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 217 Local 24.11.2026 Out Station 25.11.2026 Price Rs.3/ Email: newindiaflash@gmail.com

Thirupparankundram Deepam Row
BJP Leaders Under House Arrest

Section 144 imposed; 7,000 police personnel deployed





MADURAI: The Madurai district administration has clamped prohibitory orders across Thirupparankundram since Monday night, bringing the hill area under an unprecedented security blanket amid a continuing stalemate over implementing the Supreme Court directive to light the ceremonial lamp on the Deepathoon (stone pillar). The police have barricaded the Deepathoon atop the mountain and deployed personnel to guard the structure, to prevent any security breach.

A few BJP and Hindu Munnani & a pro&Hindu organisation & members who planned to participate in today's Deepam festival at Thirupparankundram have been placed under house arrest.

On Monday night, Madurai district Collector Nishant Krishna imposed prohibitory orders with effect from 9 pm on November 23 until 10 am on November 25, banning public gatherings, rallies, and unauthorised climbing of Thirupparankundram hill.

However, customary worship, routine temple rituals, lawful access to the dargah, and activities implementing Supreme Court directions are exempted from the restrictions.

Over 5,600 police personnel have been deployed across the hill, temple steps, Girivalam path, and surrounding areas, alongside a strict drone ban for November 23&24. Madurai City Police Commissioner S Rajendran declared Thirupparankundram Hill and its surrounding areas in the district a temporary "Red Zone," prohibiting the operation of drones and UAVs for two days, under Rule 24 of the Drone Rules, 2016, restricting the use of drones over the entire Thirupparankundram Hill (including its peak), the Girivalam (circumambulation) path, the stretch from the Thirupparankundram entrance arch to the 16&Pillar Mandapam, and the areas between the Girivalam route and the foothills.

Operating drones without prior approval from the authorities concerned is strictly prohibited, police said, warning of legal action against the violators.

The ban is part of broader security measures, including armed police deployment and over 70 new CCTV and facial&recognition cameras following the Supreme Court's November 20 interim order.

The apex court permitted a one&time ceremonial lighting of the Karthigai Deepam lamp at the disputed hilltop Deepathoon (stone) pillar located near the Sikkander Badusha Dargah on November 24, strictly by an authorised team, while barring the general public, processions, and gatherings at the hilltop site to maintain law and order. The police have made elaborate security arrangements in Thirupparankundram and surrounding areas in view of the Karthigai Deepam festival, deploying about 5,618 policemen, including 12 Superintendents of Police from the southern districts, 8 Additional Superintendents of Police and 132 Police Inspectors, to prevent any untoward incidents.

Security teams have been formed under the supervision of about 12 IPS officers.

Also, according to a release from the Southern Zone Police Chief's office, 28 senior officers && a Deputy Commissioner of Police, 6 Additional Superintendents of Police and 21 DSPs/Assistant Commissioners, serving in the southern districts, have been called to Madurai for security duty.

Police personnel have been deployed in all areas, including the mountain peak, dargah, temples, steps, mountain paths, and the Girivalam path and multi&layered security arrangements have been made throughout Thirupparankundram.

Questioning the administration's intent, former Governor and BJP leader Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan sought to know how VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan and others were allowed to protest against lighting the Deepam at Thirupparankundram on Monday, and conveniently labelled it a "protest for religious harmony".

"But when Hindu leaders and BJP functionaries peacefully appeal for the lighting of the traditional Deepam, they are placed under house arrest. What kind of democracy is this? Is religious harmony a privilege reserved for one side alone? Why is the legitimate voice of Hindus being suppressed? This is nothing but blatant political double standards and selective appeasement in Tamil Nadu," she said in a post on X.

Access to Finance and the Digital Economy is Essential to Eradicate Poverty – Nirmala Sitharaman



NEW DELHI: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has stated that access to finance and the digital economy is essential for the eradication of poverty. In an article titled "The Decade That Transformed India's Fight Against Poverty," published on her LinkedIn page, the Union Finance Minister emphasized that financial and digital economic inclusion is crucial to eliminating poverty. She further noted, "Poverty is not merely a lack of income. Families that lack secure housing, access to clean drinking water, sanitation, and healthcare remain vulnerable, even if their income levels rise.

An unexpected illness can wipe out a family's entire savings, pushing them back into poverty. Welfare initiatives—such as the Jal Jeevan Mission (drinking water), Ayushman Bharat (healthcare), PM Awas Yojana (housing), Ujjwala Yojana (cooking gas), and Swachh Bharat (sanitation)—serve as a protective shield against such shocks."

He further noted, "A World Bank report indicates that approximately 500 million (50 crore) Indians have emerged from poverty between 2011 and 2023. To eradicate poverty completely and ensure that those who have escaped it do not fall back into that state, broad access to finance, markets, and the digital economy is crucial. To this end, over 590 million (59 crore) Jan Dhan bank accounts have been opened. Under the Mudra scheme, more than 600 million (60 crore) loan accounts have been approved, with two&thirds of these loans granted to women. Additionally, schemes like PM SVANidhi and PM Vishwakarma are providing vital support to the livelihoods of street vendors and traditional artisans."

He continued, "The government is fostering closer ties between educational institutions and the industrial sector through employment&oriented incentives and vocational training. Furthermore, efforts are underway to connect all parts of the country through investments in infrastructure.

The government operates with a focus on the well&being of the most marginalized individuals in society, striving to meet the needs of every family. Thanks to the sustained attention of Prime Minister Modi, these policies have brought about meaningful changes in people's lives. To achieve the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), opportunities for growth must be made accessible to everyone."

