THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS | CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904 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 INDIAN EXPRESS

CHENNAI • MONDAY • NOVEMBER 02, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION



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

GST MOP-UP SURGES TO ₹2.31 L- CR IN OCTOBER ON FESTIVE DEMAND

October is the second consecutive month when monthly gross GST crossed ₹2 lakh crore, and 2nd only to the record ₹2.43 lakh cr mop-up in April

COLLECTIONS FROM DOMESTIC SALES UP 16%

GST collections jumped 23 per cent year-on-year. Gross GST collections from domestic sales rose 16 per cent to over ₹1.59 lakh crore, and revenues from imports climbed 42 per cent to ₹72,246 crore. The ₹2.31 lakh crore collection includes Central GST mop-up of ₹42,935 crore, State GST of ₹51,340 crore and Integrated GST of over ₹1.37 lakh crore, data showed

PERFORMANCE ACROSS KEY ECONOMIC HUBS

- Manoj Mishra from Grant Thornton Bharat said October collections capture the festive demand cycle, which brings higher consumer spending, retail activity and movement of goods across sectors
- Performance across key states, including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, UP and MP points to continued strength in GST collections

₹27,934 cr

GST REFUNDS IN OCTOBER SHOWED A 6.5% YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI





INDIA bloc leaders led by Rahul Gandhi, TMC's Mamata Banerjee, Sonia Gandhi, SP's Akhilesh Yadav, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav and others in New Delhi on Sunday | SAYANTAN GHOSH

CEC Gyanesh has to go: Oppn

INDIA bloc's mega rally at Ramlila Maidan brings together all parties

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

IN a show of strength at Delhi's historic Ramlila Maidan, a united Opposition on Sunday vowed to remove Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and hold the Narendra Modi government accountable for alleged "vote theft", as a massive crowd rallied behind the INDIA bloc's call to defend democracy and the Constitution.

The congregation saw a striking show of unity as Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, TMC chairperson Mamata Banerjee, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and other alliance leaders rode together in an open canter from the Minto Road-Connaught Place junction to Ramlila Maidan, where they addressed the gathering.

Launching a diatribe against the government, Gandhi said removing Gyanesh Kumar would be the first step towards putting the country back on track, while asserting that "the CEC would face imprisonment for alleged 'treason' and that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah would face legal action."

Calling the 2024 Lok Sabha elections "illegal", he alleged that the Election Commission removed 15 percent of voters from the rolls, while the vote-share gap between NDA and INDIA bloc in the last general election was three percentage points.

"Narendra Modi ji and Amit Shah ji, understand this—after Gyanesh Kumar, we will stand against you...," he said. Invoking the Constitution, Gandhi said the gathering represented the voice of young people, farmers and workers determined to defend democracy.

Addressing the gathering, SP's Akhilesh Yadav raised the issue of alleged deletions from electoral rolls in Uttar Pradesh and accused authorities of manipulating votes through SIR ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections. "We, in the INDIA alliance, will not stop," he said.

Calling upon people across communities and political affiliations to unite against the BJP, TMC chief Banerjee said, "We will fight this democratically... We will fight with our lives."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Sonia Gandhi, CPI(M) general secretary M A Baby, CPI general secretary D Raja and CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya were among the senior leaders present.



The INDIA bloc rally marching towards Ramlila Maidan | SAYANTAN GHOSH

Narendra Modi ji and Amit Shah ji, understand this—after Gyanesh Kumar, we will stand against you

Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader

Over 4K cops keep a watch

The rally in central Delhi concluded peacefully on Sunday, police said. Over 4,000 police personnel were deployed, apart from drones, body-worn cameras, anti-riot vehicles and personnel from CAPF

'Foolish drama' on anniversary of 1984 anti-Sikh riots, says BJP

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR & HARPREET BAJWA @New Delhi/Chandigarh

THE ruling BJP on Sunday sought to dismiss the INDIA bloc's rally as a "foolish drama", accusing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of hurting sentiments on the anniversary of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, addressing a gathering in Chandigarh months ahead of the Punjab Assembly polls, trained his ire at Rahul, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and alleged the rally could only "rub salt in the wounds of the victims'".



"If you want to become PM, stay in mock parliament your entire life. Your turn won't come. Telling lies, spreading anarchy, not letting Parliament function, this is your true nature," he charged. Shah said when the Modi government came to power in 2014, riot cases were reopened and relief was given to the kin of victims. "India has never witnessed, nor will it ever witness, riots of this kind, incited by a political party," he claimed.

In Haryana, BJP national president Nitin Nabin led a counter march to 'Save democracy, eradicate anarchy'. Calling for Congress to apologise for the riots, he accused the party of blaming constitutional institutions after failing to secure a mandate.

In Delhi, Union Minister JP Nadda told media the rally was a "foolish drama of the defeated". He claimed traders had suffered losses of nearly ₹3,000 crore due to protests and alleged Sunday's rally could result in additional losses exceeding ₹10,000 crore in the crucial festival period.

TN to set up 26 new Pocso courts, four NDPS courts

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR @ Chennai

THE state government on Sunday announced the setting up of 26 new special courts to expedite the trial of cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, taking the number of exclusive Pocso courts in the state to 52. It will also establish four special courts to try cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, taking the total number of such courts to 15.

The decision was taken on the directions of CM C Joseph Vijay, in view of the growing pendency of cases, the government said in a press release.

The 26 Pocso courts will be established at a cost of ₹46.59 crore. The proposal includes 12 new courts and 14 additional courts. At present, 22 exclusive Pocso courts are functioning in the state, while four more are in the process of becoming operational. Once the new courts are established, TN will have 52 exclusive Pocso courts across 47 police districts.

The decision came after a review of pending Pocso cases, where the CM ordered officials to establish special courts in every district and fast-track trials without delay.

TN has more than 18,500 Pocso cases pending trial, of which over 10,000 have been pending for more than a year. The decision also comes amid a rise in reported offences. The state registered 6,969 Pocso cases in 2024, compared to 4,581 in 2023, according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. P7



DOUBLE DELIGHT

PV Sindhu & Lakshya Sen claimed the women's and men's singles titles with straight-game wins at the Hylo Open Super 500 badminton event | BADMINTON PHOTO

HOLIDAY FOR SCHOOLS, COLLEGES

Cyclone to batter north TN districts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Ranipet, Vellore and the Nilgiris, as cyclonic storm *Murasu* is expected to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm and cross the south Andhra Pradesh coast late on Monday night.

North TN districts and ghat areas may witness heavy to very heavy rainfall, along with thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds, on Monday, the IMD said.

Schools and colleges in Chennai and Tiruvallur districts will remain closed on Monday in view of the heavy rainfall forecast.

In a bulletin issued on Sunday, the IMD said Murasu was centred about 480 km east-southeast of Chennai over the Bay of Bengal. It is likely to continue moving west-northwestwards and intensify into a severe cyclonic storm over the west-central Bay of Bengal by Monday morning. It is then expected to turn northwestwards and cross the coast between Nellore and Narsapur, close to Ongole, between 11.30 pm on Monday and 4 am on Tuesday. During the landfall period, the cyclone is predicted to bring sustained wind speeds of 100 to 110 kmph, with powerful gusts reaching up to 120 kmph.

Squally winds of 55-65 kmph, gusting to 75 kmph, have also been forecast at several places in Tiruvallur, Chennai, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, Ranipet, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai and Villupuram districts and Puducherry throughout the day. P7



Two-wheelers on a rain-soaked road in Velachery on Sunday night. IMD has issued orange alert for Chennai and six districts | ASHWIN PRASATH

Keeladi potsherds offer clues to Sangam-age diets

VIGNESH V @ Madurai

IN a significant development, pottery fragments taken from two major archaeological sites, Keeladi in TN and Gottiprolu in Andhra Pradesh, have yielded chemical evidence suggesting the consumption of cow's milk and plant foods such as peanuts in South India between 600 BCE and 100 BCE.

According to researchers, the specific "biomarkers" that indicate the presence of cow's milk have not been previously reported in south India. "All previously reported biomolecular data are geographically restricted to Northern India and are primarily associated with the Indus Valley Civilisation. To our knowledge, the present study provides the first direct chemical evidence that we have successfully extracted in prehistoric South India," the authors highlighted.

The study was published in *npj Heritage Science*, a Nature Portfolio journal, on October 29. Authored by seven researchers, it is the outcome of at least four years of work. P7

Litigants rush to SC for HC matters: CJI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

CHIEF Justice of India Surya Kant on Sunday flagged the new trend of litigants approaching the Supreme Court for urgent listing or early hearing of matters already pending before high courts.

"This is a new dimension of litigation which is now flooding the SC," he said at the inaugural function of the celebrations held to mark 70 years of the Kerala High Court.

The CJI said the SC has consistently respected the high courts' autonomy, including their authority to regulate roster. "However, the frequency of such requests invites us to consider whether there is room to improve the responsiveness of our processes," he noted.



Chief Justice of India Surya Kant speaking in Kochi on Sunday | PTI

"We must ask: Can urgent matters be identified more effectively? Can listing procedures be made more transparent and predictable? Can technology help prioritise cases where delay may cause irreversible prejudice? And can we ensure a litigant's access to timely justice does not depend upon their ability to travel to the national capital?" he said.

The CJI said constitutional justice in India does not begin and end in New Delhi as its strength lies in a robust network of 25 high courts in the country. "Each entrusted with the duty of protecting rights and upholding the rule of law," he added.

EXPRESS READ

Pocso case: Survivor identifies Veeramani

Chennai: In one of the Pocso cases registered against Gem Veeramani, a survivor has identified him during a recent identification parade held at Puzhal jail. One more person, a security guard, has been arrested in two cases | P2

Attacked by gang, Home Guard dies

Ariyalur: A Home Guard, who was attacked by a gang during a night patrol in Ariyalur on Friday after questioning them for drinking in public, died of his injuries at Thanjavur MCH on Saturday night | P5

Cess stir: Tasmac staff suspended

Chennai: Nearly 10 Tasmac employees were suspended after several shops were shut across TN in protest against Environmental and Social Welfare Cess of ₹10 per bottle introduced on Sunday | P4

India's first indigenous bullet train on track, undergoes 'squeeze test'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

INDIA's first indigenous bullet train, called B28, is taking shape at BEML's 'Aditya' facility in Bengaluru.

Sharing the details on Sunday, the railway ministry said: "India is taking a major step towards indigenous high-speed rail technology with the Bharat-made bullet train. It is being manufactured for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train corridor."

Sources said the bullet train will be cheaper than the Japanese Shinkansen trains. "India was supposed to buy E5 Shinkansen sets. However, after high quotes and potential delays, the government decided to go Atmanirbhar. Japan will still give two Shinkansen sets (E5 and E3) free for testing."

Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inspected the BEML plant on Sunday and witnessed the 'squeeze test' — a critical safety assessment which includes applying controlled compressive/tensile forces on the train car body to assess its structural strength, rigidity and dimensional stability.

B'luru-Pune corridor next

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday hinted that the proposed Bengaluru-Pune bullet train corridor could be among the next set of high-speed rail projects

The B28 will have a maximum test speed of 280 km/h. It is expected to roll out by the year-end or early next year. The inaugural run is tentatively fixed for August 15, 2027 on the 97-km Surat–Vapi section.

The entire Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail corridor is scheduled for completion around 2029–30.



Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reviewing the manufacturing progress of the bullet train | X

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 02/11/2026 **Year:** Parabhav **Iyppasi:** Thei Pirai
Ashwin: Krishna Paksha **Tithi:** Ashtami till 13.11hrs
Nakshatra (Star): Ashlesha till 27.48hrs. Moon in Karka till 27.48 hrs.
Rahukaalam: 07.30-09:00 **Yamagantam:** 10.30-12:00 **Gulikakalam:** 13.30-15:00

WEATHER MIN 25°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST Cloudy and humid

Sunrise 06:03 am
Sunset 05:42 pm
Moonrise --:-- pm
Moonset 12:52 am

Veeramani case: Guard held, total arrests now nine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

IN another development in one of the Pocso cases registered against granite baron R Veeramani, a survivor identified him during an identification parade held at Puzhal Central Prison last week.

Meanwhile, the Greater Chennai Police have initiated steps to cancel the passport of businessman K Prakash, the son of Southern Railway union leader N Kanniah, who allegedly helped Veeramani conceal his offences. The police also conducted searches at the house of arrested accused Ganeshan in Kolathur and the dance school run by Shanthi in Neelankarai on Saturday and Sunday.

The SIT has arrested Seenu alias Srinivasan, the security guard at Veeramani's house, in connection with two cases. With this, the total number of arrests has gone up to nine.

Police said he was arrested for allegedly failing to inform the authorities despite knowing that children were being brought to the house.

Veeramani was arrested in three more cases, while his associate and her husband, along with another accused, Lazar, were arrested in one of the cases on October 28.

Pass % of disabled school students drops after govt changes scribe rule

Order barring subject tutors from being appointed scribes had affected results, say teachers

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR
@ Chennai


REPRESENTATIONAL PIC

BLAMING the decline in pass percentage among students with disabilities in the state board examinations held earlier this year on the revision of norms for appointment of scribes, teachers and headmasters are urging the school education department to clarify on the rules well ahead of the commencement of the 2027 public exams to avoid confusion.

The pass percentage among disabled students who took the Class 12 board exams in the academic year 2025-26 had dropped to 76.92% from the 93.10% recorded last year (2024-25) as the number of candidates who passed fell to 6,811 from 7,466 in 2025 despite the number of those who took the examinations having increased to 8,855 from 8,109.

In Class 10 boards, the pass percentage declined from 92.83% in 2025 to 85.89% in 2026. While the number of candidates increased by more than 1,000 from 12,290 last year to 13,292 in 2026, the figure of those who passed stood at 11,416 —just seven more than in 2025.

S Santhosh, a visually impaired person who appeared for the Class 12 public examinations last academic year, failed in English and Economics and had to take the supplementary exams to clear both subjects.

"I am an average student and would usually pass with around 45 marks (on 100) based on the answers I dictate. I, however, failed in both subjects, particularly Economics, for which the scribe did not understand my answers properly," said the college student.

Teachers attributed the decline in pass percentage to the school education department's move in January 2026 to bar subject teachers from being appointed as scribes in a bid to avoid possible misuse and address staff shortage concerns.

While the department proposed deploying college students and Illam Thedi Kalvi scheme volunteers instead, it partly reversed its decision in February following concerns over the availability and preparedness of scribes.

A visually impaired teacher working at a government special school said, "The problem lies in how scribes are allotted to students." Under the norms, students should meet their scribe before the examinations to ensure effective communication. Scribes must also have adequate knowledge of the relevant subject to understand technical terminology and accurately write down the answers dictated by the student, the teacher added.

Further, some schools - particularly private institutions - in an attempt to help their students pass the examinations obtain medical certificates for them citing injuries to secure scribes.

This needs to be checked and the verification process must be tightened, the teacher said. Such allotment of scribes to ineligible candidates increased demand, making it difficult for the department to find suitable personnel for students who genuinely require the facility, the teacher added.

Teachers called for stricter verification of scribe requests by teams led by the respective districts' chief educational officer to prevent misuse of the facility.

School education department officials said they would look into the issue and decide soon on the matter.

Fridge explosion at home kills woman, injures two

GAUTHAM SELVARAJAN @ Chennai

A 48-year-old woman with an amputated leg was charred to death, while her husband and son have been hospitalised with burn injuries after a fire broke out at their ground-floor residence in an apartment complex in Korattur early on Sunday, allegedly due to a faulty refrigerator.

The police said the family residing in Vivekananda Nagar had suffered mild electric shocks upon touching the fridge placed in their bedroom days before the fire, but had not got it checked, leading to its explosion around 3 am on Sunday.

Akila, whose right leg was amputated because of a tumour about five years ago, was unable to escape following the fire and was found dead inside the room while her husband Ramani (55) sustained 55% burns in the incident. Their son Karthick (23) sustained burns on both the hands, a police official told *TNIE*.

Hearing their cries, neighbours alerted the authorities. "After the fire broke out, Ramani and Karthick tried to bring Akila out of the house as she could not immediately get out of the bed. But by then the fire grew and they had to get themselves out," the police official added.

On information, the Korattur police admitted Ramani and Karthick to the Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, while Akila's body was sent for post-mortem. They also registered a case.

Meanwhile, fire and rescue services personnel who arrived in two vehicles battled the flames for nearly an hour before bringing the situation under control.

Preliminary inquiries suggest that the refrigerator was in a faulty condition and had electrical leakage. Ramani's condition is critical and he remains under observation, the police said.


The apartment complex in Korattur where Akila was charred to death on Sunday | P JAWAHAR

OFF THE CUFF

When the tables turn

Political fortunes can change, and sometimes all it takes is a video to reduce decades of political clout to an online punchline. At a recent Pudukkottai event, Labour Minister J Mohamed Farvas beckoned to ex-minister C Vijayabaskar, who promptly leaned in to hear him. The clip has given AIADMK supporters plenty of ammunition to troll their former colleague, a two-time minister now being portrayed as a subordinate to a first-time MLA-turned-minister. Farvas, too, had earlier faced ridicule for claiming Viralimalai had remained in darkness for five years, apparently forgetting that Vijayabaskar was the constituency's MLA then. Clearly, in politics, power may change hands, but social media never misses an opportunity to rub it in! **-Pearson Lenekar S R**

Leo lands a laugh



ILLUSTRATION: SOURAV ROY

Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay has delivered plenty of punchlines on screen, but this one came from an unexpected co-star. At an event honouring Asian Para Games athletes in Chennai, para-badminton player Shanthiya V from Madurai leaned over and whispered, "Anna, na than Leo (Bro, I am Leo)," into Vijay's ear, leaving him smiling. The line was a nod to the popular scene from the movie Leo, where his character finally reveals his identity at the end. "I was a little scared about how he would react, but he laughed. I am happy that I made him laugh," she said. She may have missed a podium finish, but this was quite a winning shot! **-Subashini Vijayakumar**

The press gets pressed out

The media were invited in words, but not in person, at the 39th convocation of Gandhigram Rural Institute on Friday. Journalists were denied entry into the convocation hall and instead asked to cover the proceedings through a live stream. Governor Rajendra Arlekar, while addressing the gathering, even acknowledged the journalists as "friends from the media". Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan and Chancellor KM Annamalai, too, referred to the media in their address. However, those very friends were left watching from outside. When journalists sought an explanation, university authorities offered no concrete reason, settling instead for apologies. It was apparently a convocation where the media got a mention, but not admission! **-Jeyalakshmi Ramanujam**

A clean getaway for the top brass?

With all 17 escapees back behind bars, the prison department may consider the jailbreak chapter closed. The aftermath has unfolded, with 10 personnel from Theni and seven from Puzhal suspended, besides the transfer of DGP (Prisons) Sandeep Rai Rathore. But one question continues to do the rounds: what about the Range DIGs and the IG? Sources allege that the outgoing DGP had begun probing issues involving senior officers, triggering political manoeuvring. They also wonder how a junior officer could allegedly wield influence to secure the DGP's transfer. The manhunt may be over, but the questions the jailbreak has thrown up are proving harder to contain. **-Rajalakshmi Sampath**

(Compiled by Dinesh Jefferson E)



CATTLE GROUND

Cattle are back at Madurai's Nagamalai kanmoi after recent rains revived the irrigation tank that went dry | K K SUNDAR

LOWER FARES FOR PASSENGERS

Bus owners launch 'Roamie' to take on ticketing apps

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

IN an attempt to reduce the commissions they pay to private booking platforms and also reduce costs for passengers, several omni bus owners' associations in Tamil Nadu came together to develop their own online ticket booking platform 'Roamie' which went live on Sunday.

Roamie, which is available as a website (roamie.co.in) as well as a mobile application, currently offers services by more than 100 state-based operators running around 1,000 buses.

Passengers can use the platform to compare fares, routes, departure timings, bus types and seat facilities offered by different operators before booking.

Operators, on the other hand, can manage their routes, schedules, seat availability and reservations through a single interface. The operators say lower commission costs could also help them offer tickets at reasonable fares.

The platform is integrated with the Open Network for Digital Commerce, a union government initiative, a release from the operators stated.



The platform is expected to help smaller operators, particularly those in Coimbatore and western Tamil Nadu, tap passengers beyond their existing customer base.

Office-bearers of the Tamil Nadu Omni Bus Owners Association, All Omni Bus Owners Association, All Omni Bus Owners and Operators Association and the Coimbatore Omni Bus Owners Association attended the launch at Koyambedu in Chennai.

Over 6,000 omni buses are said to be catering to more than 2.5 lakh passengers across Tamil Nadu daily.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

02nd November : Day of the Dead Dia de los Muertos blends Indigenous traditions with Catholic observances to do something common to people across cultures and centuries: honor those who are gone, not forgotten. We keep them here in stories, gestures, recipes, objects and ways of seeing the world. The Leo moon infuses this Day of the Dead with creativity and celebration.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You'll be extra-sensitive to potential wastes of time and will avoid anything with potential for tedium. You might even be so bold as to duck out of the meeting, avoid a conversation or skip an obligation in favor of a carpe diem moment.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
This quest you've been on will continue for one reason: because you continue it. Sure, there have been detours, long intermissions, a change of crew and unexpected obstacles. You can proudly say you're still moving toward the destination.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
You've had good reasons to postpone a venture, but one of those reasons is starting to crumble and with it will go three others. Revisit the old plan and hold it up to your new position. It's almost go time.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
The offending circumstance will be more easily sorted once you recognize that everyone who contributed to this tangle had good reasons for their involvement. And yet here it is -- a knot that may require scissors to fix.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
You're officially tired of toning things down for people who just don't get it. Neither do you feel you should keep creating workarounds or issuing apologies. Today puts it in the perfect context. What once seemed excessive becomes useful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Again, you'll put your own spin on the work, and again the results help more people than intended. You're improving the method, not just the result. Share your wins and you'll lift the whole group.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
That obscure skill of yours fits today's problem beautifully. You don't often get the chance to use this one, but don't worry, you didn't forget it at all. It's as though your mind kept something filed away for precisely this moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
An ordinary pleasure will hit you with extraordinary force today. Maybe it's a prettier light or food tastes better. The chair feels luxurious. Someone's company is a blast. You don't need a special occasion to feel lucky to be here.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Family resemblance isn't just about coloring and bone structure. Today highlights the personality trait that comes from someone in your family tree. Of course you've morphed the quality -- some might even say (SET ITAL.)perfected(END ITAL.) it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Someone you haven't seen in ages pops back into your world and instantly revives a version of you that hasn't been around much either. You'll enjoy this reunion with yourself almost as much as the reunion with the other person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You'll be entrusted with a responsibility because people know you'll take care of it. The gesture says more about your reputation than any compliment could. You're needed. You belong. You may even rule the place.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
Because you're a lifelong learner, you pick up new skills from people who aren't even aware they are teaching you. You learned by watching them work, love, cope or move through the world. Today you'll use the education almost automatically.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

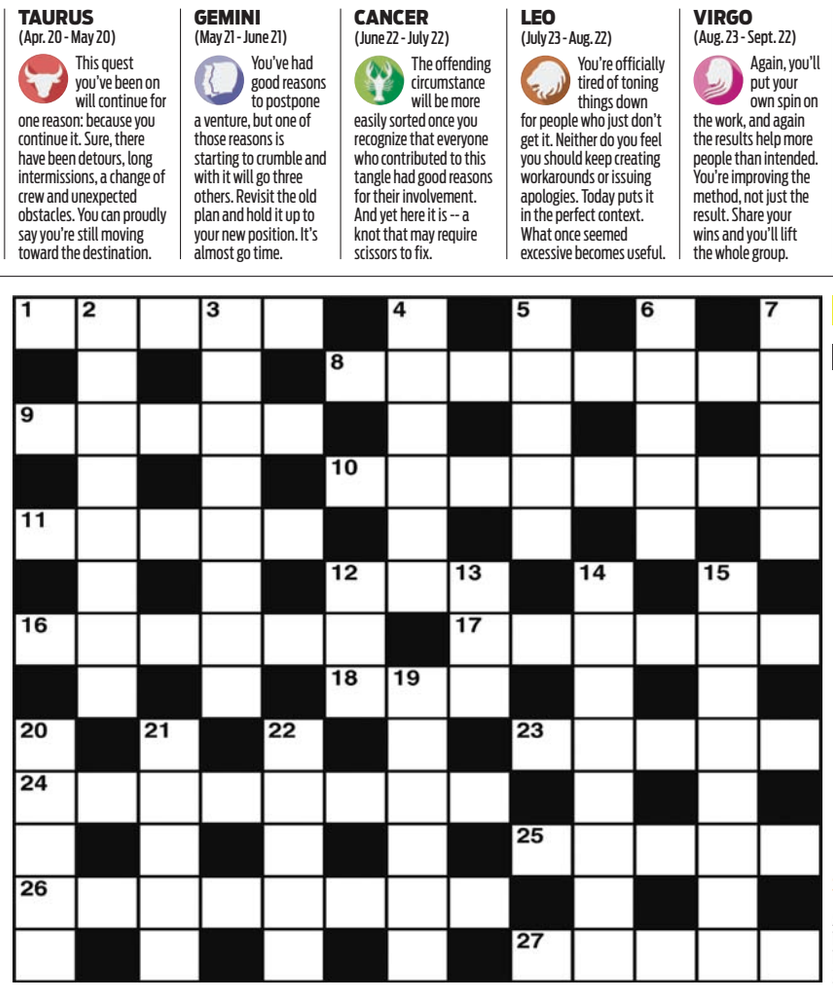
	4	9		1	5			
	1			7		4		
5		7	2					
		4	1					
9	6						4	2
					9	3		
					2	7		1
		6		9			5	
			5	4		2	9	

8	1	9	7	5	2	4	6	3
4	7	5	3	6	1	8	9	2
6	2	3	9	8	4	7	1	5
9	5	1	6	2	8	3	4	7
3	4	8	1	9	7	2	5	6
2	6	7	5	4	3	1	8	9
1	8	6	2	7	5	9	3	4
5	3	2	4	1	9	6	7	8
7	9	4	8	3	6	5	2	1

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

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.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Incomplete sauce boat (5)
8 Host of parasites seen on the move (8)
9 Experience state reform (5)
10 An energetic group out to make mischief (8)
11 First for love, second for ESP (5)
12 Net return for a number (3)
16 The third one may be a stiff examination (6)
17 Does well, getting about ninety fish (6)
18 Put away in one attempt (3)
23 Solicit for votes in the foyer (5)
24 Surplus footwear (8)
25 Joan's taken out a golden retriever (5)
26 News read out and justified (8)
27 Fees for periods in school (5)

DOWN
2 A marked man, perhaps (8)
3 Bob identifies two causes of power failure (3,5)
4 Forms issued when there's no employment (6)
5 Coming from Lake Nyasa, land further north (5)
6 Bar for drunken poets (5)
7 A gem of a girl? (5)
12 Stand waiting for the driver (3)
13 Trap held by one thread (3)
14 It means raising the subject at the palace (8)
15 Where members of society may meet (4,4)
19 Maintained a five-nil lead over United (6)
20 Such candles have no wick (5)
21 She has the advantage when climbing (5)
22 Middle Eastern plant (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Danish blue, 6 Item, 10 Pique, 11 Ill temper, 12 Hands off, 13 Carve, 15 Actions, 17 Steeped, 19 Martyrs, 21 Mastery, 22 On tap, 24 Accredit, 27 Kidnapped, 28 Sweep, 29 Rose, 30 Anemometer.

