

Heading: AFSPA reimposed in six riot-hit areas of Manipur

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday reimposed the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Manipur, declaring six police station limits in five districts disturbed areas, in the wake of the ethnic violence in the State.

The Sekmai and Lamsang police station limits in Imphal West, Lamalai in Imphal East, the Jiribam station limits in Jiribam, Moirang in Bishnupur and Leimakhong in Kangpokpi districts have been declared disturbed areas to carry out well-coordinated operations by the security forces and contain activities of insurgent groups.

The AFSPA, which gives unbridled power to the armed forces, was withdrawn from these areas in April 2022 by the Manipur government as the security situation improved instilling a large sense of security among the general public. The fresh order will be effective till March 31, 2025.

A notification issued by the Home Ministry said that on September 26, the Manipur government extended AFSPA in all the 10 hill districts of Manipur, excluding the 19 police station limits in six districts, mostly in the valley.

The Ministry said that after a review of the security situation in consultation with the stakeholders, it is noted that the situation continues to remain volatile amidst ongoing ethnic violence...

Heading: Exports rebound, but Oct. import bill hits new record

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

Indias goods exports, which had clocked an anaemic 1% uptick in the first half of 2024-25, began the second half on a strong note with October shipments jumping at a 28-month high pace of 17.25% to touch \$39.2 billion, this years second best-tally.

However, this was accompanied by a 3.9% rise in the countrys merchandise import bill, lifting it to a fresh record high of \$66.34 billion, eclipsing this Augusts \$64.34 billion import figure that was the highest at the time.

The merchandise trade deficit has thus widened from a five-month low of \$20.8 billion in September to \$27.14 billion in October, the second highest so far this financial year and the third highest ever. Economists attributed the spike in the import bill primarily to higher gold and oil imports. Although the precious yellow metals imports dropped a marginal 1.4% from last October to \$7.13 billion, this was 62% higher than Septembers figure.

Heading: Doctors call of stir after govt. assures them of security

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

After day-long protests by doctors across the State over the stabbing of a senior oncologist in Chennai, the Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association withdrew its indefinite strike on Thursday, following talks with Health Minister Ma. Subramanian.

During the protests against the attack on Dr. Balaji Jegannathan at the Kalaignar Centenary Super Specialty Hospital on Wednesday, the doctors demanded security measures at hospitals. With the Indian Medical Association-Tamil Nadu State Branch also taking part in a 24-hour strike from 6 p.m. on Wednesday, outpatient services and elective surgeries were suspended at many hospitals.

Heading: Regional officials and ward committees given powers to operate, maintain equipment

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has decided to delegate powers to the ward committees and regional officials to expedite work related to the operation and maintenance of equipment and vehicles used for flood mitigation, health support, and waste management during this years Northeast monsoon.

The delegation of powers from the Mechanical Engineering Department and Solid Waste Management Department is expected to speed up cleaning of storm-water drains, lakes, and canals, and fogging, cattle raid, and stray dog control operations.

V. Rajan, chairman, Valasaravakkam Ward Committee, said owing to this, the regional officials would be able to better respond to complaints from residents. It used to take a lot of time to do the work as the decision was taken by officials at headquarters. Now, the ward committee will be the competent authority, and the work will be done immediately. Once we receive a complaint from residents, we will give administrative sanction on the same day, he said.

If the source of funding is the GCC, the ward committee will be the competent authority to issue administrative sanction for any operation and maintenance work related to the Mechanical Engineering and Solid Waste Management Departments with an estimate of up to 10 lakh.

While the Superintending Engineer of the three regions (north, central, and south) will be the competent authority to issue technical sanction for any operation and maintenance work with an estimate of over 10 lakh and up to 50 lakh, the Regional Deputy Commissioner will issue the

administrative sanction. The Regional Superintending Engineer will also be the tender accepting authority for this.

Over the past few months, many amphibious equipment, vehicle-mounted garbage suction machines, and suction and jetting machines were not used in the wards and regions because of issues in operation and maintenance. This delegation of powers is expected to resolve such issues for better flood mitigation, monsoon preparedness, health support, tree pruning, streetlight maintenance, and solid waste management.

