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Egypt fire: Truck crash triggers explosion and blaze, killing 30 in Giza

15 people admitted to hospital with severe burn injuries

EGYPT: At least 30 people were killed and 15 others injured in a fire that broke out above the Ashara Tunnel in the Warraq district of Imbaba in Egypt's Giza Governorate, according to the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population, said on Wednesday (local time).

In a post on X, the ministry said the death toll had risen to 30 in a preliminary count, while 15 injured people had been shifted to Zayed Specialised Hospital, Imbaba General Hospital and Warraq Central Hospital for medical treatment.

A truck swerved and crashed into the central reservation before overturning and triggering an explosion. The fire has since been extinguished, Al Jazeera reported, citing local media.



The ministry said that 39 ambulances were participating in the rescue operations following the incident.

Health Minister raises alert level at the ministry central crisis room, follows emergency and medical care for victims of the Warraq accident in Giza, and assigns his two deputies to go to the accident site and referral hospitals Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Minister of Health and Population, is monitoring the health repercussions of the fire that broke out above the Ashara Tunnel in the Warraq district of Imbaba, Giza Governorate. He ordered the alert level to be raised at the central crisis room at the ministry headquarters, as well as at hospitals within the geographical area of the accident site. He also assigned his two deputies, Dr. Mohamed El&Tayeb and Dr. Amr Kandil, to go to the accident site and referral hospitals to monitor the situation on the ground," the Egyptian Ministry of Health said in a statement.

Health Minister Khaled Abdel Ghaffar is monitoring the health repercussions of the fire and has ordered an increase in the alert level at the ministry's central crisis room at its headquarters, as well as at hospitals in the geographical area surrounding the accident site.

The minister also assigned his two deputies, Mohamed El&Tayeb and Amr Kandil, to visit the accident site and referral hospitals to monitor the situation on the ground.

The ministry said it was closely monitoring developments and coordinating with the relevant authorities to ensure that those injured receive the necessary medical care.

It also extended its condolences to the families of the deceased and wished those injured a speedy recovery, adding that follow&up on the situation was ongoing.

"The ministry stated that 39 ambulances are taking part in the rescue operations, noting that the accident has so far left 15 people injured, who were transferred to Zayed Specialized Hospital, Imbaba General Hospital, and Warraq Central Hospital. The death toll has risen to 30 in a preliminary count.

The Ministry of Health and Population continues to closely monitor the situation and coordinate with the relevant authorities to ensure that the injured receive the necessary medical care. The ministry extends its deepest condolences to the families of the deceased, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. Follow&up is ongoing," the post read.

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The Constitution is an invaluable asset to Indian democracy – PM Modi's Constitution Day greetings



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Modi has extended his Constitution Day greetings to the nation. In India, Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) is observed every year on November 26. It commemorates the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly on this very day in 1949. The Constitution, adopted on November 26, 1949, came into effect on January 26, 1950—a day celebrated as Republic Day. On this occasion, Prime Minister Modi has conveyed his Constitution Day greetings to the people of the country. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), he stated: "Best wishes to all the people of the nation on Constitution Day. I pay my tributes to the revered Babasaheb Ambedkar and all the great luminaries of the Constituent Assembly. The gift they provided in the form of the Constitution is an invaluable heritage for Indian democracy. It will continue to serve as our guiding light on the journey toward the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India). This day serves as an opportunity to honor the architects of our Constitution while reaffirming our commitment to strengthening the values enshrined within it. Laws that are thoughtfully conceived and clearly defined—crafted by scholars—shall never fade away."



The Union Minister for Agriculture - Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan meeting with the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Mohan Yadav at Krishi Bhawan, in New Delhi.

BJP announces statewide 'torchlight protest' tomorrow against CM Vijay

accuses him of deceiving devotees in the Tirupparankundram issue

CHENNAI: The BJP has announced that a 'torchlight protest' will be held across Tamil Nadu tomorrow (November 27) to condemn Chief Minister Vijay, whom the party accuses of playing a 'double game' and deceiving the public regarding the Tirupparankundram issue.

In a statement regarding this, Tamil Nadu BJP Vice&President K.P. Ramalingam said, "In an order issued on November 20, a Supreme Court bench comprising Justices Arvind Kumar and Vipul M. Pancholi directed the Madurai District Collector to ensure that the temple administration lights a lamp on the 'Deepa Thoon' (lamp pillar) atop the Thiruparankundram hill on the day of Karthigai Deepam (November 24).

Until 5:30 PM on November 24, the Tamil Nadu government, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department, and the Madurai District Collector engaged in a deceptive charade, effectively hoodwinking the court. By trampling upon the Supreme Court's directive and failing to light the lamp, the Tamil Nadu government has not only defrauded the devotees and the people of Tamil Nadu but has also deeply wounded their sentiments.

Chief Minister Vijay's administration is one of cowardice." "Devotees who had gathered at the foothills of Thiruparankundram on the day of Karthigai Deepam were left seething with rage. Chief Minister Vijay unleashed the police upon them; the police resorted to a lathi&charge, dragging women, children, devotees, and senior citizens along the road before arresting them." "Isn't it a cruel irony that Chief Minister Vijay, who knelt before the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple—having signed a declaration stating that he 'respects and accepts the philosophy of the Hindu religion'—ended up cracking the skulls of Hindus at Thiruparankundram? Is he playing a double game—acting as a guardian of the milk while befriending the cat? To condemn Chief Minister Vijay—a two&faced individual who undermines the Hindu faith and deceives Hindus—the BJP will hold a 'Torchlight Protest' (Deepa&pantha porattam) across Tamil Nadu tomorrow (Friday).

With over 38,000 temples across the state, these protests will take place in unions, town panchayats, municipalities, corporations, and district headquarters." I call upon our tiger&like youth to gather by 10 o'clock, bearing the BJP flag—emblazoned with the lotus symbol—and sounding the clarion call for battle. Just as Aurangzeb once sought to dismantle and destroy the Hindu faith, Chief Minister Vijay has created a similar situation in Tamil Nadu. This is intolerable.

The people of Tamil Nadu must rise up; for it is foolish to keep bowing down when struck, just as it is foolish to keep striking someone who bows. Since the administration of Joseph Vijay has shown no respect for the Supreme Court's verdict, there is no need to seek their permission—nor any obligation to respect such a government! Across every village, town, and temple site in Tamil Nadu, let our slogans resound and shake the very heavens.

