

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Ban Lankan president Rajapaksa's visit to Tirupati

— Dr S. Ramadoss
PMK founder

Other stories

VARSIY VC DENIES RAGING ALLEGATIONS

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

SRM University Vice-Chancellor Dr. M. Ponnavaikko has denied any incident of raging on the varsity premises.

He clarified that there had been only a conflict between two groups, which sought political affiliations. "However the students had not indulged in raging," he added.

PERAMBALUR ALL SET TO TURN LEATHER HUB

K. SREEDEVI | DC
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

Perambalur, near Trichy, is all set to get a unique place for itself in the global leather map. Soon, about 20 leather units will be setting up their units to make finished goods in the district as the areas has been identified as one of mega leather cluster (MLC) being promoted by the central government.

About 160 acres of dry land in the area has been earmarked for the cluster and a detailed project report is being prepared by the Council of Leather Exports (CLE) to submit soon for Centre's approval. "We will be submitting our report before March 31," said CLE southern chairman Mr P.R. Aqueel Ahmed.

"The MLC will house only companies engaged in finished goods products business such as garments, bags, belts, footwear etc and hence does not call for any tannery set up. There will be no pollution whatsoever from these units and in any case all leather units in the state comply with strict zero liquid discharge norms being enforced," he said.

With about 30 per cent of the two crore workforce in leather sector being women, the MLC will provide new jobs for women in the area. "About 600 women in the area are likely to be employed by various units in the cluster," said Mr R. Ramesh Kumar, executive director of CLE. "Skill mapping in the area has already been done by independent consultants who have identified that a majority of them are now moving to Trichy for want of work," he added.

The MLCs are a sub-scheme launched under the Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDPP) with an allocation of Rs. 600 crore during the 12th Five Year Plan period. The scheme targets industrial clusters with high growth potential that require strategic interventions by way of infrastructural support.

QUALIFIED TEMPLE OFFICIALS AWAIT THEIR DUE

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

For senior grade officials it is virtually impossible to get on board the elite group of temple administration officials.

After putting in two to three decades of service, many officials who join as junior assistants, technical and non-technical cadres, retire without climbing up the ladder. "Most of us possess the requisite educational qualification and gain experience in temple management. But we are seldom considered for elevation," said S. Jeevanandam, state general secretary of TN Senior Grade Temple Employees Association.

Despite repeated pleas, they have not even been made government staff. The senior grade temple officials have been demanding that the state elevate them as executive officers and assistant commissioners. Recently representatives from the association met the HR & CE Department minister M.S.M. Anandan and HR & CE Commissioner P. Dhanaapal and submitted a charter of 18 demands.



Dr P.R. Vasudeva Rao, renowned scientist, is taking charge as IGCAR director on Friday



Dindugal collector N. Venkatachalam interacted with school students on Wednesday



Union civil aviation minister Ajit Singh (right), escorts VP Hamid Ansari and governor K. Rosaiah from the stage after the inaugural at Chennai airport on Thursday.

Airport capacity up to 23mn passengers

S. SUJATHA | DC
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

Chennai's gleaming new airport terminals were inaugurated Thursday by Vice President Hamid Ansari in the absence of Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha, who chose to stay away to register her "hurt" at the Centre ignoring her request to name the new domestic terminal-II after AIADMK founder, M.G. Ramachandran.

Given that the old domestic and international terminals were named after Congress leader, K. Kamaraj and DMK founder, Perarinar Anna respectively, CM wrote to the Union civil aviation minister asking for the new domestic terminal-II to be named after MGR.

But when she received no response from the ministry, the Chief Minister decided to boycott the function "with a heavy heart." "I still urge the Centre to name the new domestic terminal-II after Bharat Ratna MGR," she said in a press release.

Jayalalitha, however, adhered to protocol by receiving the Vice President at the city airport.

Designing the newly built international and domestic terminals and upgraded airside facilities at the airport to the nation, Ansari said

the Chennai airport would be a natural gateway to Southeast Asia due to its geographical location.

"The Chennai airport has attained greater importance in view of India's Look East policy which promotes economic and commercial integration with East Asian and Southeast Asian nations," he said, adding that the passengers and freight traffic to and from Southeast Asian countries was bound to rise in times to come.

Noting that Chennai airport was the third busiest in the country, Union civil aviation minister, Ajit Singh said that with the addition of the new terminals and other facilities, its capacity had been enhanced from nine million to 23 million passengers per annum.

Earlier civil aviation secretary, K.N. Srivastava urged the Tamil Nadu government to plan for a Greenfield airport soon. "The expanded Chennai airport will just about meet the city's requirements till 2019-2020. So we request the state government to send its proposal to the civil aviation ministry for a Greenfield airport," he said.

TN Governor, K. Rosaiah and Union minister of state for civil aviation K. C. Venugopal also spoke.

Airport's lofty dream takes wings

Chennai airport may soon become a natural gateway to Southeast Asia



Above: The common user terminals and the massive steel structure of the departure hall at Chennai airport are illuminated by natural light thanks to its superior design.

The new domestic terminal at Chennai airport is in its illuminated splendor on Thursday night.



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DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

The terminal has one of the largest cantilevers

The massive steel structure shaped like an H that houses the new domestic terminal-II of the city airport is a piece of art, enhanced by a central green spine of gardens running vertically through it.

