

Edappadi urges to assess damages, ensure adequate compensation

Chennai Dec 02 2024: AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami has accused Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin of not responding to the questions he raises as the Leader of the Opposition.

Following the impact of Cyclone Fenjal in the Mayilam region, Palaniswami personally visited the affected areas to console residents and farmers. He later visited Tindivanam to inspect the damages caused by heavy rains that breached small canals. He distributed relief materials, including rice, vegetables, and groceries, to the affected people.

Addressing the media afterward, he remarked that crops such as casuarina and manila were severely damaged near the Veedur dam. He urged revenue and agriculture department officials to assess the damages and ensure adequate compensation to all affected farmers. He also highlighted that approximately 1.5 lakh acres of samba



paddy had been cultivated in delta districts such as Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Tiruvarur, and Thanjavur. Among them, around 1 lakh acres of paddy fields were submerged due to the cyclone and heavy rains. He demanded compensation of Rs. 40,000 per acre for the affected farmers.

Commenting on the recent rainfall in Chennai, he noted that only 7 cm of rain was recorded, which was manageable. He criticized certain

media outlets for exaggerating the situation and claimed that water drained within five to six hours due to natural causes, not because of government efforts. He accused the ruling DMK government of misleading the public by portraying a false narrative about effective water drainage systems.

Palaniswami also pointed out that Chief Minister Stalin often refrains from addressing the accusations and concerns raised by the

opposition. He stated that as the opposition leader, he is committed to bringing the people's issues to the government's attention, but the CM fails to provide solutions.

Referring to past AIADMK governance, he emphasized that during their tenure, swift action was taken to compensate farmers twice a year whenever heavy rains caused damage. He also criticized the DMK government for the slow progress in completing stormwater drain projects in Chennai, despite being in power for three years. He highlighted that 1,840 kilometers of drainage work had been completed during AIADMK's administration under schemes like the World Bank and international funding programs.

During the media interaction, former Law Minister C.V. Shanmugam, Tindivanam MLA Arjunan, and others accompanied Palaniswami."

CM M K Stalin reviews flood relief works in Villupuram, other Districts; distributes relief materials to affected families



Chennai Dec 02 2024: Amid the devastation and flooding caused by Cyclonic storm Fengal, Chief Minister MK Stalin visited Villupuram and Kallakurichi districts to inspect the damage and provide assistance to people.

Stalin said in a post on X, "I am personally visiting Villupuram and Kallakurichi districts to see the severe damage caused by Cyclone Fengal and help the people."

Stalin informed that he was in touch with Tamil Nadu Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister MRK Panneerselvam, who is working on the ground in the Cuddalore district. The CM said that he had also

contacted State Public Works Minister EV Velu and enquired about the situation in Tiruvannamalai district.

The Chief Minister said that he was appointed Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MLA Muthuswamy and Tamil Nadu Tourism Minister R Rajendran to oversee the situation and rescue operations in Krishnagiri district.

"I am continuously talking to the Collectors of these districts and monitoring the field situation. Let's fix the damage of the natural disaster and restore normalcy soon," CM Stalin posted on X.

This comes after Cyclone Fengal caused flooding amid heavy

rainfall in many districts of Tamil Nadu, leaving people living in these areas in distress. However, efforts are being made by rescue teams to evacuate stranded citizens.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team led by District Collector Balaraman rescued the affected people in Cuddalore district with the help of boats. The Tamil Nadu Disaster Rescue team removed a tree that fell on the national highway in Chinnangankuppam, a border area of Cuddalore and Puducherry, with the help of a JCB machine.

Earlier, CM Stalin on Sunday visited the State Emergency Operation Centre to inspect ongoing relief

efforts. He urged the Union government to dispatch a central team to assess the situation and evaluate crop damage caused by the cyclone.

The Chief Minister also visited various locations in the Kolathur assembly constituency. Tamil Nadu Revenue and Disaster Management Minister KKSSR Ramachandran and other Disaster Management Department officials accompanied him.

CM Stalin stated that nearly 27,000 people have received food packets prepared by Amma canteens since yesterday. He added that 21 of Chennai's 23 subways have been cleared of waterlogging.

TN Assembly to pass resolution against tungsten mining lease

Chennai Dec 02 2024: Tamil Nadu Assembly will introduce a special resolution urging the Union Government to: Immediately revoke the tungsten mining lease granted to Hindustan Zinc Limited in Madurai

district, Prohibit mining lease auctions without prior consent from the respective state governments.

Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly will convene for a two-day session, as announced by Speaker

Appavu.

