Ours bank with
Bank of Baroda

New India 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 220 Local 27.11.2026 Out Station 28.11.2026 Price Rs.3/ Email: newindiaflash@gmail.com

CM Vijay Seeks Blessings by Touching the Feet of Veteran Political Figures

He presented a memento to V. V. Swaminathan and Dr. H. V. Hande

CHENNAI: Chief Minister Vijay presented mementos to former ministers V. V. Swaminathan and Dr. H. V. Hande, and sought their blessings by touching their feet.

At an event organized by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly at the Secretariat today (November 27, 2026)—presided over by Assembly Speaker J. C. D. Prabhakar—Chief Minister S. Joseph Vijay honored former Assembly members and former ministers V. V. Swaminathan and Dr. H. V. Hande on the occasion of their 100th birthdays. He presented them with garlands and *ponnadai* (shawls) and offered mementos. During this interaction, Chief Minister Vijay touched the feet of both V. V. Swaminathan and Dr. H. V. Hande to seek their blessings. V. V. Swaminathan, born on February 15, 1927, is credited with introducing a "complaint box" system during his tenure as the Chairman of the Chidambaram Municipality, allowing him to directly learn about and address the grievances of the public.



He served as a member of the Rajya Sabha from 1972 to 1980 and was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from the Bhuvanagiri constituency in the 1980 and 1984 elections. Furthermore, he held a unique position in terms of administrative experience; in the cabinet led by former Chief Minister Dr. M. G. Ramachandran (MGR), he simultaneously managed 13 key portfolios, including Prohibition and Excise, Handlooms, Information, Tourism, and Electricity. Born on November 28, 1927, Dr. H. V. Hande is an accomplished physician, political leader, and writer. As early as 1942, while still a student, he demonstrated his patriotism by participating in the 'Quit India' movement. Since 1950, he has been providing medical services to the common people at an affordable cost. He served as a member of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council for a total of five terms.

Between 1980 and 1986, he served as the Minister for Health and Family Welfare in the cabinet led by the former Chief Minister, 'Puratchi Thalaivar' Dr. M.G.R. For his significant contributions—including the eradication of polio, the implementation of vaccination programs, leprosy control, the promotion of maternal and child health, and the strengthening of rural healthcare infrastructure—he was honored with the Dr. B.C. Roy Award, the highest recognition for medical professionals in India. In 2026, he was further honored with the Padma Shri award by the Government of India.

Additionally, he is a literary figure who translated the entire *Kamba Ramayanam* into English. To honor senior political figures V.V. Swaminathan and Dr. H.V. Hande, and to commemorate their contributions to legislative democracy as well as the political and social development of Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Vijay, felicitated both of them today. During the event, V. V. Swaminathan presented the Chief Minister with a one&hundred&rupee note signed by the former Chief Minister, 'Puratchi Thalaivar' Dr. M.G.R. The event was attended by the Minister for School Education, Tamil Development, Information and Publicity of Tamil Nadu, Rajmohan; Chief Secretary Dr. M. Saikumar; Secretary of the Legislative Assembly R. Shanthi; senior government officials; and members of the families of V. V. Swaminathan and Dr. H. V. Hande.

Ministers must stop intimidating and unnecessarily harassing the Sthanikas

Nainar Nagendran

CHENNAI: BJP State President Nainar Nagendran has urged Ministers Ramesh and Nirmal Kumar to cease the intimidation and unnecessary harassment of the *Sthanikas* (traditional temple functionaries) at the Subramanya Swamy Temple in Tirupparankundram.

In his statement, he noted that it has been proven beyond doubt that the TVK (Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam) government deliberately violated a Supreme Court order regarding the lighting of the *Deepam* (sacred lamp) atop the Tirupparankundram hill. To cover up its own error, the government—led by Chief Minister Joseph Vijay—has not only shifted the blame onto the temple trustees but has also unnecessarily dragged the names of the *Sthanikas* into the matter.

Reports suggest that this anti-Hindu TVK government, which has overstepped its bounds, pressured the *Sthanikas* into signing letters—a move aimed solely at protecting the government itself.



If true, this is highly condemnable.

Had the TVK government shown even a fraction of the urgency it displays in curbing the rights of Hindus toward maintaining law and order, then Arul Vignesh—the TVK MLA who behaved inappropriately toward a female District Collector—would have been arrested by now! The government, led by Chief Minister Vijay, must stop its anti-Hindu agenda and cease the petty practice of intimidating others to serve as scapegoats for its own failures; instead, it should focus on rectifying the administrative lapses occurring under its watch, he stated.

MK Stalin Rules Out DMK's Support To Delimitation Unless Tamil Nadu's Parliamentary Share Remains Intact

CHENNAI: Amid speculation that the DMK may support the Delimitation Bill, DMK president and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin said on Friday that his party would not compromise on the state's share of parliamentary representation during the delimitation exercise.

He stressed that Tamil Nadu's current share of 7.18 per cent of Lok Sabha seats must not be reduced, even if the total number of constituencies increases.



In a post on X, Stalin said the DMK was the first party in the country to raise concerns about the possible impact of delimitation. He also recalled that Chennai hosted the first meeting of national political leaders who came together to demand a fair delimitation exercise.

He wrote, "The DMK was the first in India to raise its voice about the possible adverse effects of constituency delimitation!

It was also in Chennai that a meeting was first held, bringing together national leaders to demand fair delimitation.

In keeping with the resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and the resolutions adopted at the Joint Action Committee meeting for fair constituency delimitation, our firm demands were:

• If the number of parliamentary constituencies is increased, under no circumstances should Tamil Nadu's share fall below its current 7.18%!

• The existing proportion of parliamentary representation among States, as determined on the basis of the 1971 Census and frozen earlier, must remain unchanged for another 25 years!

The DMK remains firm on both these positions today and will continue to do so. There is no change in this position, and there is no question of compromise!"

Issue an order today to allow the lighting of the deepam as early as tomorrow

Archaeological Survey of India



NEW DELHI: Contempt of court petitions and interlocutory applications regarding the failure to light the *deepam* on the *deepa thoon* (lamp pillar) at Tirupparankundram came up for hearing before a bench comprising Justices Arvind Kumar and Pancholi. During the proceedings, the judges questioned why their order dated November 20—directing that the *deepam* be lit on the *deepa thoon* at Tirupparankundram—had not been complied with. Arguments presented on behalf of the petitioner: The report filed by the District Collector is an attempt to conceal the facts.

