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**Happy reading!**





# Lakhs travel home from Chennai for a date with Deepavali

## MRTS to skip Park Town temporarily



Passengers crowding to board the Chennai-Kollam Express at the Egmore Railway Station in Chennai on Tuesday | P. RAVIKUMAR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

AHEAD of Deepavali, 1.12 lakh commuters travelled from Chennai to various parts of the state by government bus on Tuesday. The state transport department operated services from three main termini: CMBT, Kalaignar Centenary Bus Terminus (KCBT), and Madhavaram Mofussil Bus Terminus (MMBT).

"In addition to the scheduled 2,092 buses, 369 special buses were operated from the three

termini on Tuesday," said R Mohan, Managing Director of the State Express Transport Corporation (SETC).

Out of the 4.25 lakh seats/berths available for reservation through SETC, TNSTC's Villupuram division, and five other corporations, 33% have been booked for travel from October 28 to 30. SETC officials noted that the number of reserved seats has slightly increased compared to last year, although most commuters still prefer to travel without reservations.

Officials mentioned that due to enhanced facilities and connecting bus and train services, mofussil buses will operate only from CMBT, MMBT, and KCBT. Buses will not run from Poonamallee, K K Nagar bus stand, or other temporary stands, used during the Deepavali season in the past, due to traffic congestion and the metro construction.

The Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) announced that 300 special buses will run from various parts of the city

to transport people to the three bus termini.

Meanwhile, Southern Railway announced a special train to manage the extra rush for Deepavali. The Tambaram-Manamadurai festival special will depart from Tambaram at 5 pm on October 30 and arrive in Manamadurai at 3.45 am the next day. For the return, the Manamadurai-Tambaram festival special will depart from Manamadurai at 11.45 am on October 31 and reach Tambaram at 11.10 pm the same day.

Chennai: The resumption of MRTS services from Chennai Beach to Velachery after 14 months brought huge relief to passengers on Tuesday, especially those boarding at Chennai Beach and Fort stations. However, the passengers travelling from Chennai Central and boarding MRTS trains at Park Town were disappointed, as the railway announced trains would not stop at the station due to ongoing platform works. They were forced to travel to Fort or Chintadripet stations to board trains. ENS

## Celebrate fest safely, cops appeal to public

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

GREATER Chennai Police Commissioner A Arun has instructed the public to ensure that they celebrate Deepavali in a safe manner. Citing a Supreme Court order, he appealed to the public to burst only green crackers. Talking about the timings, he said that crackers should only be burst between 6 am and 7 am, and 7 pm and 8 pm.

Crackers producing sound of over 125 decibels should not be manufactured, used or sold, he added. In a press note, the Greater Chennai Police said in 2023, a total of 573 cases were registered against persons who burst crackers beyond the permitted time and beyond the permitted decibel limit. Another eight cases were registered against the cracker shops that violated the state government rules.

## Apollo docs observe World Stroke Day



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

ON the occasion of World Stroke Day on Tuesday, the doctors at Apollo Hospitals said that timely intervention within the first 4.5 hours, known as the 'golden hour', is critical in minimising stroke-related disability and improving patient outcomes. The hospital is dedicated to enhancing awareness, early intervention and comprehensive stroke care to improve patient outcomes and quality of life.

The Apollo Hospital leverages robotic technology, AI-enhanced diagnostic tools, and a multidisciplinary team of experts to treat stroke patients quickly and effectively according to a press release. The hospital's Stroke Network is equipped with AI-enhanced diagnostic facilities, and advanced imaging techniques, such as CT and MRI perfusion studies, to support fast and accurate diagnosis, and to choose the ideal treatment.

A specialised team, comprising neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuro-intervention specialists, and critical care intensivists, collaborates to deliver tailored, multidisciplinary care. The network also provides robust neurorehabilitation services designed to aid in long-term recovery and improve patients' quality of life post-stroke, addressing both physical and emotional needs to support comprehensive healing, the release said.

### EXPRESS READ



## DyCM presents cheques, cycle to athletes

Chennai: Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin on Tuesday presented cheques amounting to a total of ₹31.95 lakh to athletes, and a cycle worth ₹8.6 lakh (from Tamil Nadu Champions Foundation Fund) to cyclist Surya Prakash. The athletes who received the cheques include 24 players heading to China for the 4th World Soft Tennis Championship, and five people with neurological disabilities heading to Thailand for the World Abilitysport Youth Games. Thoothukudi MP K Kanmozhi, Secretary of Youth Welfare and Sports Development Athulya Mishra, SDAT Member Secretary J Meghanatha Reddy and other senior officials were present during the ceremony. ENS

## 152 road projects completed in Tambaram

Chennai: Under the Tamil Nadu Urban Road Infrastructure Project, 152 road projects have been completed within the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation limits. According to a press statement, the initiative involved the construction of 195 blacktopped roads and 58 cement roads. Of these, 152 projects have been completed. To ensure high quality, a dedicated team of civic body officials conducted regular quality checks throughout the construction. The new roads span across all five zones of the corporation, enhancing road quality and improving traffic flow in the region. ENS

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**And Other Dignitaries**

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- 110-bed trauma centre at Rajarshi Dashrath Autonomous State Medical College with ₹33 crore
- Transforming Shri Ayodhya Dham into a solar city with the establishment of a 40 MW solar power plant in Sarai Rasi
- Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhya Dham operational
- Upgradation of Shri Ayodhya Dham railway station
- Atal Awasiya Vidyalaya and free coaching centers under the Chief Minister Abhyudaya Yojana
- Construction of Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET)

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PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited TENDER ENQUIRY No.: Q0-1334/PO/C&S dt 28.10.2024 Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor, Multistorey Building, The Mall, Patiala...

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE Office of the Executive Engineer, (Bengaluru South Constituency) Lakes Division, Room No.309, 3rd Floor, New Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002. No:EE-BSC(Lakes)/TN-08/Corr-1/2024-25 Date:29.10.2024

KMML The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd (A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankarmanthalam Kollam 691583 Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 E-Mail: mml@kmmll.com

ZONAL SASTRA CENTRE, CHENNAI, No.46-49, 4th Floor, PNB Towers, Royapettah High Road, Chennai - 600 014. Mail: zs8341@pnb.co.in

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Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice WORKS DEPARTMENT Bid Identification No. CCEEC - 24 / 2024-25 e-mail: cceekonjhar@nic.gov.in

Debts Recovery Tribunal - III, Chennai 6th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 006

TRC No. 2197/2023 E-AUCTION SALE The above mentioned property will be sold by on line E-Auction through website http://www.bankauctions.com for recovery of a sum of Rs. 1,05,33,153/- (Rupees One Crore Five Lakhs Thirty Three Thousand One Hundred Fifty Three Only)...

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We welcome those who walk on the path of our ideals without hindrance. But we laugh when they pretend to be the ones who paved this path

M Karunanidhi

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Rammath Goenka

## INFRA, PLANNING NEEDED FOR INDIAN AVIATION TO SOAR

INDIGO Airlines' big net loss of ₹987 crore in the June-September quarter has taken India Inc by surprise. India's largest airline, which has been profitable in the last seven quarters, was expected to turn in a modest profit in view of its near-monopoly, stable aviation fuel prices and rising passenger numbers. In their conversations with investors, IndiGo officials highlighted local factors like the grounding of around 70 aircraft of a fleet of 350 due to issues with the Pratt and Whitney engines. This in turn has forced IndiGo to lease a large number of planes at a high cost. However, the plummeting bottomline draws attention to the serious challenges the aviation sector faces in the country.

Considering the rise in income levels and soaring air traffic, aviation should not be a troubled industry. Operational airports have doubled over the last decade to 157 in 2024. Domestic passenger traffic increased 13 percent in 2023-24 to 30.6 crore, while international traffic rose 22 percent to 7 crore. At the heart of the expansion is the regional connectivity scheme driven by refurbishing and expanding existing airstrips—known by the acronym UDAN for Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik. Despite these positive factors, several national airlines—Deccan, Kingfisher, Jet and Go—have shut operations in recent years; SpiceJet is sputtering.

The fact is that the building of infrastructure has not kept pace the rising numbers of passengers and airplanes, creating a backend crisis. There is a lesson in the woes expressed by IndiGo CEO Pieter Ebers; he pointed to the high congestion at key airports like Delhi and Mumbai delaying take-offs and stymieing plans to increase flights. Mumbai has a single operational runway that is way past saturation, while Delhi's Terminal 1 was shut for long after its roof collapsed following a downpour. In contrast, when Kuala Lumpur International Airport was launched in 1993, it was planned to cater for 100 million passengers a year—a capacity it will reach only by 2030. The aviation industry is not just about increasing aircraft numbers to match increasing flyers. Among other things, it is about creating airport infrastructure; it is about training a sufficient number of pilots; and it is about keeping taxes like the one on aviation fuel affordable, so that airlines do not fold up.

