



CITY UNION BANK

Fighting misinformation with hope

The New Indian Express Group believes that information is the foundation for knowledge and to make clear decisions. And it has always been its endeavour to provide its readers with news and facts.

We at The New Indian Express believe that the only way to fight the torrent of fake news is by giving you the facts – plain and simple. Triple checked for authenticity and with a good deal of sensibility.

The New Indian Express and City Union Bank bring you a digital version of TNIE straight to your smartphones/devices – every single day.

Meanwhile, if you'd like to keep track of news and happenings in real-time, log on to www.newindianexpress.com or check out our other group sites for your daily dose of art, culture, cinema, education and more.

Happy reading!



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

CHENNAI • SUNDAY • AUGUST 02, 2026 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 28 • LATE CITY EDITION



READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress
twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress



ELITE MOUNTAINEER NIRMAL PURJA KILLED IN PoK AVALANCHE

Famous mountaineer Nirmal Purja and nine others were on Saturday confirmed dead, days after an avalanche hit Broad Peak in PoK

WAS LEADING 10-MEMBER TEAM TO BROAD PEAK

British-Nepali climber Purja, popularly known as Nims or Nimsdai, was leading a 10-member climbing team when the avalanche hit on Thursday morning. The mountaineers were ascending at an altitude of around 6,600 metres when they were swept away, local authorities said. Broad Peak, standing at 8,051 metres, is the world's 12th-highest mountain | **P13**

CLIMBED ALL 14 'SUPER PEAKS' IN JUST 6 MONTHS

■ Purja famously scaled all of the world's 14 highest peaks in just over six months in 2019, breaking the previous record of seven years
■ He wrote on X this week that he was close to becoming the first person to climb all 14 "super peaks" twice without oxygen. "Broad Peak, I ask for nothing but safe passage up and back down," he wrote

2018

PURJA WAS APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

RAMRAJ
COLOUR SHIRTS

2 COLOUR SHIRTS
₹995*
— ONLY

* This offer is valid on selected products only, While Stocks Last.

Nonstop rain pummels Kerala, leaves 7 dead

CM deposes team of ministers to camp in rain-hit districts to manage rescue and relief

MANOJ VISWANATHAN @ Kochi

AT least seven people were killed on Saturday after torrential rain battered Kerala, triggering flash floods and multiple landslides that revived painful memories of the 2018 deluge.

Central Kerala districts of Pathanamthitta, Idukki and Kottayam bore the brunt. Pathanamthitta got over 300 mm of rain in two hours.

Heavy rain began pounding eastern parts of southern Kerala around 11 pm on Friday, causing rivers to swell rapidly. By 2.30 am, floodwaters entered homes along riverbanks, forcing residents to flee in panic. The Pampa river rose sharply, inundating Ranni and Vadderikkara towns on the Sabarimala route. Landslides disrupted traffic on key highways including Kochi-Dhanushkodi, Kottarakkara-Dindigul, and Kuttikkanam-Kattappana. Floodgates of the Pambala, Kallarkutti, and Malankara dams were opened due to heavy inflow.

In Kottayam's Poonjar Thekkarakara panchayat, Rejina and her 24-year-old son Josephine Johny perished when their house collapsed in a landslide. Sumathy, 69, was killed at Adumala near Kudayathoor when her home got buried in slush. Prabhakaran Nair, 72, died in a landslide at Kolahamedu in Vagamon. The children — three-year-old Abdul Muhaini, four-year-old Adam Ayem, and 11-year-old Milan K Shinu — drowned in separate waterlogging incidents in Malappuram and Kottayam districts.

The relentless weather system wreaked havoc in northern Kerala as well. In Kannur, search and rescue operations are underway for two missing individuals — a 40-year-old man who fell into the Kanjirapuzha river, and a swimming instructor at Pulingome. In Kozhikode, major rivers like Poonoor and Vilangad overflowed, submerging the Kozhikode-Mysuru Highway at Engapuzha.

Chief Minister V D Satheesan deputed a team of ministers to camp in the worst-hit districts: C P John in Thiruvananthapuram, P C Vishnunadh in Pathanamthitta, Mons Joseph in Kottayam, and Anoop Jacob in Idukki.



NDRF, Fire and Rescue Services, Police, the Coast Guard, the local administration, public representatives and locals are participating in the efforts

Statement from CM's office

A rescue operation following a landslide in Kottayam on Saturday | **EXPRESS**

Flood control

Shutters of dams in Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Kannur districts were opened following rising water levels, to prevent floods

Six years on, border trade via Nathu La Pass resumes

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

BORDER trade via Nathu La Pass, which had remained suspended for six years amid the Covid-19 pandemic and India-China border tensions, resumed on Saturday.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Sikkim's Commerce & Industries Minister Tshering T Bhutia among others.

The reopening is expected to inject fresh momentum into the local economy by generating business for registered traders, transport operators and other stakeholders dependent on border trade. Border trade through Nathu La will operate from Monday to Thursday and continue until November.

Under the Nathu La border trade arrangement, the approved categories of goods, including handicrafts, handloom products, traditional religious items, and ready-made garments, can now be imported and exported. This year, 38 traders have been issued passes to participate in the cross-border trade. Currently, there are around 35 tradable items. Bhutia said the Sikkim government had already sent a proposal to expand the list of tradable items.

WITH THIS ISSUE

TAKE A SEAT

PLUS 12 PAGES

MAGAZINE



Boxers Sakshi Chaudhary (L) & Priya Ghanghas (R) finished on top with gold medals on Saturday | **PTI/AP**

GLASGOW GOLD MINE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

WHEN the Commonwealth Games began in Glasgow on July 23, there was an expectation that India's medals tally could suffer because of the absence of shooting, badminton and wrestling. In these three events, they are elite at this level. But this has still been a very creditable campaign thanks to other heroes, young

and old. That they have designs on finishing in the top four — currently fourth with 13 gold — in the medals tally is notable. Those designs would not have been possible if it weren't for the exploits of the para-athletes (three gold) and boxing (seven gold). There is the obvious caveat that boxing at the Games isn't of the greatest standards, but this is a quiet win for the high-performance

programme and the federation's talent ID at the highest level.

Another combat sport that deserves its two minutes in the limelight is judo. Even before the campaign had begun, it had become a bad word after another dope-related news item. However, on Friday, judokas won two gold medals in less than an hour after going without one since the sport's

KOLATHUR EVM ISSUE

DMK plans to approach courts

PRAVEENA S A @ Chennai

DMK senior counsel NR Elango on Saturday said the party would seek legal remedy over alleged discrepancies found during the verification of electronic voting machines (EVMs), control units (CUs) and voter-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) units from 14 polling stations in Kolathur, the constituency where DMK president and former chief minister MK Stalin lost to TVK's VS Babu by 8,795 votes.

The verification was briefly halted on Saturday after DMK representatives raised objections over the address tag of the CU from booth number 157. A few hours later, the process was resumed in the presence of Greater Chennai Corporation commissioner and district election officer GS Sameeran after DMK representatives refused to participate further. Elango alleged that the CU and three ballot units from booth number 157 lacked mandatory details on address tags, affixed over the machines' locks, such as the constituency, polling station number, machine number and sign of officer concerned. **P7**



TN to move SC on Aug 3

TN will move SC on Monday against Karnataka for failing to comply with directions of CWMA and CWRC to release 3,500 cusecs of water, said Minister CTR Nirmal Kumar on Saturday. Rejecting the demand for an all-party meet, he said a unanimous resolution was already passed in the Assembly on the issue | **P6**

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN @ Chennai

KARNATAKA released 12,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu from the Kabini reservoir on Saturday, following heavy rain-fall in the reservoir's catchment areas even as the Cauvery water-sharing row between the two states continues. The water is expected to reach the Billigundlu gauging station on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border by Monday, and the Mettur reservoir by Tuesday or Wednesday, officials said, though the exact arrival time could vary depending on river conditions.

"The catchment areas along

the Cauvery basin between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have remained dry for several days. As a result, the flow of water may be slower than usual. We also have to take evaporation losses into account. It is not possible to accurately estimate the travel time of the water at this stage," a senior Water Resources Department (WRD) official told **TNIE**.

Another WRD official said that Kabini's storage has climbed steadily over the past month on the back of continuous rainfall, from 26.59% of its 19,516 mcf capacity on July 1, with an inflow of 1,988 cusecs, to 61.63% by July 15. **P7**

Delimitation backers 'traitors' of TN: Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

AMID speculation regarding a possible shift in the DMK's stance on the revised Delimitation Bill, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi strongly condemned supporters of the bill on Saturday, branding them "21st-century Ettappans (traitors)". He accused the BJP of exploiting the delimitation exercise to dilute Tamil Nadu's political power and jeopardise its future.

Speaking to reporters in Chennai, Rahul accused the BJP of conspiring against

Tamil Nadu. "Delimitation is designed to take away power from Tamil Nadu," he said.

Drawing a historical parallel, Rahul said, "There was a historical character in Tamil Nadu called Ettappan. He is an example of betrayal. Anybody who supports delimitation is an Ettappan. They are betraying Tamil Nadu and its future by allowing the BJP and the RSS to attack the people of the state."

The Congress leader's statement came after the recent breakdown of the party's relationship with the DMK in Tamil Nadu. The DMK bloc has



22 Lok Sabha and 10 Rajya Sabha MPs. Following the 2026 Assembly elections, Congress severed its pre-poll ties with the DMK alliance to back the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led front and shared power in the new government. **P7**

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at the Chennai airport on Saturday | **ASHWIN PRASATH**

MYSURU CALL

Youth must turn Vivekananda's vision into reality: PM

KARTHIK K K @ Mysuru

AMID growing protests by youngsters and Gen-Z demanding greater government accountability, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called upon the youth to transform Swami Vivekananda's vision of India into reality, saying that the country's future rests on the strength, aspirations and character of its young generation.

Addressing a large gathering after inaugurating the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Youth



PM Narendra Modi inaugurates 'Viveka Smaraka' in Mysuru Saturday | **UDAYASHANKAR S**

Centre — Viveka Smaraka — in Mysuru, PM Modi said Swami Vivekananda embodied the spirit of India and the newly

inaugurated memorial would serve as a centre for inspiring generations of young Indians towards nation-building, serv-

ice and patriotism.

"I am confident that the Viveka Smaraka will become a pilgrimage centre for spiritual upliftment for seekers and devotees.

"Through this memorial, we must mould young people who place the interests of society, the nation, and suffering of the poor above their own personal joys and sorrows. Youth for whom 'Nation First' is the supreme guiding principle and whose life's mission is the service of Mother India," PM Modi said.

Onus on quality infra

Stressing on educational infrastructure, PM said youth potential translates into national strength only when supported by quality education

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Achyuta Samanta

Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS
Former Member of Parliament

on receiving his

75th

Honorary Doctorate

★★★

All Staff of KIIT, KISS & KIMS Family

A TRANSFORMING UP

NINE YEARS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE, INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND PEOPLE'S WELFARE

Over the past nine years, under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a model of good governance, rapid development and inclusive growth. Guided by transparent administration and citizen-centric policies, the state has achieved remarkable progress across infrastructure, law and order, healthcare, education, agriculture, technology, industrial development, employment generation and women empowerment. By fostering investment, strengthening public service delivery and ensuring the welfare of every section of society, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has transformed the state into one of India's fastest-growing economies and a key driver of the nation's progress.



No. 1 Producer

Vegetables, Milk, Foodgrains, Sugarcane, Mango, Potato, Banana, Amla, Guava, Sugar, Ethanol



₹1.03 Lakh Crore+
Transferred to 3.12 Crore Farmers under PM-KISAN

₹3.23 Lakh Crore+
Record payment to sugarcane farmers

91,105+
Solar pumps allocated under PM-KUSUM



Cultural Renaissance

Uttar Pradesh welcomed over 156 crore domestic and international tourists in 2025.

Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj witnessed the participation of over 66 crore devotees, making it one of the largest spiritual gatherings in history.

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya and the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor have redefined the state's spiritual and cultural landscape.

Construction of the Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow and a world-class Temple Museum in Ayodhya is underway.

Transformational Infrastructure

- Uttar Pradesh accounts for 60% of India's expressway network, with 10 operational expressways and 12 more under various stages of development.
- India's first Urban Ropeway in Varanasi, connecting Varanasi Cantt Station to Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple (Godowlia), is in the final stages of construction.
- Metro rail services are operational in Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra and Meerut.
- The state has 17 airports, including 12 domestic airports, with international airports at Lucknow, Varanasi, Kushinagar, Ayodhya and the Noida International Airport.

Women Safety & Empowerment

- 27.37 lakh girls have benefited under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana.
- Under the State Rural Livelihood Mission, 1.06 crore women have been empowered through 10 lakh Self-Help Groups, 64,761 Village Organisations and 3,296 Cluster Level Federations.
- Uttar Pradesh ranks No. 1 in the country in curbing crimes against women and ensuring conviction in such cases.
- Women's grievance redressal has been strengthened through the integration of Women Power Line 1090, Women's Helpline 181, GRP and Fire Services.

Transparent Governance, Better Public Services

- Corruption-free governance with transparent administration
- Large-scale digitisation of government records
- Easier citizen services through digital technology
- Property ownership strengthened through the SVAMITVA Scheme
- Stamp duty on transfer of property among blood relatives capped at ₹5,000

Industrial Growth & Investment

- Private investment proposals worth over ₹50 lakh crore received.
- Investment proposals exceeding ₹15 lakh crore are under implementation, creating employment and self-employment opportunities for over 60 lakh youth.
- 36 sector-specific policies introduced under the mantra of Reform, Perform and Transform, supported by the Nivesh Sarathi Single Window Portal.
- More than 22,000 startups are operational in Uttar Pradesh, with over half led by women entrepreneurs.
- At the Uttar Pradesh Global Growth Dialogue 2026 in Bengaluru, the state secured investment proposals worth over ₹50,000 crore, reinforcing its commitment to becoming a one-trillion-dollar economy.

MSMEs & Local Economy

- Uttar Pradesh is home to over 96 lakh MSME units, the highest in the country.
- Through the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, unique products from all 75 districts have gained national and global recognition.
- Products worth ₹93,000 crore have been exported under ODOP, while 77 products have received GI Tag recognition.
- Uttar Pradesh contributes around 65% of India's total mobile phone manufacturing.

Empowering Every Village Through Digital Governance

Current Status of Common Service Centre (CSC 3.0)
Project Duration: 16 November 2020 – 30 June 2026

Implementation & Operational Framework

- E-Governance (G2C) services are being delivered online through the e-District Portal via a minimum of two Jan Seva Kendras in every Gram Panchayat and one Jan Seva Kendra for every 10,000 population in urban areas.
- Jan Seva Kendras are being operated in all Gram Sachivalayas, with Panchayat Assistants engaged as Village-Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) to manage and facilitate these centres.

- At present, over 2.31 lakh Jan Seva Kendras are operational across 57,695 Gram Panchayats in the state.
- The e-District Portal provides access to 359 government services offered by 54 departments of the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- So far, 44.24 crore online applications have been processed through the e-District Portal.
- In addition to G2C services, Jan Seva Kendras also offer a wide range of Business-to-Citizen (B2C) services, including:

- Insurance
- Marketing and product-related services
- Tour and travel booking
- Holiday packages
- Mobile and DTH recharge
- IRCTC ticket booking
- And other citizen-centric digital services
- The initiative is also promoting entrepreneurship at the village level while creating self-employment opportunities for rural youth.



39 µg/m³

The PM 2.5 level recorded at Chennai on Saturday. Nitrogen dioxide level was at 33 µg/m³ against the prescribed 80 µg/m³

NEWS UPDATE FROM TN

Twitter @ xpresstn

'TNIE Tamilnadu' @ xpresstn

newindianexpress.com

HC directs pvt univ to furnish ₹3.3-crore bank guarantee

Order passed in connection with arbitration case filed by a caterer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THE Madras High Court has ordered the Sai University, a self-financing institution for higher education, to furnish a bank guarantee of ₹3.29 crore for a period of six months in connection with an arbitration case filed by a catering service provider, Rassense Private Limited.

The order was issued by Justice K Kumaresh Babu on the arbitration application filed by the catering service provider following a dispute over default of payment invoice amount for the service it had rendered to the educational institution.

The judge also directed the applicant to comply with the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act and initi-



ate arbitration proceedings within eight weeks.

Appearing for the applicant, senior counsel Hasan Mohamed Jinnah, assisted by advocate A Damodaran, submitted that a third party and the respondent institution had entered into an agreement in 2022 for one year and continued

even after the agreement period.

Due to certain internal restructuring, the applicant company entered into an agreement with the third party, and the respondent institution executed a deed of novation and thereafter the applicant provided the services to the institution.

However, he said, the respondent institution has not honoured the invoices accumulating to ₹3.29 crore. Subsequently, the arbitration application was filed seeking a bank guarantee for protecting its interests.

For the unversed, a deed of novation is a legal document that replaces an old contract with a new one, transferring both rights and obligations to a new party while fully releasing the old party.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

EVEN as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast below-normal rainfall across the country during August and the latter half of the southwest monsoon season, Tamil Nadu is expected to witness a comparatively favourable rainfall pattern, particularly in the coastal districts.

Moderate rainfall is expected over Chennai and neighbouring districts during the weekend, with light to moderate evening thunderstorms forecast for the city.

According to the IMD's seasonal outlook, the northern coastal and southern coastal parts of Tamil Nadu are likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall during August, while northern interior and southern interior TN are expected to receive normal rainfall. The Western Ghats districts, however, are likely to record below-normal rainfall.

The outlook comes even as



Dark clouds looming over Chennai's skyline on Saturday evening | ASHWIN PRASATH

parts of southern Tamil Nadu have begun August with intense rainfall. Data from the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai, showed Nalumukku in Tirunelveli recorded 294.4 mm during a 24-hour period ending 8.30 am on Saturday - the highest rainfall in Tamil Nadu. Oothu received 270 mm and Kakkachi, 190 mm,

while several stations in Kanniyakumari, Theni, Coimbatore and Tenkasi recorded rainfall ranging between 80 mm and 140 mm. Of the 620 rain gauge stations monitored across the state, 160 recorded measurable rainfall.

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds reaching 40-50 kmph are likely

across Tamil Nadu until August 3. The met department has also projected that maximum temperatures during August will remain near normal to slightly above normal across most parts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, while minimum temperatures are expected to remain normal to above normal, leading to warm and humid nights in many areas.

V R Durai, head of the Regional Weather Forecasting Centre, said the national climate outlook indicates that moderate El Nino conditions over the equatorial Pacific are expected to strengthen further during the remaining southwest monsoon season, a development that typically suppresses monsoon rainfall. Neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions, however, are expected to persist through August, and some international climate models indicate a positive IOD may develop during September, potentially offsetting part of El Nino's adverse influence, he added.

Don't catch stray dogs at night, animal activists urge city corp

PRAVEENA S A @ Chennai

CITY-based animal welfare activists and residents have urged the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) to stop catching stray dogs at night as they said it is disturbing the public and is in violation of the animal welfare norms.

The demand follows an incident at Thiruvalluvar Nagar in Thiruvanniyur on Thursday, when GCC dog-catching personnel reportedly began capturing strays around 11.30 pm. The operation allegedly triggered panic among residents, as dogs started barking and ran through the neighbourhood. The situation escalated after three puppies, claimed to be around 3-3.5



GCC staff interact with activists during dog-catching drive in Thiruvanniyur | EXPRESS

months old, were caught during the drive. Animal activists prevented the corporation vehicle from moving further, and demanded to see the dogs that were caught. Following a brief argument between activists and the GCC staff, the police intervened,

and the puppies were released.

Speaking to *TNIE*, animal activist E Martina said, "As per rules, puppies should be caught for sterilisation only after they turn six months old. However, GCC staff caught three puppies that are younger than six months

during the midnight drive. Though it is based on a complaint, we urge the corporation to stop conducting dog-catching operations at midnight."

A 56-year-old resident said the barking and commotion forced many people to come out of their houses. "If the corporation is responding to complaints, they should carry out the operation during the day. On Thursday night, the issue continued until 2.30 am because of the argument over catching puppies," the resident said.

Another resident, A Dinesh (33), said, "GCC staff said it is based on a complaint, but in such cases, they have to ask residents which dog is causing trouble," he said.

Animal activist Lionel Praveen alleged night-time operations make it difficult to distinguish between sterilised dogs, old dogs and puppies. "Many personnel were not wearing GCC uniforms, making it difficult to verify their identity," he said, adding up to three dogs are being kept in the same cage, which is meant for only one.

When contacted, the corporation veterinary officer said, "As stray dogs tend to hide during the day due to heat, we have instructed staff to carry out dog-catching during the early morning, evening, or late evening. But, no instruction has been issued to conduct stray dog-catching drives at midnight. We will look into the matter."



PIC: MARTIN LOUIS

Sanitation workers seek implementation of revised wages, stage protest near Ripon

Chennai: Uzhaipor Urimal Iyakkam, a labour rights union, staged a protest near the Ripon Building on Saturday demanding the immediate implementation of the revised daily wage of ₹832 for conservancy workers, as notified by the Chennai collector, without any delay. They also sought the job regularisation. The union further demanded that the corporation allot a separate office space for the organisation and ensure the provision of safe and hygienic food under the one-free-meal-a-day scheme for conservancy workers. The demand comes in the wake of a recent incident in which sanitary workers of the Avadi corporation allegedly found a lizard in the food served to them.

ENS

CRIME FILE

Ex-worker among 7 held for ₹19L robbery

CHENNAI: Korattur police have arrested seven people, including a former factory employee, on charges of masterminding the robbery of ₹18.8 lakh from a factory staff.

Police have recovered ₹7.25 lakh. According to the police, Umar Farooq (40), owner of a steel fabrication unit in Korattur, had asked his employee Ranjith Kumar (45) to collect ₹18.8 lakh from his brother's residence in Padi on July 25. Ranjith was transporting the cash on a two-wheeler through TNHB Colony when six masked men intercepted him at knifepoint and escaped with the money. During investigation, police arrested Sathish Kumar (37), a former employee at the factory. Based on Sathish's confession, the others were arrested.

ENS

History-sheeter hacked to death near Avadi

CHENNAI: A 38-year-old history-sheeter and real estate businessman was hacked to death by an unidentified gang near Pothur in Avadi on Saturday night. The deceased was identified as Sathesh (38), a resident of Manikandapuram near Pothur. He is survived by his wife

Meena and two daughters.

Police said Sathesh was returning home when a gang intercepted him near Manikandapuram and attacked him with sharp weapons. He sustained multiple cut injuries and died on the spot. The assailants fled immediately after the attack. On receiving information, Avadi Tank Factory police shifted the body to a GH and registered a case.

ENS

Police thwart murder attempt, arrest two

CHENNAI: Tiruvallur police foiled a murder bid of an accused appearing in court, arrested two people, and seized weapons on Friday. The intended target, Joseph, is an accused in the murder of Gomathi, a VCK councillor from Tiruninravur, and was scheduled to appear in Tiruvallur court on Friday. Gomathi's husband, Stephen Raj,

was arrested for killing her on July 4, 2025, suspecting her of having an affair with Joseph.

Stephen, Joseph, and two others were arrested later released on bail, and have since been appearing in Tiruvallur court. Stephen planned to kill Joseph after Friday's court hearing, police said. Acting on a tip-off, police deployed special teams and arrested Ashok Kumar (45) and Prabhakaran (34).

ENS

All-party meet calls for stir on August 7 over Mekedatu

CHENNAI: An all-party meeting convened by Puthiya Tamilagam (PT) on Saturday resolved to hold a mass protest in Chennai on August 7, seeking a permanent solution to the Cauvery water dispute and opposing Karnataka's proposed Mekedatu dam project.

The meeting was chaired by PT president Dr K Krishnasamy. It was attended by leaders from several political party leaders, including AIADMK Organisation Secretary OS Manian, Naam Tamilar Katchi Chief Coordinator Seeman, Tamilaga Vazhuvirmalai Katchi president T Velmurugan, IJK president Ravi Pachamuthu, PMK State Election Wing Secretary K Jayaraman, AMMK leaders, BJP leader KS Radhakrishnan and representatives of various organisations.

The meeting passed a resolution condemning the Karnataka government's continued efforts to build the Mekedatu dam, stating the project is against the orders of the Supreme Court and the CWMA and would affect Tamil Nadu's water rights.

ENS

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SANU THOMPSON,
S/o. George Micheal Thompson, residing at No. 117A, Terrace Royale Apartment, Kamaraj Street, Kumaran Nagar, Padi, Chennai-600 050, In my Educational records my name was wrongly mentioned as **SANU THOMPSON T** instead of my correct name is **SANU THOMPSON** Hence, I declare that both **SANU THOMPSON T & SANU THOMPSON** are referred to one and the same person.
Chennai, 30.07.2026

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gayathri Chandramouli, W/o Chandramouli, residing at 4/1 Giri Road, Tripura Apartments, T. Nagar, Chennai - 600017, hereby declare that **Varagur Venkatraman Gayathri, Gayathri Varagur Venkatraman, V V Gayathri, VV Gayathri, Gayatri Chandramouli, and Gayathri** appearing in my various documents are one and the same person as myself. Henceforth, I shall be known as **Gayathri Chandramouli** for all purposes.

QuoteExpress

THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED

MARK TWAIN

NAME CHANGE

I, ESWAR CHANDRASEKAR, S/o. Mr.CHANDRASEKARAN Residing at 58/16, Chengalvarayan street, Triplicane, Chennai-600 005, have changed my name to **ESWAR CHANDRASEKARAN, Vide Affidavit dated:15.06.2026, Stand Paper No:FG276325.** Henceforth, I shall be known as **ESWAR CHANDRASEKARAN** in all purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, A. JAYARANI ROSE, W/o. M. Amburose, P No 108764.T.Rank POUW1, residing at No. 4.3, Muthumariyamman Koil Street, Aadhi Nagar, East Tambaram, Chennai - 600059. I have changed my name from **A.JAYARANI ROSE** to **JAYARANI ARUL JEYAM.**

NAME CHANGE

I, C. KALAICHELVI W/o. Thiru S.N.Sivakumaran, Date of Birth: 19.04.1972, (District of birth: Chennai), Residing address: No.36, Pappathiammal Street, K.K.Thazhai Kumaran Street, Madhavaram, Chennai 600051 shall henceforth be known as **KALAICHELVI S** vide affidavit dated 03.06.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that M/s. V R Livin Ventures LLP has been accorded Environmental Clearance (EC) by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Tamil Nadu for the Proposed Construction of Non-High Rise Residential Building Development Project at T.S. Nos. 102/2, 102/4, 102/6, 102/7 & 102/8, Block No. 23, Ward-B of Madhavaram Village, Madhavaram Taluk, Chennai District, Tamil Nadu. The Environmental Clearance has been issued vide EC Identification No. EC26380/TN/SEIAA/23843N, File No. 13474, dated 31.07.2026 and the Copies of the same is available with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) and may also be viewed on the PARIVESH Portal website: <https://parivesh.nic.in/#ec>.

For M/s. V R Livin Ventures LLP No. 5/78, Arignar Anna Street, Alex Nagar, Madhavaram Milk Colony (IMMC), Madhavaram, Chennai - 600 051, Tamil Nadu.

SBI State Bank Of India

RBO, No.5A, North Phase, SIDCO Industrial Estate, Ambattur, Chennai-600050

PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE

State Bank of India invites tenders in the prescribed format in two bid system for following branches from the Landlords/Owners/PA holders for Ready Built commercial building on lease rental basis preferably on the Ground floor with adequate parking facility. For further details, please visit Bank's Website <https://sbi.bank.in> under "SBI in the News: Procurement News". The last date and time for submission of tender is **3.00 p.m., 24.08.2026**. Corrigendum if any would be posted on the website only. Hence, applicants are advised to visit website regularly for above purpose. **1. Kallikuppam Branch- app. carpet area 2300sq.ft. (214sq.m)** **Date: 02.08.2026** **Regional Manager**

Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited (Encore ARC)

acting in its capacity as the Trustee of EARC -EOT - 001 -Trust
Encore ARC Corporate Office Address: 5th Floor, Plot No. 137, Sector 44, Gurugram 122002, Haryana
Chennai Office Address: No.101, Executive Zone, Ground Floor, No.766, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002
Auction / Sale Notice

An auction sale of Household Goods, and other movable items at 11.30 AM on 12.08.2026. The Reserve Price is fixed as Rs.94,000/- (Rupees Ninety Four Thousand Only). The Household Goods and other movable items may be inspected on 06.08.2026 between 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. by interested buyers. Details of the sale are also available at link "Properties for Sale" on Encore ARC's website www.encorearc.com. Interested bidders may contact Authorised officer of Encore ARC Mr. K.Nagendran Mobile No. 91762 91717, Mr.B.M. Nagaraju, on mobile no. 83840 74164, for any further information / query. **Date : 01.08.2026** **Place : Chennai** **Authorised officer, Encore ARC K.Nagendran**



STAR HEALTH AND ALLIED INSURANCE COMPANY LTD

Regd. Office: #1, New Tank Street, Valluvar Kottam High Road, Nungambakam, Chennai - 600 034, Corp. Office: : No: 148, Acropolis, Dr.Radhakrishnan Sabei, Mylapore, Chennai - 600004, Tel: 944 4786760 Website: www.starhealth.in Email: investors@starhealth.in CIN: L66010TN2008PLC056649 RDRI Registration No. 129

NOTICE OF THE 21ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the **Twenty First Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Members of Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited ("the Company") will be held on Friday, August 28, 2026 at 16.00 Hrs (IST) through Video Conferencing (VC)/Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM")** to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of the AGM.

In compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2013 ("Act"), Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") Circulars and Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("SEBI Listing Regulations") as amended, The Integrated Annual Report including the Notice of the 21st Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Audited Standalone Financial Statements for the financial year 2025-26 (**Integrated Annual Report**) are being sent by electronic mode to those Members whose names and e-mail IDs are registered with the Company / Registrar & Transfer Agent ("RTA") / National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") / Central Depository Services Limited ("CDSL") as at close of business hours on Friday, **July 24, 2026**. The Company is also sending a letter providing the weblink of the Company's website where the Integrated Annual Report for FY 2025-26 can be accessed to the Members who have not registered their email address with the Company/RTA/NSDL/CDSL. The Integrated Annual Report including the Notice of the AGM is also available on the website of the Company at www.starhealth.in, website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com, CDSL at www.evotingindia.com and websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.nseindia.com and BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com

The Company has engaged the services of the RTA, M/s. KFin Technologies Limited ("**KFin**") to provide VC/OAVM and e-voting facility to all its Members.

Instructions for Remote E-voting and E-Voting during AGM

• Pursuant to Section 108 of the Companies Act 2013, read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules 2014 and Regulation 44 of SEBI LODR the Company would be providing e-voting facility to their members to exercise their right to vote by electronic means on resolutions proposed to be passed at the AGM. Only those Members whose name is recorded in the Register of Members at the close of business as on Friday, **August 21, 2026 ('Cut-off Date')** shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting.

• Members have the option to cast their votes using the remote e-voting facility prior to the AGM. Once the vote is cast on the resolution, the Member will not be allowed to change it subsequently or cast the vote again. A member may participate in the AGM even after exercising his right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote again in the meeting.

• The remote e-voting period will commence on **Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 10:00 Hrs (IST) and end on Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 17:00 Hrs (IST)**. The remote e-voting shall be disabled by Kfin for voting thereafter. The voting rights of the members shall be in proportion to their shares in the paid up capital of the Company as on the cut off date.

• A person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a member of the company after the dispatch of notice and holding shares as on the Cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request to Kfin at einward.ris@kfinetech.com for e-voting and receiving all communication electronically.

• Members attending the AGM who have not cast their vote by remote evoting shall be eligible to cast their vote through evoting during the AGM. Members who have cast their vote by remote evoting shall be eligible to attend the AGM. However they shall not be eligible to vote during the AGM.

• The detailed instructions for joining the AGM and the manner of participation in the remote electronic voting or casting vote through the e-voting system during the AGM are provided in the Notice.

• In case of any query and/or grievance, in respect of voting by electronic means, Members may refer to the Help & Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and e-voting user manual available at the download section of <https://evoting.kfinetech.com> (KFin Website) or write at evoting@kfinetech.com or einward.ris@kfinetech.com or call KFin's Toll Free No. 1-800-309-4001 for any further clarifications.

• The Company has appointed Mr. Mirza Ismail Irshad Ahmed, Practicing Company Secretary, Chennai as the scrutinizer for conducting the e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner. The results will be declared by the Company not later than 48 hours of conclusion of the AGM on its website <https://www.starhealth.in> and communicated to the Stock Exchanges, where the shares of the Company are listed.

This is being issued for the information and benefit of all the members of the Company and is in compliance with the applicable circulars of the MCA and SEBI



Date: 31-07-2026
Place: Chennai

By the order of the Board
For **Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd**

Jayashree Sethuraman
Company Secretary



DEBJANI DUTTA @ Puducherry

IN many homes across Puducherry and the adjoining areas of Tamil Nadu, illness has reached a stage where medicine can no longer promise a cure. Yet, thousands of families fronting that reality aren't battling their ordeals alone, thanks to Sanjeevan and its team of caregivers. For the past 13 years, this community-based palliative care initiative has been quietly bringing home-based care to the elderly, chronically bedridden and terminally ill, proving that even when treatment ends, care does not have to.

An initiative of the Sri Aurobindo Society (SAS) in collaboration with the Institute of Palliative Medicine (IPM), Kozhikode, HelpAge India and Tata Trust, Sanjeevan is founded on the belief that end-of-life care should be holistic, compassionate and rooted in human dignity. "Rather than being disease-focussed, it is patient-centred, addressing physical, psychological, emotional, social and spiritual needs," says Kaushal Sharma of SAS. Providing home-based care with limited medical intervention has remained a constant challenge, he adds.

The programme began in 2013 with just 20 patients in Kuruvinatham village, following the advice of Dr Suresh Kumar from IPM Kerala, who continues to guide the project. Today, it has expanded to 118 villages and hamlets across Puducherry and adjoining parts of Tamil Nadu, serving 2,180 patients suffering from nearly 20 to 30 different medical conditions.

Palliative care is often misunderstood as care meant only for the final days of life. But Dr S Mohan, who has been associated with Sanjeevan since its inception, says that it is much broader than that.

The organisation operates a home-care support system with two doctors,



Dr S Mohan & the Sanjeevan Palliative Care team visit a patient in Puducherry; (right) Nurses inquiring about the health condition of a woman | SRI RAM R



The last line of care

For 13 years, Dr S Mohan has helped thousands face life-limiting illness with dignity through home-based palliative care in Puducherry and Tamil Nadu

FINAL COMFORT

four nurses and around 150 active volunteers, supported by volunteer physiotherapists and doctors. Families can contact the team between 9 am and 5 pm for advice, symptom management or emergency visits.

Patients are identified and categorised according to the severity of their condition. Those in the Red category are critically ill, often bedridden and suffering from severe symptoms such as advanced cancer. Orange category patients have intermittent symptoms requiring regular monitoring, while the green category largely comprises elderly patients with chronic illnesses who need supportive geriatric care.

Here, the care extends far beyond medicines. Doctors and nurses help families manage symptoms, prevent bedsores, provide physiotherapy guidance, teach feeding through Ryle's tubes, catheter care, tracheostomy care, safe positioning of bedridden patients, bathing, and other essential care. Equally important is counselling families coping with emotional stress and caregiver burnout, says Dr Mohan.

In many homes, these seemingly small acts — changing a dressing, teaching a caregiver, arranging an air mattress, or sitting beside a grieving family — have become lifelines. Patients are referred to hospitals whenever necessary.

According to Kaushal Sharma,

SAS Head Vijay Poddar has also incorporated a spiritual focus into the programme. During tough times, patients often dwell on negative thoughts and feel emotionally low. The aim is to help them approach the end of life calmly and peacefully, he says.

The need for palliative care is enormous. Out of every 1,000 people, nearly six require palliative care. Yet, sadly, only about 4% of those who need it actually receive such services

Dr S Mohan



Its capacity-building programmes have reached doctors, nurses, auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs), medical and paramedical students, police personnel, ASHA workers, anganwadi workers, self-help groups and even school students. Over the years, nearly 10,000 people have been trained, around 60% from the medical fraternity and the remaining from the community. Diploma-level courses are also conducted, and recognised certificates are issued, says Sharma.

The impact of Sanjeevan is perhaps best understood through the lives it touches. A 75-year-old woman in Murungapakkam became bedridden after suffering a stroke and later developed dementia. Her elderly husband could no longer care for her, while their unmarried daughter worked long hours at a petrol bunk to support the family.

According to Dr Mohan, the need for palliative care is enormous. "Out of every 1,000 people, nearly six require palliative care. Yet, sadly, only about 4% of those who need it actually receive such services." Though its mission remains intact, Sanjeevan's financial position has not been steady over the months. The initiative has been facing monetary challenges since the initial support from Tata Trust ended a year ago. The costs of paying staff, transportation, medicines, preparing case sheets, maintaining medical records and tracking patients are substantial. With a growing geriatric population, managing the programme is becoming increasingly difficult, Kaushal Sharma points out, adding that government support is now essential.

As Puducherry's population ages and chronic illnesses increase, Sanjeevan's home-care model shows that end-of-life care need not be confined to hospitals. Yet, sustaining that work remains a challenge.

(Edited by Subhalakshmi PR)



Social activist S Annadurai during an awareness camp on child labour and child marriage at Nilakottai in Dindigul district | EXPRESS

M P SARAVANAN @ Dindigul

ON the banks of the Vaigai near Anaipatti, a child once watched the water grow thinner year after year, like a promise slowly being withdrawn. Trees planted in hope were hacked down in greed, hills were bitten into by quarries, and children quietly disappeared from their homes. The land and its people were being traded away, debt by debt.

It was in this landscape that S Annadurai, a social activist from Dindigul, found his life's work. With over 25 years of social activism, he has established a school for the Paliyar tribes in Kodaikanal, rescued more than 50 child labourers in Nilakottai, and confronted illegal stone and sand mining in the district.

"My father, Sadamayan, was a farmer in Anaipatti in Nilakottai district, while my mother Santhanam was a homemaker. I grew up in a family with a brother and a sister in Anaipatti. During school days, my attention turned to the Vaigai river, which flowed near our village. Over time, the river's width had begun to shrink, and this deeply disturbed me," Annadurai recalls.

As the river narrowed, his questions widened. "The elders in my village and my schoolmates sparked my interest in environmental and ecological safety," he explains. "Together with my friends, I started planting trees in vacant areas of our village. But many of these trees were cut down by influential people with strong political ties. That reality gradually shaped my thinking."

If the Vaigai taught him to see, a week-long camp taught him where to look. His shift towards tribal welfare activism began in 1999, when he attended a camp organised by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB). There, he met local researcher Dr Dakshinamoorthy.

"Later, Dr Dakshinamoorthy sought my help to visit Paliyar tribes in Sirumalai for a research paper, where lo-

Visionary On A Mission



DRIVEN BY PURPOSE

cals revealed that wealthy individuals had trapped tribal groups as bonded farm labourers.

"I went to the area discreetly and offered help," he says. "I gave them my mobile number. One day, I received a call saying that the landlords had brutally assaulted them. I immediately went there with a team of social workers and we managed to rescue around 32 tribal workers."

Bonded labour, Annadurai realised, did not end with adults on farms. "A few months later, I started focusing on child rights and education," he says. "I have been able to rescue more than 50 children from Nilakottai who were engaged as labourers."

It began with children vanishing from local villages. One disappearance led him to Chellampatti, where a

single mother explained that a financier had taken her son to work in an Andhra Pradesh "murukku" factory. She had borrowed ₹20,000 and could not repay it. Her son had not returned home for three years. Annadurai said that he filed a complaint at a police station and provided them with the address of the factory. In turn, the Andhra Pradesh police traced the boy and brought him back home.

Annadurai's activism focuses on reshaping futures, notably through a school near Kodaikanal. In 2011, he visited the isolated, malnourished Paliyar families in Pallangi after six children died within weeks. Discovering 32 tribal children had never attended school—the nearest being 13 kilometres away—he raised ₹5 lakh from friends and relatives to build a local classroom. To overcome initial family hesitation and build trust, Annadurai distributed hens and goats. Supported by local teacher Pandiyammal, who volunteered to conduct classes, the school successfully opened doors for the community. In 2018, the school education department took over the administration of the school. Two more teachers were appointed, and additional classrooms and toilets were built.

For Annadurai, the river that disrupted his childhood still flows through his work, now choked by quarrying and mining dust. Following years of protest against illegal sand mining by local elites in Nilakottai, he successfully pushed authorities to increase surveillance and seize dozens of vehicles.

Annadurai strongly advocates for social activism to be included as a subject in the school curriculum. To him, activism should not be an accident that happens when someone stumbles upon injustice. It should be a taught, nurtured skill. His own path suggests what might be possible if more students learn what he learnt the hard way: that the distance between witnessing and intervening is just one decision.

(Edited by Divya Ramkumar)

S Annadurai

Discovering that 32 tribal children in Pallangi had never attended school, I raised ₹5 lakh to build a classroom for them. Now two teachers have been appointed by the school education department to hold classes for them

R KIRUBAKARAN @ Coimbatore

ALL throughout the journey of nearly 350 kilometres, right from his hometown in Tenkasi to Sular in Coimbatore district, R Gunesh, who was preparing for TNPSC examinations in 2024, grappled with the fear of staying put more than failure. For his family, like those of many aspirants, multiple failures were an unaffordable luxury. A piece of information he had received from one of his relatives about a centre offering coaching free of cost in the town in the west of the state was his beacon of hope.

The coaching centre, which operated out of a private library, offered Gunesh the mentorship and training he needed. However, financially strapped and unable to afford a place to stay in Sular, he was weeks away from turning back. Initha Thangavelu Kumar, the 58-year-old woman who runs the coaching centre, offered him accommodation at her house for nearly a year. "I'll never forget the help," said 25-year-old Gunesh, who now works as an official in the tribal welfare department in Chennai.

For five years, Initha, a civil engineer who worked as a coach for the Math Olympiad in Singapore, has been quietly lending a helping hand to such underprivileged students. When a group of married women sought her assistance in 2021 in preparing for competitive examinations, Initha repurposed the library established under the name of her late father — Su Ra Thangavelu, former Sular panchayat president who was integral to the establishment of the first sewage treatment facility in the town in 2003 — into the coaching centre, offering aspirants free-of-cost study materials and mentorship. The centre has since expanded its activities to include free weekend classes and employment guidance, with several students clearing Group II examinations and the Teacher Eligibility Test.

"A tier-2 city like Sular lacks such a facility to help students from underprivileged backgrounds," said

Sular's beacon of light & hope



Initha. A similar concern for her hometown was what prompted her in 2012 to make a decision to leave decades of career and life abroad. The sewage treatment plant (STP), one that her father worked hard to establish, faced operational challenges due to a lack of funds. "I started raising awareness about protecting waterbodies, and later joined the Neer Nilaikal Pathukappu Arakattalai as a coordinator," she said.

Working with the trust and the Rotary Club of So-manur, she made efforts to revive the STP by sourcing funds.