The Collector alleges that the *Devasthanam* (temple administration) did not cooperate in lighting the *deepam* at the designated new location; however, the *Devasthanam* officials have no connection to the failure to light the *deepam*. The Board of Trustees consists of five members, including a non&Hindu. Furthermore, one of the trustees is among those who protested against the lighting of the *deepam*. The members of the Board of Trustees should be removed from their positions.

The Supreme Court's order has not been implemented due to political reasons. Criminal and civil contempt proceedings should be initiated. Since the *Karthigai* festival spans 11 days, a fresh order should be issued to ensure the *deepam* is lit on the *deepa thoon*. Arguments presented by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI): The police did not permit an inspection of the *deepa thoon*. It must be ensured that the *deepam* is lit on the pillar. To facilitate this, a committee—independent of the Tamil Nadu government's control—should be constituted. The process of lighting the *deepam* should be carried out under the supervision of a retired judge. The Tamil Nadu Police should no longer intervene in this matter. An order must be issued today to ensure the *deepam* can be lit as early as tomorrow.



he Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Friday has arrested a man suspected to be a terrorist linked to the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) outfit.

India-EU Free Trade Agreement Set for December 16 Signing in Brussels, Says Envoy Jean-Eric Paquet

DELHI: The landmark India-European Union Free Trade Agreement is scheduled to be formally signed on December 16 during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Brussels, according to the Ambassador of the European Union to India, Jean-Eric Paquet. Speaking with ANI on Friday, Paquet stated that the agreement is fully negotiated and ready for signature, with projections pointing towards implementation in the first half of 2027. Once operational, the pact will eliminate tariffs on 99 per cent of Indian trade volume entering Europe and immediately halve Indian import duties on European wine from 150 per cent to 75 per cent.

Paquet noted that negotiations on the pact are complete. Following its signing in Brussels, India's domestic formalities will be largely complete, while the European side will move towards parliamentary scrutiny and approval. The European Parliament has already closely followed the pact through multiple visits to New Delhi and will begin its approval process immediately after the signing. Pointing to recent discussions with the Chairman of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee in New Delhi, the envoy expressed confidence that the ratification process will move swiftly toward implementation next year, potentially in the early part of the first half of 2027.

Highlighting the commercial impact of the agreement, Paquet emphasised that bilateral trade in goods, which stood at EUR 118 billion in 2025, is poised for major expansion. Tariffs will fall sharply as soon as the pact takes effect, benefiting exporters and consumers across key sectors such as textiles, food, and high-value goods. Duties will go down steeply for more than 80 per cent of tariff lines, reaching zero immediately at entry into force for many categories and progressively for others.

European consumers will benefit from more affordable textiles and food, along with high-value products exported from India.

Conversely, Indian consumers and supply chains will see immediate price reductions on iconic European imports. Paquet highlighted that European wine tariffs will drop by 50 per cent at the time of entry into force, bringing them down from 150 per cent to 75 per cent, which will be immediately visible in the Indian market alongside other popular demands like cheese.

Beyond trade in goods, the agreement opens significant new avenues in services and professional mobility.

The liberalisation of services will enable Indian companies to dispatch workers short-term to render information technology and goods-related services, while European firms will gain easier access to the Indian market in sectors like insurance and financing, supporting supply chain resilience and cooperation.

Alongside the FTA, Paquet urged negotiating teams to wrap up the parallel Investment Protection Agreement within the remaining two weeks before the December 16 summit. He described a parallel investment pact as a powerful signal to industry and investors, connecting the world's biggest internal market with the fastest-growing economy to de-risk and strengthen supply chains. While acknowledging that the remaining items in the investment talks are technically and politically more complex, he expressed optimism that they remain solvable if teams push towards the finish line.

Reflecting on his tenure in New Delhi, the EU envoy praised the momentum across Indian business, research, administration, and defence sectors, describing the level of engagement and energy as quite remarkable and exceeding his expectations. He reaffirmed that both sides remain deeply focused on delivering an expansive cooperative agenda spanning trade, investment, research, technological cooperation, and defence industries.

Today horoscope

You will renovate and expand your ancestral house. There will be happiness in the family due to the elimination of chaos. There will be profit in business from people of different languages and religions. You will complete your work quickly in the office.

You will talk freely with your family. You will be happy to meet your loved ones. You will suffer from headaches and insomnia. You will collect money in business. It is good to get used to being in the office and doing your own work.

You will struggle to complete the scheduled tasks. You will leave your family behind. The sale of a house or plot will be a good sign. In business, old debts will be collected after a long delay. You will travel abroad for official purposes.

You will be happy in your family. Your health will be stable. Avoid making any promises to anyone. Profits will increase in business. There will be no arguments with partners. Office travel will be satisfactory.

You will think of a new way to pay off an old debt. You will get a new job. Your father's health will improve. Old friends will come looking for you. Partners in a joint venture will cooperate. An important document you were looking for will appear in the office.

Meeting some celebrities may bring some changes in your life. Spiritual involvement will increase. Employees will be helpful in business. Partners will give advice. Do not hate anyone in the office.

The desire to achieve will prevail. You will gain friendship from those in high positions in society. Elder brothers will be supportive. You will make efforts to expand your business. Maintain peace in the office.

Chandraashtama will be there till 3.08 pm, so you will be confused. You will be unable to complete any work. There will be expenses in the family. Caution is needed in business. Avoid arguments in the office.

Happiness will prevail in the family. There will be an influx of money. Anger will prevail. Care is needed in speech. Do not make any promises to anyone. Respect and honor will increase in the office. Competition in business will decrease. You will see profits.

You will listen to and fulfill the wishes of your family members. You will get a new job. You will be showered with the love of your children. You will complete tasks in the office. You will attract customers by using new strategies in business.

You will move forward despite obstacles. Home and vehicle maintenance expenses will increase. External contacts will increase. You will purchase modern equipment. You will be recommended for a new position in the office. You will be successful in business.

You will receive the money you need. The differences between husband and wife will disappear. You will plan to buy a new house. Goods will be sold in business. Be polite to your superiors. You need to be careful in your speech.

"A world of knowledge... or a world of corruption?"

Remarks by TVK leader Vijay at an event to award scholarships to school students



CHENNAI: For the past three years, the TVK (Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam) has been awarding scholarships and certificates to students who secure the top three positions in the 10th and 12th&grade examinations within each constituency.