We, who carry the glory of India to the global stage, pledge to spread this mission throughout the length and breadth of Tamil Nadu! From this moment on, every day in Tamil Nadu shall be a day of struggle. The Tamil Nadu government, which has shown contempt for the Supreme Court, has no authority to restrain us—and we are under no obligation to heed the orders of its police force! Prime Minister Modi's legion will neither rest nor sleep until this disgraceful regime—which holds no regard for the rule of law—is brought to an end!

Kerala Launches Christmas- New Year Bumper Lottery; First Prize of Rs. 25 Crore



The Kerala State Lottery Department conducts a special 'Bumper Lottery' annually to mark the Christmas and New Year festive season. V.D. Satheesan inaugurated this year's Christmas&New Year Bumper Lottery in Thiruvananthapuram. On his 'X' (formerly Twitter) account, he expressed his pleasure in launching the Kerala State Lottery Department's Christmas&New Year Bumper Lottery.

A first prize of Rs. 25 crore has been announced for this lottery. In total, 766,992 prizes will be awarded. The first prize is Rs. 25 crore, and the second prize is Rs. 1 crore.

Additionally, various other prizes ranging from Rs. 500 to Rs. 5,000 have been announced. The price of a single Bumper Lottery ticket is Rs. 450. Ticket sales will commence on November 28, and the draw is scheduled to take place on February 1 of next year.

Congo's Ebola cases exceed 12,000



CONGO: The number of confirmed Ebola cases in Democratic Republic of Congo now exceeds 12,000, government data showed on Thursday, as responders continue to struggle to bring the second&largest outbreak on record under control. Confirmed infections total 12,021, and 5,904 people have died, the data showed The outbreak, caused by the rare Bundibugyo species of the Ebola virus, was declared in mid&May in Ituri province in northeastern Congo and has since spread to 8 of Congo's 26 provinces. There are no approved treatments or vaccines for this species.

Delayed detection, conflict and strained health services have led to a more rapid spread than in previous outbreaks.

The current epidemic is the second&largest and deadliest on record behind only the 2014&2016 West African outbreak, which infected more than 28,600 people and killed more than 11,000. It is not yet under control, as only 15% of new cases come from contacts known to health authorities, according to data presented by Africa CDC earlier this month. That means many chains of transmission continue to be missed. The media analysis of satellite imagery found the official death toll may be largely underestimated in two of Congo's hardest&hit areas.

Today horoscope

You will be involved in public affairs. You will be relieved of fatigue and will look radiant. The stress caused by children will go away. You should not hate anyone in the office. Partners in a joint venture will cooperate.

Delayed work will be completed. Your father's health will improve. Government-related matters will be favorable. An important document you were looking for in the office will appear. Your superior will appreciate it. New customers will come looking for you in business.

Leave the family behind. You will try to sell your old house, land, and agricultural land. There will be difficulties in completing the scheduled tasks. Maintain peace in the office. Employees will cause problems in business.

Today you will resolve the problems that have been on your mind for a long time. You will be happy with your family. You will collect the bills in business. You will get the support of your employees. You will be happy in the office and have your work done.

Childhood friends will be supportive. Maternal relatives will bring happiness at home. Stomach aches and dizziness will be relieved. You will succeed by learning the ins and outs of business. Your superiors will show love at the office.

The auspicious events that were blocked will now proceed smoothly. Relatives and childhood friends will be your support. You will meet important people in business. Do not hate your partners. Udthiya Yoga will be successful.

You will resolve a pending matter through honest talk. Support from family members will increase. Children's health will improve. Employees will be helpful in business. The document you are looking for will appear in the office.

There will be bitterness due to maternal relatives. It is good to avoid anger. You will renovate and expand your ancestral house. The workload will increase in the office. There will be no need for hasty decisions in business. You will get some profit.

Auspicious events will occur in the family. Cash flow will increase. You will get the expected help from friends. You will meet some people in business. You will attract customers by using new strategies. Your superiors will support you in the office.

You will start traveling on a new path. There will be an inflow of money. A house will be built according to your taste. It is good to talk to your spouse openly. Business will be brisk. There will be profits. Do not hate anyone in the office.

New ideas will come to mind. You will have the support of your family. Your physical health will improve. Your spiritual life will improve. Business will be satisfactory. The workload in the office will decrease. You will be recommended for a new position.

Problems will be resolved through peaceful discussions. There will be peace at home. The health of children will be good. Experienced employees will come to the business. Your work will be valued in the office. Your superiors will appreciate it.

US President Trump decides to impose 25% additional tax on 14 countries including India and China



WASHINGTON: In January last year, Donald Trump, who took office as US President for the second time, imposed high tariffs on countries around the world, citing trade imbalances. The country's Supreme Court blocked this. Following this, he decided to impose new tariffs under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.

Accordingly, the Office of the US Trade Representative launched two separate investigations in March into countries that do not properly implement forced labor laws and into international industrial standards.

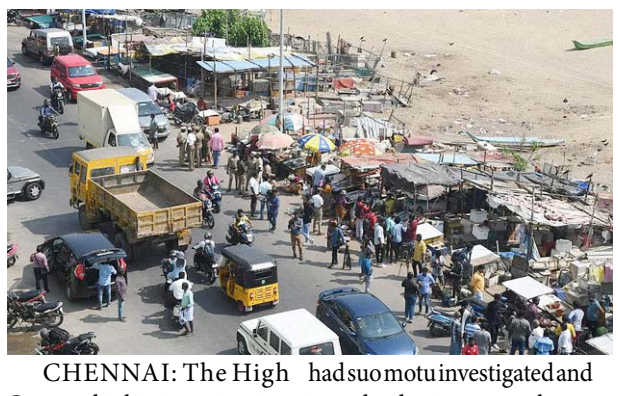
It concluded an investigation into forced labor in foreign supply chains in July. Based on that investigation, Trump imposed tariffs of 10% to 12% on 60 countries, including India. Meanwhile, the Trump administration has reportedly decided to impose additional tariffs of 10% to 25% on goods imported from 14 major trading partners, including India and China.

An official announcement is expected in a day or two. The new tariffs come after the US Trade Representative's Office concluded its investigation into international trade practices.