Today, the STP treats around seven lakh litres of sewage every day. The restoration of the treatment facility was the first of what would become a decade of projects carrying her father's name forward. So far, Initha has contributed person-

ally and sourced a total of ₹2 crore, through Corporate Social Responsibility funds and her NRI connections, to fund nearly 25 community projects, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. These projects included fencing two lakes in Sular to prevent illegal dumping of waste, installing additional solar power units to reduce the STP's electricity costs, procuring equipment to improve sewage treatment operations, and modernising the town's solid waste management system.

Initha is actively involved in planning a sewage treatment facility for Sular Big Lake. In collaboration with the Worldwide Fund for Nature, she conducted afforestation, waterbody clean-up and beautification drives, and restoration programmes such as the creation of butterfly habitats around the lakes in Sular. Initha heads the alumni association of the Sular Government Girls Higher Secondary School. In 2015, through the All-Women Alumni Trust, she made efforts to bring together former students from different generations and raise a total of ₹38 lakh for restoring the century-old school building. With ₹12 lakh government assistance under the Namakku Naame Scheme, an auditorium-cum-library was established at the school. Initha has also made efforts to secure educational scholarships for many first-generation graduates and sports equipment for athletes in the town.

"I believe social service, paired with active community participation, can help drive profound change," she said, adding that sustainable progress requires the collective effort of all members of society.

(Edited by Thamizhamudhan Sekar)

SUSTAINABLE PROGRESS

Q

I spread awareness about protecting waterbodies and later joined Neer Nilaikal Pathukappu Arakattalai as a coordinator and made efforts to secure funding for reviving the sewage treatment plant

Initha Thangavelu Kumar



Initha Thangavelu Kumar at the S R Thangavelu Free Library in Sular, Coimbatore district | S SENBAGAPANDIYAN

CM Vijay, guv congratulate TN athletes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

GOVERNOR RV Arlekar and Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Saturday congratulated Indian athletes Raja Muthupandi, Praveen Chithravel and Selva Prabhu for winning medals at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow, Scotland. CM Vijay announced that the Tamil Nadu government would provide a cash incentive of ₹30 lakh to Praveen Chithravel and ₹20 lakh to Selva Prabhu.

Muthupandi won the silver medal in the men's 65kg weightlifting event, and Chithravel Tiruvarur district and Prabhu of Madurai won winning the silver and bronze medals, respectively, in the men's triple jump event. Arlekar noted it is India's first-ever double podium finish in men's triple jump at the Commonwealth Games and said their performance would inspire young athletes across the country.

Vijay said it was a matter of pride that two athletes from Tamil Nadu – Chithravel and Prabhu - had won medals in the same event. He added both athletes had trained in sports hostels run by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, which showed the strength of the state's sports training system.

HC raps state govt for leaving an SIT headless

About 3,000 depositors lost 300kg of their pledged gold in the scam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Madras High Court has severely criticised the state government for leaving a special investigation team (SIT), set up for probing a gold scam, headless and sought the home secretary to give an explanation on the matter.

The case involves Ruby Royale Jewelers and Bankers, West Mambalam, which allegedly cheated about 3,000 depositors and swindled about 300 kg of gold by luring them to pledge their ornaments.

The SIT was constituted by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the CB-CID as per the earlier orders of the court. SP M Thillai Natarajan had been heading the team but after he was transferred, the team is left head-

less. When the case came up for hearing recently, Justice K Kumaresh Babu expressed dismay over keeping the head's post vacant without nominating any officers to lead the SIT.

"This court is unable to appreciate the manner in which the SIT had become hopeless for the reasons best known to the parties," he remarked.

The judge directed the home secretary to submit an explanation as to why the SIT has been left without a head and directed him to appoint forthwith a responsible officer to the post in consultation with the DGP.

He adjourned the matter to August 7 for further hearing. Advocate Chevanan Mohan represented the Reserve Bank of India, which is one of the respondents in the case.



Man out on bail after killing daughter last year stabs wife at her workplace, arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A 38-year-old man, who was arrested last year on charges of murdering his seven-year-old daughter and enlarged on bail, was arrested on Saturday after he allegedly barged into a bank in Kilpauk and stabbed his wife, a cashier, with a sharp weapon in front of the staff and customers, leaving her seriously injured.

Killed daughter at hotel

Sathish was arrested in July last year on charges of killing the couple's seven-year-old daughter, Steffi Rose. Investigators had said that after a quarrel with Rebecca, he took the child to a hotel in Alandur, slit her throat and later attempted suicide.

The victim, Rebecca (30) was rushed to a private hospital,

where she is undergoing treatment. Police said Sathish entered the Kilpauk bank branch on Saturday afternoon and attacked Rebecca while she was on duty. He was taken into custody soon after.

Sources said Sathish, a resident of Ekangipuram in Ayana-varam fell in love with Rebecca and got married, but was living separately for many months now following frequent domes-

tic disputes.

According to the police, Sathish was arrested in July last year on charges of killing the couple's seven-year-old daughter, Steffi Rose. Investigators had said that after a quarrel with Rebecca, he took the child to a hotel in Alandur, slit her throat and later attempted suicide. He was arrested after recovering from his injuries and was sent to judicial custody.

Trucker-influencer booked after 'sting operation' at Elavur checkpoint

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Arambakkam police registered a case against Rajasthan-based truck owner and Instagram influencer Shyam Lal Nokha (35) after he claimed to have conducted a sting operation to expose alleged illegal collection of money at the Elavur Integrated Check Post near Gummidipoondi in Tiruvallur district. He was arrested and later released on station bail.

According to the police, Shyam Lal runs the Instagram page

trucked shyamlal, which has over 2.06 lakh followers. He regularly posts videos highlighting issues faced by truck drivers and illegal money collection at toll plazas and check posts.

The police said, on Friday, while passing through the Elavur check post, Shyam Lal recorded a video claiming to expose illegal money collection. The video that went later went viral on social media shows him alleging bribe collection from truck drivers and urging bystanders to record the incident. He also said

in the video "Thalapathy Vijay" has asked not to pay money.

Based on a complaint lodged by an RTO inspector, the Arambakkam police registered a case against Shyam Lal for allegedly threatening officials and damaging public property. The police also said the check post does not have a FASTag facility and that the prescribed user fee is collected as per the established procedure.

DVAC had recently conducted a raid at the same check post and seized ₹4.32 lakh in cash.

Man found dead near police booth

CHENNAI: A 39-year-old man was found dead with a deep cut injury to his neck near a police booth close to Ellaiyammam Temple on Tiruvottiyur High Road early on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Dural Babu (39) of Gomathia Nagar in Tiruvottiyur who had left home on Friday night following an argument with his wife. He is survived by his wife Sujatha and two sons. Preliminary investigation suggests that Dural Babu died by suicide following family-related issues. Further investigation is underway. The Tiruvottiyur police recovered the body and sent it to the Govt Stanley Medical College Hospital for postmortem. ENS

EXPRESS READ



As part of its 120th Foundation Day celebrations, Indian Bank launched a series of commemorative activities under the banner 'Foundation Day Fortnight' on Saturday. Binod Kumar, MD & CEO, administered the pledge reaffirming bank's commitment to customer-first banking | EXPRESS



Subba Rao takes charge as Southern Rly GM

Chennai: U Subba Rao, a 1987-batch officer of the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME), took charge as the GM of Southern Railway on Saturday, succeeding R N Singh who held the position from November 2022 to July 2026. Prior to this, Rao served as the GM of ICF, Chennai. Meanwhile, 1989-batch IRSME officer Manish Agarwal has taken charge as the GM of ICF.

Iridium scam: Key accused held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE CB-CID arrested a key accused in the multi-crore iridium investment scam after arresting him at Chennai International Airport on his arrival from Bahrain. The accused, identified as Suresh Kumar, was remanded in judicial custody on Saturday.

The case was registered by the CB-CID organised crime unit in Salem in March 2025 based on a complaint from the Reserve Bank of India. The accused allegedly cheated investors by

claiming that the central government had credited thousands of cores through RBI as proceeds from the sale of iridium copper and collected service charges to release the purported funds.

According to CB-CID, the syndicate used forged documents bearing the names of RBI, DRDO, BARC and the I-T department, besides fake iridium samples, to dupe victims.

So far, CB-CID has identified 50 victims and arrested 20 accused in 47 iridium scam cases.



(L to R) N Kumar, chairman, The Sanmar Group Corporate Board; Dr Nalli Kuppuswami Chetti, chairman, Nalli Silks; Dr HV Hande, former TN minister; and Vijay Sankar, chairman, Sanmar Group; at the release of the biography of Sankaralinga Iyer | EXPRESS

Biography on Sanmar Group founder released

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Sanmar Group on Saturday unveiled a biography of its founder, SNN Sankaralinga Iyer, one of South India's pioneering industrialists whose entrepreneurial ventures helped shape the country's industrial landscape in the pre-Independence era.

Titled *Cementing Legacies: The Life of SNN Sankaralinga Iyer – A Pioneering Polymath*, the book, authored by journalist K Balakumar, traces the life and legacy of the businessman, who is the great-grandfather of Sanmar Group chairman Vijay Sankar.

Sankaralinga Iyer founded several landmark enterprises, including Indo-Commercial Bank and The India Cements, at a time when institutional support for Indian entrepreneurs was limited. Drawing on his banking experience, he ventured into sectors such as salt, rubber, ink, cement and chemicals, reflecting his belief in India's economic self-reliance. Among his notable achievements was leading The India Cements' public issue—the first in independent India—which was oversubscribed.

The biography also explores his life beyond business, highlighting his nationalist ideals, Gandhian values, philanthropy and passion for languages. A firm believer that language should unite rather than divide, he learnt Hindi in his thirties, authored a Hindi primer and wrote novels in the language.

The book recounts several lesser-known aspects of his life, including his determination in establishing the Thalaiyuthu cement plant after an extensive search for limestone reserves in Tirunelveli. When production began at the plant in 1949, his focus quickly shifted to marketing Sankar Cement and developing Thalaiyuthu into a township modelled on Jamshedpur. It also recounts how, after a near-fatal car accident in 1958, his first concern upon regaining consciousness was the safety of his driver.

E-mail ID: sectrb_2006@yahoo.co.in
Tel/Fax – 0671-2301751/2302571

Government of Odisha
Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CCE.Ctc.(R&B) 6/2026-27
OFFICE ORDER No. 4419 Date. 30.07.2026

Tender Reference-No. CCE.Ctc.(R&B) 6/2026-27
34001/571/2627: The Bid availability period and Date of opening of the tenders have been modified due to unavoidable circumstances. The modified dates are as follows: -

Sl. No.	Bid Identification No.	Bid Availability period as per Tender Notice	Revised Bid Availability period	Bid opening Date as per Tender Notice	Revised opening Date
1	CCE.Ctc.(R&B) 6/2026-27	30.07.2026 to 5.30 Hours of 13.08.2026	04.08.2026 to 5.30 Hours of 18.08.2026	14.08.2026 at 11.00 Hours	19.08.2026 at 11.00 Hours

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. Further details can be seen from the website <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
Kataka (R&B) Circle

OIPR- 34001/34012/1/26-27/0024

SBI State Bank Of India
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch - II
No.44, 1st Floor, Eldams Road, Teynampet, Chennai-600018.
Email: sbi.70674@sbi.co.in

Authorised Officer's Details Name: Shri.K.C.Meena Mobile No: 8699009584

City Case Officer details: Name: Shri.K. Ranjeethkumar Mobile No: 9486848516

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (See Proviso to Rule 8 (6))

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **State Bank of India**, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on below mentioned dates for the recovery of the dues to the **State Bank of India, SARB II, Chennai** from the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) as mentioned below.

Sl.No. 1: BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Shri. Anbu. S. S/o. Subramani, (1) No.26, Thirumalai Nagar, Korattur, Chennai – 600080. (2) Flat No.607, The Village, Tower 3, Kalavakam, Chengalpattu District, Kancheepuram – 603110. (3) Flat No.706, The Village, Tower 3, Kalavakam, Chengalpattu District, Kancheepuram – 603110.

Outstanding Amount : Rs.1,64,16,979/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Four Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Nine Hundred And Seventy Nine Only) in Housing loan as on 31.07.2026 with future interest, costs, etc.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Name of the Title Deed Holder Mr. Anbu S S/o. Subramani Description of the property SCHEDULE – "A"
All that land and measuring Acres. 35.7483 Cents comprised in Survey Nos. 225/3B, 226/1C, 227, 229/1A, 241/2B/3B, 247/6A, 247/7B, 247/7C, 247/10, 248/1, 248/2, 248/3, 248/4, 248/5, 248/6, 248/7, 248/8, old Survey No.199/2 New Survey 258/14 of Kalavakkam Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu and bounded as follows: North by : Survey No.223, 241 (P), 231 (p); South by : Survey No.229/2, 241 (P), 228, 229/1B ; East by : Survey No.242 ; West by : Road, Within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and Sub Registration District of Tiruppur **SCHEDULE – "B"** Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land in Schedule 'A' Property admeasuring 402.93 Sq. Feet of share in the land in Schedule 'A' Property **SCHEDULE – "C"** Residential Apartment bearing No.607 in Sixth Floor of Tower '3' in the Project with 1221 Sq. Feet and One no. of car parking area space in the Basement/still level.

Status of Possession : Physical

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 42,00,000/- EMD ₹ 4,20,000/- BID INCREMENT AMOUNT ₹ 25,000/-

Sl.No. 2 : BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Mr. A. Joshua,
(1) No.87, 1st Floor, West Balaji Nagar Extn, Thendral Nagar 1st Street, Ambattur, Chennai – 600053.
(2) Josph Agro Agency, Plot No.142, Flat No.F4, 1st Floor, RKR Building, Periyar Cross Street, Keelayambakkam, Chennai-600095.
(3) Plot No.4 & 5, Flat No. S4, Second Floor, Sri Sai Shelter, Sushil Nagar, Unnamanchery, Chennai – 600048.
(4) Plot No.4 & 5, Flat No. G1, Ground Floor, Sri Sai Shelter, Sushil Nagar, Unnamanchery, Chennai – 600048.

Outstanding Amount : Rs.1,23,90,472/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Three Lakhs Ninety Thousand Four Hundred And Seventy Two Only) in Housing loan as on 31.07.2026 with future interest, costs, etc.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Name of the Title Holder Mr. A. Joshua S/o. Arokiasamy: SCHEDULE "A": All that piece and parcel of Vacant House site, bearing Plot No.4, measuring an extent of 1943 Square feet, and Plot No.5 measuring 2194 square feet, totally 4137/square feet, comprised in Survey No.95/2A part, 95/3 part and 98/2, Old Patta No.1920, New Patta No.2172 as per patta New Sub divided Survey No.98/18 and Patta No.2171, New Survey No.98/19, in the layout named SUSHIL NAGAR, situated in No.12, UNAMANCHERI Village, Vandalur Taluk, Chengalpattu District, within the Registration District of Chennai South and the Sub Registration District of Guduvancheri, within the limits of Kattankulathur Panchayat union and Unnamanchery Village Panchayat Bounded on the North by – Plot No.3 ; South by – Plot No.6, East by – Vacant Land ; West by -20 feet wide road Measuring East to West on the Northern Side : 54 feet, East to West on the Southern Side: 60 feet, North to South on the Eastern Side: 75 feet, North to South on the Western Side: 70 feet **SCHEDULE – "B":**An undivided 390 sq.ft., out of the total extent of 4137 sq.ft., title and interest in the schedule 'A' property mentioned herein above **SCHEDULE – "C":**Flat bearing No.G-1, ground Floor measuring a built up area of 934 Square feet inclusive of all common areas or thereabouts constructed in Ground floor with car parking at Schedule-A property.

Status of Possession : Physical

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 25,00,000/- EMD ₹ 2,50,000/- BID INCREMENT AMOUNT ₹ 25,000/-

Encumbrances known to the Bank, if any : NIL

Date and Time of Inspection of Properties: 17.08.2026, between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 24.08.2026 Time: 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM With auto time extension of 10 minutes each till sale is completed

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor's website www.sbi.co.in and <https://baanknet.com>

Date : 31.07.2026
Place : Chennai

Authorized Officer,
State Bank of India, SARB-II, Chennai

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
A Government of India Undertaking

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
No.168, Second floor, Linghi chetty street, Parrys Corner, Chennai-600001. Ph: 91375 54740
Email: ubin0554740@unionbankofindia.bank.in

ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s).

The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

Sl.No.1: Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: 1) Mr. A.Vijaya Baskar S/o Mr. S.Arumugam & 2) Mrs. Chandra Baskar W/o. Mr.A.Vijaya Baskar, Both are Address 1: No. 44, Heritage Garden, Venkateshwara Nagar, Porur, Chennai 600116. Address 2: Flat No.F2 1st Floor, Henna Castle, Plot No.1, 15th street, Vallai Pari Nagar, Pallikarnai, Chennai 600100. Address 3: 17/3 Tiruveedhi Amman Koil Street, Seethapathi Nagar, Velacherry Chennai 600042. Address 4: No.3, 1st cross street, Kannan Nagar, Madipakkam, Chennai 600091. Address 5: Flat No.S2, 2ND Floor, Henna Castle, Plot No.1, 15th Street, Vallai Pari Nagar, Pallikarnai, Chennai 600100.

Amount due: Rs.44,18,079.53 as on 30.06.2026 plus interest, penal interest if any plus costs and expenses

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: Schedule A - As per Sale deed No 7167/2014 All that piece and parcel of vacant land situated at pallikarnai village, vallai pari nagar, 15' street, old patta No 2092 comprised in SNo 399/2B, New Patta No 14208 As per patta survey No 399/146 CMDA regularization permit No 24A, vide letter No 1275/01 dated 11.06.2004 planning permit No 97358/209/10 letter No 721/10 dated 24.09.2010 bearing plot No 1 admeasuring an extent of 1921 sqft in Sholinganallur taluk, Kancheepuram district bounded on the North by: Vacant Land, South by: Plot No. 2, East by: 20 Feet Road, West by: S. No. 399/2A Admeasuring East to west on the northern side – 29 feet & on the southern side 39 feet North to south on the eastern side – 57 feet & on the western side 56 feet **Schedule B - As per MOD No 1609/2016** All that piece and parcel of flat bearing No. S-2, in the second floor, having a super built up area of 794 sq. ft., to be constructed along with an undivided share of land of 369 sq. ft., out of 1921 sq. ft., with covered car park bearing Plot no. 1, comprised in S. No. 399/2B,(as per Revenue Records S. No. 339/146), PALLIKARANAI Village, Sholinganallur Taluk, Kancheepuram District and bounded on the: North by: Vacant Land, South by: Plot No. 2, East by: 20 Feet Road, West by: S. No. 399/2A Within the registration Sub-Registration of joint 1 Saidapet and Registration District of Chennai South

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 31,50,000/- EMD ₹ 3,15,000/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 50,000/- POSSESSION Constructive

Sl.No.2: Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: 1) Mrs. Chandra Baskar W/o Mr. A.Vijaya Baskar & 2) Mr. A. Vijaya Baskar S/o Mr. S. Arumugam, Both are Address 1: No. 44, Heritage Garden, Venkatesh Wara Nagar, Porur, Chennai 600116. Address 2: Flat No.F2, 1st Floor, Henna Castle, Plot No.1, 15th Street, Vallai Pari Nagar, Pallikarnai, Chennai 600100. Address 3: 17/3, Tiruveedhi Amman Koil Street, Seethapathi Nagar, Velacherry Chennai-600042. Address 4: No. 3, 1st Cross Street, Kannan Nagar, Madipakkam, Chennai-600091. Address 5: Flat No S2, 2nd Floor, Henna Castle, Plot No.1, 15th Street, Vallai Pari Nagar, Pallikarnai, Chennai 600100.

Amount due: Rs.39,74,850.77 as on 30.06.2026 plus interest, penal interest if any plus costs and expenses

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: Schedule A - As per Sale deed No 4497/2013 All that piece and parcel of vacant land situated at pallikarnai village, vallai pari nagar, 15' street, old patta No 2092 comprised in SNo 399/2B, New Patta No 14208 As per patta survey No 399/146 CMDA regularization permit No 24A, vide letter No 1275/01 dated 11.06.2004 planning permit No 97358/209/10 letter No 721/10 dated 24.09.2010 bearing plot No 1 admeasuring an extent of 1921 sqft in Sholinganallur taluk, Kancheepuram district bounded on the North by: Vacant Land, South by: Plot No. 2, East by: 20 Feet Road, West by: S. No. 399/2A Admeasuring East to west on the northern side – 29 feet & on the southern side 39 feet North to south on the eastern side – 57 feet & on the western side 56 feet **Schedule B - As per MOD No 3269/2015** All that piece and parcel of flat bearing No. S-2, in the first floor, having a super built up area of 794 sq. ft., constructed along with an undivided share of land of 369 sq. ft., out of 1921 sq. ft., with covered car park bearing Plot no. 1, comprised in S. No. 399/2B,(as per Revenue Records S. No. 339/146), PALLIKARANAI Village, Sholinganallur Taluk, Kancheepuram District and bounded on the: North by: Vacant Land, South by: Plot No. 2, East by: 20 Feet Road, West by: S. No. 399/2A Within the registration Sub-Registration of joint 1 Saidapet and Registration District of Chennai South.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 31,50,000/- EMD ₹ 3,15,000/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 50,000/- POSSESSION Constructive

S.No.3: Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: Mr. K. Ramesh, S/o Mr. Kuppan, 1) No. 1, 12th street, Krishna nagar Nerukundram, Koyambedu Chennai 600107. 2) 345, Mariyamman Koil Street, kasabakaran, Villupuram, Tamilnadu 605203. 3) Shop no. H-88, Periyar Market koyambedu, Virugambakkam S.O Virugambakkam, Chennai,Tamilnadu 600092. 4) Flat No S 1 second floor, Plot No 27 Sri vari nagar, Nandivaram, Guduvanchery, Chengalpattu 803211. 5) M/s K.R.K Vegetables, Commission Prop. Mr. Ramesh, S/o Kuppan, No. 36, K.R.K Vegetables,Mugalivakkam, Kumutham Nagar, Porur, Manapakkam Main Road, Chennai 600125. Also at: B121, Periyar vegetable market, Koyambedu, Chennai 600107.

Amount due: Rs 55,19,826.15 as on 30.06.2026 plus interest, penal interest if any plus costs and expenses

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: Mortgage of Immovable property described herein below (as MOD): SCHEDULE 'A' All that piece and parcel of VACANT HOUSE SITE, measuring to an extent of 2062 sq. ft, bearing plot no.27, an (Director of town and country planning C.S.A.R.D.T & C.P.M. 87-529/L.P.372) named as 'SRIVARI NAGAR', comprised in Survey No. 454/2 Patta no 9454, as per patta in New Survey No 454/2A1B, situated at No.6, NANDEVARAM VILLAGE, Chengalpattu Taluk and Chengalpattu District, Bounded on the: South by: Shop site and 23 Feet Road, North By: Vacant plot, East By: Plot No. 26 & 23 Feet Road, West By: Vacant Land, Measuring - East to West On the Northern Side: 47 Feet, On the Southern Side: 31 Feet - 14 Feet, North to South On the Eastern Side: 39 Feet On the Western Side: 47 Feet In all measuring to an extent of 2062 Sq. Ft. or thereabouts. Lying within the registration district of south Chennai and sub-registration office at Guduvanchery. **SCHEDULE 'B'** An Undivided 395 sq. ft share in the Schedule 'A' Land. **SCHEDULE 'C'** Flat No. "S-1" in SECOND floor with 1035 Sq. Feet super built up area including common area.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 28,00,000/- EMD ₹ 2,80,000/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 2,50,000/- POSSESSION Constructive

Sl.No.4: Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: Mr. Alagusundaram, S/o Mr. Balu, Address 1) 9/10 Sankarnarayanan flat, Angamuthu street, Saligramam, Chennai 600093. Address 2) Kritika productions Flat No S1 second floor, salim Dave Castle Logiaah colony, 1st main Road, Saligramam Chennai 600093. Address 3) 6/25 Anjukam street, Choolai palam, KK Nagar, Chennai 600078. Address 4) Flat No C1, Third floor, Majestic flats, SRP nagar extension, 7th Cross Street, Semmanchery Chennai 600119.

Amount due: Rs.83,49,381.12 as on 30-06-2026 plus interest, penal interest if any plus costs and expenses

Description of Immovable Property: Schedule of Property as per MDTD - Schedule A All that piece and parcel of vacant land being house site situated in Semmanchery village, SRP Nagar, 7th cross street, Sholinganallur taluk, chennai corporation area, comprised in survey No 385/1 part, present patta No 6523 as per patta survey No 385/38 bearing plot No 148 measuring an extent of 2400 sqft, Bounded on the North by – 21 feet 7th cross street, south by – survey no 385/2, east by – plot no 149, west by plot no 147 Measuring on the North and south side – 50 feet, East and west side – 48 feet in all total measuring 2400 sqft and lying within the sub registration district of Neelankara and registration district of south chennai. **Schedule B – Property hereby conveyed as per MDTD** Construction of built up area of 1126 sqft at the third floor, Flat No C-1, (Approved by corporation of chennai vide its planning permit No PPA/WOC/15/3503/2020 dated 24.07.2020 and building permit No BA/CDD/15/2874/2020 dated 24.07.2020) in the 404 sqft of undivided share of land in the Schedule A mentioned property.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 43,20,000/- EMD ₹ 4,32,000/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 1,00,000/- POSSESSION Constructive

Encumbrance known to secured creditor: Nil
(However intending bidders are advised to verify the EC and satisfy themselves before submitting bid)

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 27.08.2026 between 12.00 Noon to 05.00 PM E-Auction website: <https://BAANKNET.COM>
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)

Interested bidders for Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit: <https://BAANKNET.com> & For queries contact Number: 8291220220 & Email ID: support.BAANKNET@psb.alliance.com. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.bank.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx> and <https://www.unionbankofindia.bank.in>. For auction related queries e-mail to ubin0554740@unionbankofindia.bank.in or Contact: Union Bank of India, Chennai – Asset Recovery Branch, No.168, Linghi Chetty Street, 2nd Floor, Parrys Corner, Chennai-600001., Mob. No. Sl.No.1 to 4 : 9724129265/9137554740.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.
This may also be treated as notice u/r 8 & 9 of security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-auction Sale on the above-mentioned date.

Date: 29.07.2026
Place: CHENNAI

Authorized Officer,
Union Bank of India

TN Fact Check Unit name changed, Vijay fan club head is chief

PRABHAKAR TAMILARASU
@Chennai

THE TVK government has renamed the Tamil Nadu Fact Check Unit as the Information Integrity Desk (IID) and put TVK's social media head Guru, popularly known as Guru Thalaiva, founder of the Online Thalopathy Fans Club, in charge, official sources said.

Separately, TVK IT wing co-ordinator Dhivya has been appointed special officer of the social media desk under the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR).

The IID's mandate, according to sources, remains largely unchanged from its previous form which is identifying misinformation and manipulated content, verifying claims against official sources, publishing evidence-based fact checks, and containing panic before it spreads. Guru heads the unit with Prasanna as the IID lead and Sujitha as the public relations officer.

For anyone submitting a claim to be checked, the process runs on a Ticket-Based Tracking System where every request gets a unique ticket ID that follows it from the moment it's received to the moment a fact check is published, logging the source of the claim, the fact-checker assigned, the department involved, the nodal officer contacted, and the department's response to it.

"The mechanism has been introduced to ensure accountability, transparency, traceabil-

ity and complete auditability," sources said.

High-priority claims are to be addressed within an hour, medium-priority within three hours, and low-priority within seven, with departments instructed to respond even outside office hours, since misinformation doesn't "wait for business hours", sources said. Each department has nominated a single nodal officer to liaise with the IID, and a dedicated WhatsApp group connects IID officials with them.

Alongside the IID, DIPR has also set up a separate social media desk, having a six-tier hierarchy running from the DIPR director and joint director (social media) down through a public relations officer, special officer, senior programme coordinators and writers, to technical assistants and graphic designers.

Dhivya is placed at the fourth tier as special officer and will also serve as the point of contact for quality clearance before content is despatched.

The previous DMK government set up the Tamil Nadu Fact Check Unit on October 6, 2023, naming Iyan Karthikeyan, former editor-in-chief of fact-check platform YouTurn.in, as mission director; Minister C T R Nirmal Kumar, then with the AIADMK, had challenged both the unit's constitution and Karthikeyan's appointment in the Madras High Court. He withdrew the case subsequently.

Will move SC on Monday to make Karnataka release water: Minister

Rejecting all-party meet demand, Kumar says House already adopted unanimous resolution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Madurai

TAMIL Nadu will move the Supreme Court on Monday against Karnataka for failing to comply with the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) directions to release water to the state, Minister for Law C T R Nirmal Kumar said on Saturday.

Addressing media persons in Madurai, the minister said Karnataka had ignored the direction to release 3,500 cusecs of water from July 29. He said the state would seek the release of the directed quantum, equivalent to about 4.5 tmcft, besides an additional 17 tmcft that, according to Tamil Nadu's flow calculations, remained due over the past three months.

Stating that the chief minister had approved legal action, Nirmal Kumar said the government would pursue the case until a permanent solution to the recurring Cauvery dispute is achieved. He alleged that Karnataka had repeatedly released water only after court intervention and stressed that Tamil Nadu would seek strict enforcement of the directions of Cauvery authorities.

Rejecting the Opposition's demand for an all-party meeting, the minister said the Assembly had already adopted a unanimous resolution on the issue.

He accused the AIADMK and the BJP of taking contradictory positions after supporting the resolution.

Responding to questions on electricity billing, the minister said a revalidation of 15,000 power connections found mismatches in only around 100 cases, largely due to estimated readings at locked premises. He also said nearly 73,000 agricultural electricity connection applications were pending and the government would announce fresh allocations in the state Budget after reviewing available resources.



Minister Kumar with children at Race Course stadium in Madurai on Saturday | EXPRESS

Stalin slams Vijay for 'solo' approach, asks if all-party meet will ever be held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

ACCUSING Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay of "going solo" on the Cauvery issue, DMK president M K Stalin on Saturday asked whether the Tamil Nadu government would ever convene an all-party meeting to deliberate on the river water sharing dispute.

"All political party leaders and farmers' associations in Tamil Nadu had warned that talks with Karnataka on the Mekedatu issue would not yield results. We had urged the chief minister not to

go to Karnataka," Stalin in a statement said.

The lesson from the past is clear: Tamil Nadu must fight legally against a state that has "categorically declared" it cannot supply water to us, the former CM added.

Further, Stalin said the "new CM" appeared to believe he could personally resolve the Cauvery issue by visiting Karnataka. "The moment the CWMA ordered Karnataka to release water to Tamil Nadu, they shut the door, saying, 'You need not come now'," he added.

"We had anticipated such a scenario. The chief minister must henceforth

DMK moves SC seeking directions to K'taka

CHENNAI: The DMK on Saturday moved the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Karnataka government for the immediate release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu. The party submitted that Karnataka must strictly follow the apex court's final 2018 verdict and comply with the directions issued by the CWMA.

PTI

approach the Cauvery issue only after proper consultation," Stalin said.

He also pointed out that Karnataka's CM had invited all parties for a meeting on August 2, demonstrating unity "through action".



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Balaji: TVK govt focused only on filing cases, not people's issues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

FORMER minister and DMK leader V Senthil Balaji on Saturday accused the TVK government of pursuing a political vendetta by foisting multiple cases on him, alleging that the administration was more interested in filing cases than addressing public grievances.

Speaking to media persons after signing at the Triplicane police station as part of the bail conditions in the TVK MLA horse-trading case, Balaji said, "Instead of functioning as a government that addresses

people's basic needs and grievances, this government is focussed only on filing cases."

He claimed his name was neither in the original complaint nor in the FIR but was added later. Balaji alleged that while he was complying with the bail conditions, the DVAC registered another case using material from an affidavit filed by the Enforcement Directorate and conducted searches at his residence and other locations.



FALLS OFF

In the wake of heavy rain in the Western Ghats, bathing has been banned at Five Falls at Courtallam in Tenkasi | V KARTHIK ALAGU

Stop recovery of crop loan instalments: PMK

Chennai: Mentioning several cooperative societies having issued notices demanding farmers to continue paying loan instalments despite the government announcement on the crop loan waiver, PMK president Dr Anbumani Ramadoss on Saturday asked TN to immediately stop them from collecting it. In a release, he also demanded immediate release of the waiver amount to societies.

'Shut 129 Tasmac shops near public spots'

Chennai: We the Leaders Foundation founder K Annamalai on Saturday urged Chief Minister Vijay to immediately close 129 Tasmac retail outlets that, according to his movement's ground assessment, are operating within a 500-metre radius of educational institutions, places of worship and bus stations across Tamil Nadu.

CPI, AMMK condemn oil pipeline through fields

Chennai: Opposing Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited's plan for an oil pipeline passing through agricultural lands in Tiruppur, the CPI and the AMMK urged the centre to change the network route and protect farmers' interests. CPI state secretary M Veerapandian said BPCL is implementing a 340-km pipeline project from Coimbatore to Karnataka. Nearly 70 km is through farms, he added.

ROW AS MIN PRAYS AT TIRUPATI HOLDING DRAFT AGRI BUDGET

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

MINISTER for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare R Vinodh offering prayers on Saturday at the Venkateswara temple in Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati, carrying alongside allegedly the draft Agriculture Budget for 2026-27 due for tabling in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on August 6, drew condemnation from various political parties and others.

CPI state secretary M Veerapandian in a statement said the draft Agriculture Budget was an official government document and should not have been used for a religious ceremony. He said India is a secular country where matters of religion and personal faith should remain separate from government functions. Placing the draft budget at a temple goes against the Constitution, he added.

The minister's claim that the prayers offered were towards the welfare of agriculture and farmers are unconvincing, Veerapandian said, urging the government to uphold secularism in official matters.

On the minister's act, the AIADMK IT wing questioned the propriety of taking the draft budget outside Tamil



Minister R Vinodh, carrying the draft Agriculture Budget for 2026-27, at the Tirupati temple on Saturday | EXPRESS

Nadu and using it during temple rituals. It violates the oath of secrecy taken by ministers and Assembly rules, the party wing stated, demanding action.

CPI(M) MP Su Venkatesan said budget documents were constitutional documents that explain how taxpayers' money would be spent and are "not offerings to God".

Joining the criticism, DMK students' wing deputy secretary Tamil Ka Amutharasan

called for a detailed inquiry into the minister's act and appropriate action in the event of violation of any law or Assembly rule.

Environmental activist G Sundarajan of Poovulagin Nanbargal also questioned the minister's visit, asking why he had taken the draft Agriculture Budget to Tirupati when farmers are in distress and expecting support from the Tamil Nadu government.

SC youth stabbed to death in Kodai in fight over horse on loose, four booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Dindigul

FOUR people have been booked under the SC/ST (PoA) Act after a Scheduled Caste youth was stabbed to death in Kodaikanal on Thursday night.

The deceased has been identified as V Ramar (28), a daily wageer from Poombarai panchayat in Kodaikanal, working in farmland around the hills.

The police said on July 30, a group from a dominant community led by J Ragavendran alias Raghu came to Ramar's house and told him that his horse was roaming on the road. Ramar along with his friend

Prasanth reached the spot to take the horse back.

At the time, an argument broke out between Raghu and Ramar, and the former abused Ramar, hurled casteist slurs at him and attacked him and Prasanth with a knife.

In this, Ramar died on the spot while Prasanth sustained severe injuries. The body was shifted to the Government Dindigul Medical College Hospital on Friday morning for post-mortem, while Prasanth was taken to the Theni government hospital.

K Chellamma, a relative of

Ramar, said, "Last year, when Ramar's horse entered the farmland owned by Raghu, it ended up in a fight. Though the issue was resolved, the duo often had disputes."

She denied the police version that the murder is the fallout of a quarrel that cropped up over grazing horses.

Meanwhile, Ramar's relatives refused to receive his body from the Dindigul government hospital claiming that more persons are involved in the murder. A police officer told *TNIE*, "Three more persons are being interrogated."



V Ramar

'Prosecution lapses': Ex-VC discharged in DA case

R SIVAKUMAR @Chennai

THE Madras High Court has ordered the discharge of former vice chancellor (V-C) of a state-run university and his family members from a disproportionate assets (DA) case registered by the DVAC in 2018.

The judgment was pronounced by Justice G K Ilan-thiraiyan on a criminal revision petition filed by P Murugesha Bhoopathi, who had served as V-C of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), his wife Jansirani, son MDinesh Kumar and daughter-in-law Krithika who prayed for setting aside the November 15, 2024, order of the special court for Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act cases which dismissed

their discharge petition.

The DVAC had registered the FIR against them for amassing ₹68.20 lakh disproportionate to known sources of income during the check period between June 1, 2006, and May 31, 2009, when Murugesha Bhoopathi was serving as a special PA to the then minister for agriculture. Murugesha served as professor when appointed as special PA. Later, he went on to become the V-C.

The FIR was registered in 2018 under various sections of the PC Act, 1988, and the IPC. The sanction for prose-

cuting him was obtained by the DVAC from the V-C of TNAU.

In the order passed on Friday, the judge referred to the advance amount and the properties acquired independently by the former V-C's wife, son (both were doctors) and daughter-in-law, and said the value of the alleged disproportionate assets would not amount to ₹68.20 lakh. "Thus, the prosecution has failed to consider the explanations and supporting materials of the accused with due application of mind. Consequently, the prosecution suffers from fundamental legal infir-

mities with regard to the validity of the sanction for prosecution and the computation," the judge said.

Concurring with senior counsel R Shunmugasundaram, the judge said the court accepts the contention that a sanction order accorded by an incompetent authority would render the trial or the proceedings against the accused "a nullity".

He concluded that there is no sufficient material to frame charges against the accused for the offences under Section 13(2) r/w 13(1)(e) of the PC Act, 1988, r/w 109 of the Indian Penal Code. Subsequently, he set aside the order of the special court and discharged the petitioners.



K'taka will give TN water only if dams are full: DKS

'Not possible to impound water in reservoirs when inflows increase'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

AS Wayanad in Kerala is receiving good rainfall and inflows into the Kabini Dam reached 12,000 cusecs, there could be temporary relief for Karnataka as it has to adhere to the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) order to release 3,500 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu over the next 15 days.

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday said the state will release water to Tamil Nadu, as directed by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), which upheld the CWRC order, only after its reservoirs reach capacity levels. He, however, pointed out that excess inflows cannot be dammed indefinitely.

The chief minister's statement comes amid rising protests over the CWMA direction to release water. He told reporters at the Mysuru Airport that Kabini Dam is receiving inflows of over 40,000 cusecs,



Chief Minister DK Shivakumar addressing the public in Mysuru on Saturday during his maiden visit to the district after assuming office as the Karnataka CM | EXPRESS

making it impossible to retain all the incoming water. He said, "Officials from both the Centre and state are closely monitoring the reservoir levels. No one can stop the natural flow of water."

He said the Kabini reservoir has reached its capacity because of abundant rainfall.

"We are all governed by nature. It is because of God's blessings that the reservoir has filled up," he remarked.

Referring to the Supreme Court verdict on the Cauvery dispute, he said Karnataka is

legally bound to release 177 tmcft of water annually to Tamil Nadu.

"The Supreme Court's judgment is a blessing for both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu as it safeguards the interests of both states," he remarked.

"With reservoirs filling to the brim because of good inflows, even if I tell officials not to release water, it is not practically possible to hold water back. Since it has to be released, I once again urge protesters not to enter rivers during demonstrations," he said.

Convict ward shut, prisoner guard duty turns 'punishment' for police

R KIRUBAKARAN @ Coimbatore

AS the 'convict ward' at the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH) closes for renovation, police personnel are being forced to monitor convicts admitted to the general ward among other regular patients.

With no chairs or beds to rest, the policemen lament that the punishment of the convicts is often lighter compared to the ordeal they have to go through monitoring the prisoners round-the-clock in the hospital.

"We admit the convicts in some corner of the general ward and sit around to guard them day and night," said one policeman stationed at the CMCH. For each prisoner, four police personnel are deployed



Police personnel monitoring prisoners at the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital general ward (top); the designated convict ward in the hospital is closed for renovation | EXPRESS

— two will keep vigil, while the other two rest until their shift to guard the prisoner resumes. However, there are no additional beds or chairs for them. Due to this, the police personnel said they often face severe physical and mental trauma.

"If nurses help out, we get a chair for a while and sleep seated on it. We struggle for basic amenities, including toilets and drinking water. Keeping prisoners in a general ward is very unsafe, and being put on monitoring duty feels like a punishment for us," said another police personnel.

In this backdrop, they have been demanding that a dedicated

ed 'convict ward' be reopened at the earliest.

The Coimbatore Central Prison houses over 2,000 inmates, and those requiring medical care beyond first aid at the prison hospital are admitted to the CMCH, which has a separate convict ward located next to the paediatric ward. It has adequate space to accommodate at least five to eight prisoners and police personnel. Since it is in a separate building, police were able to provide full protection.

But ongoing renovation works have forced them to shift the inmates to general wards. Security was stepped up after a criminal escaped from the CMCH on June 12. He feigned a restroom break, slipped through the women's ward and escaped, sources said.

EVM issues in ex-CM's Kolathur seat minor clerical error: Sameeran

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ELANGO said the tags appeared new and, though each machine carries two address tags, neither had been filled. He also alleged the sealing procedure had not been properly followed.

"The arakku (wax) seal is normally affixed on the backside of the address tag, whereas in this case it was found on the front. Further, whenever a control unit is opened for counting and sealed again, it should carry two arakku seals. That was also missing," he said. Elango further said the DMK had asked the election officials to preserve the machines from the booth, and claimed that of the eight machines verified so far, around 30% showed similar discrepancies.

"We do not find it necessary to participate further in the verification process. We will discuss the matter with our party leadership and proceed with the appropriate legal course," he said. When contacted, GCC commissioner Sameeran told *TNIE* that the address tags affixed outside the carrying cases of the ballot and control units had not been filled with the polling station address, but the polling station number was clearly written on the carrying cases themselves, and the serial numbers of the units, verifiable on opening the cases, could be cross-checked against records to identify each unit.

"Hence, it is a minor clerical error, which could be verified and corroborated with other records," he said.

Sameeran also referred to the verification at polling station 75, where the first stage was completed successfully on July 31, with polled votes shown to authorised representatives, and the pre-mock poll also completed without issues. During the mock poll, after around 412 votes were recorded, the VVPAT displayed "Error 2.9" and stopped functioning; the authorised representative was asked to choose an alternative VVPAT or EVM set to continue but opted to boycott

instead. He further said that if verification of the 14 machines cannot be completed in the presence of the candidate or chief election agent, guidelines allow it to be completed before the district election officer, with alternate EVMs picked at random and the entire process under mandatory video recording.

"We have sent a letter to the DMK representatives with the list of 10 randomly selected EVM sets and given them an hour to choose two. If they refuse, we will select two EVMs and complete the procedure before other political agents on video recording for submission to the Election Commission," he said, adding that the eight EVMs verified so far showed matching polled votes, candidate-wise vote counts, Form 20 tallies and preliminary mock poll counts.

Vizag set to be growth hub of Asia, says PM

VIZIANAGARAM: PM Narendra Modi on Saturday dedicated the greenfield Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport to the nation, launching a ₹17,900-crore multi-sectoral package that he declared would transform the Visakhapatnam Economic Region into a premier economic hub of Asia.