## DANA SCARE BLOWN UP BY IMD'S IMPRECISION

CYCLONE Dana certainly gave Odisha a scare, leaving about 36 lakh people affected and battering kharif crops over 2.71 lakh acres in five districts along its trail. Official records say there was no loss of life. For a perspective, cyclone Fani, which pummeled the state just over five years back, was stronger in intensity and bigger in its socio-economic cost. Over 1.65 crore people were hit by the May 2019 storm that had been categorised an 'extremely severe cyclone' and its damage was pegged at over ₹29,000 crore. For a state that has a painful history of natural calamities, thankfully, Dana was not the beast it was projected to be.

But it must be noted that any natural disaster needs effective management—and the Mohan Majhi government pulled out all the stops to minimise this cyclone's impact. It evacuated over 8 lakh people to shelters before the storm and deployed all its resources. Ministers were sent to vulnerable districts to monitor the rescue, relief and restoration efforts, while MLAs and officers were asked to camp there and coordinate support. Majhi himself led from the front as he remained on watch 24x7 till the danger passed.

A calamity can test the efficacy of an administration. By that measure, the four-month-old BJP government was spot on after achieving its goal of 'zero casualty'. However, it could be accused of over-preparedness, because there was hardly any need to cancel 200-odd trains three days in advance and shut down educational institutions in 14 districts when the storm was clearly headed to the north coastal districts. Much of it should be attributed to the forecast by the India Meteorological Department that led to panic. Precision in forecast helps in efficient disaster management, but the national weather office was clearly off the mark this time. Its advisories and forecast lacked clarity and was marked by a hesitation to pinpoint the areas to be affected by Dana. It seemed to be bound by the pressure of failure that reflected in its prediction of a longer-than-200-km land-fall zone from Puri to Sagar Island. This led the state to stretch its mitigation apparatus. Weather forecasting can hardly be 100 percent accurate; but the IMD would do well to shed its orthodox mindset.

### QUICK TAKE

#### INDIAN HAND IN THE U.S.

AT 5.2 million, Indians now form the second largest immigrant group in the US. This and their relative prosperity make them prime targets of politicians at election time. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's recent poll of their voting intentions shows they are still firmly behind the Democrats. Though their liking for Donald Trump is higher than four years ago—driven mostly by American-born men of Indian origin—their view of other Republican leaders is dim. Abortion is the second-most salient issue after inflation. Whoever wins on November 5, the new administration would do well to heed the preferences of this group that's increasingly powerful in both countries.

THE demographic transition of India from the Malthusian bogey of the 1960s to one of 'shrinkonomics'—a term used by IMF's Gee Hee Hong and Todd Schneider for an economy with more retirees and a falling labour-based tax pool—has passed variously through stages in different regions. Because the age structure of India's population exhibits wide heterogeneity, the country's demography is better understood in its regional settings.

In 2011, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana accounted for 20.7 percent of India's population. This declined to 19.9 percent in 2021 and is projected to go down to 18.51 percent by 2041. In 2041, the population of the southern states is estimated to be lower than in 2031.

In contrast, the population of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh increased from 41.59 percent in 2011 to 43.02 percent in 2021, and is expected to reach 45.58 percent of the country's total in 2041. The economic implications of this demographic disadvantage can be seen through four related lenses: demographic dividend, ageing, change in political equations, and the need to revisit fiscal federalism.

While India can boast of the rich demographic dividend of a high working-age population, the southern states—notably Kerala and Tamil Nadu—have to reflect on a new strategy of shrinkonomics. They are probably paying the price for policy choices of the past.

A window of opportunity opens up during a demographic transition when the working-age population (15-64 years) is higher compared to that of dependents. In a rough reckoning, when the proportion of youth and children falls below 30 percent and that of the elderly below 15 percent, a country reaps a high demographic dividend.

This is not manna from heaven. It is dependent on good governance and making the right policy choices on education, health, promotion of savings, microfinance for the poor and pensions, along with progressive socio-economics such as including more women in the labour force.

With the total fertility rate in China around 1.2 and that of Japan below 1.3, their coping strategies need a closer study in India's federal context. The window of opportunity was open for Kerala for 26 years from 1991 through 2017 and for Tamil Nadu for 30 years (1994-2024); the other states are in the queue, as Abhishek and Kshamanidhi Adabar from the Central University of Gujarat have shown. Interest-

Ageing populations will significantly affect public finance in the South before the rest of the country. The effects of this transition must be plotted on the federal fiscal map

## SHRINKONOMICS OF SOUTH NEEDS NATION'S FOCUS

M A OMMEN

Former Chairman, Fourth State Finance Commission, Kerala, and Distinguished Fellow, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram



MANOJ K. PARODKAR

ingly, for most northern states, the demographic dividend has unfolded post 2020.

The growing rural-to-urban and north-to-south migration in India need to be closely studied in this context. Hence, it is worth quoting somewhat elaborately from former World Bank demographer K C Zachariah on the losing the window of opportunity in Kerala and migration: "The increase in population during the 10-year period 1991-2001 was about 2.74 million and during 2001-2011, it was about 1.56 million. There was thus a significant decline in the increase in population between the decades. Had there been no 'replacement migrants' in the state, the population of Kerala according to the 2011 census would have been less than in 2001. Replacement migrants have offset what Kerala lost through emigration."

The 'replacement migrants' of Kerala have swelled now to over 3 million (largely coming from northern states and West Bengal). They are getting absorbed into the socio-economic environment of the state. Cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai are also attracting people from the North.

Undoubtedly, the economics of growing remittances by migrants to their homes in the North also needs close investigation by the Centre, probably by NITI Aayog. It would be needed for any effort to redefine India's fiscal federalism.

Ageing is going to be the major disadvantage for all southern states, which will significantly affect their public finances. Computing an Ageing Index by dividing the population above 60 by that below 14—for

## STRIKING BALANCE IN THE TIME OF WAR

"Do not fear what has blown up. If you must, fear the unexploded."

— Suheir Hammad, American poet born to Palestinian refugee parents

A year of the Israel-Palestine conflict and persisting tensions have vitiated the semblance of regional peace for the near future. Relentless military engagements threaten to draw other nations into the vortex. Despite mounting pressure from the US to restrain Israeli assaults on nuclear installations and oil fields in Iran, Israel has often hinted at such strikes in a bid to cripple the energy sector. Speculations are rife that this could prompt Iran to shut the strategic chokepoint of Strait of Hormuz, debilitating oil supplies from the Persian Gulf and proving to be a catalyst for Iranian attacks on neighbouring oil facilities. So, oil prices could spike despite the buffer of Saudi spare capacity and Latin American supply channels.

Such acts could also jeopardise Sino-Iranian relations as Beijing continues to navigate alliances with Moscow and Riyadh while seeking *modus vivendi* with Washington in a complex politico-economic scenario.

Being aware of China's economic slow-down and consistent monthly decline in refinery runs, Iran is scouting for buyers besides Chinese state oil companies and 'teapots' (small independent refineries based mostly around Shandong province).

Having 10 percent of the world's oil reserves and being home to an impressive automotive industry, the Islamic republic is desperate to revive its economy, emulating Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE.

Most of its oil is currently routed to China and paid for in renminbi. While such revenue is partially offset via import of Chinese equipment and technology the balance constitutes Tehran's external reserves with lesser-known banks in mainland China and Hong Kong, often considered conduits for money laundering and layering.

Iran also nurtures hopes of nuclear cooperation with the US for energy and scientific research, especially after a prisoner exchange and the promised release of oil funds in Qatar's custody since 2023.

Meanwhile, Iranian people are losing patience. The regime needs to set right its record and relieve itself of international sanctions. Any aggression would be counterproductive as it would derail Iran's hopes of reaping the benefits of globalisation.

For Israel, a prolonged conflict with Leb-

anon could impede its prosperity. A majority of Israelis disapprove of Benjamin Netanyahu's handling of the Gaza crisis. The recent Iranian missile attacks around Tel Aviv prompted the US and Netanyahu's critics to make efforts at containment. Israel struck at military targets near Tehran, raising fears that continued belligerence could amplify the chances of a more unified Shia Crescent. Such a narrative could compromise America's West Asian policy.



After the recent strikes in each other's territories, continued belligerence between Israel and Iran would trouble oil prices. The effects would be felt as far as a slowing China and a buoyant US. Washington must see beyond Tel Aviv and revisit its commitment to global peace

Earlier this year, Riyadh hinted at a mutually-progressive, gradual rapprochement with Tel Aviv. In line with its Vision 2030 for economic diversification into tourism, entertainment, sports and defence production, Saudi Arabia seeks stability and security in the Arabian peninsula. Iran's suspected orchestration of the 2019 attacks failed to preclude resumption of diplomatic relations between Tehran and Riyadh in 2023 on Beijing's initiative. Sustained improvement in the two nations' relations needs to go beyond mere good intentions.