The Office of the US Trade Representative is expected to release the results of the investigation soon. Meanwhile, the Trump administration has reportedly decided to impose a minimum tariff of 17% on goods imported from India if a trade deal is reached, and a 25% tariff if no deal is reached.

Encroachment on Marina Loop Road

Corporation Commissioner, Police Commissioner, District Collector ordered to appear on Dec. 1



CHENNAI: The High Court, which is investigating a contempt case filed against the High Court for not implementing its order to remove encroachments on the Loop Road and reduce traffic congestion, has ordered the Chennai Municipal Commissioner, Police Commissioner and District Collector to appear before it on December 1.

The Madras High Court had suo motu investigated and issued orders in 2023 and 2025 to remove encroachments on the loop road from Marina Beach, Kalankarai Villukkam to Pattinapakkam.

However, Anand from Nochikuppam filed a case in the High Court, alleging that roadside shops and restaurants were operating in the area in violation of this order, causing traffic congestion in the area.

The High Court, which immediately heard the case, ruled that the authorities should take appropriate action to ensure that there is no disruption to traffic on the Loop Road. But Anand filed a contempt case in the High Court, alleging that the authorities did not respect that order.

The case came up for hearing in a bench of Justices A.D. Jagadish Chandra and Shamim Ahmed. At that time, advocate T.S. Lavanesh, appearing for the petitioner, said, "The case was closed after the Chief Justice of the state gave an assurance in February last year that the encroachments would be removed and traffic would be regulated in a way that vehicles could move smoothly without congestion on the loop road.

"But the problem has not been resolved yet," he said. Additional Chief Solicitor General Abdul Hameed, appearing for the government, and lawyers Prashanth Nataraj, Nithya Muthukumaraswamy, and Durai Gunasekaran, appearing for the corporation, police department, and the collector, stated that action is being taken in this regard.

The court, which refused to accept this, adjourned the hearing in this contempt case by ordering the Chennai Municipal Commissioner, Chennai Police Commissioner, Collector, and Additional Commissioner of Traffic to appear on December 1.

AI medicine could increase human lifespan by 1,400 years

Former Oxford professor predicts Not immortality, but scientific possibility



STOCKHOLM: Swedish philosopher and former Oxford professor Nick Bostrom has said that humans could live up to 1,400 years.

Speaking at a recent webinar, Bostrom shared information from his paper, "The Optimum Time for Superintelligence," in which he said, "If we didn't age, our lifespan would be around 1,200, maybe 1,400 years."

He also clarified that this is not a definitive prediction of human immortality, but rather a mathematical probability. Bostrom's estimate of 1,400 years is more than 11 times the age of the oldest verified human to date.

The oldest verified human in recorded history, Frenchwoman Jeanne Calment, died in 1997 at the age of 122 years and 164 days.

The mathematical basis of Bostrom's idea is that if scientists could reverse the biological process of aging, people would no longer have to face the increasingly severe mortality risks associated with aging. That is, Bostrom believes that future AI technology will discover medical treatments that can reverse the deterioration of cells in the human body and prevent premature aging.

The annual death rate for a healthy 20&year&old from causes other than aging (accidents, infectious diseases, etc.) is about 0.07 percent. If aging were prevented and this rate remained constant throughout life, he believes that the average human lifespan would be about 1,429 years (1 ÷ 0.0007).

There is no established treatment that can prevent human aging, and there is no evidence that current AI systems can provide the life&saving changes he is studying.

No force can stop women's reservation; PM Modi's statement



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has criticized opposition parties regarding the issue of women's reservation. In a message released on the occasion of Constitution Day, Prime Minister Modi referred to the Women's Reservation Bill, which aims to provide adequate representation for women in legislative assemblies and Parliament. He indirectly took a dig at the Congress party, noting that one of the opposition parties had blocked the passage of this bill. Elaborating on this, he stated: "The journey of the Indian Constitution would be incomplete without acknowledging the contribution of women to its creation. However, an incident that took place earlier this year should be a source of shame for us all. A party from the opposition prevented the passage of a bill designed to ensure proper representation for women in legislative bodies. This reflects their disregard for the Constitution. I assure the women of India: No force on earth can prevent them from receiving the justice they deserve." — Prime Minister Modi.

Demolish Dangerous Women's Self-Help Group Building: Public Demand



VADIPATTI: Residents of Sembukkudipatti in Thanishiyam Panchayat have demanded the demolition of a dilapidated and dangerous building formerly used by a Women's Self&Help Group.

The building was constructed many years ago near the local stage (performance area). Due to a lack of maintenance, it has fallen into disrepair and now stands as a useless, decaying structure. There are cracks throughout the building, and the plaster has peeled away, exposing the underlying metal reinforcement bars. The windows and doors have rusted, and the paint has flaked off, leaving the structure looking dark and unsightly. As local residents frequently gather near this site, there is a constant risk that the building could collapse, potentially leading to a serious accident. The residents are urging block&level officials to demolish the structure and repurpose the land for other government initiatives.

When will they open? Integrated Service Centers: Expectations of Persons with Disabilities

MADURAI: Persons with disabilities are eagerly awaiting the opening of 'Integrated Service Centers' in the administrative blocks (unions) of Madurai district. To improve the lives of persons with disabilities in Tamil Nadu and to develop welfare schemes for them, the 'Tamil Nadu Rights Project' has been implemented since 2022, supported by a ₹1,773 crore fund from the World Bank. In the first phase, the project was launched in the districts of Chennai, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Trichy, and Tenkasi. It is set to be expanded to 17 more districts in the second phase, and to the remaining districts—including Madurai—in the third phase. Under this initiative, an 'Integrated Service Center' will be established in every administrative block through an NGO called 'Shelter'. Each center will be staffed by 6 frontline workers, 3 supervisors, and one coordinator, physiotherapist, special educator, and mental health counselor.

These professionals will provide medical and mental health support, guidance on government welfare schemes, and speech therapy to persons with disabilities who visit the center. In Madurai district, 21 such centers are planned. So far, they have been opened only in Kallikudi and Thirumangalam; they have yet to be established in the other blocks. Although the 12 staff members for each center have already been recruited, they are currently submitting their work—including data from ongoing surveys—to a district&level committee.