Numbers show and Akali Dal-BJP alliance will be a force to reckon in Punjab polls



NEW DELHI: The return of the BJP&Akali Dal alliance to the forefront of Punjab politics makes it an interesting three&way fight for the 2027 Assembly Elections.

The BJP and the Akali Dal alliance was one of the longest standing understandings in politics which broke in 2020 on the back of the three farm laws introduced by the Union Govt.

In 2007 and 2012, the Shiromani Akali Dal saw its peak performance holding power during both terms in alliance with the BJP.

However, they suffered a massive decline starting in 2017 (dropping to 15 seats) and reached their lowest point in 2022, winning only 3 seats. The BJP an alliance partner with the SAD till 2020, saw a steady decline in seat count from 2007 (19 seats) to 2012 (12 seats), eventually falling to single digits in 2017 (3 seats) and 2022 (2 seats).

The decline of the traditional alliance (SAD&BJP) is stark when comparing their 2022 performance to their peak years of 2007 and 2012. Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) saw a decrease from 48 seats in 2007 to 3 in 2022, a decrease of 45 seats (a 93.75% decline). The Bharatiya Janata Party saw a decline from 19 seats in 2007 to 2 in 2022, a decrease of 17 seats (an 89.47% decline).

On the other hand the Congress party maintained a strong competitive base in 2007 and 2012, surged to a majority in 2017 (77 seats), but faced a significant collapse in 2022, dropping to 18 seats.

The AAP emerged as a major force in 2017, securing 20 seats as the primary opposition, and achieved a landslide victory in 2022 with 92 seats.

This suggests that as a combine the BJP&Akali Dal alliance can mount an effective challenge to the AAP and the Congress. With the BJP having sway amongst Hindu voters and the Akalis counting on their traditional Panthic base there is enough firepower to make a serious challenge.

On Tuesday, that alliance will get an official stamp with Union Minister Amit Shah, BJP President Nitin Nabin and Akali Dal President Sukhbir Badal to hold a news conference. The alliance will also pave the way for a possible induction of Akali Dal MP Harsimrat Badal into the Union Cabinet.

Case registered against TVK MLA under non-bailable sections



CHENNAI: Three additional, serious charges have been filed against TVK MLA Arul Vignesh, including sections that are non&bailable. Reports alleging that TVK MLA Arul Vignesh sent obscene messages via WhatsApp to Kallakurichi District Collector Padmaja, and attempted to trespass into her official residence, have sparked a major controversy in political circles. Opposition parties have been fiercely criticizing the TVK in light of these allegations. The National Commission for Women (NCW) has directed an inquiry into the matter and requested a report. Meanwhile, Kallakurichi District Collector Padmaja has filed a formal complaint with the District Superintendent of Police (SP), alleging that the MLA sent her inappropriate messages. The case came up for hearing again today at the Madras High Court.

It was confirmed that the Collector had indeed lodged a complaint against the Kallakurichi TVK MLA with the District SP, and that a case has been registered against the MLA based on this complaint. The judge cautioned against politicizing the issue, warning that no attempts should be made to shield anyone involved in the Collector's complaint, as doing so would lead to embarrassing consequences.

The judge has ordered that the investigation into the Collector's complaint be monitored by Inspector General (IG) Praveen Kumar Abinapu. Furthermore, the judge directed that an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) be constituted by Friday to look into the Collector's complaint. Meanwhile, following a complaint filed by the Collector, the Crime Branch police are questioning Arul Vignesh, the TVK (Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam) MLA for Kallakurichi. The interrogation is taking place at the MLA's residence in Kallakurichi, conducted by Sub&Inspector Yogeswaran of the Ulundurpet Crime Branch, assisted by an officer from the Kallakurichi intelligence unit. Furthermore, the police have decided to seize the MLA's mobile phone and send it to a cyber&forensic laboratory for analysis. In this development, three additional serious charges have been filed against MLA Arul Vignesh, including non&bailable offenses. The Kallakurichi police have registered the case under sections 75, 78, and 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Specifically, the charges include: Section 75 (a non&bailable offense) for making unwanted sexual advances toward a woman; Section 78 for persistently following and harassing a woman against her will; and Section 79 for engaging in obscene acts.



Dhaka, Bangladesh: The Bangladesh government has firmly rejected former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's stated intention to return to the country on December 16, warning of immediate arrest if she attempts to do so.

Today horoscope

You will make some decisions with a positive outlook. Celebrities will help. Travel will be good. Avoid arguments at the office. Superiors will support. Employees in business will act with a sense of duty.

Take important decisions carefully as the Moon is transiting. Listen to the advice of your elders and act accordingly. A vehicle will cost you money. You will struggle to collect dues in business. Maintaining peace in the office will be beneficial.

There will be benefits from siblings. Clarity in speech will be born. Children will listen to your words. Mother's health will bring peace. Business will pick up steam and you will see profits. An important document you were looking for in the office will appear.

You will think about buying a new house, plot, or vehicle. There will be gains from foreign trips. Do not make any promises to anyone. Competition in business will disappear. Partners will support you. Workload in the office will decrease.

You will be appreciated for your previous help. You will be respected among your relatives. A case related to ancestral property will be resolved. You will purchase new goods in business. Avoid arguments in the office.

Today, your needs will be fulfilled. External connections will increase. You will try to settle old debts. There will be no unnecessary fuss and tension in business. Just be yourself and do your job in the office.

As Chandrashtama continues, unnecessary agitation and tension will increase. Give in to family members. Patience is needed in business. Do not reject the suggestions of partners. Workload will increase in the office.