Heading: Baby monkey is government property, says HC

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

Stating that a baby monkey, taken care of in captivity for 10 long months by a veterinarian, must be considered a property of the government under Section 39 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972, the Madras High Court on Thursday refused to grant custody of the animal to the veterinarian. Justice C.V. Karthikeyan dismissed a writ petition filed by Coimbatore-based veterinary surgeon V. Vallaiappan and allowed the monkey, which had suffered multiple dog bites in December 2023, to be treated at Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP) at Vandalur in Chennai, which has state-of-the-art facilities.

The judge recorded the submissions of Special Government Pleader (Forests) T. Seenivasan that though the veterinarian had custody of the monkey since December 4, 2023, it was still found to be suffering from paralysis of hind limbs and abrasion wounds when it was received by the Forest Department officials on October 26. A radiography of the vertebra revealed old fracture of three coccygeal vertebrae and right distal tibia, and hemaetology revealed moderate level of anaemia. Therefore, a treatment protocol was carried out for the baby monkey twice a day, the SGP said. He said the monkey was also made to wear infant diapers to avoid soiling and staining of body with excreta, and long acting parenteral antibiotics were administered once in three days.

Physiotherapy exercises

Now, the monkey is eating well and has put on around 100 g of weight after it had come to the Vandalur zoo, the law officer told the court. He stated that the baby monkey was also being made to undergo physiotherapy twice a day, and that an expert committee had been constituted to

continuously monitor the health of the monkey.

It was also brought to the notice of the court that the monkey had begun to socialise with the animal keepers and hospital staff at AAZP without any fear, distress, or anxiety. Taking into consideration the treatment being provided to it right now at AAZP, the judge decided that its welfare could be ensured better by the Forest Department officials.

Heading: Winners of Made of Chennai photo contest given prizes

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

A total of 50 winners of

The Hindus

Made of Chennai Photography Contest were given prizes at an event held in Chennai on Thursday.

The contest, which was announced as part of Madras Week celebrations, received nearly 2,000 entries.

The Hindu

had partnered with the Madras Photo Bloggers for the contest, with the theme centring around Life in the Day of Chennai. Winners were presented with a framed photograph of their winning entry and

Made of Chennai merchandise as prizes. L.V. Navaneeth, Chief Executive Officer,

The Hindu

, and Srivatsan Sankaran, founder, Madras Photo Bloggers, participated.

Heading: Man held for attempting to smuggle drugs by courier

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

A 35-year-old man was arrested by the Virugambakkam police for attempting to smuggle in methamphetamine from Bengaluru through courier on Wednesday. The police said R. Anbu Giri of Diaz Colony in Royapettah tried to smuggle methamphetamine by contacting a person in Bengaluru and had him courier the drug to a friends residence in Saligramam. A team from the Virugambakkam police station received a tip-off about the parcel. The team went to the house in Saligramam, and when the parcel was delivered to Anbu Giri he was arrested. The team seized the parcel, which contained 3.5 g of methamphetamine.

Heading: CityaTMs reservoirs have less storage this November
compared to last 4 years

Content:

You're reading this article from
Friday, 15th November 2024

Storage in reservoirs that provide drinking water to the city is lower this November compared to the corresponding period in the last four years. However, the Water Resources Department (WRD) expects the Northeast monsoon to boost resources before it winds down this year.

The five reservoirs, including Red Hills and Chembarambakkam, have a combined storage of 5,124 million cubic feet (mcft) against their total capacity of 11,757 mcft. The waterbodies have a storage of nearly 43.58% as on Thursday. According to WRD records, this is much less than the reservoirs storage on the same day last year. The waterbodies had a storage of nearly 74.3% then. We need to have a minimum of 8,000 mcft in reservoirs to maintain a comfortable daily water supply in the city throughout the year, a WRD official said.

While the reservoirs had considerable storage in 2022 and 2020 too, they were well-replenished in November 2021, with a higher storage of nearly 84.23%. Heavy inflows particularly into Poondi reservoir had significantly increased the storage in 2021.

Officials of the WRD said the catchment areas of the reservoirs were yet to receive adequate rain to fill the waterbodies so far during this Northeast monsoon. We need at least two or three wet spells bringing 7-8 cm of rainfall spread over two or three days to bring inflow into the water bodies and stave off possibility of water crisis next year. With many weeks remaining for monsoon to end, we hope to receive sufficient inflow in waterbodies, an official said.