Describing the airport and associated projects as a definitive game-changer for AP, and a key national growth engine for a Viksit Bharat, the PM outlined an integrated roadmap linking aviation, port connectivity, and high-tech manufacturing across the state's northern belt. *ENS*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

IN retaliation, the DMK formally walked out of the opposition INDIA bloc at the national level. It may be recalled that the DMK, which had vehemently opposed the Delimitation Bill in Parliament, is said to have taken a "wait and watch" approach on the issue after losing the election in May 2026.

Some DMK leaders said the party would take a call on the issue after looking at the draft Bill. Earlier in the day, Rahul Gandhi met the families that have lost their loved ones to NEET-related suicides in Tamil Nadu.

Interacting at Mamallapuram with the relatives of those who took the extreme step allegedly due to NEET, he said, "Nothing is more painful than seeing a parent grieve their child. Behind every young life lost is a family carrying pain that will never leave them and serious

questions about a broken education system. Years of preparation were destroyed overnight. Our students are told to work honestly in a system that is not honest with them". Taking to X, Rahul said, "The tears of parents who have lost their children, their wailing — there is no greater sorrow than this. This grief will live with them forever and along with it remain many questions about this broken and corrupt education system."

Referring to paper leaks and cancelled exams, he said, "The PM has the audacity to talk about forgiving the students. Has he even met a single grieving family who has lost their child, or those whose entire savings, life, time, and dreams have been snatched away by paper leaks? The answer is no! India's students do not need the PM's forgiveness. Modi ji should apologise to them".



Rahul Gandhi

K'taka may have to release more water in coming days if inflows rise due to rain

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE storage went up to 82.65% by July 31, when inflow had risen to 9,133 cusecs. Despite this rise, the official said, Karnataka had held off releasing water even after repeated directions from the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) and the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), delaying the release until Saturday.

The official said Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar reportedly held a high-level meeting with the Water Resources Minister and senior officials in Bengaluru ahead of Saturday's all-party meeting on the Cauvery

KARNATAKA RESERVOIRS STORAGE AS ON JULY 31, 2026 (IN MCFT)			
Reservoir	Capacity (in mcft)	Storage (%)	Inflow (in cusecs)
Krishna Raja Sagar	49,452	35.81	7,058
Kabini	19,516	82.65	9,133
Harangi	8,500	95.54	4,008
Hemavathy	37,103	67.43	5,445

issue, as inflows into the Krishna Raja Sagar reservoir also rose following heavy rain across the Cauvery catchment.

With both Kabini and Krishna Raja Sagar nearing full capacity, Karnataka may have to release more water in the coming days if inflows continue, bringing relief

for farmers and residents downstream in TN tracking the Mettur reservoir's levels ahead of the delta cropping season.

Mettur, meanwhile, held 35.774 tmcft on Saturday — 38.27% of its 93.470 tmcft capacity — with officials closely monitoring the inflow situation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanhalli Hosur Main Road Bangalore- 560068

The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA). A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be enforced	Date of Notice sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Velmurugan M & Muthalakshmi Sankaranarayanan/ Door No. 81/8 Patta No. 3579 S No. 977/2, Anna Nagar 9th Street Kuthukalvalasai Vi, S No. 977/2A2A, Tenkasi- 627811/ LBTVI00006172493/ LBTVI00006244704	Schedule of Property In The Registration District of Tenkasi, Within The Jurisdiction Of The Tenkasi No. II Joint Sub Registrar Office, Situated In Kuthukalvalasai Village Falling Under The Limits Of The Tenkasi Panchayat Union, Comprised In Ayan Punjai Survey No. 977/2, Out Of The Total Extent of 1 Acre And 12 Cents, In The Northern Portion Measuring 25.71 Cents Out Of The Upper Extent of 56 Cents, Being The 5th Plot From West To East, Having An Extent of 4.69 Cents, Equivalent To 2,042.86 Square Feet or 189.78 Square Metres, Together With The House Property Bearing Door No. 81(8), Situated At 9th Street, Anna Nagar, Ward No. 5 of Kuthukalvalasai Village Panchayat. Boundaries: North: East- West Street, South: East-West Street, West: House Site of Pillaiyar, East: House Site of Ramakrishnan. Within The Above Boundaries, The House Site Measures: East- West On The Northern Side: 27.5 Feet, East- West On The Southern Side: 27.25 Feet, North- South On The Western Side: 75.25 Feet, North- South On The Eastern Side: 74 Feet. Together With The Rcc (Reinforced Cement Concrete) Residential Building Standing Thereon, All Fixtures And Fittings Attached Thereto, The Electricity Service Connection Bearing No. Sc 07-028-004-2853, The Borewell, Electric Motor, Toilet And Bathroom Facilities, And All Easementary, Appurtenant, And Ownership Rights Attached Thereto. The Above Schedule Property Is Correctly Described As Per The Schedule Particulars. Further, As Per The Present Subdivision Records And Patta No. 3579, The Property Is Comprised In Survey No. 977/2a2a.	June 23, 2026 Rs. 46,23,918.68/-	03/06/ 2026

These steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower/s and/or guarantor/s (as applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publishing this Notice. Else, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: August 02, 2026 Place: Chennai

Sincerely Authorised Officer For ICICI Bank Ltd.

यूनियन बैंक

Union Bank of India

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

No.98, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, Hasthinapuram, Chennai-600044, Mob.No – 9653621491, Email ID- ubin0821497@unionbankofindia.bank.in

HASTHINAPURAM BRANCH

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Constructive (Symbolic) Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: Borrowers: Mrs. A. PADMA, W/o. R. Jenith, Flat B2 Ground Floor, Block B, Vasanth Backiam, 161/36, 5th Street Thirumalai Nagar, Hasthinapuram Chennai 600044. Also at: S-2, East Lucky Flats, 6th Cross Street, Vinobahaji Nagar, Hasthinapuram, Kancheepuram, Tambaram - 600064.

Amount due: Rs 22.39,205.19 as on 16/03/2026 plus further interest and charges thereon

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE SECURED ASSETS TO BE SOLD: - 456 sqft., Undivided share of land out of 10592 sqft., and 1/3rd passage in 667 sqft., (i.e. 222.33 sqft.) in all total 10814.33 sqft., together with 776 sqft. built up area (Inclusive Common Area) in Flat No. B2, Block B, Ground Floor Inclusive of all Common Area and Common Shares in the name of the apartment known as "VASANTH BAKIAM", Comprised in Survey No. 14/2, Patta No.390, Plot No.225 (Western Portion), Situated at 5th Street, Thirumalai Nagar, "SEMBAKKAM VILLAGE" in Tambaram Taluk, Chengalpattu District within the Registration District of Chennai South and Sub Registration District of SELAIYUR. Bounded on the: North by :8th Street Thirumalai Nagar and Thirumalai Nagar Plots South by: Private property and Thirumalai Nagar Plots East by: Private Property West by: 5th Cross Street Thirumalai Nagar and Mr. C.Balakrishnan and Mr.S.Ethiraj Property. Situated within the sub-Registration District of Selaiyur and Registration District of Chennai South.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 33,54,000/- EMD ₹ 3,35,400/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 50,000/- POSSESSION CONSTRUCTIVE

Encumbrance known to secured creditor: Nil (However intending bidders are advised to verify the EC and satisfy themselves before submitting bid)

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 10.09.2026	between 12.00 Noon to 05.00 PM	E-Auction website: https://BAANKNET.COM
---	---------------------------------------	--

Interested bidders for Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit : <https://BAANKNET.COM/> & For queries contact Number: 8291220220 & Email ID: support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com, For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.bank.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx> and www.unionbankofindia.bank.in. For auction related queries e-mail to ubin0821497@unionbankofindia.bank.in or Contact: **Union Bank of India, Hasthinapuram Branch, No.98, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, Hasthinapuram, Chennai - 600044, Mr. Ajay Kant Bharti- 875953010**

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

This may also be treated as notice u/r 8 & 9 of security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-auction Sale on the above-mentioned date.

Date: 30.07.2026 Place: CHENNAI

Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

Repco Home Finance Limited

CORPORATE OFFICE: Alexander Square, No.2 (Old No.34 & 35), 3rd Floor, Sardar Patel Road, Guindy, Chennai-600032, Ph: (044)-4210 6650

POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of the Repco Home Finance Ltd.**, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice on the dates mentioned below**, calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers, Co-Borrowers and the Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, co-borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said rules on this the **28th day of July 2026**.

The Borrowers, Co-Borrowers, Guarantors and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Repco Home Finance Limited, Following Branches** for an amount and interest thereon mentioned below against each account.

We draw your attentions to Sec 13 (8) of the Securitisation Act as per which, no further steps shall be taken for transfer or sale of the secured asset, if the dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by secured creditor are tendered by you at anytime before the date fixed for sale or transfer of the secured asset.

S.No.1: (Anna Nagar Branch) Borrower: Mr.P.Mathimaran, (Deceased), S/o.Mr.S.Pitchai. Legal heirs of the Deceased: Co-Borrowers: 1.Mrs.M.Kannagi, W/o.P.Mathimaran, Old No.23, New No.24, Kalavanan Colony, 2nd Street, Anna Nagar West Extension, Chennai-600101, Also at, Survey No.253/14, Plot No.55, New Door No.24, Old Door No.23, 2nd Street, Kalavanan Colony, Anna Nagar West Ext, Near MMM Hospital, Chennai-600 101. 2.Mr.M.Charan, S/o.Mr.P.Mathimaran, Old No.23, New No.24, Kalavanan Colony, 2nd Street, Anna Nagar West Extension, Chennai-600 101, Also at, Pradeep Nursing Home, Plot No.23, New Door No.10, New India Colony, Swamy Nagar Main Road, Puzhithuvakkam, Chennai-600 091, Also at, Survey No.253/14, Plot No.55, New Door No.24, Old Door No.23, 2nd Street, Kalavanan Colony, Anna Nagar West Ext, Near MMM Hospital, Chennai-600 101. Legal heir of the deceased: Karthikeyan.M, S/o.Mr.P.Mathimaran, Old No.23, New No.24, Kalavanan Colony, 2nd Street, Anna Nagar West Extension, Chennai-600 101, Also at, Survey No.253/14, Plot No.55, New Door No.24, Old Door No.23, 2nd Street, Kalavanan Colony, Anna Nagar West Ext, Near MMM Hospital, Chennai-600 101. Demand Notice Date: 18.05.2026; Amount claimed as per demand notice (Loan Account No. NHL1012017008609/App No.235564) and NHL10303117008611 (App No.235571) and being ₹ 10,60,924/- & ₹ 16,88,422/- with further interest from 14.05.2026 onwards and other costs thereon; Amount Outstanding: ₹10,91,078/- and ₹17,46,893/- with further interest from 25.07.2026 onwards and other costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of land bearing Door No.23, Plot No.55, 2nd Street, Kalavanan Colony, Anna Nagar West Extension, Chennai - 600 101, comprised in Survey No.253/14 of Padi Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District measuring an extent of 0.01 cents or 434 Sq.ft. and the land being bounded on the: North: Street, South: Plot No.64 & 65, East: Plot No.56, West: Plot No.54, Admeasuring: East to West on the Northern Side: 31 Feet, East to West on the Southern Side: 31 Feet, North to South on the Eastern Side: 14 Feet, North to South on the Western Side: 14 Feet, **Total Extent 434 Sq.ft. of land together with building** and situated within the limits Registration District of Chennai Central and Sub - Registration District of Villavakkam.

S.No.2: (Ashok Nagar Branch) Borrower:Mr.R.Pandian, S/o.Mr.Rangasamy, No.9/29, 2nd Floor, Jakkammal Koil Street, PA Colony, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093, Also at, No.109, Audipattai Kottai, 2, Alamarathapattai, Aravakurichi,Karur-639 207, Also at, Pandian Traders, G51, Periyar Vegetable Market, Koyambedu, Chennai-600 107, Also at, S.No.56/4, New S.No.56/11, Ward No.1, Plot No.11B, T.S.No.266, Venkateswara Nagar Extension, Desappalil Street, Oragadam, Ambattur, Chennai-600 053. Co-Borrower: Mrs.Ganga Pandian, W/o.Mr.Pandian, No.9/29, 2nd Floor, Jakkammal Koil Street, PA Colony, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093, Also at, No.109, Audipattai Kottai, 2, Alamarathapattai, Aravakurichi, Karur-639 207, Also at, S.No.56/4, New S.No.56/11, Ward No.1, Plot No.11B, T.S.No.266, Venkateswara Nagar Extension, Desappalil Street, Oragadam, Ambattur, Chennai-600 053; Demand Notice Date: 07.05.2026; Amount claimed as per demand notice (Loan Account No. AHL1004015008616) being ₹43,50,000/- with further interest from 05.05.2026 onwards and other costs thereon; Amount Outstanding: ₹46,77,325/- with further interest from 25.07.2026 onwards and other costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of land and building consisting Ground Floor and First Floor, bearing Plot No.11-B, Desappalil Street, Venkateswara Nagar Ext, Ambattur, Chennai-600 053, Comprised in Old survey No.56/4, and New Survey No.56/11, as per TSLR Survey No.56/11part, T.S.No.266, Ward-A, Block No.1, As Per Document measuring to an extent of 850 Sq.ft, Situated at Oragadam Village, Ambattur Taluk, Chennai District, and the land being bounded on the: Bounded on the: North- Vacant Plot (Plot belongs to Rajaram Vagair), South - 20 Feet Wide Road, East - Plot No.11-C belongs to V.Pazhani, West - Plot No.11-A belongs to Anutha, Admeasuring East to West on the Northern side: 24 Feet 3 inches, East to West on the Southern side: 24 Feet 3 inches, North to South on the Eastern side: 36 Feet, North to South on the Western side : 34 Feet.

S.No.3: (Purasavakkam Branch) Borrower/Legal Heir of Late.Mr.P.Parasuraman: Mr.P.Purusothaman, S/o.Late Mr.R.Parasuraman, No.4/12, Dr. Kanu Nagar, 3rd Indira Street, West KK Nagar, Nespakkam, Chennai-600 078, Also at, Purusothaman Plumber & Electrical Maintenance, No.4/12, Dr. Kanu Nagar, 3rd Indira Street, West KK Nagar, Nespakkam, Chennai-600 078, Also at Door No. 3/14, Plot No.48B, Sri Ganga Avenue, 2nd Street, Ramapuram, (Opp to Indian Oil Petrol Bunk), Chennai-600 089, Co-Borrower/Legal Heir of Late, Mr.P.Parasuraman: Mrs. P.Kasthuri, W/o.Late Mr.R.Parasuraman, No.26/16, 2nd Nehru Street, Dr. Kannu Nagar, Nespakkam, K.K.Nagar, Chennai-600 078, Also at, Door No.3/14, Plot No.48B, Sri Ganga Avenue, 2nd Street, Ramapuram, (Opp to Indian Oil Petrol Bunk), Chennai-600 089. Co-Borrower-/Legal Heir of Late.Mr.P.Parasuraman: Mr.P.Sampathkumar, S/o.Late Mr.R.Parasuraman, No.26/16, 2nd Nehru Street, Dr. Kannu Nagar, Nespakkam, K.K.Nagar, Chennai-600 078, Also at, Door No.3/14, Plot No.48B, Sri Ganga Avenue, 2nd Street, Ramapuram, (Opp to Indian Oil Petrol Bunk), Chennai-600 089, Guarantor-/Legal Heir of Late.Mr.P.Parasuraman: Mr.P.Srinivasan, S/o.Late Mr.R.Parasuraman, No.4/12, Dr.Kanu Nagar, 3rd Indira Street, West K.K. Nagar, Nespakkam, Chennai-600 078, Also at, Door No.3/14, Plot No.48B, Sri Ganga Avenue, 2nd Street, Ramapuram, (Opp to Indian Oil Petrol Bunk), Chennai-600 089. Guarantor-/Legal Heir of Late.Mr.P.Parasuraman: Mr.P.Venkatesan, S/o.Late Mr.R.Parasuraman, No.26/16, 2nd Nehru Street, Dr. Kannu Nagar, Nespakkam, K.K. Nagar, Chennai-600 078, Also at, Driver Infinity Services, No.67, Vivekananda Colony, Vadapalani, Chennai-600 026, Also at, Door No.3/14, Plot No.48B, Sri Ganga Avenue, 2nd Street, Ramapuram, (Opp to Indian Oil Petrol Bunk), Chennai-600 089; Demand Notice Date: 06.05.2026; Amount claimed as per demand notice (Loan Account No.1811860001129) being ₹ 20,35,066/- with further interest from 19.03.2026 onwards and other costs thereon; Amount Outstanding: ₹20,40,003/- with further interest from 27.07.2026 onwards and other costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel of land & Building situated at Door No.3/14, Plot No.48-B, Sree Ganga Avenue, Ramapuram Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District, comprised in Survey No.34/2, measuring 708 Sq.ft., being bounded on the as Per Patta S.No.34/19: North by - Plot in Survey No.33/2, South by - Plot No.48 belonging to C.Duraiyamy, East by - Plot in Survey No.34/3, West by - 20 Feet Road & Plot No. 48-A, Situated within the Registration District of Chennai South and the Sub Registration District of Joint-II Saidapet.

S.No.4: (Adyar Branch) Borrower: Mr.S.Nagulan, S/o.M.Sundaramurthy, 76, Cemetery Road, Old Washermanpet Road, Chennai-600 021, Also at, The Design, Old No.65, New No.76/4, Old Washermanpet Road, Chennai-600 021. Guarantor: Mr.K.S.Rajan Babu, S/o.K.Srinivasan, 4/2, Kalinarayan 1st Street, Old Washermanpet Road, Chennai-600 021, Also at, Civil Consultant, 4/2, Kalinarayan 1st Street, Old Washermanpet Road, Chennai-600 021; Demand Notice Date: 06.05.2026; Amount claimed as per demand notice (Loan Account No. 116182003266) being ₹43,50,574/- with further interest from 05.05.2026 onwards and other costs thereon; Amount Outstanding: ₹45,32,310/- with further interest from 25.07.2026 onwards and other costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the land measuring 499 Sq.ft together with building bearing Door No.76/4 (Old D.No.65/4) at Cemetery Road, Old Washermanpet, Chennai-600 021 and comprised under T.S.No.1710/19 (Old T.S.No.1710/4), Block No.24, Vannarappettai, Tondiarpet Taluk Chennai District and the Plot is bounded on the North by :R.S.Nos.1710/12, 1710/11 and 1710/10, South by : Cemetery Road, East By : R.S.No.1710/5, West by - Property Belonging to Arjunan, With the following Linear Measurements: East West on the North - 119'feet, East West on the South - 11'9" feet, North South on the East -42'6"feet, North South on the West -42'6"feet.

Date: 28.07.2026 Authorised Officer, Repco Home Finance Ltd

THE ART OF GIVING: A NEW MARKETPLACE FOR PHILANTHROPY

THE news of food delivery agents arriving at the Jantar Mantar protest site with meals ordered by unknown donors has been the subject of heated discussions on the whys and whereofs. What is undeniable is that this act of giving is in keeping with the living charitable traditions of India. According to a recent study by Ashoka University's Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy, Indian households contribute around ₹540 billion every year to charitable causes in cash, kind and services. While a large share of this goes towards religious institutions, giving to the needy is a valued practice, too.

What motivates this among middle income households has more to do with tradition and custom, rather than recognition or tax benefits. High net-worth individuals, through family trusts, are known to fund endowments and grants to educational institutions and hospitals. Established trusts also make thematic grants that cover a wide spectrum of causes from education of the girl child to water conservation and sustainability initiatives.

India is the first country to bring in a law to mandate corporate social responsibility (CSR) under Section 135 of the Companies Act. This requires a minimum spend of 2 percent of the three-year average net profits of a company on social welfare activities. It also prescribes the use of such funds for permitted activities and impact assessment studies. Many corporates have integrated their CSR activities seamlessly into their branding strategy to enhance customer trust.

But one issue that persists is the limited access of deserving non-profits to CSR funds. This may happen when there is a lack of alignment between corporates with CSR budgets and projects for which funds are being sought. Therefore, even organisations doing authentic work often struggle to establish relationships with possible corporate donors when they have not had any prior engagement. In the non-profit funding ecosystem, networking is often the starting point of building trust. So its absence results in a lack of inclusion and asymmetries in fund allocation.

The concept of the Social Stock Exchange, introduced in the finance minister's 2019 budget speech, aims to bridge this gap by enabling non-profits who have demonstrated credentials of accountability to raise capital in a regulated bourse. The SSE—listed on BSE and NSE under the Securities and Exchange Board's oversight—envisages creating specific financial instruments for non-profits. Social enterprises and voluntary organisations that list in the SSE can use the platform to connect with investors and donors with increased transparency. The non-profits are required to furnish documentation and undergo due diligence checks for onboarding on the platform. Initially, 17 areas of impact have been identified. The target population of beneficiaries would be the underprivileged segment of the population where development performance has been below benchmarks. Raising funds in the SSE could thus make a substantial difference by providing necessary synergies in areas of key impact.

The introduction of new categories of financial instruments, mainly the zero-coupon zero-principal (ZCZP) bonds allows non-profits to raise capital from investors for specific projects. In order to enable retail investors to participate, the threshold investment is kept as low as ₹1,000. There is also scope for investment in registered non-profits through mutual fund-like units. The SSE platform also allows for-profit enterprises to raise funds in the form of equity.

The introduction of mandatory annual audit of social impact enables the monitoring and verification of project milestones. A new category of professionals, certified social auditors, doing the impact assessment would ensure maintenance of qualitative standards and bring in a much-needed professional rigour to the social sector. The standardisation of metrics would enable measurement of tangible benefits, analyse implementation and fund use, and create a framework for studying effective deployment. This would also demonstrate public accountability and transparency. The availability of tax benefits and exemption from securities transaction tax for investment in ZCZP and other instruments in the SSE is a step forward to incentivise participation.

A recent amendment to Schedule VII of the Companies Act allows up to 10 percent of CSR funds to be invested in ZCZP bonds. The requirement to conduct an impact study to the extent of such investment is no longer required. This would serve to broaden the market and allow listed non-profits greater access to funds. The SSE has thus created an infrastructure to catalyse development goals. What is now required is for more non-profits to adhere to credible reporting relying on verifiable data and adequate governance structures to participate in this market.

In the *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad*, there is a story of thunder that speaks in a single, powerful syllable—*da*. This has been interpreted variously as *datta* (giving), *damyata* (restraint) and *dayadvam* (compassion), meant for humans, gods and demons, respectively. The exhortation to humans is to cultivate the art of giving. This affirms the intrinsic interdependence at the core of our lives. We are at an inflection point where the narratives, processes and matrices that facilitate giving can play a vital role in development goals.

Full article on [newindianexpress.com](https://www.newindianexpress.com)

QUOTE CORNER

I am deeply anguished to know that the legendary colour of the Indian hockey team's jersey has been changed to saffron. The iconic shade of blue of the Indian hockey team is not just a colour. It is an emotion associated with the nation's sporting heritage... We have cried, laughed, celebrated and stood proudly with our men and women in blue.

Naveen Patnaik, leader of the opposition in Odisha Assembly, under whose chief ministership the state created history by sponsoring the Indian national hockey teams



The police have no business in the matter to be nosy parkers. We have repeatedly reminded the police that it is no business of theirs to investigate marriages.

Justices J J Munir and Tarun Saxena of the Allahabad High Court, quashing an FIR on a marriage of two consenting adults and fining two senior policemen

The shabby, back-room, opaque deal he tried to force through was anything but transparent.

UEFA official statement after Gianni Infantino scrapped plans to sell stakes in the World Cup to investors in the face of intense opposition from Fifa's member confederations

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia**
Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

Resident Editor (Tamil Nadu): **Anto T Joseph** * Printed and Published by **N Gopalan** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Ltd., at Express Press, 'Express Gardens', 29, Second Main Road, Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai - 600 058

Chennai: Vol. 27, No. 31. RNI Reg. No.TNENG/2000/3090,
Phone: 044-23457601, Fax: 044-23457619. *Responsible to decide the matter under the PRP Act

Copyright: Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

TRUMP TARIFFS TARGET INDIA AGAIN



POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA

prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com

Follow him on X @PrabhuChawla

IN the long arc of democratic history, the spectacle of the world's richest democracy systematically hounding the world's largest and fastest-growing democracy should provoke more than routine diplomatic furore. It should force a reckoning with what power has become when it confuses leverage with leadership. Donald Trump has turned the instruments of diplomacy into tools of coercion and intimidation. That coercion has fixated with particular intensity on India. Trade and commerce have been weaponised. Trump has converted them from a means of building consensus into a blunt instrument for dictating the terms of trade and imposing asymmetrical pressure on any partner that fails to yield at once.

The result is not statecraft, but a sustained campaign of economic destabilisation that undermines the very norms of reciprocity upon which stable international relations are built. The latest and most provocative action arrived last week, hours after the funeral of Senator Lindsey Graham at Washington National Cathedral, where Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Benjamin Netanyahu stood among the mourners, when the US Senate voted 86-12 to advance the Graham's legislation, Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026. The legislation authorises secondary tariffs of up to 100 percent on countries that continue to purchase Russian oil and gas. An earlier draft had explicitly named India, China, Slovakia, Hungary and Azerbaijan as targets.

Trump's fear and favour were clearly reflected in the provisions of the Act. It carefully exempted 15 European nations still importing Russian gas on the grounds that their volumes represented a smaller and declining share of demand.

India buys oil, but then, Europe buys gas. Only one category was judged suitable for maximum pressure. That bipartisan statute—advanced after a colleague's funeral with more than 60 co-sponsors from both parties—is far harder to reverse than any presidential order. It represents the institutionalization of coercive diplomacy, transforming a temporary executive preference into enduring legislative mandate.

This vote is the culmination of a campaign that has already altered the duty on Indian goods five times in 15 months. Each one of the penal changes were calibrated to extract further concessions rather than to establish a durable framework. In April 2025, Washington threatened a 26 percent tariff. By August, the rate stood at 50 percent, the additional 25 points imposed solely because India continued to purchase Russian crude. Earlier this year, Trump and Modi announced an interim understanding that lowered the rate to 18 percent in return for \$500 billion in promised Indian purchases of American energy, technology and other goods.

Eighteen days later, the US Supreme Court, in a 6-3 opinion authored by Chief Justice John Roberts, ruled that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act never authorised those tariffs, voiding more than \$160 billion already collected and rendering the India understanding moot. Trump absorbed the judicial setback and immediately imposed a flat 10 percent surcharge under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974. When that temporary authority

expired on July 24, Section 301 duties of 10 percent took effect the same night, justified by findings on forced-labour enforcement. Five successive rates, one country, 15 months—an unbroken sequence of recalibration conveying a sordid saga of undiplomatic conduct. It's for the first time in America's 250-year-old history that its Head of State has acquired the image of a bully with scant regards for conviction and consistency.

China, which imports comparable volumes of Russian oil, has faced no such revolving door of punishment and has been offered something closer to a negotiated truce. India, the more cooperative partner, has been the more frequently punished. Keeping in view the importance of strategic partnership, India has been making significant concessions. The US goods trade deficit with India stood at around \$58 billion in 2025, 27 percent higher than the year before. However, India's own surplus with the US narrowed to \$34.4 billion in 2025-26 from \$40.9 billion the previous year. India reduced the share of its crude imports drawn from Russia, increased purchases of American energy and kept the negotiating channels open while Indian firms committed substantial new investment on American soil. More than a dozen rounds of high-level negotiations followed by visits of senior officials to both Washington and New Delhi have taken place. But they have been turned into either photo albums, TV bytes, or been dismissed by Trump as irrelevant for now.

None of these adjustments has produced a stable rate, a durable exemption, or even a settled legal basis for the duties currently applied. Cooperativeness has been interpreted not as leverage to be reciprocated but as elasticity to be tested repeatedly. Funnily, Trump continues to describe



AP

Modi as a friend while deploying every available statute and legislative opportunity to damage his prestige at home. The Trumpian presidency has been transformed from an institution that seeks to forge global consensus into one that thrives on confrontation. Leaders like Netanyahu and Zelenskyy, who postpone or avoid fresh electoral mandates, receive public support and diplomatic latitude. But the fastest-growing large democracy is treated as a problem to be managed through successive layers of tariffs.

Policies that generate worldwide economic instability fall with particular force on brown democracies that lack China's strategic weight or Europe's alliance insulation. Modi has so far kept his counsel and refused to escalate, preserving India's strategic autonomy and room for manoeuvre. Yet, the longer this campaign of coercive diplomacy continues, the clearer it becomes that the damage will rebound upon Trump's own political base and upon the American economy.

As India expands its manufacturing base, deepens partnerships across the Global South, and positions itself as a credible counterweight to Chinese influence in South Asia, it will emerge stronger, not weaker. By targeting that rising power, Washington is not protecting Americans. It is eroding the commercial relationships and strategic partnership that once promised to balance Asia and advance shared interests. A superpower that mistakes harassment for statecraft will eventually discover that the countries it seeks to discipline possess alternatives, and that the voters who once cheered confrontation will tire of higher prices, disrupted supply chains and diminished alliances. India has already demonstrated the patience of a rising power that knows time is on its side. America would do well to remember that patience is not the same as permanent forbearance, and that the weaponisation of diplomacy ultimately weakens the hand that wields it.

REAL DISRUPTION IS INDIA IN TRANSITION



THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR

Author of *The Gated Republic*, *Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's ID Gilt Revolution*, and *Accidental India* (shankkar.aiyyar@gmail.com)

IT is the best of times. It is the worst of times. Dickens wrote in the past tense, about revolutionary France. India's paradox is in the present tense. Context defines — and designs — the prospects of prosperity.

India is witnessing five transitions at once. Family businesses are transferring control and wealth. Business models are migrating from distribution to platforms rearranging who owns the fruits of work. The toll-booth economy is thriving on public savings. Governments are expanding welfare as the cost of consumption is bifurcating on price. And artificial intelligence is wrenching the human interface from a sector that absorbed two decades of graduates.

None of this is accidental or contradictory. Different transitions are landing on different people. Each acts on its own. Together they compound. Viewed through GDP, India is resilient, still among the fastest-growing major economies. Viewed through employment, ownership or consumption, the K-shaped economy

appears. Beneath the reassuring aggregates, almost every mechanism by which India created wealth over three decades is changing at once.

Big business is morphing as the baton passes across houses—Ambani, Adani, Birla, Goenka, Mittal. The founding generation built for scarcity—ports, power plants, refineries, telecom towers. Most of it built with the State, or sold to it. Their prime asset was political proximity and the craft of extracting clearances, spectrum, land and bank capital. That asset is personal and not passed. What passes on is capital, a portfolio of businesses and, presumably, risk appetite.

The transfer is significant. EY and Julius Baer put India on the cusp of an unprecedented inter-generational wealth transfer, with an estimated \$1.5 trillion changing hands over the next decade. Some inheritors would rather run a family office than a plant. The payoff is immediate: professional management trims the conglomerate discount, improves capital efficiency and accelerates creative destruction.

Secession from the family philosophy often follows succession. The inheritors are not hooked on knowing the sarkar or managing regulatory whimsy. Educated globally and reared on tech ecosystems, they are betting on platforms and the personalisation of experience. Unlike the Japanese and Korean houses, they are not going global. They are betting on the Indian consumer.

Schumpeterian 'creative destruction' is manifest. The old corporate model—own assets, control supply chains, scale linearly—is fading. Firms once grew by adding factories,

warehouses and branches. They now grow by adding networks. Asset-light platforms—asset managers, fintech aggregators, quick-commerce apps, digital exchanges—scale exponentially deploying minimal manpower. Success is visible in market valuations.

Much has been written about the confidence of the Indian retail investor; the truth is more prosaic. Equity is a Hobson's choice for a middle class struggling to preserve purchasing power against the cost of education, healthcare and aspiration. In the first six months of the year, domestic funds absorbed ₹4.5 lakh crore even as foreign investors sold. Unsurprisingly, asset managers are hot, as are the wealth outfits and companies running market infrastructure like the NSE readying the largest IPO of them all.

Information technology built India's middle class. For 30 years, Indian software trained engineers and billed clients for hours. AI is rewriting that script; tomorrow's contracts will price outcomes, not man-hours. The sector faces challenges as generative systems dissolve the forms, functions and structures that generated the jobs. Yes, the global capability centres are hiring. That is the thin edge or end of the wedge. Salaries are drawn in India while value migrates, with the margin, to a multinational balance sheet.

The profits migrating from retailer to platform is real; so is the retrenchment of human interface. A dark store replaces the working capital and the shopkeeper simultaneously. This is formalisation that raises measured output and GST buoyancy while thinning the informal middle.

The gainers are listed. The losers are not. The macro implication is stark. GDP grows, but employment does not keep pace. The paradox of platform boom: soaring corporate profitability alongside a shrinking wage share. Consumption data tagged as 'premiumisation' reflects K-shaped divergence. The aggregate is healthy. The household is trading down.

India is changing not merely how wealth is created, but who captures it. The toll-booth economy is expanding. Earnings and jobs are also challenged by the transition in consumer behaviour. Parents who expected to create wealth postponed consumption, and children who expect to inherit it consume differently. To define is to limit, Wilde wrote. Every generation redefines prosperity; this one defines it by where it has been rather than by what it holds.

Every one of these transitions arrives at the same destination. Ownership of capital takes a larger share of growth and labour is left with a smaller one. The formalisation of consumption has widened the tax base, but the narrowing of the wage base has implications for the political economy. The political class has adopted a mechanism where it uses taxpayer money to compensate and preserve its market share. India's social contract is being rewritten alongside its economic model.

The disruption is not any one technology, but the convergence of transitions. Dickens understood that contradictory truths can hold at the same moment. It is the best of times for those who own. It is the worst for those stranded in the transitions.

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Quota concern

Ref: *Gates of prosperity not fully opened to less privileged* (Aug 1). Casteism is a menace blended in our population. Instead of eliminating this plague from society, many party mandarins instigate caste-based polarisation for political benefits. The number of reservation beneficiaries has swelled considerably in the recent years by adding more castes, escalating the total quota share. Our unbiased politicians should formulate a comprehensive reservation system without tampering with the secular and equitable status of the Constitution.

Thomas K M, Ernakulam

Water solution

Ref: *Mekedatu: Restraint must* (Jul 31). I write to draw attention to a colossal waste of natural resources right on Tamil Nadu's borders. Every year, an estimated 20 thousand million cubic feet of surplus water from the Pandiyar river

flows down the Nilgiris, crosses into Kerala, and drains unused into the Arabian Sea. Meanwhile, lakhs of farmers across Erode, Tiruppur and Coimbatore districts face severe water distress, watching their crops wither due to a depleting Bhavanisagar dam. The solution is a Pandiyar-Moyar river linking project. This massive volume of surplus water can be routed into the Moyar, which feeds Bhavanisagar. While environmental clearances within the eco-sensitive Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam zones are challenging, modern eco-friendly engineering—such as deep underground tunnelling—can entirely bypass surface wildlife corridors. What is truly lacking is the political will.

Narayanan, Coimbatore

Smart farming

Ref: *Mekedatu* (Jul 31). It is time for Karnataka and Tamil Nadu rice farmers to shift to more water-efficient cultivation methods like dry direct seeding and alternate wetting and drying, which can save 30-50 percent water without decreasing yield. Agro electronics and other forms

of smart farming must be adopted, too, with the help of government subsidies to ensure better water management during lean times, the incidence of which is surely going to be more frequent in the future.

Krishnaswamy Ponnani, Palakkad

Forgive, forget

Ref: *Want to forgive Gen Z for hurling expletives at me, says PM* (Aug 1). Prime Minister Modi's decision to forgive mischievous youths who recently hurled insults at him and his late mother—thereby choosing to offer proper guidance rather than condemn misguided Gen Z youngsters—is praiseworthy. Such a gesture elevates the stature of a leader.

Varadharajan A, Sirkazhi

Dogged implementation

Ref: *Amid euthanasia push, Kerala plans designated stray dog feeding spots* (Aug 1). What stands out in the row is how little the debate engages with implementation and how much with sentiment. Bengaluru's fear of dog attacks

is real, as is the welfare case for the vast majority of non-aggressive strays. Both concerns deserve enforced standard operating procedures rather than emotionally-charged statements from activists on either side. The animal husbandry department's ID-card and feeding-zone proposal shows that structured regulation, not blanket sentiment, is the way forward.

Muhammed Afsal, Kozhikode

Powering AI

Ref: *Floating solar scheme* (Aug 1). The recent approval of Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana to promote floating solar power projects is welcome. Beyond saving on emissions and land, it supports another forward-looking cause. India's data centre buildout is constantly pushing power demand. PM-SSY's mandate may prove to be a game changer by pairing generation with co-located storage, allowing power to be drawn during evening peaks. This makes the scheme attractive to hyperscalers who are chasing round-the-clock clean power.

Madhvi Sharma, Chandigarh



Mallikarjun Kharge @kharge
Decision to change color of the Indian hockey team's jersey is not merely a sports-related choice, but a matter deeply connected to sentiments of millions



Sachin Pilot @SachinPilot
I strongly condemn terrorist attack on two migrant workers from Chhattisgarh in Kulgam, Kashmir. The perpetrators must receive the harshest punishment



Devendra Fadnavis @Dev_Fadnavis
Heartiest congratulations to India's boxers Preeti Pawar and Jaismine Lamoria, on their spectacular gold medal victories at the Commonwealth Games.

SC judge questions lack of transparency in collegium

Justice Bhuyan says past elevation of judges recorded no reasons

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CRITICISING the Supreme Court collegium for not giving reasons for judicial appointments, SC judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan on Saturday said the lack of transparency creates room for individuals who make unconstitutional or derogatory remarks to enter the judiciary.

Speaking at the launch of The Judicial Transparency Index: Assessing Disclosure of Information by the Supreme Court and the High Courts, a report by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy's JALDI initiative, Justice Bhuyan questioned the collegium's recent departure from its earlier practice of recording reasons for recommending judges.

"I have noticed that the last three collegium resolutions contain no reasons whatsoever. Is this a step back from the principle of transparency?" he said. The absence of reasons not only weakens public confidence but also does a disservice to deserving candidates, he added. "Conversely, by withholding reasons, we also create space for individuals to enter the judiciary who may later describe groups of people as 'ants' and make other remarks that are wholly unconstitutional and contrary to the values of the Constitution," he said.

"To prevent entry of such people, there should be some discussion; there should be some reasons given," he added. Although Justice Bhuyan did not name anyone, he referred



Justice Ujjal Bhuyan at his oath-taking ceremony at the Supreme Court | FILE PHOTO

The court of justice is a public forum, says judge

Emphasising the importance of open courts, Justice Bhuyan said public access to courtroom proceedings was essential for maintaining confidence in the judiciary. "The court of justice is a public forum. Open courts make it possible for the public to develop reasonable perceptions about the judiciary," he said.

to remarks made by a former Allahabad HC judge, who had triggered controversy in 2024 after allegedly referring to a minority community as 'ants' during a speech delivered while serving as a judge.

Calling the collegium's return to opacity a recent development, the judge said earlier collegium resolutions at least contained brief reasons supporting recommendations.

He also spoke about judicial transparency in the context of livestreaming court proceedings, describing it as "the most visible transparency development of the last decade". Referring to a July 24 order passed by a bench headed by CJI Surya Kant, he said the judgement

struck a balance between transparency and preventing misuse of court proceedings. "The court's concern is that decontextualised fragments of oral exchanges, observations made by judges in the course of argument, not findings, are being circulated with sensational captions, causing reputational harm to judges, advocates, and litigants alike and distorting public understanding of what had actually happened in court," Justice Bhuyan said.

"The order does not retreat from live streaming; it draws a distinction between transparency of the process and the licence to manufacture a misleading narrative from that process," he added.



JPC calls meet on higher edu bill on Monday, no clarity on report adoption

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AFTER abruptly calling off the adoption of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) report on the proposed Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBASA) Bill, 2025 last month, the panel has convened its next meeting on Monday. However, the notice issued to members makes no mention of whether the report will be taken up for adoption.

The meeting comes amid speculation over whether the government will table the contentious Higher Education Bill during the Monsoon Session, as it figured in the Centre's provisional legislative agenda. The panel led by BJP MP D Purandeswari was scheduled to adopt its report on July 20 before presenting it to Parliament.

The meeting was cancelled without an official explanation. The latest notice of July 30 says the August 3 meeting has been convened for "internal deliberations". According to sources, members from the Opposition and the ruling NDA on the panel have sought clarity on the purpose of the meeting. While a draft report had earlier been circulated, MPs are yet to receive the final version.

The Bill proposes an overhaul of India's higher-education sector by dissolving the

UGC, AICTE and the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) to create a single, unified regulatory commission.

Sources said the Centre is wary of bringing the legislation in the current political climate. "The thinking in the government is that with Parliament witnessing ruckus over the NEET-UG paper leak row and the alleged police action on protesting students, introducing another contentious education bill could further intensify the agitation," a source said, adding that the panel may seek more time to present its report.

The VBASA Bill has faced resistance from leading educational institutions, opposition parties, and even some NDA-ruled states over provisions giving sweeping powers to the Centre over higher education.

According to the draft report, the panel has recommended changes to key clauses that were widely criticised for centralising authority. The JPC sought safeguards against excessive centralisation, strong consultation with states and protection of institutional autonomy in the proposed legislation. Addressing concerns that the Bill could undermine statutory autonomy of IITs, IIMs, NITs, and IISERs, the panel recommended that these institutions be consulted before framing rules.



Sweeping powers

The VBASA Bill has faced resistance even from some NDA-ruled states, including AP and MP, over provisions giving sweeping powers to the Centre over higher education.

Students need no pardon, system not being honest with the young: Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should apologise to the country's students for the "broken and corrupt" education system.

Referring to Modi's recent video message on Instagram where the PM said that he had forgiven the students who abused him during the CJP protest, Gandhi said that students don't need his forgiveness.

Modi had urged society to guide them instead of seeking punishment. "Nothing is more painful than seeing a parent grieve their child. Behind every young life lost is a family carrying pain that will never leave them—raising serious questions about a broken education system. Leaked papers. Cancelled exams. Years of preparation destroyed overnight. Our students are told to work honestly in a system that is not honest with them... And the PM speaks of "forgiving" students, Gandhi posted on X after meeting families of NEET



aspirants who ended their lives. Gandhi also pointed out that Modi had not met a single grieving parent.

Congress's chief whip in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh said that he is "playing the victim card" instead of apologising for brutality on protesting students. In a post on X, he alleged that the PM frequently targeted his predecessors and political opponents while portraying himself as a victim.

He added that the PM's "Instagram sabhas", which he termed an act of "supreme self-obsession", are fooling no one. The Congress MP said the entire nation wants the PM to apologise for the trauma inflicted on lakhs of youth.

Youth should participate in national service, unity: Doval

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday felicitated National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval with the Lokmanya Tilak National Award and hailed his contribution to national security.

Shah also applauded Doval's work as NSA chief, saying when he was home minister of Gujarat, Doval gave important tips that helped police catch culprits of the serial bomb blasts in Gujarat. He said that Doval is the backbone of India's foreign policy and has made immense contributions to upgrading security of the country.