You will impress everyone with your charming speech. Your appearance will improve. Your children will give you confidence. Your travels will be great. Your respect among employees in the office will increase. Your superiors will appreciate you. Business competition will decrease.

Delayed auspicious events will come to fruition. Business partners will be helpful. Speak calmly at the office. You may say one thing and others will interpret it differently.

You will have to complete planned work without interruption. Do not make any promises to anyone. There will be a lively atmosphere in the family. Take care of your health. You will collect dues in business. Your career will be successful.

You will understand the feelings of your family. You will be proud of your children. The stagnation in the ancestral property case will change. You will get acquainted with famous people in business. You will be recommended for a new position in the office.

You will learn the ins and outs of life. Be considerate of your in-laws. You will get a new job with the help of friends. Don't interfere in the affairs of others at the office. Business will be profitable.

Sudden posters in support of judge in Thiruparankundram Deepam case appear all over Madurai



MADURAI: Posters were suddenly put up all over Madurai in support of Judge G.R. Swaminathan, who delivered the first verdict in the Thiruparankundram lamppost case.

Justice G.R. Swaminathan of the Madurai bench of the High Court ruled that the lamp at the top of the Thirupparangkunram hill should be lit on Karthigai. It was only after his ruling that the issue of the lamp started to heat up.

His decision was upheld on appeal. The Tamil Nadu government then appealed to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled that the Karthigai Deepam should be lit on the lamppost this year.

The Tamil Nadu government has filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against this decision. Due to this, confusion continues till now regarding the lighting of the Karthigai Deepam at the Deepathun this evening. In this situation, posters were suddenly put up all over Madurai yesterday in support of Judge G.R. Swaminathan, who issued a ruling last year that a lamp can be lit on a lamppost. The posters, which were put up in the name of Thirupparangkunram lawyers, along with a photograph of the judge, stated, "Our heartfelt gratitude to Justice G.R. Swaminathan for the historic verdict that the lamp can be lit on the lamppost at the top of the Thirupparangkunram hill." The posters were removed while Judge Sami was visiting the Thirupparangunram temple with his wife the day before yesterday, causing a stir.

In this situation, posters were put up in the name of lawyers without any address, tarnishing the name of the judiciary. When Thirupparangunram questioned the lawyers, they said that none of us had put up such posters.

The question arises as to why the poster was put up now, congratulating the Supreme Court on the verdict delivered in 2025, when the Supreme Court had already delivered its verdict. Therefore, the Hindu Makkal Party has demanded that action be taken against those who put up the poster without an address.

According to lawyers Vanchinathan and Henry Thiben of the Religious Harmony Alliance, this is the first time in India that a poster has been put up for a court ruling. In a tense situation, Justice G.R. Swaminathan went to the Thirupparangkunram temple and offered darshan to the deity. Therefore, it was said that he lit a lamp on a model lamppost.

Minister chases tiger in wildlife sanctuary: Case to be investigated under court supervision





CHENNAI: A case has been filed in the Madras High Court seeking a judicially supervised investigation into the incident of the tiger being hunted by Chief Minister Vanniyarasu.

Videos of Minister Vanniyarasu chasing a tiger in his vehicle while visiting Masinakudi in the Nilgiris district on November 10 went viral on social media.

Lawyer Kandan filed a case in the Madras High Court seeking a judicially supervised investigation into the incident. It states: The Chief Justice has just issued a ruling that no disturbance should be caused to the wildlife including tigers in the sanctuary. The minister, without any authority, went to the tiger reserve, chased the tiger away, took a video and shared it publicly.

This is a punishable offence under the Wildlife Protection Act. Therefore, an independent inquiry into this matter should be ordered under the supervision of the High Court.

The Tiger Reserve Field Director should be directed to file a report regarding this incident. The Minister should be directed to investigate such action and take action against him. This is what he has requested. This case will come up for hearing soon.

Pak spies infiltrate 13 WhatsApp groups of security forces

NEW DELHI: A female spy posing as a DRDO scientist was recently reported to have obtained sensitive security information. In this context, it has been revealed that Pakistani intelligence agencies have infiltrated 13 WhatsApp groups of the Indian Army and Central Forces.

It is said that spies have entered the groups using fake or hacked Indian cell phone numbers and posing as silent members.

Following this, all the army units have been put on alert. In a circular sent to security agencies, administrators of WhatsApp groups have been ordered to immediately check the list of members in their groups and remove unknown individuals and suspicious numbers. Furthermore, military leaders and commanders have been advised to be cautious when using social media and not to share confidential information for any reason, and awareness campaigns have been urged to be conducted in this regard.

Bengaluru Water Cut For 12 Hours On Nov.25, Check Affected Areas And Timings



BENGALURU: Bengaluru water supply will be disrupted for 12 hours on Wednesday, November 25, as the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) takes up emergency repair and maintenance work at its Cauvery water supply installations. The temporary water supply shutdown will affect areas across the city from 6 am to 6 pm.

According to a public notice issued by BWSSB, the maintenance work will be carried out at T.K. Halli, Harohalli and Tataguni. The work involves emergency repairs, replacement of equipment and maintenance of the water supply systems at these locations. As these installations are part of the Cauvery water supply network serving Bengaluru, residents may face interruptions in water supply during the scheduled 12&hour period. The board has asked people across the city to make necessary arrangements ahead of the Bengaluru water supply disruption. BWSSB has advised residents to store sufficient water in advance and cooperate with the board until the repair and maintenance work is completed.

Residents are requested to plan their daily water usage accordingly and keep adequate water reserves before the supply interruption begins on Wednesday morning.

