





## CM M K Stalin launches expansion of breakfast scheme to Govt-aided schools Benefits 1.14 lakh students in 1,545 schools



Chennai July 16 2024: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday launched the ruling DMK's pioneering and the flagship Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme in government-aided schools for students of Classes 1 to 5 at Keezhacheri in neighbouring Tiruvallur district, coinciding with the 122nd birth anniversary of former Chief Minister K.Kamaraj.

After paying floral tributes to a portrait of Mr Kamaraj to mark the occasion, Mr Stalin launched the third phase of this path-breaking scheme at a school in the district in

the presence of Ministers, senior government officials and district authorities.

Stalin personally served the breakfast to the students, fed and partook with them.

He also interacted with them and enquired about their well being after expanding this revolutionary scheme in line with the announcement made in the Budget presented in the State Assembly in February this year by Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu.

Official sources said the scheme would benefit a total of 2,23,536 students in 3,995 government-aided primary schools.

The first phase of the scheme was launched in 2022 and the second phase in 2023.

According to a study by the State Planning Commission, this revolutionary scheme, introduced by the DMK's Dravidian Model government, has not only increased the enrollment ratio, but also improved attendance and aptitude.

This path-breaking scheme was first launched on September 15, 2022 and a total of 1.14 lakh students in 1,545 schools benefitted from it in the first phase. Buoyed by the encouraging response received from the

people, the scheme was expanded and subsequently launched in Tirukuvalai, the birthplace of late Chief Minister and DMK Patriarch M.Karunanidhi, by Mr Stalin on August 25, 2023. It has benefitted 18.50 lakh students studying in 30,992 government primary schools across the State.

And today Mr Stalin further expanded this scheme to government-aided schools benefitting 2,23,536 students in the third phase.

Under the scheme, students of Classes 1 to 5 will be given breakfast on all working days with the menu ranging from

Idli, Uppuma, Kitchadi, Pongal along with Chutney and Sambar.

The scheme is aimed at improving nutrition, increasing enrollment and attendance, besides improving learning ability among students.

It may be recalled that Mr Thennarasu while presenting the 2024-25 Budget said "Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come".

This timeless phrase of French literary doyen, Victor Hugo, has been brought to life by Mr Stalin in the 21st century.

The flagship schemes of Mid-Day

Meal scheme and Nutritious Meal Programme continue to be effectively implemented in the State.

However, several scholars and nutritionists for long have been requesting to introduce a breakfast scheme as many students attend school without having breakfast, resulting in malnutrition and an inability to concentrate in studies.

"But, Time waited for our Chief Minister to script history. Founded on the principles of social justice, the flagship scheme of this Dravidian model Government, the Chief

Minister's Breakfast Scheme' was inaugurated at Madurai in 2022 on the birth anniversary of Perarignar Anna (late Chief Minister and DMK Founder C N Annadurai), and later expanded in 2023 to all the 30,992 Government schools from classes I to V, benefiting more than 15 lakh students", he said.

Research studies indicate that the implementation of this scheme has led to an improvement in attendance, nutritional levels and learning outcomes of the students.

To uphold the noble vision of the Chief

Minister, who proclaimed, "We are willing to make any sacrifice to ensure widespread access to school education, foster enjoyable learning experiences, and ensure students learn without hunger", the scope of this scheme will be broadened to encompass Government-aided schools in rural areas of the State starting from the upcoming academic year, thus benefiting around 2.5 lakh students enrolled from Classes I to V.

In the next financial year, an allocation of Rs.600 crore will be earmarked towards this initiative, he had said.

## Stalin condemns Karnataka for not releasing water, calls for all-party meet

Chennai July 16 2024: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday, July 15, 2024, condemned the Karnataka government for not releasing the water due to Tamil Nadu from the Cauvery River. He has also called for an all-party meeting at the Secretariat in Chennai on July 16 to decide on the future course of action.

"Karnataka's refusal to release water to Tamil Nadu is strongly condemnable. The Tamil Nadu government will not accept actions that affect the welfare of Tamil Nadu farmers under any circumstances," Mr. Stalin said in a statement.