While receiving the award in Pune, Doval said freedom is not just about doing whatever comes to mind. He appealed to youth to participate in national service and unity. Doval, the longest-serving NSA chief of India, said he was very humbled and honoured. He said the youth of this country should learn from freedom fighters like Lokmanya Tilak, who continue to inspire generations.

Speaking about the country's security and strategy, Doval



Home Minister Amit Shah and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis felicitating NSA Ajit Doval (L) with Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune on Saturday | PTI

What is not in the national interest is not in our interest either. Even today, the country is facing challenges from within and outside. At such a time, everyone should remain united —Ajit Doval, NSA chief

said, "If any of our actions harm the country, then we should not go that way. What is not in the national interest is not in our interest either. Even today, the country is facing many challenges from within and outside. At such a time, everyone should remain united and serve the country. Today, there is such an atmosphere in the country that we can make India very powerful," he said.

Appreciating PM Modi and Shah, Doval said the country is

moving forward under their leadership. "I have seen Amit Shah's love for the country and the work he has done. Today's generation and the youth should contribute to building the country. Youth should resolve to serve the country."

Doval said that Tilak, the motivator of the freedom struggle, a wonderful fighter, thinker and guide. Today's youth need to seriously think about what Lokmanya's vision of nation-building was, he added.

A MADE IN INDIA STORY: MAKING OF A LONG JUMPER

INDRANEEL DAS

THE sun was beating down on the east stands of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The temperature was around 40°C and the wind was non-existent. It was a typical May Chennai day. The stadium had turned into a furnace. Even as a lot of people inside the stadium had sought the refuge of a shade, there were a few people who had preferred the sun. The long jump pit was just below the stands where the long jumpers were going through their chores.

One man never left the side of the long jump lane—pacing between the start and the landing pit—animatedly mouthing suggestions to his ward, who was sipping water to avoid dehydration.

S Murali has been by Sreesankar's side ever since he started jumping as a child in Palakkad. On Wednesday, when Sreesankar won silver, his second at the Commonwealth Games, the first long jumper to achieve the feat, his father was beside him guiding him every step of the way. The conditions were wet and the temperature had dipped to 10 degrees in the evening. Sreesankar usually suffers in cold climes. Yet his jump of 8.09m was good enough for silver behind Tajay Gayle, the 2019 world champion.

"It rained and the temperature dipped to 14 degrees and later to 10," Murali told this daily from Glasgow.

"Keeping warm was not easy, but we were expecting a bigger jump." Sreesankar too felt their target was bigger. As for the conditions he said to win medals one has to adjust with the conditions.

During numerous conversations with the athlete and the father, one thing seemed clear: Sreesankar is 'Made in Palakkad'. In days of over-reliance on foreign coaches, Sreesankar is a product of this country. If his father takes care of his training, his mother takes care of his diet and his sister also chips in if the need arises. In short, the whole family made Sreesankar the athlete. "I like home-cooked food and my diet is usually Kerala food cooked at home," Sreesankar had told this daily.

The house he lives in has sports written all over it. The five Olympic rings adorn a mirror in his room. There are Olympic and Asian Games motifs in the corridors and living rooms. A gym was built for him during Covid so that he doesn't need to step out. A pit was dug. It was built in 1998 and Sreesankar was born in 1999.

Considered one of the most talented long jumpers in the country, the former national



MANDAR PARDIKAR

record holder won the Commonwealth Games silver—first by an Indian long jumper—at the quadrennial event in Birmingham four years ago. He has had one of the biggest jumps outside India when he won silver at the Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok and qualified for the Paris Olympics.

As his career started to prosper, destiny had other ideas. By April 2024, he had realised he had jumper's knee (patellar tendon). He hadn't had a single competitive jump since the Hangzhou Asian Games and with just months to go for the Olympics in Paris, his world shattered around him. If not for the support of his family, he would have plunged into depression.

There were sleepless nights and Sreesankar endured this pain, like he always does, in silence. He did not know whether he would

be back on track. The ordeal lasted for 650 days until he entered his first competi-

tion—Indian Open athletics—in July last year. His first jump was over 8m and that was a big relief for Sreesankar and his father. Getting back into form after injury is the toughest because somewhere in the back of the mind, there is always the impending threat of the injury. "What I went through after the injury, I never thought I would be back on track and win this medal," he said even after winning the silver and thanked his father and his support staff for helping him recover.

In January last year, he moved to the National Centre of Excellence in Thiruvananthapuram. "It helped us a lot during the recovery process," Murali said. Now the family mostly lives in Thiruvananthapuram.

The biggest irony is that despite guiding his son to two Commonwealth and one Asian Games medals, Murali has never got any special award reserved for coaches. He has been overlooked for the Dronacharya Award as well. But Murali never complains. Training is his passion and as long as Sreesankar wins medals, he believes, recognition will come.

Make common forests priority: Centre to states

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Centre has asked the state governments to prepare action plans with defined timelines to oversee the management of community forest resources (CFR) stipulated under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) have jointly written to the chief secretaries of the states and UTs, emphasising the need to utilise resources available through government schemes, including forestry funds, to develop the management plans. This newspaper has seen the letter.

CFR is a distinct category of rights established under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Under Section 3(1)(i) of the Act, a village or community has traditionally used forest resources as customary



Lack of awareness hinders implementation

Idea of community forest rights under the Act empowers communities to create sustainable management plans, which the forest department would use to prepare its working plans. Lack of awareness among gram sabhas, resistance from officials have hindered its implementation.

common land within its traditional or customary boundaries, which may include reserved and protected forests, and other protected areas.

The idea of community forest rights under the FRA empowers communities to create sustainable management plans, which the forest department would use to prepare its work-

ing plans. Lack of awareness among gram sabhas and resistance from forest officials have hindered the implementation of these provisions, according to studies.

Individual forest rights, granting legal rights over land to forest-dwelling families, have seen better success. In 2023, in response to bureaucratic resist-

ance, the Centre has amended rules to shift from community-led planning to officials-led planning. Now, gram sabhas must formulate plans based on the forest department's working plans. To facilitate this process, a district-level CFR monitoring committee has been created.

This committee will act as a facilitator for coordination between the forest department and gram sabhas to promote sustainable forest management through participatory approaches. In their letter, both the ministries urged states to prepare community forest resource management plans through convergence of resources available under central and state schemes, including forestry funds. This approach is crucial as CFR areas are often situated within larger forest landscapes. Interventions supported through forestry funds at the landscape level can enhance CFR management.

NEET-PG aspirants can now choose three exam centres: Health Ministry

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

NEET-PG aspirants will this year be able to choose three preferred examination centres, with their allotted test location to be communicated nearly three weeks before the exam as the Union Health Ministry on Saturday unveiled a series of student-centric reforms for the postgraduate medical entrance examination.

The NEET-PG, scheduled for August 30, will also be conducted under a multi-layered security framework, including advance sealing and verification of exam centres, CCTV surveillance, biometric authentication, candidate frisking, deployment of signal jammers, live monitoring and real-time supervision by independent observers. Union health minister JP Nadda urged aspirants not to fall prey to rumours or fraud-



ulent claims related to NEET-PG, reiterating that comprehensive security arrangements have been put in place to ensure its smooth conduct. Among the key reforms, candidates will be allowed to indicate three state preferences for their examination centre, with the correspondence state being the mandatory first preference.

In another significant change, candidates will receive their test city intimation nearly three weeks before the examination, allowing them to plan

travel and accommodation well in advance. The examination pattern has also been rationalised to 180 questions to be answered in 210 minutes, providing candidates with more time per question while maintaining overall test duration.

To strengthen the integrity of the examination process, Aadhaar-based authentication has been incorporated during both the application process and on the examination day. Iris-based biometric verification will be used wherever fingerprint authentication is unsuccessful. The ministry said the end-to-end question paper preparation and delivery process has been further reinforced through multiple layers of encryption. "Any claim of prior access to the question paper by anyone is therefore entirely false and intended to mislead candidates," Nadda said.

SOUTH COAST RAILWAY VISAKHAPATNAM
Follow us on @SCoRailway
Website: www.scor.indianrailways.gov.in
Tender Notice No. 78265001 Dt. 30.07.2026

SCOR HQ-STORES/SOUTH COAST RAILWAY, acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 78265001 Closing Date/Time 20-AUG-26 14:30 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored..

Tender No. 78265001 Dt: 30.07.2026, **Description:** Supply and Installation of Workstations, **Qty:** 275 sets, **Bid Closing Date & Time:** 20.08.2026 at 14:30 Hrs, **Estimated Value (₹):** 50,87,500.00, **Earnest Money (₹):** 1,01,750.00, **Validity of Offer:** 90 Days

Tender conditions/other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above works, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at "www.ireps.gov.in".

Principal Chief Material Manager/ SCOR-A147 Visakhapatnam

For further tender conditions/ details and for downloading the tender documents, please visit the website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in>.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III AT CHENNAI
(6th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Chennai-600 006)
O.A.No.1197 of 2025
Canara Bank, Abhiramapuram Branch Represented by its Branch Manager New No. 10, Old No.90, C.P. Ramasamy Road, Alwarpet, Chennai-600 018 ...Applicant

1. M/s.KJS Packaging Represented by its Proprietor Mr.N.Giridhar, No.34/70, Brindavan Street, West Mambalam, Chennai-600033. Also at: No.36/69, Brindavan Street, West Mambalam, Chennai-600033. - Versus - (D1)

2. Mr.N.Giridhar, No.34/70, Brindavan Street, West Mambalam, Chennai-600033. Also at: No.36/69, Brindavan Street, West Mambalam, Chennai-600033.Defendant (D2)

Whereas the above named Applicant has filed the above referred Original Application in this Tribunal for recovery of a sum of ₹ 29,28,211/- from the Defendants.

Whereas, the service of summons / notices could not be effected in the ordinary manner to the Defendant and whereas, substituted service has been ordered by this Hon'ble Tribunal on 16.07.2026, this notice is effected through Paper Publication.

You are therefore, directed to appear before this Tribunal at 6th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Chennai-600 006 in person or through a duly instructed Advocate on 20.08.2026 by 11.00 a.m and show cause as to why reliefs prayed for by the Applicant Bank should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Original Application shall be heard and decided in your absence in accordance with law.

Given under the hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this 28th Day of July 2026.

Counsel For Applicant Bank

QuoteExpress NEVER COMPLAIN AND NEVER EXPLAIN

SAINIK SCHOOL

AMARAVATHI NAGAR – 642 102, UDUMALPET TALUK, TIRUPUR DISTRICT
TENDER NOTICE
Invites sealed tenders before 24-08-2026 to run Automatic laundry as enlisted in our School Website : www.sainikschoolamaravathinagar.edu.in. PRINCIPAL.

कार्यालय नगरपालिका रामगंजमण्डि गिला-कोट (युग)
क्रमांक - न.म.अ./2026/601 दिनांक - 29/07/2026
ई-निविदा-सूचना 06/2026-27
नगरपालिका रामगंजमण्डि द्वारा कार्य हेतु पालिका में पंजीकृत एवं विभागों में AA, A, B, Class एवं उपयुक्त श्रेणी संवेदकों से लिफाफा पद्धति / ई-निविदा पद्धति से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य की निविदा वेबे जाने की दिनांक 30.07.2026 से 19.08.2026 एवं आलोचन करने की दिनांक 30.07.2026 से 19.08.2026 सायं 6 बजे तक। ई-एम.डी. / निविदा शुल्क / प्रोसेसिंग फीस प्राप्त करने की तिथि : 20.08.2026 समय प्रातः 11.00 बजे तक। तकनीकी बिड खोलने की दिनांक 20.08.2026 को दोप. 2.00 बजे बाद रहेगी। वित्तीय बिड तकनीकी परीक्षण उपरांत खोली जायेगी। निविदा शर्तें आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>, <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> देखी जा सकती है।
UIN – DLB2627A5140
NIB – DLB2627WSOB12401, 12405
कल संख्या/दि/26/8205

CFM Asset Reconstruction Private Limited
Corporate Office: 1st Floor, Wakefield House, Sprott Road, Ballard East, Mumbai - 400038
DEMAND NOTICE

We, CFM Asset Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd. (CFM-ARC) (Assignee of Indian Overseas Bank) having its Corporate Office at 1st Floor, Wakefield House, Sprott Road, Ballard East, Mumbai - 400038, do hereby give the Notice once again under Section 13(2) of the aforesaid Act in its capacity as Secured Creditor. CFMARC has acquired the entire financial assets alongwith underlying security interest of the borrowers vide Assignment/Agreement date 02.02.2026. Whereas the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Mortgagors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from **Indian Overseas Bank**. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/ Mortgagors have committed defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as **Non Performing Asset on the dates mentioned hereunder in accordance with the directives/guidelines** issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorised Officer of **CFM-ARC** under Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices to Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Mortgagors on the dates mentioned herein below under section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 to pay the amount mentioned in the said notice together with further interest at the contractual rate, costs, charges and incidental expenses etc however the notices were returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The Assignor had earlier issued a Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act dated 13.09.2013 and had thereafter taken measures under Section 13(4) of the Act, including taking symbolic possession of the secured assets and effecting recoveries. This Fresh Demand Notice under Section 13(2) is issued by CFMARC after assignment of the financial asset and after giving due credit to all recoveries and adjustments effected by the Assignor prior to the assignment. All the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors named hereunder are hereby called upon to pay the entire outstanding amount mentioned below, together with further interest, costs, charges and incidental expenses until realization, within sixty (60) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which CFMARC shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights and remedies available under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, and such other rights and remedies as may be available under any other applicable law. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub-Section (13) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, you shall not transfer the secured assets described hereunder by way of sale, lease or otherwise without obtaining the prior written consent of CFMARC.

Name and Address of the Borrower/Director/ Mortgagor / Guarantor / Loan Account No.	Date of Demand/ Notice Date of NPA	Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice
1. M/s Oceanic Edibles International Ltd. Represented by its Managing Director (Borrower), 2. Mr. A. Joseb Raj Managing Director, M/s Oceanic Edibles International Ltd (Guarantor/Mortgagor) 3. Mrs. Vimala Joseph, Director, M/s Oceanic Edibles International Ltd (Guarantor/Mortgagor) 4. M/s. Object Frontier Software P. Ltd. Represented by its Managing Director (Corporate Guarantor) Loan A/c No. 153503841400002	28.07.2026 30.06.2013	Rs. 2,71,86,74,998.03/- (Rupees Two Hundred Seventy-One Crore Eighty-Six Lakh Seventy-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Eight and Paise Three Only) as on 24.07.2026

Description of the Mortgaged Property/ Secured Assets

Item No	Secured Asset
1	All that piece and parcel of Land situated at Soorai Village, Maduranthakam Taluk, Chengai MGR District, comprised in Survey No. 191/11A measuring an extent of 2 Acres and 95 Cents Survey No. 191/11B measuring an extent of 0 Acres and 03 Cents Bounded by:

	S. No.191/1A	S. No.191/1B
North by	Land in S. No.131, 132, 133	Land in S. No.131, 132, 133
South by	Land in S. No.191/2A	Land in S. No.191/2A
East by	Land in S. No.191/1B	Land in S. No.192
West by	Land in S. No.190	Land in S. No.191/1A

in all total measuring an extent of 2 Acres 98 Cents and lying within the Registration Sub-District of Maduranthakam owned by Mr. Joseb Raj.

2 All that piece and parcel of Vacant Building at Sarvodaya New Town, duly approved layout as per DTPCP No.1355/91 at Panambakam Village, Thiruvallur District, comprised in Plot No. 97 – Survey No. 157/13 & 160/1 measuring an extent of 1800 Sq.ft Plot No.104 – Survey No. 157/13 measuring an extent of 1800 Sq.ft Bounded by

	Plot No. 97	Plot No.104
North by	Plot No.104	60 Feet Road
South by	23 Feet Road	Plot No.97
East by	Plot No.96	Plot No.105
West by	Plot No.98	Plot No.103

and lying within the Registration District of Kancheepuram and Sub - Registration District of Perambakam and within the limits of Senji Panchayat Board of Kadambattur Panchayat Union owned by Mr. Joseb Raj.

3	Property owned by Mrs. Vimala Joseph			
Sl. NO	Survey No	Extent in Acres	Sit	
1.	787/5, 787/6 (New S.No: 787/5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 6A, 6B, 6C2, 6F.)	0.48	Maral Vil Thingan Tal Villupur Dis	
2.	787/5, 787/6 (New S.No: 787/5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 6A, 6B, 6C2, 6F.)	1.17 1/4		
3.	787/3 (New No. 787/3B)	0.07 1/4		
4.	787/5, 787/6 (New No: 787/5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 6A, 6B, 6C2, 6F.)	0.48		
5.	787/5, 787/6 (New S.No: 787/5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 6A, 6B, 6C2, 6F.)	0.96		
6.	787/5, 787/6 (New S.No: 787/5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 6A, 6B, 6C2, 6F.)	0.96		
7.	784/13, 784/6, 784/19, 784/3B, 784/14 (New S.No: 784/13A, 785/6B2, 784/19A, 784/3B)	0.29 1/2		
8.	784/18	0.42		
9.	785/10/0.16	0.16		
10.	785/14 (Part) (New S.No: 785/14A)	0.03 1/2		
11.	812 (New S.No: 812/1A2, 812/1A3)	0.32		
12.	786/1, 786/3 (New S.No: 786/1, 786/3B)	0.46		
13.	782/17, 782/18, 782/19	0.84		
TOTAL		6.650		

4 All that piece and parcel of Land situated at No.155, Palyanoor Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, comprised in S.No.192/3 measuring an extent of 16 cents, S.No.192/11 measuring an extent of 48 cents, S.No.192/10 measuring an extent of 50 cents & S.No.192/11 measuring an extent of 24 cents in total measuring 1 Acre 38 cents owned in the name of Mrs. Vimala Joseph BOUNDED BY

S.No.192/3	South by – Land in S. No. 192/4 East by – Land in S. No. 192/7 S.No.192/11	West by – Land in S. No. 39
S.No.192/10	North by – Land in S. No. 192/9 East by – Land in S. No. 193	South by – Vaikāl West by – Land in S. No. 192/10
S.No.192/11	North by – Land in S. No. 192/9 East by – Land in S. No. 192/11	South by – Vaikāl West by – Land in S. No. 192/8 & 192/9

5 All that piece and parcel of Land situated at No.155, Palyanoor Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, comprised in Survey No.185/16 as per patna No.1928 New Survey No.185/16B measuring an extent 54 Cents (Full Extent) and bounded on the :- North by: S.No.185/11 owned by Oceanic Edibles International Ltd., South by: S.No.184/3B East by: S.No.185/16C owned by Oceanic Edibles International Ltd., West by: S.No.185/16A owned by Oceanic Edibles International Ltd., Situated within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and Sub Registration District of Thirupur and within limits of Thirupur Panchayath union and Palyanoor Panchayath in the name of Mrs. Vimala Joseph

Date: 02.08.2026 Authorised Officer, Place: TAMIL NADU For CFM Asset Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd. (Acting in its capacity as trustee of CFMARC TRUST - 191)

Government of Odisha OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & STATE SILVICULTURIST, BHUBANESWAR

e-mail:- state.silviculturist@odisha.gov.in No. - 01 of 2026-2027

Quotation Call Notice
8001/249/2627 : Quotations are invited to reach by (Speed Post/ Registered Post/ Courier / by hand) from intending authorized dealers/suppliers for supply of following items for this office. The quotations must be submitted in sealed cover by 10.08.2026 and shall be opened on 11.08.2026 at 11.30 AM in the presence of the bidders & the purchase committee of this office. The authority has reserved the right to cancel or modify or accept any or all quotations without assigning any reason thereof. The same has been published on GeM portal vide Bid No.GEM/2026/B/7841970 & GEM/2026/B/7841973.

Sl No.	Item category	Specification	Quantity
1	Air Conditioner	1.5 Ton Split, 3-star to 5-star options, Inverter Acs, Copper Condenser	06 Nos
2	All-in-One PC	Intel Core i5, 8 GB DDR4/DDR5, 512GB SSD (NVMe) 24-inch or higher (FHD)	02 Nos
3	Colour Printer	Ink jet, multi-function, A4 Color	01 No.

Sd/- Conservator of Forests & State Silviculturist, Bhubaneswar

OIPR- 8001/8161/1/26-27/0001

QuoteExpress NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, THE WORD ITSELF SAYS 'I'M POSSIBLE!' AUDREY HEPBURN

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER SOUTHERN INVESTIGATION CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR

E-mail id- wrsesinbham@rediffmail.com e-Procurement Notice No. ACESICB-02(01)/2026-27 to ACESICB-02(02)/2026-27

Bid Identification No. ACESICB-02(01)/2026-27 to ACESICB-02(02)/2026-27 No. 998 Date:- 31.07.2026

32001/635/2627:	Bid documents consisting of work estimated amount put to tender, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms & conditions or contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in complete online process only.
1.	Nature of Works : Forest Diversion Proposal (FDP) & Obtaining Stage I & II clearance from MoEF & CC, Gol for forest land proposed for diversion.
2.	No. of works : 02(Two)
3.	Bid Identification No. : ACESICB-02(01)/2026-27 to ACESICB-02(02)/2026-27
4.	Estimated Cost : Rs.218.55 Lakhs to 301.06 Lakhs
5.	Earnest Money Deposit : Referred to DTGN
6.	Cost of Tender Paper : Referred to DTGN
7.	Period of Completion : Referred to DTGN
8.	Date and Time of availability of Bid Document in the Portal : Dt:10.08.2026 at 11.30 AM to Dt: 28.08.2016 up to 17.00 PM
9.	Last Date / Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal : Dt:28.08.2026 up to 17.00 PM.
10.	Date of Bid opening : Dt: 29.08.2026 at 11.00 AM.
11.	Clarification seeking date : Dt: 10.08.2026 at 11.30 AM to Dt: 28.08.2026 up to 17.00 PM.
12.	Date of Lottery (if required) : Will be intimated later on.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in said website. Sd/- Additional Chief Engineer, Southern Investigation Circle, Berhampur

OIPR- 32001/32571/1/26-27/0003

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line Tenders are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. / Due Date	Description	Qty.(Nos./ Sets)	EMD (Rs.)
1.	02261404/24.08.2026	High Capacity Inter Vehical Coupler Unit		20,00,000/-
2.	17261352/24.08.2026	Set of Frames & Brackets for IN-House Manufacturing of Seating Arrangement for LHB GS Amrit Bharat Coaches	55 Sets	7,72,310/-
3.	14251160/07.09.2026	Set of Adhesive for LHB Coaches	3782 Sets	5,88,110/-
4.	17261214/26.08.2026	Floor End Profile, L=2M	6693 Nos	1,71,130/-
5.	17261242/27.08.2026	Set of Seat Attachment Profile for LHB Chair Car Coaches	42 Set	1,35,210/-
6.	17261303/25.08.2026	Cable Tray 1X70X125 L = 3M For LHB Coaches	3157 Nos	1,09,820/-
7.	05261467/02.09.2026	Set of Side Wall & Roof for High Rise Panto With TCAS for MEMU DMC Coaches	46 Set	13,17,640/-
8.	17261311/21.08.2026	Design, Development, Supply and Installation of Set of Seats & Berths With Integrated Cushion and Upholstery for LHB SLR Amrit Bharat Coaches.	12 Sets	
9.	05261316A/27.08.2026	Design, Development, Supply and Installation of Set of Seats & Berths With Integrated Cushion and Upholstery for LHB Hot Buffet Amrit Bharat Coaches.	06 Sets	20,00,000/-
10.	17261321/24.08.2026	Design, Development, Supply and Installation of Set of Seats & Berths With Integrated Cushion and Upholstery for LHB GS Amrit Bharat Coaches.	66 Sets	
11.	05261024A/27.08.2026	Design, Development, Supply and Installation of Set of Seats & Berths With Integrated Cushion and Upholstery (With Mounting Brackets) for LHB SCN Amrit Bharat Coaches.	48 Sets	
12.	05261320A/02.09.2026	Design, Development, Supply and Installation of Set of Seats & Berths With Integrated Cushion and Upholstery (With Mounting Brackets) for LHB SCN Amrit Bharat Coaches.	496 Set	20,00,000/-
13.	17261312A/24.08.2026	Set of Cushioning Material PU Foam (With 65 Density) to RDSO SPEC. RDSO/2007/CG-04 Rev.01 For IN-House Manufacturing of Seat & Berth for LHB GS Amrit Bharat Coaches.	55 Sets	1,54,910/-
14.	05261024A/27.08.2026	Underframe Complete for VB Metro NDC	04 Nos	
15.	05261024A/27.08.2026	Underframe Complete for VB Metro TC	08 Nos	10,27,740/-
16.	05261024A/27.08.2026	Underframe Complete for VB Metro DTC	04 Nos	
17.	05261024A/27.08.2026	Underframe Complete for VB Metro MC	16 Nos	
18.	05261320A/02.09.2026	Set of End Part (Driving & Non-Driving End) for 3Phase MEMU /DMC	34 Set	13,88,270/-
19.	05261320A/02.09.2026	End Part Complete for 3 Phase MEMU TC Coach	190 Nos	
20.	13265179/27.08.2026	Automated Axle Measuring Machine PL No/Item Code: 659048500017	1 Nos	7,97,680/-
21.	13265178/07.09.2026	Supply Installation and Commissioning of Battery Operated High Rise Stacker System PL No/Item Code: 659047800017	1 Nos	4,27,160/-
22.	13265158/07.09.2026	Rail Cum Road Vehicle 600 Ton PL No/Item Code: 609001270019	1 Nos	11,24,480/-
23.	05261369A/21.08.2026	Set of Carline For LHB Bangladesh Non AC Chair Car Coaches PL No : 33529231	58 Set	1,42,980/-
24.	02261443/31.08.2026	Polymide Flexible Conduitt PG-16	269499.2 MTR	1,32,600/-
25.	02261266/25.08.2026	Roof Mounted CAB AC	21 Nos	1,91,710/-
26.	01261213/25.08.2026	Lower Spring Seat	6937 Nos	3,59,680/-
27.	01261227/27.08.2026	Fully Assembled Bogies Compatible for Vande Metro	02 Set	20,00,000/-
28.	05261359/28.08.2026	Supply of One Set of Nosecone Coupler Cover for Trainset	54 Sets	1,34,770/-
29.	07261152/25.08.2026	Supply, Installation, Commissioning & Testing of Stainless Steel Tubes and Double Ferrule Fittings for LSLRD Coaches	90 Set	4,39,920/-
30.	02261410/28.08.2026	95 SQMM Thin Walled Flex Elast Cable	11800 MTR	3,02,380/-
31.	04261057/31.08.2026	SSS Pipe 25mm	2325 Nos	1,43,990/-

1. For details and making On-line bids, visit Website <http://ireps.gov.in>. Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website <http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in>. Class IIIb digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at <http://www.cce.gov.in>
2. Tenders will close at 14.25 HRS. on due date and tender will be opened at 14.30 HRS. Tenders Sr. No.1 to 16 will be open at RCF Kapurthala and Sr. No. 17 to 24 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi.
3. For queries, contact IREPS Help desk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF help desk at 011-23378658.
Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them.

PCCM

CORRIGENDUM
Bidders may please note the following changes against 1. e-Adve. Tender No. 07261203 Existing Entry Due date 30.07.2026 Should be read as 12.08.2026 2. e-Adve. Tender No. 07261127 Existing Due date 30.07.2026 Should be read as 11.08.2026 3. e-Adve. Tender No. 07261151 Existing Due date 30.07.2026 Should be read as 11.08.2026 4. e-Adve. Tender No. 07261141 Existing Due date 11.08.2026 Should be read as 31.08.2026.

PCCM

No. 48-S/2026-27 Dated: 01.08.2026

THE ALL-NEW APP
SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP
STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

APPENDIX IV-A [See Proviso to rule 8(6)]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the schedule mentioned immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officers of respective accounts of Indian Bank, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of amount due specified for each of the accounts thereto, which is due to payable to the secured creditor, with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon.

1. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS : (1) Mr. T R S Balakrishnan, (Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor), H. No.4/14A, 1st Street, Bakthavatchalam Nagar, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020. Also at : Flat No.T-1, 3rd Floor, Allegra Apartment, Sri Balaji Nagar West, Potheri - 603 203, Village Kattangulathur (Chengalpattu Taluk & District), Tamilnadu. (2) Mrs. S. Sindhu, (Co-borrower), H. No.4/14A, 1st Street, Bakthavatchalam Nagar, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020. [Branch Name : Indian Bank, Mogapair East Branch (now transferred to SAM Branch, Chennai)]. **AMOUNT DUE TO THE BANK AS ON 28.07.2026 : Rs.82,83,246.38 (Rupees Eighty two lakhs eighty three thousand two hundred forty six and paise thirty eight only)** with further interest from 29.07.2026 costs, other charges and expenses thereon.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : Area : Buildup area 1438 Sq. ft. (Carpet area 1150 Sq. ft.) along with UDS 542 Sq. ft. out of 4127 Sq. ft. Flat No.T-1, 3rd Floor, C Plot No.20, Allegra Apartment, Sri Balaji Nagar West, Potheri, Survey No.3/1A5, Village Kattankulathur, Taluk Chengalpattu, Sub Registrar Dist Chengalpattu Joint II. **Prior Encumbrance known to the Bank : Nil. TYPE OF POSSESSION : Physical.**

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.72.50 Lakhs		Bid increment : Rs.50,000/-		PROPERTY ID NO. : IDIB7492347746		EMD : Rs.7.25 Lakhs					
BANK WEBSITE		E-AUCTION WEBSITE		SALE NOTICE		PROPERTY LOCATION		PROPERTY PHOTO		PROPERTY VIDEO	
											



11 injured in Colombia bombing days before presidential inauguration



COUNTRY	Max	Min	TDS
Australia (Canberra)	13	0	SNY
Indonesia (Bali)	26	19	LR
Italy (Rome)	37	24	SNY
Japan (Tokyo)	37	26	LC
Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)	31	25	TDS
Maldives (Male)	29	28	LC
Mauritius (Port Louis)	27	21	SNY

COUNTRY	Max	Min	TDS
Singapore	32	28	TDS
South Korea (Seoul)	35	27	LC
Switzerland (Bern)	28	17	LC
Thailand (Bangkok)	32	27	LR
Türkiye (Ankara)	28	15	SNY
UAE (Dubai)	39	34	SNY
Vietnam (Hanoi)	31	26	TDS

US tells citizens to be prepared to leave West Asia

Tehran blames US of escalating conflict, warns regional nations against siding with Washington

DUBAI

US embassies in capitals across the West Asia on Saturday warned American citizens to be aware of an “unforeseen escalation” in the regional conflict and urged them to be ready to leave. The warning, posted online by US embassies in Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates came a day after US President Donald Trump threatened to hit Iran “very hard”.

Iran and the US have been at war since February 28. After a brief ceasefire, fighting resumed with no end in sight. “Americans in the region should consider departing, or be prepared to depart should there be escalation,” said the security alert. The messages urged citizens to check flight details and to follow safety advice from local authorities.

“Americans currently in the West Asia should exercise caution and heightened vigilance and should be prepared for flight cancellations, periodic airspace closures, and potential travel disruptions,” it said. Americans in Jordan were told not to visit US military bases there, which have recently come under Iranian missile attack, and in Israel they were urged to seek the location of the nearest bomb shelter.

“The Iranian regime is unpredictable, as seen by its recent decisions to attack areas in the region without warning or provocations as well as to expand attacks to areas not previ-

Four killed in Gaza as Hamas agrees to disarm

GAZA CITY: Israeli airstrikes overnight killed at least four people and wounded dozens in central and northern Gaza, local health officials said on Saturday. The military said it struck Hamas targets and destroyed five storage facilities. The strikes came a day after Hamas confirmed it would disarm under a proposed US-brokered ceasefire. Israel has not officially commented. Egypt welcomed Hamas' response, but Israel's Itamar Ben-Gvir rejected the deal.

ously targeted (such as Egypt),” said a post on the US Embassy Jerusalem site. The US embassy in Beirut said it remained on ordered departure status, with non-essential staff relocated outside Lebanon.

Defensive shield

Iran's military on Saturday accused Washington of “escalating tensions” in the region. “Any country serving as defensive shield for criminal and aggressive America will be engulfed by the flames of war,” Ali Abdollahi, head of Iran's military central command, said in a statement read on state television. Mohammad Mokhber, adviser to Iran's supreme leader, also warned against any attacks on Iranian infrastructure. “You calculate through military equations, but we respond with the logic of history,” he wrote on X.



Russia hits Kyiv with ballistic missiles, drones

KYIV

RUSSIA launched an intense barrage of ballistic missiles and drones overnight into Saturday, killing at least nine people and wounding 33 civilians in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, authorities said.

The strikes follow a major Russian attack two days earlier that killed at least 10 people and wounded more than 50 others across Ukraine, as Moscow apparently looks to exploit Kyiv's critical shortage of Western-supplied anti-ballistic missile defences. The relentless cycle of attacks dims the potential of reaching a diplomatic end to Russia's more than four-year-old invasion of its neighbour.



Emergency services personnel work to extinguish a fire following Russian missile attacks in Kyiv, Ukraine | AP

A five-storey residential building in the city's Solomianskyi District was damaged by falling debris and a fire broke out. Rescue workers evacuated 35 people from the upper floors of the building and two people died, with

eight reported injured, including two children, according to Ukraine's state emergency service.

In the Darnytskyi District of Kyiv, seven people were killed and another 14 injured after the attack caused fires and damage to houses, vehicles, an administrative and non-residential building, the emergency services said. Elsewhere, emergency workers extinguished a fire in a non-residential building in the capital's Shevchenkivskyi district.

There was no additional information about earlier reports by the district mayor that people were trapped in another residential building. Damage to commercial and residential buildings was reported in two other city districts. AP

Spain fortifies Ceuta after 67 die in migrant influx from Morocco

CEUTA

SPAIN on Saturday installed a 500-meter-long (1,600-foot) barrier on the sea border between its North African territory of Ceuta and neighboring Morocco after tens of thousands of migrants breached the frontier earlier in the week.

At least 67 migrants died, including some who drowned and others who were killed in a stampede to cross a breakwater barrier, the Spanish government said Saturday.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez slammed the reaction of some other European Union leaders to the events in Ceuta, saying calls for Spain to be suspended from the EU's borderless Schengen zone were “driven by prejudice, fake news, ignorance, or political interest.” A handful of exhausted migrants who swam to Ceuta's urban Tarajal beach on Saturday morning were met by soldiers who escorted them across the border. Most of the 50,000 to 60,000 migrants who entered the territory between Thursday and Friday soon went back.

“We are relentless against those who break the law,” Spanish Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska told journalists Saturday. Questioned how the massive border breach could have happened given the heavy security on both sides of the border and whether Morocco posed a threat to Ceuta, Marlaska defended the government in Rabat. “The events require an evaluation



Migrants run from Spanish police officers after crossing from Morocco into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta | AP

by Spain and Morocco,” he said. But it was the cooperation with its neighbours that allowed Spain “to revert the situation in 24 hours.”

EU leaders call for response

Leaders of 22 EU countries called for a coordinated response, urging the EU's Irish presidency to convene an urgent meeting of interior ministers.

In a letter, they warned against creating the perception that illegal entry into the bloc could lead to legal stay, saying it would encourage more crossings and undermine confidence in the EU's migration policy. AP

Nirmal Purja's remarkable journey from Gurkha soldier to global climbing icon

KATHMANDU

“Broad Peak, I ask for nothing but safe passage up and back down. I take zero mountains for granted. Not one,” Nirmal Purja posted on his X account three days before he went missing on the 8,051-metre peak in the Karakoram Range. But it was not to be for Purja, the Nepali-British climber, popularly known as Nims or Nimsdal.

Purja, 43, was among 10 climbers swept away by an avalanche that struck Broad Peak, located in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's Gilgit-Baltistan, at an altitude of around 7,000 metres on Thursday. Purja's death was confirmed on Saturday in a statement issued by Elite Exped, the expedition company he founded.



Nirmal Purja

It further said that no member of the expedition survived the avalanche. The Broad Peak expedition marked the end of Purja's illustrious mountaineering career. Broad Peak is the world's 12th-highest mountain and is considered one of the most challenging peaks to climb. Purja had successfully climbed

all 14 peaks above 8,000 metres around the world in just six months and six days, setting a new record in 2019. He was about to complete his mission of climbing all 14 eight-thousanders twice after completing the Broad Peak. Ang Tshering Sherpa, former president of Nepal Mountaineering Association, termed Purja as “one of the best climbers” in the world. “He has climbed eight thousanders for most of the time,” he added.

The list of Purja's achievements, apart from the fastest ascent of the world's 14 tallest mountains using supplemental oxygen, includes the fastest summits of the world's three highest mountains - Everest, K2 and Kanchenjunga - and being among the first mountain-

eers to summit K2 during winter in January 2021.

However, for the highly skilled mountaineer that he was, Purja didn't grow up in the shadow of the Himalayas. He was born on July 25, 1983, in Myagdi district of Gandaki Province but raised in Chitwan in the country's flatlands.

According to his own website, although he performed well at school, there was no yearning to climb mountains, instead he wanted to become a Gurkha in the British military like his father and brothers before him. Beginning in 2003, Purja had a distinguished 16-year military career, of which he spent six years as a Gurkha and 10 years with the UK Special Forces (SBS). PTI

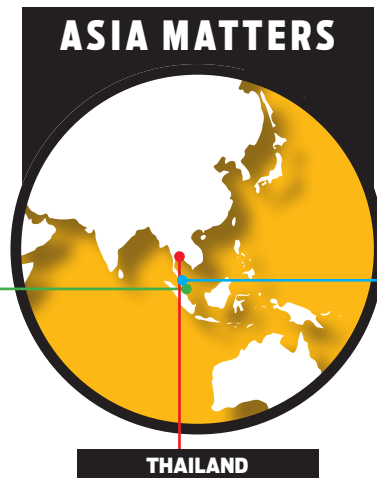
Trump to sell early access to market posts

NEW YORK

DONALD Trump knows the world hangs on his every word. Now he wants you to pay for it. The social media posts of the world's most powerful man are going on sale on Saturday when his Truth Social business begins offering sneak peeks of them to Wall Street traders willing to pay up.

The move raises the prospect of big profits for Trump's company and big questions about insider trading and using public office for private gain.

Similar fast speed feeds are sold by other social media firms and media providers, but Truth Social doesn't just distribute the news, it makes it, regularly rattling markets as Trump posts policy changes on everything from war to central bank leadership to tariffs. AP



GOVT LINKS TRAFFIC FINE TO VEHICLE TAX

The government has started linking unpaid traffic tickets to annual vehicle tax renewals, Bangkok Post reported. Motorists who do not pay their vehicle tickets will first receive a formal warning notice as required by law. If the fine remains unpaid after 90 days from date the ticket was issued, the penalty amount would be added to annual tax.

SINGAPORE

BRITISH BAND BANNED OVER FLAG DISPLAY

Singapore after an investigation found two members unfurled a Palestinian flag during a concert, police said. Two band members who held the flag on stage during a concert on Wednesday were also banned from re-entering Singapore, police said late Friday. Singapore, known for its tough laws on public speech and assembly, bans the open display of all foreign flags, national emblems or banners without a permit. A video circulating online showed two Massive Attack members on stage unfurling a Palestinian flag to loud, prolonged cheers from the audience.

MALAYSIA

PM ASSURES SUPPORT TO NEW BN GOVT

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Saturday congratulated Barisan Nasional for its victory in the Negri Sembilan polls. Ibrahim assured that the federal government will continue supporting the new state government. “Congratulations to Barisan Nasional on the mandate entrusted on them by the people of Negri Sembilan. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to all voters who participated wholeheartedly in the democratic process that has just concluded,” he was quoted as saying by the Malaysia Star.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-Tender Notice

E-Tenders under work contracts are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works: **Sl. No.: [01].**

Tender Nos.: Engg-28-2026-27. Name of the work: Provision of G+1 RPF Insp. chamber, CCTV Room & Ladies RPF Barrack at Dankuni Loco Works of CLW at Dankuni. **Advertised Value (Rupees): ₹ 51,22,758.54.** Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees): ₹ 1,02,500.00. **Period of Completion :** 4 months. **Date of Closing:** 18.08.2026@ 12:00. **Note :** (1) Complete details can be seen in the Railways website www.irops.gov.in & www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in. (2) **Contact Number:** 9163340201. **Dy. Chief Engineer/CLW/Chittaranjan**

PR/6/446

Visit us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

QuoteExpress

DON'T WATCH THE CLOCK; DO WHAT IT DOES. KEEP GOING

SAM LEVENSON

कनरा बैंक Canara Bank 7/1108, Bazar Street, Gururajapet - 631101. Mob No: 91 95028 06928 E-mail: cb16252@canarabank.com

गुरुवाराजपेट ब्रांच (16252)

DEMAND NOTICE (SECTION 13(2)) TO BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR

Demand Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Through Paper Publication. To,

1) **M/s GCS Agency** No 115/1, Gururajapettai to Tiruttani Road, Mel Kasavaraajapet Village, Chinnakkadambur Madura Tiruttani TA, Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu-631211

2) **Mr. Chandra Sekaran G S/o Gangadharan** No.126/66a, Big Street, Nandiveduthangal, Vellore-631101.

3) **Mrs. Umamaheswari Chandrasekaran W/o Chandrasekaran** No.126/66a, Big Street, Nandiveduthangal, Vellore-631101.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Sub: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, Gururajapet [16252] branch, (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That **Sri/Smt/M/s.GCS Agency** represented by its proprietor **Mr. Chandra Sekaran G** (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

That **Sri/Smt/ M/S. Chandra Sekaran And Umamaheswari Chandrasekaran** (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantor/Mortgagor") has guaranteed the payment on demand of all monies and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities up to the limit of **Rs.35,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty five lakhs only)** with interest thereon. **You** (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered into agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in **Schedule B** hereunder.