Though political ideologies remain paramount, economic motives within OPEC revolve around oil. Aware of the negative implications of escalating hostilities, good counsel is expected within the fraternity.

### MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

#### Creaky cricketers

Ref: *Time to nurture next era of cricket greats* (Oct 28). Too much cricket is taking its toll on senior cricketers. Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ravichandran Ashwin, etc. need to be replaced. With the top order in poor form, they may find the bouncy Australian pitches too difficult. **YD Ramdas, Srikulam**

#### Team redemption

There is no denying that India has lost the home Test series against New Zealand. But the likes of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma come good in the upcoming Down Under Test series, the perception towards them and the entire team would reverse totally. So let's not dwell into the hosts' rare loss. **R Sivakumar, Chennai**

#### Electronic waste

Ref: *The terminator gene in our everyday products* (Oct 28). Asking for a durable smartphone or laptop has become a laughing matter. While on one hand, there is concern about growing electronic waste, the usage of all these items beyond 4-5 years is rendered unviable on the other. There needs to be pressure on manufacturers to ensure the consumer has the option to continue using these items beyond a decade. **R Kasthurirangan, Bengaluru**

#### Phone dependence

Disruptive innovations are welcome in medicine, agriculture, engineering, law, and other fields, not daily-use electronics. This over-dependence on mobile phones is dangerous and it is better to strike a middle-ground between modern and old phones. As consumers, we must decide what we want, not marketing companies, as has been said. **Premap, Thanjavur**

#### Use-and-throw culture

The author has rightly exposed the greediness of manufacturers. Use-and-throw culture has been imported from western countries. In the name of development, we are forgetting our old way of owning a thing for life. The present market is more manufacturer-driven than consumer driven. This must be reversed. **Jaikishan N, Kengeri**

#### AI dangers

Ref: *AI disrupts jobs, says FinMin report* (Oct 29). AI has huge potential to take away jobs in almost every sphere. AI should be selectively utilised to ensure it does not pose a conflict with humans. It may be cost-effective and time-saving, but defeats the purpose of serving society. AI can be used in areas where it is a necessity, but we should be more careful about using it in other fields. **A G Rajmohan, Anantapur**











2,00,000 People have cancelled subscriptions to The Washington Post



Table with weather forecasts for various cities including Beijing, Colombo, Dhaka, Houston, Istanbul, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Moscow, New York, Singapore, Toronto, and Washington.

Global police shut down servers of malware group targeting millions

THE HAGUE

A global police operation shut down the servers of one of the world's largest malware platforms that targeted millions of victims, the EU's judicial arm said on Tuesday.

A year-long investigation culminated in "Operation Magnus" with investigators from six countries including the Netherlands, Australia, Britain

and the United States working together to smash the criminal scheme. "The infostealers taken down... targeted millions of victims worldwide, making it one of the largest malware platforms globally," Eurojust said in a statement.

"Authorities discovered that over 1,200 servers in dozens of countries were running the malware," said the agency, which is based in The Hague

and coordinated Monday's operation. Investigators shut down three servers in the Netherlands, seized two domains, unsealed charges in the United States and took two people into custody in Belgium, Eurojust said. The criminal platforms, called RedLine and META stole personal data from infected devices including usernames and passwords, as well as automatically saved data like addresses,

email addresses and cryptocurrency wallets.

The victims' devices became infected when downloading software from unreliable sources. The investigation was triggered when victims came forward and a security company notified authorities about possible servers in the Netherlands linked to the malware.



"After retrieving the personal data, the infostealers sold the information to other criminals through criminal market places," Eurojust said.

"The criminals who purchased the personal data used it to steal money, crypto-currency and to carry out follow-on hacking activities," the agency said.

Authorities have also taken down several Telegram messaging accounts which were used to advertise RedLine and META's services, Dutch police said. "Until recently, Telegram was a service where criminals felt untouchable and anonymous," they said in a statement. "This action has shown that this is no longer the case," police added.

In the United States, law of-

officials have slapped fraud and money laundering charges on a suspected RedLine developer and administrator.

If convicted the suspect "faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison for access device fraud, five years in prison for conspiracy to commit computer intrusion, and 20 years in prison for money laundering," the US Attorney's Office said in a statement. AFP

Qassem new Hezbollah head; Israel took out Iran's ballistic missile base

Israel's defence minister says the appointment will be temporary as he is a target now

BEIRUT

LEBANON'S Hezbollah movement announced on Tuesday it has chosen deputy head Naim Qassem to succeed Hasan Nasrallah as leader after his death in an Israeli strike on south Beirut last month.

"Hezbollah's (governing) Shura Council agreed to elect... Sheikh Naim Qassem as secretary general of Hezbollah," the Iran-backed group said in a statement, more than a month after Nasrallah's killing.

Hezbollah pledged to keep "the flame of resistance burning" until victory is achieved against Israel after all-out war erupted on September 23.

Reacting to the news, Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant warned Hezbollah's new leader, Naim Qassem, on Tuesday that his appointment was "not for long".

"Temporary appointment. Not for long," Gallant wrote in a post on X alongside a photograph of Qassem. In a separate post in Hebrew, Gallant wrote that the "countdown has begun".

Qassem was elected by the five-member Shura Council, the group's main decision-making body, two days before Tuesday's announcement, a source close to Hezbollah said.

The council may then opt to elect a new leader or keep Qassem in the top post, the source said.

Qassem had long operated in the shadows of Nasrallah. Hashem Safieddine, the head of Hezbollah's executive council, was initially tipped to succeed Nasrallah.



Naim Qassem

Airstrike in Gaza block leaves about 100 dead

Gaza City: A single Israeli air strike on a residential block left nearly 100 dead on Tuesday, Gaza's civil defence agency said. Palestinian rescuers and family members were scouring through the rubble of the demolished five-storey block in Beit Lahia in the north of Gaza, near the Jabalia area where an Israeli operation is underway to root out remaining pockets of Hamas fighters.



Police disperse people protesting policies of Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem | AP

But he too was killed in an Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs shortly after Nasrallah's assassination.

Qassem, 71, was one of Hezbollah's founders in 1982 and had been the party's deputy secretary general since 1991, the year before Nasrallah took the helm.

Meanwhile, Israel's attack on Iran likely damaged a base run by the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard that builds ballistic missiles and launches rockets as part of its own space programme.

The damage at the base in Shahroud raises new questions about Israel's attack early Saturday, particularly as it took place in an area previously unacknowledged by Tehran and involved the Guard, a powerful force within Iran's theocracy that so far has remained silent about any possible damage it suffered from the assault. Iran only has identified Israeli attacks as taking place in Ilam, Khuzestan and Tehran provinces — not in rural Semnan province where the base is located. AP/AFP



Israel faces backlash for UNRWA ban

Jerusalem: Israel faced an international backlash on Tuesday after its parliament approved a bill banning the main United Nations aid agency for the devastated Gaza Strip, where deadly bombing continues. Despite global concerns, including from Israel's ally the United States, lawmakers overwhelmingly voted to ban the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) from working in Israel and annexed east Jerusalem. The lawmakers also passed a measure prohibiting Israeli officials from working with UNRWA and its employees. Israel strictly controls all humanitarian aid shipments to Gaza.

Church sex-abuse victims need compensation: Panel

VATICAN CITY

POPE FRANCIS' child protection board called on Tuesday for victims of clergy sexual abuse to have greater access to information about their cases and the right to compensation, in the first-ever global assessment of the Church's efforts to address the crisis.

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors issued a series of findings and recommendations in its pilot annual report, zeroing in on the church in a dozen countries, two religious orders and two Vatican offices with detailed analysis.

In its most critical note, it called for greater transparency from the Vatican's sex abuse office, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith. It said the office's slow processing of cases and secrecy were retraumatizing to victims, and its refusal

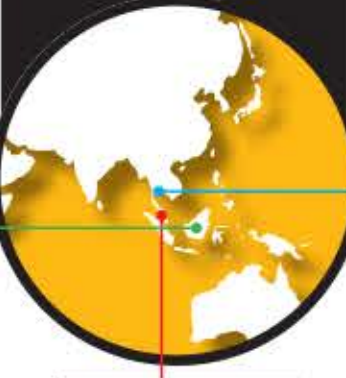


Clergy sex abuse survivor and victim's advocate Juan Carlos Cruz | AP

to publish statistics or its own jurisprudence continues "to foment distrust among the faithful, especially the victim/survivor community."