The session is set to begin at 9:30 AM on December 9. Earlier, the Speaker had mentioned that the duration of the session would be decided by the Business Advisory Committee. Following today's committee meeting at the Chennai Secretariat, it was decided that the Assembly will convene on December 9 and 10.

On December 9, a condolence resolution will be passed for the demise of several prominent figures, including: R. Sampanthan, Leader of the Tamil National Alliance in Sri Lanka, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, former Chief Minister of West Bengal, Former Chief of Defence Staff S. Padmanabhan, Sitaram Yechury, General Secretary of

the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Archbishop Ezra Sargunam of the ECI Church, Industrialist Ratan Tata, Former Chief Secretary P. Shankar, Murasoli Selvam, Executive Editor of Murasoli newspaper.

Submission of supplementary grant requests for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

On December 10, Debate and response on the supplementary grant requests for 2024-2025.

Introduction and discussion of the Finance Appropriation Bill related to the supplementary expenditure for 2024-2025. This short session is expected to address crucial issues, including financial allocations and policy concerns regarding mining rights.

SC questions Senthil Balaji's appointment as Minister on getting bail

Chennai Dec 02 2024: The Supreme Court today questioned the appointment of V Senthil Balaji as a minister in Tamil Nadu Cabinet right after getting bail in a money laundering case.

With this view, a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and AG Masih has decided to look into the issue of

witnesses in the case being threatened after the appointment.

The top court was hearing a petition seeking to recall the judgment which had granted bail to Balaji.

While the court has not recalled the judgment, court has decided to look into the issue of witnesses being threatened.

On September 26th, a division bench of Justices Abhay Oka and Augustine George Masih had granted bail to Balaji after having reserved its verdict in August this year after it had questioned the Enforcement Directorate as to what was to be done in a situation where the trial was not moving forward.

Balaji has approached Supreme Court challenging the Madras High Court's decision from February this year dismissing his bail plea. High Court had decided the matter on merit and directed the trial court to proceed with the trial on a daily basis and conclude it within a three-month timeframe.

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Court sentences BJP leader Raja to six months imprisonment in defamation case

Chennai Dec 02 2024: A special court in Chennai on Monday, 2 December, sentenced BJP Tamil Nadu Coordination Committee President H Raja to six months imprisonment in a defamation case on behalf of DMK MP K Kanimozhi.



EV Ramasamy.

Additionally, the court sentenced him to six months imprisonment over threatening to destroy the statue of Periyar

In April 2018, Raja posted on Twitter (now X) that he would destroy a Periyar statue and made derogatory remarks against Kanimozhi.

Following these remarks, complaints were filed against him by DMK, Congress, and the Popular Front of India (PFI) at various police stations in the state.

Based on these complaints, cases were registered against Raja at Erode Town Police Station and Karungalpalayam Police Station. Later, Raja filed a petition to quash these cases but the Madras High Court dismissed his plea and directed the special court for cases against MPs and MLAs in Chennai to complete the trial of both cases within three months.

BJP notice to rebel Karnataka MLA Yatnal

Chennai Dec 02 2024: The BJP has taken disciplinary action against Karnataka MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, issuing a show cause notice over repeated acts of indiscipline, defiance of party directives, and public statements at odds with the party's official stance.

The notice, issued by the BJP's Central Disciplinary Committee on December 1, highlights Yatnal's continued criticism of the state leadership and his disregard for party norms, despite multiple warnings.

The committee underscored that previous assurances of good conduct from the

legislator had failed to curb his actions, leading to ongoing violations.

Om Pathak, Member Secretary of the committee, described Yatnal's behaviour as a "serious breach of party discipline" under Article XXV of the BJP's rules. The notice cited his "false and veiled allegations" against party leaders and persistent public defiance on matters of political and public importance.

"Despite leniency extended in view of your seniority and long-standing association with the party, your repeated violations compel us to seek an explanation," the

notice stated. Yatnal has been granted ten days to respond to the notice. Failure to provide a satisfactory explanation may result in further disciplinary measures, the party cautioned.

This development comes amid simmering tensions within the Karnataka BJP, where Yatnal has frequently voiced dissent against the state leadership. The disciplinary action signals the party's commitment to maintaining internal cohesion and discipline ahead of significant political challenges.

Meanwhile, Yatnal announced that he will respond to the show

cause notice. He reiterated his unwavering commitment to the fight for Hindutva, opposition to corruption, issues related to the Waqf, and the battle against dynasty politics, while also presenting the facts regarding the current state of the BJP in Karnataka.

"I will respond to the notice issued by the BJP disciplinary committee chairman, while also presenting the facts regarding the current state of the BJP in Karnataka. My commitment to the fight for Hindutva, opposition to corruption, Waqf-related issues, and dynasty politics will remain unwavering," he said in an X post.