The reservoirs contribute to nearly 748 million litres of water drawn daily (mld) to provide drinking

water supply to Chennai. The city is now being provided nearly 1,113 mld of water drawn from multiple sources, including desalination plants.

Officials said Krishna water from Andhra Pradesh had been a vital source for city water supply and had added nearly 1,218 mcft of storage into reservoirs since September 23. Veeranam tank in Cuddalore district was another significant source that augmented water supply.

With Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur districts experiencing a rain deficit so far this monsoon, many tanks in districts around the city are also waiting to be replenished.

Only 40 tanks among the 929 in Chennai and its three neighbouring districts are full.

A total of 136 tanks have touched a storage above 76% so far this month, officials said.

A senior official said the department prioritised water conservation efforts along with flood mitigation strategies to combat the cycle of floods and droughts.

Heading: Cath lab, coronary care unit opened at VHS in Taramani

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

The Voluntary Health Services (VHS) in Chennai on Thursday unveiled its new advanced catheterisation laboratory and coronary care unit at its Taramani multi-speciality hospital.

The Sanmar Group Cath Lab, an upgrade to VHS cardiac care infrastructure, was developed in partnership with The Sanmar Group. It aims to deliver cutting-edge cardiovascular treatments, including angiograms, angioplasties, and stent placements.

Inaugurated by V. Kamakoti, Director, Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M), the new facilities are equipped with the latest medical technologies designed to support comprehensive diagnostics, interventions, and patient monitoring to enable VHS to better manage complex cardiac cases and improve patient outcomes.

Mr. Kamakoti lauded the initiative as a step towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 ensuring access to quality healthcare for all. Vijay Sankar, chairman, The Sanmar Group, said, Our corporate social responsibility focus is on enhancing community well-being, and were honoured to collaborate with the VHS, a respected not-for-profit hospital dedicated to serving people from all walks of life. S. Suresh, honorary secretary, VHS, thanked The Sanmar Group for their support.

The presidential address was delivered by N. Gopalaswami, president, VHS, while Ajit Mullasari, director of cardiology, Institute of Cardio-Vascular Diseases, Madras Medical Mission (MMM), spoke about the VHS-MMM association. R. Rajagopal, managing trustee, VHS, and N. Kumar, chairman, group corporate board, The Sanmar Group, were present.

Heading: Two children die in botched pest control operation in

Kundrathur, one person held

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

The Kundrathur police have arrested one person and are searching for two others of a pest control company for causing the death of two children.

A senior police official said Giritharan and Pavithra, who lived with their children Vaishnavi and Sai Sudarshan, had hired a pest control company to deal with a rodent problem in their apartment in Kundrathur. Dinakaran, a pest control agent, sprayed rat poison in the apartment on Wednesday. The next morning, the family fell sick and had difficulty breathing. The neighbours admitted the four to a private hospital in Porur, where Vaishnavi and Sai Sudarshan died. Mr. Giritharan and Ms. Pavithra are undergoing treatment. Initial investigation found that Dinakaran had sprayed an excessive amount of rat poison in the apartment, and he was arrested. The police have registered a case against the T. Nagar-based pest control company.

Heading: Police outposts set up in 3 govt. hospitals

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

In the wake of the incident in which a senior doctor was stabbed by a patients son at the Kalaignar Centenary Super Specialty Hospital in Guindy on Wednesday, the Greater Chennai Police (GCP) has set up outposts, comprising one sub-inspector and two constables, at the Kalaignar Centenary Super Specialty Hospital, Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Specialty Hospital, and Royapuram Government RSRM Hospital.

Heading: Hospitals to have a tag system for patients' attendants:

Health Minister

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

A day after a senior medical oncologist was attacked by a patient's son at the Kalaignar Centenary Super Specialty Hospital (KCSSH), Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma. Subramanian on Thursday said that a tag system for patients' attendants would be introduced in phases at all government medical college hospitals, district headquarters hospitals, and taluk hospitals.

Such a system was rolled out at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH) in early October to prevent crowding and ensure the safety of healthcare professionals after the rape and murder of a postgraduate student at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital (RGKMCH), Kolkata.

The tag system was implemented at the RGGGH on a pilot basis. Now, the Directorates of Medical Education and Research and Medical and Rural Health Services will implement it for the attendants of patients in phases. This will be implemented at 36 government medical college hospitals, 37 district headquarters hospitals, and 320 taluk hospitals, he told reporters.