Its main conclusions: Victims must have the right to information about their cases held by the church, since the secrecy and processing times often serve to revictimize them. As a function of justice victims must have the right to financial compensation for their abuse, but also public apologies to help them heal, it said. AP

ASIA MATTERS



INDONESIA

PRABOWO TO VISIT CHINA, U.S., PERU, BRAZIL, U.K

Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto will set off on his first foreign tour next month, local media reported on Tuesday, as the new leader seeks a more prominent position for Jakarta on the world stage. On his first planned foreign visits since taking power, he plans to visit China, the US, Peru, Brazil and Britain, newspaper Kompas reported, citing presidential palace sources. He will reportedly embark on a state visit to Beijing on November 8 to meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiang before heading to Washington to meet US President Joe Biden. AFP

THAILAND

MICHELIN STAR STREET FOOD COOK TO QUIT

A Thai cook who became the first Bangkok street food vendor to earn a coveted Michelin star has said she plans to retire, possibly as early as next year. Jay Fai, the 81-year-old, told a media outlet that the toll of sourcing and checking ingredients every day was becoming too much. "I will not keep the restaurant going, but I am glad to teach whoever wants my recipe," she said in the interview. She said she had not decided on when exactly to step down, but said it "could be next year". She shot to fame in 2018 when the dining guide honoured her humble street-side restaurant. AFP

FORMER PM LEAVES HOSPITAL

Malaysia's nearly 100-year-old former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad has been discharged from hospital, his office said on Tuesday, almost two weeks after he was admitted for a respiratory infection. "He will be working at the office as usual," his office said. Mahathir was hospitalised for "continuous coughing". AFP



This file photo taken on April 5, 2011 shows a general view of the Onagawa nuclear plant in Onagawa, Miyagi prefecture | AP

Nuclear reactor near Fukushima to restart

TOKYO

A Japanese nuclear reactor with an upgraded anti-tsunami wall was set to restart on Tuesday in a region near the crippled Fukushima plant, according to its operator.

Unit number two at the Onagawa plant in the northeastern Miyagi region, next to Fukushima prefecture, was to become operational on Tuesday, according to Tohoku Electric Power Company.

Japan has been turning back to nuclear power in order to cut emissions, reduce expensive imports of fossil fuels and meet energy demand for data centres for artificial intelligence (AI).

"Nuclear power, along with renewable energy, is an important decarbonised power source, and our policy is to make maximum use of it on condition that safety is ensured", top government spokesman Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters on Tuesday. Japan shut down all of its 54

reactors after the 2011 Fukushima disaster, but has since brought 12 of 33 still operable units online — although none in eastern and northern regions.

The 2011 earthquake and tsunami that killed around 18,000 people cut power lines and flooded backup generators at Fukushima Daiichi, sending three reactors into meltdown.

Safety and regulatory standards have been tightened since, and the Onagawa plant — cleared in 2020 to re-start — has increased the height of its anti-tsunami wall to 29 metres (95 feet) above sea level, one of the highest in Japan.

The reboot also marks the first time a boiling water reactor (BWR) — the same model used at Fukushima — will be brought back online since the meltdown.

"The importance of restarting (nuclear reactors) is growing from the perspective of our nation's economic growth driven by decarbonised power sources", Hayashi said. AFP

FALLING BIRTHRATE

China announces a slew of sops to have more children

BEIJING

CHINA has announced a slew of policies, including a child-birth subsidy system and tax cuts for parents, aimed at motivating couples to have more children to halt the falling birth-rates in order to deal with the looming demographic crisis.

A directive issued by the State Council or the central cabinet on Monday outlined 13 targeted measures designed to

enhance childbirth support services; expand childcare systems; strengthen support in education, housing and employment, and cultivate a birth-friendly social atmosphere.

The falling birth rates resulted in China losing the most populous nation in the world to India last year.

The latest initiative also includes improvements to the childbirth subsidy system and personal income tax relief related to childbirth, official me-

dia reported. Key provisions include extending the maternity insurance scheme to individuals in flexible employment and rural migrant workers who have already participated in the basic medical insurance scheme.

This move aims to ensure that new parents feel more secure taking time off work, as local authorities are urged to enforce policies regarding maternity, paternity

and childcare leave, official media reported.

Notably, suitable labour pain relief and assisted reproductive technology services will be added to the list of medical services eligible for insurance reimbursement, state-run CGTN reported.

The new measures appear to have drawn a lukewarm response from the public with a user on microblogging platform Weibo commenting

that the measures were like if 'you're buying a Ferrari, and the government is giving you a coupon worth 100 Yuan', the Hong Kong based South China Morning Post reported.

China, with its 1.4 billion population, is grappling with a rapidly ageing population with people above 65 years now comprising over 14% of the population. China's population aged 60 years and above approached 300 million by the end of 2023. PTI





Market Watch table with columns for Sensex, Nifty, Gold, Silver, and Forex.

Table with columns for Silver and Forex rates.

Demand remains concern: Bhargava

Maruti Suzuki net profit declines on higher provisioning after indexation benefit withdrawal

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

AMID rising concerns of a major slowdown in the automobile sector...

"The festive season has been pretty good. We are expecting 14% growth in retail sales..."

Bhargava said MSIL's wholesale numbers are lower than retail sales...

More tariff increases to take place in telecom sector, says Airtel CEO

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

BHARTI AIRTEL on Tuesday said there will be more tariff hikes in the telecom sector...

Gopal Vittal, chief executive officer, while speaking at the earnings call...

"We have just gone through one round of repair. We should wait for it to fully settle..."

In July 2024, Airtel increased tariff up to 25% in its prepaid plans...

"In the mobility business, we experienced a loss of 2.9 million customers due to SIM consolidation..."

IN REVERSE GEAR. Revenue from operations increased to ₹37,449 CR for the second quarter against ₹37,339 cr in the year-ago period. IT SOLD 5,41,550 VEHICLES DURING Q2...

levels of passenger vehicles (PVs) have reached alarming levels, with stock days then stretching to 70-75 days...

MSIL reports a 17% drop in PAT

NEW DELHI: Maruti Suzuki India, which has a market share of about 42% in the domestic market, on Tuesday reported a 17% drop in its standalone net profit for the September quarter...

Dhanteras: Gold sales fall 5% in volume, rise 20% in value

UMA KANNAN & MONIKA YADAV @ Bengaluru/New Delhi

DHANTERAS, which marks the beginning of the festival season, saw a significant gold sales boom...

All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) chairman Saiyam Mehra said though compared to last year, this year witnessed 5% fall in volume...

Retailers said by Tuesday afternoon they witnessed an increase in the footfall. Rajesh Rokde, Vice Chairman GJC, said, "With gold prices rising everyday due to various reasons..."

Ramesh Kalyanaram, executive director - Kalyan Jewel-



10 gram 22 karat gold in Delhi at ₹73,900

The price of 10 gram (22 karat) was ₹73,900, while 24 karat gold at ₹80,600 in New Delhi on Tuesday...

lers, said they have seen steady footfall this Dhanteras, reflecting a blend of traditional and modern purchase preferences among consumers...

The festive spirit was evident, with increased interest and momentum on Dhanteras, particularly during evening Muhurat hours, he said, adding that "they are expecting this momentum to continue till tomorrow..."

₹73,900, while 24 karat gold reached ₹80,600 in New Delhi on Tuesday. Vikas Singh, MD & CEO of MMT-C-PAMP...

"Additionally, traditional festive and wedding seasons continue driving strong demand, with consumers adapting their purchasing patterns," Singh added.

Apart from retail jewellers, online platforms such as Blinkit, Swiggy Instamart, BigBasket and Zepto too offered gold and silver coin delivery in 10 minutes on Tuesday.

ASIANOMICS

THAILAND

INFLATION TARGET MAINTAINED AT 1-3% FOR 2025

The Thailand government has agreed with the central bank to maintain inflation target between 1% and 3% for 2025...

JAPAN

ECONOMY RECOVERING MODERATELY: GOVT

The Japanese government has said the economy is recovering moderately, though it reiterated the need to pay close attention to potential global economic risks and financial market volatility...

SINGAPORE

CENTRAL BANK EXPECTS GDP AT 2-3% RANGE FOR 2024

Singapore's central bank has said it expects 2024 gross domestic product growth at the upper end of the 2%-3% forecast range...

TCS secures 15-yr contract from Irish govt

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

TATA Consultancy Services (TCS) has secured a 15-year contract with Ireland's Department of Social Protection (DSP) to implement and support the country's new Auto Enrolment Retirement Savings Scheme...

Leveraging its TCS BaNCS platform and ecosystem, TCS will oversee administration of the scheme. Services will be delivered via TCS' Global Delivery Centre in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, Ireland...