Bumrah helped turnaround form, avers Siraj

Chennai, Dec 02 2024: India fast bowler Mohammed Siraj has credited pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah for helping him turnaround his form at the start of the ongoing tour of Australia.

Siraj managed just two wickets across a pair of appearances during India's home series against New Zealand prior to the tour Down Under, but looked back to his best in the opening Test against Australia in Perth when he collected five scalps in a crucial ICC World Test Championship victory.

It was Siraj's first five-wicket match haul in a Test since he claimed seven scalps in a Player of the Match performance in India's first Test match of

2024 against South Africa in Cape Town and bodes well for the fiery right-artermer as the Asian side attempts to qualify for a third straight World Test Championship Final at Lord's next year.

Siraj said it was a chat with stand-in skipper and No.1 ranked Test bowler Bumrah prior to the Australia series that motivated him for the series opener in Perth, an ICC report said.

"I always keep talking to Jassi bhai (Bumrah). Even before the first match, I spoke with him about what I was going through. And he just told me one thing - don't run (chase) after wickets, just keep bowling consistently in one area and enjoy your bowling. If you still don't get wickets, then you come ask me.

So I enjoyed my bowling and I got wickets as well," Siraj said. "Australia is a place where a fast bowler enjoys because you get pace and bounce. As a fast bowler, you get everything you want. So you get a different kind of confidence to come and enjoy your bowling here," he said.

Siraj collected the wicket of former Australian Test batter Matthew Renshaw during a pink-ball contest against the Prime Minister's XI in Canberra on Sunday and will look to build on that performance when the Test series against the Aussies continues in Adelaide on Friday.

It will be India's first pink-ball Test in Australia since they

were bundled out for just 36 during the second innings of the opening Test of their most recent series Down Under in 2020, but Siraj believes his side is better prepared for the conditions the team will face this time around.

"I think that with the pink-ball, it's better to bowl back of length. Because pitching it up, there's not a lot of swing, so the more you hit the deck and get it to seam, it will be better for us," Siraj noted. "I have heard that the ball swings a lot under the lights but I haven't yet bowled with it under lights. So when we go to Adelaide and practice, we will try that. And the more practice we get, we'll know more about what we have to do," he added.

2665 persons and were recruited as Gr.II. Police Constable

Chennai Dec 02 2024: Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board conducted a Recruitment for the selection of Gr.II Police Constables for Tamil Nadu Police Department. Accordingly 2665 persons [Regular- 2598 (AR Women- 779 & TSP Men 1819) and (Back log 67 (AR Women 13 AR Men 12 & TSP Men 42)] were recruited as Gr.II. Police Constable.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu issued the appointment letters to the appointees on 27.11.2024. The newly recruited recruits will undergo 7 months Basic Institutional training and 1-month Practical Training. The training will be imparted at 8 Permanent Police Training Schools at Thiruvallur, Vellore, Villupuram, Trichy, Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai and Thoothukudi.



Out of the total 2665 recruited Grade II Police Constables 792 Women AR RPCs were allotted training at Thiruvallur (300), Vellore (200) and Villupuram (292) and 1861 Men TSP RPCs and 12 AR Men backlog RPCs will undergo training at Madurai (389), Thoothududi (512), Salem (422), Trichy (350) and Coimbatore (200).

During the course of Basic Training, training in Outdoor and Indoor activities will be imparted to RPCs. Outdoor activities comprises of physical training, Parade, Firing, Commando training,

Jungle training etc., Indoor Training comprises of Law subjects, Finger prints, First aid, Scientific aided Investigation etc., In addition subjects like ethics, psychology, life skills, work life balance, etc., are also being imparted.

The Permanent Police Training Schools are well prepared in all aspects in advance for imparting training to the above recruits commencing from 04.12.2024.

Also, as per the instructions of the Tr. Sandeep Rai Rathore, IPS., Director General of Police, Training,

Training of Trainers, (TOT) Programme was conducted for both the Indoor and Outdoor Police Personnel of 8 Police Training Schools at PTS, Madurai from 25.11.2024 to 30.11.2024 which is a first of its kind, to equip their capacity to conduct the training more effectively. About 158 Trainers have been trained in the TOT.

The Director General of Police, Training also visited PTS, Vellore and PTS Salem on 2nd December 2024 to personally see the preparations.

All preparatory arrangements have been done in the respective Police Training Schools for the successful conduct of the ensuing Basic Training. Preparations have been carried out and all the 8 PTSs are kept ready to receive and commence the training for the RPCs.