Store adequate water ahead of time: Fill sumps, overhead tanks, and drinking water containers before 6 am on Wednesday, and use stored water judiciously until supply normalises. Protect motor pumps: Switch off automatic booster and sump pumps during the 12&hour dry window to prevent dry&running and motor burnout. Defer heavy water usage: Postpone high&consumption chores such as laundry, car washing, and gardening to Thursday. Flush taps before drinking: Run taps for a couple of minutes after supply resumes to clear out any initial sediment or discolouration before using water for drinking or running RO purifiers. For emergency assistance or to report post&maintenance water pressure issues, residents can contact the official 24x7 toll&free helpline at 1916 or reach the BWSSB central call centre at 080&22238888.

Rs. 7 Crore Allocated for Establishing Anti-Drug Committees in Schools



CHENNAI: The Government of Tamil Nadu has allocated Rs. 7 crore to raise awareness in schools aimed at preventing drug use among students. A government order (G.O.) issued by the Tamil Nadu government in this regard states the following: "Our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is someone who has consistently championed the message, 'Say No to Drugs.' He has also urged the youth to 'Give up drugs and take up sports.'

It is essential that our goal of creating a 'Drug&Free Tamil Nadu' begins within our schools. In the spirit of the ancient Tamil proverb, 'Learn while young' (from Avvaiyar's *Aathichoodi*), it is crucial to deeply instill an awareness of the dangers and misuse of drugs—as well as preventive education—into the minds of the younger generation." As part of this initiative, anti&drug committees and volunteer groups will be established in schools.

Furthermore, to foster awareness, the helpline number '10581' will be prominently displayed across school campuses. The government has allocated Rs. 7 crore for the implementation of this scheme. Additionally, a mobile application titled 'Drug&Free Tamil Nadu' (*Podhai Porul Illa Tamil Nadu*) has been developed, allowing students and teachers to securely and confidentially report information regarding drug trafficking or usage. This is as stated in the government order.

Bridge across the Vaigai River at Paravai-Thuvariman falls into disrepair without ever being put to use



SAMAYANALLUR: A bridge built across the Vaigai River to connect Paravai and Thuvariman is falling into disrepair, despite never having been properly utilized. Constructed five years ago at a cost of several crore rupees, the bridge suffers from poor planning on the Paravai side; the approach road was never paved with asphalt and remains a mere dirt track. Consequently, during the rainy season, the path turns into a muddy quagmire, causing vehicle wheels to get stuck.

As a result, most motorists avoid this route, with only two&wheeler riders occasionally using it. Heavy vehicles pass through only very rarely.

Meanwhile, the concrete in the middle of the bridge's roadway has crumbled away, exposing the underlying steel reinforcement bars.

These exposed bars pose a risk of damaging vehicle tires, and there is a significant danger of two&wheelers getting caught, potentially leading to serious accidents. Local residents have expressed their distress, noting that government funds have been squandered on a bridge that was constructed without proper planning. The district administration must take immediate action.

Nov. 24 NEW INDIA FLASH | EDITORIAL 2026

CHILD EDUCATION IN INDIA: EVERY CHILD DESERVES A FAIR START



Education is more than a seat in a classroom or a certificate at the end of a course. It is a child's first opportunity to discover the world, develop confidence and build a better future. India has made education accessible to millions of children, but access alone is not enough. Every child must also receive the support needed to learn, grow and succeed.

A school may have a building and classrooms, yet children need much more: committed teachers, safe drinking water, clean toilets, books, proper lighting and a welcoming atmosphere. They need teachers who can give individual attention, explain lessons clearly and notice when a child is falling behind. When children struggle with basic reading, writing or arithmetic, early support can prevent that difficulty from growing into years of lost confidence.

The quality of education must not depend on a child's family income or place of birth. Children in villages, remote areas and crowded urban settlements should have the same chance to learn as children in well&resourced schools. Governments must continue to strengthen public schools, fill teacher vacancies, maintain school facilities and ensure that essential learning materials reach every student.

Education must also speak to a child's life. Learning in a familiar language, especially in the early years, can help children understand lessons and express their thoughts. As they progress, they should also gain the skills needed to communicate and participate in a changing world. Classrooms should encourage curiosity, questions and practical understanding—not fear of mistakes or dependence on memorisation alone.

Digital tools can support learning, but they cannot replace a good teacher or a functioning school.

Many families still lack reliable devices, internet access or a quiet place for children to study. Technology must therefore be used thoughtfully, with equal access and personal guidance, so that it narrows the learning gap rather than widening it.

The right to education must be meaningful for girls, children with disabilities and those facing poverty, illness, discrimination or family hardship. Schools should be safe and inclusive, and families should be able to seek help when a child is at risk of dropping out. Regular communication between teachers and parents can help identify problems early and keep children connected to learning.

A child's education is a shared responsibility. Governments must provide strong schools; teachers must inspire and guide; parents must encourage regular learning; and society must protect every child's opportunity to study. The measure of a nation's progress is not only how many children enter school, but how many are able to learn with dignity and hope.

India's future is already sitting in its classrooms. Let every child receive the education, care and encouragement needed to shape it.

written by Dr. P.pandiarajan



Jaipur: In Rajasthan, the wedding of the daughter of a deceased soldier was attended by fellow soldiers and officers who served with him, who shared the joy of fatherlessness with the family.



PM participates in Shabad Kirtan on Prakash Purab of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, at Lok Niwas, in Delhi.

Congress asks Samajwadi Party for 130 seats in UP.



NEW DELHI: In the talks between the Samajwadi Party and the Congress ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the Congress has given the Samajwadi Party a list of 130 seats.