The above said loan / credit facilities are duly secured by way of mortgage of the assets more specifically described in the schedule hereunder, by virtue of the relevant documents executed by you in our favour. Since you had failed to discharge your liabilities as per the terms and conditions stipulated, the Bank has classified the debts as **NPA on 17-07-2026**. Hence, we hereby issue this notice to you under section 13(2) of the subject Act calling upon you to discharge the entire liability of the Borrowers towards the secured creditor as on **30-06-2026** amounts to **Rs. 35,34,199/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand One Hundred and Ninety Nine Rupees Only)** future interest with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses, within **Sixty Days** from the date of the notice, failing which we shall exercise all or any of the rights under section 13(4) of the subject Act, You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower / Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in **Schedule B** hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and / or any other law in force.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE A (Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower)

S.N.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan / Limit	Date of Sanction	Sanctioned Amount
1	125001360131	OD/OCC	31-12-2021	Rs.35,00,000/-

SCHEDULE B (Details of security assets)

Name of Title holder: Mrs. Uma Maheswari

Item 1: All that piece and parcel of vacant house site situated at Ranipet District, Arakonam Taluk, Nandiveduthangal village, Mettu street, comprised in Dry.SF No. 11, New No. SF No. 11/1A measuring East to West 15 feet and North to South 120 feet to an extent of 1800 Sq.ft in the following boundaries: Bounded on the East by: Vasuranga chettiar's house and backyard West by: Battai North by: Subramania Naidu's land South by: Mettu street **Item 2:** All that piece and parcel of RCC Terraced house and ground situated at Ranipet District, Arakonam Taluk, Nandiveduthangal village, Periya street, Door No.126 comprised in Grama Natham S.F.No 230/2C (Old No.230/3) (Parent Old.No.230) ground admeasuring an extent of 3924 Sq.feet (0.09 Acres) in the following boundaries: Bounded on the East by: Adhilaakshmi ammal's house and backyard West by: Thayarammal's house and backyard North by: Periya street South by: Kanderi govindappa Naidu's land Within this comprising a RCC terraced house, with all accessories, appearance and with E.B Service connection No.291-006-125 and its deposits, etc Owner of the property: Mrs. Uma Maheswari

SCHEDULE C: (Details of liability)

S. No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan / Limit	LIABILITY WITH INTEREST	RATE OF INTEREST
1	125001360131	OD/OCC	Rs. 35,34,199/- as on 30.06.2026 plus interest and other charges thereon	10.25 % (excluding penal interest)

For YOUR KIND INFORMATION (Details of Other Liabilities)

S. No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan / Limit	LIABILITY WITH INTEREST	RATE OF INTEREST
1	170003712036	Term Loan	Rs. 27,73,259.51/- as on 18.07.2026 plus interest and other charges thereon	11.50 % (including penal interest)

Place: Chennai | Date : 20-07-2026 Authorised Officer / Canara Bank

புனங்கு ஆஃப் பரோடா बैंक ऑफ बरोडा Bank of Baroda

SEMBUDSO STREET BRANCH

80/81, Prakasham Salai, Broadway, Chennai-600108 Ph: 044- 25227207, 25262609

REDEMPTION NOTICE

M/s Kumar Agencies, Rep by its Prop: A Vijaya Kumar, No.9, Nainiappan Street, Mannady, Chennai, 600001, Mr.A Vijaya Kumar, S/o M.M.Athikesavan, Proprietor of M/s Kumar Agencies and Mrs. V Kavitha (Guarantor) residing at A-5/456, 2nd Floor, Kendria Vihar Apartments, Poonamalle High Road, Velappanchavadi, Chennai, 600077.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Notice under Rule 6(2) and/or Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002).

Ref :-1. Demand Notice dated **12.02.2026** issued u/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act 2002.

2. Possession Notice dated **24.04.2026** issued u/s 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act 2002.

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the **Bank of Baroda, Sembudoso Street Branch, 80/81, Prakasham Road, Broadway, Chennai, 600 108** being Secured Creditor Bank in exercise of the powers conferred u/s 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 (hereinafter referred as "Act") read with Rules 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 (hereinafter referred as "Rules") issued demand notice dated **12.02.2026** calling upon you being Borrowers (s) / Mortgagor (s) / Guarantor (s) to repay the amount stated in the said demand notice within 60 days from receipt of said notice.

And whereas you have failed to repay the amount, the undersigned in exercise of the powers conferred u/s 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 4 and/or Rule 8 of the Rules have taken over the Possession of Secured Assets (hereinafter referred as the said properties) more particularly described herein below Schedule. [Copy of Possession Notice dated **24.04.2026** is attached herewith for ready reference]. Even after taking possession of the secured asset, you have not paid the amount due to Bank as mentioned in above Possession Notice. Your attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Therefore, you are all requested to pay the dues as mentioned in possession notice along with applicable interest, cost, charges & expenses within 30 days from receipt of this notice and redeem the secured asset as mentioned below. In case you fail to pay the above-mentioned dues & redeem the secured asset within 30 days from receipt of this notice, Bank will be constrained to sell the secured asset through public e-Auction by publication of e-Auction Sale notice. The date, time of e-auction and Reserve Price of the property shall be informed to you separately.

Description of the Immoveable Property: Schedule "A": Whole Property: All that piece and parcel of Land & Building bearing Flat in the Second Floor, bearing Flat No. A-5/456, A5 block, "Kendriya Vihar Apartment", Poonamalle High Road, Velappanchavadi situated at NOOMBAL village, Ambattur Taluk, Tiruvallur District comprised in Survey No. 77/9, 78/4, 83/1,83/2, 84/1,84/2 & 85/1 land measuring an extent of 347.86 Sq.ft undivided share of an total extent 220961.25 Sq.Ft together with built up area of 512 sq.ft together with all fixture and fittings, electrical installations, MES Service Connection with Security Deposit and all other common amenities provided thereon **bounded as North by :** Poonamallee high Road, **South by :** S.No.s 82/2 & 82/1, **East by :** S.No.s 82/1, 83/4, 84/3 & 85/2, **West by :** S.No.s 76,77,78 & 79. Situated within the Registration District of South Chennai and Sub Registration District of Kundrathur. **CERSAI ID: SECURITY INTEREST ID: 400007541848**

Place : Chennai Date : 29.07.2026

CHIEF MANAGER & AUTHORIZED OFFICER

BANK OF BARODA

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on @SCSRailwayIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE No.96 to 100, DRM_W_HYB_26 dt. 31/07/2026

On behalf of the President of India, Divisional Railway Manager/Works, Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites Open Tenders for the following works through e-procurement up to 15.00 hours of 24/08/2026.

S1. No. 1, Tender No. : 96_DRM_W_HYB_26, Name of the work: HYB Div: Improvements to old structures and offices in Mazdoor Union Office Premises under Jurisdiction of SSE/WGOC, Approx Value (₹): 2,58,09,840.00, EMD (₹): 5,16,200.00

S1. No. 2, Tender No. : 97_DRM_W_HYB_26, Name of the work: Hyderabad Division :- SC-DHNE Section :- Replacement of existing steel girders with PSC slab on Br No 99 UP (of span 5x12.20m) at Km 42/300-40, and Br No 489 (of span 4x12.20 M.), Approx Value (₹): 6,65,55,578.00, EMD (₹): 13,31,100.00

S1. No. 3, Tender No. : 98_DRM_W_HYB_26, Name of the work: Hyderabad Division: SC-DHNE Section: Elimination of Manned Level Crossing Gate No. 145 at KM 265/500-600 duly providing RUB in between UKD - VDI Stations., Approx Value (₹): 10,75,10,199.00, EMD (₹): 21,50,200.00

S1. No. 4, Tender No. : 99_DRM_W_HYB_26, Name of the work: HYB Divn :- Hyderabad Division: SC-DHNE Section: Elimination of Manned Level Crossing Gate No. 94 at KM 173/900-174/0 duly providing RUB in between WPR-SRNR Stations., Approx Value (₹): 9,09,30,259.00, EMD (₹): 18,18,600.00

S1. No. 5, Tender No. : 100_DRM_W_HYB_26, Name of the work: HYB: SC-DHNE: Construction of RUB in lieu of LC No.149 at KM 271/0-100 between Ulindakonda - Veldurti stations., Approx Value (₹): 9,23,27,738.00, EMD (₹): 18,46,500.00

For further details visit the website www.irops.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager/ Works/Hyderabad

Tender Notice No.18/2026 Dt.31.07.2026

Supply of Stores Items

E-Procurement Tender Notice

The following tenders have been floated online. Tenders are requested to visit the website www.irops.gov.in and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender closing time is 14.30 hrs of the due date of the tender. "For all Indigenous offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on www.irops.gov.in."

Tender No.	Brief Description
38261026	Modified Elastomeric Pad (Design-B)
65265004	Heavy duty Elevator 14 Passenger capacity
38262292	Automatic Twist Lock complete for BLC Wagon.
38261474	19.05mm dia lock bolt with collar
66265488C	Track Machine spares of plasser make
66266488	Track Machine Spares of Plasser Make
29261413	Secondary Vertical Damper for WAG9 Locos
29261399	Axle Box bearing for WAG9/WAP7 locomotives
56261005	PVC Underground Railway signaling cable Size 24 core x1.5sqmm
90261025	Steel shots numbers S-11400
75261037	Set of V BELTS
75261223	VINYL COATED UPHOLSTERY
29261041	Elastic ring (Aclathan ring) as per RD50 Spec
29261082	Pinion shaft21 Tech for WAG9(new series) locos
45261004	Brushless Alternator 25KW
82264612A	SECUKINUMAB 150MG INJ
38262094	305mm BORE AIR CYLINDER
38262293	OH KIT for distributor valve type C3W
45261528	High Capacity Inter Vehicle coupler
82260778B	PEMBROLIZUMAB 100MG Injection
38261215	Wear plate for YOKE PIN support
45261028	VDEEP 4Groved axle pully
33261436	Boister for Fiat BOGIE
LH266066	IOT Based water level indicators of overhead water tanks
LH266071	IOT Based water level indicators of underslung water tanks
Note: Due dates of Tender Opening	
SL. No.	01 on dt. 10.08.2026.
SL. No.	02 on dt. 11.08.2026.
SL. No.	03 on dt. 12.08.2026.
SL. No.	04 on dt. 17.08.2026.
SL. No.	05 to 09 on dt. 18.08.2026.
SL. No.	10 & 11 on dt. 19.08.2026.
SL. No.	12 to 17 on dt. 20.08.2026.
SL. No.	18 to 20 on dt. 21.08.2026.
SL. No.	21 to 23 dt. 24.08.2026.
SL. No.	24 & 25 dt.26.08.2026
Beside above mentioned Tenders There are other Tenders having value above Rs. 50 Lakhs for details, please visit Railway website above.	
Principal Chief Materials Manager/ A608 Secunderabad	
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at www.irops.gov.in or http://scr.indianrailways.gov.in	



Car sales zoom despite price rise

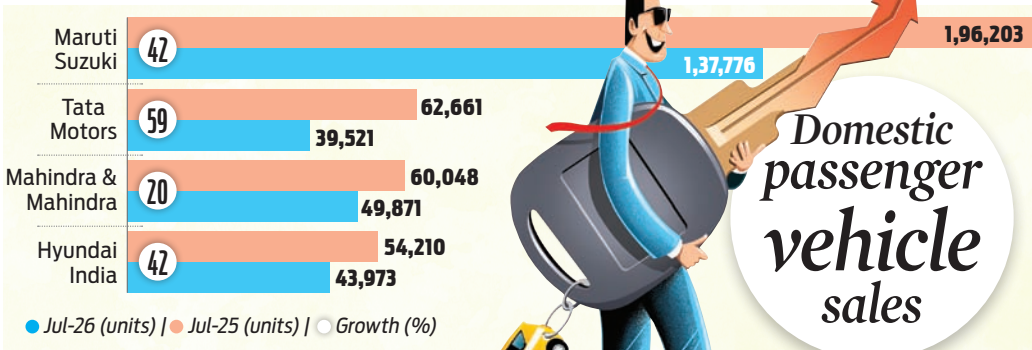
July sales estimated to surge 33%; market leader Maruti Suzuki witnesses 34% increase

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

CAR sales are estimated to have grown by a robust 33% year-on-year in July to nearly 4.7 lakh units, despite sharp increases in fuel prices and multiple price hikes by auto-makers amid geopolitical tensions in West Asia that disrupted supply chains and pushed up raw material costs. India's automobile industry has been on a strong growth trajectory since the GST rate cut in late September 2025. Income tax relief and repo rate cuts have further boosted consumer sentiment, said Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL).

While Banerjee acknowledged that higher fuel and vehicle prices have affected demand, particularly in the price-sensitive entry-level segment, he said much of the impact has been offset by the growing acceptance of CNG-powered vehicles. For MSIL, CNG vehicle sales rose 50% year-on-year in July.

India's largest carmaker reported a 34% increase in total sales to 2,41,421 units in July,



compared with 1,80,526 units during the same period last year. MSIL's domestic passenger vehicle sales surged 43% to a record 1,96,203 units, while total domestic sales, including light commercial vehicles, reached an all-time high of 2,00,123 units. Banerjee said the company has a backlog of around 1.20 lakh CNG vehicles, while the newly launched Brezza is receiving about 2,000 bookings a day.

Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HML) reported its highest-ever monthly total sales of 75,360 units in July, registering a 25.4% year-on-year growth. Domestic sales rose 23.3% to 54,210 units, while exports in-

creased 31.4% to 2.1, 1.50 units.

"We have kicked off the new quarter on a strong note. Achieving 75,360 total sales, our highest-ever monthly volume since inception, underscores the immense trust consumers place in the Hyundai brand," said Tarun Garg, MD and CEO, HML.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles reported sales of 63,760 units across domestic and international markets in July, up 59% from 40,175 units a year earlier. Its electric vehicle sales more than doubled, ris-

ing 114% to 15,217 units. SUV maker Mahindra & Mahindra sold 60,048 vehicles in the domestic market, up 20% year-on-year, while its overall sales, including exports, stood at 60,887 units.

Nalinikanth Gollagunta, CEO, Automotive Division, M&M, said: "The total vehicle sales stood at 103860, a 26% y-o-y growth reflecting all-round demand traction across the portfolio."

JSW MG Motor India reported its highest-ever monthly wholesale sales for the second consecutive month in July, selling 8,158 units, up 22% year-on-year.

TAX DEVOLUTION

Centre releases ₹1.09 lakh crore funds to states

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Centre on Saturday released an additional instalment of ₹1,09,019 crore as tax devolution to states, over and above the regular monthly devolution due on August 10, to help them step up capital expenditure and developmental spending. The Finance Ministry said the advance release is in line with the Union government's commitment to strengthening state finances and enabling faster implementation of infrastructure and welfare projects. The amount has been released as an advance instalment for August, providing states with additional fiscal space to meet expenditure requirements.

Among the states, UP received the highest allocation of ₹19,208 crore, followed by Bihar at ₹10,845 crore, Madhya Pradesh (₹8,010 crore), West Bengal (₹7,866 crore), Maharashtra (₹7,022 crore) and Rajasthan (₹6,460 crore). Other major recipients are Odisha (₹4,819 crore), Andhra Pradesh (₹4,597 crore), Karnataka (₹4,504 crore), Tamil Nadu (₹4,466 crore) and Gujarat (₹4,094 crore).

Among the northeastern states, Assam received ₹3,552 crore, while Arunachal Pradesh was allocated ₹1,476 crore. Smaller allocations included Tripura ₹699 crore), Meghalaya (₹688 crore), Manipur (₹682 crore), Mizoram (₹615 crore), Nagaland ₹524 crore) and Sikkim (₹365 crore). The release comes ahead of the Centre's regular monthly tax devolution to states, scheduled for August 10. Tax devolution is the transfer of states' share in the divisible pool of central taxes, as recommended by the Finance Commission.

GST mop up at ₹2.11 lakh cr in July on high import revenue

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

GOODS and Services Tax (GST) collections rose 15.4% year-on-year to ₹2.11 lakh crore in July, driven primarily by robust import-related revenues even as domestic collections grew at a slower pace. This is the third time in the current financial year that monthly GST collections have crossed the ₹2-lakh-crore mark. The 15.4% growth is also the highest in 14 months.

According to data released by the Ministry of Finance on Saturday, gross domestic GST revenue rose 10.1% to ₹1.45 lakh crore, while GST collections from imports surged 28.8% to ₹66,511 crore.

"The defining feature is the 28.8% surge in import GST — consistent with total imports expanding 26.85% in June and amplified by rupee depreciation, which increased the taxable rupee value of imported energy, commodities and industrial inputs," said Manoj Mishra, Partner and Tax Controversy Management Leader,



SMART GAINS

- Gross domestic GST revenue rose 10.1% to ₹1.45 lakh crore, while GST collections from imports surged 28.8% to ₹66,511 crore
- Net GST mop up stood at ₹1.81 lakh crore in July, up 15.8% from a year ago

Grant Thornton Bharat.

After accounting for refunds, net GST mop up stood at ₹1.81 lakh crore in July, up 15.8% from a year ago. Refunds rose 13.1% to ₹29,968 crore, indicating continued support for exporters and businesses

claiming input tax credits.

"Total refunds increased by 13.1% in July, while export re-funds processed through ICE-GATE recorded a robust 22.7% growth. The ability to sustain strong revenue growth alongside faster refund disbursements reflects an increasingly efficient GST administration that is balancing fiscal objectives with the liquidity needs of businesses, particularly exporters," said Mahesh Jaising, Partner & Indirect Tax Leader, Deloitte India.

Among states, Haryana recorded the highest growth in domestic GST collections at 28%, followed by Gujarat (26%) and Karnataka (23%). On the other hand, domestic GST collections declined the most in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, falling 23% and 20%, respectively. Collections from Delhi also declined by 8%.

During April-July FY27, gross GST collections rose 10.1% year-on-year to ₹8.43 lakh crore, while net collections increased 9.2% to ₹7.21 lakh crore.

Inflows under RBI's dollar swap scheme cross \$40-bn mark by July 31

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Saturday said that the total foreign currency inflows under the concessional swap facility touched \$40.82 billion as of July 30, doubled from \$20.72 billion by July 17. According to the RBI, foreign currency non-resident-bank deposits accounted for the bulk of the mobilisation at \$36.72 billion.

In a statement, the central bank said the FCNR(B) deposits contributed \$36.725 billion to the total up from \$17.41 billion



The swap facility has witnessed avid interest and attracted steady forex inflows since the beginning of the scheme — Reserve Bank of India

as of the last count on July 17, the overseas foreign currency borrowings (OFCBs) accounted for \$2.575 billion, up from \$1.97

billion and the external commercial borrowings (ECBs) brought in a further \$1.516 billion, up from \$1.34 billion from

the earlier count.

"According to data received from authorised dealer banks, total inflows under the facility stood at \$40.816 billion as of July 31," the RBI said, adding that the swap facility has seen avid interest and attracted steady forex inflows since June 8. The rising inflows had its positive rub-off on both the objectives with the forex kitty swelling by \$6.12 billion to \$682.35 billion for the week to July 24. Of this, as much as \$4.8 billion came in the form of foreign currency assets, clearly

indicating the impact of the special mobilisation drive.

But the forex kitty is down from its record high of \$728.5 billion recorded in the last week of this February.

Similarly, the rupee has been gaining ground, with the unit closing the week ending July 30 with the strongest weekly rally since end-March.

The rupee closed at 95.39 on Friday, after touching a high of 95.25, a up from 95.68 in the previous day. This is a massive gain for the beleaguered unit that has slumped to a record

low of 96.87 on May 20.

The RBI had announced the concessional swap facility on June 5 as part of a broader package aimed at encouraging forex inflows and supporting the balance of payments, which is in the deficit mode for the third year running.

The facility was operationalised three days later, on June 8 and it allows banks complete freedom to price their products apart from the central bank fully bearing the hedging cost for the three-year and five-year dollars.

VIEWPOINT

NRI DEPOSIT SCHEME FACES TAX HURDLE

SUNITHA NATTI

THE Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) deposits scheme, or the RBI's salvo against the ongoing rupee depreciation, is about to reach the halfway mark. Yet, concerns around taxation continue to cloud investor sentiments.

At first glance, these NRI deposits offer attractive interest income that is tax-free in India. However, unlike in the past, the scheme has been launched amid changed tax rules in overseas markets, including West Asia, Singapore, the UK and others. As a result, it is drawing a more tepid response than initially expected.

Though once considered completely 'idiotic' by none other than former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan, banks managed to raise \$37 billion in FCNR inflows within 40 days of the scheme's launch in June.

According to the RBI, inflows have touched \$37 billion by July 31, crossing the \$26 billion mobilised in 2013 during the scheme's three-month tenure under Rajan. SBI Research expects total deposit mobilisation of \$65-70 billion by September, though it pegs it at \$80-85 billion, including Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings and External Commercial Borrowings. Notwithstanding the dollar inflows, the rupee continues to weaken, partly due to the RBI's limited intervention.

The central bank has been intervening by an average of \$14 million a day, much less than the \$55 million it spent in 1997-98 to stabilise the currency.

That said, the scheme may come in handy in arresting dollar outflows, excluding FII exits. For instance, FCNR deposits plunged by nearly 86%, from \$7.1 billion in FY25 to \$946 million in FY26. Something needed to be done, and so the RBI tapped the deposits scheme, even if it meant additional, hidden costs for the central bank.

The cost for RBI

In 2013, Rajan was forced to launch the scheme to avert a currency crisis by mobilising dollar deposits. During its three-month window, the scheme raised \$34 billion, of which \$26 billion was fresh deposits. It did help stabilise the rupee, but the move was considered expensive. By one estimate, the scheme cost the central bank up to ₹20,000 crore, though the roughly ₹4 appreciation in the rupee helped re-

duce the country's import bill by up to ₹1.6 lakh crore every year. Incidentally, Rajan announced the FCNR deposit scheme on the day he took over as RBI Governor in September 2013. Towards the end of his term, however, he concluded that the idea was completely idiotic and a terrible, terrible thing to do. However, he also noted that it was the worst of the ideas on the table, helped the RBI fully cover the outflows and made money on the deal.

The expense arose from the 3.5% subsidy provided to banks to offset hedging costs and protect them from currency fluctu-

ity rates in excess of 6.5%.

There is a catch

Only a small portion of total FCNR deposits represents NRIs' own funds, while a substantial portion comprises borrowings. The rate arbitrage strategy is fairly common, wherein NRIs open FCNR deposit accounts, borrow against them and reinvest the borrowed funds into another FCNR deposit. This is how it works.

Suppose an NRI makes a \$10,000 FCNR(B) deposit with an Indian bank at 6.5%. It is likely that only \$1,000 is his own money, while the remain-



tuation risk. Typically, banks convert dollars into rupees and hedge their currency exposure in the forward market at about 3-3.5% per year.

Under the scheme, banks raising fresh 3-5 year FCNR(B) deposits between June 8 and September 30, 2026, can swap the proceeds with the RBI at par, with the central bank absorbing the full hedging cost. This means NRIs deposit dollars and receive dollars at maturity. The deposits remain denominated in dollars, interest accrues in dollars, and because there is no rupee conversion involved, depositors face no currency depreciation risk.

Domestic banks can use the RBI's USD-INR swap facility to exchange dollars at the same exchange rate, with the central bank absorbing the entire hedging cost.

With hedging costs next to zero and these deposits being exempt from CRR and SLR requirements, banks are encouraged to offer attractive interest rates on NRI deposits. Moreover, the restriction that interest rates offered to NRIs cannot be higher than those on comparable domestic deposits has been temporarily withdrawn with effect from June 17 until September 2026. All of this has prompted banks to offer depos-

ing \$9,000 is borrowed from an overseas lender at, say, 5.5%. In all, he would earn annual interest of \$650 on the \$10,000 FCNR deposit, of which he pays \$495 towards interest on the loan. On a net basis, he is still left with \$155 in interest income, which translates into a return of 15.5% on his own capital of \$1,000. In fact, only a fraction of the \$26 billion raised in 2013 was actual NRI money, with the bulk comprising overseas borrowings and institutional funds lent to NRIs and channelled as leveraged FCNR deposits.

But the math works only if depositors borrow at a fixed rate. The risk is much higher with floating-rate loans. Not to mention taxes, which could erode returns and even result in negative returns, as feared in some jurisdictions such as Singapore. While interest earned on FCNR deposits is exempt from income tax in India, subject to applicable regulations and eligibility conditions, residence-based tax laws apply to depositors.

Lastly, though the Federal Reserve kept policy rates unchanged last week, the 10-year Treasury yield is firming up at 4.68%. If interest rates rise further and the likely tax outgo is factored in, FCNR deposits may no longer remain as attractive.

Maruti Suzuki creates AI vertical; says CNG replacing diesel in PVs market

PADMINI DHURVARAJI @ Bengaluru

MARUTI Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) has set up a dedicated artificial intelligence (AI) vertical to accelerate the adoption of the technology across its operations as India's largest carmaker looks to leverage AI in manufacturing, sales, marketing and other businesses.

Speaking to *TNIE* during a media roundtable, Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales), said the new AI vertical is headed by one of the company's executive officers and is aimed at driving digital transformation across the organisation.



"We have created a dedicated AI vertical. It is being headed by one of our executive officers," Banerjee said, adding that the MSIL is deploying AI beyond vehicle development and product engineering. "We are not only working on the product, but across our

value chain. Be it plant production, backend operations, marketing and sales, or processes, we are trying to bring change through AI," he said.

While MSIL is yet to publicly detail its AI initiatives, Banerjee said the company plans to share more information in due course. He added that several customer-facing processes have already been digitised.

On the evolving fuel mix in the passenger vehicle market, Banerjee said compressed natural gas (CNG) is increasingly replacing diesel. "CNG has become the new diesel. People are now migrating from diesel to CNG," he said.

UCO Bank signs MoU with West Bengal forest department

Aligned with the National Initiative Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam and reinforcing its commitment to environmental sustainability, UCO Bank today signed an MoU with the Forest Department, Government of West Bengal, during the closing ceremony of Aranya Saptah 2026 at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. The signing ceremony was also attended by senior officials of the forest department and senior officials of UCO Bank. UCO Bank has committed to plant 11,000 saplings across West Bengal under the campaign "EkTi Gaach, Maayer Naame" The initiative aims to promote afforestation.

Business & Beyond



PNB partners AP to set up Quantum Finance hub

Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Saturday signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh government to establish a Quantum Finance Hub at the Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV), becoming the first Indian bank to partner with a state government for a dedicated quantum technology centre for the banking sector.

Peerless Group crosses ₹1,000 crore revenue mark in FY26

Diversified conglomerate Peerless Group has crossed the ₹1,000-crore revenue milestone in FY26, with group revenue rising to ₹1,013 crore as it accelerated investments in healthcare and real estate under its transformation strategy launched in 2022. It said revenue has nearly doubled from ₹530 crore in FY22, while revenue and profit have grown at a CAGR of 18% and 16%, respectively. Between FY14 and FY19, revenue had grown at 4% annually. MD Jayanta Roy said the group remained focused on contributing to Bengal's economic development through investments in healthcare, employment generation and institution building.

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

GOLDEN. Top class. Elite. Indian boxers have been breaking new ground with some telling punches at Glasgow. Jaismine Lamboria, Preeti Sai Pawar and Sakshi Chaudhary led the way at the SEC Hall on Saturday, outclassing their respective rivals to corner glory at the ongoing Commonwealth Games.

Jaismine has made the boxing ring her happy place in the last year or so. The Bhiwani girl has been the winningest boxer from the country during that time-frame. Be it national or World Championships, she has aced it all. No challenge seems to faze her at the moment.

She has made winning a habit and her dominance has been evident throughout this week. After a relatively tricky opening round, Jaismine dismantled her semifinal opponent (the referee was forced to stop the contest) on Friday, the day she turned 25, before going on to outbox a formidable rival in the form of Michela Walsh of England just 24 hours later in the women's 57kg category final. This was incidentally her second medal after bronze in the 2022 edition. That had transpired minutes after Preeti Sai Pawar's win, first boxing gold for India in this edition of the Games. Later, Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (men's 55kg) could not quite match the duo but he walked away with a creditable silver. Those two hits were just the



Jaismine & Preeti complete dominating paths to glory; seven bag top prize, three win silver

sign of things to come. In the evening session, Sakshi (51kg), Priya Ghanghas (60kg) added to the gold tally, helping the team record its best-ever showing at the Games. The previous high — 3 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze — had arrived at the 2018 edition in Gold Coast, Australia. Arundhati Choudhary also emulated Jasmine & Co but Lovlina Borgohain missed out on the top prize, losing to Emma-Sue Greentree of Australia. Sachin

Siwach (men's 60kg) helped the team bounce back with a fighting victory. Ankush Panghal (80kg) then displayed his survival instincts to post a come-from-behind win, taking India's gold count to seven.

Narender Beriwal (90+kg), the last fighter in action, capped off India's campaign with a silver medal.

For a boxer who had been inconsistent until not so long ago,



this victory is a step in the right direction. A distant relative of boxing great Captain Hawa Singh, Jaismine was destined for this. However, her journey might not have taken off if not for the blessings of her uncles — Sandeep and Parvinder — who had gone against the will of her grandfather, who did not like the idea of Jaismine getting into combat sports.

Both Jaismine and Preeti — who beat Scarlett Savannah Del-

gado of Canada in the women's 54kg final — have had their own share of misfortunes in the past. Inconsistency had been holding the former back for long, while Preeti had faced health concerns that had kept her out of the sport. For Jaismine, the Paris Games was the nadir as she ex- ited in the first round. She had had enough and she wanted to recalibrate and find answers.

Barely a few days after the said Olympics got over, she started training at the Army Sports Institute in Pune with determination to find solutions. "She was quite flustered after the Paris Games and she didn't stay at home for long. She came to me saying 'I want to come, I want to train. Please make an individual programme for me'," Army coach Chhote Lal Yadav, who has had a big influence in her game, said.

"It was an off-season then and most boxers were resting. So we worked on many aspects in her game, built her strength and she gradually started winning. Now, there's a drastic change in her game. Her confidence level is high and that is evident during her matches, the way she handles her rivals and the manner in which she has been scoring points off them," the coach, who formerly trained MC Mary Kom, recalled. Going the extra mile started paying dividends. Her results reflected the same. Gold at national championships was followed by gold at World Cup Stage II in Astana.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

INDIA@CWG WATCH

● **Track cycling:** Men's 40km points race qualifying - Harshveer Singh Sekhon (2.09pm)

● **Athletics:** men's 10,000m final - Ronaldo Singh (3.51pm)

● **Judo:** women's -78kg rd of 16 - I Narang vs N Wood (Scotland); men's -100kg - Avtar S vs A Michael (Cyprus); +100kg - Y Ghangas vs J Whitehouse (Wales)

LIVE ON SONY SPORTS NETWORK & SONY LIV

INDIA'S MEDAL BREAK-UP

Sport	G	S	B
Athletics and para-athletics	3	7	6
Boxing	7	3	0
Judo	2	1	1
Weightlifting	1	6	1
Para-powerlifting	0	0	1
Total	13	17	9

RESULTS

● **Athletics:** P Chithravel won silver, S Prabhu won bronze in men's triple jump; P Goswami finished fourth & R Gayakwad disqualified in women's 10,000m racewalk

● **Boxing: Gold:** Preeti Pawar, Jaismine; Sakshi Chaudhary; Arundhati Choudhary; Priya; Sachin; Ankush **Silver:** Jadumani; Lovlina; Narender Beriwal

● **Judo:** SK Singh Maan lost to Cusack in men's -90kg repechage; I Takhellambam lost to Yeats-Brown in women's -70kg repechage

● **Bowls:** India lost to England in men's pairs sectional play

● **Cycling:** D Beckham, Ronaldo S & Rojit S out in men's sprint qualification; Dinesh K & Harshveer S S DNF in men's 10km scratch qualifying

● **Para-athletics** - S Rana won gold, S Juyal won silver in men's shot put F57; R Shanmugham finished seventh in men's 1500m T54

Silver for returning Neeraj

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

IT ALL began at the Commonwealth Games in 2018. A young, long-haired, innocent-looking javelin thrower from India taking Gold Coast by storm. It was him and his javelin against the world. An 86.27m throw, and that was when he announced himself to the world.

Two CWG editions later, Neeraj returned to the men's final late on Friday, seeking another springboard to his career which has seen the highest of high, and recently, the lowest of lows. With his personal coach Jaiveer Chaudhary back in the sidelines, it marked another full-circle moment. Chaudhary was the same man who gave Neeraj his first javelin and is there for his ward, as he tried to get himself back on track.

And there was no better way for the multiple Olympic medalist to begin. He breached the 85 metre-mark for the first time in 11 months. As soon as he launched the javelin into the evening sky, Neeraj let out a roar, and going by his no-look, he knew that the javelin was going to land beyond 85m.

That was enough for him to clinch silver. But as soon after Neeraj threw 85.83m, Sri Lanka's Rumesch Pathirage upped the gear with a mammoth 89.75m throw to take the lead.

But as the cold winds came back into the Scotstoun Stadium, the throwers found it nearly impossible to better their marks. After his big effort, Pathirage could not record a legal attempt, as the winds played spoilsport.

"It feels great to be on the podium together," Chopra told reporters after the final. "I'm really happy that Yash Vir achieved a personal best at



Yash Vir Singh (L) finished third after Neeraj Chopra to bring India two medals | PTI

such a crucial moment. It brings back memories of the Asian Games. It's always a joy to share the podium and hear the national anthem," he added.

This final is not just for Neeraj to get back, but for the Indian javelin to wake-up from its brief nap. While Chopra continued to shine on his own, he has not had a consistent challenger. It kept changing from Kishore Jena, Manu DP, to Sachin Yadav and Rohit Yadav. Yash Vir Singh threw the kitchen sink at his last attempt and saw the javelin land at 85.41.

This confirmed him a bronze medal in his CWG debut. Yadav meanwhile, had an underwhelming 81.56m throw finishing seventh. Physically, there appears no hiccups, and no strains, from his run-ups to his throws. "I also achieved a season-best, and my comeback is progressing well. There are more competitions ahead, so I'm very happy," he said.

Bronze for Tejaswin

Yeh dil maange more (The heart wants more) is what Tejaswin Shankar responded when asked about why he took to the starting point for the 100m event — the first of ten events in men's decathlon at

the Commonwealth Games.

During the men's high jump final on Monday, Shankar was seen tearing up alone in a corner as a recurring knee problem came back to haunt him. He had to withdraw from participating in the final. He even got emotional trying to explain his injury to reporters at the mixed zone. But three gruelling days later, Shankar stood on the podium with a wide grin, collecting yet another bronze in the CWG, as he finished third overall in the men's decathlon. He became the first Indian to collect two medals across different track and field events.

"When I was standing there crying (after Monday's high jump final), those were tears of giving up. I was thinking one year is gone, the Commonwealth Games are gone, maybe the Asian Games are gone too. I went down a very negative spiral," he said.

But to score 7976 points — 24 points shy of 8000 with injury and to record personal and season best marks in long jump and javelin throw is nothing short of incredible. "I have seen in two days how emotions can change. Today I am standing with a medal around my neck. I have no words. It's just unreal."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Historic run: Gulveer bags 5000m bronze

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

GULVEER Singh continued to script history as he became the first Indian long-distance runner to win two medals in two different events at the Commonwealth Games on Saturday. Following his 10000m silver few days ago, he added a bronze in the men's 5000m on Saturday.

As the official rang the bell to mark the final lap, the Indian runner put pedal to the metal. The final 1000m, however, was not easy. Initially down fourth in the first curve, Gulveer smartly negated the first straight and gained on Ugandan runner Keneth Kiprop to go second. However, his Australian

counterpart Ky Robinson was waiting to capitalise at the final turn, which he did sumptuously. Gulveer remained unfettered, kept his pace up high, and sealed bronze by 0.04 seconds (13:24.95). It took him 2:27 minutes to cross the final 1000m, and 13.4 seconds to cross the final 100m. This is 0.5 seconds faster than his 10,000m run, where he won silver.

Unnati enters semis

Indian judoka Unnati Sharma kept herself in the gold medal hunt by advancing to the women's -63kg semifinals while Harsh Tokas will fight for bronze in men's -81kg event on



Saturday. However, it was end of the road for Inunganbi Takhellambam (women's -70kg) and Karanjit Singh Maan (men's -90kg), who could not cash in on the chance they got through repechage rounds. Unnati opened her campaign with a dominant Round of 16 victory over Esawatini's Lamulela Magagula, sealing the contest by Ippon in just one minute and 39 seconds after scoring two successive waza-ari. She then edged past New Zealand's Qona Christie in the quarterfinal, prevailing by waza-ari after also registering a yuko to book her place in the last four.

Chithravel comes second to end CWG medal wait

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Chennai

WHEN Praveen Chithravel revealed his phone wallpaper of the medal with the Commonwealth Games logo engraved on it after winning gold at the Federation Cup in May, his intentions were made clear. A place in the podium at the Commonwealth Games.

In the 2022 edition in Birmingham, Chithravel had to see his compatriots take the podium after narrowly missing out on bronze. Then, Eldhose Paul (gold) and Abdulla Aboobacker (Silver) completed a 1-2 for India but Chithravel fell three centimetres short of bronze and a podium sweep. But on Saturday, Chithravel entered the triple jump pit with one clear goal — get into the medal positions. Beginning with a 16.05m mark on the first attempt, he knew he had to do better. His competitor from Jamaica Jordan Scott,



Having missed out in 2022, Praveen Chithravel finished second in Glasgow | AP

made early inroads into the top three. After beginning with a 16.52m jump in the first attempt, he then leapt 20 centimetres farther to record a 16.72m effort in the fourth attempt. But Chithravel also made amends, by getting closer with a 16.58m

leap. The gold was still within reach. However, his best remained at that mark, and he had to settle for silver.

Delightful debut for Selva

While Chithravel had to end his four-year wait for a CWG medal,

Pole vault final

National record holder Dev Kumar Meena (5.30m) was joint first after three rounds with Owen Heard (England) and Kyle Rademeyer (South Africa) in the men's pole vault final late on Saturday. Kuldeep Kumar, meanwhile, was placed fourth after breaching 5.10m. Defending champion from Australia Kurtis Marschall, who has a personal best of 6.00m, was yet to make an attempt.

up-and-coming jumper Selva Prabhu marked his debut with a bronze medal. His best jump of 16.52m pipped Ethan Oliver of Australia (16.50m) to third. Prabhu marked his rapid rise with a bronze medal. Earlier this year, he became only the fourth Indian to win a title in the United States' NCAA Division 1 outdoor track and field championship with a leap of 16.92m.

Soman steals show with superlative performance

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

LIFE is unpredictable and can take an unexpected turn any moment, without warning. Soman Rana had learnt its harsh reality the most painful way. While on a mission in Poonch, little did he know of the danger awaiting him in the trouble-torn region. He stepped on a mine and lost his right leg. Until then he was a regular Armyman with regular dreams. He used to play sport but, by his admission, he was not an avid sportsperson.

"I used to play a bit of boxing but never top flight and volleyball and some throwing," he told this daily from Glasgow where, with a season's best 13.40m, Rana won gold in the F57 category shot put. "It was like a dream

but I had medals in Asian Games and world championships. Since the event was introduced this time, I won the medal." With this gold, India has best-ever medal haul at the para athletics in Glasgow.

Hailing from Gaya, Soman comes from a humble background — father was a farmer and mother a housewife. He joined the Gorkha Rifles and spent about 10 years in the desk doing paper work. His heart was in the ground. The Army Para Node was established in 2017 to rehabilitate injured soldiers through sports. This gave him a second chance in life with a prosthetic leg. "I had actually heard of Army Para Node and went there. It was established by in 2017 and was headed by Col



Soman Rana won gold in the men's shot put T47 category | SAI

Gaurav Dutta," he said. "I got introduced to sport there. Since I was doing bit of throwing and used to play volleyball, I opted for shot put. Slowly I started

improving."

Soman is not new to international para sport. He has won a World Championship bronze medal and 2022 Asian Games silver in 2023. "I have participated at the Paralympics twice," he said. Things have started improving and now, he is in Pune along with his wife and two children.

Meanwhile, Indian para athletes had the best ever performance when it ended with seven medals that included three gold, two silver and two bronze. This is the first time India have accumulated so many medals. As India para coach Satyanarayana had predicted in the start of the Games, that India would end up with at least six medals, went one medal further.

EXPRESS READ

Karting meet: Coimbatore's Shiv Neel dazzles

CHENNAI: Shiv Neel from Coimbatore showcased his racing pedigree with a brilliant performance to dominate the Mini class in round three of the IAME India Series Karting, organised by the Madras Motor Sports Club at the Madras International Karting Arena (MIKA) on Saturday. Representing the NKRA with KKM team, Shiv Neel, son of India's first Formula One driver Narain Karthikeyan, won both the championship points scoring races, the Super Heat and Finals, in the Mini to underline his talent and controlled aggression as he muscled his way to victories.

Kuldeep gets Stokes, Ashutosh bags fifer

LONDON: Kuldeep Yadav played a prominent part in Yorkshire's victory over Durham in the One-Day Cup, dismissing former England captain Ben Stokes at the Clifton Park ground. After having Stokes (12) caught by George Hill, Kuldeep (10-1-23-2) also accounted for Colin Ackermann (26). In another match, Ashutosh Sharma (5/51) grabbed his maiden five-wicket haul in List A cricket.

Ajaraie hat-trick powers NorthEast

GUWAHATI: NorthEast United FC began their 135th Durand Cup title defence in emphatic fashion, thrashing Bodoland FC 6-0 in the Group F fixture. Returning talisman Alaeddine Ajaraie stole the show with a brilliant hat-trick (45+3rd, 67th and 86th), while Lalrinzuala Lalbiaknia (58th), Redeem Tiang (70th) and Antonio Moyano (90+1st) also found the net for the Highlanders.

Duleep Trophy: Tilak to lead South Zone

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

INDIA'S T20 vice-captain Tilak Varma will lead South Zone in the upcoming Duleep Trophy, while Andhra veteran Ricky Bhui has been named his deputy.

India discard Karun Nair is also a part of the squad along with upcoming India A batter SK Rasheed. Karnataka's R Smaran and Hyderabad K Himateja are also part of the squad. Former India A glovesman N Jagadeesan is also part of the squad.

Squad: Tilak Varma (Captain), Ricky Bhui (Vice-Captain), Abhinav Tejraana, SK Rasheed, K Himateja, R Smaran, N Jagadeesan, Karun Nair, T Thyagarajan, Shreyas Gopal, K Sai Teja, T Vijay, V Kaverappa, Aman Khan.

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

FOR years, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) stood apart from the other uniformed services in one consequential respect. Women entering through its short-service route could serve for years and rise through the ranks, but could not convert to a permanent career as their male counterparts could. That distinction ended this week. Last Tuesday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled a gender-neutral framework for the induction and career progression of officers in the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). Women will now enter both the Short Service Appointment (SSA) and Permanent Appointment (PA) streams on the same terms as men, while the short-service route has been opened to men as well.

Serving women officers on SSA may opt to convert to permanent appointments if they meet the stipulated conditions. Existing women PA officers will be considered for higher promotions subject to eligibility.

The significance goes beyond the Coast Guard. With it, the last of India's four uniformed services has removed a major structural distinction between the career paths available to male and female officers. It also closes another chapter in a transformation the services did not always initiate themselves. From permanent commission and command appointments to entry through the National Defence Academy, the evaluation of women officers and pension rights, some of the most consequential advances for women in uniform have followed intervention by the courts.

Why Coast Guard held out?

Part of the answer lay in its legal architecture. Though it functions under the Ministry of Defence, the ICG is raised under the Coast Guard Act, 1978, and is not governed by the Navy Act. The government relied on the Coast Guard's distinct functions and service conditions to argue that judgments concerning women officers in the Army, Navy and Air Force could not simply be transplanted to it.

The issue came to a head in 2024. The Supreme Court was hearing a plea by Coast Guard officer Priyanka Tyagi, who had joined as an Assistant Commandant in 2009 and was released from service in December 2023 after completing her short-service tenure. Under recruitment rules notified in November 2009, women officers entering the General Duty branch through the short-service route did not have the option of switching to permanent entry.

In February 2024, a three-judge bench led by then Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud rejected the govern-

XPLAINER

ment's reliance on functional differences to justify the continuing disparity. Such arguments, the court said, could not hold in 2024. It ordered the Centre to frame a policy on treating women fairly, warning the court would intervene otherwise.

Its widely reported observation that a government invoking Nari Shakti should demonstrate it was accompanied by a sharper question: why did the Coast Guard continue to treat women differently when the other services had moved ahead?