Low-cost Vietnam new preferred education avenue Aptech's hands-on training in VFX

Chennai Dec 02 2024: Research from IDP Education reveals a shift in student preferences, with traditional destinations like Canada, the US, and Australia losing appeal due to strict visa policies, high costs, and limited family support. As a result, students are considering new options that offer affordability, career prospects, and family-friendly policies.

Amid this shifting landscape, Vietnam is emerging as an ideal choice for international students, particularly in Asia. The country provides accessible non-stop flights to all major Asian cities, affordable living costs (USD 4,000 8,000 annually, ranking in the top 40 globally), and low student visa fees (USD 75 300). With its favourable framework for transnational education (TNE), Vietnam offers nearly 30 high-quality international universities, including La Trobe, Fulbright, British University Vietnam (BUV), and RMIT, creating a safe, dynamic and culturally familiar environment close to home for Asian students seeking world-class education. Investment-wise British education in Asia As the only foreign-invested university in Vietnam accredited by the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) for meeting international education standards, BUV is an exceptional choice for students from Southeast Asia, India, China, Korea, etc., seeking a globally recognised British degree at regional rates.

BUV combines British academic rigour with a supportive environment fostering personal growth. All programs are English-taught and accredited by the UK's Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), ensuring alignment with the same high standards as leading British universities. Faculty members hold advanced degrees from globally respected institutions, bringing real-world expertise into the classroom.

Beyond academics, students benefit from exchange opportunities with nearly 50 universities worldwide and a robust Personal and Social Growth (PSG) program

of Hanoi, BUV's 6.5-hectare campus combines sustainability with state-of-the-art facilities, with a projected total investment of USD 165 million.

Dubbed as the "Home of the Lionhearted," BUV is Vietnam's first university to earn a 5-star QS rating, a distinction it has held since 2022. As of June 2024, it remains the sole 5-star institution among nine QS-rated universities in the country.

BUV offers a diverse range of 21 undergraduate and 2 postgraduate programmes. Students earn degrees directly awarded by five top-tier UK institutions - University of London with academic direction from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), University of Stirling, Bournemouth University, Arts University Bournemouth, and University of Staffordshire - spanning Business, Computing and Innovative Technologies, Communications and Creative Industries, Hospitality and Tourism.

Beyond academics, students benefit from exchange opportunities with nearly 50 universities worldwide and a robust Personal and Social Growth (PSG) program

designed to develop essential soft skills. Additionally, BUV's network of over 400 business partners connects students to valuable career opportunities in Vietnam and beyond. BUV offers British education at a fraction of the cost of studying in traditional education hubs. For example, with annual tuition starting at USD 11,700, it is a more accessible option compared to Southeast Asian neighbouring countries' top universities, where fees for international students range from USD 52,000 to USD 61,000 annually.

Strategic investment with quality assurance

To further broaden access, BUV offers up to 100% scholarships for outstanding undergraduate and postgraduate international students holding foreign passports. Scholarship applications for the autumn 2025 intake close on June 30, 2025. "BUV's mission is to cultivate students with resilient hearts and brilliant minds, equipped to thrive in an ever-changing world. We are committed to providing high-quality British education to outstanding students across the region, enabling lifelong learning, personal growth, and academic excellence. We look forward to welcoming a new generation of international students ready to lead with lionhearted characters and resilience," said Professor Raymond Gordon, vice chancellor and president of BUV.

The Virtual Production Academy by Aptech, India's first holistic end-to-end virtual production

academy in Mumbai, is fully equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, offering students hands-on training, in-depth knowledge and valuable exposure to the dynamic world of VFX, filmmaking and post-production.

It is designed to prepare creative professionals with cutting-edge skills needed to excel in the rapidly evolving world of film and television, gaming, advertising & marketing, education & training, architectural visualisation, live events and virtual concert, among others.

Launched in 2023, The Virtual Production Academy specialises in ICVFX (In-Camera Visual Effects) and motion capture, showcasing how innovative and modern tools are revolutionising the world of animation and VFX.

Speaking about the academy here on Thursday, Atul Jain, managing director & chief executive officer of Aptech Limited said, "... the specially curated programmes of The Virtual Production Academy are designed to equip students with advanced skills and insights. Our programmes are expertly crafted to focus on real-world applications, equipping aspiring filmmakers with advanced skills in virtual set creation, in-camera VFX, and real-time CGI. Through collaborative projects, students get the opportunity to put their skills to use in real-world scenarios, working on their own virtual production projects."

SUN Mobility conducted a workshop on battery swapping for Heavy Electric Vehicles with bus operators in Chennai

Chennai Dec 02 2024: SUN Mobility, the leading provider of energy infrastructure and services for electric vehicles (EVs), today showcased India's first modular battery-swapping technology for Heavy Electric Vehicles (HEVs) at an event in Chennai. Over 100 private bus operators and operator associations from across Tamil Nadu attended the event.