Down: 1 Dope, 2 No quarter, 3 Speed, 4 Britons, 5 Uplifts, 7 Taper, 8 Market days, 9 Teachers, 14 Farmworker, 16 Olympiad, 18 President, 20 Sharpen, 21 Macadam, 23 Tides, 25 Epsom, 26 Spar.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

VRBAE

DWRLO

GCELAN

TPTREY



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: SWORN NEWLY FILTHY SQUASH
Answer: She couldn't decide if she would do the laundry today. She was being — WISHY-WASHY

CO_2 27 µg/m3

The PM 2.5 level recorded at Alandur on Sunday. Nitrogen dioxide level was at 23 µg/m3 against the prescribed standard of 80 µg/m3

NEWS UPDATE FROM TN

Twitter @ xpresstn

'TNIE Tamilnadu' @ xpresstn

Chromepet station access gap forces residents to risk life on railway tracks

Two months after student death, compound wall raised by railways fails to deter commuters

DHEEPTHI O J @ Chennai

TWO months after an 18-year-old college student died while crossing the tracks near Chromepet Railway Station, hundreds of people from Radha Nagar continue to take risky shortcuts to access the station, saying the railway has failed to provide an easy path from the eastern side.

Following the death of S Rajashri in August, the railway constructed compound walls along the GST Road and near the railway parking area, where people used to freely trespass. However, even after the walls were built, trespassing continues as the structures are easily climbable. Scores of people, including the elderly, are seen climbing over the walls to reach the Radha Nagar side and vice versa.

"After the death, we expected the railway at least to deploy police personnel at vulnerable locations, besides creating awareness and imposing fines," said V Santhanam, president of the Chromepet Railway Users Association.

Passengers also said that commuters from GST Road use Radha Nagar Main Road to reach areas such as Nemilichery, Nanmangalam and Kovilambakkam. Santhanam pointed out that, with the Chromepet bus stop also located close to the station, people from Radha Nagar, in a hurry to catch buses at specific timings often cross the tracks carelessly. With several colleges located on the eastern side of the station, hundreds of students also take the risk by crossing the tracks.



Commuters crossing tracks at the Chormepet railway station | EXPRESS

Though there is a subway from Radha Nagar Main Road, there is no connectivity from the subway to the station platforms. Passengers have urged the railway to provide direct access from the subway to the platforms, similar to St Thomas Mount, Meenambakkam and Palavanthangal railway stations.

P Chandrasekaran, a long-time user of the station, said that after reaching GST Road from the Radha Nagar side via the subway, passengers have to walk at least 200m to Platform 1A and then use the footbridge to reach Platform 1 to catch suburban trains towards Tambaram. "It is difficult for elderly, disabled and those with mobility issues. There is no lift or escalator from Platform 1A," he said.

Similarly, there is no easy access to the station from Radha Nagar. From the station border road, there is a narrow route, while another pathway through the inner streets takes a few hundred metres.

Although these routes can be used to access the station, many people prefer the easier route. Auto drivers in the area said passengers coming from Radha Nagar Main Road may not be aware of the inner routes.

A Southern Railway spokesperson said there was a proposal to extend the existing footbridge and provide a staircase towards the Radha Nagar side. The work is expected to be completed by the end of 2027.

The spokesperson said continuous awareness campaigns were being conducted and they are also imposing fines for trespassing regularly.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Civic and Welfare Associations of zones 2 and 3 of Tambaram City Municipal Corporation have submitted a petition to railway officials seeking a two-way walkway between the subway and suburban railway platforms.

However, the Southern Railway official said it was not possible to provide direct connectivity from the subway to the platforms due to lack of space, and that such connectivity was not feasible as it would result in track infringement.

(With inputs from S Kumaresan @ Chennai)



A section of 5th Cross Street in Srinivasa Nagar caved in at Kolathur | EXPRESS

Two road cave-ins in city in two days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

TWO road cave-ins were reported in Velachery and Kolathur in two days, with officials saying that the incidents occurred due to damage to an underground water pipeline and ongoing metro rail tunnelling works, respectively.

On Sunday, a portion of Velachery Main Road towards Guru Nanak College caved in following damage to an underground drinking water pipeline running along the road. Police officials said the cave-in was limited to a depth of 1 to 1.5 ft. CMWSSB officials, who excavated a large portion of the road to access and repair the damaged pipeline, said the road would be restored by Sunday night.

Commercial and heavy vehicles were diverted at Vijayanagar Junction, Concorde Junction and Erikarai Junction owing to the work. Two-wheelers and four-wheelers are allowed to ply as usual on one-half of the road. The traffic is expected to return to normalcy by Sunday midnight.

In another incident, a section of Srinivasa Nagar 5th Cross Street at Kolathur caved in to a depth of around 6 ft on Saturday evening, due to the ongoing Chennai Metro Rail tunnelling works.

An autorickshaw parked in the area partially fell in the collapsed portion. No injuries were reported. The tunnelling work was being carried out between Senthil Nagar and Villivakkam as part of CMRL's Phase II Corridor 5 project. The collapsed stretch was restored with concrete on Saturday night.

75 pet shops at Broadway mkt shut, traders go on protest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THE GCC shut down 75 pet shops at the century-old Broadway Sunday Pet Market in Georgetown on Sunday. Nearly 100 traders protested, demanding permission to continue trading at the location or an alternative space. The drive was suspended temporarily following the protest and traders continued selling animals.

GCC had put up notices asking traders to stop selling animals along Maskanchavadi and Amman Koil Street. A resident had approached the court seeking the removal of the shops, alleging that the market caused traffic congestion and created unhygienic conditions that posed health risks.

Speaking to TNIE, a corporation official said the ban was not new and that traders had been running shops without licences for nearly 100 years, while occupying roads and obstructing traffic.

"Animal excreta is often cleaned only by corporation staff. The market is also known for bringing in exotic breeds without proper approvals," the official said.

The case is scheduled for hearing next week. GCC put up the notice three days ago and began monitoring the area from 2 am on Sunday, along with police personnel, to prevent traders from setting up stalls. Of the nearly 90 temporary shops, 75 were shut.

"We have only taken action related to road encroachment on Sunday. We will soon enforce the ban over lack of licences, while also inspecting the condition of the animals along with the Animal Welfare Board to take appropriate action," the official said. As the pet shop owners sought alternative space, a senior corporation official said the civic body would consult stakeholders to find a long-term solution. "A few of the items are banned, but legal pet businesses can be regulated as per law," the official said.

Garbage uncleared for a week, road near suburban terminal turns dumpyard

DHEEPTHI O J @ Chennai

THE road near platform 12 of Moore Market Complex suburban terminal at Chennai Central has turned into a dumping ground, with garbage piled up for nearly 300 m. The waste, which has remained uncleared for at least a week, gives off a pungent smell that reaches the terminal entrance, forcing passengers to cover their noses as they walk on the platform.

During a visit to the spot on Sunday morning, TNIE found hundreds of garbage bags containing plastic and food waste piled along the road. Workers were also seen clearing the waste. The road is used as a collection point for garbage generated across Chennai Central railway station and the suburban terminal. Passengers said the stench had made their daily commute difficult over the past few days.

V Raju, a resident of Ponneri who travels daily from Gummidipoondi by suburban train, said services bound for Gummidipoondi usually depart from platform 12.



The road close to platform 12 of sub-urban terminal (Moore Market Complex) at Chennai Central that has turned into a garbage dumping site | P JAWAHAR

"At times, trains take at least half an hour to start from Moore Market Complex. I have seen pregnant women feeling nauseous and children finding it difficult to bear the stench," he said.

S Suresh Babu, president of the Gummidipoondi Railway Passengers Welfare Association, said he had written to senior railway officials about the issue.

"Usually, the garbage is cleared regularly. However, it has not been cleared for the last 10 to 15 days. The smell is unbearable. We need a permanent solution," he said.

A Southern Railway official said the collection point would be shifted to a location beyond the platform. The garbage had been covered and would be cleared within a week, the official added. A Chennai Corporation official from Zone 5 said the garbage was usually cleared every day and that he would look into the matter.



FESTIVE RUSH

With just a week to go for Deepavali, thousands thronged Ranganathan Street in T Nagar on Sunday for festival shopping | ASHWIN PRASATH

Week after son held in Pocso case, man arrested for harassment of minor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

A 61-year-old man from Ennore was arrested and remanded in judicial custody on Saturday on charges of sexually harassing a seven-year-old girl in June. The arrest followed a complaint by the girl's mother, which was filed after the man's son was arrested last week in a separate Pocso case involving a two-and-a-half-year-old girl.

According to the Ennore All Women Police, the accused was identified as Desingh (61), a former fisherman. The police said the incident took place on June 1, and the girl's mother stated in her complaint that Desingh had misbehaved with her daughter.

The two families had initially tried to settle the matter at a community gathering, and no police complaint was lodged at the time. After Desingh's son was arrested in another case, the woman came forward and approached the Ennore police with a complaint against his father, the police said. The police registered a case against Desingh and, after an inquiry, he was arrested and remanded in judicial custody.

Desingh's son, Ranjith Kumar (32), was arrested by the All Women Police on charges of sexually assaulting a two-and-a-half-year-old girl. The child was admitted to a hospital for treatment after the incident, which triggered outrage in the neighbourhood.

Plaint filed after accused's son held in another case

The two families had initially tried to settle the matter at a community gathering, and no police complaint was lodged at the time. After Desingh's son was arrested in another case, the girl's mother came forward and approached the Ennore police

Rainwater harvest units at homes to be checked every week

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Metro Water) will conduct inspections of rainwater harvesting structures every Saturday in all 15 zones of the Greater Chennai Corporation to ensure they are maintained and functional. As part of the second phase of the initiative.

Metro Water officials on Saturday inspected 79 apartment complexes to assess the condition of rainwater harvesting structures and undertake awareness activities. The inspections follow the first phase conducted on October 26, during which officials covered 81 apartment complexes. The initiative was launched on October 21 following Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's direction to create awareness among the public about rainwater harvesting and transform it into a mass movement in all civic bodies.

Metro Water urged residents to cooperate with officials and take steps to maintain rainwater harvesting systems on their premises.

EXPRESS READ

Pocso case accused who escaped from Periyar Nagar hosp arrested

Chennai: A 61-year-old autorickshaw driver, David, who went missing from Periyar Nagar Government Hospital on Saturday morning after being assaulted by the relatives of an eight-year-old girl in a Pocso case, was arrested at Kavangarai in Puzhal on Sunday. According to the police, the driver sexually harassed the girl while she was going to school in his autorickshaw on October 30. The girl's parents and relatives assaulted him, leaving him with injuries to his head and back. His son later took him to Periyar Nagar Government Hospital for treatment. Based on a complaint lodged by the girl's mother, the Puzhal All-Women Police Station registered a case under the Pocso Act. After the accused went missing from the hospital around 5.30 am on Saturday, special teams were formed to trace him. "We analysed CCTV footage from the hospital, in which he was seen walking among the crowd and leaving the premises. Around 2 pm on Sunday, he was secured by a police team," a senior police officer said. ENS

INTEGRAL COACH FACTORY
Chennai - 600 038

INDIAN RAILWAYS
Tender Notice No. ICF/EL/Cons/2026-27, Dt : 02.11.2026
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Maintenance/Shell, Integral Coach Factory, invites E-Tender for the following works.

Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx value in Lakhs (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)
2026245 212279R	EL-W-945 Augmentation of Power Supply Panels at ICF Substations	730.88	14,61,800/-

Tender Closing Date and Time : 25.11.2026 at 15.30 hrs.

Web site for submission of offer : www.ireps.gov.in
Hindi Version of the above tender notification is available in : https://icf.indianrailways.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that our Client intends to transact with land admeasuring 0.428 acres (0.40 acres as per patta) comprised in S.No.77/1B2, at Alathur village, Thiruporur Taluk and Chengalpattu District, hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property" from its present owner Strides Pharma Science Limited, which became entitled to the Schedule Property from Grandix Pharmaceuticals Limited pursuant to an order of Amalgamation passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Madras, dated 03.12.2009 in Company Petition Nos.193, 221 and 222 of 2009.

Any person(s) or entities (including bank/societies/Financial Institutions/ corporate or otherwise), other than the owner, having any right/ title/ interest of any kind whatsoever including mortgage/ charge/ claim/ encumbrance/ demand/pending litigation, objection, interest, benefit, estate, share over the Schedule Property whether by way of sale, transfer, assignment, agreement for sale, exchange, charge, encumbrance, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, license, mortgage (equitable or otherwise), inheritance, family arrangement/settlement, share, gift, devise, lien, maintenance, easement, trust, covenant, maintenance, or beneficial right / interest under any trust, right of prescription or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit, decree, injunction order or attachment or award passed by any Court or Authority litigation, lis-pendens, decree or order of any adjudicating authority, exchange, partition, power of attorney, will, bequest, FSI consumption, development rights, partnership, possession, allotment or otherwise of any nature whatsoever (collectively, "Claims"), to or upon the Schedule Property must lodge their Claim/s with the undersigned, together with complete documentary evidence/proof thereof, within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, such rights, if any, would be considered as abandoned/waived & it will be presumed that no person(s) or entities other than the owner or its successors/assignees, has any right / title / Claim and/or interest in/to the Schedule Property and that our client is free to transact the same.

For and on behalf of our clients
FOXMANDAL & ASSOCIATES
SOLICITORS & ADVOCATES
FM House, No. 302, Anna Salai,Teynampet, Chennai – 600 006
Ph: 044 - 2436 1030 & 044 - 4305 1000 realestate.chennai@foxmandal.in

F. No. U.12012/25/2011-NE [FTS-4055]
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (HOSPITAL-III SECTION),
Work Hall-11076, First Floor, B wing,
Kartavya Bhawan-I, New Delhi 110001.

Dated: The 25th September, 2026

VACANCY CIRCULAR

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for one post of **Deputy Director (Administration) in Level-13 of the Pay Matrix (Pay Band-4 with Grade Pay of ₹ 8700/- pre-revised)** in North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), Shillong, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, on Deputation / Foreign Service basis. North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) is a premier medical institution set up by the Government of India.

For details relating to job descriptions qualifications, experience, format of application etc., please visit website **www.mohfw.gov.in** or **www.neigrihms.gov.in**

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
☎: 011-2401 3282

CBC 17119/11/0016/2627

63 moons technologies limited

Regd. Office: Shakti Tower-II, 4th Floor, Premises-J, 766, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002.
Corporate Office: FT Tower, CTS No. 256 & 257, Suren Road, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400 093.
T: +91-22-66868010 | F: +91-22-67250257 E: info@63moons.com | W: www.63moons.com
CIN: L29142TN1988PLC015586

Special Window for Transfer and Dematerialisation of Physical Securities

Pursuant to SEBI Circular No. HO/38/13/11(2)2026-MIRSD-POD/I/3750/2026 dated January 30, 2026, a special window has been opened by the Company for lodgment of transfer and dematerialisation ("demat") request of physical securities which were sold / purchased prior to April 01, 2019. The special window shall remain open for a period of 1 (one) year from February 05, 2026 to February 04, 2027.

This facility is available to those shareholders who purchased physical shares of the Company prior to April 01, 2019; and

1. had not lodged the shares for transfer; or
2. had lodged the shares for transfer, but the same were rejected / returned / not attended due to deficiency in the documents / process / or otherwise.

For clarity regarding applicability of this special window, shareholders may refer the matrix given below:

Execution Date of Transfer Deed	Lodged for transfer before April 01, 2019?	Original Security Certificate Available?	Eligible to lodge in the current window?
Before April 01, 2019	No (it is fresh lodgement)	Yes	✓
Before April 01, 2019	Yes (it was rejected/ returned earlier)	Yes	✓
Before April 01, 2019	Yes	No	✗
Before April 01, 2019	No	No	✗

Eligible shareholders are requested to submit the requisite documents, complete in all aspects, to the Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent i.e. KFin Technologies Limited, (Unit: 63 moons limited), Selenium, Tower - B, Plot No. 31 and 32, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500032. Toll free no. 1800 309 4001, E-mail: einward.ris@kfintech.com on or before February 04, 2027.

Kindly note that the shares transferred under this special window shall be mandatorily credited to the transferee, only in demat mode and shall remain under lock-in for a period of one year from the date of registration of transfer. These securities shall not be transferred / lien-marked / pledged during the said lock-in period.

For 63 moons technologies limited

Place : Mumbai
Date : November 02, 2026

Hariraj Chouhan
Sr. VP & Company Secretary

EX-MIN SEKAR QUESTIONED

Former DMK minister PK Sekar Babu appeared before the North Beach police at Esplanade station, Chennai, on Sunday for an inquiry in connection with a case for allegedly making derogatory remarks against CM C Joseph Vijay. He was questioned and let go in the afternoon

Aadhav Arjuna calls for separate TN flag, holidays on Nov 1 & July 18, wants all CBSE schools to teach Tamil

TN plans Tamil Sangam under Vijay, traditional attire day in govt offices

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

TAMIL Development Minister A Rajmohan on Sunday said that the state will introduce a weekly traditional attire day for government staff. He also announced plans to establish a Tamil Sangam at the secretariat under the leadership of Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay and hold a World Tamil Conference. Meanwhile, PWD Minister Aadhav Arjuna called for a separate flag for Tamil Nadu and demanded that November 1 and July 18, marking the state's formation and its renaming, respectively, be declared public holidays.

Speaking at the Tamil Nadu Formation Day celebrations in Chennai, Arjuna proposed that CM Vijay hoist the state flag on both days and that it be displayed in every household. He said the two days should be accorded the same importance as Independence Day and Republic Day. November 1 marks the formation of the state, while July 18 marks the day the Assembly passed a resolution to rename Madras State as Tamil Nadu in 1967.



Ministers honour Tamil writers during the Tamil Nadu Formation Day celebrations held in Chennai on Sunday | EXPRESS

He urged Rajmohan to make Tamil compulsory in all schools in the state, including CBSE institutions, from classes 1 to 8 during the present government's tenure.

Every child born in TN, including children of ministers, MLAs, IAS and IPS officers, and government employees, should learn Tamil first, he said, adding that the change should begin with those in positions of responsibility. He also called for a legislation to promote Tamil in education, and urged private schools and colleges to make it a compulsory language.

On the occasion, Rajmohan announced that the government will introduce a weekly traditional dress code in all government offices, including the secretariat, encouraging ministers and officials to wear traditional clothes, particularly dhoti and shirt, once a week.

Rajmohan said officials, wearing traditional attire, would support handloom weavers by encouraging people to buy dhotis, shirts and sarees. Outlets such as Khadi Kraft could also benefit from the increased demand, he added.

To mark the occasion, ₹10 lakh in copyright remuneration was given to each family of five Tamil writers – Jeevabharathi, Raja Gowthaman, Saranga Baskaran alias DMMK Ahmed, Sa Kandasamy, and DM Peer Mohammed – whose works have been nationalised were presented. Ministers N Anand, Minister Vanni Arasu and senior officials attended the function.

Later, responding to a question about Arjuna's call for a separate flag for the state, Rajmohan said the demand had been raised for a long time, noting that states such as AP and Karnataka have their own flags. Citing examples of states having flags as symbols of cultural identity, he said the CM would examine the proposal, consult subject experts, and take a decision soon.

Rajmohan discloses ₹5-cr bribe offer for post, sparks row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A political controversy erupted on Sunday after Tamil Development Minister A Rajmohan claimed that he had been approached through Loyola Mani, chairman of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation, with an offer of ₹5 crore to secure the chairmanship of the Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram (IINM) for someone.

Speaking at a government function in Chennai to mark Tamil Nadu Day, Rajmohan said, in response to the offer, he had told Mani that he would not appoint an unqualified person to the post even if offered ₹500 crore, as Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay would not accept such an appointment. He added that the post had been given to Pushpavanam Kuppusamy without accepting even a single rupee.



Rajmohan

"I have never disclosed this before," Rajmohan said, adding that it was their duty to appoint Kuppusamy as the IINM chairman. The minister's disclosure of the ₹5 crore offer quickly became a topic of discussion on social media with a section of users questioning why he had not lodged a complaint against the person who allegedly made the offer. However, Rajmohan did not reveal the identity of the person, despite repeated requests.

BJP vice-president Narayanan Thirupathy said Rajmohan should have immediately lodged a complaint, as both giving and accepting bribes were offences. At the AIADMK headquarters, former minister D Jayakumar also said Rajmohan should identify the person who made the offer for the government post.



Tipplers seen crowded outside a Tasmac shop in Triplicane on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

Protest against cess: Tasmac shops shut, 10 staff suspended

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN @ Chennai

THOUSANDS of liquor consumers were left waiting outside Tasmac outlets in several parts of the state on Sunday as employees kept the shops shut in protest against the new environmental and social welfare cess introduced by the government. Meanwhile, Tasmac suspended nearly 10 employees after Prohibition and Excise Minister K Vignesh ordered action against staff who failed to open the outlets.

In Tiruvottiyur, consumers staged a protest demanding that the outlets be opened. A large number of police personnel deployed in front of the shop held talks with them. Police personnel were similarly stationed in front of several Tasmac outlets in and around Chennai to prevent untoward incidents.

Although the outlet in Saidapet (Chennai) remained closed, liquor sales continued at the bar attached to it. Acting on information, police rushed to the spot, seized 104 cases of liquor and detained two persons.

A Tasmac outlet in Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar (Chennai), opened at noon but was forced to close within an hour as employees struggled to manage the heavy rush of customers.

Minister Vignesh told reporters that the green cess has been introduced to ensure transparency in the funds collected under the empty bottle buy-back scheme. He said the TVK government had identified systemic loopholes to prevent the collection of ₹10 bribe, but alleged that some people were working against the government.

"We are paying electricity bills for Tasmac outlets and providing maintenance allowances. Steps are also being taken to pay rent for the outlets. However, the issue continues. We have held discussions with employees," he added.

A senior Tasmac official told *TNIE*, "Employees did not give prior notice for this protest."

T Dhanasekar, general secretary of the Tasmac Workers Association, told *TNIE* that the previous DMK government had introduced the scheme following a direction from the Madras HC. "Now, Tasmac has stopped collecting the separate ₹10 under the scheme and introduced the cess instead," he said.

He said the employees were required to scan each bottle twice. But many outlets have not been given enough scanning devices to carry out the process smoothly, he added.

'Don't give freebies, boost people's buying capacity'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

GOVERNOR Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Sunday called on governments to focus on increasing people's spending capacity rather than distributing everything free of cost while stressing that development also required active public participation.

Speaking during the Tamil Nadu Formation Day celebrations in Chennai, Arlekar said governments should work to improve people's purchasing power, echoing a point made by Madras Institute of Development Studies director Suresh Babu at the event.

"What he wanted to say, and what exactly the prime minister wants, is to increase the spending capacity of each person so they can spend more, instead of giving everything for free. We have to bring some changes in our economic outlook," he said.



Rajendra Arlekar

The governor also said development could not be achieved by governments alone and called for people to take an active role in implementing development initiatives. Citizens, he said, should ensure that government schemes reached the intended beneficiaries.

Questioning why TN's literacy rate remained at around 82%-85% despite its educational legacy, Arlekar called for efforts to achieve 100% literacy.

At the event, Arlekar also felicitated Isro chairman V Narayanan, Chandrayaan-3 project director P Veeramuthuvel and others from TN for their contributions to the country.

Meanwhile, President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Arlekar and leaders of various political parties greeted the people of TN on the occasion of TN Formation Day. "The hardworking and enterprising people of Tamil Nadu have made outstanding contributions to India's progress. May this occasion bring happiness, success and new opportunities to every person of TN in the times to come," Modi said in his message.

DMK president MK Stalin, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, BJP state president Nainar Nagenthran, PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss, AMMK general secretary TTV Dhinakaran and DMDK general secretary Premalatha Vijayakant also extended their wishes.

21 escaped from Theni jail, says prisoner in video shot before his surrender; IG dismisses claim

JEYALAKSHMI RAMANUJAM @ Madurai

A few days after his surrender, a video of Meenakshi Sundaram — one of the 17 inmates who had escaped from the Theni district jail — went viral on social media, wherein the prisoner is seen claiming that he had fled the Thekkampatti jail only to bring his grievances to the attention of a judge and not to remain at large. He also claimed that 20 other inmates had collectively decided to flee and escaped from the prison.



Meenakshi Sundaram

However, Southern Zone IG Vijendra Bidari dismissed Sundaram's claims as fabricated, stating that he had made no such complaint when Principal District Judge A Saravanakumar visited the prison for a routine inspection on Monday. Remand prisoners were produced before the judicial magistrate every 15 days, providing them an opportunity to raise grievances, he said, adding that Sundaram had recorded the video with the assistance of his advocate before surrendering.

He also refuted Sundaram's claim that 21 prisoners had escaped and said police records showed that only 17 prisoners had fled the prison.

In the video, released on Sunday, Sundaram alleged that he suffered continuous mental harassment, threats of punishment and restrictions on meeting visitors, despite repeated representations to officials.

Claiming that he feared for his safety inside the prison, Sundaram said he had no intention of remaining at large and wanted an opportunity to explain his grievances before a judge. He also denied his younger brother's involvement in planning the escape. Urging the authorities to examine CCTV footage and conduct an impartial inquiry, he said all the inmates had acted collectively.

Speaking to *TNIE*, IG Vijendra Bidari also rejected Sundaram's attempt to justify the escape by citing alleged prison conditions, maintaining that he had no valid grounds to support his claims.

Meanwhile, Sundaram's mother, Arumugathammal, on Saturday appealed to the chief minister to order a judicial inquiry into the alleged assault of her two sons and 15 other inmates by prison staff following their surrender. In a petition, she alleged that the 17 inmates were brutally beaten with lathis and kicked with boots on October 29. Her sons — Sundaram and Thirupathi — and two other inmates sustained injuries, she said, and claimed that despite their injuries, they were transferred to Salem prison without proper medical treatment.

Responding to the allegations, IG Bidari said all the apprehended prisoners were produced before the magistrate after medical examinations. The entire process was videographed. When contacted, Prisons DGP K Shankar said he would inquire into the matter.