Tamil Nadu Minister for Water Resources Duraimurugan will chair the all-party meeting, which includes all parties represented in the Tamil Nadu legislature, at the Secretariat campus in Chennai at 11 a.m. on July 16 to discuss the future course of action. The meeting will also include inputs from

legal experts on the issue.

Earlier, on July 14, Karnataka decided to release Cauvery water at the rate of 8,000 cusecs daily to Tamil Nadu following a directive from the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC), which had instructed the state to



release 1 tmcft (11,500 cusecs) of water. Karnataka also decided to appeal the CWRC order to the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

As on July 15, 2024, while the total storage in the four main dams of Karnataka is 75.586



TMC ft, the water level in Tamil Nadu's Mettur reservoir is a mere 13.808 TMC ft, he said in a statement here.

Moreover, as per the IMD's forecast, there is scope for adequate rainfall. Hence, Karnataka declining to release water according to the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's (CWRC) directive is a betrayal of Tamil Nadu's farmers, Stalin said, adding the state will never accept it.

On Sunday, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had said the state government was ready to release 8,000 cusecs of water from the Cauvery river every

day to Tamil Nadu instead of the one TMC ft till the end of this month, as directed by the CWRC.

Stalin said he has convened a meeting of floor leaders of parties represented in the state Assembly to deliberate on the steps to be taken to secure Cauvery water.

The meeting will be held at 11 am on July 16, 2024 at the state secretariat here, under the leadership of Minister for Water Resources Duraimurugan.

Also, the views of legal experts will be obtained and the next course of action to be pursued will be decided by the government.



## Inner sanctum of Puri temple opened after 46 years Ornaments shifted, ASI to begin restoration work

Chennai, July 16 2024: After a gap of 46 years, the Bhitara Ratna Bhandar of the 12th-century Sri Jagannath temple was opened on Sunday following the SOP finalised by the Odisha government.

An eleven-member committee entered the Sri Jagannath temple to open the Bhitara Ratna Bhandar (inner compartment of the temple treasury).

The ornaments and jewelry stored in the Bahar Ratna Bhandar were shifted to a nearby temporary strong room known as Changada Ghar, the storeroom of the deities for keeping clothes.

The team had to cut the three locks of the Bhitara Ratna Bhandar in the presence of the magistrate to enter. They saw almirahs and treasure chests in the Bhandar but returned as there was little time left to shift the huge chests.

Committee convenor, Aravind Kumar Padhi, also the chief administrator of Sri Jagannath Temple Administration, told the media that the Bahar Ratna Bhandar was opened with available keys, the ornaments were shifted to the temporary strong room



and its doors were sealed.

After that, Padhi said, following the Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) set by the Government, all three locks of the Bhitara Ratna Bhandar were cut as they could not be opened with the keys provided by the administration. The S J T A chief administrator said the team entered the Bhitara Ratna Bhandar, saw almirahs and huge wooden chests, but returned as there was no time to shift the wealth to a temporary strong room.

He said, "Our prime importance is to ensure the structural stability of the temple and its Ratna Bhandar. Though the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) superintendent was with our team, the ASI team will begin work after we shift all the wealth from the Bhitara Ratna Bhandar."

Padhi said the ASI will examine and conduct repairs on the Bhitara Ratna Bhandar

for its conservation after all the valuables and jewelry are shifted from the Bhitara Ratna Bhandar.

He said that soon after the completion of repairs, the valuables and jewelry will be kept inside the Bhitara Ratna Bhandar in their original place.

Padhi further stated that a fresh inventory and tallying with the 1978 inventory will be made at a suitable date to be fixed by the government. He mentioned that the administration has a tight schedule since Monday is Bahuda Yatra (return car festival), followed by Suna Vesh of the deities on July 17, and the Niladri Bije of the deities on July 19.

Before entering the Sri Jagannath temple, the team visited Gundicha temple and offered prayers to the presiding deities. They had a meeting at the temple office conference hall and discussed the SOP.