SUN Mobility in partnership with Veera Vahana, a leading bus manufacturer recently showcased the fully integrated mobility solution designed to electrify bus and truck fleets at Prawaas 4.0, an international conference organized by the Bus & Car Operators Confederation of India (BOCI). The technology solution underscores the dire need to electrify commercial fleets, especially heavy vehicles, which is crucial for cutting air quality, and boosting the overall efficiency of the transportation sector. This event attracted more than 10,000 enquiries for buses and the subsequent workshop was focused on bus operators in Tamil Nadu. In the workshop, details of SUN Mobility's offering and cost benefit analysis were highlighted. Further, how the solution meets the bus operators' expectation of switching over to cleaner fuels at similar



cost structure and refueling experience as their existing diesel operated buses was also discussed.

During the event SUN Mobility signed MOUs with several leading bus operators in the region, emphasising the game-changing potential of battery-swapping technology in heavy-duty vehicle electrification.

"SUN Mobility has transformed HEVs by addressing key challenges faced by bus operators, including high ownership costs, limited financing options, prolonged downtime due to lengthy charging, and the burden of deploying charging infrastructure. Our modular swapping technology offers a practical, cost-effective solution that boosts efficiency and lowers operational costs for operators," said Ashok Agarwal, CEO- HEV, SUN Mobility.

Battery swapping will bring down the upfront cost of the buses by 40%, making it comparable to the upfront cost of traditional ICE buses and this coupled with easy access to

financing will break the entry barrier for adoption of EVs by fleet owners. Further, it reduces operational costs of fleet operators by up to 20%, while increasing uptime and higher utilization of buses owing to the swift swapping process of under three minutes. In Tamil Nadu, mofussil operations have a unique use-case with very high trip frequency with buses doing 6 to 8 trips in a 1 day (16 hours of operations), where buses plying in a route have 2-10 minutes of gap between them. Such operations will not be possible with fixed battery vehicles which has at least 3 hours of charging required. Battery swapping can provide the right solution for these operations. The compact and light form factor of the battery ensures higher payload-carrying capacities.

Today, buses and trucks form about 5% of the total vehicle population but contribute about 50% of the tailpipe emissions. 90% of the commercial vehicles segment is privately owned and given the cost sensitivity of this sector, battery swapping can facilitate

EV adoption and play a vital role in democratising the adoption of electric buses.

SUN Mobility, since its inception in 2017, has onboarded over 26,000 vehicles across two, three and small four-wheeler fleet segments. With more than 650 battery swapping stations across the country, the company clocks around 1.6 million battery swaps each day, marking an impressive 84% increase from last year's utilization. With its recent strategic joint venture with IndianOil, SUN Mobility brings together the might of IndianOil's network of over 37,000 fuel stations across the country clubbed with SUN Mobility's unparalleled battery-swapping technology making it as accessible as conventional fuel stations. It will thus streamline the customer's EV experience by conveniently offering Battery as a Service (BaaS) nationwide and alleviate worries about battery cost, battery obsolescence, maintenance, replacement, and charging time.

STRI Cinemas Proudly Announces the Official Biopic on the South Indian Cinema Icon, Silk Smitha

Chennai Dec 02 2024: This official biopic will bring to life the captivating story of the beloved actress, starring Chandrika Ravi in the titular role.

Directed by Jayaram Sankaran, and produced by Vijay Amirtharaj, the film is set to commence production in early 2025.



To mark this special announcement on her birthday, the makers have unveiled an exclusive video, giving audiences a

glimpse into the world of Silk Smitha.

glimpse into the world of Silk Smitha.

ICMR Licenses EnViro-Q PCR Kit to Molbio Diagnostics for Enteric Virus Detection

Chennai Dec 02 2024: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has signed a technology transfer agreement with Molbio Diagnostics Pvt. Ltd., licensing the commercialization of EnViro-Q, India's first multiplex real-time RT-PCR assay for detecting enteric viruses. Developed by ICMR's institute, ICMR-National Institute for Research in Bacterial Infections (NIRBI), Kolkata, this breakthrough diagnostic tool addresses a critical gap in managing viral gastroenteritis in children.

Through this collaboration, Molbio Diagnostics aims to make EnViro-Q accessible worldwide, particularly in public health sectors, under a

revenue-sharing model with ICMR. EnViro-Q will be made available at a cost-effective price, particularly for the public sector.