Due to the delay in opening these centers, persons with disabilities are forced to travel all the way to the district headquarters to access the services they need. Muthusamy, an office&bearer of a local association for persons with spinal cord injuries, stated,

"These centers will be a great help to persons with disabilities. Currently, the process of identifying suitable locations for these centers within the administrative blocks is underway."

"In T. Kallupatti, a disused building at the government hospital was selected [for this purpose]. It would be far more beneficial for persons with disabilities if, instead, the town panchayat building—which previously housed the fire station—were provided," he said.

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Children's Education: Equal Opportunity Is the Nation's Future



A nation's future takes shape in the education of its children. Education is not simply the opportunity to attend school; its true purpose is to help every child learn with understanding, think independently and grow with confidence.

Access to education has expanded in India. Yet differences between urban and rural areas, levels of income, and government and private schools continue to affect children's learning. Some have access to books, the internet and extra support, while others lack even basic learning resources. Bridging this gap is the responsibility of both the government and society.

Children should learn to understand their lessons and apply them in life, rather than merely memorise them. Along with reading, writing and mathematics, schools should nurture curiosity, creativity and the courage to ask questions. This requires not only a sound curriculum but also teachers who recognise and encourage each child's abilities.

Government schools must have enough teachers, libraries, laboratories, safe classrooms and proper toilet facilities. As digital learning expands, no child should fall behind for lack of internet access or a device. Technology should support learning and teaching, not replace teachers.

Children's health, nutrition, mental well&being and safety must receive equal attention. Education is complete only when it develops character, compassion, respect for equality and a sense of social responsibility—not when success is measured by marks alone.

When parents, teachers, the government and society work together, every child can be given the opportunity to learn and fulfil their potential. Investing in children's education lays the foundation for the nation's future. A strong foundation is essential to building an India that is both equitable and progressive.

By P. Pandiarajan
MADURAI MANI EDITOR

65 foreign terrorists infiltrated into Kashmir



NEW DELHI: Central intelligence officials have said that 65 foreign terrorists have infiltrated Jammu and Kashmir, 55 of whom are affiliated with Pakistan&based militant groups Jaish&e&Mohammed and Lashkar&e&Taiba.

Security forces have intensified operations against foreign militants in Kashmir Valley. Recently, intelligence agencies have received inputs that several militants who have infiltrated from Pakistan are planning attacks. Of the total 65 foreign terrorists, 55 are believed to be affiliated with Pakistan&based Jaish&e&Mohammed and Lashkar&e&Taiba militant outfits. The remaining 10 are from smaller outfits operating with the support of larger militant outfits. In a bid to intensify operations against foreign militants, security forces have set up over 80 makeshift camps in remote and mountainous parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Many of these camps are set up at altitudes of over 10,000 feet above sea level. The Army, Central Reserve Police Force and Jammu and Kashmir Police have been deployed in these camps to maintain constant vigil in the hilly areas and prevent militants from using forests and hilly areas as hideouts.



ICGS Sujay Concludes Visit to Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, from Nov.23 to 25, 2026.



As part of the ongoing Karthigai Deepam festival in Tiruvannamalai, a *theppa utsavam* (float festival) took place last night at the Ayyankulam tank. A large number of devotees gathered to witness and offer prayers to Lord Chandrasekarar, who was mounted on the float.

Kumbhabhishekam at Thirumohur Temple Renovation Works Underway for Months

OTHAKADAI: Renovation works have been ongoing for several months at the Kalamega Perumal Temple in Thirumohur, near Madurai. Devotees believe that the pace of these works will intensify once the date for the Kumbhabhishekam (consecration ceremony) is finalized.

A unique feature of this temple—one of the 108 sacred Vaishnava shrines—is the presence of Chakrathazhwar depicted with 16 arms. The temple, which boasts historical significance dating back to the Pandya and Nayak dynasties, as well as ancient architectural elements, attracts a large number of devotees from various regions.

The last Kumbhabhishekam took place in November 2009. Now, 15 years later, renovation works are being carried out on the Rajagopuram (main gateway tower), the Vimanas (temple towers), the Mandapams (halls), and the shrines of the subsidiary deities.

Additionally, the construction of a new Vasantha Mandapam and a perimeter wall around the temple tank (Teppakulam) has been in progress for several months. Devotees suggest that the date for the Kumbhabhishekam should be fixed to ensure the work does not progress at a slow pace; they believe that setting a date will help accelerate the ongoing renovation efforts.

The Government will stand by milk producers to ensure prosperity and happiness in their lives: CM Vijay

CHENNAI: In a social media post released on the occasion of National Milk Day, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister S. Joseph Vijay stated the following:

"On this National Milk Day—which commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the architect of the 'White Revolution' that significantly boosted the nation's dairy wealth—I extend my heartfelt wishes to everyone involved in the dairy production sector.



The hard work and dedication of our farmers and milk producers, who drive rural economic growth through dairy farming, play a vital role in ensuring the nation's food security and improving nutritional standards.

To safeguard the interests of milk producers, our government has increased the milk procurement price by ₹6 per litre.

Furthermore, we are implementing a scheme to provide milch cows free of cost, aimed at enhancing the livelihoods of women living in rural areas. In this manner, our government will continue to take measures to boost milk production and will always stand by our milk producers to ensure greater prosperity and happiness in their lives." Thus, he stated.

Crystal Crop Protection shares debut on bourses, list at 3% premium over IPO price

Shares of Crystal Crop Protection debuted on the bourses today, November 26, 2026, listing at Rs 280 on the BSE, a 2.94 per cent premium over the issue price of Rs 272. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), the stock debuted at Rs 278, up 2.21 per cent. The company's market cap stood at Rs 4,568.97 crore. Earlier, Crystal Crop Protection's IPO closed with bids for 17 times the shares on offer. According to NSE data, the Rs 456&crore IPO received bids for 20,77,00,185 shares against 1,21,70,076 shares on offer. The non&institutional category was subscribed 37.70 times, while the qualified institutional buyer portion was subscribed 15.47 times. The retail quota was subscribed 9.28 times.

The stock gained after listing at Rs 280 and touched the high of Rs 281. Last seen, the stock traded at Rs 275.95, down Rs 4.05, or 1.45 per cent, from the listing price on BSE. The market cap of the company stood at Rs 4,510.23 crore. Earlier, the public issue of Crystal Crop Protection Ltd was subscribed 17 times on the final day of bidding. The Rs 456&crore IPO received bids for 20,77,00,185 shares against 1,21,70,076 shares on offer, according to NSE data.