Q2 FY25 RESULTS

Adani Ent reports 8-fold rise in profit, Adani Port PAT up 40%

NEW DELHI: Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL), flagship company of Adani Group, on Tuesday reported an eight-fold or 664% year-on-year (YoY) jump in its September quarter consolidated net profit...

Canara Bank profit rises 11% to ₹4K cr, asset quality improves

NEW DELHI: State-owned Canara Bank on Tuesday reported an 11% increase in its net profit at ₹4,015 crore in the second quarter ended September 2024...

RBI brings back 102 tonnes gold from BoE; 60% reserves in India

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought back another 102 tonnes of gold, which were kept in safe custody in the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements...



Settlements (BIS), while 26.53 tonnes were held in the form of gold deposits.

Earlier this year, the RBI had moved 100 tonne of gold back from the Bank of England, making it the first big move to bring back gold in India after the 1991 pledging of gold to raise money...

As per the report, by the end

RBI held 854.73 tonne of gold by September-end

RBI now holds 60% of its total gold reserve of 854.73 tonne domestically. The banking regulator on Tuesday said at end-September 2024, it held 854.73 tonne of gold...

JSW Group, Korea's POSCO sign MoU to develop steel plants

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

JSW Group (JSW) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Tuesday with Korea's POSCO Group (POSCO) to develop steel plants and work on battery materials and renewable energy sectors in India...

grated steel plant and for setting up an EV ecosystem in India. Together, we aim to set a benchmark in technology and sustainability that can shape the future of manufacturing in India and beyond..."

The collaboration between JSW Group and POSCO Group is expected to boost India's steel production capacity and advance sustainability efforts in both countries...







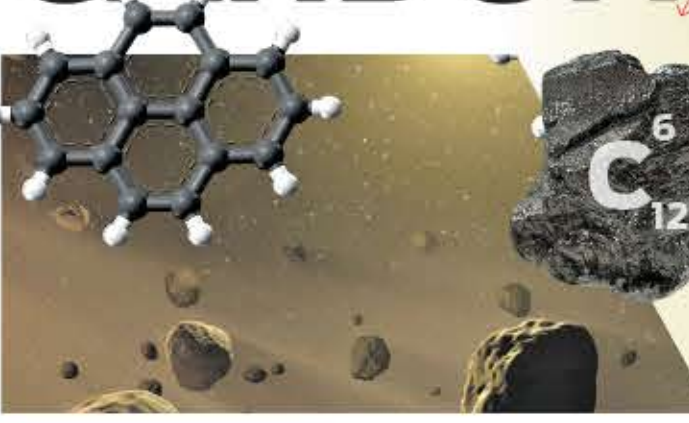
A discovery is said to be an accident meeting a prepared mind  
— Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

THE DISCOVERY OF PYRENE DERIVATIVES IN A DISTANT INTERSTELLAR CLOUD MAY HELP REVEAL HOW OUR OWN SOLAR SYSTEM FORMED



A team led by researchers at MIT has discovered that a distant interstellar cloud contains an abundance of pyrene, a type of large, carbon-containing molecule known as a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH).  
The discovery of pyrene in this far-off cloud, which is similar to the collection of dust and gas that eventually became our own Solar System, suggests that pyrene may have been the source of much of the carbon in our Solar System. That hypothesis is also supported by a recent finding that samples returned from the near-Earth asteroid Ryugu contain large quantities of pyrene.  
“One of the big questions in star and planet formation is: How much of the chemical inventory from that early molecular cloud is inherited and forms the base components of the Solar System? What we’re looking at is the start and the end, and they’re showing the same thing. That’s pretty strong evidence that this material from the early molecular cloud finds its way into the ice, dust, and rocky bodies that make up our solar system,” says Brett McGuire, an assistant professor of chemistry at MIT.

# COSMIC ORIGINS OF CARBON



Due to its symmetry, pyrene itself is invisible to the radio astronomy techniques that have been used to detect about 95% of molecules in space. Instead, the researchers detected an isomer of cyanopyrene, a version of pyrene that has reacted with cyanide to break its symmetry. The molecule was detected in a distant cloud known as TMC-1, using the 100-meter Green Bank Telescope (GBT), a radio telescope at the Green Bank Observatory in West Virginia.  
McGuire and Ilsa Cooke, an assistant professor of chemistry at the University of British Columbia, are the senior

authors of a paper describing the findings, which will appear in Science. Gabi Wenzel, an MIT postdoc in McGuire’s group, is the lead author of the study.  
**Carbon in space**  
PAHs, which contain rings of carbon atoms fused together, are believed to store 10-25% of the carbon that exists in space. More than 40 years ago, scientists using infrared telescopes began detecting features that are thought to belong to vibrational modes of PAHs in space, but this technique couldn’t reveal exactly which types of PAHs were out there.  
“Since the PAH hypothesis was developed in the 1980s, many people have accepted that PAHs are in space, and they have been found in meteorites, comets, and asteroid samples, but we can’t really use infrared spectroscopy to unambiguously identify individual PAHs in space,” Wenzel says.  
In 2018, a team led by McGuire reported the discovery of benzonitrile — a six-carbon ring attached to a nitrile (carbon-ni-

trogen) group — in TMC-1. To make this discovery, they used the GBT, which can detect molecules in space by their rotational spectra — distinctive patterns of light that molecules give off as they tumble through space. In 2021, his team detected the first individual PAHs in space: two isomers of cyanonaphthalene, which consists of two rings fused together, with a nitrile group attached to one ring.  
On Earth, PAHs commonly occur as byproducts of burning fossil fuels, and they’re also found in char marks on grilled food. Their discovery in TMC-1, which is only about 10 kelvins, suggested that it may also be possible for them to form at very low temperatures.  
The fact that PAHs have also been found in meteorites, asteroids, and comets has led many scientists to hypothesize that PAHs are the source of much of the carbon that formed our own solar system. In 2023, researchers in Japan found large quantities of pyrene in samples returned from the asteroid Ryugu during the Hayabusa2 mission, along with smaller PAHs including naphthalene.  
That discovery motivated McGuire and his colleagues to look for pyrene in TMC-1. Pyrene, which contains four rings, is larger than any of the other PAHs that have been detected in space. In fact, it’s the third-largest molecule identified in space, and the largest ever detected using radio astronomy. Before looking for these molecules in space, the researchers first had to synthesize cyanopyrene in the laboratory. The cyano or nitrile group is necessary for the molecule to emit a signal that a radio telescope can detect. The synthesis was performed by MIT postdoc Shuo Zhang in the group of Allison Wendlandt, an MIT associate professor of chemistry. Then, the researchers analysed the signals that the molecules emit in the laboratory, which are exactly the same as the signals that they emit in space.  
Using the GBT, the researchers found these signatures

throughout TMC-1. They also found that cyanopyrene accounts for about 0.1% of all the carbon found in the cloud, which sounds small but is significant when one considers the thousands of different types of carbon-containing molecules in space, McGuire says.  
“While 0.1% doesn’t sound like a large number, most carbon is trapped in carbon monoxide (CO), the second-most abundant molecule in the universe besides molecular hydrogen. If we set CO aside, one in every few hundred or so remaining carbon atoms is in pyrene. Imagine the thousands of different molecules that are out there, nearly all of them with many different carbon atoms in them, and one in a few hundred is in pyrene,” he says.  
“That is an absolutely massive abundance. An almost unbelievable sink of carbon. It’s an interstellar island of stability.”  
Ewine van Dishoeck, a professor of molecular astrophysics at Leiden Observatory in the Netherlands, called the discovery “unexpected and exciting.” “It builds on their earlier discoveries of smaller aromatic molecules, but to make the jump now to the pyrene family is huge. Not only does it demonstrate that a significant fraction of carbon is locked up in these molecules, but it also points to different formation routes of aromatics that have been considered so far,” says van Dishoeck, who was not involved in the research.  
**An abundance of pyrene**  
Interstellar clouds like TMC-1 may eventually give rise to stars, as clumps of dust and gas coalesce into larger bodies and begin to heat up. Planets, asteroids, and comets arise from some of the gas and dust that surround young stars. “We now have, I would venture to say, the strongest evidence ever of this direct molecular inheritance from the cold cloud all the way through to the actual rocks in the solar system,” McGuire says.  
Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## An all-round element

Carbon is a unique element found in nature, with the symbol ‘C’ and atomic number ‘6’

**CHEMICAL PROPERTIES**  
Carbon is the fourth most abundant element in the universe, and is a primary component of most life-supporting compounds. It’s highly unreactive under normal conditions



BEHIND THE SCIENCE

TIVADAR PUSKAS

## AN EXCHANGE FOR COMMUNICATION

**GARGI DESHPANDE**  
TODAY, if we can make phone calls and connect with people at the other end of the globe with just one touch, it is because of this Hungarian scientist who pioneered telephone exchange — Tivadar Puskas. After Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, Tivadar Puskas came up with the idea of telephone exchange.

the invention that made numerous telephone calls possible. Working on Thomas Alva Edison’s telegraph exchange model, Puskas worked on the same thing for the telephone.  
Born in Budapest, to a once-wealthy family, on September 12, 1844, Puskas was home-educated, and later studied law in Vienna. He continued his studies in engineering sciences and worked as an educator in an English nobleman’s family to provide for himself. After graduating as a mechanical engineer, and gathering work experience, he moved to Transylvania, Romania, where he was employed as an official of a local railway company. In 1876, Graham Bell invented the telephone, which inspired Puskas, and triggered an even more interesting idea. Puskas contacted Edison and convinced him to create a telephone exchange based on the model of telegraph exchange.  
Based on this plan, the first experimental telephone exchange was created in Boston, in 1877. Two years later, he set up Europe’s first telephone exchange in Paris, and later, another telephone exchange was set up in Budapest.  
In 1887, Puskas introduced his new invention, the multiplex switchboard, which added to the development of the telephone exchange.