Later, Ajnamallya (permission of the

deity) of Lord Jagannath came from the Gundicha temple and Sri Lokanath. As per the temple manual, Sri Lokanath is the custodian of the temple treasury. Chandhi Patha (recitation of holy hymns of Devi Chandhi) in Vimala temple was performed by Pundits to invoke the blessings of the goddess.

The temple administration has brought six huge traditional wooden chests for storing the wealth, with nine more to follow, temple sources said.

Odisha Law Minister Prithviraj Hrichandan arrived at the Sri Jagannath temple at about 2:30 PM and, after offering prayers to Devi Vimala and Mahalaxmi, told the media that everything would go well as per the wish of Lord Jagannath.

Justice Rath stated that the temple and district administration are in a tight position because of the Rath Yatra schedule. After consultation with concerned people and the government, a date will be fixed for shifting the treasure from the Bhitara Ratna Bhandar to Changada Ghar, the temporary strong room.

## Vikram Misri takes charge as new foreign secretary

Chennai July 16 2024: Seasoned diplomat Vikram Misri, regarded as an expert on China, assumed charge as India's new foreign secretary on Monday. A 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, Misri succeeded Vinay Kwatra.

Misri assumed charge of the key position at a time India is looking to navigate various foreign policy challenges, including its frosty ties with China following the lingering eastern Ladakh border row.

"Shri Vikram Misri assumed charge as



Foreign Secretary today. #TeamMEA extends a warm welcome to Foreign Secretary Misri and wishes him a successful tenure ahead," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir

Jaiswal said on X.

Misri was serving as the deputy national security advisor in his previous assignment.

He has the rare distinction of serving as private secretary to three prime ministers

Inder Kumar Gujral, Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi.

Before he was appointed as the deputy NSA, Misri served as India's ambassador to China from 2019-2021.

Misri is believed to have played a key role in talks between India and China after tensions flared significantly following the Galwan Valley clashes in June 2020. The ties between the two countries nosedived following a fierce clash in the Galwan Valley that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

## Jio Financial Services Q1 results: Net profit down 5.72% at Rs 313 crore

Chennai, July 16 2024: Jio Financial Services on Monday reported a 5.72 per cent decline in the consolidated net profit at Rs 313 crore in Q1FY25, as against Rs 332 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, according to the company's exchange filing.

Interest income was down 19.8 per cent to Rs 162 crore in Q1FY25 as against Rs 202 crore in Q1FY24. However, it reported a marginal increase in total income at Rs 418 crore due to higher net gain on fair value changes over the same

period last year. Its net gain on fair value changes in Q1FY25 stood at Rs 218 crore as against Rs 174 crore.

According to the company's investor presentation, Jio Finance - a NBFC which is 100 per cent subsidiary of JFS -- has launched new products such as loan against mutual funds as well as auto and two-wheeler digital insurance in July. Going forward, it plans to venture into loan against property as well as loan against securities.

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up 46.64% to Rs 1,293 cr on healthy NII growth

Further, the company has launched the beta version of the "JioFinanceApp".

Additionally, Jio Leasing Services, another 100 per cent subsidiary of Jio Financial Services, has commenced the business of leasing AirFiber devices.

The company also stated that Jio Payments Bank, which is majority owned by Jio Financial Services with the rest being owned by State Bank of India, has over 1 million current

account savings account (CASA) customers. Further, the payments bank is looking to focus on channel expansion, drive transactions through channels, and launch cross sell products.

The company's insurance broking arm - Jio Insurance Broking - is looking to come up with new product offerings on the digital channel, expand the portfolio of embedded insurance products, among other things. Jio Financial Services' shares ended at Rs 355.25, up 1.40 per cent on the BSE.

## Thailand FM moots stronger partnership with India

Chennai, July 16 2024: The Foreign Minister of Thailand Maris Sangiampongsa, who was on an official visit to India, held talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during which the two sides reaffirmed the mutual desire for a stronger India-Thailand partnership, in keeping with the vision of their two Prime Ministers.