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in 2027. In view of this, the first phase of seat&sharing talks between the Samajwadi Party and the Congress were held yesterday at the residence of senior Congress leader Pramod Tiwari in Delhi.

In the meeting, which lasted just 15 minutes, Samajwadi Party MP Ram Gopal Yadav asked, "What have you decided?" In response, the Congress leaders placed a list of about 130 seats on the table, sources said. The Congress has demanded that all the assembly seats in its traditional strongholds of Amethi and Rae Bareli be reserved for it. Similarly, the Congress seems to have demanded representation in all the other districts of the state, except for the Samajwadi Party strongholds of Etawah and Mainpuri.

Samajwadi leaders, who received the Congress's wish list, did not immediately present any alternative plan. After discussing the matter with party president Akhilesh Yadav, they said they would come for the next round of talks on Tuesday (today).



Chennai: Mayor Priya inaugurated a multi-purpose building, an e&Seva centre, and a modern gas&based crematorium—constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.84 crore in the Perungudi zone—for public use.

400 Tons of Chemicals Seized While Being Smuggled by Sea from China to Bangladesh

JAKARTA: A cargo ship named 'MV Star Line' was en route from the port of Lianyungang in China to the port of Mongla in Bangladesh, carrying 36 containers. The vessel deviated from its standard maritime route and failed to respond to communication attempts.

This aroused the suspicion of the Indonesian Navy, which was conducting patrols off the coast of North Sumatra. Consequently, the Navy intercepted the ship and carried out a surprise inspection. Discrepancies were found in the cargo documentation, prompting a thorough search of the entire vessel. Authorities discovered 405 tons of the chemical sodium perchlorate—stowed across 15 containers—along with hundreds of thousands of unregistered 4G SIM cards.

The Indonesian Navy seized both the cargo and the ship. Sodium perchlorate is a key chemical used in the production of fuel for missiles and rockets. Officials stated that the seized quantity could be used to manufacture approximately 100 missiles.

Furthermore, authorities noted that there is no information available regarding the ship's owner.

The vessel, which was flying the flag of the Comoros (an East African nation), had an authorization permit that expired on October 8. The 12 Chinese crew members on board are currently being subjected to intensive questioning by the Navy and customs officials. Meanwhile, the Mongla Customs authority in Bangladesh has stated that they have no information regarding this tusk.



The Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the SARAS Shakti Food Festival 2026, in New Delhi.

"CM and ministers are conspiring in the Kallakurichi Thaveka MLA issue..." - Palaniswami alleges

CHENNAI: "How shameful it is for the state that a woman, and that too a District Magistrate, does not have a safe working environment? Where did the MLA get the idea to send obscene messages to the Collector?" AIADMK General Secretary Palaniswami has questioned.

The Kallakurichi female collector has filed a complaint with the District Superintendent of Police against Thaweka MLA Arul Vignesh. After this matter came to light, AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi Palaniswami has demanded the arrest of Kallakurichi Thavega MLA Arul Vignesh.

In this regard, he said in his X post: "There have been reports that the District Collector has filed a complaint against Kallakurichi Thaveka MLA for sending obscene text messages. The government, which changed its mind and denied it in the High Court, the minister, who denied it and gave an interview at the Secretariat, and the state president of the coalition Congress party, who supported it by saying, "MLA is a sin," are all under so much pressure, even though it is known from outside.

Amidst all this, the Kallakurichi District Magistrate has stood firm and filed a complaint with a strong heart against the cruelty inflicted on her. How many lies? How many lies are there to cover up this great cruelty inflicted on a female district magistrate? Isn't this sheer cowardice?

The news of the complaint being filed comes after the High Court strictly ordered this government to file an affidavit with the Collector, following a case filed in court on behalf of the AIADMK. If that is the case, we can only conclude that the Chief Minister of this exclamation mark government and its ministers have conspired together to cover up this issue all this time.

How shameful it is for the state that a woman, let alone a District Magistrate, does not have a safe working environment?

The Chief Minister is the minister responsible for the officials. If that is the case, then they are working solely on your behalf. It is your responsibility to protect them. But how much must it have hurt the female collector that the Chief Minister's ministers and the government have committed such a cover&up? Similarly, where did this MLA get the idea to send obscene messages to the collector? Isn't this the mentality that we can do whatever we want, and that this government and the Chief Minister are there to protect us?

What is the difference between the authorities who tried to cover up other sexual assault cases and this regime that tried to drag out this case by denying that such an incident took place in the High Court itself?



Has history ever seen such a shameful government? You tried to cover up the atrocities committed against a district collector, so how can you protect the women of Tamil Nadu?

The false image of Vijay, who has been trying to build up all these days by saying things like, "I am the maternal uncle. I am the elder brother. The safety of women is the promise of the elder brother," and by saying things like, "The lioness is the task force," has been shattered to pieces by his own party MLA.

Vijay has lost even the minimum moral worthiness for the high responsibility of Chief Minister due to this disgraceful act by the Thaweka government.

A case should be registered today and the Kallakurichi Thavega MLA should be arrested today. Since the trust in this government has been completely lost, the CBI should investigate this case; legal action should be taken against all the officials who tried to cover this up, including the MLA.

"All the injustices committed against the District Collector must be done away with and justice must be done. Just as we stood by the protest and the case to ensure the truth comes out in this matter, the AIADMK will stand by and ensure justice is done," Palaniswami said.

Passengers Seek New Train Service Between Madurai and Mayiladuthurai via Karaikudi

MADURAI: Passengers have long been requesting the introduction of a new train service between Madurai and Mayiladuthurai, routed via Karaikudi and Aranthangi. Currently, there are no direct or connecting train services from Madurai—a railway divisional headquarters—to Sivagangai or Karaikudi.

