

Three killed in accident on Outer Ring Road near Mangadu

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

Three persons were killed and two others injured in an accident on Outer Ring Road in Malayabakkam, near Mangadu, in the early hours of Tuesday.

Two of the deceased have been identified as Ramesh Babu, 45, and his brother Suresh Babu, 42, of Gummidipoondi, both AIADMK functionaries. They were into running earth works in Vandalur. On Monday, they had gone to Vandalur with mechanics Venkatesan and Rajavelu and an earth-mover operator Sudhakar. While returning in a car on Outer Ring Road, the driver lost control and rammed the side railing.

In the impact, Ramesh Babu, Suresh Babu and Sudhakar died on the spot and the two others were injured.

Other motorists alerted the police. The Traffic Investigation Police, Poonamallee, reached the spot and rushed the deceased and injured to a government hospital.

Timings CHENNAI

- WEDNESDAY, OCT. 19: RISE 06:00 SET 17:49... THURSDAY, OCT. 20: RISE 06:00 SET 17:48... FRIDAY, OCT. 21: RISE 06:00 SET 17:46...

Table with 2 columns: Location and Rainfall (mm) / Wind Speed (min)

Chennai Airport Today 33°C Weather will be warm and humid. Night will be comfortable.

Chennai Airport Tomorrow 34°C Warm and humid weather. Night will be comfortable.

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Transport corporations to operate 10,500 buses from the city for Deepavali

Bookings are still open for the special buses. Transport Department has installed display boards at all city bus termini and opened a help desk at Koyambedu and Madhavaram

CITY MATTERS

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

Festive occasions trigger a huge demand for transport from thousands of people travelling to their native places. The Deepavali 24, is no different. Train tickets ran out within hours of the start of the booking a few months ago. Bookings are still open for the special buses to be operated by the State transport corporations.

A heavy rush of passengers is anticipated at the city bus termini and railway stations this weekend. The Transport Department has installed display boards at all bus termini to direct passengers to the designated bus bays and has opened a help desk at Koyambedu and Madhavaram. It is also making announcements about the bus services through the public address system.

At a meeting chaired by Transport Minister S.S. Sivasankar, along with Principal Secretary K. Gopal, on October 10, it was decided to operate 10,518 buses, including 4,218 special services, from the city from October 21 to 23, and 9,362 buses from various parts of the States for those returning to the city after the festival.

Mr. Sivasankar had also directed the officials to provide amenities at the termini of Koyambedu, Madhavaram, K.K. Nagar, Tambaram MEFZ and Poonamallee, from where the regular and special buses will be operated. A control room and a

Sudden surge

Despite warnings from the government, private omni bus operators seem to have increased fares during the Deepavali weekend

The tables below compare the bus fares between Chennai and two major cities - Coimbatore and Madurai - during Deepavali and two weeks later

The data extracted from a bus aggregator service shows that the average price of tickets during the festival are roughly 40% to 85% higher than usual



Chennai to Coimbatore

Table with 2 columns: Date and Fare (Highest, Lowest, Average)

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Coimbatore to Chennai

Table with 2 columns: Date and Fare (Highest, Lowest, Average)

Chennai to Madurai

Table with 2 columns: Date and Fare (Highest, Lowest, Average)

Table with 2 columns: Date and Fare (Highest, Lowest, Average)

Madurai to Chennai

Table with 2 columns: Date and Fare (Highest, Lowest, Average)

Source: www.redbus.in. The fares taken for analysis include all types of bus services, the air-conditioned, non-air-conditioned, water and sleeper

Special teams will be deputed to monitor fares

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

The Transport Department will be operating toll-free helpdesks to receive complaints about private omni bus operators who are overcharging passengers. Transport Minister S.S.

round-the-clock help-desk for providing information about the bus services and receiving complaints have been opened at the Koyambedu terminus, an official said.

The Department has been increasing the number of bus services every

year. But the plight of travellers without reservation remains a concern. Private omni-bus operators charge such exorbitantly.

Consumer activist T. Sadagopan says that until the Department fixes standard fares for both public and

private bus operators, fleecing of passengers will continue. The omni-bus operators have sustained a huge loss from the COVID-19 pandemic, but they make a killing by charging exorbitantly during festivals, he adds.

Vijayaraghavan, a resident of Cuddalore who commutes to the city, says a significant section of the population in the city comprises migrants from other parts of the State, with many of them being daily-wage earners. This section is the last to leave the city during festivals and do not have the means to book 'Tatkal tickets in trains. It depends more on buses. More Antyodaya trains should be operated for the unreserved passengers at least during the festivals, he says.

Deepavali buses to be operated from six places

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In view of Deepavali, the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (NSTC) and the State Express Transport Corporation (SETC) will be operating special buses from six different places in the city to various districts in the State.

This year, the State government has planned to operate special buses from Friday to Sunday and between October 25 and 27 for return trips.

Andhra Pradesh-bound buses will be operated from the Madhavaram New Bus stand. Buses departing to Puducherry, Cuddalore and Chidambaram via East Coast Road will start from the K.K. Nagar Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) bus terminus.

From the Tambaram MEFZ, Anna Bus Stand, buses bound to Tindivanam and other districts will be operated. Buses bound for Tiruvannamalai, Polur, Chetpatu, among others will be operated from the Tambaram railway station bus stand.

Buses bound for Mayiladuthurai, Tiruchi, Madurai, other districts will start from the Koyambedu terminus (CMBT).

IN BRIEF

Deepavali celebrations held for the residents of IMH

The Lions Clubs International District 324M organised Deepavali celebrations for residents of the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) in Chennai on Tuesday. Lunch was served to the residents while a dance show, karaoke programme and cracker show was also held on the occasion. Mohanmudhan, district governor, District 324M, P. Poorna Chandrika, IMH Director and S. Sumathi, resident medical officer, were present.

City may get a glimpse of partial solar eclipse on Oct. 25

A partial solar eclipse will occur on October 25. A press release issued by the Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centre said the partial eclipse could be viewed in Chennai, but with low visibility, beginning at 5.4 p.m. and ending at 5.44 p.m. The Centre advised viewers to observe the eclipse for a few seconds using solar-eclipse goggles or Welder's glasses (shade No. 14) to avoid permanent eye injury or blindness.

Advertisement for 7.50% interest rate on deposits, featuring a Diwali theme and a 599 offer.

IndianOil advertisement for LPG non-domestic retailers, listing various locations and contact information.

Le Cucina Hypermarket advertisement for Diwali gifts, featuring various kitchenware and home appliances.

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Text & Context... A weekly feature on The Hindu e-paper (e-paper:thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz.

Text & Context... The Gambia deaths and the toxic cough syrups that are causing them by Gambiachilddeaths

Advertisement for Diwali gifts, featuring nuts and spices, and a 'Nuts & Spices' brand.