In the first phase, held on November 4, Vijay presented scholarships to students from five districts. The second phase of the event took place yesterday at a private hall in Neelankarai, Chennai. At this event, Vijay honored students from the Erode, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Nilgiris, and Perambalur districts by draping them with shawls and presenting them with certificates along with a cheque for ₹5,000. Speaking at the event, he said: "I want to share something with you. Some may try to politicize it, but I am not concerned about that. This is a matter concerning students. One cannot simply dismiss corruption as an age&old phenomenon; it is like a chronic, incurable disease. We must do whatever is necessary to cure it.

You may have recently seen news reports about a particular instance of corruption. In other sectors, if a wrongdoing occurs, we take legal action and present the matter before the court, leaving the rest to the judiciary. But how can we stand by and watch when corruption occurs within the education sector itself? Some 'intellectuals' might ask, 'Is it acceptable if wrongdoing happens in other sectors?' Wrongdoing is wrong, regardless of the sector in which it occurs. However, in this case, they have played with the safety of schools. It is precisely these kinds of issues that led to the Kumbakonam school tragedy. I mentioned earlier that I have three files on my desk."

The opposition challenged me, saying, "Open them up—go ahead and take a look!" I intend to remain composed within the Legislative Assembly. Since they themselves insisted on it, I directed that the files be opened. Corruption has even permeated the books found in libraries used by students. They have managed to orchestrate such corruption right from the outset—even involving AI technology! What is one to do with people like this? It has now come to light that irregularities have taken place at the 'Periyar Arivulagam' (Periyar World of Knowledge) in Coimbatore. As for what might have transpired in other libraries—those details will also emerge, one by one. Is this truly a 'world of knowledge,' or has it become a 'world of corruption'? I cannot remain a silent spectator when such matters—issues that directly impact your lives—are taking place. I will always ensure that you are guided along the right path.

The Chief Minister spoke in this vein. Students and parents who attended the event were served a traditional, multi&course meal (featuring six distinct tastes). Today, at 2:00 PM, the third phase of the scholarship/incentive distribution ceremony will be held for students from the Karur, Namakkal, Salem, and Trichy districts.

Monthly stipend of Rs. 5,000 for unemployed graduates in UP - Samajwadi Party election manifesto features

Nutritious food for Rs. 5; Farm loan waiver, employment for 25 lakh people



LUCKNOW: The Samajwadi Party's election manifesto was released yesterday. In it, it promised to provide Rs. 5,000 per month to unemployed workers.

The Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections are due next year. In this context, the Samajwadi Party released its election manifesto yesterday. This was announced by party president and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav at a workers' meeting held in Lucknow.

The details of this election manifesto, titled 'A Pledge for 2027: An Election Pledge that Reflects the Heart of the People', are as follows: * Unemployed policyholders will be provided with a monthly assistance of Rs. 5,000. * 25 lakh government jobs will be created in the next five years * A target of creating 2 to 3 crore jobs in other sectors will be set. * The scheme will be implemented as soon as the government comes to power, providing immediate agricultural loans. * Farmers will be provided with free electricity for irrigation.

* A fund of Rs. 15,000 crore will be created to pay arrears to sugarcane farmers within 24 hours. * Up to 300 units of free electricity will be provided to rural households. * Rs. 1.5 lakh crore will be invested to improve rural infrastructure. * Samajwadi restaurants will be opened, serving food for Rs. 5. * Financial assistance of Rs. 40,000 per year will be provided to women, senior citizens and needy people from families below the poverty line.

* Families below the poverty line will be provided with medical insurance up to Rs. 10 lakh, free medical and ambulance services. * 13 new super specialty hospitals and modern cancer treatment hospitals will be established.

* 26,000 closed primary schools will reopen. * The scheme of providing free laptops to students who have passed 12th standard will be re&implemented. * 50% reservation in government contracts will be provided to communities comprising Backward Classes, Dalits and Scheduled Castes (BDCs).

* A caste&wise census will be conducted by 2028.

Union Minister Gadkari announces Rs 1 lakh crore for West Bengal road project

KOLKATA: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced yesterday that new road projects worth Rs 1 lakh crore will be completed in the West Bengal.

These are in addition to the Rs 35,000 crore worth of work already underway. Of these, Rs 14,000 crore has been allocated for the Kolkata Outer Ring Road alone. Speaking in the presence of Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari at an event in Kolkata, Gadkari said the central government is committed to strengthening the state's road infrastructure.

He also said that steps will be taken to improve connectivity with neighboring states and expedite projects. Welcoming the announcements, Chief Minister Suvendu Athikari said that the state government will provide all assistance to ensure that the projects are completed on time. He also assured that the state government will provide full cooperation in tasks including land acquisition and speedy issuance of permits.

Missing after Cyclone Akvan, seven Andhra Pradesh fishermen rescued

ANDRA PRADESH: Seven fishermen from Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada district, who went missing after venturing into the sea for fishing during cyclone Akvan last week, were rescued and reunited with their families on Friday.

The group was traced on Thursday and confirmed to be safe following days of search operations by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard, the chief minister's office (CMO) said on Friday. Officials established contact with boat owner D Simhadri after the vessel entered an area with mobile network coverage, confirming that all seven fishermen were safe. Simhadri had informed his wife on November 14 that they were caught in turbulent waters due to cyclonic conditions.

After that, they lost communication with the families and the officials. The Cyclone Akvan made landfall near Ganjam coast in Odisha on the night of November 19.

"According to officials, the boat was located near Bangarammapalem in Anakapalli district and was expected to reach the Kakinada coast within the next few hours. The boat did not encounter any technical problems," the statement said. The fishermen were traced following intensified search operations and coordinated efforts by various government departments under the directions of chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Officials were directed to closely monitor the situation, coordinate search operations and analyse information received from different sources to establish the whereabouts of the missing fishermen at the earliest. The seven fishermen had ventured into the sea on November 4 for fishing but lost contact with their families after November 14. Their families alerted the authorities on November 19, following which search operations began.

Officials from various departments coordinated and intensified efforts to locate the fishermen. Search teams remained on alert as information was received and analysed. The statement said officials subsequently established that the fishermen had ventured into deep&sea waters, where mobile network signals were unavailable, resulting in the loss of communication. Their prolonged absence of contact raised concerns about their safety. "On Thursday evening, the boat owner's mobile phone came within the network coverage area. Acting swiftly, officials of the Kakinada district Fisheries Department established direct telephone contact with him," the statement said. During the conversation, officials confirmed that all seven fishermen aboard the vessel were safe and that the boat was also in good condition.

The chief minister directed officials to maintain continuous communication with the fishermen and closely monitor their movement until the boat safely reaches the shore. He also instructed them to ensure that the fishermen received all necessary assistance during their return journey.