Several sub-jails shut, inmates moved out to nearby prisons

VIGNESH V @ Madurai

IN the wake of a series of jailbreaks, the prison department has temporarily closed a few sub-jails across the state and shifted the inmates to nearby prisons. The staff have also been redeployed in other jails.

According to sources, at least sixteen sub-jails have been closed. In the Madurai range, sub-jails at Uthamapalayam in Theni, Aruppukottai in Virudhunagar, Srivaikundam in Thoothukudi and Sankarankovil in Tenkasi have been closed. In Thoothukudi, the Srivaikuntam sub-jail has been closed and 17 inmates were shifted to the Thoothukudi district jail in Perurani.

ADGP K Shankar, the Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services, told *TNIE* that the sub-jails have not been completely shut down. Instead, inmates were shifted to nearby prisons as staff strength outnumbered the inmate strength in some places. "Take, for instance, a sub-jail with two or three inmates but five to six staff members. So the Superintendents of Prisons have been asked to identify such cases in their jurisdiction, shift the inmates to nearby jails and redeploy the staff. The SPs have been directed to communicate the same to headquarters," he said.

Shankar further said that many other sub-jails continue to function, and the changes are a temporary adjustment for administrative convenience.

Commenting on the suspension of out-gang duties across TN, the ADGP said inmates will temporarily not run petrol bunks, prison bazaars, poultry units and gardens. "In general, inmates were previously taken out for such work and monitored 24x7. In view of the current situation, we have taken some precautionary measures for the time being and will resume operations once issues are stabilised," he said.

After DGP, TN transfers three prison officers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

FOLLOWING the recent incidents of prisoner escapes across the state, the Tamil Nadu prison department has transferred and posted three officers across the Madurai, Salem and Cuddalore Central Prisons. As per an order dated October 31, the officers have been directed to join their new stations with immediate effect. Earlier on Thursday, the government transferred DGP (Prisons) Sandeep Rai Rathore and posted ADGP K Shankar as his successor.

R Krishnaraj, superintendent of central prison, Madurai, has been transferred to Salem, while A Parasuraman, superintendent of central prison, Cuddalore, has been posted to Madurai. G Vinoth, additional superintendent of central prison, Salem, has been transferred to Cuddalore.

A Murugesan, deputy inspector general of prisons, Madurai Range, will take charge as superintendent and additional superintendent of central prison, Madurai, until Krishnaraj joins duty in Salem. Krishnaraj will hand over the charge to Murugesan. In Salem, Vinoth will hand over the charge of superintendent and additional superintendent to Krishnaraj upon the latter joining duty.

In Cuddalore, Parasuraman will hand over the charge to Vinoth once he joins the station. Upon Parasuraman joining duty in Madurai, Murugesan will hand over the charge of superintendent and additional superintendent of central prison, Madurai, to him.



HISTORIC PROTECTION

A permanent metal-roofed shelter has been constructed at the Adichanallur archaeological site in Thoothukudi district to replace the temporary coconut-leaf shelter, which was damaged in heavy rain and flooding recently | V KARTHIK ALAGU

'MGR discovered him, Kalaignar moulded him': Stalin hails Duraimurugan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

DMK president MK Stalin on Sunday described party general secretary Duraimurugan as a "warrior discovered by MGR and moulded by Kalaignar", recalling his decades-long political journey and his decision to remain with the DMK despite an invitation from former chief minister MG Ramachandran to join the AIADMK.

Speaking at the wedding of Duraimurugan's granddaughter Senthamarai — daughter of Vellore MP Kathir Anand and Sangeetha — and Deepak Ravi — son of Ravi Kannan and Deepa Ravi — Stalin said Duraimurugan's life offered an example of how one should conduct oneself in public.

The former CM recalled that MGR had first noticed Duraimurugan's oratorical skills at an event at Pachaiyappa's College in 1963 and subsequently helped him with his education. MGR had also introduced Duraimurugan to DMK leader M Karunanidhi during the Tiruvannamalai bypoll, Stalin said.



MK Stalin | Duraimurugan

However, after MGR split from DMK and floated AIADMK, he invited Duraimurugan to join his party. "Duraimurugan told him that although MGR had helped him with his education, when it came to ideology, his leader was Kalaignar and he would remain with him," Stalin said.

Recalling Duraimurugan's role in the anti-Hindi imposition agitation of 1965, Stalin said he had emerged as a frontline leader of the movement. He also praised Duraimurugan's ability to recall intricate details of any subject.

Nainar slams CM's silence on Mekedatu issue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

BJP state president Nainar Nagenthran on Sunday criticised Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay for maintaining silence on Karnataka's move to acquire land for the proposed Mekedatu dam. In a post on X, Nagenthran cited Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's statement that land acquisition was progressing rapidly for the construction of the dam and questioned why Vijay had not opposed the move.

He also accused the Congress-led Karnataka government of withholding Cauvery water from TN despite directions from the Cauvery Water Management Authority.

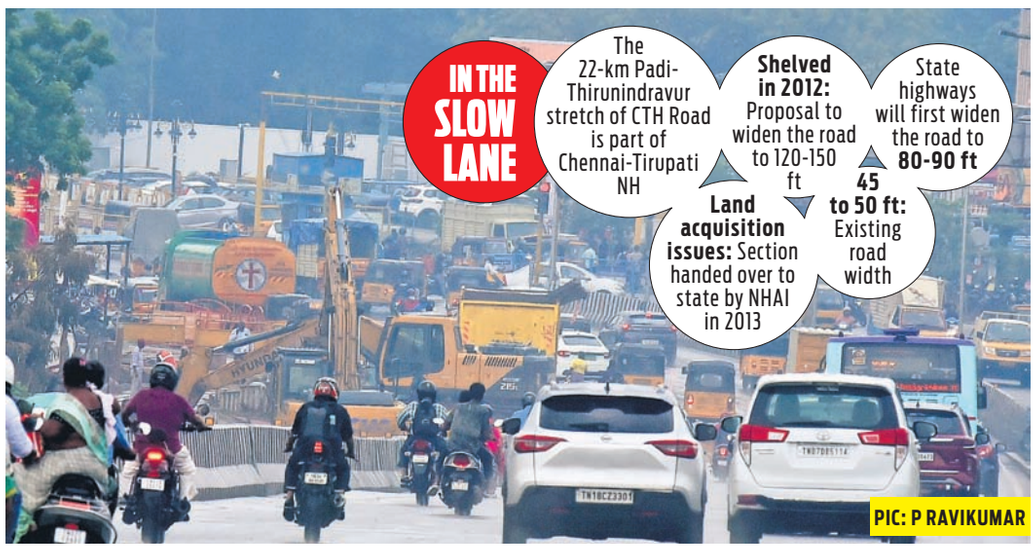
In a separate statement, Nagenthran accused the TVK government of adopting a "fascist" approach by allegedly preventing BJP Madurai city district president Mari Chakravarthy from paying tribute to Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar's statue at Goripalayam during his birth anniversary and Guru Pooja.

RUN OVER BY TRUCK A 63-year-old woman was killed and her husband injured after a water tanker lorry rammed their motorcycle from behind near Mayilai Balaji Nagar in Pallikaranai on Sunday. Police arrested the tanker driver Chinnarasu (31) of Thiruvarur

Plan to build Padi to Thiruninravur 6-lane stretch remains non-starter

The project continues to face delays due to land boundary disputes, protests, court cases

B ANBUSELVAN @ CHENNAI



PIC: P RAVIKUMAR

THE 22-km Padi-Thiruninravur stretch of the Chennai-Tiruvallur Highway (CTH) continues to witness severe traffic congestion, as the long-pending proposal to widen the road into a six-lane highway has been on the backburner for over 13 years. Commuters face traffic snarls throughout the day, worsened by uneven road surfaces and potholes.

In 2022, the state highways allocated ₹168 crore for land acquisition to widen the stretch into a six-lane road. However, the project continues to face delays due to disputes over finalising land boundaries at several locations, protests and pending court cases.

According to state highways officials, the existing four-lane road has a width of only 45-50 ft and needs to be widened to 80-100 ft before the proposed 22-km elevated corridor from Padi to Thiruninravur can be taken up. "Land acquisition has been completed for more than 60% of the stretch. The remaining work will be completed soon," an official said.

The official added that the proposed 22-km elevated corridor would also accommodate an 8 km double-decker metro alignment as part of the proposed Koyambedu-Pattabiram metro line. "The widening project cannot be delayed indefinitely, and the matter is being looked into," the official added.

According to official estimates, nearly 1.5 lakh vehicles use the stretch every day, with severe traffic congestion during peak hours at major junctions, including Korattur-Padi, Ambattur Industrial Estate, Ambattur Telephone Exchange, Ambattur Police Station, Thirumullaivoyal and Avadi bus stand. The presence of densely populated residential neighbourhoods and commercial establishments along the highway also complicates land acquisition. Currently, motorists take nearly 90-100 minutes to cross the Padi-Thiruninravur stretch.

NHAI, which had initially proposed widening the section into a six-lane highway with a width of 120-150 ft between 2008 and 2011, handed over the road to the state highways in 2012 due to land acquisition hurdles and stiff opposition from residents and traders. The presence of religious structures along the route was another challenge. The state highways could widen the road only to four lanes in 2013.

S Rajesh Kumar, a resident of Padi, said the widening project had remained restricted to four lanes for nearly 12 years. "The recent rains and damage to the road have further worsened commuting conditions," he said.

Another regular commuter, S Logananthan of Avadi said traffic signals or stopping points for taking left and right turns are located almost every 300 m on the stretch, severely affecting traffic movement.

TN's first healthy & hygienic food street opens in Tiruchy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tiruchy

HEALTH Minister K G Arunraj on Sunday inaugurated Tamil Nadu's first healthy and hygienic food street on Race Course Road at Kajamalai. A total of 39 trained vendors will operate mobile food carts dishing out a delectable choice of cuisine daily at affordable price, sources said.

Speaking after inaugurating the facility, minister Arunraj said the initiative was intended to cater to people who depend on eateries for various reasons. "People expect to get hygienic and clean food at affordable prices. Considering this need, the food street has been established," he told reporters.

The minister recalled that the state government had announced in June that the initiative would be rolled out in six districts, including Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem and Tiruchy. The first facility was opened in Tiruchy.

As many as 39 vendors were selected in the first phase and trained in safe food preparation. They have been provided with vehicles fitted with food vending machines. Subsidised loans were also extended through the District Industries Centre, while the Food Safety Department issued licences to the vendors. A smart card facility has also been introduced, allowing customers to purchase food the outlets using a single card, Arunraj said.


Health Minister K G Arunraj inaugurating the food street along with HR&CE Minister S Ramesh in Tiruchy on Sunday | EXPRESS

39 vendors selected

As many as 39 vendors were selected in the first phase and trained in safe food preparation. They have been provided with vehicles fitted with food vending machines. The food street will operate daily from 4 pm to 11 pm

On dietary habits, the minister said the World Health Organisation recommended a daily salt intake of five grams per person, while the average consumption was around eight to 10 grams. Even reducing salt intake by one gram could help prevent 10% of cardiovascular diseases and stroke, he said.

On dengue prevention, Arunraj said cases remained under control in TN. However, with the northeast monsoon expected to intensify, mosquito-control activities and other precautionary measures were being strengthened.

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister S Ramesh, Collector Pratik Tayal, MLAs Kathiravan and Navalpattu Viji, and senior officials attended the event.

The vendors received food carts worth ₹59 lakh through own contributions and loans, while the Tiruchy Corporation spent ₹50 lakh on basic infrastructure, including drinking water, lighting, parking and an open-air amphitheatre.

The food street will operate daily from 4 pm to 11 pm.

7 TN fishers held by SL Navy, kin seek govt help

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Ramanathapuram

SRI Lankan Navy arrested seven fishermen from Rameswaram for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line and fishing in its waters. The fishermen were produced before a magistrate and remanded in judicial custody till November 13. The boat was also impounded.

Fisheries department sources said the seized boat is owned by J John Mervin of Anthoniarpuram in Thangachimadam. It had set sail, along with around 398 mechanised fishing boats, from the Rameswaram harbour on Saturday. The boat was intercepted by the SL Navy in the northern maritime waters of Mannar, and seven fishermen on board were arrested.

The boat was intercepted by the Sri Lankan Navy in the northern maritime waters of Mannar, and seven fishermen on board were arrested. Following preliminary questioning, the fishermen were handed over to Mannar fisheries department officials and subsequently produced before a magistrate.


LIGHTS FOR LIVELIHOOD

A potter makes earthen lamps (agal vilakku) ahead of Karthigai Deepam festival in Vellore on Sunday | EXPRESS

HR&CE suspends engineer for power cut during VP's visit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Madurai

THE HR&CE Department on Saturday suspended an Assistant Engineer (Electrical) for alleged negligence of duty and failure to address a power interruption at the Meenakshi Amman Temple during Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan's visit on Friday. According to an HR&CE official, internal works have been under way in several sections of the Meenakshi Amman Temple for the past few weeks. Gensets were installed to ensure uninterrupted power supply to certain sections to facilitate the work. On Friday, VP visited the temple for worship. As he was about to leave the premises, there was a sudden power interruption at the spot. As per protocol, the incident was considered a violation of protocol. Following this, the department suspended S Janakiraman in Madurai.

After NGO nudge, 23 illegal hoardings in city removed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

FOLLOWING a complaint by Arappor Iyakkam flagging violations in at least 23 hoardings placed across Chennai, the Greater Chennai Corporation began removing unauthorised hoardings in the city on Sunday.

In South Chennai alone, 13 unauthorised banners and two posters have been removed. In addition, five other hoardings identified in Arappor Iyakkam's complaint have also been removed. In Central Chennai, of the 52 hoardings identified, 34 unauthorised structures have been removed. The skin of two other hoardings, whose licences are yet to be renewed, has also been removed.

In Royapuram zone, two illegal hoardings, erected before approval despite the applicants having applied for licences, have been pulled down. Nearly 16 unauthorised banners have also been removed across the zone. The action comes after the Arappor Iyakkam submitted a petition to the state government and the civic body, identifying 23 dangerously placed hoardings in a sample audit and seeking their immediate removal ahead of the northeast monsoon.



In South Chennai alone, 13 unauthorised banners and two posters have been removed | EXPRESS

Home Guard attacked by drunk gang dies, CM sanctions ₹5L to kin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Ariyalur

A Home Guard attached to Thalavoi police station who was attacked by a gang during night patrol in in Ariyalur on Friday succumbed to injuries at the Thanjavur Medical College Hospital on Saturday night. Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay condoled his death and announced solatium of ₹5 lakh to his family on Sunday.

According to police, C Venkatesan (48) and Grade II constable R Raja Kannan (32) were on night patrol when they spotted Mathivanan (24), Thamaraikannan (24) and Ilamparithi (23), all residents of Silappanur, consuming alcohol near a lorry shed close to a private cement factory around 11.30 pm on October 29. They warned them against drinking in a public place before continuing their patrol.

Around 2 am on October 30, the personnel encountered the trio again near the Echchangadu main road and attempted to question them. This led to an argument, during which the three men allegedly attacked the personnel. Venkatesan sustained serious injuries to his head and face and collapsed at the spot, while Raja Kannan also suffered injuries.

Both were initially admitted to Sendurai Government Hospital. Venkatesan was subsequently shifted to Thanjavur Medical College Hospital, where he died despite treatment on Saturday night. The three accused were arrested on Friday.


Home Guard C Venkatesan sustained serious injuries to his head and face | EXPRESS

TNUSRB releases provisional list of 3,597 selected for constable post

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board (TNUSRB) on Sunday published on its official website the list of 3,597 provisionally selected candidates for recruitment to the posts of grade II police constables, grade II jail warders and firemen.

The recruitment notification (No. 02/2025) was issued on August 21, 2025, to fill 3,665 vacancies in the police, prisons and correctional services, and fire and rescue services departments. Of the total vacancies, 68 meritorious sportsperson candidates had already been selected by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT), which issued appointment orders to them.

The remaining 3,597 candidates have been provisionally selected. Their appointments will be subject to medical examination and verification of certificates and character.

The full list is available on www.tnusrb.tn.gov.in. *ENS*

EXPRESS READ

Ex-serviceman duped of ₹30L in digital arrest

Theni: Two suspects from Maharashtra were arrested for allegedly cheating a retired Army personnel from Theni of ₹30 lakh by impersonating officials of the Department of Telecommunications. According to sources, the victim, Prakasan, received a call on April 8 from an unidentified person claiming to be an official from DoT. The caller allegedly told him that his Aadhaar number had been misused to buy a SIM card through which obscene clips were being circulated. The fraudsters allegedly told him that his bank accounts were under investigation and that his name had surfaced in a probe. Demanding ₹52.75 lakh as a security deposit to avoid arrest and freezing of his assets, the fraudsters allegedly convinced the victim to transfer ₹30 lakh.


The New Showroom of Sathya Agencies was inaugurated near the Adyar signal on Saturday. The ceremony was attended by Sathya Group MD Jackson Samuel, Jenson Samuel, Business Head Murali, GM Seetharaman and others | EXPRESS

Robbers cut elderly woman's ear for gold

VIRUDHUNAGAR: An unidentified person broke into a house and robbed an 82-year-old woman of 11 sovereigns of gold jewellery after severing her ear in Pandiyankottai village near A Mukkulam on Sunday. The victim, Muthukaruppayi Ammal (82), was sleeping alone at her house without locking the door at the time of the incident. According to police sources, around midnight, an unidentified person trespassed into her house and attempted to snatch the jewellery she was wearing. When the elderly woman raised an alarm, he severed her ear while removing the jewellery. The suspect later fled with a seven-sovereign pair of traditional gold ear ornaments and a four-sovereign gold chain she was wearing. ENS

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT DIVISION), AT BENGALURU (CCH-84)
COM OS. NO, 26484/2014
BETWEEN : 1. M/S CHANDAN HOUSING 2. Sri. L. UDAY MEHTA, 3. SMT. U. SUMAN LATHA METHA ...PLAINTIFFS
AND : 1. SRI VIJAYARAJAN, 2. SRI. ARDEN JOSEPH, 3. SRI. V. KUMAR, 4. SMT. K SUMATHI ...DEFENDANTS
SUMMONS TO PROPOSED LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES NO. 1 AND 2
1. SMT. SUDHA MERLIN VIJAYARAJAN, Wife of Mr. Vijayrajan, age Major, Residing at Saravana Nagar, 1st Street, Madambakka Main Road, Rajakilpakkam, Near VGP Nagar Chennai-600 073. 2. SMT KUMARI TABITA VIJAYARAJAN, Daughter of Mr. Vijayrajan, age Minor, Represented by her legal guardian Smt. Sudha Merlin Vijayarajan. Both Residing at No.12 Saravana Nagar, 1st Street, Madambakka Main Road, Rajakilpakkam, Near VGP Nagar, Chennai-600 073
Whereas the above-named Plaintiff instituted a suit against Late Vijayarajan and others to execute and register Sale Deed/s in favour of the Plaintiffs in respect of the Plaint Second Schedule Properties in fulfilment of the Joint Development Agreement dated 03.08.2009, deliver possession of Apartments A1 and E1 forming part of the Plaint Second Schedule Properties, deliver Gift Deeds in respect of the Plaint Second Schedule Properties for cancellation and permanent injunction along with costs.
You are hereby summoned to appear before this court on 01/12/2026 at 11:00 A.M. before the LXXXIII Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge (CCH-84) in person or through advocate/pleader to answer the questions to the same. Failing which the suit will be heard and determined as ex-parte.
FIRST SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of residential site numbers 56, 58, 63, 65 and portion of site numbers 57 and 64, house list khatha number 14/1 whole property number 2/1 situated at Geddalahalli Village, K.R. Puram, Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk now coming under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike and measuring East to West 45 feet and North to South 80 feet, in all measuring 7,200 sq. ft. and bounded on: East by : Portions of site No. 57, 59, 62 & 64, West by : Portion of Site No. 57 & 64, North by : Private Property and Road, South by : Private Property.
SECOND SCHEDULE PROPERTY
5 Residential Flats bearing Nos. A1, D2, E1, E3, E4 and a Pent House, situated in the building known as Chandan Residency, situated at No. 2/1, Geddalahalli Village, K. R. Puram, Hobli, Bangalore and building Chandan Housing is bounded on the : East by : Portions of Site No. 57, 59, 62 & 64; West by : Portion of site No. 57 & 64; North by : Private Property and Road; South by : Private Property
Given under my hand seal of the Court on 13/10/2026
By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, Commercial Court Unit, City Civil Court, Bangalore
KNS LEGAL, Advocates
No. 11/3-5/2nd Floor, Palace Loop Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore -560 001.

Government of Tamil Nadu
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
ALAGAPPA CHETTIAR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY (AUTONOMOUS),
KARAIKUDI - 630 003. Telephone No.: 04565-224535
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited under two bid system for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Equipments, Tools and Machines for Setting up an Aicte Idea Lab as detailed below at Alagappa Chettiar Government College of Engineering and Technology.

S.No	Tender Ref.No.	Brief Description of the Equipments	Last Date & Time for Tender submission
1.	ACGCET/KKDI/5732/B1/2026	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Equipments, Tools and Machines for Setting up an AICTE IDEA Lab	Date: 18.11.2026, Time: 02.30 P.M.
2.	ACGCET/KKDI/5731/B1/2026	Supply of Computers, Monitors and Printers for setting up an AICTE IDEA Lab	Date: 18.11.2026, Time: 02.30 P.M.
3.	ACGCET/KKDI/5733/B1/2026	Supply of Consumables for AICTE IDEA LAB	Date: 18.11.2026, Time: 02.30 P.M.

The tender document along with detailed specifications of the equipments can be downloaded from the Tamilnadu Government e-Tender website www.tntenders.gov.in and College Website www.accetedu.in. Interested vendors may visit the above website and upload your quotations through online only. Corrigendum if any, issued after publication of this Tender Notice will be published in the above e-Tender website. You may please visit the site regularly.
Principal
DIPR/3239/Tender/2026 (Tender Inviting Authority), Alagappa Chettiar Government College of Engineering, Karaikudi - 3.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT
AUCTION NOTICE
The e-auction for sale of Karuvel / Seemai karuvel Social Forestry Plantations of Tamil Nadu Forest Department will be conducted through MSTC Portal from 23rd November 2026 to 9th December 2026 (except Government holidays) in the districts of Tirunelveli/ Thoothukudi / Tenkasi / Madurai / Sivagangai / Theni / Trichy/Pudukottai/ Ariyalur / Thanjavur / Tiruvarur / Karur / Dharmapuri / Krishnagiri / Tiruvannamalai / Vellore / Tirupathur / Ranipet / Villupuram / Kallakurichi / Cuddalore / Chengalpattu / Tiruvallur / Kanchipuram.
For further E-auction details, please see MSTC:
Website:www.mstcecommerce.com
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
DIPR/935/Display/2026

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KENDUJHAR
eMail : se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
eProcurement Notice for Road, Building & Bridge Works
Bid Identification No. NCB-22 / RWCKJR / 2026-27
25001/1415/2627 No. 5618 / Date: 27.10.2026 /
1. Name of the work :- Construction of Road Works under MMSY (Mission PoWaR), Bridge Works under Setu Bandhan Yojana & Building Works in the District of Kendujhar.
2. No. of work :- 07 (Seven) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost :- As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of contractor (Eligible) :- As per Annexure in NIT.
5. Period of completion :- As per Annexure in NIT.
6. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Kendujhar	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendujhar	NCB-22/ RW-CKJR/ 2026-27	Dt.04.11.26 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.18.11.26 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt.17.11.26 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.19.11.26 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

• Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in
OIPR- 25001/25177/1/26-27/0024 Sd/- Chief Engineer, R.W. Circle, Kendujhar

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank

SELAIYUR BRANCH

Plot No.17 & 18, Hasan Nagar Colony, Agaram Road, Selaiyur, Chennnai - 73.
Telephone : 044-22291312. email : selaiyur@indianbank.bank.in

APPENDIX IV-A [See Proviso to rule 8(6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

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 Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Selaiyur Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is"** and **"Whatever there is"** on **20.11.2026,** for recovery of **Rs.2,43,96,106/- (Rupees Two crores forty three lakhs ninety six thousand one hundred and six only) (as on 27.10.2026)** with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 28.10.2026, due to the Indian Bank, Selaiyur Branch, Secured Creditor from :

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWERS **(1) Mr. Abdul Rahaman, (Borrower/Mortgagor),** S/o Abdul Gafoor, No.42, Tamilar Street, Kalkattu Thoppu, Tittacherry, Nagapattinam, Tamilnadu - 609 703, **Also at :** Flat No.S-1, 2nd Floor, Flat No.T-1 and T2 Third Floor, "Mayuri Sunshine", Plot No.1, Balaji Nagar Main Road, Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099. **(2) Mrs. Serajunnisha, (Co-borrower),** No.42, Tamilar Street, Kalkattu Thoppu, Tittacherry, Nagapattinam, Tamilnadu - 609 703, **Also at :** Flat No.S-1, 2nd Floor, Flat No.T-1 and T2 Third Floor, "Mayuri Sunshine", Plot No.1, Balaji Nagar Main Road, Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below :

Property 1 - Flat No.T-2, A/c No.7662932893. Schedule A (Total Property) : All that part & parcel of land & building situated at part of Plot No.1, measuring an extent of 4500 Sq. ft., in Balaji Nagar, Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099, comprised in Survey No.137/6, New Survey No.137/6A3, Block No.40, Survey Field No.136/2, Survey No.137/6 part as per Town Survey Land Register Town Survey No.136, situated at Kolathur Village, Ayanavaram Taluk, Chennai District, within the limits of Chennai Corporation. **Schedule B :** All that piece and parcel of 450 Sq. ft. UDS of land out of Schedule 'A' mentioned property, together with super build up area of 1150 Sq. ft., 2 bedroom flat are thereabouts which includes, shares in the common built up area along with one covered car parking in the flat name "Mayuri Sun Shine" bearing Flat No.T-2, in Third Floor, in Plot No.1, Balaji Nagar, Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099, comprised in Survey No.137/6, New Survey No.137/6A3, Block No.40, Survey Field No.136/2, Survey No.137/6 part as per Town Survey Land Register Town Survey No.136, situated at Kolathur Village, Ayanavaram Taluk, Chennai District, within the limits of Chennai Corporation. **Prior Encumbrances on property : Nil. PROPERTY ID No. : IDIB7662932893**

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.60.00 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.25,000/- | **EMD : Rs.6.00 Lakhs**

Property 2 - Flat No.S-1, A/c No.7662891968. Schedule A (Total Property) : All that part & parcel of land & building situated at part of Plot No.1, measuring an extent of 4500 Sq. ft., in Balaji Nagar, Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099, comprised in Survey No.137/6, New Survey No.137/6A3, Block No.40, Survey Field No.136/2, Survey No.137/6 part as per Town Survey Land Register Town Survey No.136, situated at Kolathur Village, Ayanavaram Taluk, Chennai District, within the limits of Chennai Corporation. **Schedule B :** All that piece and parcel of 450 Sq. ft. UDS of land out of Schedule 'A' mentioned property, together with super build up area of 1150 Sq. ft., 2 bedroom flat are thereabouts which includes, shares in the common built up area along with one covered car parking in the flat name "Mayuri Sun Shine" bearing Flat No.S-1, in Second Floor, in Plot No.1, Balaji Nagar, Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099, comprised in Survey No.137/6, New Survey No.137/6A3, Block No.40, Survey Field No.136/2, Survey No.137/6 part as per Town Survey Land Register Town Survey No.136, situated at Kolathur Village, Ayanavaram Taluk, Chennai District, within the limits of Chennai Corporation. **Prior Encumbrances on property : Nil. PROPERTY ID No. : IDIB7662891968**

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.60.00 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.25,000/- | **EMD : Rs.6.00 Lakhs**

Property 3 - Flat No.T-1, A/c No.7662834397. Schedule A (Total Property) : All that part & parcel of land & building situated at part of Plot No.1, measuring an extent of 4500 Sq. ft., in Balaji Nagar, Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099, comprised in Survey No.137/6, New Survey No.137/6A3, Block No.40, Survey Field No.136/2, Survey No.137/6 part as per Town Survey Land Register Town Survey No.136, situated at Kolathur Village, Ayanavaram Taluk, Chennai District within the limits of Chennai Corporation. **Schedule B :** All that piece and parcel of 450 Sq. ft. UDS of land out of Schedule 'A' mentioned property, together with super build up area of 1150 Sq. ft., 2 bedroom flat are thereabouts which includes, shares in the common built up area along with one covered car parking in the flat name "Mayuri Sun Shine" bearing Flat No.T-1, in Third Floor, in Plot No.1, Balaji Nagar, Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099, comprised in Survey No.137/6, New Survey No.137/6A3, Block No.40, Survey Field No.136/2, Survey No.137/6 part as per Town Survey Land Register Town Survey No.136, situated at Kolathur Village, Ayanavaram Taluk, Chennai District, within the limits of Chennai Corporation.**Prior Encumbrances on property : Nil. PROPERTY ID No. : IDIB7662834397**

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.60.00 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.25,000/- | **EMD : Rs.6.00 Lakhs**

PROPERTY 1 | PROPERTY 2 | PROPERTY 3

Date and Time of Inspection of the Properties & related documents :
12.11.2026 to 13.11.2026 between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION : 20.11.2026 FROM 10.00 A.M. TO 4.00 P.M.