Existing trains that pass through Madurai toward Mayiladuthurai—such as the Tiruchendur Express, the Sengottai–Mayiladuthurai Passenger, and the Nagercoil–Tambaram Antyodaya Express—all travel via Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) and Thanjavur. Residents of the Karaikudi, Pattukottai, Aranthangi, and Tiruvarur regions are currently forced to travel to Madurai via Trichy and Thanjavur, either by train or bus. With the recent electrification of the 71 km stretch between Karaikudi and Pattukottai, the Madurai Railway Division has achieved 100% electrification.

Consequently, the introduction of a new train service between Madurai and Mayiladuthurai—passing through Karaikudi, Pattukottai, and Tiruvarur—would allow residents of these areas to travel directly to Madurai.

This would be particularly beneficial for those from the Delta region, providing easier access to the Meenakshi Amman Temple, the High Court, and medical facilities, including the AIIMS hospital. Such a service would also facilitate travel for people from the Delta region to spiritual destinations like the Meenakshi Amman Temple, Tiruparankundram, and Solaimalai (Alagar Koil), while allowing residents of Madurai to easily visit places like the Muthupet Mangrove Forest, Thirunallar, Nagore, and Velankanni. Furthermore, it would enable the transport of agricultural produce from the Delta districts to the southern districts, thereby creating new market opportunities for farmers.

It should be noted that operating trains from Madurai via Karaikudi would require an engine reversal (change of locomotive direction) at the Manamadurai Junction. As a solution, a one&kilometer 'bypass' line could be constructed—similar to those existing at Vanchi Maniyachchi, Arakkonam, and Basin Bridge—to allow trains arriving from Madurai to proceed directly to the Manamadurai East station.

This minor infrastructure addition would eliminate the need for engine reversals, enabling the seamless operation of trains from Madurai toward the Delta districts via Karaikudi and Aranthangi.

Russia's most advanced warship sunk in drone attack by Ukraine



KIEV: Russia's state&of&the&art warship Mercury was sunk in a drone attack carried out by Ukraine in the Libyan sea. Ukrainian President Zelensky, who released a video related to this, said in a post published on the X website: Our soldiers carried out an attack off the coast of Libya using 7 naval drones manufactured in Ukraine. At that time, the Russian warship 'Mercury' was sunk, overcoming all the enemy's attempts to prevent it.

This is one of the newest warships to join the Russian Navy in 2023. Along with the warship, a Russian 'KA&27' combat helicopter was also destroyed in the attack. In addition, the 'M.V. Angara' cargo ship, which was being used by Russia to transport weapons, was also targeted by our drones.

"I commend the Ukrainian Security Service and the security forces for this action," Zelensky said. Meanwhile, the eastern Libyan administration has expressed strong condemnation of the attack on their country's territorial waters.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0

Rangoli, photo competition on behalf of BHU in Varanasi to create awareness

NEW DELHI: 'Kashi Tamil Sangam 5.0' (KTS 5.0) will be held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh from November 28 to December 12. This year's theme is 'Let's study Thirukkural'.

Banaras Hindu University (BHU) is conducting various awareness programs to generate interest among the general public and promote cultural engagement in this regard.

As part of this, a Rangoli competition was held at the important (Assi Ghat) area on the banks of the Ganges in Varanasi the day before yesterday. Students from BHU, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth and various schools in the city participated enthusiastically. The students drew colorful rangolis with various themes, expressing Indian culture, traditions, and social values. These artworks greatly impressed tourists and locals.



A photography competition was also held yesterday. In this, BHU students visited the historic Kamakottiswarar Temple, located near Harichandra Ghat on the banks of the Ganges. They captured the unique architectural features and intricate carvings there.

In this awareness event for KDS 5.0, students are introduced to the traditions, temple architecture, and spiritual heritage of Kashi.

In this regard, the newly-appointed Varanasi Zonal Commissioner, Tamil K. Vijayendra Pandian, told the 'Hindu Tamil Veer' daily, "The aim of these events is to connect more people with KDS 5.0.

Through this, the message of cultural unity between Kashi and Tamil Nadu will also reach the entire country. This effort by BHU to encourage public participation and foster interest in KDS 5.0 through events like Rangoli and photography competitions is commendable."

Priyansh Arya, with 181, achieves highest T20 individual score by an Indian; misses all-time record

NEW DELHI: Priyansh Arya, the Delhi captain, on Tuesday, registered the highest individual score by an Indian batter in all T20s, his 181 surpassing KL Rahul's previous best of 152 for the Delhi Capitals against the Punjab Kings in the 2026 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL). He achieved the feat against Tamil Nadu in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) clash at the Daly College in Indore. The left&hander missed out on the all&time record after being dismissed in the penultimate over of the innings.

The highest&ever score in T20 cricket belongs to South Africa's Lhuan&de Pretorious, who had smashed an unbeaten 188 in the CSA T20 Pro Cup for the Titans against the Knights.

Arya's 68&ball knock included 7 boundaries and 19 sixes. With this performance, the 25&year&old also registered the highest&ever individual score in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, beating Tilak Varma's previous best of 151 for Hyderabad against Meghalaya.

The opening batter's performance helped Delhi post 275/5 in the allotted 20 overs. He looked set to smash Pretorious' record, but fell to M Siddharth in the 19th over while going for a big one.

Arya's total tally of 19 maximums is the joint&most sixes in a single T20 innings alongside New Zealand's Finn Allen, who smashed the same number of sixes while playing for the San Francisco Unicorns against the Washington Freedom in Major League Cricket (MLC) last year.