There will be tags of four different colours to indicate where a patient is admitted: green for the attendants of patients of surgical super specialties, red for the intensive care units (ICUs), yellow for super specialty departments, and blue for general wards. Two tags would be issued for each patient, he added.

The Minister further said that the number of persons seeking medical care at government hospitals had increased tremendously. Many who were getting treated in the private sector have shifted to the government sector owing to the increased trust in government hospitals, the improvement in

infrastructure, and the increase in services. Earlier, pay wards were available only at the RGGGH. Now, they are available at nearly 15 government hospitals. Persons belonging to the middle-income group are utilising these services, he said.

Following the Kolkata incident, a number of decisions were taken at a high-level meeting convened by the Chief Secretary to improve security on the hospital premises. These decisions are being implemented by the three health directorates. They include joint security audits by the police and health departments at all government medical college hospitals and government hospitals, making sure that all closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras are functional and their footage is monitored continuously, proper lighting, and strengthening of police outposts.

Balaji Jegannathan, associate professor, medical oncology, KCSSH, was stabbed at seven places on Wednesday. The doctor had cardiac ailments and received a pacemaker earlier. Mr.

Subramanian, who met the doctor on Thursday morning, said, He is doing well. Representatives of the pacemaker company checked the functionality of the device, and will do a recheck. He will be shifted from the ICU to a separate ward after a few tests...

Condemning the attack, the Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association (TNGDA) had announced a State-wide indefinite strike, which commenced on Wednesday afternoon. The Health Minister said 11 associations of doctors and nurses took part in the talks held on Wednesday evening. Following this, all associations that went on a strike assured him that medical services across the State would remain unaffected on Thursday.

Safety measures

Meanwhile, the Directorate of Medical Education (DME) and Research has instructed the deans of the government medical college hospitals to install bag scanners and door frame metal detectors proportionate to the outpatient and inpatient load at the entrances.

The DME said all hospitals should provide handheld metal detectors to security personnel posted at important locations, including entrance to emergency rooms and ICUs.

The deans were told to ensure that the instructions were adhered to immediately, and submit reports on the action taken to the directorate. A visitors pass policy for attendants or relatives of patients

should be strictly implemented, the DME said, adding that the deans should take stock of the number of CCTV cameras and their condition at hospitals. A security control room should be set up, and manned round the clock.

Hospitals should conduct one round of security audit immediately. Routine patrolling by security personnel at all hospitals during night, liaisoning with the nearest police station, and adequate number of personnel at police outposts at hospitals should be ensured, the DME said.

Reduce burden: PMK

PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss has demanded that the government reduce the work burden on doctors.

He told reporters in Salem that the number of doctors and nurses in government hospitals was inadequate, and efforts should be made to fill the vacancies.

Dr. Anbumani said that it was the duty of the government to protect doctors by providing adequate security.

Heading: UGC makes undergraduate degree programmes flexible

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has made the undergraduate programmes more flexible. A student can increase or decrease the duration of the course, UGC Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar said in Chennai on Thursday.

Typically, the duration of a degree programme is three or four years; but talented students can finish it in two-and-a-half years or three-and-a-half years. Similarly, they can slow down the pace and complete the programme in four or five years, he said.

He was interacting with the media on the sidelines of the day-long south zone conference of autonomous colleges on the implementation of the National Education Policy-2020.

Mr. Kumar said a meeting that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had with the State Higher Education Secretaries in New Delhi on November 12 and 13 reviewed the progress of the implementation of the NEP. According to him, States such as West Bengal and Kerala, opposed to the NEP, introduced four-year degree programmes. Tamil Nadu had not adopted the NEP and had instead drafted a State Education Policy. But the details of its implementation were yet to be made public. Earlier, at the inauguration of the event, he told the principals of the autonomous colleges that institutions could use English as a communication tool even while using the mother tongue as the medium of instruction. This would enhance the learning outcomes for rural students, he said. He pointed out that higher education institutions in advanced countries teach their students in their language. He said educational institutions should make higher education affordable, fair and supportive for students to succeed.

He pointed out that the UGC made it possible for students to take skill-based courses, which would make them entrepreneurs.