Road Junction Turning into a Dust Bowl

VADIPATTI: The junction of the Andipatti Bungalow National Highway and the Palamedu Road has turned into a dust&filled zone, creating a high risk of accidents. The road at this junction is severely damaged; gravel has come loose and is scattered all over the surface.

The situation is exacerbated by the constant movement of lorries—operating 24 hours a day—that transport crushed stone and sand from nearby quarries and crushing units.



Sand and dust spilling from these vehicles accumulate on the road. Whenever other vehicles pass through, the entire area becomes a thick cloud of dust.

Two&wheeler riders are particularly affected, often losing control due to the dust. Furthermore, the dense dust clouds obscure oncoming traffic, frequently leading to accidents at this spot. The public is urging the Highways Department to take immediate action to address the issue and control the dust.



Near Thuvarankurichi in Trichy district, a python measuring about 10 feet in length entered a residential area; forest department officials safely rescued the snake and released it into a reserved forest.

Nov. 27 NEW INDIA FLASH | EDITORIAL 2026

Women and Children: Ensuring Their Well-being and Empowerment



The well-being of women and children is a measure of a society's progress. Their safety, health, education and dignity must be treated as essential responsibilities shared by families, communities and governments.

Women should have equal access to education, employment, healthcare and leadership opportunities. Safety at home, in public spaces and at work is equally important. Laws can protect rights, but awareness and timely action are needed to make those protections effective. Families and institutions must encourage women to make decisions about their lives and support their ambitions without discrimination.

Children need a safe and caring environment in which to grow. Every child should be able to attend school, receive proper nutrition and healthcare, and learn without fear of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Schools must be welcoming places where children are treated with respect and can seek help when they face difficulties. Parents, teachers and local authorities should work together to recognise risks early and protect children.

Empowerment begins with listening. Women and children should have a voice in decisions that affect them. Community organisations, schools and local bodies can help by providing guidance, support services and opportunities to build skills and confidence. Public programmes should reach those who need them most, including families facing poverty, disability or social exclusion.

Progress cannot be measured by announcements alone. It must be seen in safer homes and public spaces, better access to education and healthcare, and fair opportunities for women to participate in society. Protecting rights and providing support are not separate goals; both are necessary for lasting change.

A society becomes stronger when women can live with dignity and children can grow with hope. Ensuring their well&being and empowerment is not a favour—it is a shared duty and an investment in the future.

By P. Pandiarajan
Madurai Mani Editor

15,959 people who went missing across Tamil Nadu in 10 years could not be found

DGP report filed in High Court



CHENNAI: Bhuvaneswari, a resident of Kallakurichi district, had filed a petition in the Madras High Court seeking the help of the police to locate and reunite with her missing husband, Shankar Raj.

The bench comprising Justices A.D. Jagadish Chandra and P. Karthikeyan, who had already heard the case, ordered the Thirukkovilur DSP to file a report on the steps taken to arrest Shankar Raj.

How many people have gone missing in Tamil Nadu in the last 10 years? The Tamil Nadu DGP has been asked to file a report on the steps taken to track them using modern AI technologies and the status of the investigation in the cases. The case came up for re&hearing yesterday in the same session. At that time, Assistant IG Pradeep Thakkal, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu DGP, said in a statement: From October 30 to November 13, a total of 2,510 people, including 624 men, 1,469 women, 128 boys, and 289 girls, were successfully rescued from the entire state of Tamil Nadu.

In the 10 years from 2016 to the present, 3 lakh 4,534 people have gone missing in Tamil Nadu. In this regard, 2 lakh 79,865 cases have been registered and 2 lakh 88,575 people have been found and identified.

Of these, 15,959 people could not be traced. The website was created to identify missing people and orphans, it said.

CM Vijay's petition seeking dismissal of Perambur election case dismissed: HC takes action



CHENNAI: The Madras High Court has dismissed the petition filed by Chief Minister Vijay seeking to dismiss the election case filed against his victory in the Perambur constituency.

Dinesh, a voter from the constituency, had filed an election case in the Madras High Court challenging Chief Minister Vijay's victory in the Perambur constituency by a margin of 53,715 votes. A petition was filed by Chief Minister Vijay seeking dismissal of the case. The petition was heard by Justice V. Lakshmi Narayanan. After the arguments from all sides were completed, written arguments were filed on behalf of Chief Minister Vijay and voter Dinesh. After the arguments from both sides were completed, on October 14, Justice V. Lakshmi Narayanan had adjourned the verdict on Vijay's petition without specifying a date.

In this situation, Judge V. Lakshminarayanan today (Nov. 27) dismissed Chief Minister Vijay's petition seeking dismissal of the Perambur constituency election case. Dinesh, a voter from the constituency, had filed an election case in the Madras High Court challenging Chief Minister Vijay's victory in the Perambur constituency.

A petition was filed by Chief Minister Vijay seeking dismissal of the case. The petition was heard by Justice V. Lakshmi Narayanan. Vijay's side argued that he had disclosed all the information in his nomination paper and had not concealed any information.

Voter Dinesh, who had filed the election case, argued that Chief Minister Vijay had not disclosed details of the agricultural land worth Rs 30 crore he had purchased in Panruti in his nomination paper, and that the concealment of information had had an undue impact on the voters' ability to make independent decisions.

The Madras High Court has ruled that hiding information in the nomination papers is an attempt to influence voters. Dinesh's side pointed out that the 50 cents of land he claimed to have purchased in Kodaikanal's Vilpatti village was government surplus land, according to revenue department documents.

Just as concealing criminal cases in nomination papers is a violation, similarly concealing property details is not only a violation but also an act of corruption. The election officer cannot conduct a thorough investigation into the concealment of details. It was argued that since the matter can only be investigated in detail in an election case, the election case should not be dismissed. Then, Justice Lakshminarayanan intervened and asked, "Does an occupier lose his eligibility to contest the election? Vijay has filed a sale deed in connection with the Vilpatti land in his nomination paper." Dinesh explained that he had filed documents from the Revenue Department.

On the part of Chief Minister Vijay, the Madras High Court's ruling that concealing information in the nomination papers will affect the free decision&making of voters is related to a criminal case. Every voter knows that Vijay is a wealthy man. In such a situation, it was argued that how can it be said that concealing assets will affect the voters.

In this regard, the court has dismissed Vijay's petition. Following this, the trial of the election case filed by Dinesh will continue.

The allegations made by him, the documents filed, and the explanations given by Vijay will be examined.

"Will those who obstructed the lighting of a lamp today go on to say that people shouldn't visit temples tomorrw?"