Principal architect, Prof Charanjit S. Shah, says the building has been constructed using advanced technology that allows the terminal to be filled with glare-free natural light. The huge structure is covered with glass on all sides giving the passengers a clear view of the landscape outside. "The structure is completely transparent and will be lit by sunlight, the heat will be kept out by aerated autoclaved concrete blocks," he explains, adding that the concept is in keeping with the Energy Conservation Building Codes.

"The departure hall is big and beautiful. The steel structures and the glass will add glamour, but I wish there was some artwork too," said Lakshmi, a visitor. While the new buildings were inaugurated on Thursday, they will be used for actual operations only after a month, according to AAI chairman V.P. Agrawal.

Ex Pondy min gets 2 yrs RI

S. PRASAD | DC
TINDIVANAM, JAN. 31

Tindivanam judicial magistrate I A. Saritha on Thursday sentenced former Puducherry education minister and ruling AIADMK MLA P.M.L. Kalyanasundaram to two years imprisonment under each of Sections 468 (forgery for a purpose of cheating) and 471 (using as genuine a forged document) read with Section 109 and 120 (b) (criminal conspiracy) for alleged forgery at the SSLC examinations in September 2011 at a private school in Tindivanam in Tamil Nadu.

Two others — P. Adhavan, a teacher at a government school, and M. Rajinikanth, a clerk in the criminal education office — were convicted to two years imprisonment under each of the two Sections. The sentences would run concurrently.

Kalyanasundaram had allegedly entered into a criminal conspiracy with Adhavan and Rajinikanth and used forged documents to appear for the SSLC examinations held at a private school in



Former Puducherry Min P.M.L. Kalyanasundaram appears before the Tindivanam Judicial Magistrate Court on Thursday.

Tindivanam. Rajinikanth had forged a letter from the district education office stating that Adhavan, a teacher at an ad-draivadar school in Tindivanam had been assigned as the examiner for the Centre. The prosecution failed to prove the charges of impersonation against Kalyanasundaram but charged him with criminal conspiracy and forgery.

A complaint was filed by education authorities before the Villupuram district crime branch.

Kalyanasundaram and two others were slapped a fine of 75,000 and in default had to undergo three months of imprisonment.

This is the first time that a former education minister of Puducherry has faced criminal action costing him his post

All three have since come out on bail after filing petitions in court and submitting surety of ₹10,000 each and have been granted time till February 29 to file an appeal, said public prosecutor V. Amjad Ali.

Kalyanasundaram, elected from Kalapet constituency in May 2011, was indicted into the Rangasamy Pradesh in Puducherry on June 8. However, he was dropped as he was facing charges of impersonation. Kalyanasundaram got anticipatory bail from the Supreme Court after police started investigation.

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LETTER TO NITISH

Vaiko objects to SL prez's Bodh Gaya visit

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

MDMK general secretary Vaiko on Thursday announced that he would lead his party men to picket the prime minister's residence in New Delhi on February 8 protesting against the visit of Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse's visit to India.

He also wrote to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar urging him to cancel the visit of Rajapakse to Bodh Gaya, where Lord Buddha attained enlightenment, on February 8.

In a statement, Vaiko said that he had announced in Madhya Pradesh in September last year that he would picket the PM's residence if the Lankan president visited India again.

The MDMK leader said that Rajapakse's visit to Bodh Gaya came weeks



Vaiko

before the United Nation Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva in March. Appealing to the Bihar CM Vaiko wrote, "The people of TN are terribly shocked to know that Mahinda Rajapakse is going to visit Bodh Gaya."

He said that the three-member panel appointed by the General Secretary of UN in 2010 had submitted its report, which clearly exposed the gruesome genocide of Tamils committed by the Sri Lankan government of Rajapakse.

TN ASSEMBLY CONVENES TODAY FOR GUV'S SPEECH

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JAN. 31

The state legislative assembly is convening on Friday for Governor's address. The governor is likely to announce several new schemes proposed to be implemented during the first day of the annual short session.

On first day, the session will start with governor's address that usually spells out the policies of the state besides several other new announcements.

Governor's address will be followed by debate on motion to thank his address next day. This will conclude with CM's reply. However, the duration of the session will be decided on Friday when the business advisory council meets after the governor's address.

Governor K. Rosaiah, in his last year's address, on Jan 30, announced an outlay of ₹1.85 crore for plan schemes for the next five years.

SHIFT APPROVED

SC ok to hospital at Omandurar

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a plea challenging Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha's decision to convert the state's sprawling new assembly-cum-secretariat complex building in Chennai into a government hospital and shift the assembly and secretariat back to its old building in the city.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Altamas Kabir

The plea was filed by DMK leader R. Veeramani

refused to set aside the state government's decision which was taken after the AIADMK came back to power in May 2011. The sprawling complex was built by the previous DMK government at an estimated ₹60 crore and inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

The bench said these

issues should be raised before another forum and the court should not adjudicate them after it was pleaded that the decision was taken only to override the earlier decision taken by the DMK government to shift the Assembly to the new building at Omandurar Government Estate in Chennai.

The Jayalalitha government had decided to shift the Secretariat to the Fort St. George and convert the new building constructed by the previous DMK gov-

ernment into a multi-speciality hospital-cum-medical college.

The apex court passed the order on a plea filed by DMK leader R. Veeramani challenging the Kalyanasundaram's decision upholding the shifting of the Assembly to the older building. On June 20, last year, the court had declined to interfere with the plea pending in the Madras High Court seeking to restrain the TN government from shifting the Secretariat building.



FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

School students having a look at a model at the Science Exhibition held in Anna Gem Science Park School on Thursday.