V. Kamakoti, Director of the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, which hosted the event, said the world population census revealed that India had the youngest population in the 15-35 age group.

If we do not educate the population at this juncture, 10 years down the line we may become the most uneducated nation in the world, he said.

Heading: Court dismisses KasthuriaTMs anticipatory bail petition

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Thursday dismissed actor S. Kasthuris petition for anticipatory bail. She moved the court fearing arrest by the Madurai police for her remarks against the Telugu community at an event in Chennai earlier this month.

The court said that the remarks of the petitioner bordered on hate speech. Dismissing the petition, Justice N. Anand Venkatesh said a careful consideration of the petitioners controversial statement showed that she had described Telugu-speaking people as those who came to Tamil Nadu to serve the wives and courtesans of Tamil kings. She had then remarked that it was these people who were claiming to be Tamil, the court said.

The court observed that while it was true that the controversial statement did not directly attribute anything to the women of the community, it did show all Telugu-speaking people in a bad light.

The court said that freedom of speech was a fundamental right that empowers individuals to express their thoughts, beliefs, and opinions. However, with this power comes great responsibility. The ability to speak freely should not be misused to spread hatred or cause communal disharmony, it said. In the present case, the court would have to see the impact created by the speech on the Telugu-speaking people.

The speech made by the petitioner clearly hovers around hate speech. A speaker must always think twice before addressing such issues in a public platform, particularly in the social media era, since what is said becomes a permanent record, the court observed.

The petitioner, perhaps, was able to get applause when she made the speech, but what she had

said actually affected the sentiments of Telugu-speaking people, the court observed. In a diverse country like ours, there must be zero tolerance whenever such a speech is made by demeaning or insulting a particular group of people based on their language, it added.

The court further said that the petitioner made no genuine attempt to apologise for using such bad and intemperate language, and she was only attempting to justify her speech.

...Let us commit [ourselves] to using our voices for good. Wield your words with care and grace. Let us try for dialogue that fosters understanding and compassion rather than division and hatred. By doing so, we honour the true essence of freedom of speech: a tool for unity and progress, the judge observed.

Heading: Form guidelines to ensure lawyers resolve matrimonial disputes without adding fuel to fire: Madurai Bench

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has asked the Bar Council of India (BCI) to formulate guidelines to ensure that advocates resolved matrimonial disputes without adding fuel to the fire.

A Division Bench of Justices V. Bhavani Subbaroyan and K.K. Ramakrishnan, in their suggestions to the BCI and the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, said advocates had an obligation to ensure that the social fabric of family life was not ruined.

The advocates must ensure that exaggerated versions of small incidents do not reflect in criminal complaints. Majority of the complaints are filed on the advice of lawyers, or with their concurrence.

They must, hence, help the parties arrive at an amicable solution to the issue, the court observed.

The court made the suggestions while hearing a matrimonial case. It observed that in the case, the dispute was exacerbated by the drafting of the advocate, which was against professional ethics.

It further observed that the duty of advocates in such disputes was not to blow the matter out of proportion. In matrimonial cases, lawyers should look to resolve controversies between parties. The Supreme Court had issued direction to all members of the Bar not to turn the problem into an unresolvable dispute.

The court went on to observe that advocates should follow ethical standards. They should never misguide the parties or give unprofessional suggestion, and must advise their clients to go in for an amicable settlement.

Advocates can seek the help of a qualified counsellor in properly advising their clients.

They should apprise their clients of the legal consequences when they file false complaints, and take a neutral stand in the dispute. Besides, they should try their best to resolve the issue. If the conduct of an advocate is found to be unprofessional while drafting a complaint or filing a case, the Bar Council has to take severe action, the court concluded.

Heading: Doctors withdraw strike after government assures them of security

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

In a statement, Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association (TNGDA) president K. Senthil said an order on security measures was issued by the Directorate of Medical Education, and the Minister promised to review the measures after a month.

In Chennai, doctors of the Federation of Government Doctors Association (FOGDA) staged a demonstration at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH). P. Balakrishnan, State convenor, FOGDA, demanded that armed police personnel be deployed at government hospitals, and hospitals be declared safe zones with two-tier security in place. Doctors affiliated to the TNGDA, Chennai district, wore black badges to work and conducted a peaceful demonstration at the RGGGH.

At Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College and Hospital, Salem, FOGDA district president Arunachalam led the protest. He said, In the first phase of our protest today [Thursday], we boycotted outpatient services, review meetings, the entry under the Chief Ministers Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, and all teaching activities at the medical college. Round-the-clock police protection should be given to all government hospitals.

The outpatient services at over 400 government and private hospitals in Erode were disrupted as more than 1,500 doctors went on strike. At the District Headquarters Hospital in Erode, doctors affiliated to the TNGDA and the IMA staged a demonstration on the hospital premises.

Doctors at the government hospitals in Vellore, Ranipet, Tirupattur, and Tiruvannamalai demanded

more police security at the hospitals. Barring emergency services, other services were suspended. More than 300 doctors, postgraduate students, and house surgeons participated in the strike at the Government Medical College and Hospital in Tiruvannamalai, said M. Balachandar, president, TNGDA, Tiruvannamalai.

In Tiruchi, private and public hospitals kept their outpatient departments closed from Wednesday evening until 6 p.m. on Thursday. Only emergency services were offered. We want to express our grief over the attacks on doctors, said Tamil Selvi, secretary, IMA, Tiruchi Chapter.

TNGDA members staged a demonstration on the Madurai Medical College premises. They said the attack was the result of the governments lackadaisical attitude towards protection of doctors. The government must ensure the safety of all healthcare professionals, said P. Kumaran of TNGDA, Thoothukudi. Despite the protest, all departments functioned as usual, said G. Sivakumar, Dean, Thoothukudi Medical College and Hospital.

Around 500 doctors of the Coimbatore Medical College and Hospital assembled in front of the Deans office and staged a protest. Trained persons should be appointed as security guards. The entry and exit of visitors should be monitored. Demands made to the government should be conceded within 15 days, said TNGDA honorary chairperson N. Ravishankar.

Heading: ED searches premises linked to lottery baron Santiago

Martin

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

Sleuths of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) from Kerala searched the premises of lottery baron Santiago Martin in Coimbatore on Thursday.

The searches, which continued late into the night at Mr. Martins residence in Vellakinaru near Thudialur and the office of the Martin Group of Companies, pertain to a money laundering case. Though the case against Mr. Martin was closed by a court in Alandur, the Madras High Court directed the officials to inquire further. In March 2012, the residence of one Nagarajan at Nanganallur was searched and 7.25 crore was seized. In the inquiry, Mr. Nagarajan told the Crime Branch police that the cash was obtained through his trade with Mr. Martin, by selling lottery in Kerala and Maharashtra. Following this, the Crime Branch police registered a money laundering case against Mr. Nagarajan, Mr. Martin, and his wife Leema Rose Martin.

Based on this case, the ED registered a case under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. In 2022, the police informed the Alandur court that there was no prima facie

evidence to prove the charge. The court disposed of the case, following which the ED moved the Madras High Court, which set aside the verdict.

The ED sleuths also searched the premises linked to Mr. Martin at Faridabad, Ludhiana, Kolkata, and Chennai, an official said.

Heading: Stalin chairs Economic Advisory Council meeting

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin virtually chaired a meeting of his Economic Advisory Council (EAC) from his camp office in Chennai. Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu; EAC members Professor Esther Duflo, Professor Raghuram Rajan, Dr. Arvind Subramanian, Professor Jean Dreze, and Dr. S. Narayan; and senior officials were present, a release issued on Thursday said.

Heading: Influenza A, B viruses causing 75% of respiratory illness in

T.N.: DPH report

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

The State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL), upon testing 326 respiratory samples of patients with Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) from 38 districts, found that Influenza A and Influenza B viruses were predominantly circulating in the community, causing 75.4% of respiratory illness among both children and adults in the State.

Among the influenza viruses, Influenza A (H1N1) alone was found to be responsible for 44% of the influenza cases reported.

The Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) A and B were also commonly detected in the ILI cases (nine per cent) that caused mild illness, while the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) was at an all-time low.

The Directorate of Public Health (DPH) and Preventive Medicine, in a report on fever and flu-like illness in Tamil Nadu (issued on Thursday), said that there was an increase in fever trend across the State during monsoon and the winter months.

This was evident from the data from the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme-Integrated Health Information Platform that showed a decline in cases during summer (April to June), followed by an increase in cases during monsoon.