Arya also set the records for the highest&ever individual T20 score in India, the highest T20 score by a captain. He also became just the second batter in men's cricket to hit 150 runs in boundaries in a single T20 innings.



The Delhi batter, who represents the Punjab Kings in the IPL, has been in tremendous form in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, scoring two 50&plus scores before the contest against Tamil Nadu. He had scored 58 and 55 in the two matches against Jammu &Kashmir and Punjab.



Karthigai Deepam Festival Greetings from Leaders

NEW DELHI: On the auspicious occasion of Karthigai Deepam, leaders including Prime Minister Modi have extended their greetings.

Prime Minister Modi: Heartfelt wishes to everyone on the auspicious day of Karthigai Deepam. This sacred festival reminds us of the virtue of helping others through service. It is my sincere wish that this tradition—which includes rituals such as holy bathing, acts of charity, and the lighting of lamps—may instill devotion and faith in everyone's life.

Union Minister Rajnath Singh: Heartfelt wishes to everyone on the auspicious day of Karthigai Deepam. It reflects our cultural heritage. May this festival, celebrated with rituals like holy bathing and the lighting of lamps, bring happiness, peace, and prosperity into everyone's life.

Tamil Nadu BJP President Nainar Nagendran: "Praise be to Shiva, the Lord of the South! Praise be to the God of all lands!" On this sacred day of Karthigai—a time that fosters love, grace, righteousness, and spiritual radiance across the world—let us worship the holy feet of Lord Shiva.

The 'Maha Deepam' (Great Lamp) lit at the Annamalaiyar Temple in Tiruvannamalai—a site that celebrates the glory of the Lord, as extolled in the *Thirumurai*—is not merely a flame; it is the light of wisdom, the light of righteousness, the light of faith, and the supreme radiance of ultimate truth. May the sacred words from the *Thiruvasagam*—"Long live *Namachivaya*! Long live the feet of the Lord!"—resonate in every home. May the contemplation of Shiva dwell within every heart. May our Tamil Shaivite tradition—nurtured by the profound devotion of Appar, the Tamil devotional music of Thirugnanasambandar, the divine love of Sundarar, and the sacred verses of Manickavasagar—flourish forever. May ignorance be dispelled, giving rise to wisdom. May ego perish, allowing love to blossom.

May enmity fade, and brotherhood prevail. May joy reside in every home, peace in every heart, and prosperity and well&being in the lives of all people. May the radiant light of the 'Maha Deepam' (Great Lamp) from Thiruvannamalai spread peace and hope across the world.

May the divine grace of the Almighty Annamalaiyar be with everyone. Best wishes to all for a wonderful Karthigai Deepam festival. Annamalai, founder of the 'We the Leaders' organization, says: "I extend my heartfelt wishes for the festival of Karthigai Deepam to all the people of Tamil Nadu. On this auspicious day, may the light of the lamps fill our homes with brightness. May joy and prosperity abound in every household. May every heart be filled with love, peace, hope, and noble thoughts."

Happy Karthigai Deepam!

In a message, C.P. Radhakrishnan states: "I extend my best wishes to everyone on the occasion of the Karthigai Deepam festival. As one of our ancient cultural traditions, the festival of Karthigai has long been celebrated by lighting lamps—illuminating homes and streets—with people coming together to rejoice." "May this auspicious day, which dispels darkness and spreads light, foster wisdom, love, peace, unity, and harmony in our lives. May joy, prosperity, and well&being flourish in every home. Wishing you a very happy Karthigai Deepam!" he stated.

UAE President receives Ruler of Fujairah



UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Monday received His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Fujairah, who was accompanied by Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Crown Prince of Fujairah.

During the meeting, Their Highnesses engaged in cordial conversation and prayed to God to grant the UAE and its people continued security, progress and prosperity as the nation celebrates the 55th anniversary of the Union this year.

They also discussed a number of matters concerning the nation and its people, who remain at the heart of the UAE's priorities and its current and future development plans.

Also attending the meeting were Sheikh Khaled Bin Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi; Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region; Lt. General Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior; Sheikh Hamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Sheikh Theyab Bin Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of the Presidential Court for Development and Fallen Heroes' Affairs; Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of the Presidential Court for Special Affairs; Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence; Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Adviser to the UAE President; and a number of sheikhs and officials.

Upon his arrival in Abu Dhabi, the Ruler of Fujairah was received by Sheikh Khaled Bin Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, along with several sheikhs and officials.

Bharani Deepam Lit at Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai



TIRUVANAMALAI: The Karthigai Deepam festival at the Arunachaleswarar Temple in Tiruvannamalai commenced this year with the flag&hoisting ceremony on November 15.

As a key highlight of the festival, the 'Bharani Deepam' was lit today (the 24th) at 4:00 AM in front of the sanctum sanctorum. This ritual signifies that the five elements—earth, water, fire, air, and ether—are all manifestations of Lord Shiva alone. A large number of devotees witnessed the event, chanting "Annamalaiyarukku Arohara!" in deep devotion.

Later today, at 6:00 PM, the 'Maha Deepam' (the great lamp) will be lit atop the 2,668&foot&high mountain, symbolizing the concept that the Divine is both "the One" (Ekan) and "the Many" (Anekan). In preparation for the festival, the sanctum and the entire temple complex have been beautifully decorated and illuminated with colorful electric lights. Devotees are gathering in large numbers.

Jensen Huang re-elected as Nvidia president



SAN FRANCISCO: Jensen Huang, who resigned from his position amid the Chinese spy scandal, has been appointed as the chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of Nvidia.