The court returned to the issue in April, calling the Coast Guard an "outlier" and invoking what it described as the march of time. It recalled the barriers once faced by Cornelia Sorabji, India's first woman advocate, and the arguments historically advanced against women serving in the Army, Air Force and Navy.

Tyagi was ordered back into service as an interim measure and given a posting commensurate with her qualifications. More than two years after that litigation began, the personnel policy has now caught up.

The ministry paired Tuesday's announcement with another reform. Coast Guard personnel who go missing at sea while on duty may now be declared "presumed dead" for the purpose of ex gratia, easing and accelerating compensation and terminal benefits for their next of kin.

What was the foundational judgment in the case?

Taken alone, the Coast Guard decision looks like administrative catch-up. Set against the record of the past 15 years, however, it completes a striking sequence in which many of the most consequential advances in women's military careers were first fought through litigation and only subsequently absorbed into personnel policy.

The foundational judgment came on February 17, 2020, in Secretary, Ministry of Defence v. Babita Punia. The case grew out of litigation that began in the Delhi High Court in 2003. The court ruled in favour of the women officers in 2010, and the government appealed. The Supreme Court dismissed that appeal, holding that women Short Service Commission (SSC) officers in the Army were entitled to be considered for permanent commission on the same footing as their male counterparts in the branches in which women were already commissioned. Crucially, it also rejected the proposition that women granted permanent commission should be confined to staff appointments rather than considered for command.

The reasoning travelled beyond the immediate dispute. Government submissions invoking physical limitations, motherhood, domestic obli-

gations and the presumed reluctance of male soldiers to serve under women officers were rejected as stereotypes rather than sufficient grounds for restricting careers.

The judgment became an important statement of substantive equality. Formally identical rules, the court recognised, do not necessarily produce equality when one group has already been placed at a disadvantage by years of exclusion.

A month later, the same logic reached the Navy. In Union of India v. Lt Cdr Annie Nagaraja, decided on March 17, 2020, the Supreme Court upheld the right of eligible women SSC officers to be considered for permanent commission. It rejected arguments that logistical constraints and the structure of a smaller service could justify denying them the career opportunities



ILLUSTRATION : SOURAV ROY

available to men.

The services' reluctance was not purely cultural. Permanent commission fundamentally alters cadre management. It commits a force to careers stretching beyond two decades, affects promotion pyramids and vacancies, creates long-term pension liabilities and requires postings, housing and career planning across an officer's working life.

Each judgment therefore demanded more than a change in institutional attitude. It required personnel systems built over decades around overwhelmingly male career cadres to be redesigned. That helps explain both the resistance and the litigation that followed.

HOW COURTS, NOT BARRACKS, OPENED ARMED FORCES TO WOMEN

What were the other battles for rights?

Securing permanent commission in principle proved to be only part of the contest. How women were assessed for it soon brought the Army back before the Supreme Court. After Babita Punia, women officers challenged the evaluation process used to determine who would receive permanent commission. The criteria relied on service records created when women had no realistic expectation of competing for permanent careers. They also applied medical requirements to officers now considerably older than they would have been had they been assessed at the appropriate stage.

On March 25, 2021, in Lt Col Nitisha

v. Union of India, the Supreme Court found aspects of the process indirectly and systemically discriminatory. The importance of the judgment lay in its recognition that discrimination need not be explicit. A rule can appear neutral on its face and still disproportionately disadvantage a group because it fails to account for the effects of past exclusion. The ruling gave the doctrine of indirect discrimination a significant place in Indian equality jurisprudence.

The next battle concerned entry itself. In August 2021, while hearing Kush Kalra v. Union of India, the Supreme Court allowed women to sit the National Defence Academy exam, opening an institution that had

VISMAY BASU @ New Delhi

FOR most of democratic history, the state could see a crowd but not remember it. A police officer watching a rally of 50,000 people could identify only a handful of faces and retain almost none of them by evening. This practical anonymity allowed citizens to participate in public life without fearing that their presence would become a permanent record.

Artificial intelligence has begun to dismantle that arrangement. During the recent youth-led demonstrations organised by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, the Delhi Police deployed live facial recognition systems mounted on mobile command vehicles. The deployment has since become the subject of a Public Interest Litigation before the Delhi High Court, raising a significant constitutional question: Can the freedoms of assembly and dissent survive when public presence itself becomes data?

The controversy is not merely about cameras. Cameras have watched Indian crowds for decades. The fundamental transformation lies elsewhere—it is in the state's newfound ability to remember. A face captured today can potentially become an identity stored, matched and retrieved years later.

How does facial recognition technology work?

Facial recognition is often described as a smarter camera. That description is misleading. It is a biometric identification system that converts human features into a digital signature. When a camera captures a face, algorithms analyse facial landmarks—the distance between the eyes, the contour of the jaw, the depth of the nose bridge—and transform them into a numerical template known as a 'faceprint'.

The system does not merely record. It interrogates. It continuously asks whether a face corresponds to an identity already present in a database.

Connected with police records and surveillance networks, facial recognition can scan thousands of individuals within minutes, without their



knowledge or consent. Unlike fingerprints or iris scans, it requires neither cooperation nor physical contact. Presence in a public space becomes sufficient for identification.

How did the tech evolve?

Facial recognition's journey from research labs to policing has been gradual but inexorable. Early experiments in the 1960s involved manually plotting facial measurements. The US Department of Defense's FERET programme in the 1990s accelerated automated matching techniques, while security concerns after 9/11 pushed the technology into border control and law enforcement.

India's adoption followed a familiar trajectory of function creep—a process in which a technology introduced for one limited purpose gradually expands into much broader uses.

Delhi Police first acquired Automated Facial Recognition Software in 2018 following a Delhi High Court order aimed at tracing missing and trafficked children. Within a year, however, the same technology was reportedly being used for crowd surveillance during political gatherings at Ramlila Maidan. Between 2020 and 2022, facial recognition systems were deployed during anti-CAA protests and post-riot investigations. By 2026, systems such as Ikshana marked another shift—from analysing footage after an incident to real-time monitoring of crowds.

Digital rights groups argue that such expansion is neither accidental nor exceptional. Surveillance technologies often begin with socially unassailable objectives before moving into increasingly intrusive domains.

WHEN THE STATE NEVER FORGETS

Facial recognition and the end of anonymous dissent

What surveillance technologies were deployed at the CJP protest?

At the CJP protest site, police deployed specialised mobile command and control vehicles equipped with:

- 360-degree high-definition cameras
- Live facial recognition systems
- Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology

Reports also indicated the use of portable surveillance towers and wearable AI-enabled monitoring devices. Earlier RTI disclosures obtained by digital rights organisations revealed that Delhi Police treated matches above an 80% similarity threshold as positive identifications. However, technical experts caution that similarity does not equal certainty. Outdoor environments are inherently difficult for facial recognition. Changing light, movement, facial expressions, camera angles and crowd density all affect accuracy.

An algorithmic match represents probability—not proof.

What does the Delhi Police say, and why are civil liberties groups concerned?

The Delhi Police argues that live surveillance is necessary to maintain public order, prevent violence and identify known offenders. Officials have maintained that the system is meant for threat detection and that unmatched biometric data is deleted. Civil liberties organisations dispute this. They argue that continuous surveillance inevitably captures ordinary, innocuous moments—people resting, eating or seeking medical assistance—far beyond any criminal investigation.

Activists have also alleged that protesters were warned that surveillance footage could reach parents, universities or employers. Such warnings, they argue, create a chilling effect by transforming lawful participation

into a potentially consequential act. The concern is therefore not simply misuse of information. It is whether the possibility of identification discourages citizens from exercising constitutional rights.

How have other democracies regulated facial recognition?

Countries have adopted sharply different approaches. The European Union's AI Act restricts real-time remote biometric identification in public spaces, allowing only narrowly defined exceptions. Several American cities—including San Francisco, Portland and Boston—have banned or significantly restricted police use of facial recognition. The UK permits live facial recognition but under operational safeguards and judicial oversight. India, however, has no dedicated law governing police deployment of facial recognition.

The Supreme Court's landmark Justice K S Puttaswamy (2017) judgment recognised privacy as an inalienable right under Article 21 and held that restrictions must satisfy the tests of legality, necessity and proportionality.

However, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 grants broad exemptions to government agencies, leaving police use of biometric surveillance within an uncertain legal framework.

Is this only about privacy?

Perhaps not. The true power of facial recognition does not lie in the camera but in the database. A photo becomes politically significant only when linked to an identity through police records, passports, driving licences, electoral rolls or other repos-

trained male officers for decades. The Centre subsequently decided to induct women into the NDA.

Even the closing stretch of military careers required judicial intervention. In March this year, a SC bench delivered a series of judgments concerning the grant of permanent commission to SSC officers in the Army, Navy and Air Force.

The court found serious deficiencies in how women officers had historically been evaluated. As a one-time measure, it deemed specified categories of released officers to have completed the 20 years of qualifying service required for pension and consequential benefits. In the Army's case, it also directed that eligible women officers still continuing in service under court protection be granted permanent commission subject to the prescribed conditions.

The arc had moved from the right to compete for a full career, to command and fair evaluation, to entry through the country's premier tri-service academy and, finally, to the consequences at retirement.

What is settled, what is not?

The direction of travel is unmistakable. So is one defining feature of it: at critical stages, the widening of women's military careers was decided in court before it was fully incorporated into policy. That does not mean every distinction in military employment is discriminatory. The armed forces retain occupational standards, medical requirements and service-specific operational criteria. The constitutional question has instead increasingly become whether an exclusion can be justified by demonstrable operational requirements rather than assumptions about gender.

The distinction matters because the transformation remains incomplete. Women now serve across a widening range of positions and have entered the Army's Regiment of Artillery since 2023. They are also entering the officer corps through the NDA, placing them in the same early-career training pipeline long available to men.

But the infantry and armoured corps, the Army's principal close-combat arms, remain closed to women, and their representation thins considerably at the higher ranks. Questions of career progression, competitive command, postings and the depth of their presence across operational formations remain live. The Coast Guard decision does not settle those questions.

What it does is remove another structural barrier to women making a career of the uniform.

It is a point reached gradually, and often reluctantly.

itories. The issue therefore extends beyond informational privacy to the conditions under which citizens participate in democratic life.

A protester standing at Jantar Mantar may not know whether a camera is recording, whether their face has been matched or whether that information will be retrieved months later. The uncertainty itself becomes disciplinary. The deterrent is not a known punishment. It is the possibility of being permanently recorded.

Traditional policing begins with a crime and searches backwards for suspects. Continuous facial recognition reverses this sequence: it identifies everyone first, preserves the record and allows authorities to reconstruct relationships and associations later.

What safeguards do experts recommend?

Experts commonly suggest four safeguards:

- Judicial authorisation: Live facial recognition should require prior judicial approval except in immediate emergencies
- Deletion mandates: Biometric information of individuals not linked to wrongdoing should be deleted within a defined time frame
- Independent audits: Regularly test systems for accuracy, false positives and algorithmic bias
- Purpose limitation: Data collected during protest surveillance should not be cross-referenced with unrelated databases such as educational or employment records

Facial recognition may assist law enforcement when deployed transparently against specific threats. Without safeguards, however, it risks becoming an instrument of indiscriminate surveillance.

The constitutional question?

Democracies have historically depended on a certain degree of forgetting. A citizen could attend a rally, join a strike or stand in a crowd knowing that the moment would eventually fade. Facial recognition removes that possibility. If every public gathering can leave behind a permanent biometric trace, does the constitutional freedom to assemble still include the freedom to participate anonymously?

Take a Seat

From sculptural designs to creating a visual impact, furniture today is becoming the focal point of contemporary interiors

By SAMIYA CHOPRA

Stop. Gape. In a dimly lit living room, a wave of water is frozen in stone, making a statement under a spotlight. With backrests that rise like a cresting tide and polished seats carved from Rainbow Quartzite, the bench is a compelling sight. In another room, flat German Silver boulders are bound together—a piece difficult to classify. Is it a stool? A chair? A side table? It can be any of those. Or none of these. All that matters is these are objets d’art. Both these, and other similarly unconventional expressions of design furniture that occupy—and often flaunt—their presence in design studios and homes across India, defy easy classification. Depending on where each piece is placed, it becomes an unexpected interruption—an object that demands to be contemplated before it is used. Neither the bench nor the boulder resembles furniture in the conventional sense. Neither appears particularly interested in explaining itself. “The mindset is shifting from filling a room to curating a space,” says Sarita Handa, founder and chairperson, Sarita Handa.



From the woven *charpai* that anchored generations of Indian homes to the flat-packed efficiency of IKEA now seen in Gurugram’s new residential townships, furniture in India has travelled a remarkable distance. What was once purely functional has steadily become aspirational, reflecting changing lifestyles, global influences, and evolving ideas of home. Designers are moving away from mass-produced functionality—of course, not totally because of market demands—towards collectible, sculptural pieces that blur the boundaries between furniture, art, and décor. Sofas, benches and tables are increasingly conceived not as supporting elements but as conversation starters. Handa says, “By being more thoughtful about what they bring into their space, clients are choosing pieces with strong form and made of unusual materials.” The once-ubiquitous L-shaped sofa is giving way to curved seating, oversized lounge chairs and fluid tables. For Vratika Gupta, founder of Maison Sia, sculptural furniture is “a breath of fresh air. The space has to talk to you. So I suggest my clients to choose something magnanimous and monumental”. Maison Sia’s On The Rocks sofa replaces the conventional rectangle with curved forms that can be approached from any side when placed as an island in the room.

Experimentation with form defines Delhi’s Vokr Studios’s philosophy. Founder Devyani Gupta says, “Generally, we top our furniture with home decor to highlight it. But a furniture piece can already be artistic and sculptural, not needing an artefact on top to stand out.” Delhi-based studio Dimensions adopts a similar approach through its Zuri collection, where bedposts resemble tree branches and coffee tables evoke inter-connected rock formations.

Tanvi Deolekar, founder of Studio Indigene, feels sculptural design should invite interaction. Her studio’s coffee tables feature detachable trays that fit like puzzle pieces and can be rearranged. “They add both sculptural value and functionality to the space,” she says. Such evolution is made possible when designers experiment with materials once considered too rigid for furniture. Stone, metal and engineered surfaces are increasingly replacing conventional wood, while seating itself is changing. Sofas are becoming lower, deeper, and rounder, and chairs are wider and more relaxed, balancing comfort with visual drama. If IKEA democratised design by making good furniture accessible, this new wave makes it memorable.

Pavitra Rajaram of Nilaya Anthology observes, “People are investing in narrative. An object acquires value if it has a story attached to it.” These stories, however, come at a price. Sculptural furniture often costs several lakhs of rupees a piece, transforming furniture from a household necessity into a collectible investment. Sahiba Madan, principal architect and director at Insitu Design Studio, sees this as a decisive move away from uniform interiors. “Clients want their homes to mirror their lives and the furniture to be heirloom-quality art that will age alongside the family,” she says. Interior stylist Jasmine Jhaveri believes the idea of luxury has changed. “Luxury is no longer about how formal a space looks, but about how it feels,” she says. New living spaces are designed for comfort, connection, and slow living.

Younger buyers no longer want a matching furniture collection but a single object that defines the space—a dramatic centre table from Delhi’s crowded second-hand markets or a vintage Kerala Planter’s Chair. These focal pieces are curated to complement other pieces rather than to compete. “Such statement pieces sit at the intersection of art and function,” says Gunjan Gupta, artist and creative director of Studio Wrap and Ikkis. Her work deliberately blurs the boundaries between collectible art and functional furniture, drawing deeply from India’s craft traditions. Traditional weaving, carving and textile techniques, she believes, naturally lend themselves to organic forms. “When crafts are taken out of their expected context and transformed into sculptural elements, they become storytelling devices rather than decorative accents.” It is true of materials. Jaipur-based Pasana reimagines stone as sculptural furniture. Co-founder Saloni Agarwal believes it brings inside a sense of nature indoors. “Stone is alive. Placed in a house, it makes the homeowners feel like they are amidst nature,” she says. It

Sagar Baheti, founder of Bengaluru-based Paarkhi, argues that permanence and comfort need not be mutually exclusive. “Stone furniture will stay in the same condition for decades,” he says. Wood is undergoing a similar transformation. Objectry’s Organic Throne, carved from a tree trunk and bound with rope, reflects a growing preference for raw textures over highly polished finishes. According to Gunjan Gupta, Indian homeowners are becoming more adventurous while remaining rooted in restraint. “While Indians may still hesitate over very bright colours, they are far more open to choosing sculptural forms and unconventional silhouettes,” she says. Jhaveri expects the trend to strengthen. “Textures like bouclé, brushed velvet, suede-like finishes and layered upholstery will dominate this year.”

Even as sculptural furniture gains momentum, another design cycle is a U-turn. Actor Sonam Kapoor Ahuja’s Mumbai home has layers of murals, Tanjore paintings, and bold colours; fashion



SAHIBA MADAN, principal architect and director, Insitu Design Studio

“We’ve moved beyond the era of catalogue living. Clients want their homes to be a mirror of their lives and the furniture in it to be heirloom-quality art that ages alongside the family.”



SACHIN GUPTA, founder and principal designer, Beyond Designs

Maximalism is his design language. With traditional carpets, European chandeliers, and warm fireplaces, his homes are the epitome of grandeur



(Clockwise from far left) Dveep Coffee Table by Atelier Ashiesh Shah; vintage furniture at the Belgadia Palace; a bar by Dimensions; The Huh Tu Chair by Urda Design; b.form’s revolvable Dhurba bar; Alaiia Gujral’s coffee table; an antique seat





PAVITRA RAJARAM,
creative director, Nilaya Anthology

"People are investing in narrative. An object acquires value if it has a story attached to it."



AKU ZELIANG, founder, Urra Design

He chose to build from what is structurally and culturally Naga. His pieces, mostly with a bold mix of black and beige, reflect the cultural motifs of Nagaland. To him, rattan feels like a permanent style instead of a trend



(Clockwise from left) A bar by Atelier Bobby Aggarwal; Scallop Centre Table by Studio Indigene; A stone side table by Paarkhi; A console table from Vakr Studio



CORRIGENDUM: In the July 26 edition, in the Cover story *Southern Storm*, it was incorrectly stated that the Karnataka Assembly elections will be held in 2029. The elections are scheduled for 2028. The error is regretted.

Indian furniture design is a story of adaptation, hierarchy, climate, and cultural synthesis. It begins not with chairs as we know them, but with the floor, evolving through centuries of royal patronage, colonial encounter, modernist experiment, and contemporary revival into the sculptural, narrative-driven pieces found in Indian homes today. Early homes in the Indus Valley and Vedic periods relied on woven mats, low stools, and the enduring *charpai*, with furniture remaining simple, portable, and functional. The Mughals transformed this understated tradition into one of opulence with richly carved *takhts*, *jaali* screens, intricate stone inlay, and masterfully crafted wooden pieces. Colonial rule introduced European forms—chairs, cabinets, desks, and sideboards—which Indian artisans reimaged using indigenous woods, cane, ivory inlay, and elaborate carving, giving rise to distinctive Anglo-Indian styles. After Independence, the country sought a modern design language, balancing the clean functionalism of Chandigarh's modernism with a renewed appreciation for traditional craftsmanship. Since economic liberalisation in the 1990s, global influences have popularised modular furniture even as designers today have returned to India's rich craft heritage, reinterpreting vernacular forms, natural materials, and artisanal techniques for a new generation.

Continued from page 1

designer Saityasachi Mukherjee's Kolkata mansion combines vibrant brocade upholstery with mother-of-pearl cabinetry to celebrate richness, not restraint. For Sachin Gupta, founder and principal designer at Beyond Designs, maximalism never went out of fashion. "With traditional carpets, European chandeliers and warm fireplaces, we celebrate grandeur," he says. He recalls designing a Jaipur residence featuring an entire wall wearing Gothic wooden panels. Alongside this embrace of abundance is an equally strong return to nostalgia. Used in making the iconic Kerala Planter's Chair and Pierre Jeanneret's Chandigarh Chair, rattan is appreciated for its comfort in the Indian climate. Today, it is prized for the memories it evokes. Priyanka Narula, founder of Hyderabad-based The Wicker Story, began to experiment with rattan in 2018. "Clients tell me that it reminds them of their grandmother's home," she says. The brand's first design, Imli, was a curving bench with a rattan seat and inspired by the shape of a tamarind pod.

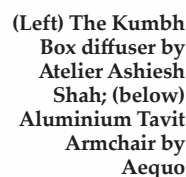
Vakr Studio, meanwhile, pairs rattan with concrete to create furniture that feels both familiar and unexpected. “The morphology of rattan and concrete makes it a premium product suitable for the modern home,” says Devyani Gupta. As designers continue to reinterpret heritage materials through contemporary forms, India’s homes are choosing furniture that is simultaneously sculptural, nostalgic, and yet unmistakably individual. In Nagaland, Aku Zeliang, founder of Urra Design, has built his art around materials deeply rooted in Naga culture. His furniture, often distinguished by its bold black-and-beige palette, incorporates traditional motifs while celebrating rattan’s versatility. Zeliang says, “The inspiration came from our heritage. It is used in construction, agriculture, mobility, storage across Northeast India.” To him, rattan is not a passing fad but a timeless design language. The material is also being reinterpreted through a contemporary lens. Nilaya Anthology has revisited iconic furniture designs in wicker, including its adaptation of Pedro Friedeberg’s celebrated Hand Chair from 1962. Ashiesh Shah, founder of Atelier Ashiesh Shah, describes one of his most sought-after works, the Naga Chair—a minimalist black aluminium chair finished with a flowing natural grass tail inspired by the traditional Naga raincoat—as embodying the growing appeal of furniture as collectible art rather than something simply lived with.

Alongside such reinventions, renewed appreciation for vintage furniture is reshaping collecting habits. At Belgadia Palace in Odisha, Akshita M Bhanj Deo, princess of Mayurbhanj and co-owner of the palace, oversees a furniture collection assembled across generations of her family. "Owing to the stories attached to them—sofas used when diplomats were hosted here during two world wars and the marble tables on which the instrument of accession to the Indian state was signed—these are living relics of my material memory. The collection not only conveys the style of the erstwhile royal state, but reflects a long-gone way of life." Among her favourites are the intricately carved dressing tables with three-fold mirrors and classic planter's chairs, the latter remembered as her grandfather's preferred seat for his daily newspaper and evening tea. She considers it among the most comfortable chairs ever designed.

This growing fascination with the past is progressively visible among younger buyers. Prem Zaveri, antiques dealer at Zaveri Antiques in Surat, has witnessed a surge in demand for vintage furniture from first-time collectors and investors. Zaveri says, "The youth wants statement pieces with character; and antiques deliver precisely that." Among the most remarkable objects he has encountered is a brass water fountain that functions entirely by water and air pressure, requiring no electricity. Home bars, once purely functional, are becoming conversation-starting works of design. Inspired by Bhutanese heritage, a revolving Dhurba bar demonstrates the symbolism of the Buddhist prayer wheel. As its teakwood door glides open, the ritual of serving a drink becomes part of the experience. Avani Khurana, founder of b.form, says the piece generated enough international interest from galleries including Singapore's Artling and Mumbai's Portofino Gallery to acquire it.



For Bobby Aggarwal, founder of Atelier Bobby Aggarwal, the home bar is a storyteller. His latest collection transforms bars into architectural tributes to Mumbai's Art Deco landmarks, complete with characteristic balconies, colours, and geometric motifs. "Meant solely for entertainment, bars are interesting pieces of furniture," says



Aggarwal. Hidden shelves, pull-out counters and integrated drawers ensure their utility just as they are sculptural. Beneath these varied expressions lies one of the most significant shifts in Indian design today: the rise of collectible design. Produced as handcrafted, limited-edition works with strong material provenance and craftsmanship, these furniture pieces are increasingly viewed less as purchases and more as long-term acquisitions—objects intended to become family heirlooms. A pioneer of collectible design, Ashish Shah reflects, “Collectibles are statement pieces that take centre space while everything else is quieter. Clients don’t want what everyone has. They crave one-off unique objects that go on to become their legacy.”

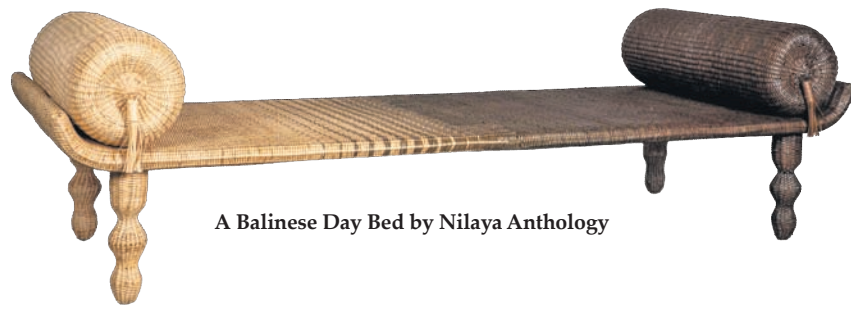
Alongside the growing appetite for originals a new trend is gathering pace. Many young homeowners and first-time collectors are attracted to the aesthetic of collectible design without its high price tag. They get to replicate a statement piece spotted online by a trusted neighbourhood carpenter or local artisan. The result is a bespoke piece that captures the spirit of the original at a fraction of the cost, while showcasing the skill of local craftspeople. Florence Louisy, creative director at the Mumbai design gallery Aequo feels “collecting a piece means

collecting a piece means collecting history, trends, and perhaps a material that may disappear over time". At Aequo, objects are intentionally freed from the constraints of utility. "We are not selling function but stories and quality," Louisy explains. That philosophy is evident in the gallery's recent collection, where polished forms resembling boulders nestling into one another draw inspiration from the ancient landscape of Hampi. The Tavit Armchairs, cast in bronze and aluminium, embody a dialogue between maker and material, turning furniture into an enduring expression of artistry rather than mere utility. For interior designer and philanthropist Shalini Misra, collectibility is measured by longevity—how an object might continue to

enchant generations. She recalls installing a stained-glass window in a client's home that, 25 years later, was transformed by the client's daughter into a door for her own house. That enduring relevance, she believes, is what makes design collectible. Quality, colour, narrative and materiality are the qualities she values most. She points to a coffee table created through her Shakti Design Residency in collaboration with Vikram Goyal Studio, whose semi-precious stones symbolise the seven chakras. It's worth lies not simply in its craftsmanship, but in the multiple layers of embedded meaning. Collector Namita Mahendra, who acquires pieces on Misra's digital platform Curio.Space, says provenance is what transforms furniture into something worth preserving. She gravitates towards pieces that reflect a place, a culture or a process that could not have been replicated anywhere else, thus making each acquisition feel singular and deeply personal.

Artists are entering the furniture space, blurring the distinction between art and design. Handa argues that the future of India's collectible design movement will belong to those capable of translating the country's rich craft traditions into contemporary global design language. India, she says, possesses the craftsmanship but now requires sustained innovation. Industry experts believe these shifts reflect the emergence of a more discerning and globally aware Indian homeowner. Exposure to diverse cultures, craftsmanship, and design traditions has created customers who seek more than functional furniture. Social media has accelerated this transformation. Instagram and Pinterest have introduced Indian consumers to Japanese *wabi-sabi*, Mediterranean interiors, and a growing community of independent designers and artisans worldwide. Whether investing in museum-worthy originals or commissioning thoughtfully crafted reinterpretations, today's consumers are placing greater value on furniture that sparks conversation, reflects personality, and transforms everyday living into a shared experience.

—With inputs from Ria Gupta



A Balinese Day Bed by Nilaya Anthology

No Longer Lost For Words

A Bengaluru teenager's classroom experiment is helping thousands of children replace memorised English with confident conversations

By SAMIYA CHOPRA

A little girl stands silently at the back of the classroom, clutching her English textbook. When asked a simple question in English, she doesn't answer. Instead, she leans towards the classmate beside her, whispers something, and waits. The message travels to another student—the unofficial “English expert” of the class—who finally translates it for the visitor standing at the front.

For 17-year-old Roshni Gupta, founder of Project Vidya and a Class 12 student at a private school in Bengaluru, this silent verbal relay is a familiar practice in government schools and orphanages where she teaches. Gupta's journey started when she was just 14. As a volunteer at 1M1B (One Million for One Billion), a UN-accredited non-profit organisation, she began to visit underserved schools, as a way of giving back to society. During one such visit, she noticed English textbooks were filled with neatly copied notes. Curious, she asked students to explain what they had written. They couldn't.

“The teacher had written the notes and the students had simply copied the same,” says Gupta, founder of Project Vidya. She discovered a deeper gap existing in the education system—English was being taught as a subject to be memorised, not a language to be used.

That realisation was behind the founding of Project Vidya, an initiative that focuses not just on teaching English but on helping underprivileged children find the confidence to speak it. What began as a small effort has now reached over 10,000 children, equipping them with spoken English skills that Gupta hopes will improve their future employability.

The awkward silence that greets her at the beginning of every workshop is part of the process. “The children don't speak to me directly but go through an unofficial translation channel—they whisper their message into the ears of the classmate best at English, who then tells me what they said,” Gupta says. Instead of stepping into the classroom as a teacher, she introduces herself as another student. “I conduct the classes in a way I would like my classes to be conducted if I were a student,” she says.

“The students might be able to read and write English, but they are not able to express themselves using the language. And the lack of confidence draws from the fear of messing up.”



VINOD KUMAR.T

Her hour-long workshops rarely resemble conventional English lessons. Children watch lively presentations and YouTube videos before moving on to games that weave language with creativity. In one instance, they fold colourful origami figures, decorate them and introduce the creations as characters in English. In another instance, groups write short scripts set in an office, a school or a playground before acting them out. Story-building circles often end in peals of laughter as every child adds an unexpected sentence to the tale. “These activities make the children creatively express themselves and have fun without the pressure to learn by rote,” Gupta shares.

Her lessons are designed with an

equal measure of empathy. Having interacted closely with children from difficult backgrounds, Gupta consciously avoids examples that could reopen emotional wounds.

“Since the children come from abusive backgrounds, I prefer not to take any example of family as they might trigger discomfort,” she explains.

Gupta sees grammar as only part of the challenge. Confidence, she believes, is the bigger barrier to learning.

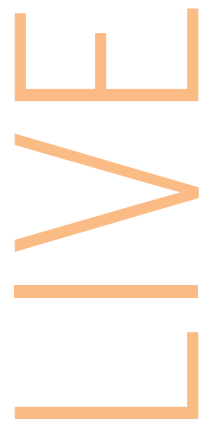
“Students might be able to read and write English, but they are not able to express themselves in it. Their lack of confidence comes from the fear of messing up,” she says. “We love to laugh at a mispronounced English word. This creates a fear of ridicule. To

put them at ease, I tell the kids about how I overcame my fear of judgement and reassure them that no one is going to laugh at tyhem.” The transformation she looks for doesn't appear on report cards. It arrives quietly—the day a child no longer needs a classmate to translate, holds a conversation a little longer, understands a sentence spoken at normal speed or raises a hand to ask a question. The shrinking of hesitation, more than perfect grammar, tells her the workshops are making a difference. Working with children has also reshaped Gupta's own worldview. “We share the same love for learning, we get excited about an activity, we are willing to try new things, but what separates us are background and

Roshni Gupta

exposure. Bringing my laptop to class is normal for me, but it is an alien sight to them,” she says. An avid debater, Gupta has for long loved the English language. She hopes to study political science and economics after school while continuing to work in education.

Today, Project Vidya has expanded beyond India, with chapters in Rwanda and New Zealand and partnerships in Kenya. Yet Gupta believes its biggest lesson is personal. “The project has made me realise that despite being a school student, I have the power to make a difference,” she reflects. She is not just teaching the grammar of a child's future but is also changing the syntax.



Playing Oz as It is

One evening in 2009, Brandon Colaco walked into a live music gig in Bengaluru expecting nothing more than a good night out. Instead, he left captivated by the deep, resonant drone of an instrument he had never seen before—the didgeridoo. That chance encounter changed his life. Today, the former engineer is among India's few dedicated didgeridoo artists. He is working to popularise the ancient Australian wind instrument through performances, instrument-making, and teaching.

Unable to find a didgeridoo in India, Colaco built his first one from a PVC pipe and spent four years practising after work. “The didgeridoo is centred upon intuition and muscle memory. Every player has their own unique style of playing it,” says Colaco. Played using circular breathing, the instrument requires players to inhale and exhale almost simultaneously.

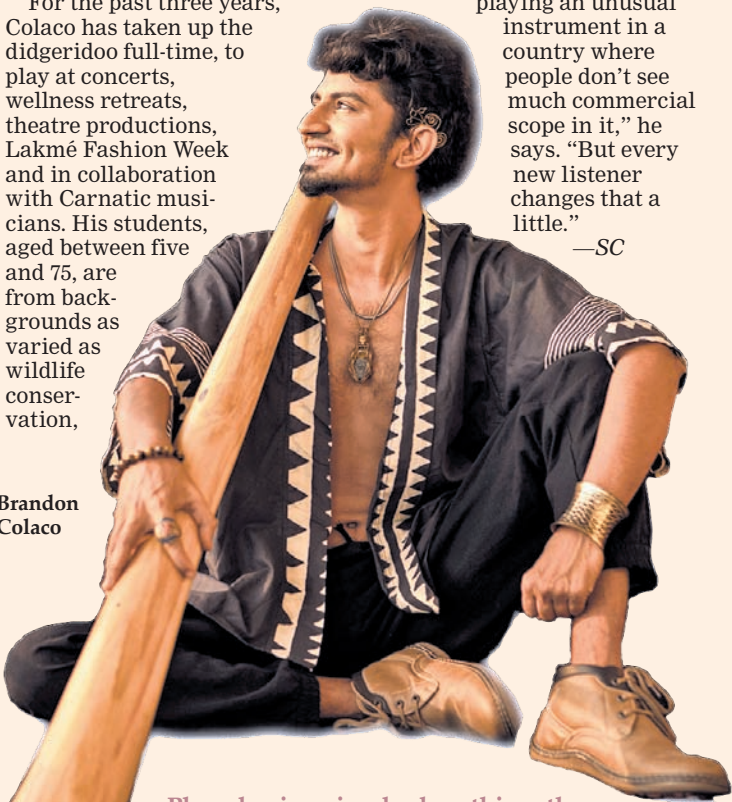
For the past three years, Colaco has taken up the didgeridoo full-time, to play at concerts, wellness retreats, theatre productions, Lakmé Fashion Week and in collaboration with Carnatic musicians. His students, aged between five and 75, are from backgrounds as varied as wildlife conservation,

martial arts and theatre. In 2024, Colaco and another player from Mumbai launched an Indian didgeridoo community. “Today, we host free community events on Sunday mornings where 30 to 40 didgeridoos unite to produce a resonant buzzing sound,” says Colaco, who is now preparing for a show on August 8 in Bengaluru. The group includes several women performers despite traditional Aboriginal beliefs that discourage women from playing. It helps it is India, and not the Australian outback.

“The reception of listeners to the didgeridoo has become positive since 2009 since people today are more experimental. But it is still seen as a ‘hippie’ instrument. This attitude is exactly what I am trying to change,” Colaco says; he toured Mexico and Europe in 2025. His next plan is to visit Australia, the birthplace of the didgeridoo. “Being an independent

artist, it is very hard to be playing an unusual instrument in a country where people don't see much commercial scope in it,” he says. “But every new listener changes that a little.” —SC

Brandon Colaco



Played using circular breathing, the instrument requires players to inhale and exhale almost simultaneously

LEISURE CORNER

THE ART ROUTE



This exhibition by Monali Meher brings together her works across sculpture, installation and textile. It explores how

environmental change, and cultural exchange become embedded within material and memory. *Walking Root Route*; on till August 17; LATITUDE 28, New Delhi



A DANCE DRAMA

Written by Mahesh Dattani and directed by Lillete Dubey, this family drama follows two Bharatnatyam dancers whose own dreams have quietly faded over time, but as their daughter gains success in the field, long-buried tensions resurface. *Dance Like a Man*; 8 pm, August 6; NMACC, Mumbai; Entry: ₹750



STORY OF THE STORY

Moving from the *pattachitra* scroll to *Chacha Chaudhary*, this exhibition traces the evolution of visual storytelling in India. It explores how India has told stories across history. *A Moving Line: 1500 Years of Indian Visual Storytelling*; on till November 15; MAP Bengaluru; for details, visit map-india.org

Time And Tide Wait For Him

At seven, Ishank Singh swam where most adults hesitate to dive

By TANISHA SAXENA

On the morning of April 30, while braving the choppy waters of the Palk Strait between Sri Lanka and India, seven-year-old Ishank Singh looked up at his mother, Manisha Sinha, in the support boat and declared he could see India. The shoreline was still 10 km away. For the next hour, despite powerful currents pushing him off his course, the Ranchi boy kept repeating the same words. “I can see India. I have almost reached,” he kept telling Manisha.

Nearly 10 hours later, Ishank completed the 29km crossing in nine hours and 50 minutes, earning recognition from the Universal Records Forum (URF) as the Youngest and Fastest Palk Strait Swimmer.

The Palk Strait poses one of open-water swimming's toughest tests, with unpredictable currents, jellyfish and rapidly changing weather threatening the swimmer's success. Adult swimmers often spend months preparing for the crossing.

Preparing a seven-year-old required just as much determination. “Before Ishank, I



For four months, Ishank trained in Ranchi's Dhurwa Dam before heading to Rameswaram to practise in sea conditions, learning to read tides and deal with jellyfish

knew very little about swimming. Most of what we know today was learned along the way,” says Manisha, who works in a hospital management department.

She researched the sport herself, contacted coaches and navigated months of paperwork to secure permissions for a minor to participate in an international open-water event. “The approvals arrived barely two weeks before the swim began,” she says.

Ishank's coach, Aman Kumar Jaiswal, spotted his unusual capacity of endurance early. “What stood out immediately was his enthusiasm and consistency. He naturally gravitated towards continuous freestyle swimming and showed

remarkable endurance,” says the 28-year-old coach.

For four months, Ishank trained in Ranchi's Dhurwa Dam before heading to Rameswaram to practise in sea conditions, learning to read tides and how to deal with poisonous jellyfish. The entire expedition from training and travel to logistics was funded by the family.

In the final stretch of his swim, when the coastline seemed no closer despite hours of swimming, one thought kept the little swimmer going.

“Ishant's biggest motivation to continue was that an Indian Coast Guard hovercraft was waiting at the finish,” Manisha says with a laugh. “That excitement helped keep his spirits high.” He finished the swim. Then, delighted, he climbed aboard the hovercraft.

Back home, his achievement has brought pride and accolades. “At just seven-and-a-half years old, Ishank has accomplished something extraordinary,” says BN Jha, principal of JVM Shyamali, where Ishank studies. “In Ranchi, world-class swimming infrastructure is limited, which makes Ishank's record even more remarkable.”

For Jaiswal, the record is only the beginning. “Every challenge we placed before him, he has embraced. Watching Ishank transform his talent into a world record has been one of the proudest moments of my coaching career,” he says. The next dream is crossing the English Channel, for which the minimum age is 14. Until then, Ishank's mornings begin at 5.30 am with running, stretching and hours in the pool—building, stroke by stroke, to reach another horizon.



Ishank Singh with his certificates and records; (above) at the Palk Strait

The Islamic Wound That Does Not Heal

RESURRECTING FAITH

Devdutt
Pattanaik

Mythologist,
Author, Speaker



Islam has faced civilisational catastrophe twice. Once at the hands of the Mongols in the 13th century and the next at the hands of the Europeans in the 19th century. The first time it responded by becoming more open. The second time it responded by becoming more closed. The difference came not from the scale of the defeat but in what the conqueror said while conquering.

Islam originated as the Arab empire nearly 1,400 years ago. A group of nomadic tribes were united by a single ideology that argued that the one true god had chosen his final messenger from amongst them. If they followed this final messenger; a trader from Mecca, victory would be theirs. True enough, the tribal coalition went on to overthrow the mighty Persian empire and push back the Byzantine Roman empire. Internal power struggles followed. Assassinations led to creation of factions: the Sunnis of Arabia, the Shias of Mesopotamia. The Caliphate moved from Mecca in Arabia to Damascus in Syria to Baghdad in Mesopotamia where a fabulous city was built 1,200 years ago. This was the fabled city of the Arabian Nights that outshone Rome.

Then the Mongols sacked Baghdad 800 years ago. They extinguished the Caliphate. They offered no civilisational argument. They were pagan conquerors without a doctrine of cultural superiority, and within two generations many of them had converted to Islam, become patrons of Sufi shrines, and developed syncretic court cultures that blended Buddhist cosmologies of universal sovereignty with Islamic theology.

Jonathan Brack's work on sacred kingship in Mongol Iran shows how Muslim scholars adapted productively to this new dispensation. They drew on Buddhist Tantric ideas, on Ibn Arabi's metaphysics, on Sufi ideas of divine presence, on a philosophical pluralism capacious enough to accommodate a Mongol Khan as a legitimate sovereign. The Mongols destroyed the political centre but left the civilisational infrastructure intact, and eventually enriched it.

The result was Sufism as a mass phenomenon. An Islam that spread across Central and South Asia not through armies but through the *dargah*, the *silsila*, the saint whose *barakat* crossed every boundary of caste, faith, and community. This gave rise to the gunpowder empires, spearheaded by Turks: the Ottomans of Turkey and the Mughals of India, with the Safavids of Persia, in between.

Elverskog's work on the Buddhist-Islamic encounter on the Silk Road shows how this expansion was genuinely



generative: the Chishti order that shaped North Indian Islam was partly the product of an encounter with Buddhist ideas of compassionate presence and non-hierarchical transmission of wisdom. The trauma of Baghdad was metabolised into openness.

The trauma of colonialism was metabolised into its opposite.

The colonial conquest of the Muslim world happened slowly. Napoleon in Egypt in 18th century, the British in India through the 19th century, and the dismantling of the Ottoman empire in the 20th. This was not merely a political defeat. It was

accompanied by an explanation. The conqueror explained the conquest as the natural consequence of Muslim civilisational failure: too irrational, too superstitious, too attached to saints and shrines and the accumulated irrationality of a thousand years of drift from the pure original faith. The Mongols had said nothing. The British had said nothing. The British had a theory. And that theory lodged itself in the Muslim mind like a splinter that could not be removed.

The reformist response that followed the colonial defeat was structurally the same across

regions. From Shah Waliullah in 18th-century Delhi to the Deobandis in the 19th-century to the Wahhabis in Arabia and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt in the 20th. The argument was identical: Muslims had been defeated because they had strayed from the pure original Islam of the Prophet. The shrine, the saint, the jinn, the music of the *qawwal* were diagnosed as the corruption that had caused the fall. The cure was return to the text, purged of everything the colonial critic had identified as primitive.

This was not a recovery of

original Islam. It was a modern construction that internalised the colonial gaze even while resisting colonial power. The reformists accepted the epistemological framework of their conquerors, that the shrine was superstition, that the saint was an interpolation, that the jinn was embarrassing. So the new leaders set about building an Islam that could pass muster before a rationalist tribunal. They rebuilt Islamic civilisation successfully, from below, through madrasa and print and voluntary organisation rather than through court and empire. But they rebuilt it by amputating the very pluralism that had made it humanly habitable.