Last Date for submission of Tender form/EMD : 20.11.2026

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://www.baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. Helpdesk No. 8291220220, email ID :- **support.baanknet@psballiance.com** and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. and EMD Status, please contact **support.baanknet@psballiance.com**. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit : **https://www.baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal please contact Helpdesk No.8291220220. **Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number** mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://www.baanknet.com.**

Date : 29.10.2026
Place : Chennai

AUTHORISED OFFICER,
INDIAN BANK.

UJVN Limited

Head Quarter: "Ujjwal" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun -248006
Telephone Number: 0135-2523223, website: www.ujvnl.uk.gov.in
C.I.N. No. - U40101UR2001SGC025866

RO No. 1023 **Time Extension Notice-2** Dated : 31/10/2026

INVITATION OF BIDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL HYDRO PROJECTS IN UTTARAKHAND

Due to unavoidable circumstances various date of **Bid No. 05/ GM(SHP)/UJVNL/2026-27, Bid No.06/GM(SHP)/UJVNL/2026-27 and Bid No. 07/GM(SHP)/UJVNL/2026-27** "Development of small hydro projects in Uttarakhand" invited by office of the General Manager (SHP), UJVN Limited, Dehradun and Expert (Technical), Urja Cell, Department of Energy, GoUK, Dehradun is hereby extended as follows:

Last date of sale and downloading of RFQ cum RFP Document	12.11.2026
Last date for submission of completed bid document	13.11.2026 (till 15:00 Hours)
Date of opening of technical proposal	13.11.2026 (from 15:30 Hours onwards)

All other terms and conditions of the above Bids shall remain unchanged. For other details kindly visit Nigam's website: **www.ujvnl.uk.gov.in**

Expert (Technical), Urja Cell, Department of Energy, GoUK | **General Manager (SHP), UJVNL, Dehradun**

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office, No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-mail id:** crmd@cityunionbank.in,
Phone : 0435 - 2432322 **Fax:** 0435-2431746

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES

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 provise to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1)of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the Public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Guarantor (s) and/or Mortgagor (s), that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to City Union Bank ("Secured Creditor"), the **Constructive Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **City Union Bank Ltd** (Secured Creditor) will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS"** on **17.12.2026,** for recovery of **Rs.24,54,996/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Six Only)** as on **27.10.2026** due to the City Union Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor), from **No.1.M/s.K Dot Om Enterprises (Represented by its Proprietor Mr.Omprakash.D),** Old No.40/1, New No.72/1, Sathiyamurthi Street, Thiruvallur - 602001. **No.2.Mr.Omprakash.D, S/o.Devarajan AJ,** New No.72,Old No.40/2, Sathiyamurthi Street, Opp AJJ Ice Factory, Thiruvallur - 602001. **No.3.Mr.Devarajan AJ, S/o.Jayaram Chettiyar,** New No.72,Old No.40/2, Sathiyamurthi Street, Opp AJJ Ice Factory, Thiruvallur - 602001. **No.4.Mrs. Pourselvi.R, W/o. Omprakash.D,** New No.72,Old No.40/2, Sathiyamurthi Street, Opp AJJ Ice Factory, Thiruvallur - 602001. **No.5.Mrs. Kalaivani D, W/o.Devarajan AJ,** New No.72,Old No.40/2, Sathiyamurthi Street, Opp AJJ Ice Factory, Thiruvallur - 602001.

Note: That our 638-Vengathur Branch has also extended financial assistance (CUB OSL TERM EMI-BR: 501812080076759) dated 21-Nov-2020 requested by No 3. of you for which No.2 of you stood as co-obligants and No. 4 & 5 of you stood as guarantor for the facility for a total amount of Rs.12,15,000 at a ROI of 12.25% and the balance outstanding as on 27.10.2026 is Rs.4,05,610/- plus penal 2.00% p.a with monthly rests since 28.10.2026 till realization

The Reserve Price, the Earnest Money Deposit and other details are mentioned below:

Last Date and Time of Submission of EMD	**16.12.2026, Time: 04.00 PM**
Date and Time of E-Auction Sale	**17.12.2026, Time: 12.00 Noon-01.00 PM**
Place of Submission of EMD, Bid form and Contact Details	**City Union Bank Limited, Vengathur Branch, No. 159 / A, Poonnamalee High Road, Basheer Nagar, Ondikuppam, Vengathur, Thiruvallur - 602002. Email: thameem@cityunionbank.in Cell Nos: 8925964907, 8925964901**
Reserve Price	**Rs.4,35,75,000/- (Rupees Four Crore Thirty Five Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Only)**
EMD 10% of Reserve Price	**Rs.43,57,500/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Only)**
Bid Multiplier	**Rs.5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Only)**
Portal of E-auction	**www.auctionbazaar.com**

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY - Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
Property Owned By Mr.Devarajan AJ S/o.Mr.Jayaram Chettiyar

In Kancheepuram Registration District, Thiruvallur District, Thiruvallur Taluk, Thiruvallur Sub-Registration District, No.57, Thiruvallur Village,Comprised in Old Natham Survey No.271/12 part,as per patta No.832, Town Survey No.27, Ward A, Block No.16, an extent of 540 Sq.meter equaling to 5810 Sq.Ft., As per Document and Valuation an extent of 6703 Sq.Ft., Vacant House site and its thereabouts as follows : **Boundaries and Measurements as per Town Patta : North by** : House Site in T.S.No.26,**South by** : Chetty Street, **East by** : Santhu Veedhi, **West by** : House Site in T.S.No.20 & 21 Measurements : East to West : 15.6 meter on Northern Side; 16.2 + 1.5 meter on Southern side. North to South - 30.6 meter on Eastern Side, 34.8 Meter on Western Side. in Total 540 Sq.Meter Vacant House Site.

Encumbrances-Nil

For Detailed Terms and Conditions of the Sale please refer to the link provided in our bank website **www.cityunionbank.bank.in**

Place: **Kumbakonam,** Date: **31.10.2026** **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamilnadu - 612001, **CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Ph No.** 0435 - 2402322, **Fax :** 0435 - 2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

CLASSIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

NAME CHANGE

I, ESTHER JOY
W/o : J. Nesamani
Age : 35
Residing Address :
No. 63, 1st Floor,
Ganapathy Nager
3rd Street, Pallikaranai.
Chennai - 600 100.

Shall henceforth be known as
NESAMANI JOY

All the news. In just a click.
Log to www.newindianexpress.com



/thenewindianexpress
@newindianxpress
+The New Indian Express
Google Play
App Store

CAN FIN HOMES LTD

Can Fin Homes Ltd (Sponsor : CANARA BANK) HOME LOANS + DEPOSITS Translating Dreams into Reality

BRANCH : AMBATTUR
Old No.29A, New No.7A, Ground Floor, High School Road, Secretariat Colony, Ambattur, Chennai-600 053. Ph: 044- 26572050 / 7625079145, Email:ambattur@canfinhomes.com
CIN –L85110KA1987PLC008699

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)"

To,
1. **Mrs. Nisha Hermus (Applicant)**
2. **Mr. Hermus.I (Co Applicant)**
3. **Mr. Nishore. R (Guarantor)**

All are residing at : No.15, Thirumagal Nagar, 2nd Street, Chitlapakkam Main Road, Selaiyur, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu - 600073.

No. 1 & 2 amongst you have availed a housing loan from our branch against the security of mortgage of the following asset/s belonging to both of you. An amount of **Rs.22,05,761.28 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Five thousand Seven hundred Sixty one and paise Twenty Eight Only)** is due from you, to Can Fin Homes Ltd. as on **31.10.2026** together with future interest at the contracted rate.

SCHEDULE OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of vacant plot measuring an extent of **1800 sqft** bearing Plot no 250, Comprised in S no 156/11 and 156/4(as per patta No 6331 in New Sub division SNo.156/7) situated at village no 51, Nemili "A" Village, approved by director of town and country planning authority in CR/D.T.C.P(M)144-83/L.P.107-83, layout name as "Adhiparasakthi Nagar (A.P.NAGAR)" Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District bounded on the North by : Plot no 244, South by : 24 feet road, East by: Plot no 251, West By: Plot no 249. East to West on the Northen side: 30 feet, East to West on the Southern side : 30 feet, North to South on the Eastern side : 60 feet, North to South on the Western side : 60 feet.

Registered demand notice was sent to you under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, but the same was returned unserved. The undersigned has, therefore, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known addresses of the said Borrower/s as per the said Act. Hence this paper publication. As you have failed to adhere to the terms of the sanction, the account is classified as a Non Performing Asset on **29.10.2026** as per the NHB Guidelines. You are hereby called upon to pay the above said amount with contracted rate of interest as on **31.10.2026** thereon within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which the undersigned will be constrained to Initiate action under SARFAESI Act to enforce the aforesaid security. Further, the attention of borrowers / guarantors is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 31.10.2026
Place: Chennai

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

CSB Bank
Trusted Heritage Smart Future

PUBLIC NOTICE ON AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower/s in specific and interested bidders in general, are hereby informed that on account of non-repayment of the Banks due by the borrowers as under despite the payment notice and recall/auction notice issued by the Bank, the gold ornaments pledged with the bank security by the respective borrowers for the loan availed by them will be sold in public auction on "as is where is" and "non-recourse" at branch premises on **12th November 2026 at 10.30 AM**. The auction may be adjourned to any other later date at the discreation of the bank upon publication of the same in the Bank's notice board. The borrowers are hereby further inform that the gold ornaments will be disposed of by Public auction/e-auction, if the auction is not successful and if there is a further balance to be recovered thereafter, legal action will be initiated against the borrower/s for recovery of the balance amounts due to the bank. "In case of Deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs."

S. No.	Auction Center CSB Branch	Account Name	Client ID	No. of Acc.	Bal. Outstanding as on 29-10-2026	Weight (grams)
1	Chennai - 1 (Beach Road)	Muthukumar B	07834622	001	6,35,816.18	59.40
2	Purusawalkam	Ajithkumar E	07332852	002	1,63,906.53	24.00
3	Purusawalkam	Dhanasekar	00131697	004	4,65,417.69	66.70
4	Purusawalkam	G V Naveena Dhanpal	10065093	001	10,75,013.48	142.90
5	Purusawalkam	Hemalatha Prasath	10251941	001	5,01,917.99	49.80
6	Purusawalkam	Shabeen	04579163	001	3,69,290.38	51.80
7	Kodambakkom	Gino Raj	10272874	001	7,67,820.60	68.00
8	Kodambakkom	Hasan Ali	10272884	002	8,31,546.55	73.60
9	Kodambakkom	Hastimal Sharma B	08215130	001	7,28,562.86	78.30
10	Kodambakkom	Raja Chinnadurai	07781963	005	65,61,916.26	592.70
11	Kodambakkom	Senthil Nathan S	03704313	001	7,95,771.20	67.90
12	Kodambakkom	Vasanth R	10262739	001	7,97,622.14	80.80
13	Royapettah	Gayathri M	10112549	001	14,42,984.31	128.10
14	Royapettah	Hamida Banu	04436695	001	12,16,615.88	103.30
15	Royapettah	Kuraisha Begam Babu Syed	10269372	001	19,81,322.02	305.80
16	Royapettah	Lakshmanan P	07779287	003	19,84,190.80	179.80
17	Royapettah	Pushpa Kanchana M	07980746	001	38,33,685.42	352.80
18	Royapettah	Saitkani S	07667211	001	54,03,938.14	468.90
19	Royapettah	Suji	04783123	002	8,78,412.05	78.50
20	Chennai - 2 (Mount Road)	Gayathri S	07490093	001	25,82,791.39	222.90
21	Chennai - 2 (Mount Road)	Sathiyaseelanp .	10263594	001	2,68,805.70	24.50
22	Chennai - 2 (Mount Road)	Sekar R	04185265	001	38,88,460.21	335.60
23	Tiruvallur	Anandanayaki A	04643007	002	22,07,936.60	206.40
24	Tiruvallur	Gracy M	04983381	002	2,86,008.23	29.50
25	Tiruvallur	Jeeva Raj G	04755587	002	8,72,472.53	79.70
26	Tiruvallur	K Vanniyamalar	04315033	001	4,46,910.12	45.60
27	Tiruvallur	K Easter Rani	07856617	001	65,312.12	6.30
28	Tiruvallur	Mahalingam	07099662	002	4,63,333.30	43.60
29	Tiruvallur	Manigandan M	04398082	001	12,15,447.07	123.20
30	Tiruvallur	Manikandan M	04647791	001	12,53,241.37	138.10
31	Tiruvallur	Priyanka B P	08274157	003	11,75,372.50	118.60
32	Tiruvallur	S Ragavendran	10043919	001	2,17,451.47	22.70
33	Tiruvallur	S Vasantha	10112391	001	27,59,127.82	237.80
34	Tiruvallur	Sanjaykumar .	08204877	002	7,11,778.77	63.50
35	Tiruvallur	Sarathkumar N S	07474898	001	21,36,684.20	203.70
36	Tiruvallur	Shanbee Ibrahim	10263248	001	8,53,782.59	91.40
37	Tiruvallur	Simson M	04392179	001	7,23,033.71	67.00
38	Tiruvallur	Srinivasan	10199969	001	98,84,562.44	826.00
39	Pallavaram	A B Deepikaprabha	07395511	001	1,55,437.27	15.00
40	Pallavaram	Chandra S	10271637	001	6,73,518.96	64.40
41	Pallavaram	Dhanush R	10270347	002	2,03,911.85	19.50
42	Pallavaram	Edwin Thalabathy Jesudason	07373315	002	14,00,553.90	131.20
43	Pallavaram	Kanniyappan B	07984968	001	7,49,675.92	74.00
44	Pallavaram	Pkamlesh Jain	08164138	002	5,87,707.90	51.00
45	Pallavaram	R Vinayagamurugan	07941791	002	19,36,304.37	195.70
46	Pallavaram	Selvanayagam M	10148818	002	7,60,659.98	68.50
47	Pallavaram	Shaik Ismail Abdul Hammed	08113742	003	64,02,533.05	590.40
48	Pallavaram	Swetha Mahalingam	10264121	002	7,75,470.32	72.20
49	T Nagar	Ggomathi Sathesh	10025443	001	9,00,046.10	85.10
50	T Nagar	M Mohan	10082207	001	53,16,397.63	485.40
51	T Nagar	Pushparaj Sundaram	08344450	001	78,963.89	40.00
52	Ambattur	Aarthi G	10272857	001	9,06,215.40	80.00
53	Ambattur	Ajith S	10231375	001	1,00,512.43	11.20
54	Ambattur	B Mansharam	08342384	003	5,23,183.57	68.50
55	Ambattur	Karthik J	04459731	002	13,31,227.28	124.00
56	Ambattur	Nagarajan S	07910889	001	59,152.54	7.50
57	Ambattur	Pattu M	07933743	002	32,01,027.52	304.60
58	Ambattur	S D Rajan	07815874	001	3,70,892.06	32.60
59	Ambattur	Tasneem Rasul	07866969	001	4,41,432.77	41.20
60	Padi	Kanagarajan Packiam	10168876	004	53,37,175.10	462.50
61	Padi	Manikandaraja B	08290830	001	3,74,597.23	34.80
62	Padi	Muthukumaran V	08251741	001	3,42,949.37	32.00
63	Padi	Nisha	03850411	003	6,96,272.75	66.90
64	Padi	R Maran	08213262	005	30,37,381.30	300.80
65	Padi	Suganthi R	10264558	002	6,71,738.38	60.90
66	Anna Nagar	B V Vikram .	03964966	001	74,02,090.37	691.80
67	Anna Nagar	Edayaraj	07730930	002	5,57,370.96	48.50
68	Anna Nagar	K Vijayaraj	07550343	001	34,10,098.41	299.20
69	Anna Nagar	Lydia Daniel	10294696	001	8,25,210.08	71.40
70	Anna Nagar	R Vivekraaj	07951483	002	19,07,066.73	163.80
71	Peravellur	Dewakar .	10273604	001	4,43,474.89	39.00
72	Peravellur	Estharrani B	10265801	001	99,631.42	10.30
73	Peravellur	Ezhilarasi	10093281	004	36,30,981.39	338.50
74	Peravellur	Gnanam	10089425	004	39,24,684.69	366.00
75	Peravellur	Janaki Raman	10253035	001	6,52,390.23	62.30
76	Peravellur	Monika V	03970248	002	5,80,454.69	68.90
77	Peravellur	Srinivasan J	10137490	001	5,71,709.09	54.40
78	Avadi	Kanniyammal Chandran	10184727	001	8,59,568.74	78.00
79	Avadi	Lakshmi Kanthan Arunachalam	04208335	001	3,65,562.14	34.20
80	Avadi	Monika Jain	08235977	001	18,59,769.35	199.90
81	Avadi	P.jawahar	04173678	002	3,09,022.56	31.70
82	Avadi	Prabhakaran P	08319238	001	6,57,675.25	58.30
83	Avadi	Saravanan M	07532116	001	66,127.26	6.90
84	Avadi	Sathyakala S	10270341	003	6,61,877.28	58.60
85	Avadi	Swaminathan Mahalingam	03761749	001	1,16,757.29	10.80
86	Sriperumbudur	Kumaravel	04077719	001	1,65,847.44	16.00
87	Sriperumbudur	Prabhakaran T	03982074	008	70,66,355.24	1,002.10
88	Tambaram	Joshua P	08243850	001	2,11,736.83	19.80
89	Tambaram	Rajalakshmi Rajaji Manikandan	07412824	001	2,00,682.96	18.40
90	Tambaram	Rajeswari V	08357696	004	15,71,896.96	142.80
91	Tambaram	Sathish Kumar Manoharan	10105013	004	98,79,905.14	858.30
92	Tambaram	Sukanya Arun	08246658	001	1,78,099.20	15.50
93	Tambaram	Vishnuvardhan V V	10143091	001	35,52,324.59	330.92
94	Poonamallee	Rajamalar Balasundharam	07397684	001	8,64,597.74	85.30
95	Poonamallee	Sarumathi S	10153751	001	7,71,871.98	66.90
96	Poonamallee	Siva Amulraj	07668729	001	7,73,187.29	69.40
97	Poonamallee	Tamilselvan B	10145907	001	7,46,489.86	64.70
98	Kolathur	Manikandan Karuppaiya	07919585	001	8,66,640.57	134.70
99	Kolathur	Shipporah Jayaseeli G	08214063	001	5,97,590.69	51.90
100	Kolathur	Syed Ali Fathima M	07946796	008	42,09,602.61	385.40
101	Porur	Abirami	07438823	001	6,67,959.89	89.40
102	Porur	Dharmakrishnan A	07397770	002	12,75,189.62	118.20
103	Porur	K Hariprasad	10232677	001	13,23,582.64	114.80
104	Porur	Lakshmi .	07484012	001	7,21,699.60	63.30
105	Porur	Maniyarasan M	10270340	001	6,61,095.30	59.40
106	Porur	N Geetha	07349064	003	51,90,572.25	520.40
107	Porur	Narmadha Sridhar	07931871	001	1,10,994.77	10.20
108	Porur	Saravanan Thunaivan	10166122	002	5,25,538.82	47.40
109	Porur	Shanmugadevi	04546303	002	6,55,118.62	60.40
110	Porur	U Vigneshwaran	07439124	001	7,27,359.42	72.70
111	Porur	Yuvaraj S	10257272	002	5,45,504.49	50.00
112	Medavakkam	Gopikannan .	07909377	001	9,40,271.06	81.00
113	Medavakkam	Jagan Kannadhasan	10262077	001	50,15,477.49	420.50
114	Medavakkam	Kishorekumar M	08290044	001	8,59,437.54	76.10
115	Medavakkam	Mathumitha .	08349236	001	5,11,615.52	47.90
116	Medavakkam	Narmatha Ramakrishnan	04685865	001	5,55,030.19	51.00
117	Medavakkam	Saratha K	04221774	003	10,35,434.98	91.90
118	Medavakkam	Subramanian Kumarasamy Mardhandan	10081762	001	15,65,951.53	161.00
119	Medavakkam	Sumithra Devi M	07953636	002	62,70,864.46	588.20
120	Guduvancherry	Franklin Rocher A	07905409	005	17,97,961.61	163.10
121	Guduvancherry	Rajkumar Srinivasan	10399057	001	4,40,105.74	39.80
122	Guduvancherry	Rakesh Jayabal	10061578	001	27,90,797.86	251.10
123	Guduvancherry	Satheesh Kumar S T	07460973	004	32,39,570.12	296.20
124	Guduvancherry	Vaideeswaran	10091311	003	11,92,649.12	111.60
125	Thirunindravur	Gayathri Balaraman	10262254	002	7,17,794.62	72.90
126	Thirunindravur	Kshiraj Borana R	08186771	001	66,315.40	11.30
127	Thirunindravur	Sivagami Kannan	07793121	001	8,39,404.77	79.50
128	Thirunindravur	Vasuki D	04613090	002	5,67,715.96	51.50
129	Thiruvanmiyur	Dhanalakshmi P	10266667	001	23,70,899.11	220.00
130	Thiruvanmiyur	Dhavam K	07919368	001	14,67,067.95	130.80
131	Thiruvanmiyur	Karthick M	10221671	001	1,07,14,656.63	939.00
132	Thiruvanmiyur	Keerthevasan A	04538894	002	19,05,334.87	180.00
133	Thiruvanmiyur	Raj	10154502	001	76,026.05	6.80
134	Thiruvanmiyur	Shakthivel Duraisami	07683294	001	10,20,850.45	88.50
135	Thiruvanmiyur	Sindhu N	08217547	001	2,28,139.15	21.00
136	Thiruvanmiyur	Thenmozhi Vijayakumar	10021385	001	14,08,712.39	125.70
137	Thiruvanmiyur	Vignesh D	08270795	001	1,83,995.31	34.40
138	Chengalpattu	A Udhayakumar	08123330	001	7,98,580.74	76.70
139	Chengalpattu	Anandan S	08238023	001	7,14,295.99	67.80
140	Chengalpattu	Anbazhagan	10252903	001	5,27,411.57	45.70
141	Chengalpattu	Dhayalan Sundaramurthi	07975433	001	5,19,813.47	51.30
142	Chengalpattu	Evangeline Sugirthamani E	10142764	002	9,95,552.01	98.70
143	Chengalpattu	Panneer S	10263805	001	1,04,828.86	12.00
144	Chengalpattu	Pooja P	10274319	001	8,49,537.03	81.00
145	Chengalpattu	Premnath C	07921853	002	8,32,777.50	81.50
146	Chengalpattu	Subash S	10214153	002	3,56,502.45	41.00
147	Chengalpattu	U Gokul	10262518	004	13,28,620.75	130.90
148	Chengalpattu	Velu Muthu	10271508	001	3,19,887.46	34.20
149	Cheyyur	Vetry P	04371070	006	68,76,437.64	666.80
150	Neelankarai	B Alarmelu Mangai	10344048	001	4,58,202.57	38.90
151	Neelankarai	Brindha A	10299169	001	3,38,027.43	28.20
152	Neelankarai	Dhanasekaran M	08319168	002	37,67,172.31	325.50
153	Neelankarai	Jagan Manathi	10221575	001	3,32,911.44	28.40
154	Neelankarai	Kaviya Sivasekar	10271322	001	3,38,250.51	30.00
155	Red Hills	A Amudha	10265154	002	47,35,383.95	414.30
156	Red Hills	Ashokkumar E	10249217	004	7,78,092.28	79.90
157	Red Hills	Boopathiraja	07779402	001	5,78,772.40	54.00
158	Red Hills	J Samuvel	08327361	002	15,33,889.56	147.50
159	Red Hills	Kiruthiga Adhithan	10311335	001	11,77,599.43	104.00
160	Red Hills	Mathan T	10272873	001	6,07,452.05	58.60
161	Red Hills	P Karthikeyan	10302295	001	7,78,327.87	68.60
162	Red Hills	Pradeep Kumar	10377657	001	7,48,514.04	73.00
163	Red Hills	Senthilkumar .	10247782	002	3,27,539.07	36.40
164	Red Hills	Shanmuga Valli L	10272296	001	8,53,103.67	75.50
165	Red Hills	Vasu Kasi	08226757	001	7,28,082.78	71.10
166	Red Hills	Vijay Kandasamy	10302392	001	7,37,995.35	62.50
167	Kanchipuram	Gokul P	10270719	001	4,46,373.71	40.10
168	Kanchipuram	Jothinath S	10270421	001	63,150.71	5.60
169	Kanchipuram	Monisha P	10051711	001	7,32,073.44	65.80
170	Kanchipuram	Nethaji S	07662711	001	19,11,509.37	215.70
171	Kanchipuram	Renuka Manikandan	08151239	001	30,922.44	5.30
172	Kanchipuram	Sivaraman Samuvel	07482580	002	38,61,945.25	340.20
173	Kanchipuram	Stalinm .	10296576	001	71,98,108.72	619.20
174	Kanchipuram	Thanigaiarasu Kannivel	08270086	001	20,31,751.57	177.50
175	Kanchipuram	Yuvaraj S	10257272	001	61,357.48	5.30
176	Mylapore	Boopalan Shankar Prasad	10297529	001	21,69,277.18	188.20
177	Mylapore	Doss Natarajan	10263152	001	8,05,870.81	76.70
178	Mylapore	K S Logeswaran	10121739	002	29,95,046.92	280.30
179	Mylapore	Kavitha Sridharbabu	10261136	001	8,33,192.73	80.70
180	Mylapore	M Mohan	10082207	001	4,01,035.77	37.50
181	Mylapore	Mohamed Kalith M	07539929	002	39,45,065.20	332.00
182	Mylapore	Prabavathi S	10268356	001	1,68,460.41	17.20
183	Mylapore	Rejini Therese R S	10263867	001	2,63,748.04	26.90
184	Nanganallur	Maran M P	07587523	003	19,82,400.30	175.60
185	Nanganallur	Thinagaran Suyambudurai	07570446	004	44,97,972.13	384.80
186	Nanganallur	Venkatesh Hari	10125706	003	31,44,017.85	269.80
187	Chitlapakkam	Dilli Ganesh	07724921	002	31,56,994.49	276.20
188	Chitlapakkam	Lithicksha S M	10266195	001	4,62,734.82	46.60
189	Chitlapakkam	Raman Krishna Kumar	10269917	001	13,37,797.00	122.40
190	Velachery	Gayathri Ganesan	04664191	001	3,36,880.24	36.00
191	Velachery	K Komathy	10018495	001	39,02,409.55	345.10
192	Velachery	Prasanth A	10272546	002	4,28,504.85	37.70
193	Velachery	Punniyavathi	10023687	001	6,04,895.88	53.50
194	Velachery	Rajesh Govindan	10195593	002	17,70,539.85	164.70
195	Velachery	Srimathi Nithya Gopalakrishnan	07711022	001	4,80,945.18	41.70
196	Kelambakkam	Dhanasekaran M	08319168	001	5,97,813.37	56.80
197	Kelambakkam	Karthikesan .	04797280	002	5,15,612.60	54.00
198	Kelambakkam	Manojkumar U	07890957	002	20,74,725.04	181.80
199	Kelambakkam	Subash Chandra Bose E	10268072	001	5,66,931.52	50.50
200	West Mambalam	C Rajesh	10388884	001	9,72,189.54	90.00
201	West Mambalam	Dinesh Kumar A	10270211	001	6,43,567.53	58.50
202	West Mambalam	Jeyamurugan Subbiah	04520483	002	26,60,074.47	237.10
203	West	Lalith Kumar E	04397735	004	74,75,427.66	708.70
204	West Mambalam	Nandakumar G	10273827	001	6,40,853.95	56.60
205	West Mambalam	Sheela Devi R	10346042	001	7,42,417.13	67.90
206	West Mambalam	Suresh	10144860	002	5,61,657.22	49.20
207	Koyambedu	Bharathi Kathiresan	10180860	001	45,79,402.79	398.20
208	Koyambedu	Mahadevi Palani	08224757	003	7,84,446.60	75.80
209	Koyambedu	Padmanaban	07983314	001	6,17,047.18	55.00
210	Koyambedu	Palani Arumugam	08224789	001	7,97,375.54	75.50
211	Aminjikarai	Ammu S	08346617	002	7,45,195.41	71.30
212	Aminjikarai	George A A	03995404	001	3,90,879.74	35.30
213	Aminjikarai	Getciya R	08303627	001	8,31,700.19	77.30
214	Aminjikarai	Immanuvel Gopalakrishnan	08113519	002	19,32,644.34	170.90
215	Aminjikarai	M Sanjeevkumar	04066739	002	11,99,369.33	108.70
216	Aminjikarai	Pattu	10372173	001	25,82,491.87	222.20
217	Aminjikarai	Prasanna G	07481371	001	7,11,056.10	64.30
218	Aminjikarai	Priyamvadha	10059364	002	12,26,572.69	110.30
219	Aminjikarai	R Shankar	10146524	001	24,25,482.05	214.60
220	Aminjikarai	Reginald Rozier	08240508	002	7,57,642.08	71.60
221	Aminjikarai	S Selvi	04844289	001	8,54,382.00	75.00
222	Aminjikarai	Satheshkumar .	10261028	001	3,35,673.74	32.90
223	Jawahar Nagar - Chennai	Haran	08298217	001	8,23,971.99	78.00
224	Jawahar Nagar - Chennai	Lokeshwaran K	07962178	002	8,52,383.25	74.00
225	Jawahar Nagar - Chennai	Ravindran M	10173043	001	6,70,848.37	60.70
226	Jawahar Nagar - Chennai	Sagayamary .	10266361	001	2,65,719.86	24.00
227	Jawahar Nagar - Chennai	Sanjay M R	10174303	001	7,48,986.92	69.00
228	Jawahar - Chennai	Sumathi Gopinath	03987611	003	27,39,464.03	246.50
229	Jawahar Nagar - Chennai	V Radhika	10178954	001	7,86,972.74	72.50
230	Jawahar Nagar - Chennai	Vignesh P	10077764	003	8,41,728.08	89.30
231	Manali - Chennai	J Keerthana	10268818	002	5,33,126.27	47.00
232	Manali -	J Nithya	10067938	001	13,83,876.82	121.00
233	Manali -	Lalith Kumar E	04397735	001	20,18,632.67	173.70
234	Manali -	V Sathya	10234701	001	3,96,920.84	38.40
235	Perungalathur	Padmanaban .	10375812	001	9,04,105.38	76.50
236	Perungalathur	Tendulkar S	10169072	002	7,36,272.74	64.80
237	Madambakkam	Seithonbeevi	10267814	001	8,63,843.84	78.50
238	Madambakkam	T M Ramesh	10106268	002	13,53,305.29	115.70
239	Chromepet	Edwin Thalabathy Jesudason	07373315	003	12,28,837.22	107.20
240	Thoraipakkam	Neelakandan Varadhan	08341758	001	4,13,866.82	39.20
241	Tiruvottiyur	Mala Elumalai	10369137	001	1,01,73,691.62	877.10
242	Tiruvottiyur	Parthiban V	10176938	002	6,22,180.23	55.00
243	Tiruvottiyur	Senjulakshmi M	10294963	001	3,92,592.58	34.00