EAM held a bilateral meeting with the Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs on July 12 and hosted a lunch in his honour.

During the meeting, the two Ministers reviewed progress across various areas of partnership covering political exchanges,



defence and security ties, trade and investment

opportunities, connectivity, science and technology collaboration, health cooperation, culture and people-to-people interaction, a statement said.

The two Ministers also exchanged views on issues of mutual interest and reiterated commitment to closer

cooperation in sub-regional, regional and multilateral fora.

In accordance with the vision of the two Prime Ministers, the Ministers reaffirmed the mutual desire for a stronger India-Thailand partnership.

Thailand is a key partner of India in the ASEAN. The 'Act East' Policy of India which marks its 10th year in 2024, finds

convergence with the 'Act West' Policy of Thailand. Interactions between External Affairs Minister and Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs have contributed to further strengthening of bilateral ties, the statement added.

The Thai Foreign Minister also attended the 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat in New Delhi.

## Karnataka to release 8,000 cusecs to TN

Chennai, July 16 2024: In a significant development, the Karnataka government has decided to release 8,000 cusecs of Cauvery water daily to Tamil Nadu, following a directive from the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC).

The move comes after an all-party meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who stated, "We want to make it clear that our decision is not driven by stubbornness, but by the need to protect our state's interests," he told reporters here on Sunday.

The CWRC had earlier directed Karnataka to release 1 tmcft (11,500 cusecs) of water to Tamil Nadu, but the state government has decided to appeal against the order in the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

According to Karnataka, the current water storage in its reservoirs stands at 63 percent of the total capacity, and releasing more water would compromise the state's needs. As Chief Minister Siddaramaiah explained, "Our legal team has advised us to

release water only after good rains, and we have decided to release 8,000 cusecs daily based on our current water storage situation." He added, "We have already released 5 tmcft of water to Tamil Nadu this season, and we are willing to release more if the rainfall is good."

The all-party meeting was attended by leaders from various political parties, including the Leader of the Opposition R Ashok, former Chief Minister DV Sadananda Gowda, and Janata Dal (S) Core Committee chairman

GT Deve Gowda.

This development comes amid an ongoing dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over the sharing of Cauvery water. The CWRC's directive had sparked tensions between the two states, with Karnataka arguing that it cannot release more water without compromising its own interests.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar noted, "We have a 30 per cent deficit in water inflows, and we need to prioritise our state's needs."



Vijay Adiraj's directorial venture 'Nodikku Nodi' starts rolling with pooja Produced by Nox Studios with Ashwin Kumar, Shyam and Narain in lead roles



Chennai July 16 2024: Vijay Adiraj, who once ruled television as an Actor and Anchor, has now started his next directorial venture titled 'Nodikku Nodi'. The project started rolling with a pooja. Produced by Nox Studios, 'Nodikku Nodi' will be a fully-loaded action entertainer with Ashwin Kumar, Shyam and Naren in lead roles. Speaking about the film, Vijay Adiraj said, "My dream of making a complete entertainer with a racy screenplay is coming true with 'Nodikku Nodi'. The film has an exciting plot and popular actors are playing key characters. There are other surprises too when they are revealed one after the other, fans will be in for a delight." Cinematographer Gopinath, Art Director Ramalingam, Choreographer Raju Sundaram, and Action Choreographer Dinesh Kasi have joined forces for this film. The Executive Producers of the film are G Kannan & Balu K Nimo. We are planning to wrap up the shoot at the earliest and planning to bring 'Nodikku Nodi' to the screens early next year, says Vijay Adiraj.

Athulya Senior Care Hosts A One-Day Death Doula Workshop

Chennai July 16 2024: Athulya Senior Care proudly hosted the "Embrace the Journey: A One-Day Death Doula Workshop" on Sunday, 14th July 2024, at its Maduravoyal facility. This transformative event saw the participation of 50 compassionate individuals eager to deepen their understanding and skills in end-of-life care.