## HOW IT WORKS THE HIDDEN POWERS OF ANAESTHESIA

**POOJA K**  
THE medical field is continuously expanding thanks to new discoveries. Similarly, surgical procedures that were painful centuries ago, have become pain-free because of anaesthesia.  
Anaesthesia makes surgeries possible and helps patients undergo procedures without pain or distress, as it temporarily blocks the sensations in specific parts of the body by inducing a controlled unconscious state.  
Anaesthesia as we know it today was discovered after a series of experiments. In the very beginning, it was used as a pain reliever just like alcohol. In the late 18th century, British chemist Joseph Priestly discovered nitrous oxide (laughing gas), and in 1799, Humphry Davy identified its pain-relieving effects, but he did not see any medical applications. In 1842, American physician Dr Crawford Long used ‘ether’ for the first time to numb a patient before surgery, but he was unable to publish his studies. In 1846, Dr William T.G. Morton, a dentist, publicly demonstrated the anaesthetic effects of ether, and created a breakthrough in surgical medicine. Shortly after this, chloroform’s anaesthetic effects were also discovered. These early discoveries gradually laid the foundation for anaesthesia, which has evolved, transforming medicine and paving the way for painless surgeries.  
Anaesthesia works by al-

**1842**  
American physician Dr Crawford Long used ‘ether’ for the first time to numb a patient before surgery

tering the brain and nervous system. It blocks pain signals, reduces awareness and will have temporary control over bodily functions. There are three types of anaesthesia, and each works differently based on the medical procedure and the desired effect.  
**General anaesthesia**  
It induces a controlled unconscious state, and is often used in major surgeries. These drugs are administered through inhalation or an IV, putting the individual in a deep sleep-like state, where the brain’s perception of pain and awareness is completely blocked. General anaesthesia enhances the inhibitory signals or blocks the excitatory signals in the brain; as a result, the patient feels no pain, nor will have any memory of the procedure.

**Regional anaesthesia**  
It is used to block the pain in certain areas. For eg., spinal or epidural anaesthesia is commonly used during childbirth or while operating on limbs. These anaesthetic drugs are usually injected near the nerves, because of which the nerve signals in the regions are blocked temporarily. The drug numbs the area by inhibiting sodium channels in the nerve cells and stops the pain signals from reaching the brain.  
**Local anaesthesia**  
It is used for minor procedures. It numbs the small localised area where the drug has been injected. Local anaesthesia is either injected or applied directly to the site, as it temporarily blocks the nerve endings and pain transmissions in that specific area of the body. During anaesthesia, the patient’s vital signs are closely observed to ensure safety, because once the effects of anaesthesia wear off, or if the anaesthetic is stopped, the body gradually returns to a normal state as the nerves and brain functions resume. While inducing anaesthesia into a patient, the anaesthesiologist must monitor several critical factors like the patient’s age, medical history, vital signs, allergies, airway assessment and breathing, depth of anaesthesia, and patient’s response to drugs. Knowing these will allow the anaesthesiologist to act quickly if any complications arise during the surgical procedures.

SATHYAM | ESCAPE | INOX | DEVI | SANGAM | CASINO | ALBERT | WOODLANDS | EGA | PVR - AMPA | PALAZZO KAMALA | KANAKAR AGS | UDHAYAM | SZ PERAMBUR | SARDA RAJ | BHARATHI | IDREAM | MAHALAXMI | KRISHNAYENI KONDAR KASI | KASI TALKIES | IMOX LUX | PVR GRAND - VILLAGHERY | PVR GALADA - DALAVARAM | PVR ICON VR MALL REDHILLS PVR | ECR - PVR | INOX NATIONAL | INOX MARINA | S2 THIYAGARAJA | MAYAJAAL | MAMANDUR - C3 CINEPOLISH | EVP CINEMAS | AMBATHUR - RAKI & MURUGAN | VILLIVAKAM - AGS | OMR AGS | MADURAVAYAL - AGS KOYAMBEDU - ROHINI | PORUR - GK | THAMBAM - VIDHYA & MR & NATIONAL | CHORMPET - VETRI | KOLATHUR - GANGA PADI - SIVA SAKTHI & LAXMI BALA RADHA | GREEN | REDHILLS - RADHA MOVIE PARK | THIRUVALLUR - RAKI & ROJA & THULASI ST THOMAS - JOTHY | PONNAMALLE - SUNDHAR VIGNESWARA & BHAGAVATHY | CHENGALPET - SRK & LATHA PALLAVARAM - JANATHA | THIRUNINRAVUR - VELACHINEMAS | MINJUR - MANI & KK CINEMAS | MEDAVAKAM - KURARAN KANCHIPURAM - BABU & ARUNA & KARTHIKEYAN & BALAJI | MOOLAKADAI - SHANMUGA & PANDIAN | THIRUVOTRIYUR - MSM & DEEAN MANI

FILAMENT PICTURES

# IN THEATRES FROM TOMORROW

K.SENTHIL RELEASE

STARRING KAVIN

## BLOODY BEGGAR

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY SIVABALAN MUTHUKUMAR

with SUJITH BARRAN with JEN MARTIN with R NIRMAL  
and music by MANIMOZHIAN RAMADURAI @ APPU with ACTION SANDHOSH, METRO MAHESH  
COSTUME DESIGNER JAY SHAKTHI HAIR DESIGNER SUREN S. BALAGAKKOTHAN with VIVEK, VIRBHU EDARAN, ASHOK AR, VENU SELVAN  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER VISHWANATH BANDARAM PRODUCED BY SHANMUGA PANDIAN M with MANOJAN AJAY  
WRITING ASSISTANT HERINA TEXERA MAKEUP HARMATH C COSTUME DESIGNER MUTHULI HAFSEZ PRODUCTION DESIGNER VITARI  
STYLING BAI SANTHOSH with SURESH CHANDRA PRODUCTION MANAGER BEATRICE DE VARANA DIGITAL STUDIO  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER SUVIJAY RAJANIKAR EXECUTIVE PRODUCER RAJA SUGHAR

think music



**DAY'S DIARY**

**New mission**

STS-61-A was the 22nd Space Shuttle mission launched on this day in 1985. It was a scientific spacelab mission booked by Germany

**FIRST SPACE SHUTTLE**

This was the first space shuttle mission largely financed and operated by another nation, West Germany. It was also the first space shuttle flight to carry a crew of eight



**EXPERIMENTS**

The primary areas of experiment concentration were: fluid physics, with experiments in capillarity, Marangoni convection, etc



**LARGEST CREW**

STS-61-A holds the record for the largest crew, eight people, aboard any single spacecraft for the entire period from launch to landing

**Interview with Sivakarthyayan**

PG 4

## Deepavali treats and festive feasts

Every year on Deepavali, kitchens buzz with excitement as families whip up their favourite treats, each bite packed with the flavours of tradition and celebration and a little touch of homeliness. **Aashna Reddy** writes about the shards of people's food memories and recipes that root them to their culture. Let's get into these irresistible creations.

**Thanjavur's timeless tastes**

Sukanya shares her recipe for Ashoka Halwa, a beloved Thanjavur delicacy that's rich, glossy, and perfect for Deepavali celebrations. With its melt-in-the-mouth texture and the comforting flavours of moong dal, this halwa brings a traditional touch to festive sweets.

**RECIPE**

- Dry roast 1 cup of moong dal for 2 minutes, wash, and pressure cook. Grind it into a fine paste.
- In a kadai, heat 1 tablespoon of ghee and roast some cashews. Set aside.
- Add 1/2 cup of ghee to the kadai, then fry 1 spoon of atta (wheat flour) on low flame, ensuring there are no lumps.
- Add the moong dal paste and stir continuously. Mix in 2 cups of sugar and keep stirring.
- Add orange colouring and the remaining ghee, stirring until the mixture curls away from the sides and develops a glossy halwa texture, about 10-15 minutes.
- Toss in the roasted cashews and serve.