Ashwini Vaishnaw's question



CHENNAI: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw participated in an event organized by the BJP in T. Nagar, Chennai, yesterday, to mark Constitution Day. During his address, he spoke about the incident in Tirupparankundram and leveled sharp criticism against the DMK&led government.

Speaking on this, he stated: "Even though the administration has changed, the situation in Tamil Nadu remains exactly the same. By preventing the lighting of a lamp in a temple, the current state government has hurt the sentiments of crores of Hindus. What will happen next? Will those who stopped the lighting of a lamp today go on to say that people should not visit temples at all tomorrow? They would likely shut down the temples—that is precisely what they want.

True respect for the Constitution lies in protecting religious freedom and taking pride in our culture and ancient heritage. Even if some have succeeded in preventing the lighting of a lamp in a temple, they cannot halt the growth, progress, or global standing of the Tamil people.

The self&respect of the people remains intact. Regarding the approximately 4,800 acres of land required for railway projects in Tamil Nadu, the state government has acquired only 1,253 acres—a mere 24 percent. I assure you that if the state government accelerates the land acquisition process for these railway projects, the Central government will provide all the necessary funds and ensure that every project is completed without any hindrance. In Tamil Nadu, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls was conducted successfully, without any opposition from the Congress party. Now, the Congress is blaming the SIR process for its own failures.

For them, the Constitution is not what matters; dynastic politics is their only priority. That is all that concerns them. They do not believe in the philosophy of Dr. Ambedkar. In the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, and West Bengal, elections were held using Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). In these states, the Congress party did not win a single seat." This is what he stated.

Rs. 634 crore scam in appointment K.N. Nehru's brother's assistant arrested

Anti-Corruption Department conducts intensive investigation



CHENNAI: The Anti-&Corruption Police have arrested an aide of former DMK minister K.N. Nehru's brother in connection with an alleged irregularities worth Rs. 634 crore in appointments.

The Central Government's Enforcement Directorate sent a letter to the Tamil Nadu Anti&Corruption Department alleging that bribes worth Rs. 634 crore were received in filling 2,538 posts in the Urban Administration Department during the last DMK government.

Subsequently, the Anti&Corruption Police registered a case against former Chief Minister K.N. Nehru Allidor. Against this, Nehru filed a review petition in the Madras High Court.

Following this, the Anti&-Corruption Police conducted raids at 25 places, including places related to Nehru, on October 29.

In this, 170 documents and 13 electronic devices were seized. Meanwhile, on November 2, the Supreme Court dismissed Nehru's appeal, intensifying the investigation into the Rs 634 crore scam.

Meanwhile, the Anti-&Corruption Bureau police yesterday arrested Kavi Prasad, an aide to Nehru's brother K.N. Ravichandran, on corruption charges.

He was stopped by immigration officials at Chennai airport last September while trying to travel abroad. He was later handed over to the anti&corruption police. He was then questioned and released. In this situation, based on additional information and clues currently available, the Anti&Corruption Police arrested him in Chennai yesterday. The investigation is ongoing.

India-US Trade Deal in Final Stages Says Piyush Goyal



DELHI: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has stated that the trade agreement between India and the United States is in its final stages.

There has been an ongoing trade friction between the US and India. Following his inauguration for a second term as US President in January last year, Donald Trump imposed additional import tariffs on several countries, including India. Specifically, an additional 50 percent tariff was levied on goods imported from India.

Subsequently, following bilateral negotiations, this additional import tariff on Indian goods was reduced to 10 percent.

Meanwhile, negotiations for a trade agreement between India and the US have been underway. Efforts are being made to set the import tariff on Indian goods at 17 percent (inclusive of all duties).

At the same time, a US trade body has recommended to the US government that the import tariff on Indian goods be raised to 25 percent.

In this context, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has announced that the India-US trade agreement is in its final stages. Speaking at a virtual event, Minister Piyush Goyal stated that the trade deal with the US has reached its concluding phase.

He noted that the processes and modalities for the agreement are in their final stages, and that contentious issues have been resolved through negotiations, bringing the agreement to its final conclusion.

Chennai businessman donates 121 kg of gold ornaments worth Rs. 207 crore to Tirupati Ezhumalaiyan

Presented by Chennai-based businessman Varthaman Jain





TIRUMALAI: Chennai&based businessman Varthaman Jain donated 121 kg of ornaments worth Rs. 207 crore to the Tirupati Ezhumalaiyan yesterday in the presence of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Chennai&based LLP Group chairman and NRI businessman Varthaman Jain and his wife Radhika Jain arrived in Tirumala yesterday with their family. The gold jewellery they brought in a container lorry to offer to the Lord Shiva was transported from Tirumala to Tirumala with utmost security. After that, the jewels were kept for some time in the Ranganayaka Mandapam of the Ezhumalaiyan Temple for the devotees to see. Later, the temple authorities made arrangements for the family of Varthaman Jain to have darshan of the Lord. Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and his wife Bhuvaneswari visited the Ezhumalaiyan temple. After that, everyone took the jewelry in a procession to the temple and performed special pujas. Following this, 121 kg of jewelry was also handed over to the temple authorities. Of these, 106 kg of gold ornaments were presented to Ezhumalaiyan and 15 kg of gold sarees and ornaments were presented to Mother Padmavati. 46 types of ornaments were presented in the presence of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Every Friday morning, the Thiruppati Ezhumalaiyan is anointed. After that, the 8.5&foot&tall Ezhumalaiyan is adorned with gold, diamond, and sapphire ornaments from the crown to the feet.

The Lord is adorned with 120 kg of these ornaments. Similarly, there are 3 'sets' of ornaments for the seven mountains. Currently, Varthaman Jain has donated the 4th 'set' of ornaments. This will be presented to the Swami after the abhishekam today. The 121 kg of gold ornaments donated by industrialist Varthaman Jain are worth Rs. 206.80 crore. A total of 46 types of ornaments were donated. This includes 238.2 carats of diamonds, 91.6 carats of sapphires and rubies, 84.2 carats of emeralds and rubies, and 2,916.5 kg of chalcedony.

A gold crown, Sangku, Sakkaram, 2 Thiruppadams, Ashtothara Kasu Mala, Tulsi Patra Mala, Chatur Puja Lakshmi Haram, Tiger Nail Dollar, Oddiyanam, Gold Arijnan Kaiyar, Surya Kandi, Kausthupam, Srivatsam, 2 Hasthas, Nagaparana Oddiyanam, Kolusu, Ganganas, 46 types of ornaments including puja ornaments, karna patthirams, 2 chalakkrama harams, and kamala harams were offered as offerings. The event was attended by temple administrative officer M. Ravi Chandra, assembly administrative officer Venkaiah Chowdhury, Tirupati district magistrate Venkateswar, police SP Subrayudu, and other high&ranking officials and priests of the temple.



