invoices submitted by the companies were handwritten. Audit officials spent about a month and a half conducting an exhaustive, fine-toothed-comb review of the Municipal Corporation's records. In several instances, the audit report notes: "We were unable to locate the documents; they are not being maintained." The report explicitly states that the officials involved—including the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners, and others—are responsible for this financial loss. It recommends that the relevant officials recover the lost funds from the contracting companies to make amends. A contract for a 24-hour water supply scheme was awarded to the company 'Suez,' with approval granted for a project cost of ₹646 crore. The Municipal Corporation provided advance payments to this firm on various occasions. According to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act (2000), any advance payment made for work must be recovered from the contractor along with interest. Because interest was not collected from Suez, the Corporation incurred a loss of ₹47.92 crore. Additionally, Suez failed to promptly restore the trenches they had excavated; the Municipal Corporation ended up spending ₹1 crore from its general funds to have the restoration work carried out by other contractors.

The Corporation also recorded an expenditure of ₹87 lakh for filling these trenches with 'wet mix' material. Social activist Thiagarajan, who obtained the audit report through the Right to Information (RTI) Act, remarked: "Despite having one Commissioner, two Deputy Commissioners, and eight Assistant Commissioners, the Municipal Corporation failed to prevent such a massive financial loss. It must be remembered that this is public tax money—an amount so large (₹2,300 crore) that it could constitute an entire separate budget."

"No audit was conducted in the engineering department, which is a key component of the municipal corporation. This massive loss has occurred precisely because that department was left out of the audit.

Action must be taken against the officials who engaged in these violations," he said.

Bisleri Rejects Reports Of Carcinogens In Packaged Water, Cites Test Results From FSSAI-Approved Labs



NEW DELHI: Bisleri International on Monday has responded after the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) initiated prosecution proceedings against the company after a packaged drinking water sample was declared unsafe.

The company said it takes water safety seriously and will work with the regulator to resolve the issue through the proper legal process.

The action follows an inspection in which FSSAI collected a sample of Bisleri's packaged drinking water from the company's Goa premises. According to the food safety regulator, the sample failed to meet the prescribed bromate limits and was declared unsafe under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. FSSAI shared the findings in a social media post. Bisleri challenged the initial findings, following which the sample was sent to a referral laboratory for further testing. The second test also raised safety concerns after detecting polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), prompting FSSAI to approve prosecution against the company for violating food safety standards. "The matter dates back approximately 14 months, to a batch produced in September 2025 at Bisleri's Goa manufacturing facility, one of 143 plants in our network," the company said in a statement reported by Reuters on Monday.

According to Bisleri, the food safety regulator collected six samples from the facility. Five of them cleared the required checks, but the sixth showed bromate at 12 micrograms per litre - above the permitted limit of 10 micrograms per litre. Bisleri challenged the initial finding and asked for the sample to be tested again. The referral laboratory that examined it found the bromate levels within the prescribed limit, but raised a separate concern over the presence of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The company then got the sample tested at another laboratory approved by FSSAI. Bisleri said this examination also showed bromate levels to be within the permitted range. After receiving the independent laboratory results, Bisleri said it shared the findings with FSSAI. The company claimed there was no further communication from the regulator after that and that it had not received any formal notice about the action. "We received no further communication from FSSAI after that submission and understood the matter to be closed," the company said.

FSSAI, however, maintained that the packaged drinking water sample collected from Bisleri's premises was unsafe because it failed to meet the prescribed bromate standards. The regulator announced on Sunday that it would initiate legal proceedings against the company. The action has put the spotlight on Bisleri, one of India's most recognised packaged drinking water brands, and raised questions over the differing findings from the tests conducted during the investigation.



Nepal's Prime Minister Balen Shah, currently on a state visit to India, today paid heartfelt tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at his memorial in Raj Ghat, New Delhi.

'I am amazed by India's diversity' Russian President Putin praises India

NEW DELHI: The Russian President said he was amazed by India's diversity.



In his statement, he said: "Indian civilization is the oldest among the world's civilizations. It is very surprising when I read the history of India. Recently, when I met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I raised the question of how many people in India speak a major language."

Then he said, "Only one-third of the people; the other two-thirds speak their mother tongue." Out of about 1.5 billion Indians, only 60 billion speak the main language. This is very surprising to me. I am amazed by the diversity of India.

In Russia, people of ancient Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam live in harmony.

Currently, selfish leaders rule Ukraine. Russia and Ukraine must stand together. Ukrainian soldiers do not need to surrender. They must stand on Russia's side. This is what President Putin said.

When will the public sanitation facility be opened?