Ashoka Halwa's rich flavour and smooth, glossy finish make it a timeless favourite for festive occasions.



**Salem's sweet somethings**

Over in Salem, Lakshmi Priya believes in combining her favourite ingredients for Deepavali. "Salem is known for its cashews, and I love mangoes, so why not put them together in a burfi? It's so easy, but tastes like something special."

**RECIPE**

- Blend 1 cup of dried mango pieces into a paste.
- In a pan, dissolve 1 cup sugar with 1/4 cup water to form a syrup.
- Mix in 1 cup ground cashew powder and the mango paste, stirring on low heat until it thickens.
- Spread the mixture on a greased plate and let it cool, then cut into small squares or diamonds.

Lakshmi Priya says, "It's rich, fruity, and the perfect treat to offer guests when they come by during the festival."

Continued on Page 3

Curated with our finest sweets and karas, the Celebration Sambadam Tin from Sri Krishna Sweets honors the bonds and traditions that bring families together! Choose from 100+ sweet gifting options and gift your loved ones the taste of tradition.

**Celebration Sambadam Tin**  
 Deepavali Special Mixture, Kaimurukku, Karasev, Athirasam, Chettinadu Seeda, Mysuru, Kodatalai Mittai.

**THITHIKUM DEEPAVALI**

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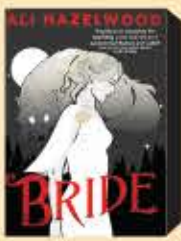
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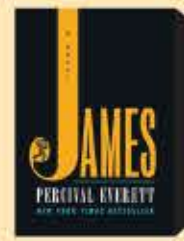
**BOOK NOOK**



**Bride**  
 by Ali Hazelwood  
 In this captivating paranormal romance, a Vampire bride forms a perilous alliance with an Alpha Werewolf. As their unexpected partnership deepens, a passionate love ignites between them, challenging their loyalties.



**Funny Story**  
 by Emily Henry  
 Two unlikely characters discover a shared connection that defies their differences. As they navigate their contrasting lives, their bond grows unexpectedly strong, leading to moments of joy and self-discovery.



**James**  
 by Percival Everett  
 This book is a perspective through the eyes of Jim, an enslaved man. Filled with action and poignant moments, it explores themes of freedom, friendship, and resilience, delivering a harrowing yet fiercely funny narrative that redefines a classic tale.



**Annie Bot**  
 by Sierra Greer  
 This speculative fiction novel explores the relationship between a human and his artificially intelligent female robot, Annie. As Annie grows increasingly self-aware, the story delves into themes of autonomy, control, intimacy, and the ethics of AI.



**THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS**

Passengers escape the rain, clenching on to their dupattas and umbrellas and get seated before the heavy downpour in the city. | P RAVIKUMAR

**QUICKFIX**

**BANANA PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICH**

- INGREDIENTS**
- Slices of bread: 2
  - Peanut butter: 2 tbsp
  - Banana (sliced): 1
  - Honey
  - Cinnamon (optional)

- METHOD**
- Spread a thin layer of honey and peanut butter on one side of bread.
  - Sprinkle a small amount of cinnamon on top and place the other slice of bread on top to make a sandwich.
  - Cut the sandwich in half and serve.



Contributed by Mariah Sebastian, Calicut

**WHATWHENWHYWHERE**

**Handloom mela**

Diwali Handloom Mela has been organised by artisans across the country. On display and for sale are handloom saris, ethnic and contemporary arts and crafts, clothing, jewellery, home décor, furniture, and handcrafted products.

- **WHEN:** Till October 31
- **WHERE:** Sri Sankara Hall

**Tasty treats**

This Halloween, prepare for a night of fright and delight. From ghostly appetizers to sinister desserts, the Menu is to cast a spell on your taste buds.

- **WHEN:** October 31
- **WHERE:** Waterside, Feathers, A Radha Hotel



**Joy of gifting**

This Deepavali, The West in Chennai presents tailored festive goodies to capture the spirit of the festival. The Hampers vary from Assorted Ghee Sweets and Dry Fruit Sweets, Emperors Sweets, Chocolate Box, and Organic Hamper.

- **WHEN:** Till October 31



**Glint & gifts**

The Purple Turtles' 2024 Festive Collection collection features handcrafted items like a Metal toran with diyas, vibrant gift bags with festive motifs, and elegant Nera Saaki diyas that symbolise togetherness.

- **WHEN:** Till October 31
- **WHERE:** Arrethyst

**Vibrant look**

Celebrate Deepavali with up to 25% off at JP Silks. This is an opportunity to discover authentic, curated pieces that will elevate your festive wardrobe.

- **WHERE:** JP Silks
- **WHEN:** Till October 31



**Halloween night**

This Halloween, dare to experience a night of thrills at Sky Off Rooftop Restaurant. Menu highlights include Shakalaka Lychee, Crispy Corn Niblets, Crispy Fried Calamari, Sizzler Mutton Chapli Kebabs, Dal Bukhara, Goshit Dum Biryani, Elaineer Payasam.

- **WHEN:** October 31
- **WHERE:** A Radha Hotel
- **CALL:** 6009525541

**Curated hampers**

Illuminate your Deepavali celebrations with Taj Coromandel's exquisite handcrafted hampers – Teja Hamper, Yash Hamper, Divyam Hamper, and Coromandel Hamper

- **WHEN:** Till November 4
- **PRICE:** ₹1,650 plus taxes onwards



**Celebrating India**

This festive season Starbucks celebrates India's traditions and flavours with a new range – Saffron Symphony. Limited time beverage offerings, and Mithai Meets Dessert. Bombay sweet shop + Starbucks.

- **WHERE:** Across Starbucks stores



**Handicrafts on sale**

Srushti Handicrafts Emporium has organised Kalai Pokkissam, an exhibition-cum-sale of bronze and brass statues, wood carving, stone idols, paintings, decorative artifacts, gift articles, semi precious stone jewellery, panels, spandikam and many more.

- **WHEN:** Till November 4

**Dr Sriganesh Sankaranarayanan**  
 The founder of the Ahalia Astronomy Club

**A guide to stargazing**

Stargazing is a gateway to the universe, offering a blend of science, wonder, and personal discovery. Here is how you can begin your own astronomical adventure.

**Start:** The naked eye is your first telescope. Begin by identifying major constellations and bright stars using a star chart or smartphone apps. Watch the moon's phases, spot planets and catch the occasional meteor.  
**Upgrade:** Invest in a pair of binoculars. They're portable, intuitive and reveal stunning details of lunar craters and star clusters. Visit local astronomy clubs to test different telescope models before considering getting one.

**ASK AN EXPERT**

**Find your dark sky oasis:** Light pollution is the stargazer's nemesis. Scout out dark locations away from city lights, perhaps a nearby hill, beach, or rural area. You would be surprised how much more you can see.

**Develop your cosmic calendar:** Astronomy is often event-driven. Keep track of meteor showers and eclipses. Learn about seasonal constellations and deep-sky objects. Start a stargazing journal to record your observations.

**Connect:** Join local astronomy clubs to share your passion. Attend star parties or public observatory nights. These gatherings are goldmines of knowledge and inspiration.

**FITBIT**

**ADHO MUKHA SVANASANA VARIATION TOES (DOWNWARD FACING DOG POSE VARIATION TOES)**

This is a very nice variation of Adho Mukha Svanasana (Downward Facing Dog Pose). This variation is used as a transit pose in Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga, where one gets into various other poses like Uttanasana, Dandasana, or Lotus Pose. This being a beginner level yoga pose that is performed in standing and toes position involves forward-bend, stretch, inversion and strength. Therefore, this pose can be included in yoga sequences.

**STEPS**

- Stand in Tadasana (Mountain Pose), feet together and firmly rooted on the floor.
- Inhale, roll the shoulders back and join the palms together.
- Slowly bend your legs at the knees like you are sitting on a chair.
- Ensure your knees are in line with the toes. If you struggle with balancing the body by keeping both legs together, you can leave a few inches of gap between the legs. Take a deep breath here.
- Balance your weight on your heels, and stretch your spine and legs. Then come to Downward Facing Dog Pose.
- From here, come on to your toes to give a deeper stretch to the hamstrings, calves and the muscles around the hips.
- Stay here for six breaths while stretching the hamstrings. Exhale and push the torso inwards.
- Deeper stretch to the hamstrings and the hip muscles (lower body) while focusing on the shoulders and the arm muscles (upper body), results in maximum flexibility.
- Finally, release the pose and relax in Balasana (Child Pose).