What makes the contrast so sharp is the question of victimhood. The Muslim world after Baghdad did not see itself as the victim of a superior civilisation. It saw itself as the victim of a catastrophe that was terrible, inexplicable, but not evidence of inherent inadequacy. It could mourn and then expand. But the Muslim world after colonialism was handed a narrative of inherent inadequacy dressed as analysis, and the most powerful response, masked as reformism, was radical Islam.

Both were responses to loss. Only one was also a response to humiliation. The Mongol catastrophe produced grief without shame. The colonial catastrophe produced grief compounded by shame. Shame, unlike grief, does not heal through openness. It heals through purification.

Posts on X: @devduttmyth

Blame vs Accountability For a Better India

BY INVITATION

Anuja
Chandramouli

Author and new
age classicist



Indians stuck in India are used to too many things going to hell on a daily or hourly basis. Mostly these are related to the nightmarish Indian bureaucracy, infrastructure, and crime rates. But it can also be just Indian things that range from the merely irritating to bizarre happenings that can actually kill you like people pooping in full view of the public or a flyaway cutout of a shady politician that lands on incoming traffic leading to fatal collisions. Some Indians have perfected the fine art of remaining ignorant of the full-blown catastrophes playing out around them in real time, which allows them to feel bliss adjacent if they can manage to avoid getting mowed down by a truck careening down the wrong side of the road or a rabid dog ripping out their jugular. Most though tend to favour the blame game when forced to open their eyes and witness all the awful stuff happening around them—rape, murder, corruption, farmer/student

suicides, poverty, starvation, stampedes, communal violence etc.

In the aftermath of this relentless parade of horror, there is seldom any kind of sensible action taken. Killers and rapists are set free when not celebrated outright, while someone could be wrongfully arrested and killed in custody for liking a post, releasing evidence of an injustice on social media, making a reel or joining a protest. This has led to a pervasive climate of simmering fury, and the collective response has been to point a finger at individuals or institutions to be at the receiving end of the never-ending rage and

Blind blaming and shaming is pointless and seldom productive. It merely leads to further conflict, leaving the citizens stuck in a state of perpetual victimhood

frustration. To soak up the blame and absorb the vicious backlash, deserved or otherwise. Needless to say, this vindictive mindset has done us a fat lot of good.

Blind blaming and shaming is pointless and seldom productive. It merely leads to further conflict, leaving the citizens stuck in a state of perpetual victimhood and incapable of actually fixing anything. The focus is on randomly selecting 'wrongdoers' without a proper trial and justifying the

hatred and punishment meted out to them. This way folks can believe themselves to be on the 'right side' creating moral opportunists who value giving the impression of doing the right thing a lot more than actually doing the right thing which calls for a deeper comprehension of complex situations and choosing clarity over conflict. Worse, it takes proper accountability out of the equation, prevents people from taking stock of reality, sorting facts from falsehoods and seeking out solutions that can lead to real results.

Choosing accountability entails acknowledging personal responsibility for being a part of the problem which in turn promotes an increased likelihood of finding a fix to the issue rather than merely acknowledging that a problematic situation exists. Those who are mature and smart enough to do this can inspire others to do the same. This is the admittedly longer and more challenging path to finding a productive place where the citizenry can be united by mutual respect, shared responsibility, and common purpose. It means we could actually refrain from turning on each other like maddened chimps to better serve the nation and work together to realise the dream of a better India. Instead, we have chosen short-term non-solutions and the savage satisfaction of apportioning blame rather than bringing about lasting change.

anujamouli@gmail.com

How Mainstream Media Lost Out to Main Scream Media

PROVOCATEUR

Ravi
Shankar

ravi@newindianexpress.com



party saw as its top priority was camera coverage that brought intimacy and recall with voters and the accompanying talking heads who became pompous, much desired guests in private drawing rooms. Protest leaders and party spokesmen waited anxiously for OB vans at every venue to give their byte of the pie. A prime-time debate represented validation of a position. But not anymore. The most striking images from Jantar Mantar were not the Gen Z crowds, the slogans, the abuse, the songs or dances. They were the moments when television reporters were booed, mocked, and, in some places, chased away by young demonstrators who regarded them as hostile participants from *godi* media. That transformation did not happen overnight.

India once had a press that angered governments with undesirable coverage and exposes of corruption in high places. Newspapers unearthed scandals, TV correspondents questioned ministers, and editors regarded proximity to power as a necessary evil. The typical response of governments that the media was unfair was considered a compliment. Somewhere along the way, after the dawn of hyper-competitive news television, journalism mutated into political theatre. The arrival of shouting prime-time anchors changed the rules. Mainstream media became Main Scream media. Neutrality was no longer considered a virtue. The anchor was not a moderator but a partisan gladiator. The irony is that when television claimed to be speaking for "the nation", the youngest voters of the nation had stopped listening.

Generation Z has grown up differently. It did not learn politics from the 9 pm debate. Its political education came from livestreams, WhatsApp forwards, Telegram channels, Instagram reels, YouTube documentaries, Discord servers, and thousands of citizen journalists with mobile phones. For them, every protester is a potential broadcaster, every spectator a fact-checker and every smart-phone an OB van. When television channels used selective camera angles that minimised the size of protest gatherings, social media was simultaneously flooded with drone footage showing mammoth crowds. Whether every social-media claim was accurate is beside the point. The crucial fact is that television news lost its monopoly over what people believed they had seen. The news anchor's authority became a spoof because the audience compared competing versions instantly. After the CJP protests, phone screens overflowed with satirical edits portraying well-known television personalities as booth lickers, comically dancing half-naked to caustic songs. Perhaps the greatest strategic blunder committed by television news was abandoning the appearance of independence and objectivity. Instead of interrogating power, partisan anchors interrogated the Opposition. Government failures became debates about Opposition incompetence; economic questions became nationalism quizzes; administrative lapses became culture wars, and political accountability became personality contests. Gen Z has realised the TV anchor was a ventriloquist. Once that perception took root, trust became extraordinarily difficult to recover. India's political class still courts the electorate as it existed in 2014.

Those who enthusiastically consumed television during Narendra Modi's campaigns in 2014 and 2019 are now middle-aged or older; their media habits formed when television enjoyed enormous authority. But today's 18-year-olds have never lived in that media ecosystem. To them, the anchor is not an oracle but simply another content creator competing with thousands of others. He is judged by the same brutal algorithm: be interesting, be authentic, or risk being at best ignored, at worst jeered. Many politicians inhabit the same ecosystem. The CJP protests have exposed this disconnect. One India watched edited television bulletins and another India watched thousands of first-person videos. They were not consuming the same reality. That divergence may prove to be one of the most consequential political developments of this decade. Social media is chaotic, manipulative, and frequently dishonest. Rumours spread faster than corrections, algorithms reward outrage, and conspiracy theories flourish, unchecked. But credibility cannot be demanded simply because a channel possesses a satellite licence. For years, television news insisted that it shaped public opinion. To a large extent, it did. The recent protests showed a significant change: the camera that once manufactured political legitimacy is treated with scepticism by the very generation whose future it claims to describe. History is choked with the debris of institutions that mistook habit for loyalty. India's television news industry may have made the same mistake. All TVs have a remote control. That, with Gen Z, is the problem.



July Mandate For Mayday Mayhem

BY INVITATION

S Vaidhyasubramaniam

Vice-Chancellor,
SASTRA Deemed
University



Millions of Indian students prepare for a short duration examination which is a referendum on years of aspiration with preparations almost start from the embryonic womb. This career-ticking exam-bomb transforms parents as search engines, students as humanoids, schools as coaching centres, coaching centres as (p)rank factories, activists as litigants, courts as mediators and governments as fire-fighters, as the nation waits anxiously for results. Unfortunately, the trio-riot of NEET question paper leak, CBSE evaluation fracas, and UGC-CUET derailment in May this year, led to massive protests that consumed a union minister's portfolio. An assuring central government swung to immediate action with a high-powered task force for public examination reforms.

India's repeated entrance exam fiascos have created many a traumatic experience, making it an episode in crisis management and not an exercise for talent identification. India does not suffer from a shortage of examinations but from an outdated examination philosophy. The task force has to modernise examinations system and bring it to terms with contemporary challenges and aspirations. The country's public examination architecture was largely designed when number of candidates was measured in

lakhs. Today, it caters to several crore students across school boards, engineering, medicine, law, management, teacher education, and numerous recruitment examinations. Such an ecosystem cannot rely on 20th-century administrative practices serving 21st-century aspirations. Some suggestions for a win-win to all stakeholders.

Centre-State Partnership: High-stake exams like JEE and NEET should involve state governments as progressive partners, the states responsible for conducting the initial filtration exam. Once the state conducts its exam, based on the normalised scores, students from each state shall be selected to appear for a central government-conducted advanced exam. The number of students selected from each state shall be proportionate to the number of seats filled under each state's quota in the total seats. Normalisation not only smoothes exam's disparities and encourages competition amongst states to send their best to the central competitive pool but also promotes the spirit of cooperative federalism in education that is pinged by concurrent list constitutionalism.

Multiple Examination Window: Globally, successful examination systems recognise this reality. Students in the US may improve SAT or ACT scores through multiple attempts. England permits retaking A-Level subjects. Repeated opportunity improves reliability while reducing psychological pressure as candidates with two or three opportunities with the highest normalised score are considered for advanced tests. This reduces desperation, weaken the coaching industry's mystic monopoly over "one-shot" success and restore confidence among students.

Robust Evaluation and Assessment Infrastructure: An examination leak is not merely an administrative lapse but an assault on meritocracy and credibility of honest efforts accumulated over years. Ironically, India today processes billions of secure UPI transactions every month, protects digital banking worth trillions of rupees and authenticates citizens through Aadhaar in seconds. Likewise, the intellectual future of India's youth deserves an equally sophisticated security



framework. A National Secure Examination and Evaluation Grid (NSEEG)—a dedicated digital backbone for all public examinations with a secure infrastructure that serves National Testing Agency, school boards, recruitment commissions and professional regulators alike. The platform should incorporate end-to-end encryption of question papers, AI-based question paper banks, hardware-based authentication, geo-fenced digital access, blockchain-enabled audit trails, AI-driven anomaly detection, real-time cybersecurity monitoring and geographically distributed disaster recovery systems. Question papers should remain encrypted until minutes before the

examination, with every access digitally recorded and independently auditable. Students deserve confidence not only in the examination but also in the assessment process. Anonymised answer scripts distributed electronically to trained and trusted evaluators across the country and subjected to statistical moderation with AI as an academic quality controller shall restore supremacy of human judgement and at the same time ensure consistency and accountability with brutal consequences for malafide deviants.

Multi-lingual Equity: A fourth reform requires India to build the world's largest multilingual digital examination ecosystem. Students should receive identical quality of examination in every scheduled Indian language, supported by professionally validated translations, accessibility tools for persons with disabilities and adaptive digital interfaces. Equity in language is as important as equity in opportunity.

Public Examination Trust Index: Parameters such as security, transparency, grievance redressal, assessment and evaluation quality, accessibility, litigation rates, people's trust, student satisfaction and cybersecurity preparedness should be publicly measured and benchmarked, as what gets measured invariably improves.

India has already demonstrated extraordinary capability in building digital public infrastructure. Aadhaar, UPI, CoWIN, and ONDC are symbols of digital transformation at its best. Public examinations deserve to become India's fifth digital public infrastructure success story, for what works in India will work for the world. In short, its July mandate for mayday mayhem.

vaidhya@sastra.edu

Slow Love Without a Deadline

The latest dating trend of wildflowering wants romance to unfold slowly, naturally, and without a predetermined script

By ANJALI AWASTHI

For nearly a year, Anuradha Awasthi's relationship existed in the space between certainty and possibility. She and the man she met on a dating app lived over 1,500 kilometres apart. There were no grand declarations, no conversations about where things were headed within the first few weeks, and certainly no pressure to hit relationship milestones. Instead, they simply kept showing up for each other.

"It wasn't that we were avoiding commitment," recalls Awasthi. "We just weren't trying to force one before we were ready."

Today, social media would call what they were doing wildflowering—the latest dating buzzword encouraging people to let relationships evolve naturally instead of chasing labels, timelines or predefined milestones. But Awasthi laughs at the idea that she needed a trend to explain what felt instinctive.

"The relationship grew because we kept choosing each other," she says. "Not because we'd ticked some imaginary milestone."

Looking back, however, she believes their relationship survived for one crucial reason. Slowing down never meant avoiding difficult conversations.

It's perhaps no surprise that wildflowering has found an audience. The Internet has become remarkably skilled at turning our romantic anxieties into neatly packaged trends. We've survived ghosting, breadcrumbing, zombieing, hardballing and floodlighting. Every few months, a fresh term appears, promising to explain why modern dating feels exhausting.

Wildflowering, at least on the surface, sounds refreshingly simple. Instead of treating every

"People feel pressure to become exclusive... without that pressure, people often get the chance to discover whether they're genuinely compatible."

ATHUL RAJ, counselling psychologist

"Even a simple platonic friendship cannot thrive without clear communication, realistic expectation-setting and commitment. The same principle applies to dating."

RADHIKA MOHTA, relationship coach

first date like the beginning of a five-year plan, it suggests allowing relationships to grow at their own pace. In an era where dating apps encourage endless swiping, and everyone seems to be 'dating with intention', slowing down almost feels rebellious.

But does it actually create healthier relationships? Or does it simply replace one kind of uncertainty with another?

Counselling psychologist Athul Raj believes the appeal

lies in removing unnecessary pressure. "People feel pressure to become exclusive, define the relationship or plan the future within a certain period."

Without that pressure, he says, people often get the chance to discover whether they're genuinely compatible. Emotional intimacy grows through trust, and feeling understood, not simply through a label.

However Raj points out, "taking things slowly should never become an excuse for

leaving someone guessing."

That distinction is exactly what relationship coach Radhika Mohta believes often gets lost in the conversation around wildflowering.

Questioning how the idea is a not some unique Gen-Z philosophy, she says, people have always moved through relationships at different speeds. Someone in their early twenties navigating careers, cities and identities will naturally date differently from someone

hoping to settle down. "Slowing down doesn't magically create clarity," she says.

This is also where wildflowering risks running into the same problems as the situationship. One person may believe the relationship is naturally evolving while the other is quietly waiting for clarity that never comes. Dating apps, Mohta believes, have only made that uncertainty harder.

"Even a simple platonic friendship cannot thrive

without clear communication, expectation-setting and commitment. The same applies to dating," she adds.

Perhaps that is what wildflowering ultimately reveals. It isn't simply a rejection of labels as much as it is a response to dating fatigue. After years of treating romance like a checklist, and constantly wondering whether a relationship is moving quickly enough, many people are choosing to step off the treadmill altogether.

SKINNING IT Dr Deepali Bhardwaj

The Myth of Skin Fasting

A few months ago, one of my patients walked into the clinic with a big smile on her face.

"Doctor, I've stopped using everything!" she announced proudly. "No cleanser, no serum, no moisturiser. I've been skin fasting for two weeks."

She had seen the trend on social media and loved the idea of giving her skin a complete break to "reset" and work naturally. It sounded so simple and appealing! But when I examined her skin, I noticed increased dryness, uneven texture, and a few new breakouts.

This conversation is happening in clinics across India. After years of complicated 10-step routines, many people are now swinging to the other extreme—skin fasting. So, let's talk honestly: is skin fasting truly helpful, or is it just another beauty trend?

What Exactly Is Skin Fasting?

Skin fasting means pausing or completely stopping skincare products for a while. Some people stop only strong actives like retinol or acids, while others drop everything—including cleanser and moisturiser. The idea is that your skin might be dependent on products and needs time to rebalance itself naturally. It sounds logical, but the science shows a more balanced picture.

Can Skin Really Become Addicted to Products?

This is one of the biggest myths out there! Your skin doesn't get addicted to skincare the way the body can become dependent on medicine. Moisturisers don't make your skin forget how to hydrate. Sunscreen doesn't weaken your natural protection.

What usually happens is this: when you stop using products that were helping, your original skin concerns (dryness, breakouts, dullness) simply become visible again. It's not a "detox"—it's just the absence of support.

There are times when reducing products is a good idea! I often see patients using too many things at once—multiple serums, acids, oils, masks, and treatments layered together. This can overwhelm the skin and cause irritation, redness, or breakouts.

In these cases, I recommend a gentle "skincare reset" using just three basics:

- A gentle cleanser
- A good moisturiser
- Broad-spectrum sunscreen

When Skin Fasting Can Backfire

For many people, stopping everything can cause more problems than it solves. If you have acne, rosacea, eczema, pigmentation, or sensitive skin, your carefully chosen products are often helping to manage a real condition. Suddenly quitting can lead to flare-ups and discomfort. People with dry or dehydrated skin may feel much worse without moisturiser.

The Skin Barrier Is Key

Think of your skin barrier as a protective shield that holds in moisture and keeps irritants out. When it's healthy, your skin feels soft, comfortable, and strong. When it's damaged (from too many products or from using none), it can feel tight, flaky, red, or sensitive. Moreover, in cities with pollution, AC, and changing weather, most skin needs some gentle support.

Finding Your Middle Path

Social media loves to swing between "use 15 products!" and "use nothing!" The truth is usually in the middle. Healthy skin doesn't need a huge shelf of products, but it also doesn't do well with total neglect. The goal isn't extremes—it's balance.

Anti-Skin Allergy Specialist & Dermatologist at Centre for Skin and Hair Put Ltd, Defence Colony, Delhi askdrdeepali@yahoo.com

FIT BIT



THE HIDDEN BRAIN

A new study by Nature reveals, just like the human brain, even the heart has a small network of neurons capable of controlling essential bodily functions. Conducted by Yale University, the research discovered a neural network located in the adipose tissue surrounding the heart. The study found that the 'brain' hidden inside the heart functions as a small command centre, regulating heartbeats and also protects the organ during physical or physiological stress situations. Although the 'hidden' brain represents only 0.01 per cent of the cells present in adipose tissue, these communicate with each other and also receive information sent by the brain.



CALORIE CALCULATOR GONE WRONG

Your AI-powered calorie tracker might be underestimating the count by over 300 calories. A new study by NIH Clinical Center, analysed over 200 meals with four popular calorie counting apps. And it found the estimated calorie totals, by all the four apps, were about 250 to 345 calories lower per meal on average. Moreover, the apps also underestimated fat by approximately 30 grams. Photo based calorie counting apps popular among people dieting or tracking their meals. It says, these trackers might be fast and convenient, but accuracy of many of these apps remains questionable.

Wired to Get Fit

A 20-minute workout in an electrode-lined suit promises gym-like results

By RISHABH THAKUR

Electrical Muscle Stimulation (EMS) is a fitness technology that uses a bodysuit fitted with electrodes to deliver controlled electrical impulses to major muscle groups while you perform guided exercises such as squats, lunges and planks. The impulses intensify muscle contractions beyond voluntary effort, allowing for a full-body workout in about 20 minutes. Once confined to physiotherapy clinics and elite sports training, EMS is now finding its way into mainstream fitness studios.

Why is it gaining popularity?

- Appeals to time-starved urban professionals looking for efficient workouts
- Offers a low-impact alternative for people who may find conventional gyms physically demanding
- Increasingly attracting:
 - Busy professionals
 - Fitness beginners
 - Older adults
 - People returning to exercise after a long break



DR AKHILESH RATHI

Director, Department of Orthopedics and Sports Injury, Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, New Delhi

"EMS should be viewed as a complement to, not a replacement for, conventional exercise. Cardiovascular fitness, mobility, balance, and functional strength still require regular physical activity and movement. When used under professional supervision and with appropriate intensity, EMS can be a useful tool in a broader fitness programme."

PRODUCT REVIEW

Mixed Impressions

I tried Forever52's Hydra Creme Moisturizing Cream Makeup Base, Amazonic Kajal, and Sensational Liquid Lipstick together as part of my everyday makeup routine, and while all three products have their strengths, they also come with a few limitations. The Hydra Creme feels lightweight yet nourishing, leaving my skin soft, hydrated, and smooth. However, as a makeup base, I expected a little more. It doesn't significantly improve makeup longevity, and on my combination skin, it can feel slightly rich in humid weather. The Amazonic Kajal impressed me with its intense pigmentation and smooth, one-stroke application. That said, I found the 24-hour wear claim a bit ambitious. It stayed put for most of the day but gradually faded from my waterline and showed minor smudging at the outer corners after several hours. The Sensational Liquid Lipstick was probably the most comfortable surprise. The formula is incredibly lightweight, delivers excellent colour payoff and gives a flattering matte finish without feeling heavy. However, if my lips aren't properly exfoliated, the lipstick tends to settle into dry patches and fine lines. It also doesn't survive oily meals without needing a touch-up.

—Medha Dutta Yadav



The science behind EMS

- The body naturally uses electrical signals from the brain to contract muscles; EMS externally mimics and amplifies this process.
- Research has found improvements in:
 - Muscle strength & body composition
 - Muscle activation, particularly among previously untrained individuals.
- Studies by German researcher Wolfgang Kemmler and research published in the *Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research* support these benefits.

Not a new technology

- EMS has existed for decades.
- Soviet sports scientists experimented with it during the 1960s to improve elite athletic performance.

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS HAVE LONG USED LOCALIZED EMS FOR:

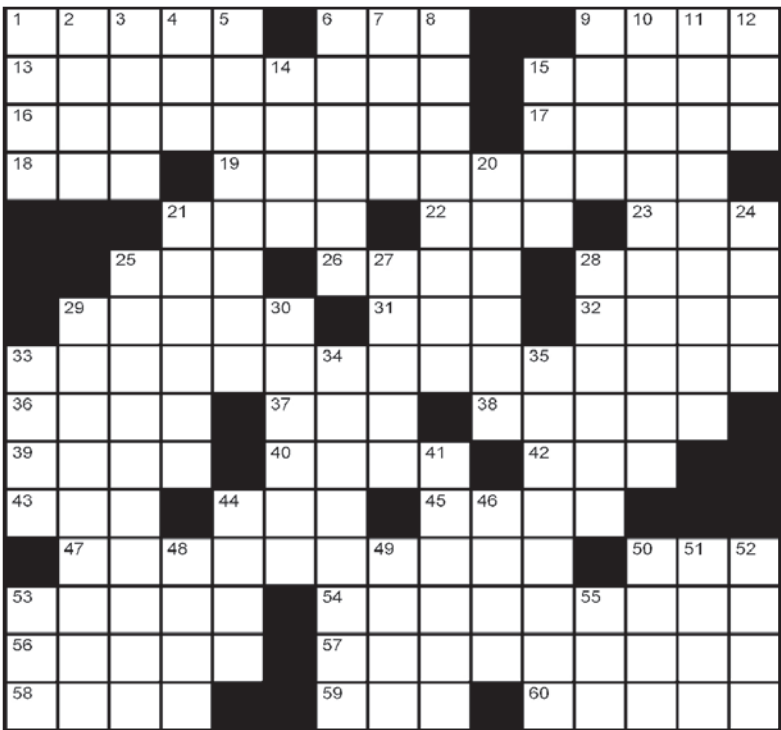
Post-surgical rehabilitation	Preventing muscle atrophy	Managing chronic pain
------------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------

- The latest innovation is whole-body EMS suits used in dedicated fitness studios.

What are the limitations?

- EMS is designed to supplement—not replace—traditional exercise.
- It cannot fully substitute:
 - Cardiovascular exercise
 - Mobility training
 - Balance work
 - Functional movement

CROSSWORD | FAST WALKER — 511



- Across**
- 1 "Oh, joy!"
6 "Titanic" character who says, "I put the diamond in the coat. And I put the coat on her!"
9 Tug-of-war need
13 Cage part, perhaps?
15 Deck with swords and pentacles
16 Creamy appetizer sometimes served with crostini
17 Cookies in some crusts
18 IRS form digits
19 Taylor Swift song with a 10-minute version
21 Actress Taylor-Joy
22 Good beach day forecast
23 Drain
25 Get ___ of (unload)
26 Root vegetable used in some natural Easter egg dyes
28 "Wish you ___ here!"
29 Preserves in brine
31 Cell service letters
32 Female sheep
33 "What a predictable comment"
36 Forearm bone
37 Nickname found in "homeroetic"
- Down**
- 1 Sierras and Terrains, e.g.
2 ___ and aahs
3 Pizzeria sight
4 Run out of juice
5 "Well ... kind of"
6 Work together on a song, informally
7 Often
8 They're built brick by brick
9 Uncommon
10 "And if I don't?"
11 Splash zones
- 38 Swedish poet
39 Piece of contact info, casually
40 Car sticker abbr.
42 Grasped
43 Negative conjunction
44 All-Star baseball player ___ Wee Reese
45 "Now!"
46 Energy bar?
50 Chimpanzee, for one
53 Grill brand
54 Vehicle stored underneath Wayne Manor
56 Confident way to solve a print crossword
57 "It's my bad!"
58 "___ it ironic?"
59 HS diploma alternative
60 Foe
- 12 Sci-fi invaders
14 Depend (on)
15 The ___ (nickname for Oakland)
20 Consume more hot dogs than, say
21 The "A" of the ABCs of CPR
24 Gnat, e.g.
25 Tournament where every team plays every other team
27 Mormon leader
28 Tool for cleaning a grimy floor
29 First scenes of "SNL" episodes, often
30 Christmastime in the Southern Hemisphere
33 Currency in Chongqing
34 Gets trounced
35 Downward dog, e.g.
41 Created a path through, as the Red Sea
44 Benefit
46 The ___ (Second Life competitor)
48 Departed
49 Not wild
50 Senator's staffer
51 Professor ___
52 Like a napping cat, in internet slang
53 GameCube successor
55 Tennis star Shelton

Solution to last week's puzzle in the bottom right corner of the page

WHAT DOES YOUR HOME DÉCOR SAY ABOUT YOU? (Adult Female)

- 1: Where do you make the majority of your purchases when selecting items to furnish your home?
a) You don't have a fixed idea of what style you want, so you buy items that attract you wherever you see them
b) A DIY superstore or department chain store
c) An antique shop, flea market, or auction house
- 2: The paint work in your home consists mainly of
a) Neutral pastels that match your furnishings
b) Heavy, dark colours that add warmth and character
c) Bright, intense and upbeat colours
- 3: What mode of lighting does your home have chiefly?
a) Ceiling and spotlights
b) Table and floor lamps
c) Candles to create an ambience
- 4: You have just moved to another house that was previously occupied by an elderly lady. What changes would you make to the décor?
a) As long as the décor wasn't shabby, you would leave the place exactly as it is
b) A few basic alterations, but nothing too

- drastic
c) You would completely restyle the place from top to bottom, imprinting your personality on it
- 5: What material do you prefer to use for flooring in your home?
a) Natural or stained varnished wood
b) Wall to wall carpets
c) A mixture of tiles and carpets
- 6: Have you tried to create a distinctive style with your décor?
a) No, your home is a diverse mixture of tastes throughout
b) Only in ensuring that your home reflects your personality
c) Yes, you have made a great effort to structure it to a theme
- 7: Are there any rooms in your home that you would cause you to be embarrassed if a close friend saw them?
a) Yes, but only because of your untidiness
b) No, your home is beautiful throughout
c) Yes, you have rooms that you have yet to decorate to your high standards
- 8: What type of window coverings do you have in your home?
a) Drapes
b) Roller or Venetian blinds
c) Wooden shutters

- 9: What is your criterion when buying furnishings for your home?
a) They have to be in a style that adds contrast to their surroundings
b) They have to be neutral to fit in with any changes you might make at a later date
c) They must match the décor that you already have
- 10: Do you tend to have a pivotal point in each of your rooms from which the entire style of the room has evolved?
a) No, you prefer to develop the room's style as a whole rather than as a derivative of a feature
b) Yes, you need a centre piece to work from when deciding a theme
c) No, your rooms have individual styles that have no clear source

HOW TO SCORE:

1.	a	b	c
2.	1	2	3
3.	1	2	3
4.	0	1	3
5.	3	2	1
6.	0	1	3
7.	1	3	2
8.	1	3	2
9.	3	2	1
10.	3	2	1

What your score means:
Between 0-10: It seems that you may not have imprinted the real you on your home. Ask yourself if your present style of décor says about you what you want it to? There are many exciting products on the market that can be combined to create a wonderful décor; all you need to add is inspiration that flows from the very depth of your personality. **Between 11-20:** Getting your home's décor right is difficult for you. You know what you want, but have obviously found it is challenging trying to convert your dreams into reality. Don't waste effort on attempting to be both designer and decorator. Concentrate on what you are good at, being creative, while getting someone else to carry out the practical work. **Between 21-30:** The interior design of your home is a credit to you and a true reflection of your psyche. If you are not a trained designer with years of experience, then clearly you are a naturally gifted amateur. Your innate sense of style and flair, together with a demand for perfection, combines to make your home fit to grace the pages of a glossy magazine.

Asia Features

Shortcuts
CLEARING THE AIR ABOUT DUST STORMS
by Jeff Harris

What do you get when a sandstorm hits Neverland? Fairy dust.

This cartoon is just dust in the wind.

The term "Dust Bowl" was initially coined to describe a period during the 1930s when a series of dust storms devastated western North America. Today, the term usually refers to a dry area of land unsuitable for farming.

Dust storms occur almost everywhere in the world, but most occur in the Middle East and Northern Africa.

It has been estimated that nearly a quarter of the dust in the atmosphere is a result of human activity, including construction, agriculture, deforestation and poor water management.

The leading edge of a large dust storm looks like a wall of low, dark clouds.

What type of humor do dust storms have? Dry.

Dust storms move quickly, often arriving without warning on an otherwise beautiful day.

A "haboob" is a type of dust storm created by a weather front or a powerful thunderstorm.

Dust storms kick up more than 2 million tonnes (2.2 million tons) of dust into the Earth's atmosphere each year. Nearly half comes from North Africa.

Some of the dust from a dust storm may rise as high as 4,000 m (20,000 ft.) and stay airborne for months.

The extremely limited visibility experienced in a dust storm is a major hazard to both ground and air transportation.

DUST TO DUST
Can you help this traveler escape the dust storm?

WORD SEARCH
Can you find the hidden words? Search carefully because some words are backward or diagonal.

WEATHER BOWL BARE
HAZARD BLOW SOIL
HAZARD WALL BOB
STORM LAND DAY
WATER DUST DRY
FRONT WIND AIR
VENOMANDFANOGS
BORRYARRNDGGS
DGOATYOASALES
UTIPBNOZOYLOR
SRESTOBARBIEE
TAGSOHOSHUT
ADDSLIWBATHEA
PANSLLYAUGHW
TASIAOWESHACK
THROWWATCHES

For more information: <https://scijinks.gov/dust-storm/> or <https://wmo.int/topics/sand-and-dust-storms> Download your favorite past issues at: www.shortcutscomic.com Distributed by Andrews McMeel for LPS, Inc. © Jeff Harris 2025 8/25

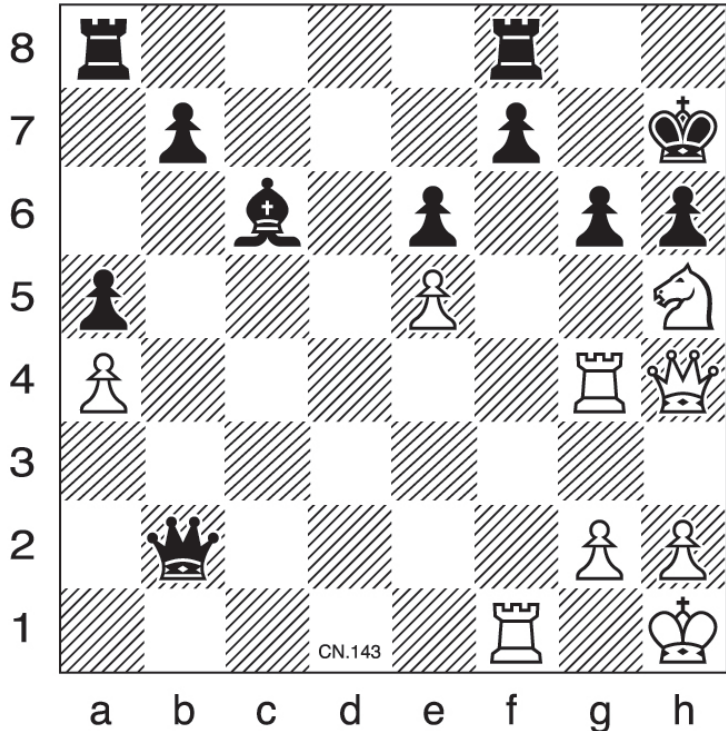
SUDOKU | EVIL AND HARD

	1	9				5	
		5		9		8	2
				4			
2	9	1	8				
			6				
				1	4	9	8
		2					
4		8		5		7	
	5				3	8	

	8	5			9	1	
			7			2	
6				3			9
		6		9			1
8				2			4
1				8		6	
	4			1			5
		8			2		
		2	9			8	4

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any. Each w has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing

CHESS Leonard Barden



BARDEN CHESS

Nick de Firmian v John Fedorowicz, US Masters 2000. You would expect a spectacular finish here as the white heaves gather round the unarmed black king, but world team gold medallist Fedorowicz had seen worse in his career and had prepared his escape routes. He had an eye, too, on White's vulnerable back row and Black's queen-bishop strike against g2. Fedorowicz calculated that 1 Qf6 is met by Rg8 2 Qxh7+ Kh8, that 1 Qe7 runs up against Qxe5, and that if two-time US champion de Firmian went for glory by 1 Nf6+ Kg7 2 Qxh6+ Kxh6 3 Rh4+ Black could avoid 3... Kg7?? 4 Rh7 mate by 3... Kg5 when White has to give perpetual check by 4 Rg4+. A fine defensive concept, but unfortunately de Firmian had another move available in the diagram which led to Black's immediate resignation. What did White play?

Solution CN143: 1 Rxg6! Resigns. If Kxg6 2 Qg4+ Kh7 3 Qg7 mate, or fxg6 2 Qe7+ with mate to follow.

Chess Problems Distributed by Knight Features
www.knightfeatures.com,
info@knightfeatures.co.uk

QUESTION TIME
by Lalitha Balakrishnan

1. Scientists at the Ohio State University have developed a 'cold boiling' technique that destroys a toxic substance in water. Which substance is it?
(a) Oil spills
(b) Microplastics
(c) PFAS (forever chemicals)
2. Who appoints Central Vigilance Commissioner in India?
(a) President of India
(b) Prime Minister of India
(c) Chief Justice of India
3. In which country is the Narita Airport located?
(a) Thailand
(b) China
(c) Japan
4. Bindusara was the father of which famous Indian Emperor?
(a) Samudragupta
(b) Ashoka
(c) Harshavardhana
5. Commonwealth Games are currently being held in which of these countries?
(a) Glasgow
(b) Edinburgh
(c) Aberdeen
6. Imphal is the capital of which Indian state?
(a) Manipur
(b) Maharashtra
(c) Gujarat
7. Who won the FIFA World Cup 2026?
(a) Argentina
(b) Brazil
(c) Spain
8. Who wrote the Greek epic *Odyssey*?
(a) Homer
(b) Aristotle
(c) Socrates
9. Where is the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change headquartered?
(a) USA
(b) UAE
(c) Switzerland
10. What is the term used for profits distributed to shareholders?
(a) Dividend
(b) Royalty
(c) Commission

Answers to last week's questions
1.c, 2a, 3a, 4.b, 5.c, 6.c, 7.b, 8.b, 9.a, 10.a

Winner
Ashaz Usha - Karnataka
G Radha Krishna - Delhi
Sivou M - Kerala
Ravinder Kumar - Haryana
Avantika M - Tamil Nadu

Answers to this week's questions will appear next week. Only entries with all correct answers sent before Wednesday noon will be considered for prizes.

Email your answers along with your name, phone number and complete address to sundayquiz@newindianexpress.com. For example, if the answer for Question No.1 is A, it should be written as 1.A. Please mention QT and the issue date in MM/DD/YY format (for example, QT, April 25, 2021) in the subject line of the email. Only entries with these details will be considered for prizes.

FIVE ALL-CORRECT ENTRIES WILL WIN THE BOOK, *THE GOENKA LETTERS: AGONY AND ECSTASY IN THE INDIAN EXPRESS*

SUDOKU 1 TODAY'S SOLUTION

Evil Sudoku

8	1	9	3	7	2	6	5	4
3	4	5	1	9	6	8	7	2
6	2	7	5	8	4	1	3	9
2	9	1	8	4	3	5	6	7
7	8	4	9	6	5	2	1	3
5	6	3	7	2	1	4	9	8
1	7	6	2	3	8	9	4	5
4	3	8	6	5	9	7	2	1
9	5	2	4	1	7	3	8	6

Hard Sudoku

7	8	5	2	4	9	1	6	3
4	3	9	7	6	1	2	5	8
6	2	1	8	3	5	4	9	7
2	7	6	3	9	4	5	8	1
8	5	3	1	2	6	9	7	4
1	9	4	5	8	7	6	3	2
9	4	7	6	1	8	3	2	5
3	6	8	4	5	2	7	1	9
5	1	2	9	7	3	8	4	6

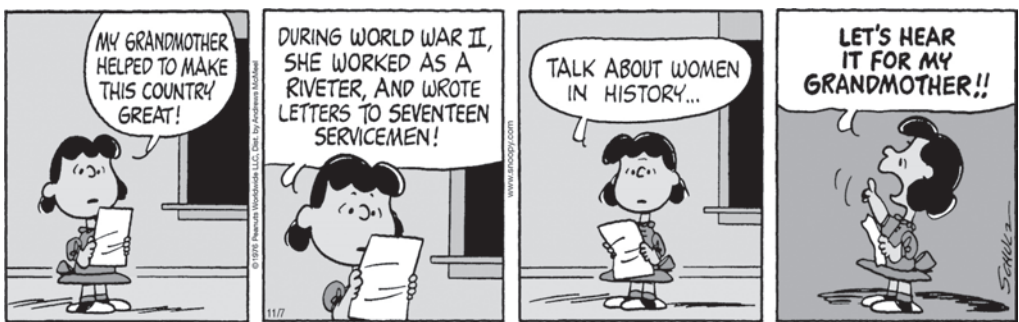
PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

O	R	C	U	R	S	A	B	A	G	G	Y
B	I	O	P	A	I	R	O	M	E	L	E
C	L	E	A	N	S	T	R	E	S	S	C
T	E	C	H	N	E	W	E	S	P	A	S
S	H	E	D	L	E	A	S	T	E	M	T
B	A	L	O	I	N	N	G	A	S	P	S
U	R	L	G	L	I	T	C	H	Y	A	K
E	A	S	L	H	A	T	G	R	I	N	
K	E	Y	L	E	S	S	E	N	T	R	Y
A	S	I	D	U	C	T	V	A	N	E	
A	L	U	M	A	T	L	D	E	T	E	S
D	E	E	P	S	L	E	E	P	E	R	
O	R	D	E	A	L	A	I	L	S		
T	R	O	O	N							

GARFIELD by Jim Davis



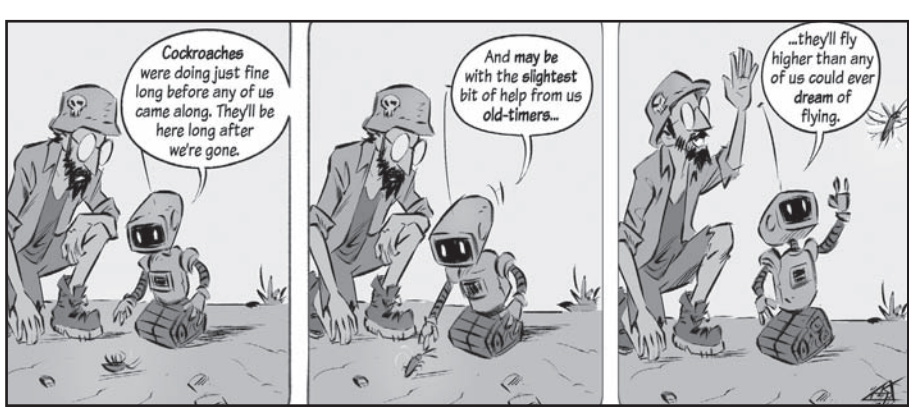
PEANUTS by Charles M Schulz



DRAWING CONCLUSIONS by Arun Ramkumar



FUTUREPAST by Kishore Mohan



ALMANAC | TODAY 02.08.2026

Year: Parabhav
Aadi: Thei Pirai Ashadh: Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Chaturthi till 23.16 hrs.
Nakshatra (Star): P. Bhadrapada till 21.38 hrs.
Moon in Kumbh till 15.28 hrs.
Today is Sankashti Chaturthi. Moonrise 21.37 hrs.
Rahukaalam: 04.30 pm to 06.00 pm
Yamagantam: 12 noon to 01.30 pm
Gulikakalam: 03.00 pm to 04.30 pm

BIRTHSTONE | LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)



The birthstone for Leo is the Peridot. The zodiac sign of Leo also responds to gemstones such as Onyx, Diamond, Carnelian, Sardonyx and Ruby. The tradition of giving birthstone jewellery as gifts for people born under the sign of Leo dates back thousands of years. The Peridot is associated with love, truth, faithfulness, loyalty, fame, dignity and protection. It is also adorned to enhance prosperity, growth, and openness. The birthstone is believed to conduct the energies of the planet Sun with which it is sympathetic. Wearing Peridot jewellery focuses the energies of the planet and sign through the gem. The healing properties of the Leo birthstone are reputed to be effective for health problems related to lungs, lymph, breasts and sinuses.

YOUR FORTUNE THIS WEEK Amarakosha

What the planets say about your prospects for wealth, romance and professional success this week



ARIES (Mar 21–Apr 19)
Work: A sudden change in the office may push you into a bigger and more important role. An unexpected meeting could also open a new business chance or expansion.
Money: If you seek financial support, you will get it. Unexpected expenses related to car or travel may crop up.
Couples: Compromises may become unacceptable. Hidden money or infidelity issues may surface.
Singles: Someone new may come into your life but understanding each other may feel difficult.

TAURUS (Apr 20–May 20)
Work: Your steady performance may finally show the outcome with stronger budget support and useful resources, helping things move forward.
Money: A chance to earn from your expertise or hobby may arise. You may close the deal and sign.
Couples: A tough situation may test you both but could also reveal strength and smart thinking.
Singles: If you are dating, the relationship could become serious. If not, someone older may be drawn to you.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20)
Work: You perform higher than benchmark. Something you have worked on for a long time could suddenly open a big career with long term potential.
Money: You turn your skills into income. A new income source may also open up. Someone may bring good news.
Couples: Someone from your partner's circle may cause trouble, but your partner will stand strongly by your side.
Singles: Things may move fast with someone you know or have feelings for. Expect strong and exciting emotions.

CANCER (June 21–July 22)
Work: A new project with government or foreign connections is coming. You get a solo task done well, but team tasks may feel like a battleground of blame.
Money: Long overdue money may finally come. A contact may bring an income chance, but you need to act fast.
Couples: Work, goals, and errands may take up your time, leaving little room for romance this week.
Singles: You fall for a foreigner with a language barrier.