According to the World Health Organization, the pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) virus would continue to be in circulation as a seasonal influenza for years to come.

So, there is no need to panic. In the current situation, the circulating virus/pathogens were causing

mild illness.

Heading: Chennai-based researcheraTMs paper wins ICMR award

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

R.M. Anjana, president of the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, and managing director of Dr. Mohans Diabetes Specialities Centre, was presented the Research Excellence Recognition Award in the Best Extramural Paper Category at the Department of Health Research (DHR)-Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Health Research Excellence Summit.

The summit was held as part of the 113

rd

foundation celebrations of the Indian Council of Medical Research on Thursday. Anupriya Patel, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, participated. The summit recognised exceptional contributions by biomedical researchers for impactful publications and innovative advancements in health research.

Dr. Anjanas paper on ICMR-INDIAB study was published in the June 2023 edition of Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology , a press release said.

Heading: ChildrenaTMs Day held at MGM Healthcare

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

MGM Healthcare on Thursday celebrated Childrens Day with a series of educational activities aimed at promoting health awareness among young students.

Over 140 children from the Narayana E-Techno School participated in the event. The day began with an interactive session led by Ezhilarasan, senior consultant, paediatrics and neonatology, and Deepa Esow, senior consultant paediatrician, who emphasised healthy habits such as regular handwashing and discussed the importance of balancing screen and study time and leisure/playtime.

Heading: Tamil Nadu seeks expert opinion on carrying out BCG

vaccination for adults

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

Preparatory measures are in progress to take a call on the rollout of BCG vaccination for adults, a move initiated by the Government of India for eradication of tuberculosis, in Tamil Nadu. The Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine is keeping a close watch on States where the adult BCG vaccination has been initiated and is also obtaining expert opinion to make a decision on the rollout.

T.S. Selvavinayagam, Director of Public Health and Preventive medicine, said they were monitoring other States where the adult BCG vaccination had been rolled out.

At least 10 States have already initiated the vaccination. This includes Maharashtra, Telangana and Goa. We are analysing the data from other States as well as getting expert opinion to decide on the launch of BCG vaccination in Tamil Nadu, he said.

In its latest instructions, the Union Ministry of Health has asked States to increase the coverage of adult BCG vaccination in intervention districts and to optimally utilise the vaccines supplied.

Coverage, follow-up

It noted that increasing coverage and complete follow-up of those vaccinated as per the Standard Operating Procedure was the need of the hour.

This, Dr. Selvavinayagam said, was more like an implementation research.

Vaccination study

On a website - TB-WIN, the Union Health Ministry - has said that the adult BCG vaccination study

was to evaluate the effectiveness of a strategy to vaccinate vulnerable individuals older than 18 years with BCG vaccine under programmatic settings. The eligible groups include those with a history of TB, close contact of patients, individuals aged 60 and above, those with a history of diabetes and individuals with a history of smoking tobacco.

The official added that this was with the consent of individuals.

Heading: Approval for RLNG plant deferred over concerns about environmental clearance

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) has deferred the approval for Chennai Power Generation Limiteds (CPGL) proposed Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG)-based power plant at Kalanji, Kattupalli village, following concerns raised by local villagers regarding misinformation and omissions in the companys environmental clearance application.

On August 23, CPGL submitted an application to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for terms of reference to prepare an environmental impact assessment report. In response, the MoEFCC issued Essential Details Sought (EDS), to which CPGL replied on September 10.

However, locals identified discrepancies in the companys submission.

The proposed power plant has generated significant opposition from local residents, who are worried about the potential environmental and health impacts of the facility.

Multiple allegations

The EACs decision to defer the project follows multiple allegations of misrepresentation.

For instance, CPGL reported that the Kosasthalaiyar river was 115 metres from the site, but villagers contend that the river is only 60 metres away.

Additionally, CPGLs claim that no wildlife sanctuaries or ecologically sensitive areas lie within a 10-kilometre radius of the site was challenged, with villagers pointing out that the Pulicat Bird Sanctuary is just 7 km away.

Other concerns

Other significant concerns raised include CPGLs failure to mention nearby villages, such as Kalanji and Kattupalli kuppam, and the absence of crucial information about infrastructure, such as the LNG and desalinated water pipelines.