For more details/account wise information borrowers/interested bidders may contact respective branches and for participating in the auction

TAMIL NADU | 02.11.2026 **Sd/- Authorized Officer, CSB Bank**

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank

MARAIMALAINAGAR BRANCH

No.28/A, Thiruvalluvar Salai, National Highway-1, Maraimalainagar - 603 209.
Telephone : 044 - 2745 2241. email : maraimalainagar@indianbank.bank.in

APPENDIX IV-A [See Proviso to rule 8(6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

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 Officer of Indian Bank, Maraimalai Nagar Branch, 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) M/s. DCC Interiors Pvt Ltd, (Borrower), New No.4, Flat No.3, I Floor, Kumaran Colony Second Street, Vadapalani, Chennai, Tamilnadu, India - 600 026, **Also at :** Kanda's Villa, 2nd Avenue, 8th Street, AE-3362R, 1st Floor, Anna Nagar West, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040. **(2) Mr. K. Devendiran, (Director, Guarantor & Mortgagor),** S/o Mr. Kuppan, Flat No.R-1502, R-Tower, Metro Zone, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040. **(3) Mrs. D. Sasikala, (Director & Guarantor),** W/o Mr. K. Devendran, Flat No.R-1502, R-Tower, Metro Zone, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040. **(4) M/s DCC Promoters Pvt Ltd., (Mortgagor),** Flat No.S2, Parvathy Apartment, Bazar Road, Mogappair East, Chennai - 600 037, **Also at :** Kanda's Villa, 2nd Avenue, 8th Street, AE-3362R, 1st Floor, Anna Nagar West, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040.

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE TO THE BANK AS ON 27.10.2026 : Rs.1,77,63,315/- (Rupees One crore seventy seven lakhs sixty three thousand three hundred and fifteen only) with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 28.10.2026.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : Property 1 : Immovable property namely Residential Apartment No.BG 1 measuring 679 Square feet situated at Ground Floor of the Residential Apartment Building "DCC-Athulya" along with 216 Square feet of undivided share of land out of total land measuring 3900 Square feet both situated at Plot Nos.331A, 331B (Old Plot No.331) situated at Residential Layout "Golden George Nagar" at Town Survey No.163 (Old Survey No.398 Part), Mogappair Village, Ambattur Taluk, Chennai District.

POSSESSION TYPE : Symbolic | **PROPERTY ID : IDIB7032018976A** | **ENCUMBRANCES ON PROPERTY : Nil**

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.70.11 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- | **EMD : Rs.7.01 Lakhs**

Property 2 : Immovable property namely Residential Apartment No.S2 measuring 774 Square feet situated at Residential cum Commercial Building Complex "DCC Agalya" along with 348 Square feet undivided share of land out of total land measuring 2401 Square feet both situated at Plot Nos.TMVB-27A1, TMVB-27A2, situated at Residential Layout "Oragadam Co-Operative Building Society's Colony" at Survey No.880/1, 880/2, 880/3, Thirumulaivoyal Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur, Chennai District.

POSSESSION TYPE : Symbolic | **PROPERTY ID : IDIB7032018976D** | **ENCUMBRANCES ON PROPERTY : Nil**

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.30.79 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- | **EMD : Rs.3.07 Lakhs**

Property 3 : Immovable property namely Residential Apartment No.AG1 measuring 769 Square feet situated at Ground Floor of the Residential Apartment Building "DCC-Athulya" along with 236 Square feet of undivided share of land out of total land measuring 3900 Square feet both situated at Plot Nos.331A, 331B (Old Plot No.331) situated at Residential Layout "Golden George Nagar" at Town Survey No.163 (Old Survey No.398 Part), Mogappair Village, Ambattur Taluk, Chennai District.

POSSESSION TYPE : Symbolic | **PROPERTY ID : IDIB7032018976E** | **ENCUMBRANCES ON PROPERTY : Nil**

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.81.23 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- | **EMD : Rs.8.12 Lakhs**

Property 4 : Immovable property namely Residential Apartment No.BF2 measuring 868 Square feet situated at First Floor of the Residential Apartment Building "DCC-Athulya" along with 401 Square feet of undivided share of land out of total land measuring 3900 Square feet both situated at Plot Nos.331A, 331B (Old Plot No.331) situated at Residential Layout "Golden George Nagar" at Town Survey No.163 (Old Survey No.398 Part), Mogappair Village, Ambattur Taluk, Chennai District.

POSSESSION TYPE : Symbolic | **PROPERTY ID : IDIB7032018976F** | **ENCUMBRANCES ON PROPERTY : Nil**

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.85.37 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- | **EMD : Rs.8.53 Lakhs**

Property 5 : Immovable property namely Residential Apartment No.BS2 measuring 868 Square feet situated at Second Floor of the Residential Apartment Building "DCC-Athulya" along with 401 Square feet of undivided share of land out of total land measuring 3900 Square feet both situated at Plot Nos.331A, 331B (Old Plot No.331) situated at Residential Layout "Golden George Nagar" at Town Survey No.163 (Old Survey No.398 Part), Mogappair Village, Ambattur Taluk, Chennai District.

POSSESSION TYPE : Symbolic | **PROPERTY ID : IDIB7032018976G** | **ENCUMBRANCES ON PROPERTY : Nil**

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.85.37 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- | **EMD : Rs.8.53 Lakhs**

PROPERTY 1 | PROPERTY 2 | PROPERTY 3 | PROPERTY 4 | PROPERTY 5

2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS : (1) M/s DCC Promoters Pvt Ltd., (Borrower), New No.4, Flat No.3, 1st Floor, Kumaran Colony Second Street, Vadapalani, Chennai, Tamilnadu, India - 600 026, **Also at :** Kanda's Villa, 2nd Avenue, 8th Street, AE-3362R, 1st Floor, Anna Nagar West, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040. **(2) Mr. K. Devendiran, (Director, Guarantor & Mortgagor),** S/o Mr. Kuppan, Flat No.R-1502, R-Tower, Metro Zone, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040. **(3) Mrs. D. Sasikala, (Director & Guarantor),** W/o Mr. K. Devendran, Flat No.R-1502, R-Tower, Metro Zone, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040.

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE TO THE BANK AS ON 27.10.2026 : Rs.94,55,019/- (Rupees Ninety four lakhs fifty five thousand and nineteen only) with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 28.10.2026.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : Property 1 : Immovable property namely Residential Apartment No.BG 1 measuring 679 Square feet situated at Ground Floor of the Residential Apartment Building "DCC-Athulya" along with 216 Square feet of undivided share of land out of total land measuring 3900 Square feet both situated at Plot Nos.331A, 331B (Old Plot No.331) situated at Residential Layout "Golden George Nagar" at Town Survey No.163 (Old Survey No.398 Part), Mogappair Village, Ambattur Taluk, Chennai District.

POSSESSION TYPE : Symbolic | **PROPERTY ID : IDIB7032018976A** | **ENCUMBRANCES ON PROPERTY : Nil**

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.70.11 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- | **EMD : Rs.7.01 Lakhs**

Property 2 : Immovable property namely Residential Apartment No.AG1 measuring 769 Square feet situated at Ground Floor of the Residential Apartment Building "DCC-Athulya" along with 236 Square feet of undivided share of land out of total land measuring 3900 Square feet both situated at Plot Nos.331A, 331B (Old Plot No.331) situated at Residential Layout "Golden George Nagar" at Town Survey No.163 (Old Survey No.398 Part), Mogappair Village, Ambattur Taluk, Chennai District.

POSSESSION TYPE : Symbolic | **PROPERTY ID : IDIB7032018976E** | **ENCUMBRANCES ON PROPERTY : Nil**

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.81.23 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- | **EMD : Rs.8.12 Lakhs**

Property 3 : Immovable property namely Residential Apartment No.BS2 measuring 868 Square feet situated at Second Floor of the Residential Apartment Building "DCC-Athulya" along with 401 Square feet of undivided share of land out of total land measuring 3900 Square feet both situated at Plot Nos.331A, 331B (Old Plot No.331) situated at Residential Layout "Golden George Nagar" at Town Survey No.163 (Old Survey No.398 Part), Mogappair Village, Ambattur Taluk, Chennai District.

POSSESSION TYPE : Symbolic | **PROPERTY ID : IDIB7032018976G** | **ENCUMBRANCES ON PROPERTY : Nil**

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.85.37 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- | **EMD : Rs.8.53 Lakhs**

PROPERTY 1 | PROPERTY 2 | PROPERTY 3

Date and Time of Inspection of the Properties & related documents :
12.11.2026 to 13.11.2026 between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION : 20.11.2026 FROM 10.00 A.M. AND 4.00 P.M.

Last Date for submission of Tender form/EMD : 20.11.2026

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://www.baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. Helpdesk No. 8291220220, email ID :- **support.baanknet@psballiance.com** and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. and EMD Status, please contact **support.baanknet@psballiance.com**.

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit : **https://www.baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal please contact Helpdesk No.8291220220.

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://www.baanknet.com.**

Date : 28.10.2026
Place : Maraimalai Nagar

AUTHORISED OFFICER,
INDIAN BANK.

FATAL MARATHON A 36-year-old software engineer, identified as Kommineni Gopi, working for IBM, died after collapsing shortly after completing a marathon at Gachibowli Stadium on Sunday

'Mobile used in Siddu sting op handed over to accused at HDK's Delhi house'

B'luru police chief makes claim at press meet following interrogation of prime accused Pandey

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru



THE mobile phone that was allegedly used in the sting operation targeting former chief minister Siddaramaiah was handed over to an accused at the official residence of Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy in New Delhi, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said on Sunday.

"The accused, Ritesh Pandey, who had been arrested, disclosed during interrogation that he and another accused, Vinod Sharma, purchased a mobile phone from a shop in Karol Bagh, Delhi, on the instructions of Prajwal Prasad. They later took it to Kumaraswamy's official residence on Kushak Road in New Delhi and handed it over to Prasad, who was present in the house," the commissioner told the media.

He said these details were given by Pandey and the claims are being verified as part of the ongoing investigation.

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) Cyber Crime Police arrested Pandey in Delhi on October 24 in connection with the case registered at the Cyber Crime Police Station, based on the complaint filed by Siddaramaiah. Pandey is now out on bail. "Notices have been issued to Vinod Sharma and Prajwal Prasad, but both have not responded and are absconding. We have learnt that they have filed anticipatory bail applications. Further investigation will only be possible after we interrogate Vinod and Prajwal once they are arrested. Their interrogation is expected to help establish the sequence of events and identify others involved in the alleged operation. We have gathered technical evidence, including CCTV footage and other digital records, besides detecting suspicious financial transactions between Pandey and Prasad. We are examining the roles of all the three, who are reportedly associated with the social media team at the union minister's office," the commissioner said.

The police are also probing on whose instructions the accused were acting on and whether others were involved in orchestrating the alleged sting operation. Singh said the police are examining the case from different angles and all claims and evidence will be verified before arriving at conclusions.

The development comes days after the Bengaluru police described the allegations of sexual abuse portrayed in the viral sting video involving Siddaramaiah as a fabricated and deliberately constructed narrative. The commissioner's office had released a statement, stating that the evidence collected so far, including statements of individuals appearing in the video, did not substantiate the alleged incident depicted in the recording. The police said all those featured in the video had been identified and examined, some of them more than once.

Don't be dejected by loss, get ready for bypolls: EPS to secys

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Sunday directed the district secretaries to fill up the vacant posts across the state at the earliest and report it to the party headquarters. He also told the district secretaries that there was no need to lose heart over the AIADMK's defeat in the bye-elections and urged them to gear up to face the impending bye-elections to the five Assembly constituencies since the ruling TVK and the DMK have already started preparations.

AIADMK sources said that after the district secretaries' meeting at the party headquarters, Palaniswami held another round of discussions with the district secretaries of the by-poll-bound districts at his residence.

A senior functionary said Palaniswami spoke at length about the bye-elections to Madurantakam and Dharapuram constituencies and that the AIADMK was able to secure its vote bank in both constituencies.

Asked whether local body elections were discussed, another senior leader said Palaniswami had pointed out that the ruling party was delaying the polls because its popularity had declined since the Assembly polls amid concerns over law and order, rising prices and other issues.

The government was, therefore, buying time to hold the elections, he said. Sources said the AIADMK leadership is pondering over giving suitable party posts to the women candidates — Kanitha Sampath and K Bhanumathi — who contested the bye-elections from Madurantakam and Dharapuram.

TVK SLAMMED FOR IGNORING AMMA PHARMACIES

CHENNAI: AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Sunday accused the TVK government of ignoring the need to provide affordable medicines to the people and demanded the reopening of Amma pharmacies across the state. Recalling that Amma pharmacies were launched by the AIADMK in 2014 to make essential medicines available at affordable prices, Palaniswami, in a statement, alleged that the DMK, after coming to power in 2021, renamed the pharmacies as Muthalvar pharmacies and handed them over to private operators, bringing the functioning of Amma pharmacies to a halt.

VCK man killed over flex banner dispute; 5 held

THOOTHUKUDI: An alleged dispute over the installation of a flex banner for a family function led to the murder of a VCK functionary by a gang that included a Dalit and caste Hindus at a fuel station near Thalamuthunagar on Rameshwaram road on Sunday morning. This is the 10th murder in the district in the past 10 days.

Police said C Balamurugan (41) of Chottaiyanthoppu, who had served as the deputy secretary of VCK in the Ottapidaram union, was hacked to death by a gang of four at 6 am on Sunday when he arrived to refuel his bike. A preliminary probe revealed that some locals opposed the flex banner he had installed late Saturday announcing a puberty function for his relative. A serious argument ensued in the middle of the night. Balamurugan's supporters allegedly slapped a few from the opposing group, said sources. Thereafter, four people who arrived on two bikes killed him at the petrol bunk. Thalamuthunagar police have arrested five suspects. *ENS*



C Balamurugan

Cow milk biomarkers found in archaeological lipid extracts in Keeladi and AP samples

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

EXPLAINING the process to *TNIE*, corresponding author Dr C Vijayanand and the study's first author, Prakash VS, a Senior Research Fellow (CSIR) at VIT, said food molecules released during cooking can become trapped in the microscopic pores of unglazed clay pots. The molecules bind tightly to the clay, which helps protect them from groundwater and microbial decay, allowing some to survive intact for thousands of years. These preserved molecules serve as "biomarkers", or chemical fingerprints that reveal the possible plant or animal origins of ancient meals and help researchers map early diets and trade routes.

K Rajan, adviser to the State Archaeology Department, told *TNIE* that technological advances were helping researchers determine what archaeological pots once contained. He cited the study as an example of how newer analytical methods were revealing their contents.

Vijayanand, associate professor at VIT, Vellore, stated that Organic Residue Analysis (ORA) is a vital technique in archaeology, providing molecular insights into the dietary habits, culinary traditions, and trade networks of ancient societies. However, conventional gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) often fails to detect complex, high-molecular-weight dietary biomarkers.

The team, therefore, used a liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry method, UPLC-Q-ToF-MS/MS, to analyse residues in four unglazed pottery sherds: two from Keeladi, dated to the sixth to second centuries BCE, and two from Gottiprolu, dated to the second to first centuries BCE. Non-destructive X-ray micro-computed tomography was used to examine the pottery's internal structure.

The researchers identified a specific complex organic molecule (a linear A-type procyanidin tetramer) that strongly pointed to the consumption of peanuts or similar nuts. To confirm this, they analysed modern-day peanuts. Peanuts are rich sources of a linear A-type procyanidin tetramer. While peanut skins make up less than 3% of a peanut's weight, they contain about 17% procyanidins, mostly oligomers with a degree of polymerization of 2 to 4. "The molecular ion peak, the fragments, and the fragmentation pattern of the procyanidin extracted from the modern-day peanut skin exactly match the mass spectra of the procyanidins extracted from the pottery," the researchers stated.

Additionally, the team identified six distinct cow's milk biomarkers in the archaeological lipid extracts. At both archaeological sites, zooarchaeological assemblages are dominated by Bos indicus faunal remains.

Therefore, the observed organic residues from cow's milk may be from Bos indicus. This suggests that the societies primarily depended on agriculture, cattle rearing, and dairying practices.

The paper nevertheless cautions that the findings from four sherds demonstrate the potential of the analytical method and should not be treated as representative of the wider population's diet. Its identification of the food sources rests on chemical comparisons rather than definitive biological identification.

The article is titled "Biomolecular evidence of early dairying and plant processing in 600 BCE–100 BCE South India".

Alongside Vijayanand and Prakash, the research team includes A Thennarasan (VIT), K Manivannan (Archaeological Survey of India), Deepa Sathish (PSGR Krishnammal College for Women), T Sreelakshmi (ASI), and R Sivanantham (State Archaeology Department).

NORTH TN, PONDY MAY RECEIVE MODERATE RAIN

Continued from page 1: On Tuesday, heavy rain is forecast only for the Nilgiris, while north Tamil Nadu and Puducherry may receive moderate rain at isolated places. Light to moderate rain is likely over the state for the rest of the week. In the 24 hours ending at 8.30am on Sunday, rain occurred at isolated places in Tamil Nadu, with Coonoor in the Nilgiris recording the highest, 69.7 mm.



SEARCH ON

Rescue operation underway by ODRAF and NDRF personnel at the landslide-hit Gidipabali village following a cloudburst during Cyclone Arnab. Two bodies were recovered but 10 people remain missing in Odisha's Ganjam district on Sunday | DEBADATTA MALLICK

4 new NDPS courts will be set up in Kanchi, Tiruvallur and Vellore

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CHILD rights activists welcomed the decision to open more courts but stressed that additional measures were needed to address the low conviction rate and mounting pendency.

"In a progressive state like TN, more cases of child sexual abuse are being reported as awareness grows and victims' families increasingly break the barriers of family and society to speak out. This is a positive development. However, the high pendency and low conviction rate remain a concern. The move also comes after the SC pulled up the state over the pendency of Pocso cases," said Devaneyan, a child rights activist. He also welcomed the government's recent decision to provide remuneration to Pocso support persons. However, he pointed out that designated courts continued to face shortages of infrastructure and staff, including special public prosecutors. Many courts also lacked child-friendly facilities and procedures, while concerns remained over whether prosecutors were adequately equipped to handle Pocso cases. Devaneyan called on the government to review and publish district-wise pendency figures to identify gaps in the system. As a long-term measure, he suggested appointing full-time child welfare police officers and establishing a dedicated unit to handle Pocso cases, on the lines of the law and order and crime wings. A comprehensive approach was essential to improve the conviction rate, he added.

Meanwhile, the four new NDPS courts will be established in Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Vellore, with one each in the first two districts and Vellore, and an additional court in Chennai. The new courts are part of the government's 'Drug-Free Tamil Nadu' initiative and are intended to expedite the disposal of pending cases, the release said.

EXPRESS READ

Cops' exhumation bid fails to bring out body of woman killed by hubby

DINDIGUL: A 36-year-old man, identified as K Lawrence, allegedly killed his wife Kowsalya (32) and dumped her body in a pit covered with construction debris along the Dindigul-Natham road. Police carried out exhumation bids on October 31 and Nov 1 but failed to recover her mortal remains. She was missing for the past few weeks, and suspecting foul play, her parents questioned Lawrence about her. On October 29, they lodged a police complaint. Lawrence confessed to murdering his wife the next day during interrogation.



Sri Ramachandra Faculty of Biomedical Sciences & Technology organised a two day hands-on workshop on training in RT-PCR, qPCR and Gene Expression Analysis. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Renuka Vidyashankar, MD of TN Apex Skill Development Center for Healthcare | EXPRESS

INTEGRAL COACH FACTORY
Chennai - 600 038

The following e-tenders are published in IREPS website. Firms are requested to login to **www.ireps.gov.in** and quote against the tender. Manual Quotation will not be entertained for the tender.

Open Tender No.	Short Description of the Item	Tender Value (₹)
2026499212367	Works Contract for Aluminium Composite Panelling and Associated works in LHB Coaches	22197983

Date of Tender	
Closing	Opening on
20.11.2026 at 14.45 hrs	20.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs.