VADIPATTI: Residents have requested that the public sanitation facility, constructed on the premises of the Wadippatti Government Hospital, be opened for public use. Currently, the facility remains unused, serving merely as a decorative structure. It was built at a cost of Rs. 13.50 lakh under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0' (Clean India Mission 2.0) initiative. Although construction was completed several months ago, the facility has yet to be opened, causing significant inconvenience to those visiting the hospital. Local residents are urging the authorities to take prompt action and open the sanitation facility for use.



India moves towards a future free from cervical cancer

PM Modi expresses appreciation

NEW DELHI: A historic milestone has been reached in India with the administration of 10 million (one crore) doses of the HPV vaccine. States including Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar have achieved 100% of their targets. Additionally, 12 states have reached over 80% of their respective targets. India is progressing toward a future free from cervical cancer. Prime Minister Modi has commended the Union Ministry of Health for this achievement. In a post, he stated: "This is an important milestone in our journey of preventive healthcare. It will protect young girls from cervical cancer.

"It is a significant step taken to ensure a healthy future for them." "I applaud everyone who made this remarkable achievement possible."

500 Pakistani Hindus seek Indian citizenship

LUCKNOW: 500 Hindus who have taken refuge in India from Pakistan have requested the central government for citizenship.

Shri Ram Katha Mahotsav was held in Kunda, Pratapgarh district of Uttar Pradesh. Jan Satta Dal leader and Kunda MLA Raja Bhaiyya organized this spiritual event. 500 Pakistani Hindus staying in Jodhpur camp in Rajasthan participated in it.

After the Mahotsav, 500 Pakistani Hindus left for Jodhpur in 10 buses yesterday. At that time, Hiralal told reporters, "We left Pakistan in 2018 and took refuge in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. We are living in a special camp there. We have not yet received Indian citizenship.

The central government should grant citizenship to everyone under the Citizenship Act."

Fans surround actor Dhanush at Madurai airport



MADURAI : Actor Dhanush was surrounded by fans upon his arrival at Madurai airport.

Dhanush, one of the leading actors of the Tamil film industry, arrived in Madurai yesterday to participate in the shooting of his 56th film. A large number of fans gathered at the Madurai airport to see him arrive by plane from Chennai. The fans cheered when they saw him coming out of the airport.

Dhanush expressed his happiness by waving at the fans.

Later, when he was about to leave the airport to get into his car, fans surrounded him. Airport security officers and police controlled the fans and sent actor Dhanush away.

With reports of actor Dhanush's recent interest in politics, a larger crowd than usual gathered to see him yesterday.



CM Vijay to hold consultations with MLAs from alliance parties today

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay is set to hold consultations today (Monday) with MLAs from the alliance parties of the TVK (Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam). The TVK-led government in Tamil Nadu is currently in power with the support of alliance partners, including the Congress, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), and various Communist parties.

Two of these Communist parties, which are not represented in the TVK cabinet, have been consistently critical of the government's functioning. Consequently, there is speculation within political circles that these Communist parties could withdraw their support for the TVK government at any time. While this poses a challenge for the TVK administration, there are also reports of covert attempts to "buy" TVK MLAs. TVK MLAs Ilaiyaraja (Uthangarai) and Mustafa (Madurai Central) have openly leveled such allegations, and the matter is currently under police investigation.

Recently, while speaking at a wedding ceremony held at the residence of former DMK minister K.N. Nehru in Chennai, DMK leader M.K. Stalin remarked, "A DMK government will emerge soon; a favorable situation is about to unfold." Pointing to these remarks, Health Minister Dr. Arunraj stated, "This sounds like a confession regarding the 'horse-trading' (poaching of MLAs) taking place behind the scenes. M.K. Stalin must provide an explanation for this." Following this, the DMK... In an interview with reporters, former minister Raghupathi made a sensational statement, claiming that "60 to 70 MLAs within the TVK (Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam) are dissatisfied, and there is a possibility that they could come together to bring about a change in government." This remark has sent shockwaves through political circles. Amidst this tense political climate, Chief Minister Vijay is set to hold consultations



today (Monday) with MLAs from the alliance partners—the Congress, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India, and the Indian Union Muslim League—as well as Kamaraj, the MLA for the Mannargudi constituency.

The meeting is scheduled for 3:00 PM today at 'Bamani Illam,' the Chief Minister's official residence in Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai. Individual invitations have been extended to the MLAs of the alliance parties to attend this meeting. Reports suggest that during this session, Chief Minister Vijay will provide guidance to the alliance MLAs on political strategy and how to approach the upcoming Legislative Assembly session in January. Previously, on the 11th of this month, Chief Minister Vijay held a consultation meeting at a private luxury resort near Mamallapuram, following the emergence of controversies and complaints involving certain TVK MLAs and the Deputy Speaker.