The non&institutional category was subscribed 37.70 times, while the qualified institutional buyer portion received 15.47 times subscription. The retail investor quota was subscribed 9.28 times. The initial public offering (IPO) of Crystal Crop Protection Ltd was fully subscribed on the first day of bidding on Wednesday. Ahead of the IPO, the company raised Rs 136 crore from anchor investors. The company has allotted 49,98,708 equity shares to anchor investors at Rs 272 apiece, the upper end of the IPO price band, according to a circular uploaded on stock exchanges.

Investors participating in the anchor round include International Finance Corporation (IFC), Ashoka India Equity Investment Trust Plc, Nomura Singapore, Citigroup Global Markets Mauritius, WhiteOak Mutual Fund, Tata Mutual Fund and Groww Mutual Fund.

Auto-rickshaw driver killed in head-on collision with government bus near Thirupuvanam

SIVAGANGAI: An auto&rickshaw driver lost his life following a head&on collision between his vehicle and a government bus near Thirupuvanam in Sivaganga district. Early this morning (Thursday), an auto&rickshaw was traveling along the Madurai–Ramanathapuram four&lane highway near Thirupuvanam.

A government bus, approaching from the opposite direction, went out of the driver's control and collided head&on with the auto&rickshaw. The impact left the front portion of the auto&rickshaw completely mangled. The driver of the auto&rickshaw, Kamin Kani (aged 50), sustained severe injuries and tragically died on the spot.



Upon receiving information about the accident, police from Thirupuvanam arrived at the scene, recovered the body of Kamin Kani, and sent it to a government hospital for a post&mortem examination. The police have registered a case and are conducting a thorough investigation into the incident. The tragedy has cast a pall of gloom over the area.

Udhayanidhi petitions Governor seeking transfer of Kallakurichi MLA case to CBI probe

CHENNAI: Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Udhayanidhi Stalin has personally met Governor Rajendra Viswanath Arlekar and submitted a petition urging the Tamil Nadu government to arrest Kallakurichi MLA Arul Vignesh in the case of sexual harassment of the District Collector and transfer the case to the CBI investigation.

The details of the petition filed by Udhayanidhi Stalin are as follows: The Governor has been informed of the breakdown of law and order in Tamil Nadu for the past six months, the failure to take legal action against the allegations against MLAs and administrators of the ruling party, and the questionable safety of government officials and the public.

It has been pointed out that in the complaint that a District Collector was sexually harassed by ruling party MLA Arul Vignesh, a complaint was filed with the Chief Secretary on 31&07&2026, but no action was taken for about four months; the First Information Report was registered only after the case came up for hearing in the High Court; and the Law Minister referred to the matter as a personal matter.

Furthermore, the complaint that the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly assaulted a member of the public who had gone to submit a petition seeking basic amenities including drinking water, the allegations against ruling party executives in Ayanavaram, Karamadai, and Alandur, crimes against women and children, incidents of children going missing, and at least nine deaths in police and court custody have been brought to the attention of the Governor. Pointing out that large quantities of drugs, including 137 kg of methamphetamine in Nagapattinam and 71.24 kg of heroin in Chennai, have been seized by Union government agencies, and that ruling party executives have been arrested in drug trafficking cases, the need to conduct a detailed investigation into the network and financial transactions behind these has also been emphasized.

Based on these, the following demands have been made to the Governor:

1. Under Article 167(b) of the Constitution of India, a detailed report should be sought from the Chief Minister on the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu since June 2026 and the action taken in each of the incidents mentioned in the complaint.

2. The government should be asked to explain why the complaint filed on 31&07&2026 alleging sexual harassment of a District Collector by a ruling party MLA was brought to the attention of the ruling party leadership instead of being forwarded to the police or the Internal Complaints Committee.

3. The Tamil Nadu government should be instructed to arrest MLA Arul Vignesh, secure electronic evidence, and transfer this case to the CBI for investigation so that the investigation can be completed



within a specified time frame.

4. The government should be instructed to register a First Information Report (FIR) mentioning the names of all those involved, including the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, in the complaint that a civilian was attacked in Thuraiyur, and to conduct an independent investigation into the role of the Samayapuram Police Inspector in the allegations that the victim was threatened into denying the complaint.

5. The activities of the Chief Secretary should be brought to the notice of the Department of Personnel and Training of the Union Government for action under the All India Services Rules. The irresponsible public comments of the Law Minister should be brought to the notice of the Chief Minister.

6. A special unit with a state&level alert system should be created to trace missing children. The government should be instructed to inform the National Human Rights Commission within 24 hours of custodial deaths and conduct a judicial inquiry and video&recorded autopsy.

7. If the Tamil Nadu government fails to take appropriate action on the above issues, the Union government should be informed about the situation in the state.

8. In the cases of drugs seized in Nagapattinam and Madhavaram and related cases, the Enforcement Directorate should register a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 and recommend to the Union Government to identify, freeze and confiscate the assets acquired through crime.

9. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) should conduct a joint investigation into the sources of funds, distribution network, storage locations, maritime smuggling and those providing security for drug trafficking, and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) should also be recommended to conduct an investigation if there is any evidence of terrorist financing or links with foreign networks.

10. It should be ensured that an investigation is conducted into whether those in power, including ruling party executives, public representatives, and government officials, have supported, provided financial assistance, or protection to drug trafficking, and whether they have benefited from it.

11. A report should be sought from the Chief Minister under Article 167(b) of the Constitution on the number of drug cases registered by the Tamil Nadu Police since May 2026, the quantity of drugs seized by state and union government agencies, and the action taken against ruling party functionaries implicated in drug cases.

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, Udhayanidhi Stalin, has stressed that the Governor should take appropriate action in accordance with his constitutional duties to ensure that the law protects the common people and controls those in power, regardless of who is accused.

This was stated in the statement.

Hotel Taj Manager To Tea Seller And More: The Unsung Heroes Of 26/11 Mumbai Attacks Who Risked Their Lives To Save Others



MUMBAI: It has been 18 years since the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, in which 166 people lost their lives. Ten terrorists belonging to Pakistan&backed Lashkar&e&Taiba (LeT) entered Mumbai and unleashed terror across the city in November 2008. The attacks remain among the deadliest terror strikes in India's history.