The workshop, held from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, was led by esteemed faculty members Dr. Abhijit Dam, MD, FCCP, FPM, MSE.PallMed., PhD, Founder President of the International Death Doula Foundation, and Mr. Avtar Singh Cheema, Founder Secretary of the International Death Doula Foundation. Their extensive expertise and dedication to the field of palliative care provided invaluable insights and guidance to all attendees.

Attendees were educated on the importance of self-care for those who provide end-of-life support, as the well-being of caregivers directly impacts the quality of care they can offer.

The workshop covered techniques and practices to support individuals through their grief journey. Understanding the stages of grief and how to offer appropriate support during each stage was a significant focus. The essential functions and responsibilities of a death doula were explored in depth, highlighting the pivotal role they play in ensuring a dignified and peaceful end-of-life experience. Strategies for providing comprehensive emotional and spiritual care were shared, along with the significance of rituals and creating a sacred space for the dying process.

The event highlighted Athulya Senior Care's promise to better the quality of life for seniors through its Palliative Care Unit, which plays a crucial role in offering compassionate and comprehensive end-of-life care. Athulya's Palliative Care Unit is dedicated to alleviating suffering and improving the quality of life for those with serious, chronic, or terminal illnesses. The unit provides a multi-disciplinary approach, integrating medical, psychological, and spiritual care to support both patients and their families.

skills and knowledge necessary to support those in their final stages of life. We are proud to see such enthusiastic participation and are confident that the insights gained here will have an impact on the lives of many. At Athulya, we believe that the end of life should be as beautiful and dignified as the beginning. Our Palliative Care Unit is central to this mission, ensuring that every individual receives the utmost care and respect in their final days.

Athulya Senior Care remains devoted to its mission of offering a wide range of services, including assisted living, palliative care, and specialized programs designed to meet the unique needs of the elderly. With a focus on holistic well-being, Athulya strives to provide an environment where seniors can live with dignity, comfort, and peace.

Rotary Club Of Nanganallur Elite Continued Blood Donation Camp



The President Rtn Sathish and members of Rotary Club Of Nanganallur Elite have inaugurated the continuous blood donation camp at Yoga Hall, Independence Day Park, Nanganallur and this will be conducted every 1st Sunday of the month.

The inauguration is done by Chandran- Ward Committe Chairman Zone 12, Great Chennai Corporation along with Durga Devi Natarajan - Ward Committe Member Ward 167 Greater Chennai Corporation. From the Rotary District 3234 Rtn Suryanarayana Rao -Chair Person Blood, Organ & Eye Donation also graciously join as our special guest for this inauguration.

Yamaha Organises The Call of Blue Weekend in Trichy

Trichy July 16 2024: Yamaha Motor Pvt. Ltd. (IYM), under its exhilarating brand campaign, hosted - "The Call of the Blue" (COTB) Weekend activity in Trichy today. The venue, SPS Mahal Parking Area, was abuzz with excitement as over 470 ardent Yamaha fans gathered to be part of this extraordinary event.



Wooden Plank Challenge allowed participants to showcase their skills and get expert tips to refine their abilities. This interactive platform fostered camaraderie and community among attendees, uniting them in their passion for Yamaha and motorcycling.

mesmerizing presence of Supersport - R3 and the hyper-naked MT-03 bikes, two additions to Yamaha India's lineup, poised to redefine performance and style standards in their respective categories. Attendees also participated in an array of experiences right from exploring exclusive brand accessories and apparel while also enjoying the ambiance of the Biker's Café. Another standout

feature was the "Gaming Zone", where visitors could indulge into virtually playing the thrilling MotoGP race on the tracks, adding an extra layer of excitement and engagement to the event.

The company will continue to organise such events across several locations in India throughout the year to raise awareness on the brand's commitment towards promoting riding culture as a part of the customers' lifestyle. With "The Call of the Blue" Weekend Activity, Yamaha aims to engage with a wider audience across India and promote their exciting product range.