Hindi Version of the above advertisement is available in
https://icf.indianrailways.gov.in
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer / FUR

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank

ZONAL OFFICE, KANCHEEPURAM
52 A & B, Sengazhuneerodai Street, Near Pookadaichatram, Kancheepuram - 631 502. Telephone : 044 - 2722 7117, 2723 3397.
email : zokancheepuram@indianbank.bank.in

APPENDIX IV-A [See Proviso to rule 8(6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

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 branches 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 .

INDIAN BANK, MAGARAL BRANCH : No.170 A, Raja Street, Magaral Village & Post, Kancheepuram, Tamilnadu - 631 603. Telephone : 044-27240332. email : magaral@indianbank.bank.in

1. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS : **(1) Shri Suresh R, (Borrower),** S/o Rajendiran Govindan, No.79, Vinayagar Kovil Street, Kavampair, Neyyadupakkam PO, Uthiramerur Taluk, Kancheepuram District - 631 603. **(2) Mr. Rajendiran Govindan, (Guarantor cum Mortgagor),** S/o Govindan, No.79, Vinayagar Kovil Street, Kavampair, Neyyadupakkam PO, Uthiramerur Taluk, Kancheepuram District - 631 603. **(3) Mrs. Nirmala, (Guarantor),** W/o Rajendiran Govindan, No.79, Vinayagar Kovil Street, Kavampair, Neyyadupakkam PO, Uthiramerur Taluk, Kancheepuram District - 631 603.

AMOUNT DUE TO THE BANK AS ON 27.10.2026 : **Rs.23,21,155/- (Rupees Twenty three lakhs twenty one thousand one hundred and fifty five only)** with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 28.10.2026.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : House property situated at Door No.28, Gramanatham Old Survey No.57 part, at present New Survey No.185/17, Kavampair Village, Uthiramerur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, its total admeasuring area 4698 Sq. ft., standing in the name of Shri. G. Rajendran, S/o Govindhan. Measuring North South 29 ft, East West 162 ft, in total 4698 Sq. ft.

POSSESSION TYPE : Physical | PROPERTY ID : IDIB6665609581 | ENCUMBRANCES ON PROPERTY : Nil

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.18.50 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- | **EMD : Rs.1.85 Lakhs**

INDIAN BANK, VIT CHENNAI CAMPUS BRANCH : VIT Chennai Campus, Vandalur-Kelambakkam Road, Keelakottaiyur Village, Melakottaiyur, Chengalpattu, Tamilnadu - 600 127. Phone : 9445008302. email : vitchennai@indianbank.bank.in

1. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS : **(1) Mr. P. Selva Kumar, (Borrower/Mortgagor),** S/o Pitchai, No.14, Nariyan Street, Srirangam, Thrichirapalli - 620 006. **(2) Mr. Rajamanickam, (Guarantor),** S/o Mr. Yogaraja, Plot No.5, Rajamanickam Illam, Vallalar Street, Velmurugan Nagar, Bypass Road, Arasaradi, Madurai - 625 016.

AMOUNT DUE TO THE BANK AS ON 27.10.2026 : **Rs.35,44,805/- (Rupees Thirty five lakhs forty four thousand eight hundred and five only)** with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 28.10.2026.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : **Survey No., Khata No., House No., Site No. :** Land comprised in S. No.107/2, Plot No.31 at Kolathur Village, Project name Rathi's Amravathi, Kolathur Village, Chengalppatu Taluk, Kancheepuram District. Chengalpattu Joint II Sub Registration District, Chengalpattu Registration District; **Extent/Area of Land/Building :** Land measuring 700 Sq. ft. with building; **Location, Village/Municipality/Sub - District/ District :** Land comprised in S. No.107/2 at Kolathur Village, Project name Rathi's Amaravathi, Kolathur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District.

POSSESSION TYPE : Physical | PROPERTY ID : IDIB7113548879 | ENCUMBRANCES ON PROPERTY : Nil

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.17.50 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- | **EMD : Rs.1.75 Lakhs**

2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS : **(1) Mr. Rajamanickam, (Borrower/Mortgagor),** S/o Yogaraja, Plot No.5, Rajamanickam Illam, Vallalar Street, Velmurugan Nagar, Bypass Road, Madurai South, Arasaradi - 625 016. **(2) Mr. P. Selva Kumar, (Guarantor),** S/o Pitchai, No.14, Nariyan Street, Srirangam, Thrichirapalli - 620 006

AMOUNT DUE TO THE BANK AS ON 27.10.2026 : **Rs.30,18,413/- (Rupees Thirty lakhs eighteen thousand four hundred and thirteen only)** with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 28.10.2026.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : **Survey No., Khata No., House No., Site No. :** All that piece and parcel of land and building Old Survey No.106/1, New Survey Nos.106/1A and 106/1B and Survey No.106/2 as per Patta No.517 and Old Survey No.107, New Survey No.107/2 as per Patta No.2385, situated at 50, Kolathur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Chengalpattu District, "Rathi's Amaravathi" bearing Plot No.34; **Extent/Area of Land/Building :** Land measuring 700 Sq. ft. and building with built up area 992 Sq. ft.; **Location, Village/ Municipality/Sub - District/District :** Land comprised in Old Survey No.106/1, New Survey Nos,106/1A and 106/1B and Survey No 106/2 as per Patta No.517 and Old Survey No.107, New Survey No.107/2 as per Patta No.2385, situated at 50, Kolathur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Chengalpattu District. **Measuring -** On the Northern side : 35'-0", on the Southern side : 35'-0", on the Eastern side : 20'-0", on the Western side : 20'-0".

POSSESSION TYPE : Physical | PROPERTY ID : IDIB7113790331 | ENCUMBRANCES ON PROPERTY : Nil

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.17.50 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- | **EMD : Rs.1.75 Lakhs**

3. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS : **(1) Mr. M. Alexander, (Borrower/Mortgagor),** S/o Mario Roke, Old No.5, New No.9, Block C, Vallalar Street, MMDA Colony, Arumbakkam, Chennai - 600 106. **(2) Mrs. A. Padmavathi, (Co-borrower),** W/o Alexander, Old No.5, New No.9, Block C, Vallalar Street, MMDA Colony, Arumbakkam, Chennai - 600 106.

AMOUNT DUE TO THE BANK AS ON 27.10.2026 : **Rs.30,18,413/- (Rupees Thirty lakhs eighteen thousand four hundred and thirteen only)** with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 28.10.2026.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of vacant house sites, in the Layout measuring about Acres 2.06 Cents of lands comprised in Old Survey No.106/1, New Survey Nos.106/1A & 106/1B and Survey No.106/2 as per Patta No.517 and Old Survey No.107, New Survey No.107/2 as per Patta No.2385, situated at No.50, Kolathur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Chengalpattu District and got approval from DTCP vide Approval No.L.P./D.D.T.C.P (C.R) No.191(R)2017, and named it as "Rathi's Amaravathi" bearing Plot No.32 measuring an extent of 720 Sq. ft., comprised in Survey No.106/2 situated at No.50 Kolathur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Chengalpattu District. Plot No.32 measuring an extent of 720 Sq. ft. Measuring - On the Northern side : 35'-0", on the Southern side : 35'-0", on the Eastern side : 20'-6", on the Western side : 21'0". Admeasuring an extent of 720 Sq. ft. The property is situated within the Revenue District of Chengalpattu and within the Sub Registration District of Joint II Chengalpattu and within the limits of Kattankolathur Panchayat Union and Kolathur Village and Panchayat.

POSSESSION TYPE : Physical | PROPERTY ID : IDIB7048705494 | ENCUMBRANCES ON PROPERTY : Nil

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.16.00 Lakhs | Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- | **EMD : Rs.1.60 Lakhs**

Date and Time of Inspection of the Properties & related documents : 12.11.2026 to 13.11.2026 between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION : 20.11.2026 FROM 10.00 A.M. TO 4.00 P.M.

Last Date for submission of Tender form/EMD : 20.11.2026

Bidders are advised to visit the website (**https://www.baanknet.com**) of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. Helpdesk No. 8291220220, email ID :- **support.baanknet@psballiance.com** and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. and EMD Status, please contact **support.baanknet@psballiance.com**. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit : **https://www.baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal please contact Helpdesk No.8291220220. **Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number** mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://www.baanknet.com**.

Date : 26.10.2026
Place : Kancheepuram / Chengalpattu

AUTHORISED OFFICERS, RESPECTIVE BRANCHES, INDIAN BANK.

EDITORIAL



"The truth knocks on the door and you say, 'Go away, I'm looking for the truth,'; and so it goes away — Robert M Pirsig

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

RAHUL EMERGES AS I.N.D.I.A. BLOC'S LEADING VOICE, U.P. PUTS ITS RESOLVE ON TRIAL

THE Opposition had a spring in its step after the conclusion of its massive 'Chalo Dilli' rally against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar at the historic Ramlila Maidan on Sunday. Whether or not Kumar departs, the protest has provided a springboard for the immediate task ahead: preventing a third consecutive mandate for the Lotus in Uttar Pradesh. If the recent MLC poll drubbing did little to dent the Congress, the Samajwadi Party's commanding performance has given it the political space to forge a formidable Opposition coalition in UP.

The show of strength clearly signalled that the Congress intends to shape the Opposition's national agenda. The Delhi rally also showcased Rahul Gandhi's emergence as the INDIA bloc's undisputed leader, a position his allies were reluctant to accord him until a few months ago. He built the 'vote theft' plank from scratch, even when many within his own party doubted its appeal among the masses. Subsequent media scrutiny of the shortcomings of the controversial special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, and alleged dissonance within the poll panel, gave his campaign further impetus. In his concluding address, Gandhi underscored Opposition unity, calling it "one protest" and signalling that the entire INDIA bloc shared a common aim: to eject Kumar from the poll body. "This is not the voice of a political party. This is the voice of Indian youth, farmers and people," he said. But the goal was larger—to ultimately challenge India's political leadership. He struck a reasonable, rather than shrill, note when he invoked the analogy of 'Shiv *ki barat*' (a wedding procession where everyone is free to participate), saying he wanted an India open to everyone. "If a farmer works hard, he should be allowed to fulfil his dream. If a student studies for 18 hours, they should be rewarded," he said.

Gandhi deserves full credit for emerging as the Opposition's spearhead and posing serious questions to those in power. He is articulating the Opposition's position with a confidence and finesse many thought he lacked. But the difficult part lies ahead: negotiating seat-sharing arrangements within the INDIA bloc, with electoral victory as the sole yardstick, not the bloated egos of regional Congress satraps. Managing the electoral ambitions of the nascent Cockroach Janta Party will pose another major challenge. The first test in preventing a split in Opposition votes lies in UP.

TN MUST OVERHAUL PRISON STAFFING AND SUPERVISION

A succession of jailbreaks has exposed serious failures in the staffing, supervision and management of Tamil Nadu's prisons. Two prisoners escaped from Puzhal in separate incidents nearly two weeks ago, followed by 17 undertrials breaking out of Theni jail last week in the most serious breach. Although all 19 were recaptured, that does not diminish the gravity of the failure. The transfer of the prison chief and suspensions of lower-level personnel must be followed by scrutiny of the entire chain of command, including the inspector general, deputy inspectors general and superintendents. Responsibility must be fixed for entrenched malpractice or supervisory failures at these levels. The CB-CID's finding that prisoners were illegally deployed for domestic work at a DIG's residence underlines why scrutiny cannot stop with warders. Pending disciplinary proceedings must reach timely, transparent conclusions.

Theni jail housed 334 inmates against a capacity of 200. Nearly a tenth of sanctioned prison posts statewide remain vacant, while staff strength at some prisons has remained unchanged for decades. The government must reassess sanctioned strength, fill vacancies, minimise the diversion of custodial personnel to administrative duties and enforce directions prohibiting their deployment for household work at senior officials' residences. Independent inspections should verify staff deployment, assess security procedures and track implementation of orders to correct lapses.

Security must go hand in hand with humane custody. Healthcare, counselling, legal assistance and family contact should be integral to prison administration. Regular reviews of undertrial detention can ease overcrowding. Tamil Nadu must enforce its ban on caste-based discrimination and segregation, including in work allocation. Its tradition of prisoner rehabilitation, dating to the establishment of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society in 1921, deserves renewed investment in employment and post-release support.

The failure of custodial care extends to the revenue-administered foreigners' special camps at Cheyyar and Tiruchy. Reports point to inadequate drinking water, sanitation and medical care, as well as people remaining confined after securing bail, being acquitted or completing their sentences, while administrative clearances are delayed. Their cases require regular legal review, with clear responsibility for proper care, access to courts and timely repatriation. The government must publish a prison reform programme with firm deadlines and independent monitoring. It must demonstrate the same urgency in addressing the systemic failures that led to these breakouts as it did in recapturing the prisoners.

QUICK TAKE

THE GRADUATE PARADOX

RECENT elections to the five graduates' and teachers' constituencies of the Maharashtra Legislative Council recorded 46,684 invalid votes. The figure invites a question. The Constitution provided for these constituencies believing that the groups they represent would bring particular experience and knowledge to the Upper House. But does the number of invalid votes call into question whether a degree necessarily translates into the ability to understand voting instructions? After all, a degree's absence does not imply an inability to do so. The deeper irony lies in retaining a special electorate on the basis of academic qualifications without establishing whether these are reliable indicators of the maturity, judgement and basic electoral understanding expected of such voters.

A disputed forensic report has reopened Sri Lanka's unresolved wartime wounds, bringing painful memories, competing narratives and longstanding questions back into public focus

CHEMMANI: SEARCH FOR TRUTH BENEATH CONTESTED GROUND



DILRUKSHI HANDUNNETTI

Award-winning journalist and lawyer; founder and director of Colombo-based Center for Investigative Reporting



SOURAV ROY

IN Sri Lanka, an old ethnic wound has been torn open with the release of the third interim forensic archaeological report on the Chemmani gravesite in northern Jaffna. The report, submitted to the Jaffna Magistrate on October 19, was authored by archaeologists Raj Somadeva and Anusha Wanninayake. It has since thrown everyone off balance, sparked controversy that could drive a deep wedge between communities, and triggered competing narratives.

The report noted that the site shared characteristics with formal burial contexts rather than clandestine mass graves, raising the possibility that the high concentration of remains—particularly children and infants—could relate to historical epidemics or natural disasters and avoided the reference to a "mass grave".

The report's summary states: "The assemblage of material evidence documented in this report is insufficient, in isolation, to support a definitive conclusion regarding the nature and character of the burials investigated," adding: "Nevertheless, the artefacts and associated contextual evidence suggest that the site exhibits greater similarities to contexts characterised by formal burial practices than to clandestine burial sites documented in other parts of the world."

The report's suggestion that the site could be an ordinary burial ground or the result of a historical epidemic has sparked immense backlash, with rights organisations, legal representatives and families of the disappeared pointing to the gravesite's proximity to a former wartime military checkpoint and rejecting its contents. They highlight plastic toys, a UN school bag and highly unusual placements—such as multiple instances of an adult skeletal frame positioned as if carrying a child—to argue that these do not match a conventional cemetery.

The excavations were not planned. Instead, it was a reaction to the accidental emergence of potential evidence of a wartime graveyard.

In February 2025, local labourers expanding a Hindu cemetery in Ariyalai in Chemmani accidentally struck human bones while digging a foundation for a new crematorium. The workers informed the local authority in Nallur, and the Jaffna magistrate ordered excavations and 24-hour police security for the site. Forensic archaeologist Prof Raj Somadeva and team have, after 110 days of excavations, exhumed over 570 skeletal remains. An estimated 41 percent of the deceased are children and 22 percent are infants. More than 90 percent had no clothing attached.

Following the "accidental discovery" of the potential mass graveyard linked to Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict—also the country's largest—the national Human Rights Commission released a report based on an August 2025 fact-finding mission to Chemmani and averred the "reasonable likelihood that the burials were unlawful and pursuant to extrajudicial killings", and recommended setting up a new independent institution for the investigation and prosecution of serious crimes. The Commission observed major gaps in the expertise and technology available for the probe and recommended seeking relevant expertise and technological facilities, including from overseas, to ensure a credible and independent analysis of DNA samples gathered from the skeletal remains found in Chemmani.

Much earlier, the Office on Missing Persons acknowledged critical gaps, including a shortage of forensic anthropologists and geneticists, the absence of centralised DNA databases, inadequate laboratories and reliance on archaeologists rather than mass grave specialists.

Sri Lanka has experienced various epidemics, and evidence points to major health crises in the '60s and '70s, including records from Jaffna. There is no denying that. The site has also served as a cemetery for decades. It is also an established fact, a confession by former lance corporal Somaratna Rajapakse, that about 300-400 military killings resulted in the limited excavation in 1999 that exhumed 15 human skeletons, with no follow-up thereafter.

Rajapaksa, convicted with four others of abduction, gangrape and murder of Krishanthi Kumaraswamy, an 18-year-old schoolgirl from Jaffna and her mother, brother and a family-friend, was the person who led authorities to it and admitted the bodies were of abducted or detained Tamils and dumped in Chemmani.

Twenty-seven years later, for the families and local activists, the interim report is nothing short of betrayal and a refusal to acknowledge a past soaked in blood. They say that they kept faith with the process and waited patiently to unearth truth and an acknowledgement of atrocities. "We have been let down yet again. We followed the process with interest, wanting truth and justice. The world knows of the occurrence of extrajudicial killings and the remains of the dead are scattered throughout the region," said a mother of a disappeared youth. "This is denial, avoidance of accountability and refusing to acknowledge our collective loss and grief", she said.

Despite renewed strong calls for an independent international mechanism to probe the mass graves, the government wishes to continue with a domestic mechanism. However, it will be in everyone's best interests to engage reputed international forensic experts, which could increase the credibility of a process now opposed by aggrieved parties as an attempt to negate wartime excesses and avoid accountability. As one affected family member said, "It refuses to acknowledge the recent past, what we lost."

To them, it is an attempt to erase a brutal phase during violent conflict and the avoidance of wartime atrocities.

Despite the current controversy, Chemmani can mark either a turning point towards justice and accountability or evidence of institutional failure. It can lead to recognition of collective grief and the need for justice and closure.

Today, Tamils are renewing an old demand for direct international involvement, a loud indictment of the mechanisms in place. Ultimately, the excavations aim to establish the truth in the hope of delivering justice.

Chemmani has remained controversial for decades, its past refusing to be buried and continuing to demand answers. Every effort must be made to ensure a scientifically sound, transparent and accountable excavation process that builds public trust, particularly among those who lost loved ones during the protracted war and need closure to heal and move forward. For that to happen, the country needs truth—and justice. Any mechanism that deviates from this path will not only face challenges but also risk deepening divisions among people who deserve the opportunity to move forward.

(Views are personal)
(dilrukshi@cir.lk)

PARIJATA PARIMALAM



RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

THE air in many parts of India is sweet now with the scent of parijat, the night jasmine or coral jasmine, with its pure white petals and fiery orange stem. It's called harsingar or God's ornament in the Hindi belt and shiuli in Bengal. Its blooming heralds Durga Puja and Navratri, and it lasts until early December, before the season of Shishir, or severe cold, sets in. The parijat sheds its blooms on the ground at dawn, and is the only flower, in all of India's bounteous flora, that can be picked up from the ground and offered in worship. No other 'fallen flower' has that privilege.

Stories in Indian theology attest not only to its special status but also add to how Indian faith is deeply married to the land through its mountains, rivers, lakes, sacred trees, herbs and flowers; its animals like elephants, bulls and cows, lions, tigers, monkeys and also mice; its birds like peacocks, eagles, parrots, crows, owls and doves; and even reptiles like snakes, lizards and geckos, not forgetting insects like the bees that 'string Kamadeva's bow' in ancient poetry. Even the Indian squirrel finds a place of honour as God's little helper at Ramsetu.

Thankfully, cockroaches, mosquitoes and bugs are not celebrated but wryly accepted as the flip side of this mysterious Creation, and exterminated when they intrude on dwellings and crops. The logic being that if there was no 'bad', how would we ever appreciate the 'good'?

Other countries also have holy mountains, like Mount Demavand in Iran, sacred to Zoroastrians, and mythical creatures like the phoenix. Or a plant like the raihon, the Uzbek name for tulsi, which was described to me as the 'Khuda plant' or God's plant.

Even in the United Kingdom, whose history affected us so deeply, certain native trees have deep roots in ancient folklore, Celtic mythology and pre-Christian spiritual traditions, and I found the following interesting. The yew, for one, was revered as a symbol of immortality, death and resurrection. Because of their extreme longevity, such as Scotland's Fortingall Yew, estimated at 2,000 to 5,000 years old, and the Ankerwycke Yew, pre-Christian Britons viewed them as sacred 'trees of life'. This later led early Christians to build churches and plant graveyards directly around them.

The oak, known as the 'king of the forest', was sacred to gods like Thor, Jupiter and the Celtic pantheon. Druids held sacred rituals beneath them and cut 'lucky' mistletoe from their branches. They also hosted community gatherings and served as village boundary markers. A famous example is the Major Oak in Sherwood Forest, known to readers in India as the home of the legendary Robin Hood.

The hawthorn was considered a magic door to the 'otherworld'. Folklore warned that great misfortune would befall anyone who harmed or cut down a sacred hawthorn. People plaited hawthorn crowns and left them out for fairies and angels.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Stories in Indian theology add to how Indian faith is deeply married to the land through its various creations. In contrast to how the West sees it now, we cannot be thankful enough that our ancestors taught us how to cherish and celebrate its features, flora and fauna

People widely planted rowan and carried it as a talisman against witchcraft, evil spirits and enchantment. Twigs were bound with red thread into small protective crosses and placed above doors or sewn into coat linings.

The holly was the evergreen symbol of protection in winter. Druids and early Britons wore or displayed prickly holly leaves to ward off negative spirits during the dark winter months, and its presence still features in Christmas decorations in the Christian West.

But the old gods of the UK are dead. Except for the holly as a survivor of old beliefs, the UK's sacred trees no longer seem to be honoured like the pipal and banyan still are in India. We cannot be thankful enough that our ancestors taught us how to cherish and celebrate the features, flora and fauna of our land. In fact, I cannot think of another living civilisation today that rejoices to our extent in deep, abiding physical-spiritual connection with its land of origin.

The parijat, too, has several stories attached to it. One is that a mortal princess called Parijata fell in love with Surya, the sun god, and was burnt when she went too near him. Out of pity, the gods turned her into the parijata tree, with the fiery coral flower stem immortalising her love for the sun.

Another story says the parijata was one of the treasures that arose from the Samudra Manthan, and Lord Indra took it to Devaloka. But Sri Krishna's imperious wife, Satyabhama, badgered him to get it for her, and he did. The twist is that Princess Rukmini wanted it too, for its divine fragrance. So Krishna planted it on Satyabhama's side of the garden, but the flowers fell on the other side of the wall, in Rukmini's garden. Thus, both were satisfied: one, that she owned the tree, and the other, that she got the flowers. There's a lesson there for us about who actually gets to enjoy what, beyond mere ownership. Have we acquired things we do not use or enjoy? Pre-Diwali is the ideal time to take stock and let go of what we don't benefit from.

My favourite story goes that Sita Mata blessed Sri Hanuman that his presence would always be invoked under the divine parijat for his purity and nobility of character. Thus we have the beautiful line in the '*Anjaneya Stotram*' that says '*parijata taru moola vaasinam*', meaning 'who abides beneath the parijat tree'. A fragrant instance of what's what and who's who in the love between a land and its people.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Curbed freedom

Ref: *Mandarins and moguls* (Nov 1). Freedom of expression cannot depend on the goodwill of governments or tech giants. Both public authorities and platforms must respect due process when restricting speech. Harmful content may warrant action, but vague rules invite misuse.
A Myilsami, Coimbatore

Policy delivery

Ref: *Republic of Committees* (Nov 1). Forming another committee cannot be the answer to every crisis. Reports must be made public, deadlines fixed and officials held accountable for implementation. Governance is not about how many problems are examined, but how many are actually solved.
Anooja V V, Kannur

ECI scrutiny

Ref: *CEC's 'treason trial'* (Nov 1). It is unfortunate that the Supreme Court, despite witnessing the manner in which CEC Gyanesh Kumar continued to exercise his powers, chose to give the Commission considerable latitude for so long. Hopefully, the court will now not stop short of merely raising questions and seeking explanations.
Tharcius S Fernando, Chennai

Political dialogue

Ref: *'Opposition has forgotten its duty'* (Nov 1). The Opposition may use symbolic protests, but questioning the government is its constitutional duty. Allegations of electoral irregularities deserve transparent examination rather than political counterattacks. Modi should demonstrate confidence in democratic institutions instead of portraying critics as obstructive.
T Kailash Ditya, Hyderabad

Failing youths

Ref: *AP school attack* (Nov 1). Such an extreme act of violence inside a space meant for learning and safety is horrifying. Societal and governance failure has led to a section of the youth going astray in life causing unprecedented violence.
Govardhana Myneedu, Vijayawada

Matching China

Ref: *Emperor's war lab* (Nov 1, *The New Sunday Express Magazine*). Is it not obvious that China did not merely observe Op Sindoor but viewed it through Pakistan? Pakistan is being groomed as a proxy today, and a combat test-bed for the conflict tomorrow. India's imperative, therefore, is not to attempt matching China scale-for-scale but to decisively break the chain.
A Thirugnanasambantham, email

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**
Deputy Resident Editor (Tamil Nadu): **R S Prasanna** * 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. 96, No. 260. RNI Reg. No. TNENG/1002/57.
Phone: 044-23457601, Fax: 044-23457619. * Responsible to decide the matter under the PRP Act. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Ltd. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY



Pawan Khera @Pawankhera
Delhi witnessed a historic show of people's power today. A million people came together, defying every attempt to obstruct, intimidate and silence them



M A Baby @MABABYCPIM
The lakhs of people who took part in today's INDIA Bloc Rally are a testament to the widespread anger against the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls



Nitin Nabin @NitinNabin
Those who run the Toolkit for Regime Change should understand that in India's democracy, foreign conspiracies cannot harm a government formed by will of the people!

IAF chief to prioritise war readiness with Indian jets

Dixit says Air Force must be brought back to full combat strength

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

WITH the Indian Air Force down to just 29 fighter squadrons against the 42.5 sanctioned to tackle a two-front threat from China and Pakistan, new chief Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit on Sunday declared that clawing back combat strength towards the authorised level would be his top task.

Laying out a four-point 'VAYU' vision after receiving the ceremonial guard of honour, ACM Dixit, said every squadron, radar and air defence unit and every air warrior, had to be ready to react at very short notice. That is the V, for 'vigilance and readiness'. Earlier, he laid a wreath at the National War Memorial.

The A stands for 'aatmanirbharta.'. The new chief placed the Tejas Mk-1A and Mk-II, the fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and home-grown sensors and weapons at the very top of the IAF's wish-list. The force would fight with Indian solutions and hold them in numbers large enough to sustain operations, he said. The IAF's job was to fight and win, but above all to "deter conflict through credible air power".