The terrorists entered Mumbai by sea on the night of November 26, 2008. Over the next four days, they targeted several prominent locations, killing 166 people and leaving hundreds injured.

While the bravery of security personnel who fought the terrorists is widely remembered, several ordinary people also displayed extraordinary courage during those horrific hours. From a railway announcer who guided passengers to safety to hotel employees who helped guests escape, many risked their lives to save others. 1. Karambir Singh Kang: The Taj General Manager Who Returned Amid the Attack

Employees of the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel showed remarkable courage as they tried to protect guests and help them escape during the attacks. Karambir Singh Kang, the hotel's general manager at the time, rushed back to the Taj after learning about the attack. Despite losing his wife, Neeti, and two sons, Uday and Samar, who were inside the hotel, he went inside to help others.

Kang continued coordinating evacuation efforts and helped guests and staff reach safety. 2. Tukaram Omble: The Policeman Who Helped Capture Kasab Among the security personnel who confronted the terrorists, Assistant Sub&Inspector Tukaram Omble made the ultimate sacrifice while helping the police capture Ajmal Kasab alive.

On the night of November 26, Omble and other policemen were stationed at a checkpoint near Girgaum Chowpatty when a car carrying terrorists approached them. When Kasab stepped out of the vehicle and opened fire, Omble rushed towards him and grabbed the barrel of his AK&47 rifle.

Despite being shot several times, he refused to let go of the weapon. His actions gave other policemen enough time to overpower Kasab and arrest him. Omble later died from his injuries. His bravery played a crucial role in capturing the only terrorist who was arrested alive during the attacks. He was posthumously awarded the Ashoka Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award.

3. Vishnu Zende: The Railway Announcer Who Guided Passengers To Safety One of the remarkable stories of courage during the attacks came from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), where railway announcer Vishnu Dattaram Zende was on duty when the terrorists opened fire. Instead of running away, Zende picked up the microphone and began warning passengers. He made announcements in Hindi and Marathi, asking commuters to avoid the main hall and leave through the rear exit near Platform 1. His timely warnings helped several passengers escape the station during the attack.

4. Devika Rotawan: The Young Survivor Who Testified Against Ajmal Kasab Devika Rotawan was just nine years old when she was shot in the right leg during the firing at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST). Despite her injuries, she later appeared in court as a witness and identified Ajmal Kasab, the Pakistani terrorist who was captured alive. Her testimony became an important part of the prosecution's case against him.

5. Mohammed Taufiq Sheikh: The Tea Vendor Who Warned People At CST

Mohammed Taufiq Sheikh, who worked as a tea seller at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST), was collecting payments for tea deliveries when the firing began. Realising that something was wrong, he rushed towards the long&distance booking counter and began shouting warnings, urging people to leave the station. His quick response helped several people move away from the danger. Recalling that night, Sheikh said he was standing near a medical store when he heard a sound that initially resembled firecrackers. An India&England cricket match was also taking place, leading him to believe that India had won.

"It's been 18 years, and I still haven't been able to sleep. I didn't know when Kasab arrived. I had gone to collect payment for some tea. There was a huge crowd.

The officials told me, "Wait outside; come back later, kid." So, I stood outside. Suddenly, there was a sound&like firecrackers going off during Diwali. There was an India vs England match happening, so I thought India had won. But then I looked around; there were no police, no one in sight, just a stampede. I started shouting, "Run, a bomb has gone off..." I went inside, locked the gate, and alerted the officials...just then, someone walked in&I thought him to be a commando. But he shouted an expletive at me in Punjabi. He then took six steps back and fired three bullets. One hit a table, another shattered the glass, and the third ricocheted. I called my family to say, "This is the end for me," Taufiq Shaikh told ANI.

6. Mukesh Jadhav, A Home Guard At CST Mukesh Jadhav, 23, was a Home Guard on duty at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) on 26/11. As gunfire broke out, he guided commuters to safety and tried to warn others. Even after being shot, he dragged himself to the police booth to alert the cops before collapsing.

7. Thomas Varghese: The Waiter Who Kept Saving, Even After Being Shot Thomas Varghese was a senior waiter at Wasabi restaurant in the Taj. When the firing started on 26/11, he told the guests to crouch down and stay safe. Then he helped them leave the restaurant safely. He made sure everyone else left first. He was the last one to leave. He was escorting some of the guests when he was shot in the leg.

The 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks took place on November 26, 2008, when 10 terrorists belonging to Pakistan&backed Lashkar&e&Taiba entered Mumbai through the sea route.

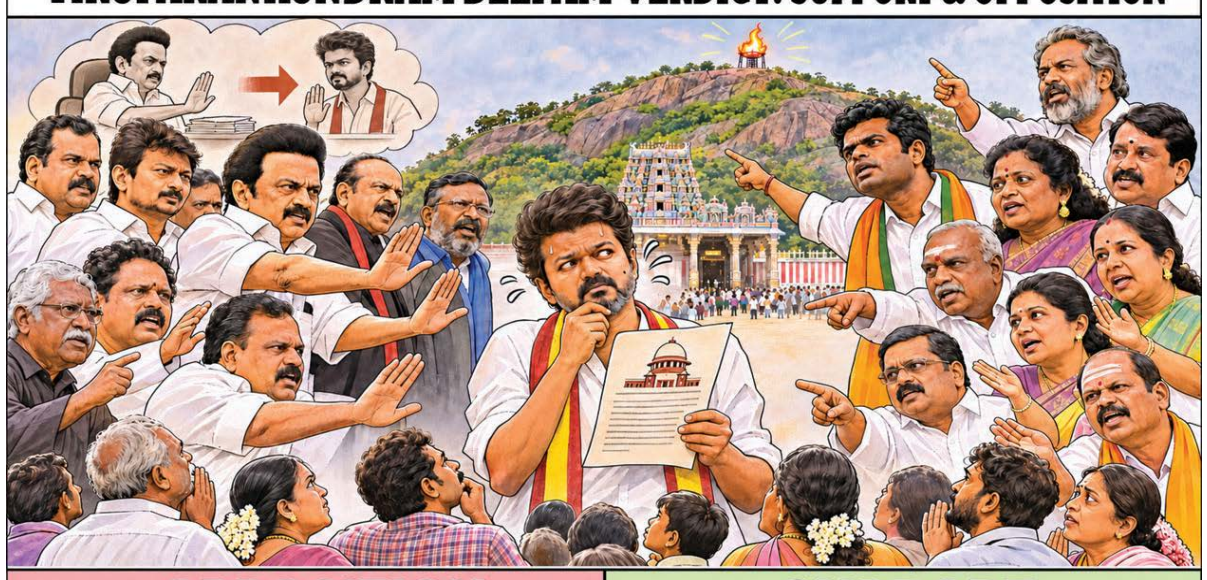
These locations were chosen to cause maximum damage, as they were frequented by foreign nationals, tourists and local residents. The attacks continued for nearly four days, ending on November 29, 2008. Nine of the 10 terrorists were killed during the security operation, while Ajmal Kasab was captured alive. In May 2010, Kasab was sentenced to death. He was hanged at Yerawada Central Jail in Pune on November 21, 2012.