His decision to now convene a meeting with MLAs from the alliance parties has sparked various speculations within political circles.

Kallakurichi MLA issue is under CM Vijay's notice: Minister Arunraj

CHENNAI: Speaking to reporters in Chennai, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Arunraj, stated: "I do not wish to reiterate the state of women's safety during the DMK regime; the public is well aware of it. We have already discussed the incident involving the sending of obscene text messages to the Kallakurichi District Collector multiple times

. This matter is under the notice of Chief Minister Vijay. It is being examined, and if the allegations are found to be true, strict action will certainly be taken. I do not wish to comment on the remarks made by the judge regarding the MLA." "The statements made by DMK leader M.K. Stalin reflect the extent of the party's fascist mindset.



Udhayanidhi has even remarked that those sitting on the opposition benches in the Legislative Assembly are 'brainless.' What kind of mentality is this? Are those who voted for the DMK the only 'intelligent' people? Does that make those who did not vote for the DMK 'fools'?" "We have brought about a major political revolution, the likes of which has not been seen in 40 years. Each DMK MLA has spent Rs. 50 crore to get elected—are they the 'intelligent' ones? In reality, the DMK is a disease, a blight upon this society. By conditioning people to accept money in exchange for their votes, they have inflicted the greatest harm on society. We have brought about a change from this state of affairs." "Certainly, some issues still persist.

A solution can only be found by addressing the root causes. The police have been granted full autonomy, and we have established a dedicated unit for the safety of women. Our intentions are genuine," he said.



CJP launches 'Cockroach Club' to give young people a place to think, learn and laugh.

Thiruparankundram 'Deepa Thoon' Issue

Tamil Nadu Government Files Review Petition; Thirumavalavan Welcomes the Move

CHENNAI: Thol. Thirumavalavan, leader of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), has stated that his party welcomes the Tamil Nadu government's sincere stance in filing a review petition against the Supreme Court's verdict regarding the 'Deepa Thoon' (lamp pillar) issue at Thiruparankundram.

In a social media post addressing the matter, he wrote: "No one has ever opposed the annual lighting of the 'Karthigai Deepam' (lamp) in front of the Pillaiyar temple atop the Thiruparankundram hill. This year, too, the lamp will be lit at the same location as it has been traditionally."

"However, certain troublemakers have filed a lawsuit, insisting that the lamp be lit on a specific stone pillar located along the path leading to a nearby Dargah. The interim order issued by the Supreme Court in this regard has created tension that threatens the harmonious atmosphere prevailing in Madurai. This is because the court granted permission to light the lamp on that pillar—subject to certain conditions—without even commencing a formal inquiry or examining the evidence."

"Typically, in such cases, an interim order would maintain the 'status quo'—meaning things should remain as they are—pending a full investigation. Instead, this interim order appears to preemptively signal what the final verdict might be." "Given this, the Tamil Nadu government has filed a review petition. The VCK welcomes this sincere position taken by the government."



"Furthermore, I will be participating on behalf of the VCK in a peace rally being held in Madurai this evening (November 23) to protest against this interim order," he stated.

A Tragic Day That Claimed 200 Lives: The Ariyalur Train Disaster—An Unforgettable Scar



ARIYALUR: Seventy years ago on this very day (November 23rd), a heart&wrenching train disaster occurred in Ariyalur. On November 23, 1956, a train consisting of 12 carriages departed from Chennai at 9:00 PM, bound for Thoothukudi.

It was the season of the Northeast Monsoon, and the region was experiencing torrential rainfall.

As a result, the water level in the Marudaiyar River—situated between the Ariyalur and Sillakudi railway stations—surged beyond the danger mark, reaching the railway tracks.

When the train from Chennai, having passed through Ariyalur station, reached the bridge over the Marudaiyar River, all its carriages plunged into the river.

It was later discovered that the bridge had been swept away by the floodwaters just as the train arrived, leaving the tracks suspended in mid&air. Many perished in the disaster, while others were swept away for miles, trapped within the wreckage of the carriages. The news of the accident emerged only in the early hours of the morning.

At that time, the air was filled with the cries for help, moans, and the agonizing screams of those who had been severely injured.

Meanwhile, local residents, startled by a deafening crash, rushed to the scene and managed to rescue some of the survivors who were fighting for their lives.

Subsequently, the Railway Protection Force and emergency rescue teams arrived and pulled others from the mangled train carriages. More than 200 people lost their lives in this tragic train accident.