Y is for 'yukti' (ingenuity) or fresh thinking in doctrine, procedures and technology. That ranges from networked, AI-enabled command and control and layered counter-drone shields to force protection, resilience and the use of near-space as an operational domain. U is for 'unity of effort,' with the IAF planning and fighting as one with the Army, Navy and national agencies under the JAI (jointness, aatmanirbharta, innovation) mantra.

ACM Dixit credited ACM Singh (Retd) for showing what precise and decisive air power could achieve during Operation Sindoor and thanked him for handing over a force in a high state of readiness. But he warned that the security environment remained demanding, with drones, long-range precision weapons, space, cyber, AI and the electromagnetic spectrum reshaping the very character of war.

The thrust on desi jets, however, comes at a time when not a single one of the 180 Tejas Mk-1A fighters ordered from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) had been handed over. HAL has built 27 airframes, but radar and weapons integration is yet to be certified.



CAS Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit greeted by IAF officials in New Delhi | PTI

'VAYU' vision: Vigilance, self-reliance, ingenuity, unity

Laying out a four-point 'VAYU' vision after receiving the ceremonial guard of honour, ACM Dixit, said every squadron, radar and air defence unit and every air warrior, had to be ready to react at very short notice. That is the V, for 'vigilance and readiness'. A stands for 'aatmanirbharta', Y is for 'yukti' (ingenuity) or fresh thinking and U is for 'unity of effort.

Doval lands in Vietnam to cement ties on maritime security, counterterrorism

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

NATIONAL Security Adviser Ajit Doval arrived in Hanoi on Sunday for an official visit aimed at strengthening the India-Vietnam strategic partnership, sources said.

During his visit, Doval is scheduled to meet senior Vietnamese leaders and discuss ways to expand bilateral cooperation in the spheres of security, defence and strategic affairs. The visit follows the fourth India-Vietnam Security Dialogue, held in New Delhi in October 2026. The dialogue reviewed cooperation in areas including counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, maritime security, economic security and emerging technologies. The visit is expected to provide high-level political direction to the implementation of the outcomes of the dialogue.

India and Vietnam have been strengthening their strategic engagement amid evolving security challenges in the Indo-Pacific. Vietnam is a key partner for New Delhi's Act East Policy and its broader Indo-Pacific strategy, where both sides push for freedom of navigation and a peaceful maritime periphery.

Defence and maritime security cooperation are expected to figure prominently in the discussions. The two sides are also likely to explore ways to expand military-to-military engagement, including defence training, technology cooperation, equipment supplies and potential co-production arrangements. India has been seeking to expand its defence exports in Southeast Asia, while Vietnam is looking to diversify its defence partnerships.

Cooperation in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, digital transformation, cybersecurity and energy is also expected to feature in the discussions. Both countries have been seeking to broaden their partnership beyond traditional security cooperation and strengthen institutional coordination between their respective agencies. The visit comes amid sustained high-level political engagement between the countries. Vietnam's General Secretary and President To Lam visited India from May 5-7, 2026.





INSIDER TRACK

The man for the mission



Pavan Kapoor, the 1990-batch IFS officer and Deputy National Security Adviser, is tipped for a key role in India's global extradition push. Sources suggest he may lead high-level delegations seeking cooperation from key countries to secure the return of individuals wanted in security-related cases. The move comes as New Delhi intensifies efforts to track down fugitives through international partnerships. Kapoor's likely assignment would place him at the centre of sensitive negotiations requiring discretion and diplomatic leverage. His career offers ample preparation: he has served as Secretary (West) and India's Ambassador to Russia, Israel, the UAE and Mozambique. With experience across strategically important capitals, he brings geopolitical understanding to an engagement where legal requests and national security priorities must travel together.

A credential, at last in Baku



Nearly six months into his tenure, India's Ambassador to Azerbaijan, K Abhay, a 2003-batch IFS officer, was yet to present his credentials. The delay followed Baku's support for Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Rauf Ismayilov has served as Chargé d'Affaires since ambassador Elchin Huseynli returned in July to take up his posting in Italy. Speculation followed that Azerbaijan might keep its New Delhi mission at CDA level, despite Abhay's appointment. But the calendar appears to have shifted after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visited Baku in October. Abhay's credential ceremony was reportedly organised ahead of that visit. The question now: whom will Baku send as its next ambassador to New Delhi? That choice may offer a clue about the relationship's direction.

Another berth on the Odisha Express

Another Odisha-cadre IAS officer may be heading to Bihar, following Manish Kumar Verma's earlier move. Sanjay Kumar Singh, a 1997-batch officer, is being considered for a key post in Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary's Office after Bihar sought his services. The Centre has begun processing his inter-cadre deputation and asked Odisha for vigilance clearance. Singh is Principal Secretary of Odisha's Works Department and also holds additional charge of Food Supplies. Sources say Bihar wants him as Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister. The parallel with Verma is hard to miss: the 2000-batch officer served in Nitish Kumar's CMO, took voluntary retirement in 2018 and joined the JD(U) in 2024, ahead of the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, in the state capital.



The catchphrase chase

'Modi Kahin Na Jayega' is fast becoming more than just a catchy line in the BJP's latest song. The party is pulling out all stops to push it across social media, hoping it will travel well beyond rallies and speeches. The BJP believes Gen Z, college-going students and young women are receptive to Modi and hopes to tap into this enthusiasm. It wants to turn the one-liner into a popular counter-slogan to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's controversial remarks about the prime minister's father. The larger pitch is to link Modi's leadership with the Viksit Bharat mission and make the slogan a household expression. With over 13 crore members, the BJP is counting on its cadre to spread the refrain nationwide.

A top chair up for grabs

Could Lok Bhavan in Kolkata be in for a change of occupant? Political circles are abuzz that incumbent Governor RN Ravi could be moved to J&K or another strategic state. Names of successors being discussed include Lt Gen KJS Dhillon, who last served as Director General of the Defence Intelligence Agency. His military experience, particularly on Kashmir-related security matters, is being seen in some quarters as an advantage, given West Bengal's sensitive location and its international border with Bangladesh. But Dhillon is not the only name in circulation. A prominent Muslim figure, once active in electoral politics, is also said to be among the possible contenders. There is no official word yet, but the speculation has certainly set tongues wagging.

CBI brings Mahadev app kingpin from Oman; to be tried in three hawala cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN a major breakthrough against transnational organised crime, the CBI has extradited Sourabh Chandrakar, promoter and alleged kingpin of the ₹6,000 crore Mahadev app illegal online betting syndicate, from Oman, official said on Sunday.

A CBI team travelled to Muscat, took custody of Chandrakar and brought him to India. He is expected to be taken to Raipur and produced before a special CBI court on Monday after a mandatory medical examination and completion of transit remand formalities, a CBI spokesperson said.

Chandrakar is wanted in two CBI cases in which chargesheets have been filed, and an ED case involving alleged money laundering. Several of his properties in India and abroad have also been attached.

The central agency started investigation after the Chhattisgarh government revealed that the syndicate operated one of India's largest illegal online betting networks from overseas. The agency found that proceeds from the illegal betting were routed through multiple mule bank accounts, layered through financial transactions and transferred overseas through hawala channels. The probe also established that a portion of the alleged proceeds was used to pay protection money to public servants to ensure the syndicate's operations continued.

Chandrakar was initially detained by the Royal Oman Police following an Interpol Red Corner Notice. The CBI and ED subsequently submitted extradition proposals backed by evidence and coordinated with Indian government agencies, Interpol and Omani authorities to secure his return.



Sourabh Chandrakar (middle) with CBI officials after being extradited | PTI

Centre starts DigiYatra trial runs for int'l flyers in 7 cities

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Civil Aviation on Sunday said that DigiYatra, the contactless and paperless initiative which relies on face recognition technology, has begun trial runs for international passengers at seven airports in India. A wider rollout across the country is planned in 2027 by incorporating passenger feedback from these trials, which are set to conclude by end of December.

The trials have commenced at Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin, Mumbai, Chennai and Amritsar airports. The DigiYatra facility has been incorporated at 39 airports till now and is available only for domestic passengers.

In an official release, the Civil Aviation Ministry said, "The trials, scheduled to run from November to December 2026, will allow eligible Indian nationals holding e-passports to use the DigiYatra at designated airport touchpoints while travelling on select international flights operated by Air India and IndiGo." Eligible passengers will be able to use the facility at terminal entry points, Security Hold Areas (SHA) and boarding gates, wherever the required infrastructure is available. To access the facility, eligible Indian nationals must create an e-passport-based Verifiable Credential (VC) through the DigiYatra mobile application. The process involves scanning the Machine Readable Zone of the e-passport, reading the embedded chip using the Near Field Communication (NFC) feature of a compatible smartphone, capturing a selfie and verifying the details.

The DigiYatra platform has over 2.65 crore users and has enabled more than 11 crore journeys across 39 domestic airports, serving domestic airlines. An additional 25 domestic airports will be equipped with this facility in 2027.

Indigo in an official release said, "This initiative is set to transform the international departure experience for Indian globe-trotters by extending the decentralised digital identity platform beyond domestic air travel." Neetan Chopra, Chief Digital and Information Officer, IndiGo, said, "Having been a key part of the technical proof of concept, we are pleased to partner with Digi Yatra for the launch of these trials."

Suresh Khadakbhavi, CEO of Digi Yatra Foundation, said, "Digi Yatra has demonstrated how digital identity can simplify domestic air travel."

Intended for passengers holding e-passport

Eligible passengers will be able to use the facility at terminal entry points, Security Hold Areas (SHA) and boarding gates, wherever the required infrastructure is available. To access the facility, eligible Indian nationals must create an e-passport-based Verifiable Credential (VC) through the DigiYatra mobile application.



Children travel 2 hours for cancer therapy: Study

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

SHIVAM Kumar, 15, has to travel over 1000 km twice a month, from Patna to Delhi's AIIMS, after it was confirmed that his cancer has relapsed in 2024. In 2020, Kumar was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a group of blood cancers that develop in the lymphatic system, and was treated at AIIMS, Patna. But when he suffered a relapse four years later, he was referred to AIIMS, Delhi, where he was diagnosed with Nodular Lymphocyte-Predominant Hodgkin Lymphoma (NLPHL), a rare, slow-growing type of blood cancer.

The boy, who had to drop out after Class 3 due to his illness, is now on his way to recovery and will be going back home soon. But he will have to commute to and fro from his hometown as he has recently undergone a bone marrow transplant and will have to come to Delhi for his mandatory three-monthly routine check-ups.

Shivam is not alone. Hundreds of children with cancer have to travel long distances, or on average over two hours, to reach a paediatric cancer centre, said a first-of-its-kind study recently published in the UK-based Journal of Cancer Policy.

The study, conducted by cancer specialists including experts from AIIMS, Delhi, has said uneven geographic distribution of childhood cancer centres forces families to travel long distances.

Kumar's mother Geeta Devi, 45, told this newspaper that the burden of travelling had added to their woes. "Travelling from Patna to Delhi twice a month is challenging," said Devi whose husband earns ₹10,000 per month. The family first had to live in a night shelter near AIIMS. It was a stroke of luck that they connected with CanKids KidsCan, a national society for change for childhood cancer. They stayed in one of their centres, receiving financial, psychological and nutritious food support. Shivam, who can now celebrate Diwali with his family, said, "I just want to go back to school again."

Poonam Bagai, Founder and Chairman, CanKids KidsCan, said, "We must go beyond helping families travel long distances for treatment to building stronger childhood cancer care networks that bring quality care closer to home. And we must not forget the children who never reach a cancer centre at all. Every child deserves timely access to quality care, financial protection and a fair chance of survival."

Manraj Singh Sra, the study's lead author, said they found that most families face long journeys to reach specialised paediatric cancer centres. "The average travel time was about two hours and 40 minutes each way, and 60% travelled more than two hours," Sra said.

REPRESENTATIONAL PIC



60% of families spend long commute time

Manraj Singh Sra, the study's lead author, said they found that most families face long journeys to reach specialised paediatric cancer centres. "The average travel time was about two hours and 40 minutes each way, and 60% travelled more than two hours," Sra said.

Retail trade stays robust, consumers withdraw from recreational activities

VISMAY BASU @ New Delhi

INDIA'S services sector recorded divergent trends in August 2026, with retail trade growing 19.9% year-on-year while air transport contracted 9.6%, according to the first set of figures released under the new monthly services production index on October 29.

Data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) show that 17 of the 19 services subsectors recorded growth over August 2025, with 13 posting double-digit expansion.

Introduced on a trial basis in July, the index, with 2024–25 as its base year, aims to provide a monthly measure of services activity, complementing the Index of Industrial Production. However, it currently covers only about 60% of the sector's gross value added (GVA) and does not provide an overall measure of services output.

Major areas, including government education, healthcare and public administration, remain excluded. MoSPI's October 6 approach paper proposes their inclusion, which would raise coverage to 78.4%. These sectors accounted for 7.15%, 2.96% and 10.68% of services GVA, respectively, in 2024–25.

The ministry proposes using government expenditure records to track public services and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions to measure parts of private education and healthcare activity. Much of these services is exempt from GST, limiting the usefulness of existing tax-based data.

Among the covered sub-sectors, repair services and real estate grew 17.6% each, insurance 16.5%, banking 14.9% and IT services 13.8%. Air transport declined for the fifth consecutive month, while arts, entertainment and recreation contracted 4.7%.



Sub-sector	Index (2024–25)	Year-on-year growth (%)
Retail trade	139.2	19.9
Repair services	130.7	17.6
Real estate	115.3	17.6
Insurance	107.9	16.5
Banking	125.0	14.9
IT services	116.4	13.8
Entertainment	111.7	-4.7
Air transport	89.2	-9.6

ON THE MOVE

A cub born to a tigress from Umred-Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary has moved into Pench Tiger Reserve in Nagpur, indicating tiger dispersal and possible wildlife corridor connectivity.

1 DEAD AS TRUCK BURSTS INTO FLAMES IN UDAIPUR

INDIA WEATHER

CITY/STATE	Max	Min	CITY/STATE	Max	Min
Andaman Islands	31	25	Meghalaya	22	16
Gokarna, Karnataka	31	26	Ooty, Tamil Nadu	20	16
Goa	32	26	Rishikesh	28	16
Jorhat	29	22	Spiti Valley, HP	00	-11
Kashmir	14	06	Udaipur	29	18
Lakshadweep	30	28	Varanasi	29	21
Leh, Ladakh	05	-7	Wayanad, Kerala	27	21

Bengal to give citizenship to Matuas under CAA: CM

Says 2.5 lakh applicants to get nationality documents by year end

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

WEST Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari on Sunday assured that 2.5 lakh applicants, predominantly Matuas, will be provided citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) by December 31.

Adhikari announced several developmental packages for the community. Addressing the International Matua Gosai Convention 2026 at Thakurnagar, the traditional stronghold of the Matuas, he credited the community's support for the formation of the BJP government in the state. Notably, Matuas decide the electoral fate of the political parties in several parts of North 24-Parganas, Nadia and Jalpaiguri districts. The BJP experienced a phenomenal organisational rise in these Matua-dominated belts in 2019, when the party bagged a record 19 seats in Bengal during the Lok Sabha polls.

The CM announced a grant of ₹50 crore for the development of the community. Under the Annapurna Yojana, every Matua woman aged between 25 and 60 will receive ₹3,000 per month, he said, while men above 60 years will be entitled to ₹1,500 per month.

His government, Adhikari said, will form a Matua development board to oversee the overall welfare of the community. "Only 25,000 people have received citizenship under CAA in West Bengal so far... We will expedite the hearings and provide citizenship to 2.5 lakh petitioners by December 31," he said.

Escalating his attacks on the former CM Mamata Banerjee, Suvendu said, "Chief ministers of all other states have implemented CAA, and those eligible have received their citizenship... Only Mamata Banerjee opposed it." Earlier in the day, while speaking to reporters at Thakurnagar, Suvendu accused the TMC government of doing nothing for the Matua community and instead working to divide them.

He said the previous CM had opposed the CAA, which provides citizenship to persecuted minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Matuas originally migrated from present-day Bangladesh. He also announced that all genuine Scheduled Castes getting citizenship under CAA will be provided with SC certificates.



CM Adhikari at International Matua Gosai Convention 2026 in Thakurnagar | EXPRESS

Adhikari announces ₹50 crore grant for development

The Matuas, an SC community, are part of a social reform movement that emerged in the late 19th century under the leadership of Harichand Thakur. Adhikari announced several developmental packages for the community, including a grant of ₹50 crore.

Fraudsters target J'khand voters with SIR deletion scare

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

VOTERS have been cautioned against cyber fraud in which fraudsters are sending fake emails in the name of the SIR of electoral rolls, falsely claiming that recipients' names have been deleted from the draft voter list due to discrepancies detected during verification.

The emails reportedly ask recipients to click on embedded links and submit personal information and identity documents to have their names restored to the electoral rolls. However, officials have warned that these are fraudulent attempts to steal sensitive personal information.

"Some individuals have been receiving emails claiming that their names have been removed from the draft electoral roll due to discrepancies identified during the 'SIR' (Special Summary Revision) process. These emails prompt recipients to click on a link to submit personal information and documents in order to have their names re-included. Such emails are deceptive," stated a communique from the Chief Electoral Office.

In an advisory, voters have been urged not to click on links received through suspicious emails or share personal details, OTPs or identity documents on unfamiliar websites.

Char Dham heli operators halt services as DGCA's 2-pilot rule kicks in today

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

HOURS after the DGCA issued an order on Saturday mandating two pilots per aircraft flying in the Char Dham sector, most operators opposed the move, threatening to suspend operations from November 2 until the order is reviewed.

A joint communication was sent to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on October 31 by 11 out of 13 charter operators announcing a stoppage of all flight operations. Copies of it have also been sent to the Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Uttarakhand administration. A DGCA source told this newspaper that three key regulations will come into effect from November 2, which are binding on all operators. "From November 2, all Char Dham charter flights shall be flown in two-pilot configuration, and the co-pilot shall also be a hill-qualified pilot."

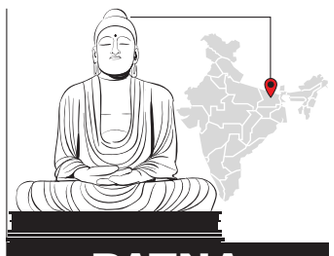
Secondly, all flights must seek positive destination and en route clearance from Control Room Sahastradhara (in Dehradun) prior to takeoff for each leg of Char Dham sectors. The other regulation states that all crew shall file a Pilot Report (PIREP) after landing at each destination helipad in Char Dham charters.

BINDING NORMS

1. Three key regulations will come into effect from November 2, which are binding on all operators
2. All Char Dham charter flights shall be flown in two-pilot configuration, and the co-pilot shall also be a hill-qualified pilot

A letter from the operators called for an alternative operational framework that adequately addresses safety concerns while ensuring the commercial viability and sustainability of helicopter operations in the region. The letter charged that the introduction of mandatory twin-pilot operations will make the continuation of operations financially unviable for all operators.

Speaking to this newspaper on the condition of anonymity, a leading helicopter operator said, "Currently, we charge between ₹2.25 and ₹2.5 lakh per passenger on this route. A maximum of five passengers are taken along with the pilot. If we take on board another pilot, then one passenger will be reduced. Hence, the cost will be passed on to the passenger only, and it could touch up to ₹4 lakh per ticket."



PATNA DIARY

RAMASHANKAR
Our correspondent in Bihar
ramashankar@newindianexpress.com

No more jeans, T-shirts or DJ parties in schools

The Bihar government has directed all educational institutions to enforce a formal dress code for teachers and non-teaching staff. The directive said that the teachers and non-teaching staff must attend only in dignified formal attire during teaching and office hours. The senior officials of the education department have been asked to ensure implementation of the order. The directive also banned the use of DJ, disco dancing and other inappropriate entertainment activities on school campuses. It, however, allowed to organise performances in a dignified manner and that too on designated days mentioned in academic calendar.



Bihar Museum makes it to top 10 global list

Bihar Museum in Patna has secured the ninth position on the World's 100 Best Museums 2026 list published by Germany-based travel guide 'Worth a Journey', which emerged as the highest-ranked museum in Asia, surpassing several globally acclaimed institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Louvre in Paris. The achievement has placed Bihar Museum ahead of Metropolitan Museum of Art, which secured the 10th position, while the Louvre was ranked 31st. Bihar chief minister Samrat Choudhary welcomed the recognition through a social media post, highlighting the institution's impressive position.

'Tejashwi, PK should unite to challenge NDA'

RJD chief Lalu Prasad's daughter Rohini Acharya has said Tejashwi Prasad Yadav and Prashant Kishor join hands to challenge the BJP-led NDA in Bihar, citing the recent MLC election results. In a social media post, she said combining the votes secured by the RJD and Jan Suraaj could have denied the NDA all eight seats. Rohini said the BJP benefited from a divided opposition and stressed that unity, a strong grassroots base and a common strategy, could prevent the splitting of opposition votes. Prashant Kishor has so far not reacted to Acharya's formula to defeat the BJP in Bihar. BJP got its first CM in the state when Samrat Choudhary was sworn in.

MANIPUR

Protests erupt after bodies of 2 Kuki men found

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

SECURITY forces recovered on Sunday morning the mutilated bodies of two Kuki youths who had gone missing from Manipur's Kangpokpi district three days ago, triggering a protest by villagers.

The bodies, stuffed in gunny bags, were recovered from a banana plantation in the adjoining Naga-majority Senapati district during a joint search operation by security forces. A violent confrontation broke out between villagers and security forces when the bodies were transported to Kangpokpi.

Thangginlun Chongloi (21) and Paoginlal Hangsing (20), both from Taphou Kuki village in Kangpokpi, were reported missing on October 28, with the Kuki organisation Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) alleging that the two had been abducted by Naga rebels.

The CoTU has demanded the removal of Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho—a Naga who represents the Mao constituency in Senapati—the withdrawal of all NSCN-IM camps located within the Senapati district, handing over of the case concerning the killing of the two individuals to the National Investigation Agency and the arrest of the culprits.

Fearing disqualification, 2 Bihar independent MLCs back off after joining BJP

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

TWO newly elected Independent Bihar MLCs on Sunday backtracked on their claims of joining the BJP after their induction triggered questions over the anti-defection law.

The MLCs, Banshidhar Brajwashi and Rahul Raj, on Saturday attended a BJP programme in the presence of Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary. Both initially told the media that they had joined the BJP. The party also issued a statement confirming their induction.

The development prompted Leader of Opposition in Bihar assembly Tejashwi Prasad Yadav to demand their disqualification under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. The law bars an elected Independent legislator from joining a political party after the election. The RJD and Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) argue that Independents elected to the legislature cannot subsequently join a political party. The Chairman of the Bihar Legislative Council is empowered to decide disqualification petitions. Amid the controversy, the two independent MLCs later clarified on social media that they had only extended support to the BJP and had not formally joined it.

BJP state president Sanjay Saraogi also said the two Independent MLCs had extended their support to the party.

Earlier, RJD Rajya Sabha MP and national chief spokesperson Manoj Kumar Jha sought the disqualification of Brajwasi and Rahul Raj, alleging that their induction into the BJP violated anti-defection provisions. Jha showed photographs and videos of the two MLCs joining BJP and said RJD would approach the legislative council acting chairman Ram Vachan Rai, seeking termination of their membership. "Both violated the anti-defection law. We will demand their disqualification," he said.



Both MLCs, Banshidhar Brajwashi and Rahul Raj, have violated the anti-defection law. We will demand their disqualification

Manoj Kumar Jha, RJD Rajya Sabha MP

Chandigarh to be drug free with 93% convictions: Shah

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday expressed confidence that Chandigarh will be the first city in the country to become drug-free, citing city police's 93% conviction rate in NDPS cases following the implementation of the new criminal laws. Shah has set December 31, 2029 deadline to end drug trafficking in India.

Addressing the 60th Raising Day celebrations of Chandigarh Police, the Union Home Minister said the city's police forces would lead the country's efforts to combat drug abuse. He added that the three new criminal laws were also introduced by PM Narendra Modi in Chandigarh, marking the country's transition away from the three punitive laws that had been enacted by the British.

"The campaign against drugs and gangsters is a major achievement of Chandigarh Police," Shah said. He added that after the implementation of the new criminal laws, Chandigarh Police has ensured convictions in 85% of criminal cases. "This serves as a model for all police forces," he said.

The home minister said police services had earned a negative reputation due to the old laws, under which people were often deprived of justice for generations. "Today, with a conviction rate of 85%, Chandigarh has achieved an average time of just 140 days for securing the conviction of accused persons," he said. Shah added that Chandigarh Police has a quick response time (QRT) of 10 minutes, and the average time taken by the police to reach a location is 4 minutes. Chandigarh was the first to introduce the Beat Policing system after 2015, he said.

Through its beat policing app, Chandigarh Police has ensured that people do not have to visit police stations for their needs. "Policing in our country has largely remained focused on tackling terrorism, drugs, cybercrime and maintaining law and order. However, facilitating ease of access to services for citizens is also an important responsibility of the police," Shah further said at the event.

He further observed that Chandigarh has the highest number of vehicles per capita in the country, yet the city does not face congestion.



Shah with Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria in Chandigarh on Sunday | PTI

NCB to freeze 25 immovable properties worth ₹20 cr

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is set to freeze 25 immovable properties in Punjab with an aggregate invested value of approximately ₹20.1 crore in an inter-state pharmaceutical drug diversion case that includes industrial plots, commercial units, shop-cum-office units and residential apartments in Mohali adjacent to Chandigarh.

Candidate with 14L Insta followers gets 33 votes

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

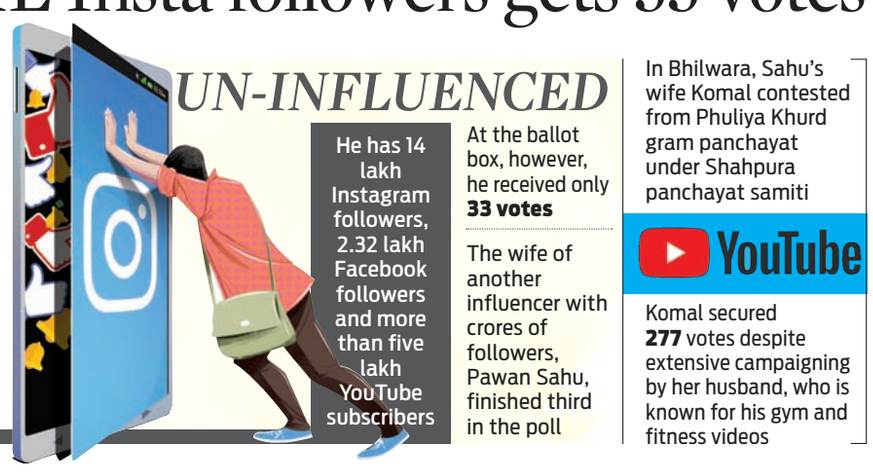
CAN millions of social media followers translate into votes? It's a major question that has often been debated across India over the past decade. But two key results in Rajasthan's recent panchayat elections have highlighted the limits of online popularity: Influencer Om Prakash Bishnoi secured just 33 votes in his own election, while another influencer, Pawan Sahu's wife, finished third despite her husband's following running into crores.