As one of the leading causes of childhood mortality, viral gastroenteritis has posed persistent diagnostic challenges. Existing methods often misidentify viral infections as bacterial, leading to the irrational use of antibiotics. EnViro-Q, with comparable sensitivity and specificity to commercial imported assays, offers reliable results within 2-2.5 hours, ensuring timely diagnosis and treatment.

"We are honoured to collaborate with the Indian Council of Medical Research on making EnViro-Q

available worldwide, as it addresses a critical gap in diagnostics for childhood gastroenteritis," said Shiva Sriram, President, Business Development at Molbio Diagnostics. "This innovative solution enables accurate, rapid, and affordable detection of enteric viruses, significantly reducing misdiagnosis and unnecessary antibiotic usage. We are committed to making healthcare accessible worldwide and are confident that EnViro-Q will play a transformative role in improving patient outcomes across diverse healthcare settings globally."

"The development of EnViro-Q represents a milestone in our mission to advance diagnostic technologies

that meet the specific health challenges faced in India and beyond," stated Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Director General, ICMR. "By equipping healthcare providers with a reliable, multi-virus detection tool, we are addressing one of the leading causes of childhood mortality. Our non-exclusive collaboration with Molbio Diagnostics will help us bring this essential tool to the global market as it emphasizes our commitment to enhancing public health through accessible and impactful solutions."

By providing an effective method to detect co-infections and prevent repeated testing, EnViro-Q is poised to greatly enhance diagnostic capabilities in primary healthcare settings.

Southern Railway's concerted efforts to mitigate the impact of Cyclone Fengal Buses arranged for safe transportation of stranded passengers of Trains short terminated/diverted/detained enroute Food and Water arranged for Stranded passengers

Chennai Dec 02 2024: Southern Railway geared up to combat the impact of Cyclone Fengal. The unprecedented rains and waterlogging caused disruptions to rail operations in the districts of Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Cuddalore, and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

On 2nd December 2024, around early morning 02.10 hrs, Bridge No. 452 and 453 between Vikravandi and Mundiampakkam were suspended following water flowing above danger levels. One line (UP line) between Vikravandi and Mundiampakkam was restored at 10.00 hrs of 2nd December 2024.

Further, the Bridge No. 84 between Tirukoillur and Tandarai was suspended at 07.00 hrs of 2nd December 2024 due to water rising above danger levels and the section was restored at 10.50 hrs of 2nd December 2024.

Due to this, 48 trains were affected (25 arrivals and 23 departures) of which 14 train services were diverted to run via Villupuram and Katpadi.

Special arrangements to facilitate Stranded passengers

Alternative Transportation arranged

To address the needs of stranded passengers, a



fleet of buses was mobilized at key locations in Chennai and Tiruchchirappalli divisions where the trains were short-terminated/detained in order to provide timely transportation and minimize inconvenience. Every effort was made to ensure the buses operated safely and efficiently, carrying passengers to their destinations without additional hardship. Dedicated teams monitored the transit process, prioritizing passenger well-being.

Katpadi Railway station: For passengers of Train No. 17655 (Kakinada-Puducherry Express) and Train No. 17653 (Kacheguda-Puducherry Express), which were short-terminated at Chengalpattu, bus services have been arranged from Chengalpattu to Puducherry.

Mambalappattu Railway Station: 16 buses were arranged, safely transporting 1,500 passengers to Chennai.

Venkatesapuram Railway Station: 5 buses ensured the transit of 600 passengers to their destinations.

Villupuram Junction: 5 buses accommodated 600 passengers, ensuring their safe arrival in Chennai.

Food & Water arrangements

A team of dedicated officials were deployed to ensure prompt distribution of food and water to the stranded passengers. At the following railway stations where most of the trains were either short-terminated, detained or diverted, special arrangements were made as given below:

Katpadi - 1000 food packets and sufficient number of water bottles for the passengers of trains diverted especially for Train No. 12634 Kanyakumari Express, Train No. 12662 Pothigai Express, Train No. 20636 Ananthapuri Express, Train No. 12638: Pandiyan Express, Train No. 16752 Rameswaram-

Chennai Egmore Express and Train No. 22613 Rameswaram-Ayodya Cant Shradha Sethu Express

Mambalappattu - 450 food Packets and sufficient number of water bottles

Venkatesapuram - 450 food Packets and sufficient number of water bottles

Villupuram Jn. - 2000 food Packets and sufficient number of water bottles

Tiruvannamalai - 100 food Packets and sufficient number of water bottles

Restoration of Train services

All out efforts are underway to restore all the train services to normalcy by the evening of 2nd December 2024 (today). However, presently, the train services are operated with speed restrictions in the affected sections between Vikravandi - Mundiampakkam & Tirukoilur - Tandarai. A few minor repercussions to train operations such as rescheduling may be notified.