Jensen Huang stepped down as Nvidia CEO 11 days ago amid allegations of an affair with a woman linked to Chinese intelligence and other private controversies. His resignation has also been accepted.

In this regard, the Board of Directors, which has reversed its previous decision, has reappointed Jensen Huang as Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and member of the Board of Directors of NVIDIA Corporation.

Qatar, US Hold Crucial Talks to Ease Regional Tensions Amid Gaza Crisis

WASHINGTON: Qatar and the United States recently held their eighth Strategic Dialogue in Washington DC, prioritizing efforts to de&escalate regional tensions and find peaceful solutions to ongoing international crises.

The crucial discussions, co&chaired by Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, focused on sustained diplomacy and closer coordination.

Officials from both nations engaged in four working sessions, emphasizing shared priorities and practical steps to achieve mutual peace, security, and prosperity. The dialogue, built on over five decades of friendship, saw both countries coordinating efforts, including engaging with the Board of Peace, to support the implementation of the Gaza Peace Roadmap.



Defence and security cooperation were key, with the 'Qatar&United States Military Consultative Commission' reaffirming commitment to deepening ties. Joint efforts against terrorism, transnational organized crime, and regional destabilizing actors, including through the 'Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS', were also discussed. Economic ties also took center stage, with discussions on expanding trade and investment, including through the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA). The 'Golden Pass LNG project' was highlighted for its role in enhancing global energy security.

Education and cultural exchanges, particularly the 'Education City' in Qatar, were also recognized for fostering international academic cooperation. The dialogue underscored Washington and Doha's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and addressing shared regional and global challenges through diplomacy.



The V.O.C. Port in Thoothukudi has achieved a milestone by handling 83.53 lakh tonnes of domestic cargo over a period of 7 months.



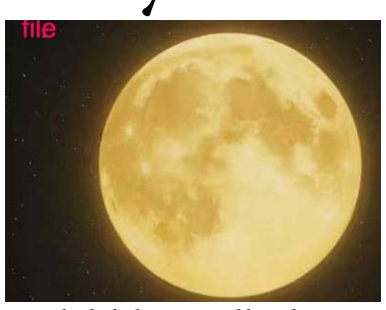
Nellai, Medical waste piling up at the Palayamkottai Government Hospital is creating a health hazard, causing distress to patients.



In Thoothukudi district, 132 missing mobile phones, valued at Rs. 20 lakh, were recovered and handed over to their respective owners by District SP Sivaprasad.

A Magnificent Full Moon to Appear on the Day of Karthigai Deepam

Two exciting events await astronomy enthusiasts in Chennai this week. Today (November 24), coinciding with the festival of Karthigai Deepam, a magnificent full moon will appear in the sky.

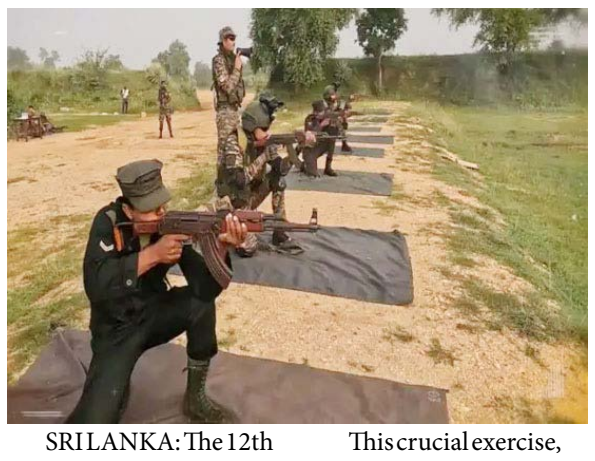


It will reach its peak brightness at 8:23 PM Indian Standard Time. When a full moon approaches the Earth closely, it is known as a "supermoon"—appearing slightly larger and brighter than usual. This marks the first of three consecutive supermoons occurring in November, December, and January.

If the sky remains clear and free of clouds, it can be viewed with the naked eye. Astronomy enthusiasts note that on Thursday, November 26, the planet Uranus will reach "opposition"—a position where the Earth passes directly between the Sun and the planet. During this time, it will appear at its brightest for the year.

Located 2.7 billion kilometers away, the planet will be visible throughout the night; it is best observed using binoculars or a low&power telescope. Seeing Uranus with the naked eye is extremely difficult. However, astronomy enthusiasts suggest that it can be captured by mounting a smartphone camera on a tripod and using an exposure time of 10 to 30 seconds. It is even possible to discern its distinctive blue hue.

India- Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise 'Mitra Shakti 2026' Underway in Sri Lanka



SRI LANKA: The 12th edition of the joint military exercise 'Mitra Shakti 2026' between India and Sri Lanka is currently taking place at the Army Training School in Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka.

This crucial exercise, running from November 13 to 26, aims to significantly enhance the capabilities of both armies in counter&terrorism operations, particularly in semi&urban environments under a United Nations mandate.

Troops from both nations are undergoing specialized training focusing on joint planning, tactical drills, and combat skills. This includes practical scenarios like patrolling, ambushes, convoy protection, and road block operations. The Indian Army contingent, primarily from a battalion of the Rajputana Rifles along with personnel from other arms and the Indian Air Force, comprises 170 members.

These 14 days of intensive training also cover physical fitness, urban patrolling, and combined arms operations against fortified positions.

The exercise will conclude with a comprehensive validation, where the learned tactics and procedures will be put to the test.

'Mitra Shakti' is an annual exercise, alternating between India and Sri Lanka, serving as a vital platform for strengthening interoperability and exchanging best practices in counter&terrorism.

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