Following this incident, Lal Bahadur Shastri, who was the Railway Minister at the time, took responsibility for the train accident and resigned from his post. Even though 70 years have passed since this horrific accident, it remains an unhealed scar in the minds of the people.

Boy, 7, pulled alive from rubble 14 hours after Russian strike that killed 9 in residential building

UKRAINE: A seven&year&old boy has been pulled alive from the rubble of a residential building in Ukraine's Kyiv region, more than 14 hours after it was hit by a Russian strike. The overnight attack on the town of Dymer killed nine people, according to local officials. A 79&year&old woman was also found alive under the debris and taken to hospital for treatment.





The rescued boy was reported to be in a stable condition. Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed the rescue. "When the boy saw the rescuers, he calmly and without panic began to talk to them, constantly saying that he was okay," he said.

Authorities said emergency personnel were working to establish whether anyone else was still trapped under the collapsed building. "The work of the rescuers is complicated by the constant threat of repeated Russian attacks and air raid alerts, which force them to suspend operations," the state emergency service said.

The rescue operation involves more than 130 people, including police officers, explosive specialists, dog handlers, and medical teams. Mr Zelensky said authorities would continue their efforts until they had "complete information about every single person". He warned, however, that ongoing air raid alerts and fresh security threats were making the search increasingly difficult. The president said the strike on the residential property was "practically blowing a section of it to smithereens".

The building was struck at around 5am local time on Sunday, when residents were still asleep, interior minister Ivan Vyhivskyi said. Relatives of people still unaccounted for gathered near the remains of the apartment block, anxiously awaiting news about their loved ones. Among them was Arkadii Kozenko, a retired man whose 18&year&old son was inside the building when the drone struck, The Kyiv Independent reported.

Mr Kozenko said he was alerted to the attack by a phone call, telling him that a Russian drone had hit the residential building, triggering an explosion. His son, Roman Komarenko, had been due to attend an internship later in the day.

"We are waiting for the result," he told the outlet, "whether he is alive or not". "We are hoping for the best," Mr Kozenko added.

Elsewhere in the Kyiv region, a Russian attack on a private residence in Bila Tserkva killed one person and sparked a fire. Another strike on a grocery store in Vyshneve left three people dead and 13 injured, Mr Zelensky said.

The region will hold a day of mourning on Monday. "Constant Russian terror, constant torment inflicted by these scumbags," Mr Zelensky said in his nightly address. "And all this terror will be met with our fully justified responses." Elsewhere in the Kyiv region, a Russian attack on a private residence in Bila Tserkva killed one person and sparked a fire.

Another strike on a grocery store in Vyshneve left three people dead and 13 injured, Mr Zelensky said. The region will hold a day of mourning on Monday. "Constant Russian terror, constant torment inflicted by these scumbags," Mr Zelensky said in his nightly address. "And all this terror will be met with our fully justified responses."

Technical issue with online complaint facility without visiting police station

Trouble downloading CSR receipt

CHENGALPATTU: The Tamil Nadu Police Department has introduced a facility to file a complaint online and receive an electronic CSR receipt for the same, without having to visit the police stations.



However, there have been complaints that there are problems in downloading the receipt and getting the details of the action taken on the complaint. According to this facility of the Tamil Nadu Police Department, the public can register complaints online.

For this, the CSR receipt can also be downloaded through the website. For this, details including the CSR number, year, and date of registration are sent via SMS to the complainant's mobile number.

But while downloading the receipt on the website, the exact time of the complaint registration has to be included. As that time is not mentioned in the SMS, the complainants are facing difficulty in downloading the receipt.

It is also said that due to server delays, there is a difference between the time the message is received and the time it is recorded on the computer. Regarding this, lawyer P. Jayavel said: This decision is welcome. However, the CSR receipt could not be downloaded as the time of filing the complaint was not included in the text message. As a result, it was necessary to go back to the police station.

Similarly, there are reports that some CSRs are being completed and stored without the complainant's knowledge after the investigation. One has to go to the police station to get the details. The SMS sent to the complainant should contain complete information. The reason for the CSR being terminated should also be stated. Only then will the scheme be fully effective, he said.

Therefore, the public is also urging that the authorities take steps to simplify the process of downloading the receipt, including mentioning the time the complaint was filed in the text message and the reason for the CSR termination.

Printed at : Meera Offset Printers, No.104, V.R. Pillai street, Triplicane, Chennai. - 600 005. Published By. Dr. P. Pandiarajan No. 5 Namasivayam nagar 2nd street, Madurai. Editor : Dr.P.Pandiarajan