The Kumbhabhishekam (consecration ceremony) at the Kumarakottam Murugan Temple in Kanchipuram will take place the day after tomorrow. In preparation for this, the Yagasalai puja has commenced.

Tamil Nadu Government Announces 15 Day Paternity Leave for Male Employees: CM Vijay's Declaration



CHNNAI: Chief Minister Vijay has announced the introduction of 15 days of paternity leave for male employees of the Tamil Nadu government—a first for the state. In a press release issued yesterday, the Tamil Nadu government stated that, following requests from government employees, it has decided to extend paternity leave to male staff.

This comes in addition to the existing 365&day maternity leave already provided to female government employees. The period surrounding the birth of a child is critical for both the mother and the infant.

During this time, it is essential for the father to provide physical and emotional support to the mother, as well as to contribute to the care of the child.

The provision of 365 days of maternity leave for female government employees underscores the importance placed on maternal and child well&being. Similarly, granting paternity leave to male government employees will facilitate the sharing of family responsibilities and ensure the father's active participation in raising the child.

Therefore, the Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to favorably consider this request and has issued orders granting 15 days of 'paternity leave' to married male government employees, enabling them to be present during their wives' maternity period. This leave may be availed either 15 days prior to the expected date of birth or within 6 months from the actual date of the child's birth. This has been stated in an official press release. Welcomed by Government Employees The announcement of paternity leave for male government employees has been welcomed by various government employee and teacher unions, including the Tamil Nadu Government Employees' Union and the Village Administrative Officers' Association.

By-elections can be held for Ambasamudram and Perundurai constituencies: High Court verdict

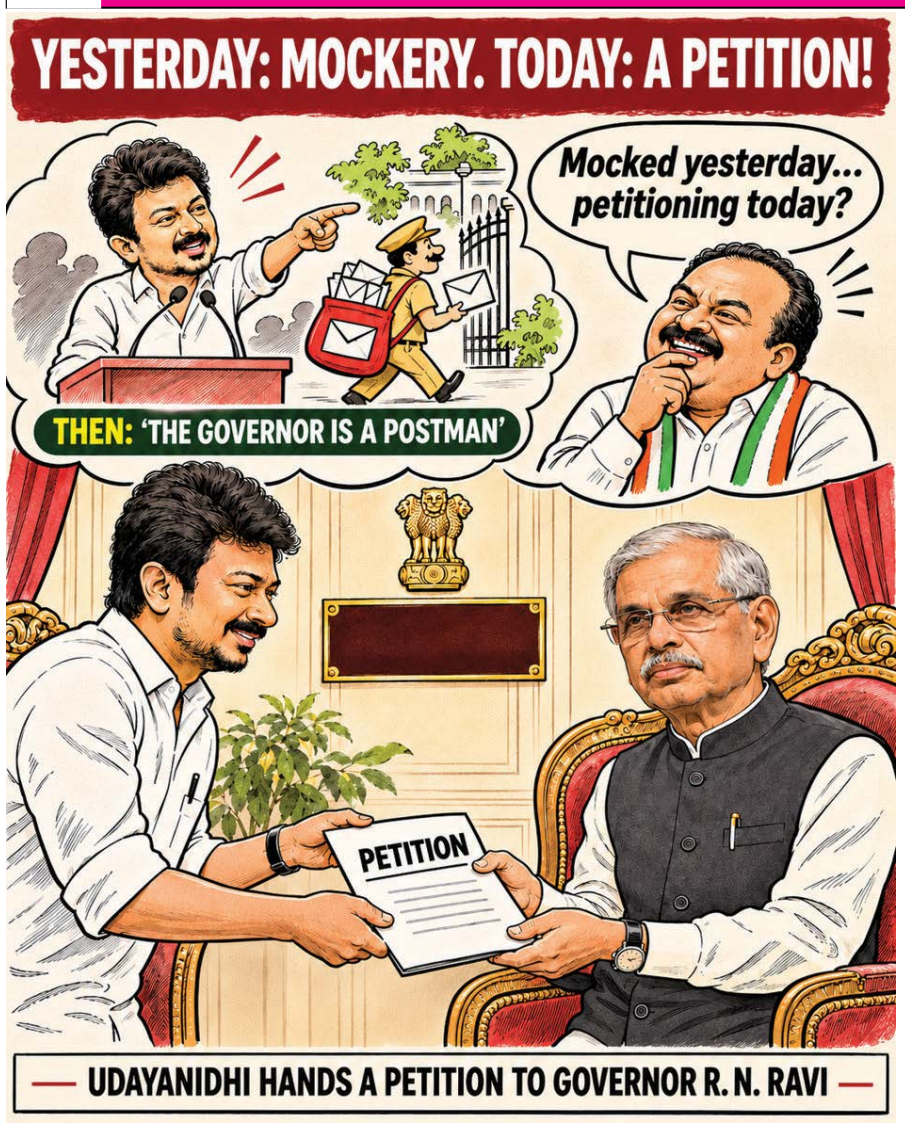
Trichy East, Karur, Viralimalai restrictions continue

CHENNAI: Bye&elections can be held only for two constituencies, Ambasamudram and Perundurai. Bye&elections for Trichy East, Karur and Viralimalai constituencies should be held only after the election case is concluded, a bench comprising Chief Justice S.A. Dharmadhikari and Justice G. Arulmurugan of the Madras High Court has ruled.

Vijay contested and won from two constituencies, Perambur and Trichy East, in the recently concluded Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. He later resigned as the MLA from Trichy East. Similarly, Madhurantakam Maragatham Kumaravel, Tarapuram Sathiyabhama, Karur M.R. Vijayabaskar, Viralimalai C. Vijayabaskar, Ambasamudram Isakki Subbaiah, and Perundurai S. Jayakumar, who contested and won on behalf of the AIADMK, also resigned from their MLA posts.