ICICI Pru Edge - the 'Advisor Stack' of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance leads to 37% growth in agent productivity

Chennai Dec 02 2024: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has introduced IPRU Edge, a cutting-edge 'Advisor Stack' that has driven a 37% increase in agent productivity in H1-FY2025, enabling advisors to enhance their earnings while delivering a seamless customer experience.

The stack empowers over 2 lakh agents to efficiently manage operations, grow their business, and provide superior customer service. With 61% of the Company's top-tier advisors actively using the platform, IPRU Edge has emerged as a critical tool in enhancing advisor

efficiency and enabling business growth.

Mr. Srinivas Balasubramanian, Chief of Product and Marketing at ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "The Advisor Stack equips our advisors with the tools they need to focus on revenue-generating tasks, enhance productivity, and offer a hassle-free customer experience. We are delighted to share that advisors using IPRU Edge have demonstrated a 49% YoY growth in contributions to the retail weighted received premium."

He added, "We are also the first life insurer in India to offer same-day commission

payouts, with 98.1% of eligible agents benefiting from this feature in H1-FY2025. This has strengthened our commitment to becoming the most distributor-friendly life insurer."

Streamlining Customer Service and Operations

The stack integrates OCR technology and real-time KYC authentication, enabling advisors to provide a paperless buying journey, enhancing efficiency and customer satisfaction. It also allows advisors to:

Access leads and demand-generation tools, including social media content sharing.

Manage new business logins with end-to-end tracking.

Provide on-the-go customer service, including policy documents, tax statements, and payment links.

View business performance, earnings, and rewards.

Mr. Srinivas concluded, "With a focus on enhancing advisor capacity, simplifying processes, and improving persistency ratios, IPRU Edge underscores our commitment to leveraging technology to empower our advisors and strengthen our customer-first approach."

Tata Motors and Tata International launch Re.Wi.Re, an advanced registered vehicle scrapping facility, in Pune

Chennai Dec 02 2024: Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, and Tata International, the global trading and distribution arm of the Tata Group, today inaugurated a new Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) in Pune. Named 'Re.Wi.Re Recycle with Respect', this cutting-edge facility has an annual capacity to safely disassemble 21,000 end-of-life vehicles with environmentally friendly processes.

This RVSF is operated by Tata International Vehicle Applications (TIVA), a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata International, and is equipped to scrap passenger and commercial vehicles of all brands.

Inaugurating the facility, Mr. Girish Wagh, Executive Director, Tata Motors, said, "Tata Motors is at the forefront of shaping the future of mobility and focused on partnering customers to success by delivering values through its products, services, and digital solutions. Re.Wi.Re represents our commitment to creating a circular economy, leveraging advanced recycling



processes that not only extract maximum value from end-of-life vehicles but also contribute to our nation's sustainability goals. Tata International has been our partner in several international markets, and we are delighted to strengthen this longstanding relationship by adding a new chapter with Re.Wi.Re."

Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Rajeev Batra, CEO, Tata International Vehicle Applications, said, "TIVA and Tata Motors have taken a pivotal step in transforming the lifecycle of vehicles in India. With the capacity to dismantle 21,000 vehicles annually, this facility has been designed to address the growing need for efficient and safe vehicle recycling. We understand the critical role of end-of-life vehicle management in shaping a sustainable and organized ecosystem for our

there are dedicated stations for the safe dismantling of various components, including tyres, batteries, fuel, oils, liquids, and gases. Every vehicle undergoes a meticulous documentation and dismantling process designed specifically to meet the responsible scrapping requirements of passenger and commercial vehicles, guaranteeing safe disposal of all components as per the nation's vehicle scrapping policy. The Re.Wi.Re. concept and facility embodies a ground-breaking leap towards fostering sustainable practices within the automotive industry.

Tata International Vehicle Applications (TIVA) stands as India's largest trailer manufacturer. With four state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities located in Ajmer, Jamshedpur and Pune, the company has established itself as a leading force in the trailer and truck body-manufacturing sector. The manufacturer leverages its advanced engineering techniques and custom design capabilities to serve diverse applications.

Each Re.Wi.Re facility is fully digitalized, with all its operations seamless and paperless. Equipped with cell-type and line-type dismantling for both commercial and passenger vehicles,

Urgent Action Needed to Prevent Flooding Crisis in Varadarajapuram and Erumayur

Chennai Dec 02 2024: Residents of Varadarajapuram and Erumayur, two villages located just 3 to 4 kilometers from Tambaram and part of Greater Chennai under the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA), are facing an escalating crisis due to recurring floods and unregulated land development. Despite repeated appeals to authorities, no tangible measures have been taken to address the worsening situation, which poses a grave threat to the safety and livelihoods of hundreds of families in the region.