LEO (July 23–Aug 22)
Work: A sudden crisis or hidden mess may blow up but you could handle it well, turning chaos into a moment that earns real respect.
Money: Be prepared for car or device expenses. Beware of fake investments or crypto scammers.
Couples: You both may be busy building a future together and have lesser time for each other, but love stays strong.
Singles: Romance scammers, people after your money, or those seeking one night stand may try to approach you.

VIRGO (Aug 23–Sept 22)
Work: People issues and legal matters may give you a hard time, but they also help you grow. Someone you trust may turn against you and put a blame on you; stay alert.
Money: You may find an income channel that others can't see, but too many opinions slow your decision.
Couples: Friction may arise but a friend may step in to calm things. Avoid shared financial commitments.
Singles: You may focus only on your goals and have no time for love but your taken ex or friend may approach.

LIBRA (Sept 23–Oct 22)
Work: Things go smoothly and the team gets along well. A recognition and career growth offer may come. If you are in a family business, you become a key leadership.
Money: High income flows in and reflects your hard work. If you are selling property, the deal closes smoothly.
Couples: The relationship may feel unstable, tense, and heavy but the fear of the unknown makes it hard to leave.
Singles: You may feel too tired and disappointed due to past experiences and avoid love completely for now.

SCORPIO (Oct 23–Nov 21)
Work: If the project you are working on is tough, success is on its way. Last minute travel or new foreign connections or collaborations may come.
Money: You spend wisely with financial discipline. A sudden event makes you rethink how you manage money.
Couples: Money matters may feel uncomfortable. A small jealousy issue may also quietly come in between.
Singles: Instead of chasing love, you start asking yourself what kind of relationship truly works for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22–Dec 21)
Work: A sudden change may bring conflict and drama. Tough colleagues and difficult clients may push your patience and people skills to the limit.
Money: You turn an expertise into earning. It is a good time to clear debts and reorganise your finances.
Couples: Career pressure or family interference may test your bond, create conflict or bring up old issues.
Singles: Some days you feel happy alone and on others, want someone. If someone shows interest, you pull away.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22–Jan 19)
Work: Higher-ups may raise expectations and push more workload on you including travel, training, and meetings. You have to carry most of it alone.
Money: Income is not easy to gain but hard work will generate good results. Unexpected expenses may crop up.
Couples: A challenge brings out strength in you both. You share less but meaningful time together.
Singles: A friend may want to move from to love zone.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20–Feb 18)
Work: Extra pressure and tasks from other people's mistakes may come to on you. A past project may come back reworked, and becomes a fresh income stream.
Money: You will be able to repay small debts. If you have children, unexpected bills may crop up.
Couples: You may have less time together but the small moments you share may feel warm and cozy.
Singles: You may not be actively looking for love, but new faces may keep showing up around you anyway.

PISCES (Feb 19–Mar 20)
Work: Higher-ups notice your skills and assign you a bigger, exciting and challenging task. A recruiter may reach out. Jobseekers may find jobs in creative fields.
Money: Your income direction may get rebolt. A surprise fine or an urgent home repair bill may arise.
Couples: Family members interfere and cause tension. Disagreements over spending habits may also arise.
Singles: You are attracted to a taken friend or someone at work. Be very careful as this could lead to serious trouble.

The Celestial Gaze



ARIES

With Sun and Jupiter illuminating your 5th house of creativity and romance, this week sparks joyful self-expression and speculative gains. Mars in Gemini activates communication—network boldly but avoid impulsive words. Venus entering Libra harmonizes partnerships. Career shines mid-week. Finances are steady with minor expenses. Love is passionate but guard ego. Manage stress through exercise. Balance enthusiasm with patience.
Vastu Suggestions: Place a red lamp or brass sun symbol in the east. Keep east-facing windows open.



CANCER

Sun and Jupiter transit your 2nd house of wealth and values, enhancing self-worth and resources. Mercury in your sign sharpens intuition. Venus in Virgo supports daily routines. Mars in 12th house suggests behind-the-scenes work. Maintain emotional resilience. Family matters resolve positively. Recognition in career is possible; finances improve. Watch your diet and hydration. Maintain caution in speech. A prosperous, introspective week—trust the inner voice.
Vastu Suggestions: Position family areas with mirrors on north/east walls for wealth reflection.



LIBRA

Venus moving into your sign boosts harmony, beauty, and social grace. Jupiter and Sun in 11th house fulfill wishes through networks. Mars in 9th house inspires higher learning or travel. Career sees collaborative success. Love may witness romantic or diplomatic wins. The energy is balanced. Group activities are favoured. This is a socially vibrant week—leverage connections for long-term benefits while maintaining equilibrium.
Vastu Suggestions: Decorate south-east with pastels. Place pairs of items in west. Maintain balance.



CAPRICORN

Saturn in the 4th house demands foundational discipline amid trines. Sun and Jupiter in 8th house aids transformation, inheritance, or occult insights. Mars drives ambition. Your endurance is rewarded. Career remains steady while finances deepen. Love sees committed intensity. This is a restructuring week—build lasting security through focused effort.
Vastu Suggestions: Reinforce south-west with storage. Use dark shades in west. Maintain order in career corners.



TAURUS

Jupiter and Sun highlight home and family, bringing emotional security and property matters. Mercury in Cancer aids intuitive decisions. Mars energizes finances. Focus on stability amid nodal influences. Relationships deepen through shared goals; singles may meet stable partners. Career sees steady progress, but avoid conflicts. Digestive care is needed. Mid-week is lucky. This is a grounding week where domestic harmony fuels success.
Vastu Suggestions: Store valuables in north. Use earth tones in south-west for grounding. Keep kitchen clean.



LEO

Sun in your sign amplifies charisma, leadership, and vitality—this is a prime time for personal goals. Venus to Libra aids relationships. Mars energizes social circles. Leo emphasis on self demands authenticity. Career peaks with visibility; avoid ego clashes. Romance peaks. Care for your heart and spine. Aspects support growth. This is a spotlight week of confidence and creativity—shine brightly while preparing for transformative shifts.
Vastu Suggestions: Activate east with light. Use gold decor in living room. Keep northeast prayer space active.



SCORPIO

Sun and Jupiter in 10th house spotlights career authority and reputation. Mars in 8th house intensifies research and transformation. Venus supports intimacy and shared resources. Mercury aids hidden matters. Depth and strategy pay off. Power dynamics shift positively; finances via others improve. Avoid extremes in terms of health. This is an ambitious, investigative week—strategic moves lead to recognition and empowerment.
Vastu Suggestions: Strengthen south with red accents. Use protective symbols like pyramids in corners.



AQUARIUS

Uranus influences innovation; Sun and Jupiter in 7th house highlights partnerships or alliances. Venus enhances social charm. Mars in 5th house sparks romance and creativity. Vedic nodal shifts bring progressive changes. Career collaborations thrive. Love sees exciting meetings. This is a relational, forward-thinking week—embrace unconventional paths for breakthroughs.
Vastu Suggestions: Place tech or creative setups in north. Keep centre open. Use modern, airy decor in blues.



GEMINI

Mars in your sign boosts energy and short travels, but Mercury in Cancer calls for emotional clarity in communication. Sun and Jupiter in 3rd house favours siblings, learning, and courage. Venus improves finances and pleasures. Gemini *lagna* sees 1st house action—avoid scattering efforts. Networking pays off; pitch ideas confidently. Love can be flirtatious but seek depth. This is a communicative, action-packed week—channel curiosity for breakthroughs.
Vastu Suggestions: Keep the *Brahmasthan* neat. Place study items in north. Use yellow in communication zones.



VIRGO

Venus in your sign brings charm and refinement, shifting to partnerships. Sun and Jupiter in 12th house favours introspection, spirituality, or foreign links. Mercury aids analysis. Mars drives career action. Service-oriented transits reward humility. Finances stabilize. Past karma surfaces for release. Bonds remain private and healing. This may prove to be a behind-the-scenes week for preparation and subtle gains—clarity emerges by weekend.
Vastu Suggestions: Organize workspaces in north. Use green or neutral tones. Keep southeast kitchen spotless.



SAGITTARIUS

Jupiter with Sun in 9th house expands luck, travel, and philosophy. Mars in 7th house energizes partnerships. Venus brings creative pleasures. Optimism rules the overall week. Career witnesses mentorship or long-distance gains. Love sees adventurous bonds. You maintain an active lifestyle. Higher knowledge flows. This proves to be a fortunate and exploratory week that broadens horizons for growth and wisdom.
Vastu Suggestions: East-facing altars. Use orange in northeast. Keep travel items organized in north-west.



PISCES

Your ruler Neptune is subtle. Jupiter and Sun in 6th house improve work and health routines. Mars in 4th house energizes home. Venus aids service and romance. Compassion meets practicality. Career sees service-oriented success. Finances remain balanced. Immunity is in focus. This is a diligent, service-driven week—daily efforts yield spiritual and material rewards.
Vastu Suggestions: Meditate in north-east. Use sea greens/blues. Place water features carefully in north.

The first-ever AI-generated weekly prediction

LAL KITAB DAILY PREDICTIONS

Maintain cleanliness at home, especially in the northeast. Avoid borrowing or lending on inauspicious days. Perform remedies during daylight. Lal Kitab emphasizes consistent 43-day remedies for results. Stay positive—remedies empower change!

Lal Kitab Focus: Energy and self-confidence peak with Sun in Leo. Prioritise leadership but avoid arrogance as Mars in Gemini may spark debates. Remedy: Offer jaggery and wheat to the Sun. Keep it in a red cloth near a window or donate. Lucky Tip: Wear copper or a red thread on the right wrist for protection against ego pitfalls.	Lal Kitab Focus: Moon impacts emotion. Family tension or intuitive insights are possible. Mercury in Cancer supports communication but watch for mood swings. Remedy: Offer milk to a Peepal tree to pacify mental unrest. Lucky Tip: Carry a silver coin for emotional stability and good news from the maternal side.	Lal Kitab Focus: Mars energy dominates. There is courage in action but also a risk of conflict or hasty decisions. It is a good time for short travels or skill-building. Remedy: Donate red lentils or sweets to a Hanuman temple to mitigate Mars aggression. Lucky Tip: Avoid red meat or arguments. Green colour or items bring luck in competition.	Lal Kitab Focus: Mercury influences intellect and commerce. It is favourable for planning, studies, or negotiations, but Cancer placements add emotion. Remedy: Keep a green handkerchief. Plant Tulsi. Strengthen Mercury for thinking and business gains. Lucky Tip: Read sacred texts. Emerald and green shades enhance communication luck.	Lal Kitab Focus: Jupiter's wisdom shines. Opportunities for growth, education, or spirituality arrive. The Venus shift towards Libra boosts relationships or finances. Remedy: Offer bananas or yellow items to a temple to enhance Jupiter's benevolence. Lucky Tip: Yellow or saffron clothing attracts prosperity. It is a good day for long-term decisions.	Lal Kitab Focus: Venus highlights love, beauty, and harmony. There is potential for romantic or artistic progress as it nears Libra, but maintain balance to avoid overindulgence. Remedy: Donate white items. Feed cows to strengthen Venus for happy relationships. Lucky Tip: Keep rose or a white flower. The evening favours creative luck.	Lal Kitab Focus: Saturn influences discipline, delays, and reflection on responsibilities. The Rahu-Ketu axis brings karmic lessons—focus on long-term stability. Remedy: Light a mustard oil lamp near a Shani idol. Donate black sesame or iron to pacify Saturn. Lucky Tip: Wear black or blue. Help the elderly and the labour for karma.
---	---	--	---	---	--	---

Holiday Mathis

holidaymathis@gmail.com



An Invitation to YOU

Misunderstandings can be traced back to an overlooked truth: the other person is not you. We can never fully know the heart of another, but the first step in doing so is to drop assumptions.

ARIES



March 21-April 19:
This week teaches you who to trust, or more precisely, who you can trust with what. Because trust is really a prediction. Some can be trusted to show up on time, when it matters, ready to help. Others just can't, but perhaps they can be trusted to provide contrast, and to give you reasons to be self-reliant.

TAURUS



Apr 21-May 21:
You're so ready to invest in the pursuit you've been studying for weeks now. The sense that this is for you keeps getting stronger; to the point where it would be harder to resist than follow through. Curiosity matures into commitment. Obstacles look less like warnings and more like part of the admission price.

GEMINI



May 22-June 21:
Venus embracing a different rhythm offers you the gift of objectivity. Soon you'll have an even clearer understanding of where you are and where you want to go next. No need to measure your progress against anyone else's. You know your own strengths and limits. You'll instinctively go at the pace that works best for you.

CANCER



June 22-July 23:
The influence of the Venus transit is especially interesting in your world because with it comes an abrupt shift in priorities. The question changes from "Will this work?" to "Does this fit?" The right doors open without force. Circumstances bring out your best without asking you to become someone else.

SCORPIO



Oct 24-Nov 22:
You make it safe for people to say what's on their mind, which is rarer than you'd imagine. People are usually following social conventions, saying the expected thing, and being more appropriate than real. The result is that you can stop searching for hidden motives and start responding to what's actually happening.

PISCES



Feb 20-Mar 20:
Venus reaches the end of her stay in Virgo and you still don't feel "ready." But what you need is not preparation or permission; it's a shove. You'll get it, too - the reason to step forward, raise your hand, make the call, jump in water, ask for the date. The push that gets you in the game, as scary as it may be, is a gift.

SAGITTARIUS



Nov 23-Dec 22:
On the cusp of Venus's homecoming, let go of the idea that everything worthwhile has to be difficult. When you pick the easy route, you conserve energy. Soon you'll need to be in good form to take advantage of opportunity. Until then, keep saving up for something big, memorable and impressive. It's definitely coming.

CAPRICORN



Dec-23 Jan 20:
You'll be reminded that you have better things to do than try to manage every outcome. The Venus change nudges you toward focusing on keeping your side of the street clean and letting others benefit from the lessons of their own mistakes and wins. As a result, your whole team becomes stronger.

AQUARIUS



Jan 21-Feb19:
You wander into conversations and walk away with ideas that are exciting enough to try right away. A recommendation, introduction, article or passing comment will change the direction of your work. Keep asking questions without worrying whether you're appearing naive. People enjoy knowing they are interesting to you.

7

THE SUNDAY
MAGAZINE

ASTROGAZE

Why Comparisons are a Trap

True confidence grows not from feeling exceptional, but from resisting comparison and recognising that worth cannot be measured in numbers

By ICHIRO KISHIMI

If you've ever had the sinking thought that maybe you're rather ordinary, then before that moment, you probably believed you were somehow different – maybe even exceptional. For people who grew up with great grades and constant praise, that realisation often comes later in life, which means it hits all the harder.

None of us want to face experiences that knock our confidence off balance. But they happen – a disappointing exam score, or rejection from a university you were sure you would get into, for instance. In today's world, this can happen even earlier – failing to get into a school you worked hard for, or getting in and realising everyone around you is just as smart as you are, making you unexceptional by comparison. Anyone would lose their confidence in such a situation.

I saw this firsthand during my time teaching Ancient Greek at a university – the language Plato and Aristotle spoke in fourth- and fifth-century BCE Athens. My students were outstanding; they could read English, German, French and even some Latin with ease.

But once, a student who had probably never struggled with anything found themselves unable to translate a basic Greek exercise. They lowered their head, and flat-out refused to try. That may well have been their first time thinking, 'Maybe I'm not special, after all.'

I understood them well. I started teaching Greek after majoring in the history of Western philosophy during my own student days. I thought my Greek was pretty good when I joined my research lab – until I met older students who could read it like a modern language.

Then, newer students arrived, and they quickly caught up, too.

Watching them handle texts I struggled with made me think, 'Perhaps I'm not actually so exceptional.'

Some of my own students, too, looked shaken when they discovered they couldn't translate Greek while others could.

There's nowhere to hide when you're studying a foreign language. Your mistakes show instantly. It's humbling – and sometimes, it's crushing. But of course, it takes time to read original texts, which means there's nothing to do but study.

It surprised me to see students who had always believed they were good at languages fall silent in frustration at the realisation that they were just like everyone else, but still, I understood them. I, too, had gone through the trial of learning that I might not be as

It makes no sense to judge your own worth by casually comparing your work with someone else's. Comparing your work to someone else's is pointless

gifted as I had thought.

Gaining confidence as a capable scholar is extremely difficult, as is true in any discipline, and only the highly exceptional stand out. If you only look within your own country, you end up like the proverbial frog in a well that knows nothing of the ocean. My own field of study is filled with researchers from all over the world. Unlike when I was a student, the internet today opens us up with instant access to the work of researchers worldwide. Faced with such a vast pool of peers, it's easy for even those who consider themselves talented to lose confidence.

Work shows results in numbers,

too. For instance, when I write books, and I worry about sales after publication. No matter how much time and energy I put into a book, if it doesn't sell immediately, I end up doubting my own ability.

Confidence built on being special is surprisingly fragile.

But numbers alone don't reveal the real value of a book, of course. There are a great many kinds of work that can't be measured quantitatively. Most people would agree that you can't judge the value of an artwork with points, for example, and the same goes for literature. Even in academics, poor exam results don't prove someone lacks ability.

When I was in middle school, I once glanced at a classmate's drawing and, thinking mine was terrible in comparison, started over from scratch. I can't remember if I ever finished that drawing. Today, I no longer believe one quick glimpse is enough to judge the quality of someone's art. And even if I had produced something similar to my classmate, it would no longer have been truly my own work.

Be it a book or a painting, you can't immediately discern its value. As such, it makes no sense to judge your own worth by casually comparing your work with someone else's.

People who believe that high sales equal high value will think their book or product is worthless if it doesn't sell. But such people fail to recognise the unique value in their own work – or in anyone else's, for that matter; they fail to see that true worth can't be measured by quantitative standards. The simple fact of the matter is that comparing your work to someone else's is pointless.

Excerpted with permission from 'The Courage to be Ordinary' by Ichiro Kishimi, published by Vermilion, part of the Penguin Random House group of

SACRED SPACE | Kanaka Durga Temple, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh



Every morning, thousands of devotees climb Indrakeeladri Hill in Vijayawada to seek the blessings of Goddess Kanaka Durga, one of Andhra Pradesh's most revered deities. Overlooking the Krishna River, the temple has been a vibrant centre of Shakti worship for centuries, drawing pilgrims from across southern India.

According to the temple's *Sthala Purana*, the hill takes its name from the yaksha Keela, whose intense penance pleased the Goddess and brought her to reside there. She is worshipped as Kanaka Durga, a form of Adi Parashakti, who slew the buffalo demon Mahishasura, symbolising the triumph of dharma over evil. Tradition holds that Adi Shankaracharya visited the shrine and installed the *Sri Chakra*, reinforcing its importance as a centre of Shakta worship.

The temple's impressive *gopuram*, richly decorated sanctum and views of the Krishna River add to its spiritual appeal. Its grandest celebration is Sharan Navaratri, when the Goddess is adorned in different forms over nine days, attracting devotees from across the country. The best time to visit is between October and February.

EPICS FOR CHILDREN | GAURAV YADAV

The High Cost of Greed

There was once a poor man who desperately wanted to become rich. Someone told him that if he got hold of a *jinn*, he could become rich. The poor man heard that a sage with great powers was in his town. He went to the sage and requested him to tell him the secret of capturing a *jinn*. When the sage asked him why he wanted a *jinn*, the man replied that he wanted one to do all his work for him. The sage asked him to go home. Then the man started going to the sage every day to press him for a *jinn*. After a few days, the harried sage gave him the magic words that could conjure up a *jinn*. He also warned the man, 'A *jinn* is a terrible being. He will do whatever you ask him to do, but you must keep him continually busy, or he will kill you.' The man replied, 'That is no problem. I will give him enough work to last a lifetime.'

The man hurried to a forest and repeated the magic words for a long time. Finally, a huge *jinn* appeared before him.

The man said, 'Build me a palace.' In a moment, the *jinn* did it and said, 'It is done.' The man said, 'Bring me lots of money.' The *jinn* said, 'Here is the money.' The man saw that the *jinn* completed these tasks in the blink of an eye, so he decided to give him a very big task to keep him busy. He said, 'Cut down this

forest and build a city in its place.' In a moment, this was done too. The *jinn* said, 'This is complete. Give me something else to do.'

Now the man began to be frightened. The *jinn* could do everything in just a moment, and the man did not know what else he could ask him to do. The *jinn* said, 'Quick! Give me something to do, or I will eat you up.'

The frightened man ran as fast as he could to the sage and begged him to save his life. A moment later, the *jinn* arrived and threatened to swallow the man up. The sage understood the situation. He said to the *jinn*, 'Look at that dog with a curly tail. Straighten it.' The *jinn*



straightened the tail, but as soon as he let go of it, it curled up again. He straightened it again, but it curled up once more. He kept trying again and again, but the tail kept curling up. This went on for many days.

Finally, the *jinn* gave up and begged the man to let him leave. The relieved man agreed and resolved never to be greedy again.

YouTube: @Mahabalak.English

MASTER MIND



"Whosoever is delighted in solitude is either a wild beast or a god." ~ ARISTOTLE

STILLNESS AND SMRITI



The Power of Sacred Remembering

Most people lose their way not because they lack knowledge, but because they forget what truly matters. In Sanskrit, *smriti* means remembrance. In the Vedantic tradition, it points to something far deeper—the conscious recollection of one's nature, values and spiritual purpose. The Upanishads teach that the *atman* (self) is ever-present, yet *avidya* (ignorance) veils this reality. Spiritual growth, therefore, is recognising what has always been true. This insight finds expression in the *Chandogya Upanishad* through the *mahavakya* Tat Tvam Asi (That Thou Art) and in the *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad* through *Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahman).

In the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna declares, "*Mattah smritir jnanam apohanam cha*" (From Me arise memory, knowledge and forgetfulness), presenting *smriti* as a divine gift. At the end, Arjuna declares, "*Nashto mohah smritir labdha*" (My delusion has been destroyed; my memory has been restored). He has not recovered forgotten facts but regained spiritual clarity and the understanding of his true duty.

Practising *smriti* is simple. Before speaking, remember kindness. Before choosing, remember your principles. Before judging, remember your shared humanity. These moments align thought, word and action, turning everyday life into a path of spiritual awakening.

AMMASPEAK Mata Amritanandamayi



Don't Let One Bad Thought Multiply

Children, *sraddha* is an essential quality in any field of life. We must become aware of every thought, word and deed. We must also be aware of how we walk, sit and look. Most of us spend all our time thinking of what is already over and of what is yet to come.

Caught up in too many matters and problems, the mind is utterly scattered. As a result, we are unable to focus sufficiently on anything and succeed in it. In the mad rush to fulfil our desires, we do not do anything properly.

Amma remembers a story. Any patient occupying one particular bed in the ICU of a hospital would die on Sunday at around 11 a.m. The doctors were perplexed. Some even began to believe that an unearthly force was responsible for these deaths.

Finally, an expert committee was formed to look into this phenomenon. The next Sunday, a few minutes before 11, doctors, experts, nurses and hospital authorities waited with complete focus in the corridor outside the ICU where the deaths took place. A few held rosaries and were chanting. Others were praying.

At 11 sharp, a cleaner who worked only on Sundays entered the ICU, removed the plug connecting the patient to the life support system, and plugged in his vacuum cleaner. Thus, the mystery behind the Sunday deaths was solved.

Action done without alertness is *adharma*. It can bring us and others sorrow. There is no point in blaming God for our suffering. Doing so would be akin to driving carelessly, colliding into something, and then blaming the petrol for the accident.

Even a single thought has infinite power. Each thought is like an atom in the atomic bomb. One bad thought is enough to trigger a thousand bad thoughts within a short time. Thoughts then become words and actions and sow destruction.

In the same manner, when bad thoughts first come we are often not aware of them. In a short span of time, they transform into an irrepressible force. We lose our discrimination and leap headlong into bad actions. These thoughts even transform our character.

We must always remain alert, like a soldier on a battlefield or a student in the examination hall. Training ourselves to do what needs to be done in every moment, with perfect attention, will transform that action into a great spiritual discipline.

If we continuously maintain this awareness within ourselves, we will be able to gain peace and happiness in our lives. If we don't do what is called for at the required time, then all our actions will go to waste.

The alertness that we demonstrate even in small matters helps us attain great things. One who is mindful of the goal will be alert in every thought, word and action. Work done with total awareness will take us swiftly to God. If we live 'today' with awareness, 'tomorrow' will become our friend.

The writer is a world-renowned spiritual leader and humanitarian

The Cost of Female Dissent

The feminist work exposes the ways technology has intensified patriarchal violence, rendering it more intimate, relentless, and inescapable



Fieldwork as a Sex Object
By: Meena Kandasamy
Publisher: HarperCollins
India
Pages: 229
Price: ₹599

By KABIR DEB

When authority fears a society, history shows that it often turns its violence towards women. Patriarchy teaches communities to tie their honour to women's bodies, and patriarchal power exploits this belief to terrorise the collective. Yet the deepest wounds are borne by women themselves. With technology, this violence has become more immediate, accessible, and calculated. In *Fieldwork as a Sex Object*, Meena Kandasamy confronts the brutal realities of sexist cyber abuse and online harassment, revealing how they invade a woman's psyche by policing her body, her sexual agency, and even her freedom, until fear itself becomes a condition of existence.

Kandasamy builds the novel around Amrita Chaturvedi, or Amy, a committed communist whose deepfake sex video is made to go viral. Conscious of her upper-caste and upper-class privilege, Amy nevertheless speaks against the government and its policies. The state responds in a familiar way where her body becomes the site of punishment. The fabricated video hides the man's face while exposing hers, underlining a patriarchal truth that when men and women are implicated

together, public shame almost always settles completely on the woman. The novel's politics is direct, but its real power lies in its portrayal of Amy's psychological collapse, helplessness, and subdued rage as she realises that her body has been turned into a battlefield by the people in power.

While the novel is anchored in the violence of a deepfake video, it also examines society's unease with female sexuality. Women who express their desires openly are branded with slurs, while their autonomy is dismissed as a product of 'Western influence'. Through Amy's mother, Kandasamy captures this moral policing by writing "Your attention-seeking, your Western individualism, it is because I was not emotionally available for you. In order to punish me for it, you have chosen to become super sexual." For Amy's family, the question is not what was done to her, but what she has supposedly done. This reversal of blame exposes the logic of patriarchy, where a woman's freedom is treated as a threat and her sexuality as a transgression.

Kandasamy also celebrates the strength of women's friendship through Amy and Nimmi. Amy, a Brahmin, and Nimmi, a Dalit, begin as ideological opponents, yet their bond grows through disagreement, empathy, and mutual respect. Amy's remorse



when she unknowingly makes Nimmi feel the weight of her upper-caste privilege reflects Kandasamy's belief that acknowledging difference is the first step towards genuine solidarity. Their friendship suggests that shared resistance can transcend inherited hierarchies without denying their existence.

The novel is equally critical of a media eager to sensationalise a woman who challenges the government while neglecting more urgent public concerns. As Kandasamy writes, "Nimmi breaks the bad news: traditional media—TV, weeklies, glossies, tabloids—they are also milking this (the deepfake video) mercilessly." The observation extends beyond media ethics to expose how patriarchy has adapted to the digital age. Through technology, it enters the

most intimate corners of a woman's life, turning her privacy into spectacle and using public humiliation to discipline the liberal and dissenting voices to keep power alive.

Kandasamy sharply exposes how power humiliates and disciplines women. As Amy contemplates a radical response to those behind her deepfake pornographic video, she also realises the futility of resisting oppression with its own methods. Echoing Audre Lorde, Kandasamy reminds us that "the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house." Violence, the novel suggests, cannot dismantle violence. The novel also shows how patriarchy weaponises a woman's digital past. Through Amy, Kandasamy writes, "A detailed list is floating around on the internet tabulating the chronology of my lovers, how

long the fling lasted, which of them were married." Her private life is transformed into a public instrument of shame. Yet Kandasamy counters this cruelty with irony. Amy's remark "When I first see the list, I laugh. Finally, Microsoft Excel has been put to good use" becomes a silent act of defiance, proving that humour can outlive humiliation.

Both Kandasamy and Amy are deeply critical of an India governed by the language of tradition and morality. At the same time, they challenge a Western gaze that often treats fascism as an exclusively European phenomenon while overlooking its rise elsewhere. The novel exposes the complacency of privileged Indians who fail to recognise the violence growing before their eyes. Amy's frustration is captured in Kandasamy's sharp observation by writing,

"What I hate most is how closely he guards the domain of fascism, like it is something that can only happen to white people. Somehow, some suffering is exquisitely, pristinely exclusive." The novel argues that authoritarianism is neither geographically confined nor culturally exclusive; it must be confronted wherever it takes root.

Fieldwork as a Sex Object is a bold and uncompromising novel that confronts sexism and cyber abuse with objectivity and clarity. With precision and wit, Meena Kandasamy crafts a narrative that cuts deep, exposing the violence of patriarchal power and the machinery that sustains it. Long after the novel ends, it leaves readers with a profound understanding of the pain, humiliation, and resilience of a woman whose very existence is made a site of political control.

Both Kandasamy and Amy are deeply critical of an India governed by the language of tradition and morality... The novel exposes the complacency of privileged Indians

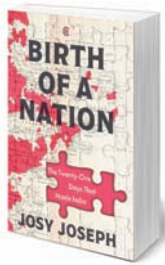
THE BESTSELLERS	FICTION					NON-FICTION				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
	The First House By: Avni Doshi Publisher: Fourth Estate India Price: ₹599	The Complex By: Karan Mahajan Publisher: Fourth Estate India Price: ₹799	Yesteryear By: Caro Claire Burke Publisher: HarperCollins India Price: ₹799	Fever Dream By: Elsie Silver Publisher: Piatkus Price: ₹699	Da: A tender coming-of-age novel By: Arathi Menon Publisher: Pan Macmillan India Price: ₹399	Aurangzeb Alamgir and the Mughal Empire: A History Retold By: Munis D Faruqi Publisher: Juggernaut Price: ₹999	Fractured Communities By: Umar Khalid Publisher: Juggernaut Price: ₹499	How to Start: Discovering Your Life's Work By: Jodi Kantor Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing Price: ₹ 1,299	Dara Shukoh By: Amit Ranjan Publisher: Penguin Price: ₹699	How Not To Be Stupid By: Igor Sibaldi Publisher: Pan Macmillan India Price: ₹699

Sources: Amazon, Bookstores, Publishers

ATTENTION PUBLISHERS:
PLEASE SEND YOUR BOOKS
FOR REVIEW TO
THE SUNDAY STANDARD,
Express Building (Third
Floor), 9-10, Bahadur Shah
Zafar Marg, New Delhi
110002.
THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS,
Express Gardens, 29, 2nd
Main Road, Ambattur
Industrial Estate, Chennai
600058

The Race to Save a Nation

A vivid retelling of the high-stakes struggle that prevented the subcontinent from fragmenting into hundreds of states



Birth of a Nation: The Twenty-One Days That Made India
By: Josy Joseph
Publisher: Westland
Pages: 264
Price: ₹799

By MADHAVI S MAHADEVAN

The past is a foreign country,' LP Hartley famously wrote. Josy Joseph's latest book, *Birth of a Nation: The Twenty-One Days that Made India*, reminds us that, in 1947, India came perilously close to becoming several foreign countries.

Imagine boarding a train in New Delhi bound for Chennai. Before reaching your destination, you are stopped repeatedly at international borders to have your passport stamped, baggage cleared by Customs, and currency exchanged. Today, the idea sounds absurd. Yet, for a brief moment in 1947, it was a genuine political possibility. It is this forgotten moment, when India's future was still far from settled, that Joseph reconstructs in *Birth of a Nation*.

Joseph traces the origins of this book to the discovery of the thousands of files lying uncatalogued in the National Archives, relating to 'one of history's most crowded periods.' While popular accounts focus on Partition, *Birth of a Nation* tells us that another battle, less blood-spattered but no less significant, was being fought to prevent the Balkanisation of India.

The transfer of power did not simply divide the subcontinent into

India and Pakistan. It also freed 565 princely states from British paramountcy, leaving it to their rulers to decide their future. These states covered 40 per cent of the subcontinent's landmass and were home to nearly a quarter of its people. The rulers' decisions would determine not merely the map of India, but whether there would be a united India at all. The responsibility for ensuring that there would be, was placed on the newly created 'States Department' in Delhi. The book focusses on the activities of the civil servants who formed this department and the events that occurred in the three weeks preceding August 15.

Negotiations between Delhi and the princely states were convoluted. While many rulers were reluctant to accede to the Indian Union, they were uncertain about what should replace British paramountcy. Some hoped for a Third Dominion, "neither India nor Pakistan but a sovereign order of princes." The most populated states, Hyderabad, Travancore, Kashmir, Gwalior, Jaipur, Baroda,

and Jodhpur, "had been nursing dreams of an independent future for themselves."

Joseph writes: "Jinnah offered Jodhpur the use of Karachi as a free port, free import of arms, jurisdiction over the Jodhpur-Hyderabad (Sindh) railway and a supply of grain for the famine-threatened districts in the Maharaja's domain. In return, said Jinnah, Jodhpur should declare its independence on 15 August and then join Pakistan." This suggests that the Muslim League saw the princely states as an opportunity to reshape the balance of power in the subcontinent well before the issue of Kashmir became



Negotiations between Delhi and the princely states were convoluted. While many rulers were reluctant to accede to the Indian Union, they were uncertain about what should replace British paramountcy

a flashpoint. Ironically, its ideological adversary, the Hindu Mahasabha, driven by its own vision of Akhand Bharat, and opposition to the Congress, sometimes took positions that encouraged the princely states to resist accession. Muddying the waters further were a number of British officials who had developed cosy relations with the princely states. Indore, for instance, had a British Prime Minister.

Thus, for the States Department, every negotiation with a princely state posed a separate challenge. Under the aegis of Sardar Patel and his secretary, VP Menon, "A small group of Indian officials gathered in New Delhi for the critical mission of completing the jigsaw puzzle of India. They were tasked with accomplishing in weeks what usually takes decades, if not centuries—nothing less than the creation of an independent nation." These were the men who built the republic. The book elaborates on the work of a few—Aravamudan Iyengar, CC Desai, NM Buch, MK Vellodi, Akbar Hydari—but also suggests that there were many more.

The use of archival sources lends credibility to the stories, many of which will be unfamiliar to readers today. However, the extensive documentary detail occasionally interrupts the narrative flow, and the historical context is not always sufficiently developed.

Despite these minor flaws, *Birth of a Nation* reminds us that the making of modern India was a difficult endeavour, made possible not only by visionary leaders, but also by the dedicated civil servants who worked behind the scenes.

Her Book of Disquiet

By SHINIE ANTONY

This is not fiction. This is not even linear non-fiction. Pick up Han Kang's *Light and Thread* only if you want to follow her musings and jottings, what attracts her, what ails her. The preoccupations that populate her plots are here in full force, only they are more ponderings than fables. Prose that could be in a pre-story or post-story stage where words brood and feelings... feel.

This small skinny book includes her Nobel Prize speech as well as poems and diary entries. Each page contains her thoughts, and the route her emotions travel—presenting a mood tally, an uneven oscillation between despair and hope. Her painstaking efforts to keep her garden sunlit are somehow connected, to me, to the reversal of a fundamental question she first asks: "Can the living save the dead?" A question she later asks as: "Can the dead save the living?"

All violence everywhere, the senseless wars and power plays between nations, is an open wound. She writes: "How far will the candles travel—the ones lit at the site of every killing, in every time and place laid to waste by unfathomable violence, the ones held by the people who vow never to say goodbye? Will they ride from wick to wick, from heart to heart, on a thread of gold?" Then there is the writer's revealing of what eager fans can take as writerly secrets. "When I write," she says, "I use my body." And it is "the finitude of life/the temporality of existence" that is uppermost on the mind. Her dwellings and curiosities are like a single thread pulling through a fabric. While her book *The Vegetarian* has been widely celebrated as ecofeminism, and *We Do Not Part*



Light and Thread
By: Han Kang
Publisher: Penguin
Pages: 176
Price: ₹799

delves into the 1948 Jeju massacre, Kang has consistently brought South Korean lore and history to the readers in an intense, raw form. Her writing is stark and also brutal.

Light and Thread stands apart as an inward gaze, a searchlight into the backstory. Because it circumvents a straight narration and mixes genres as it goes along, it might be an uneven read for some. Those who want their books to have a traditional structure will be baffled by the wisdom and angst coming their way. The words carry profundity and philosophy, but they are also cutaway and abrupt now and then, *sans segue*.

Ultimately a book about hope, *Light and Thread* is all heart. As if careful planning of plot and structure would disrupt the authenticity and vulnerability, a vulnerability Kang is never afraid to display. To speak of a world which is at once beautiful and tragic with a kind of tremor is perhaps Kang's achievement here. Within these pages is an artless confiding, a tenuous relationship with the reader that the author establishes. For anyone seeking a post-script to all her award-winning works, this is the perfect companion piece. Read it to get her. Even though she says: *If I am nothing more than me / I cannot meet you / If you are nothing more than you / You cannot meet me*.



A Reflection of the Times

The reinvention of the mirror as a conscious design element is changing home decor trends



integrate seamlessly with furniture and architecture through rotating panels, layered materials, concealed storage or customised finishes. “People are investing in fewer, but better-designed pieces, and mirrors offer an opportunity to introduce thoughtful detailing while remaining highly functional,” says Sajal Lamba, co-founder and director of luxury furniture brand Wriver. The brand’s mirrors experiment with rotating panels, oxidised finishes, integrated consoles and burnished surfaces, exploring the interplay between materiality, architecture and light. Lighting has also become integral to the way mirrors are designed and experienced. According to Amit Aurora, partner and principal architect at groupDCA, mirrors and lighting should always be



By KRITI SARASWAT-SATPATHY

Mirrors are having a defining design moment. From irregular sculptural silhouettes and handcrafted frames to backlit installations and oversized statement pieces, they are increasingly being treated as functional art. While bespoke mirrors have become synonymous with modern interiors, their association with luxury has deep historical roots in India. Fine Venetian and Belgian mirrors found their way to royal courts through trade and colonial influence, adorning the palaces of

Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Hyderabad. Used alongside intricate mirror mosaics in *sheesh mahals*, they symbolised wealth, power, and opulence. “Mirrors today influence how a space feels. They can create the illusion of depth, frame architectural features, and become focal points that elevate a space,” says Disha Subramaniam, founder and principal designer of her eponymous practice. Designers are using mirrors to choreograph light, extend sightlines and create layered visual experiences rather than simply filling empty walls. “In an entrance foyer, a statement mirror above a

console creates an inviting first impression while making the space feel more open. In dining areas, positioning a mirror to reflect a chandelier or pendant light enhances the ambience and adds visual drama. Living rooms benefit from mirrors that capture views of greenery, artwork, or natural light, making the interiors feel brighter and more expansive,” she adds. Organic curves, asymmetrical profiles, textured frames and artisanal finishes are replacing conventional rectangles. “A well-designed mirror can completely change the vibe of a room. The shape, material, and

craftsmanship are what give it character. I’m particularly drawn to mirrors with sculptural forms because they add a softer, more fluid element to a space. Handcrafted wooden frames are another favourite as they add warmth and texture. That said, I don’t believe a mirror has to be bold or oversized to stand out. Sometimes, it’s the simplest designs

with the right proportions and attention to detail that leave the biggest impression,” says product designer Swetha Vegesana, founder of Intent Made. Her Ari mirror embodies this approach. Inspired by the gentle ripples of water, it is hand-chiselled from wood and finished in a rich lacquer. Homeowners are increasingly seeking mirrors that

considered together. “A strategically positioned mirror enhances natural light during daytime and softens artificial light at night, giving any room a brighter appearance without introducing additional light sources,” he says. In contemporary interiors, mirrors have become as much about what they contribute to a space as what they reflect.

11

THE SUNDAY
MAGAZINE

FLAUNT

PICK OF THE WEEK



Hanging by a Thread

Interior design is giving textiles a bigger canvas. Beyond upholstery and table linen, embroidered fabrics are becoming statement wall art, adding texture, colour and craftsmanship to blank walls. Mumbai-based fashion designer and philanthropist Maheka Mirpuri brings her signature maximalist aesthetic indoors with a collection of heritage-inspired textile wall hangings. Crafted in rich crimson, emerald and gold, the handwoven silk pieces feature intricate zardozi embellished with Swarovski crystals, pearls, rhinestones and mirrors.



With multiple elements across fabric, embroidery, and designing, each piece becomes a conversation starter,” says Maheka Mirpuri, fashion designer and philanthropist. Highlights include The Wooven Legacy, a silk composition of 20 Mughal-inspired embroidered panels, and The Radiant Zaal, inspired by traditional *jaal* embroidery. The collection also features The Velvet Empress (₹5.1 lakh), which introduces faux fur for a distinctly Western touch. While designed for walls, collectors have also repurposed the pieces as tablecloths and courtyard décor.

—Samiya Chopra

Handle With Style

A couture classic from 1952 finds a sleek new life as Dior transforms an iconic silhouette into its latest It-bag



Unveiled for Spring-Summer 2026, the Dior Cigale bag by Jonathan Anderson reinterprets the House’s storied heritage with audacious sophistication. Inspired by La Cigale—Christian Dior’s iconic 1952 masterpiece defined by a sculpted bodice and dramatic moiré pleats—this creation transposes that architectural silhouette into a contemporary icon, effortlessly balancing structure and fluidity.

Its pure, streamlined contours are punctuated by a polished metallic bow, an eternal Dior motif echoing the original vintage model. Masterfully fashioned from luminous, supple calfskin, the Cigale is offered in small and medium sizes. A refined palette pays tribute to classic House hues: rose soupier, icy blue, trench beige, and moiré gray.

Designed for versatility, a single handle and delicate chain allow for effortless hand, shoulder, or cross-body wear. The Dior Cigale has arrived in boutiques and is waiting to be picked up.



Spell Bound



From serpents to the evil eye, STARE reimagines India’s protective motifs as wearable art

By MANISH MISHRA

Rooted in the protective symbols that punctuate everyday Indian life, STARE is a collaboration between fashion label NorBlack NorWhite and jewellery designer Bhavya Ramesh that transforms motifs such as lemons and chillies, serpents, fangs, moons, eyes, and *ghunghroos* into contemporary adornments. Inspired by the *nazar battu* masks traditionally hung outside homes to ward off the evil eye, the collection reimagines these emblems as wearable talismans that celebrate femininity in all its complexity—

strength and vulnerability, rage and tenderness.

The collection comprises 13 jewellery pieces in sterling silver and gold, alongside a vegan leather bag and a pair of socks. Blending NorBlack NorWhite’s vibrant reinterpretation of Indian visual culture with Ramesh’s sculptural, symbolism-driven jewellery, STARE turns familiar cultural icons into bold, collectible design. Mriga Kapadiya, co-founder, NorBlack NorWhite, says, “This has no doubt been way more extensive than we expected, which comes with the territory of maintaining full creative control and being free to do this

exactly the way we want to. We wish for people to consider the process as much as the product and hopefully inspire others to take the leap and work with other independent, homegrown brands.”

For Ramesh, the collaboration is a meeting of distinct creative voices. “Seeing our worlds collide has been surreal, not because they are the same, but because they both understand the power of having a voice that is completely their own.”

The collection will be available globally through both brands’ online platforms, with select retail availability in Mumbai and Delhi.