In this situation, Inigo Irudayaraju, who contested on behalf of the DMK against the victory of Chief Minister Vijay in the Trichy East constituency, V.P. Mathiyazhagan, who contested on behalf of the Thaveka against the victory of M.R. Vijayabaskar, Chellapandiyan, who contested on behalf of the DMK against the victory of C. Vijayabaskar, Thoppu Venkatachalam, who contested on behalf of the DMK against the victory of Jayakumar, and Gandhimathi Nathan, a voter, against the victory of Isakki Subbaiah, filed an election case in the Madras High Court. Meanwhile, Venkatajalapathy from Tirunelveli had filed a public interest litigation in the Madras High Court seeking a stay on the announcement of bye&elections for the Trichy East, Ambasamudram, Perundurai, Karur and Viralimalai constituencies, where an election case is pending. The High Court, which heard the case, had issued an order on July 10, banning the announcement of bye&elections for all 5 constituencies.

Following this, petitions were filed in the High Court on behalf of Chief Minister Vijay and the resigned former MLAs, seeking to lift the ban on announcing bye&elections for 5 constituencies. In this situation, the Madras High Court has lifted the ban on holding bye&elections in the Ambasamudram and Perundurai assembly constituencies and allowed them to be held in both these constituencies.



Union Cabinet Meeting At 1 PM Today Over Delimitation- Linked Women's Quota Bill

NEW DELHI: Ahead of the special sitting of the Lok Sabha scheduled to begin on November 30, the government has convened an important meeting of the Union Cabinet on Friday at 1 pm.

The delimitation&linked women's reservation Bill is expected to be taken up during the meeting, PTI reported, citing sources. The Union Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be held at Sewa Teerth. A communication regarding the meeting has been sent to all ministers, asking them to ensure their presence, the news agency reported on Thursday, citing sources.

At Friday's meeting, the government is reportedly expected to consider amendments to the earlier delimitation&linked women's reservation Bill, which seeks to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies.

On Thursday, the government proposed reconvening the Lok Sabha on November 30 and the Rajya Sabha on December 2 to transact essential government business. Both Houses may conclude their sittings on December 3, depending on the exigencies of business, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said. The special sitting will be an extension of the Monsoon Session. Parliament was adjourned sine die on August 13 but has not been prorogued in the more than 100 days since, allowing it to be reconvened at a short notice of two days.

Prime Minister Modi had told ministers during Wednesday's Cabinet meeting that



the government could convene a Parliament session shortly. He also asked them to remain available and postpone their visits outside Delhi over the next few days. The government is keen to push through the Constitution amendment Bill, which was defeated during a special session of Parliament in April after the ruling alliance failed to secure the required numbers.

The Bill seeks to increase the strength of the Lok Sabha from the existing 543 seats to a maximum of 850 through delimitation. This would pave the way for implementing 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and state legislatures ahead of the 2029 general elections.

The Constitution amendment Bill requires a two&thirds majority in the Lok Sabha, or 361 votes in the present 543&member House, to pass. There are currently three vacancies in the Lok Sabha, leaving its effective strength at 540 members.

For the Bill to be passed, the House must be in order when it is taken up and cannot be allowed to descend into a din. The ruling NDA has around 320 members and would need the support of Opposition parties to cross the two&thirds majority threshold. The political arithmetic has reportedly changed since the Bill's defeat in April, with 26 MPs moving out of the Opposition camp.

Twenty Trinamool Congress MPs reportedly broke away and merged with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), pledging support to the NDA. Meanwhile, six Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs joined the Eknath Shinde&led Shiv Sena.

50th Birthday: Udhayanidhi Stalin pays tribute at the memorials of Anna and Karunanidhi



CHENNAI: On the occasion of his 50th birthday, Udhayanidhi Stalin paid tribute at the memorials of Anna and Karunanidhi. Udhayanidhi Stalin is the son of DMK President M.K. Stalin and the grandson of the late former Chief Minister Karunanidhi. Serving as the MLA for the Chepauk constituency, Udhayanidhi Stalin also holds the positions of Secretary of the DMK Youth Wing.

Today, Udhayanidhi Stalin is celebrating his 50th birthday. To mark the occasion, he met his father, DMK President M.K. Stalin, in person to seek his blessings.

Following this, Udhayanidhi Stalin visited Marina Beach in Chennai, where he laid flowers and paid his respects at the memorials of Anna and his grandfather, Karunanidhi.



In Krishnagiri, Chief Minister Vijay inaugurated 148 new houses, constructed at a cost of Rs. 9.89 crore, at the rehabilitation camp for Sri Lankan Tamils. At the Secretariat, the Chief Minister also launched the disbursement of an increased monthly financial allowance for the Sri Lankan Tamils living in the camp, by handing over the relevant authorization orders to 16 beneficiaries from four families. Ministers Thennarasu, Chief Secretary M. Saikumar, and others were present on the occasion.

Rs. 28.54 crore allocated for SC/ST welfare diverted to the Highways Department

High Court orders Tamil Nadu government to respond



MADURAI: The High Court has directed the Tamil Nadu government to file a response regarding a case concerning the diversion of Rs. 28.54 crore—funds originally earmarked for SC/ST welfare—to the Highways Department. Dheeran Thirumurugan, a resident of Othakadai in Madurai, filed a petition before the Madurai Bench of the High Court, stating that Rs. 28.54 crore intended for SC/ST welfare in Tamil Nadu had been diverted to the Highways Department and spent on 12 different projects. He has requested an audit into this matter, departmental action against the officials involved if any irregularities are uncovered, and the recovery of the diverted funds.

Furthermore, he has sought an investigation by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti&Corruption (DVAC) into the transfer of funds between government departments. He has also urged the court to issue directives to halt the diversion of SC/ST welfare funds to other government departments and to establish proper procedures to prevent such occurrences in the future.

This petition came up for hearing before a bench comprising Justices P. Velmurugan and K.K. Ramakrishnan. The judges questioned, "If we ask the government, they might claim there are no beneficiaries left to avail the benefits of the SC/ST welfare schemes. Have all of them truly attained a better socio&economic status? How can funds be diverted to other departments without even identifying the intended beneficiaries?"

Furthermore, the court directed the Director of the SC/ST Welfare Department, the Chief Engineer of the Highways Department, and the Director of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti&Corruption to file responses regarding the petition. The matter has been posted for hearing on December 8, alongside another petition concerning the same issue.

Putin praises PM Modi's 'Make in India' vision during interaction with young AI innovator

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' vision during an interaction with 16&year&old Indian artificial intelligence innovator Raul John Aju in Moscow. President Putin stated that the initiative encourages young people to develop their own solutions and successfully turn them into reality.