**BENEFITS**

- Strengthens the knees, tones the glutes, outer thigh muscles, and quadriceps.
- Stretches the arms, armpits, shoulders and feet muscles, lengthening the spine.
- Improves blood flow to your head and hearing abilities.
- Energises the body for more intense hip opening and core vinyasa sequences.
- Relieves muscle fatigue with sustainable stretching and toning.
- Benefits the circulatory, respiratory and nervous systems.
- Helps diabetic patients with reducing their blood sugar, open up the nasal blocks, flushes out the sinuses and better sleep at night.
- Helps balancing mental stability.
- Teens, women, athletes, and postnatal women can practise it to keep their bodies fit.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

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 HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?  
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**ARTCORNER**



**OF VIGOUR AND VALOUR**

Artist Rijaz Sanojja Rasheed's painting showcases the celebration of Jallikattu



**PRASHANTH VALLAVAN**

**P**EOPLE in the army often talk about how a career in the armed forces is more than just a job; it is a lifestyle. In order to capture that lifestyle in a realistic manner, the makers of *Amaran* have gone to extraordinary lengths. Actor Sivakarthikeyan, who portrays Major Mukund Varadarajan in the film, speaks about how it was surreal to be on the sets. "We shot in the place Mukund sir was stationed. Every day, we had to travel by road to the location, through Pulwama. Inside the dormitories, there were several AK 47 guns propped up against the wall. We once shot a scene where I was lying on the bed and I rolled over to see grenades. It was a completely new experience for all of us but for the officers, it was their everyday life," he says. While a significant portion of the scenes were shot in sensitive areas, the actor reveals that the *Amaran* crew was given a three-layer protection. He added, "We shot in Kashmir for three months and our director Rajkumar Perlasamy was uncompromising with his vision for a realistic film."

On the topic of realism, the actor also had to imbibe the characteristics of Major Mukund. Sivakarthikeyan says, "I met Mukund sir's senior in Mumbai to learn about him. He was not your stereotypical military officer who was strict and stoic. He seemed to have been a person who liked to have fun." The actor also found him relatable. "This is not a story about one particular mission. *Amaran* captures the life journey of Mukund sir. He lived in Tambaram and came from a middle-class family. His mother had inhibitions about him joining the army. Everything about him is relatable," he says. The actor then goes on to confess

that he would have never taken up the role if the film was about one mission. "*Amaran* is the emotional journey of a soldier and that is what made me choose the project," he says. Apart from the incredible life journey of Major Mukund, Sivakarthikeyan also realised that a film like *Amaran* could break his limitations and help explore his range as a performer. "Rajkumar didn't want any of my strengths for this film," he says, before adding, "Instead, he wanted me to bring to the table my ability to connect with the audience."

With Sivakarthikeyan's strengths being humour and the ability to shine in lighthearted boy-next-door roles, one could surmise that the director was looking to extract an emotionally intense performance. Sivakarthikeyan elaborates on the emotional heft of the film, "Mukund sir's story is well known and we have seen films

# 'I would have rejected *Amaran* if it was just about a mission'

Sivakarthikeyan speaks about his experience filming for *Amaran*, how he related to Major Mukund Varadarajan, what he learned from *Kottukkaali*, and more

like this before in Hindi and in English. But Rajkumar has tried his best to give a different treatment to the story, he has added a small change. However, this is still an emotionally heavy film." When asked about the reception from the army officers, Sivakarthikeyan recounts the first day of shooting. "When we first met the army officers, I thought they would be excited but they were not. They told me military films often exaggerate a lot and that they rarely like them. I felt a bit dejected then. We got a lot of feedback from them but I did not want to make false promises. A few days ago, we held a screening, which was attended by everyone from jawans to army chiefs. They were very happy and told me it felt like they were watching themselves," says a visibly excited Sivakarthikeyan.

Speaking about the feedback from his producer Kamal Haasan, the actor reveals, "I was happy to know that he liked the film. He said, 'We have done our job to perfection. Now, it is all up to the audience.'" Before signing on to *Amaran*, Kamal Haasan had congratulated Sivakarthikeyan for producing an experimental film like *Kottukkaali*. On whether he would act in a film like *Kottukkaali*, the actor lightheartedly replies, "You saw how they (audience) treated *Kottukkaali*." He then elaborates on why he doesn't think it is a good idea. "I was very clear about not exceeding 120 screens for *Kottukkaali*. We kept the marketing within social media. The mainstream audience left disappointed, as for the audience we were targeting, it was a success. We achieved 70 per cent of what we wanted for the film. Hopefully, someday someone might achieve 100 per cent success out of an experimental film," he signs off.

**Q** I met Mukund sir's senior in Mumbai to learn about him. He was not your stereotypical military officer who was strict and stoic. He seemed to have been a person who liked to have fun.

-Sivakarthikeyan



**NAMRATA JOSHI**

**G**RIEF is often thought of as a rather simple, uncomplicated emotion. What more can there be to sorrow than a few tears? *My Eternal Summer*, the Danish film that had its world premiere at the San Sebastian Film Festival, delves into the hidden depths and complexities of the anguish of loss. What's more, there's an added layer of the vital contradictions governing life—the world opening up for teenage Fanny (Kaya Toft Loholt), just when a formative presence in her life is about to bid her final farewell. Sylvia Le Fanu's debut feature film is a candid, relatable, and tender tale of coming of age in the midst of bereavement, mourning, and pain.

On the surface, nothing much appears to happen in the film. Fanny and her parents, Karin (Maria Rossing) and Johan (Anders Mossling), drive down to their summer house and get busy with the usual things—rest and relaxation, reading and swimming, walks and picnics. However, beneath the comfort of the familiar routine of life lies the certitude of mortality—that it'd be Karin's last summer. As the family spends time together, Fanu explores the inevitability of death and anticipated grief. And, more than that, she dwells on the gradual process of reconciliation and healing that gets initiated—though not entirely successful—even before the eventual absence of a loved one.

In that sense, unlike most films dealing with death, *My Eternal Summer* is not about the one who is dying but those she leaves behind. The young director looks at how relationships get shaped and reconfigured

# The many shades of grief



matching rhythm in all aspects of filmmaking—be it the shot-taking and editing, the sound or production design. There is a languidness that suffuses the film. The performances are mellifluous in intonation, especially the depth and layers in Kaya's interpretation of Fanny. One minute complaining about boredom, the next minute out with her friends, one second shedding tears for her mother in the presence of her boyfriend Jamie, the next having a fight with him. The family of three feels real, as do their emotions, individual and collective. There are moments that feel so lived in that they break your heart. Like Fanny confessing that she doesn't want to be left alone with her ailing mother. A few words are enough to articulate her fear of having to face her death alone or her praying to God to heal her, promising to be a good daughter in return.

One of the most remarkably performed and beautifully realised scenes in the movies this year, and my takeaway moment from *My Eternal Summer* is of the mother and daughter laughing uncontrollably and crying just as copiously while watching a game together. It is emblematic of the film at large—a poignant and profound meditation on the fragility of life and dignity in death and the one that upholds the ultimate truth about having to let go of the ones we hold the most dear.

**CINEMA WITHOUT BORDERS**  
 In this weekly column, the writer introduces you to powerful cinema from across the world  
 Film: *My Eternal Summer*

delicacy even when she mines the ugly and unpalatable emotions. Such as the lack of communication and broken connection between the father and the daughter. "You never ask me how I feel," says Fanny to Johan, both of them like islands in a shared sea of sorrow and suffering. What might appear on paper to be the stuff of heavy morbidity is underlined with an unusually light, melancholic touch. Fanu is never manipulative and not once does she give in to excesses when it comes to sentiments. In fact, in the middle of all the anguish, there is gentle humour, lyrical interludes and musical punctuations. The soulful writing finds a

# Jumanji 3 to release in December 2026



**O**N Tuesday, Sony Pictures announced that *Jumanji 3* is all set to hit theatres on December 11, 2026. Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Jack Black and Karen Gillan, are in talks to reprise their roles, while Jake Kasdan, who helmed both instalments, is also expected to return. The production team, consisting of Matt Tolmach, Johnson, Dany Garcia, Hiram Garcia and Kasdan have joined hands to bankroll *Jumanji 3*. Details regarding the other cast members and the plot have been kept under wraps. The original *Jumanji*, starring Robin Williams and Kirsten Dunst, was released in 1995. Kasdan and Johnson rebooted the franchise in 2017 with *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*. A sequel, *Jumanji: The Next Level* was released in 2019. While the original film follows a group of kids who unleash a safari game into the reality of their hometown, *Welcome to the Jungle* focuses on a group of teenagers getting trapped inside a video game as a collection of adult avatars.

**Oct 30<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**  
11.00 am to 12.00 am

**Dhool DIWALI**

Till November 03<sup>rd</sup>

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