Eighteen years later, the bravery of the security personnel and ordinary citizens who risked their lives to save others remains an important part of the story of 26/11.



Medical beneficiaries thanking Dr. Ilancheralathan, Head of the Vascular Surgery Department of Stanley Medical College Hospital. Along with him, Medical College Principal S. Jyothi Kumar (Additional Charge), Head of the Anesthesiology Department Padmini and others.

TIRUPARANKUNDRAM DEEPAM VERDICT: SUPPORT & OPPOSITION



Constitution Day: VP Radhakrishnan, PM Modi, Union Ministers pay tribute to framers, call for upholding constitutional ideals



NEW DELHI: Vice&President CP Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and several Union Ministers on Thursday extended greetings to citizens on Constitution Day, paying tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar and the members of the Constituent Assembly.

Vice&President CP Radhakrishnan extended greetings to citizens and paid tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar and the members of the Constituent Assembly, calling upon people to reaffirm their commitment to the constitutional ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity and work towards building a strong, inclusive and prosperous India.

In a post on X, the Vice&President of India wrote, "Greetings to all fellow citizens on Constitution Day! On this occasion, I pay my humble tributes to Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar ji and offer my respectful homage to the distinguished members of the Constituent Assembly, whose vision, wisdom and dedication shaped our Constitution and laid the foundation of our democratic Republic." "Let us reaffirm our commitment to the constitutional ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, and strive collectively to build a strong, inclusive and prosperous India," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also highlighted the uniqueness of the Indian Constitution, its significance in his personal journey and the steps taken by the NDA government to strengthen it.

In a post on X, sharing the key points of his OpEd, the Prime Minister wrote, "In this OpEd, I highlight the following: UNIQUENESS of our Constitution and Constituent Assembly. How the Constitution of India is an INSEPARABLE part of my journey. Ways the NDA Government has STRENGTHENED the Constitution. Efforts towards boosting SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE."

He further said the article highlighted how the Constitution was "trampled over by those who ruled the nation for 5 decades" and how "one party has devolved from being a Virodh Paksh to AVRODH PAKSH".

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also extended greetings on the occasion, describing the Constitution as the cornerstone of India's democracy and highlighting its role in ensuring harmony, inclusivity and equal opportunities for all. In his post on X, Singh said, "Heartfelt greetings to you all on the occasion of Constitution Day.

"Our Constitution is the cornerstone of India's democracy. It not only establishes our system of governance but also paves the way for realizing the ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. Our Constitution guides us in building a society characterized by harmony and inclusivity, where every individual enjoys equal opportunities, respect, and dignity," the post read.

"I pay my respectful tribute to all the members of the Constituent Assembly and to all those eminent individuals who contributed to the framing of our Constitution," it added.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted the government's efforts to strengthen the connection between the Constitution and the collective consciousness of citizens, particularly the youth. She said, "Our endeavour has been to deepen its connect with the collective consciousness of our people, especially our youth, and strengthen the spirit of unity essential to India's bright future. That is why over a decade ago, our government decided to mark November 26 as Constitution Day.

"Two simple yet powerful principles can guide our collective endeavours: India First in our thinking and kartavya (duties) in our actions," she wrote on X. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi also shared the Prime Minister's message on Constitution Day, highlighting the vision, values and ideals enshrined in the Constitution, which continue to guide India's democratic journey.

In a post on X, Joshi said that Modi had emphasised social justice, equality, dignity and inclusive development and called upon every citizen to make constitutional values a lived reality. He also highlighted the two guiding principles of "India First in our thinking and Kartavya in our actions" as the country moves towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also paid tribute to the makers of the Constitution and called for renewed commitment to its ideals and principles. "On Constitution Day today, pay tribute to the makers of our Constitution and their vision for our Republic. Reaffirm our commitment to its ideals and principles," Jaishankar wrote on X.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal also greeted citizens on the occasion and recalled that the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India on November 26, 1949. "Greetings to all citizens on Constitution Day. On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India & the bedrock of our democracy," Sonowal wrote on X.

He also honoured the visionaries who framed the Constitution and called upon citizens to uphold its ideals to build a prosperous and self&reliant India.



The Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Chanchal Kumar administering the Constitution Day pledge to all officers and staff of the Ministry, on the occasion of the Constitution Day celebrations, in New Delhi.

Ban on Devotees Visiting Tirupparankundram Hill Enters Third Day



MADURAI: The Supreme Court issued an interim order allowing the *Karthigai Deepam* (sacred lamp) to be lit atop the *Deepa Thoon* (lamp pillar) at the summit of Tirupparankundram Hill—specifically for this year. Following this, there was an expectation that the lamp would be lit at that location, leading to the deployment of approximately 6,000 police personnel in Tirupparankundram.

Furthermore, the Madurai City Police declared the hill area a "red zone." Ultimately, the lamp was not lit at the *Deepa Thoon*; instead, the *Maha Deepam* was lit at the *Deepa Mandapam* near the *Uchi Pillaiyar* temple—the traditional site for lighting the lamp on the hill. In the wake of these events, heavy police security remains in place across the Tirupparankundram hill and the surrounding town. A ban on devotees visiting the hill was imposed starting at 6:00 AM the day before yesterday, and it continued through yesterday. Today, this restriction remains in effect for the third consecutive day.