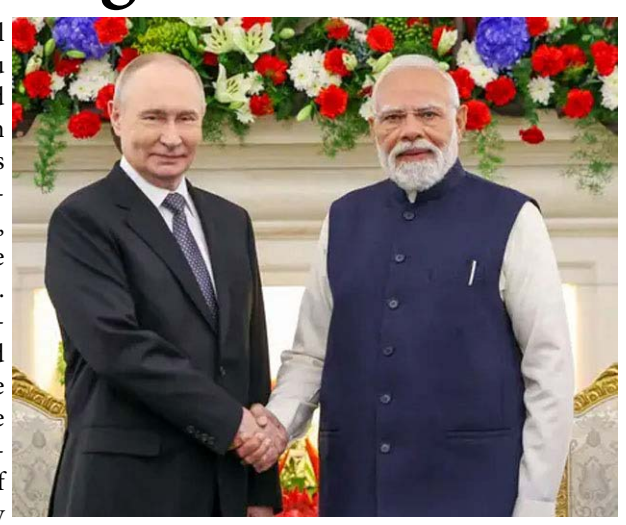
The notable interaction took place at the conclusion of the plenary session of the conference titled 'Journey to the world of Artificial Intelligence'. During the exchange, President Putin specifically asked young Aju whether the growing use of artificial intelligence poses any significant threat to the traditional education process.

Responding thoughtfully to the presidential query, Raul John Aju emphasised the practical need to work alongside artificial intelligence rather than depending on it entirely. He advocated a balanced and measured approach to integrating modern technology into the education sector.

Drawing a simple yet effective comparison with basic calculators, the young innovator explained that students should first develop a solid understanding of fundamental concepts before utilising technological tools to further enhance their daily learning.

"Thus, artificial intelligence at some stage can be connected to the education process when you are already quite educated, you understand the basics, you understand how you can learn, how to remember," Aju said during the conference. "Artificial intelligence can help you look for new ideas and find some new meanings. You can do different things like this study, use artificial intelligence, to collect data," he added, explaining the utility of the modern technological tools.

However, the young prodigy also wisely cautioned that artificial intelligence was not always an absolute blessing and strongly stressed the critical importance of using advanced technology responsibly across all fields of study and development.



Responding directly to Aju's detailed explanation, President Putin linked the young innovator's commendable work directly to Prime Minister Modi's visionary call of 'Make in India', praising the initiative for fostering grassroots innovation among the youth. "Ultimately, your work helps you realise the call by Prime Minister Modi, 'Make in India', because it helps young people go out to find their own solutions and implement these solutions," President Putin remarked during the high&profile interactive session.

The young innovator later reflected on his remarkable journey, expressing profound gratitude to everyone who supported him in achieving his dreams, from creating his very first video in a bathroom at the age of nine to meeting the Russian President in Moscow.

Biggest mistake in BJP's politics: Akhilesh Yadav slams delimitation bill ahead of Parliament session

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday launched a sharp attack on the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the Centre's proposed delimitation legislation, asserting that the exercise will be the biggest mistake in the BJP's politics.

Yadav remarks come amid growing political debate over the proposed delimitation exercise and women's reservation ahead of the reconvened Parliament session. In a post on social media platform X ahead of next week's special sitting of Parliament, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister stated that the Delimitation Bill can be one of the biggest mistakes for the ruling party. "Delimitation will prove to be the biggest mistake in the BJP's politics," Yadav wrote.

On Friday, Congress general secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of misleading the public over the agenda of the upcoming special session of Parliament, asserting that the session was being convened for delimitation and not women's reservation, which has already been enacted into law.

In a post shared on X, Ramesh said the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, providing for one&third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, was passed unanimously by Parliament in September 2023, but alleged that the Centre had delayed its implementation.

"Yet again, the mischievous PM&HM Jodi is lying. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam to give one&third reservation to women was passed unanimously in Parliament in Sept 2023. The Congress President had demanded its immediate implementation. But that was rejected, and the law did not get notified till 10:40 pm on the night of April 16, 2026&something that happened suddenly," he said.

"The Special Session is thus NOT for women's reservation. That is already a law which the PM&HM jodi have put into cold storage for over three years. The Special Session is for Delimitation," Ramesh added. Accusing the government of attempting to secure a two&thirds majority for passing a constitutional



amendment, he termed the proposed special session an "insult to and assault on the Constitution", adding, "The fight is on." Meanwhile, earlier in the day, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president and MP Manickam Tagore accused the BJP&led Centre of trying to secure the numbers to pass the proposed Delimitation Bill by splitting Opposition parties and seeking the tacit support of some parties.

In a post on X, Tagore criticised the Centre for convening a four&day Parliament session from November 30 to December 3, alleging that Question Hour, Zero Hour and Private Members' Bills had been cancelled. "Now, with its 322 votes, it is weaving a web of conspiracies to reach the magic number of 360 by breaking up opposition parties and securing the tacit support of some parties," he alleged. In an apparent reference to the DMK, Tagore also took a swipe at parties that had earlier opposed delimitation but were now reconsidering their position.

Earlier, Congress leader P Chidambaram questioned the need for a new women's reservation Bill, saying the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023, had already been passed with the Congress's support.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat on Thursday announced that the Second Part of the Eighth Session of the Eighteenth Lok Sabha would commence on November 30 and was likely to conclude on December 3, subject to the exigencies of government business.

Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju said the government had requested the Lok Sabha Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chairman to reconvene the Lower House on November 30 and the Upper House on December 2, respectively, to transact essential government business.

The announcement has intensified speculation over the possible introduction of the Delimitation Bill and the Women's Reservation Bill, although the government has not specified which Bills will be taken up during the sittings. Parliament last met during the Monsoon Session 2026, which concluded on August 13, when both Houses were adjourned sine die. The proposed Delimitation Bill aims to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats to 850.

How are roads renovated overnight whenever the PM or CM visits? – Madurai High Court's query

MADURAI: Ramesh, a lawyer from Madurai, filed a petition in the Madurai Bench of the High Court regarding violations in road construction works. The petition came up for hearing yesterday before Justices Velmurugan and Ramakrishnan.

During the proceedings, the judges expressed their dissatisfaction, noting that there are established regulations and High Court directives for road construction—none of which are being followed. They remarked that officials consistently fail to implement court orders, adding that road construction tenders often top the list when it comes to generating high kickbacks (commissions).

The judges further questioned how it is possible for roads in a specific area to be renovated overnight whenever high&profile figures, such as the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister, are scheduled to visit. At the conclusion of the hearing, the court ordered the contractor, the concerned municipal official, the Chief Engineer of the Madurai Corporation, and the Municipal Commissioner to appear in person and submit a report detailing the road construction tenders.

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