In response, the EAC has recommended a site visit to verify the facts and has asked CPGL to provide a point-by-point clarification of the representations.

The committee has stressed the importance of accuracy and transparency.

The representations, made by many including Kattupalli kuppam village panchayat, Tamil Nadu Meenavar Sangam and South Indian Fishermens Welfare Association, point out that CPGLs application did not include details about the pipelines needed to transport RLNG to the project site, raising concerns about the safety, feasibility, and environmental risks of fuel transportation.

The application further lacked information on the pipelines for desalinated water required for cooling the power plant.

Heading: Gram Sabhas on Nov. 23 to review progress of projects in villages

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

Gram Sabha meetings to be held across 12,525 village panchayats on November 23 will review the implementation of the targets fixed for achieving open defecation free (ODF) plus rising and ODF plus-model village.

Determined under the Central programme of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM - Rural), the targets pertain to solid and liquid waste management.

Tamil Nadu is one among the States that have achieved 100% ODF plus villages. As for the two categories, the first ODF plus rising refers to those villages that are maintaining their ODF status with arrangements for solid waste management (SWM) and liquid waste management (LWM).

Litter-free villages

The second criteria ODF plus-model village refer to those villages that are clean with minimal littering and stagnant wastewater, and no plastic waste dumped in public places.

They display ODF-plus information, education and communication (IEC) messages, besides maintaining the ODF status with arrangements for both SWM and LWM.

The Gram Sabha meetings will confirm, under the Jal Jeevan programme, participation of all with regard to 10% of the capital cost in the village panchayats for piped water supply infrastructure works.

Skill development

The meetings will discuss 50 skill development events and an equally number of placement camps

to be held across the State under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalaya Yojana, a demand-driven, placement-linked skill training initiative aimed at covering rural youth aged between 15 and 35 years.

Heading: CM to lay foundation stone for footwear manufacturing unit

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin is set to unveil the foundation stone for a footwear-manufacturing unit that is to be set up with an investment of 1,000 crore in SIPCOT industrial complex at Jayamkondam in Ariyalur district on Friday. The unit is expected to provide jobs for over 15,000 people.

During his visit to Ariyalur district on Friday, the Chief Minister is also set to launch the second phase of

Uttachathai Uruthi Sei

, a nutritional intervention programme for malnourished babies and their mothers.

The event is scheduled to be held in an Anganwadi centre at Varanavasi in Tirumanur panchayat union.

Slew of projects

In another event, Mr. Stalin is scheduled to inaugurate 507 development projects implemented at a total cost of 88 crore.

Heading: a Extend deadline to apply for PMaTMs crop insurance

schemeaTM

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

TMC (Moopanar) president G.K. Vasan on Thursday urged the Union and State governments to extend the deadline for farmers to apply for the

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

. He said the scheme helped to stabilise the income of farmers. Though November 15 was notified as the last date to apply for the scheme, many farmers were unable to do so owing to rain and holidays.

Heading: Armstrong case sent to sessions court

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

The V Metropolitan Magistrate Court on Thursday committed BSP leader K. Armstrongs murder case to a sessions court for trial.

Amid tight security, 27 accused in the case were produced before L. Ragupathiraja, V Metropolitan Magistrate, at the court complex in Egmore. They were served the hard copies of the charge sheet. Nagendran and Arul, two of the accused, sought the court to postpone committal proceedings since they were yet to find a lawyer, and alleged that the lawyers they had approached were threatened into declining their case.

Plea opposed

L. Vasuki, Assistant Public Prosecutor, opposed the plea of the accused and urged the Magistrate to send them to a sessions court for committal.

The Magistrate passed the order committing the case to a sessions court for trial.

The case was adjourned to November 28.

Heading: Woman kidnaps infant in T. Nagar

Content:

You're reading this article from

Friday, 15th November 2024

The Kannagi Nagar police are investigating the kidnapping of 45-day-old child from her mother by a woman in T. Nagar on Thursday.

The Tambaram police said the infant and his mother, Nishanthi, were at their house on Wednesday when an unidentified woman paid a visit and informed of the distribution of free nutritional supplements. Believing her, Nishanthi, along with her child, went to T. Nagar in an autorickshaw. However, under the guise of procuring the supplements, the woman kidnapped the infant, said the police. A probe is on.