Background of the Issue The villages, situated on the western side of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and the Adyar River, have been grappling with flooding, particularly in Rayappa Nagar, during the monsoon season. This perennial issue is exacerbated by:

1. Insufficient culverts under the ORR, which obstruct the natural flow of rainwater and floodwaters into the Adyar River.

2. Lack of stormwater canals along Kishkinta-Tambaram Road, which leaves rainwater with no proper outlet, forcing it to inundate residential areas.



Adding to the crisis, a new 96-acre residential layout has been developed in a low-lying area abutting the original settlements of Varadarajapuram and Erumayur. Massive earth dumping, raising the ground level by 7 to 12 feet, has buried several natural water channels, including rivers and streams marked in survey numbers 447, 445, 454, 444, and others. The blockage of these water channels has caused floodwaters to redirect into previously safe residential areas, turning elevated regions into flood-prone zones.

Impact on Local Communities The unregulated land development has had devastating consequences:

Schools in the area have been forced to vacate their ground floors to avoid potential disasters.

Key areas, including MGR Road, Bajana Kovil Street, Ambedkar Street, Munusamy Street, Zydeco Layout, Om Sakthi Nagar, and others, are now at heightened risk of severe flooding.

Local infrastructure, including the village temple and Anganwadi, faces imminent damage from floodwaters. Due to a new layout development in the low lying area, old elevated settlement in the village suddenly finds itself to be a flood prone low lying area.

Residents' Demands In light of these urgent concerns, the residents of Varadarajapuram and Erumayur are calling on the government and

relevant authorities to take immediate and effective action:

1. Construct concrete walls along the Adyar River to prevent flooding.

2. Install adequate culverts under the ORR to allow the free flow of rain and floodwaters.

3. Develop Public Works Department (PWD) stormwater canals along Kishkinta-Tambaram Road to channel water safely into the Adyar River.

4. Reopen and restore the buried natural water channels in the newly developed layout to protect the original settlements from flooding.

A Call for Immediate Action With Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister prioritizing flood mitigation across the state, it is ironic that this pressing issue remains unaddressed. The residents urge swift intervention to prevent a preventable disaster and uphold the government's commitment to protecting citizens from flooding.

Tata Motors registered total sales of 74,753 units in November 2024

Chennai Dec 02 2024: Tata Motors Limited sales in the domestic & international market for November 2024 stood at 74,753 vehicles, compared to 74,172 units during

November 2023. Domestic sale of MH & ICV in November 2024, including trucks and buses, stood at 12,481 units, compared to 12,303 units in November 2023.

Total sales for MH&ICV Domestic & International Business in November 2024, including trucks and buses, stood at 13,230 units compared to 12,895 units in November 2023.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Continues Sales Momentum, Records Wholesales of 25,586 units in November 2024

Chennai Dec 02 2024: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) continues to post robust growth trajectory, recording sales of 25,586 units in November 2024, a remarkable 44% increase over the same period last year. In the month of November 2023, the company sold 17,818 units. Exports in the month of November 2024 stood at 1140 units.

In the first eight months of FY'24-'25, TKM achieved a significant milestone, with total sales reaching 2,19,054 units, reflecting a 39% growth over the 1,63,636 units sold during the same period in FY'23-'24.

This impressive performance was driven by strong market demand for TKM's MPV and SUV portfolio, further supported by the success of customer-centric initiatives and tailored offerings.

Speaking on this strong performance Mr. Sabari Manohar Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "We are delighted to report another month of strong sales performance, reflecting our sustained growth and customer trust. Our diverse portfolio, spanning from

hatchbacks to SUVs, continues to offer tailored mobility solutions that resonate with varying lifestyles. Notably, two of our flagship models, the Innova Hycross and Urban Cruiser Hyryder, have each achieved the remarkable milestone of 1,00,000 sales. This milestone underscores the success of our India-focused product strategy, which emphasizes providing a range of advanced technologies to meet the diverse mobility needs of our customers.

Moreover, exclusive year-end benefits of over 1 lakh on select models, including the

relevant authorities to take immediate and effective action:

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4. Reopen and restore the buried natural water channels in the newly developed layout to protect the original settlements from flooding.

A Call for Immediate Action

With Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister prioritizing flood mitigation across the state, it is ironic that this pressing issue remains unaddressed. The residents urge swift intervention to prevent a preventable disaster and uphold the government's commitment to protecting citizens from flooding.

The community hopes that this appeal will garner the attention of the concerned authorities, media, and public to bring about timely solutions.