Barricades have been set up at the main entrance leading to the hill, with a large number of police officers stationed there. Many devotees arrived hoping to ascend the hill, but they were turned away by the police, who informed them that the ban is still in force. Only residents living at the foothills are permitted to pass, subject to verification of their *Aadhaar* cards. Police officials stated that the restriction will only be lifted once the government grants permission to allow devotees to ascend the hill.

Thoothukudi: Flag-hoisting Ceremony at St. Francis Xavier Church



THOOTHUKUDI: An annual 10&day festival is celebrated at the St. Francis Xavier Church in Xavierpuram, near Thoothukudi.

This year's festivities commenced the evening before last with the traditional flag&hoisting ceremony. Fr. Anthony Douglas, Parish Priest of Thisayanvilai, presided over the event and hoisted the flag, while Fr. George Olipan, Parish Priest of Poochikadu, delivered the sermon. Fr. Selvarathinam, Parish Priest of Thalamuthunagar, was also present.

A large number of devotees attended the ceremony and offered prayers.

Throughout the festival, a Holy Mass is held every morning, followed by the Rosary, a sermon, and Eucharistic Adoration in the evening. On December 2nd, the ninth day of the festival, a Eucharistic procession will take place at 6:30 PM.

On December 3rd, the tenth and final day, a concelebrated Holy Mass will be held at 6:00 AM, led by Bishop Stephen Anthony of the Thoothukudi Diocese. At 9:00 AM, the procession of the saint's chariot (car procession) will take place.

Issue regarding the 'Deepam' at Tirupparankundram Legal notice sent to Chief Minister Vijay



MADURAI: A legal notice has been sent to Chief Minister Vijay on behalf of Bhanuprakash Reddy, a former member of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board of Trustees, regarding the failure to implement a Supreme Court order.

The Supreme Court had issued an order to light the 'Karthigai Deepam' on the lamp pillar atop the hill at Tirupparankundram; however, the lamp was not lit. In this regard, advocate K. Ajay Kumar has sent a legal notice to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Vijay, on behalf of G. Bhanuprakash Reddy—a former TTD Board member and social activist. The notice alleges that the Tamil Nadu government and the concerned officials have failed to implement the directives issued by the Supreme Court concerning the Tirupparankundram Deepam.

The mere filing of a review petition against a Supreme Court order does not automatically result in a stay of that order. Unless the concerned court stays or modifies the order, it remains mandatory for the authorities to implement it. The notice demands that, within 48 hours of its receipt, the government must disclose the steps taken to implement the Supreme Court's order, as well as the reasons for the failure to carry it out. It further states that if a satisfactory response is not received from the Tamil Nadu government, appropriate legal action will be initiated in the relevant courts. This is stated in the legal notice.

'Ukraine, NATO countries cross the border' - Russia issues strong warning, 'We will consider a nuclear attack'

MOSCOW: Russian Deputy Defense Minister Dmitry Medvedev has warned that a nuclear attack will be considered as a precautionary measure.

Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, who also served as Prime Minister under Vladimir Putin, is now the Deputy Chairman of Russia's Security Council and has written an article in the Moscow Journal of International Law.

The report, titled 'National Sovereignty and Nuclear Weapons: International Legal Aspects for Ensuring National Security', states: Ukraine and its NATO allies have already crossed some boundaries. They are increasingly using non&nuclear means of destruction.

This move could force Russia to consider using nuclear weapons in a preemptive strike.



And since Western countries have secretly supplied nuclear weapons to Kyiv (Ukraine), we will also consider launching a nuclear attack. Russia has not only the right to use nuclear weapons, but also the obligation to do so.

It said. Medvedev's warning came amid reports that Russia is preparing to launch a nuclear&armed satellite. The nuclear&armed satellite, dubbed 'Sputnik&S', could be used to intercept or destroy other satellites. The Russian embassy in Berlin, Germany, has called the allegations baseless.

AIADMK to hold state-wide protests on the 2nd against the TVK government



CHENNAI: In a statement issued by AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, it is stated: Six months have passed since the TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam) government, led by Vijay, assumed power in Tamil Nadu.

During this period, the administration has significantly dragged the state backward.

Those who initially requested a three&month grace period have now, six months later, become a source of profound distress for the people of Tamil Nadu.

The state is reeling under a pervasive drug crisis—with narcotics seemingly everywhere—yet the Chief Minister remains seated like a mere puppet, failing to take any action or even demonstrating an understanding of the gravity of the situation.

This is a matter that should bring deep shame. While law and order are being undermined by anti&social elements on one front, members of the TVK—including its MLAs and office&bearers—are themselves instigating law&and&order issues, much like a fence devouring the very crops it is meant to protect. Given this, and in order to unmask these "reels&model" rulers and expose their anti&people, anti&democratic governance to the public, the AIADMK will hold massive protest demonstrations across all 85 of its organizational districts. These protests are scheduled for the 2nd (Wednesday) at 10:00 AM.

The demonstrations will be led by the respective headquarters secretaries and held in the presence of the district unit secretaries.

I request the participation of a large number of people in this protest demonstration—including the party's Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly, former ministers, former MPs and MLAs, state&level office&bearers of affiliated wings, party officials serving at various levels in the districts, current and former representatives of local government bodies, former representatives of cooperative societies, fellow party members, women, and workers from various sectors. This is stated therein.

First private PSLV rocket to be launched next year: ISRO chief Narayanan



NEW DELHI: ISRO Chairman Narayanan has announced that the first privately developed PSLV rocket will be launched into space next year.

The 5th India International Space Conference, jointly organized by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian National Space Development and Accreditation Centre (IN&SPACE), is being held in Delhi on the 23rd and 24th. ISRO Chairman Narayanan attended the closing ceremony of the conference on the day before yesterday. He told the participants:

Earlier, only ISRO built the PSLV rocket with the support of the industry. Currently, the L&T&HAL joint venture has been awarded the contract to build five PSLV rockets. Of these, the first rocket, PSLV-&N1, is being prepared at a fast pace. We are targeting to launch it in the first quarter of next year.

We need to create a large number of space assets for communication, navigation and earth observation.

This cannot be done by the government sector alone. Currently, there are only 56 ISRO spacecraft in orbit.

Therefore, the government is accelerating satellite launches in collaboration with private companies on a massive scale.

For this, ISRO and In-&Space are helping private companies. You will see the results in another 5 years. Now, from just one startup company, the number has increased to more than 440. He said this.

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