Bishnoi contested the sarpanch election from Indon Ki Dhani-II in Jodhpur district's Osian area. His accounts reportedly have around 14 lakh Instagram followers, 2.32 lakh Facebook followers and more than five lakh YouTube subscribers. At the ballot box, however, he received only 33 votes.

Known for videos featuring culinary delights and meals prepared with generous quantities of desi ghee, Bishnoi said his involvement in religious activities and cow welfare had inspired him to enter electoral politics. He said that he had approached voters personally but found that assurances of support did not translate into votes. "Social media is one thing; the ground reality is another," Bishnoi remarked. He said 11 of his 33 votes came from his family, while others came from friends and people close to him. Despite the defeat, he said he intended to continue working among residents and addressing problems involving water, roads and basic facilities.

A similar gap between digital visibility and electoral support emerged in Bhilwara district, where Sahu's wife, Komal Sahu, contested the sarpanch election from Phuliya Khurd gram panchayat under Shahpura panchayat samiti.

Sahu, who posts gym and fitness videos, reportedly has 2.77 crore YouTube subscribers and around 70 lakh Instagram followers. Despite his extensive campaigning, Komal secured 277 votes and finished third. Bhagwati Lal Soni won with 1,203 votes, while the former sarpanch in the area of Kaluram Jat finished second with 797. After the defeat, Sahu thanked supporters for their efforts and accepted the setback. "We have only lost an election," he said in a video.



Uttarakhand village at China border sees first vehicle since Independence

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

FOR the first time since Independence, a vehicle has reached Sipu, a village in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district near the China border. At an altitude of about 11,820 feet, the village's new road link marks a major step towards improving life in the rugged Darma Valley.

The first vehicle reached Sipu on October 24, village head Sarojni Sipal said. On Wednesday, eight to 10 families travelling during the seasonal migration were able to reach Dharchula by road for the first time. "Earlier, villagers had to walk nearly 10 km to reach the main road," Sipal said. The new link, she added, would save time and effort and bring particular relief to elderly people, women and those who are ill.

The 10-kilometre Dhakar-Tidang-Marcha-Sipu road is being built under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana as part of the Vibrant Villages Programme. Kishan Singh Aeri, executive engineer with the scheme, said construction began in July 2024, and the project was estimated to cost about ₹24 crore. "Four bridges are also proposed to ensure the route can operate smoothly. The department has sent a detailed project report to the government," Airi said.

Historian Jai Singh Rawat said Sipu and other villages in the Darma Valley once formed part of a trade route between India and Tibet. Before the 1962 India-China war, Bhotiya traders crossed the border to exchange goods such as salt, wool and borax. Trade stopped after the border was closed, he said.

Local belief also holds that Shiva rested in Sipu while travelling to Mount Kailash, following a request from the village's deities. The sacred stone bearing the footprints is still revered by residents.



4 dead,
5 injured in shootings in Dallas on Halloween night

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

COUNTRY	Max	Min		COUNTRY	Max	Min	
Australia (Canberra)	21	11	SNY	Singapore	31	27	LC
Indonesia (Bali)	26	21	LC	South Korea (Seoul)	17	7	LR
Italy (Rome)	22	9	LC	Switzerland (Bern)	6	2	LC
Japan (Tokyo)	23	16	LR	Thailand (Bangkok)	33	25	LR
Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)	29	24	SNY	Türkiye (Ankara)	16	11	LC
Maldives (Male)	29	29	LR	UAE (Dubai)	32	27	SNY
Mauritius (Port Louis)	29	22	SNY	Vietnam (Hanoi)	32	23	LR

Rioters loot shops in Germany as 'Gen Z' protests turn ugly

Tens of thousands join youth-led protests across country against soaring costs, cuts in education spending; gun store among shops looted in Frankfurt

BERLIN

MASKED rioters looted shops in the German city of Frankfurt on Saturday as massive demonstrations turned violent across the country, with police also firing water cannons at youths hurling Molotov cocktails.

Several police officers were injured in the violence after tens of thousands joined youth-led protests across the country organised by the group "GenZ regelt!" (Gen Z has got this!).

The demonstrations, inspired by similar movements in France and Italy calling for political elites to heed the concerns of the younger generation, were largely peaceful during the day.

But tensions peaked in the evening as some groups of young people refused to disperse, with violence breaking out in major cities including Berlin, Cologne and Hamburg.

It was especially bad in the financial hub of Frankfurt, where police faced protesters hurling stones, fireworks and petrol bombs, and responded with water cannon and pepper spray.

"Violent riots" were taking place, police said in a statement. "Windows have been smashed at several shops. Molotov cocktails are also being thrown at emergency personnel."

A gun store was among the shops looted, with its windows smashed. Police said they arrested a suspect and seized two weapons. A trainer shop and a perfume store were also targeted, the Bild daily reported.

A large section of Frankfurt's main shopping street was closed off as authorities sought to quell the unrest, with police vans and riot police stopping anyone from entering, according to an AFP journalist.

A police helicopter hovered overhead as sporadic blasts were heard on the street.

At least one police officer was injured there and was receiving medical treatment.

"GenZ regelt!" said some 1,20,000 people took part in the demonstrations, below around 1,80,000 they had been expecting.

Protests also took place in France Saturday for a third straight weekend, with clashes erupting in Paris and elsewhere.

Nationwide demonstrations there on October 17 degenerated into some of the country's worst rioting in years. *AFP*



A person dressed in a Batman costume stands in front of a burning trash dumpster in downtown Frankfurt during protests | AP

French school blockades to restart from Monday

Paris: The head of a student group said a campaign of high school blockades would restart from Monday, adding the government's proposals did not go far enough. Some high schools will be blockaded from Monday, when students return from a two-week holiday, said Pierre Sourzat, head of the "Lyceens!" group. "It will be more significant from Tuesday, but we know that some schools will be blocked as early as tomorrow," he told broadcaster RMC on Sunday. "We support all our comrades who are blocking their schools from tomorrow," he added

ASIA MATTERS



SINGAPORE

HUNT ON FOR ALTERNATIVES TO CUT AC USE

Long dubbed an "air-conditioned nation", Singapore is experimenting with cooling alternatives from chilled beams to "passive displacement" to curb its thirst for energy-guzzling air conditioning. Some buildings in Singapore are looking at other options, including active chilled beams, which are perforated panels equipped with cooling coils that are mounted on ceilings. Another alternative is radiant cooling, where chilled water flows through pipes and absorbs heat radiating from people or objects to cut temperatures

INDONESIA

'DEVELOPMENT MUST UPHOLD RIGHTS'

Indonesia's Deputy Human Rights Minister Mugiyanto Sipin stressed that respect for human dignity and human rights must be the foundation for development as the country works towards Golden Indonesia Vision 2045. "Human rights need to become a living ethic in every environment," Mugiyanto said in a statement.

THAILAND

RALLY AGAINST JEWISH GROUP IN PHUKET

Hundreds took part in a rally in Phuket urging Thai authorities to end the activities of the Chabad movement in the country and take action against alleged illegal economic activities by foreigners, including Israeli-linked organisations, the Times of Israel reported. Chabad is a movement that promotes Jewish interests worldwide. "Foreign capital groups have been able to play a significant role in the economy, while Thais, the rightful owners of the land, face unfair competition and risk losing their job opportunities," one of the organisers of the rally told the crowd.

US still has targets to hit in Iran: Trump

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Saturday that the United States has knocked out much of Iran's military but still has to "take care of" one or two targets, as Tehran warned of reprisals if attacked.

Trump maintained that negotiations with Iran to end the war, which was started by the United States and Israel in February, were "going fine but you know they're not very reliable."

The Republican president said the United States is not in a hurry to take offensive action because it had already decimated Iran's military and nuclear program.

"We've knocked out their nuclear. We still have to take care of, I would say one or two sites, but we can do that in 10 minutes," Trump told reporters at his Florida residence.

"You probably could look at Pickaxe Mountain, and you have to take care of that. We can do that all very quickly," he added, referring to a suspected underground nuclear complex.

The Iranian government denied any nuclear work is carried out there.

Earlier Saturday, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Trump has not made a decision about fresh strikes on Iran and that the United States would be open to a diplomatic solution.

Iran's supreme leader on Saturday warned the United States and Israel against launching a new offensive, following threats they could resume strikes after crucial elections in both countries. Trump had previously warned an attack could come after the US midterms this week, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke of a "historic, one-time opportunity" to topple the Iranian government.

The elections in both countries could determine the direction of the conflict, with Israel having voted in a general election on Tuesday but yet to form a new government. *AFP*

WAR WATCH



KUWAIT

- **Ali Al Salem Air Base:** Hit at least 30 times. At least 15 aircraft hangars, several warehouses and 10 buildings were damaged or destroyed
- **Camp Buehring:** Most aircraft hangars became inoperable. Strikes destroyed its gym and hit a troop store

JORDAN

- **Early-warning radar:** A radar was hit and said to be destroyed. One of only 13 such systems in the US Army's global inventory, it costs about $500 million each

QATAR

- **Early-warning radar:** Significantly damaged. The system was part of a 2013 deal worth more than $1.1 billion

SAUDI ARABIA

- **Prince Sultan Air Base:** Strikes damaged an E-3 Sentry surveillance aircraft, two refuelling tankers and several other aircraft. Barracks and mess halls also suffered heavy damage

War's cost on US military revealed

Iran struck more than 26 US bases and sites across the West Asia, targeting early-warning systems before aircraft and infrastructure. The damage forced the US to move aircraft, air defence systems, communications equipment and other assets out of the Persian Gulf, according to an analysis by *The Associated Press*

HUNDREDS OF BUILDINGS HIT

Iran launched more than 50 successful strikes on 18 locations with US military equipment in the first month of the war. Between April 1 and June 30, Iranian strikes had damaged and destroyed hundreds of buildings and other structures on US bases



Satellite image shows damages from Iran attack on US's Al Dhafra Air Base in UAE | AP

Qatar shipping firm says vessel struck in Gulf

Qatar's liquefied natural gas shipping company Nakilat said Sunday that one of its vessels was struck by "unidentified objects" while in the Persian Gulf. Nakilat, officially known as Qatar Gas Transport Co., said that the carrier, called Al Mayeda, sustained damage Friday night, but no crew members were injured and there was no environmental impact. The vessel remained operational, it said.



Xi Jinping | AFP

Communist Party tightens scrutiny of officials

BEIJING

THE Chinese Communist Party is set to tighten oversight of its officials by scrutinising their assets and online activities, according to a party document released on Sunday.

The document from the CCP's powerful Central Committee was published by the Xinhua state news agency following this week's annual plenary session in Beijing, which focused on governance and clamping down on corruption.

President Xi Jinping has cracked down hard on graft during more than a decade in charge, ensnaring thousands of officials and purging dozens of members of the powerful Central Committee as well as a string of top military brass.

The resolution released on Sunday, which outlines the party's policy direction, calls for stricter monitoring of officials.

"Starting with high-ranking officials, we will tighten all-around management and regular oversight of officials, imposing strict requirements throughout their career," it said. "Those with family property and spending far exceeding their normal incomes will be examined, and relevant verifications will be carried out," the resolution said, adding the business ventures of officials' spouses and children would also receive increased oversight. *AFP*

4-year-old boy among eight killed in fresh Israeli attacks on Gaza

GAZA CITY/ TEL AVIV

ISRAELI strikes in the Gaza Strip killed eight people including a child on Sunday, according to emergency services and local hospitals.

Five people were killed in Khan Yunis and three in Gaza City, said a statement from the territory's civil defence service, which operates under the authority of the Islamist movement Hamas that runs Gaza.

Local hospitals said they had received the bodies as well as several people wounded.

"Occupation aircraft targeted several on-duty police officers" in Khan Yunis, Gaza's interior ministry said.

Contacted for comment, the Israeli army told AFP it had targeted a "terrorist" in southern Gaza and several others in the north.

The military was examining the results of the strikes, it added.

Israel's offensive in Gaza since the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas has left much of the territory in ruins and killed more than 74,500 people, according to Gaza's health ministry, whose figures are considered reliable by the United Nations.

A ceasefire took effect in October 2025 but more than 1,500 people have been killed in Gaza since that time.

Meanwhile, in Israel, hundreds of people took to the streets on Saturday to urge the opposition to ally with Arab parties to oust Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has gone on the offensive against the minority group's leaders.

Arab-majority parties made major gains in Tuesday's election, fuelled by anger over rhetoric targeting the community from Netanyahu's hard-right government, but opposition chief Gadi Eisenkot has not decided whether to seek a coalition with them.

Joining a rally in Tel Aviv, Ayelet Raz said that the Arab community, which accounts for around 20 percent of Israel's population, had a right to political participation.

"It's the last chance for real change," the 60-year-old psychologist said. *AFP*



A wounded Palestinian boy is carried away from a site targeted by an Israeli strike in Gaza City's Al-Remal neighbourhood on Sunday | AFP

Trump threatens to become 'Mr Veto' if Dems take control of House, Senate

WASHINGTON

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Sunday he would become "Mr Veto" if Democrats won control of the House of Representatives and Senate in the upcoming midterm elections.

"I'll probably become Mr Veto," he told *The New York Post*, adding, "I'm not going to let them ruin it."

He said he will still be able to get things done if his party loses control of both the chambers. "And eventually, after a month or two of getting all vetoed, they're just wasting [time], they come over, and you make a deal. I think that probably would happen, but hopefully we don't have to worry about that," he said.

Polls show Democrats are all but certain to take the majority from Republicans in the House and — against all previous expectations — with a shot at winning the Senate.

Trump headlined the Republicans' last-ditch charge, holding rallies for candidates in Iowa and Kansas — states where ordinarily his party should be confident of victory and not require presidential boosts. Along with making lurid claims that Democrats will turn the country communist, Trump is dangling the promise of $5,000 payments to everyone in the country if his party wins. "I feel good," Trump told reporters at his luxury golf club in Florida late Saturday. "The country has never done better."

Polls, however, show the Republican is the most unpopular US president in decades and while his efforts may galvanize a hardcore base of right-wing supporters, a growing majority has turned on him. An NBC News poll released Sunday showed 60 per cent of Americans disapprove of Trump's performance, particularly over high prices exacerbated by his now eight-month, sputtering war against Iran. A Democratic House would impose the first real political constraints on Trump since he swept back into office in 2025. *Agencies*

Judge throws out Don's suit against *Wall Street Journal*

WASHINGTON

A US judge on Saturday dismissed President Donald Trump's defamation lawsuit against the *Wall Street Journal* and media magnate Rupert Murdoch over a report that Trump sent a bawdy birthday letter to notorious sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.



US President Donald Trump arrives for a Halloween party at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida | AFP

Trump had sued for $10 billion after the newspaper's story was published in July 2025 detailing the president's alleged 2003 letter to Epstein, which apparently featured a drawing of a naked woman.

The report piled scrutiny on Trump from both Democrats and his own Republican party, who rejected the president's attempts to downplay the saga as a hoax and called for a full release of legal files on Epstein.

In Saturday's ruling, Judge Darrin Gayles dismissed Trump's lawsuit with prejudice, meaning Trump cannot file an amended version of the suit, as he did when Gayles turned down an initial version of it back in April.

The judge wrote that in bringing his defamation claim, Trump had both times failed to establish that the defendants "acted with actual malice." *AFP*

Ukraine claims it hit a major oil refinery in Russia's Kstovo

MOSCOW/KYIV

UKRAINIAN media on Sunday reported an attack on Kstovo oil refinery, calling it "one of Russia's largest oil refineries, producing fuel and lubricants".

Moscow said on Friday Ukraine had resumed its strikes on Russian oil refineries after a "pause" of several days. Russia said, on Sunday a drone had struck an "industrial enterprise" east of Moscow overnight.

Gleb Nikitin, governor of Nizhny Novgorod region, reported a "massive drone attack" during the night, during which an "industrial enterprise in the Kstovo district sustained significant damage".

"More than 100 drones destroyed," and "according to preliminary information, there are no casualties," he added in a statement, without specifying the plant's activities.

Ukrainian media reported an attack on the Kstovo oil refinery, calling it "one of Russia's largest oil refineries, producing fuel and lubricants".

Moscow said Friday that Ukraine had resumed its strikes on Russian oil refineries after a "pause" of several days. Senior Russian official Alexander Novak told a reporter from state TV that Ukraine had resumed attacks on Russian plants, hitting three oil refineries and one gas-chemical complex. *AFP*

21.9% YoY rise in power consumption to 159.8 bn units India witnessed in October, fueled by increased commercial & indusstrial demand

How default direct MF plans help save more

Direct plans come sans distributor commissions, therefore, lower cost ratios; regular plans come with commissions

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai



TO bring in more transparency in terms of what an investor pays in distributor commissions or what the mutual funds industry calls entry costs or expense ratios, Sebi chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey on October 28 asked AMCs to make direct mutual fund plans the default option on their websites from November 1.

The move will not disrupt distribution ecosystem as those investors opting for regular plans will continue to do so, but AMCs will have to inform them about expense ratios or entry cost. Currently, MF distributors earn trail commissions of 0.5-1.5% on equity schemes, 0.7-1% on equity-linked savings schemes, 0.5-0.8% on hybrid or balanced advantage funds, and 0.2-0.5% on debt funds. While commissions are small in actual terms, they add up because, say, over a 20-year period a small difference in MF expenses can make a large difference to your returns.

Both direct and regular plans are two different options of the same scheme as both invest in same underlying portfolio. Direct plans come sans distributor commissions, therefore, have lower expense ratios, while regular plans that are bought via agents (fund houses now don't offer regular plans on their websites) come with commissions. Sebi wants fund houses to inform investors what it would cost them if they switch to a regular plan.

The first public push for direct plans was in September 2018 when then Sebi chief Ajay Tyagi urged AMCs to promote direct plans at an Association of Mutual Funds in India event, even as originally Sebi introduced schemes sans distributor fees in 2012, and in July 2022 released a consultation paper on it.

MUTUAL FUND COMMISSIONS

- Equity schemes: **0.5-1.5%**
- Equity-linked savings schemes: **0.7-1%**
- Hybrid funds: **0.5-0.8%**
- Debt funds: **0.2-0.5%**

Tracking independently

Direct plans may suit those investors who are comfortable choosing and tracking their funds independently

Direct vs regular fund:

Since both plans invest in same portfolio and are managed by the same fund manager, the only difference is cost. While direct plans have lower expense ratios as they don't include distributor fee, regular plans come with commissions that are deducted from fund's assets and reflected in its NAV, affecting returns.

How much can ₹10k SIP earn

Assume you invest ₹10,000 a month for 20 years, and get an annualised return of 12%, this adds up to ₹24 lakh. If you enter directly, this will yield ₹84.53 lakh, but bought as a regular plan, you will earn only ₹75.06 lakh. That's about ₹9.47 lakh in direct savings. That means, the longer you stay invested after entering directly, more you can compound your savings.

Is a direct plan always the best?

Direct plans may suit those investors who are comfortable choosing and tracking their funds independently but regular plans are for those who neexd regular guidance in terms of financial planning, fund selection, portfolio construction, and ongoing guidance. For long-term investors, comparing costs before starting a SIP can make a meaningful difference.

IN CONVERSATION



KIRAN MAZUMDAR-SHAW
Cofounder and chairperson of Biocon

'If you keep taxing capital gains, it's not good for investment'

KIRAN Mazumdar-Shaw, Biocon cofounder and chairperson, said she doesn't think the US tariffs are an issue for India. In an interaction with **Dipak Mondal** and **Pushpita Dey,** Shaw tells the US also requires to bring down its healthcare costs, and India is very well positioned to be a partner. **Edited excerpts**:

Several agencies have revised their projections for India's GDP growth upwards, reflecting strong macroeconomic fundamentals. How do you reconcile the optimism seen in the growth numbers with economic realities?
I think, India should become very competitive. We have to make sure that we deliver on the potential. So, I think ease of doing business is a very important part of delivering on the opportunity and the potential. I believe technology is going to play a very important role in this.

It's about investing in some critical areas where we can generate the kind of growth that we need. In our sector (pharma), for instance, I believe we need to focus on personalised medicine because India should be the go-to country for it, as we can do that very cost-effectively. If we use AI in personalising medicine, in genomic profiling, personalised cell and gene therapies, and bespoke on-demand therapies, we can become an interesting opportunity, especially when we have the potential to generate huge amounts of data when we create such opportunities.

I do not think tariffs are a very big issue. At the moment, there are no tariffs. As I have already mentioned, the opportunity for India is to position itself as a strategic partner to the US. The US needs India as much as India needs the US, and the US market is very important for India

Why do you think foreign investors are pulling out money from India?
Yes, I think that's a problem… there are some comments that we may be overvalued, but in the markets, I'm not sure. Certain segments might be, but certainly not pharmaceuticals.

Do you think long-term capital gains tax restructuring can help in a way?
Investors don't like the sound of capital gains tax, especially when they are investing for a very short term. And, they don't want to reinvest. If you don't encourage reinvestment, and keep taxing capital gains, it's not good for investment. But there should be a caveat. We don't want money to leave the country. But if investors reinvest their gains, I don't think you should charge them capital gains.

The US is a key market for Indian pharma exporters, but challenges like tariffs, threat of Section 301 persist. How do you think pharma industry will navigate them?
I don't think tariffs are an issue. At the moment, there are no tariffs. As I have mentioned, the opportunity for India is to position itself as a strategic partner to the US. The US needs India as much as India needs the US, and the US market is very important for India. The US needs to bring down its healthcare costs, and India is well-positioned to be a partner in helping it achieve that. I don't think we should keep talking about tariffs. I believe the nature of commentary needs to change. People learn how to navigate these challenges. We can't constantly look at tariffs as a threat. We have to learn how to navigate the situation, just as everyone else does.

The future of drug discovery will be driven by data and AI. While India has the capacity to generate data at scale, are we investing enough in AI to collect, analyse and translate this data into innovation, or are we falling behind the curve?
AI investment is extremely expensive. Globally, there is an ongoing debate over whether countries are over-investing in data centres and under-investing in the actual deployment of AI. I believe India is only at the beginning of its AI journey and has not yet made this mistake. Several countries have invested heavily in infrastructure but have not focused enough on deployment, whereas India is placing considerable emphasis on the latter. We need to get this balance right.

MONEY-WISE

FACTOR INVESTING — IS IT SUSTAINABLE?



FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
An experienced investor and can be contacted at ceolotus@hotmail.com

ONE of our new generation investors wanted to know what I felt about Factor Investing (Smart Beta Investing) and its sustainability in the Indian market. Before sharing my response at the conclusion of this column, let us first take a deep dive into the concept and modus operandi of Factor Investing.

Factor Investing funds that are offered to investors by mutual fund houses use specific 'factors' while making investments. Factor Investing funds use data and research to build a portfolio based on specific characteristics or factors in stocks that have historically optimised performance while lowering risk. These factors can include value, momentum, quality, volatility and size.



Factor investing is not a new concept. Institutional investors and hedge funds have been using these strategies for decades. But these techniques have become more accessible to everyday investors via MFs and exchange-traded funds (ETFs). These funds use algorithms and historical data to create rule-based investment models. This makes process more systematic and reduces need for active decision-making based on predictions or emotions.

In India, factor investing funds are a relatively novel concept but it is gaining interest. Several fund houses have launched products that follow single-factor or multi-factor strategies. A single-factor fund focuses on one characteristic, like value or quality, while a multi-factor fund combines two or more factors. Aim of multi-factor funds is to balance out risks of any one factor underperforming.

Another key benefit of factor investing is transparency. Since the fund follows a rule-based approach, investors have a better idea of how their money is being managed. This is different from traditional active funds where the strategy might depend heavily on fund manager's decisions, which can at times be difficult to predict. Factor-based funds are generally more cost-effective than fully active funds, because the process is largely automated and does not require constant buying and selling.

However, factor investing carries its own risks. It is data driven and just because a strategy has worked in the past doesn't mean it will work in future. Markets go through different cycles, and certain factors may perform poorly during specific periods. Investors can replicate similar strategies, potentially curtailing its impact over time.

For Indian investors who are considering factor investing MFs, it's important to understand your investment goals, risk tolerance, and time horizon. These funds can be a useful part of a diversified portfolio, especially for investors looking for a more scientific and disciplined approach to investing. But like other equity-based investing, here too, patience and holding for long term are keys to benefit there from.

To conclude, Factor Investing, though novel, data driven and cost-effective has its own pitfalls that an Investor must do their own due diligence about or seek professional advise before taking the plunge.

MONEY MATTERS

THE MONEY YOU SEND HOME EVERY MONTH IS NOT A PLAN



FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

NEHAL MOTA
Co-founder of Finnovate Financial Services, a SEBI Registered Investment Adviser

ON the same date every month, a transfer leaves millions of Indian bank accounts. A son in Bengaluru sends money to his parents in Madurai. A nurse in Muscat sends money to Kollam. India received $118.7 billion from its people abroad in 2023-24, and Kerala and Tamil Nadu together account for close to a third of it.

Almost none of it is planned

Ask anyone who sends money home three questions. How was the amount decided? What is it doing at the other end? And when does it stop? Most people cannot answer any of the three.

The second question has an answer, and it is not the one most senders expect. The Kerala Migration Survey of 2023 asked recipient households what they did with the money. Daily expenses, food and clothing, came to under 7%. The largest single use, at nearly 16 per cent, was renovating a house or a shop. The second largest, at 14%, was repaying bank loans, with a further 3% going to informal lenders. So the money is no longer feeding anybody. It is rebuilding houses and clearing debts.

Two other lines in that table deserve more attention than they get. Households held nearly 10 per cent of the money as cash in hand and put only 4 per cent into a deposit of any kind, so more than twice as much sits in a cupboard as in a bank. And they spent 7.7 per cent on health and medical bills while putting 2.1 per cent into insurance. Nearly four rupees paid out for every rupee that might have covered it.

Underneath all this is a conversation neither side will start. You feel obliged and cannot say so without sounding resentful. They feel watched and cannot ask without sounding demanding. So the money moves and nobody discusses it.

One conversation a year will do it, with your parents in the room, because it is their money and they can refuse any part of it. Three things belong in it.

Clear the debt before anything else

Seventeen paise in every rupee already goes to lenders, and the informal share is the expensive part. Interest you avoid is certain. Returns you might earn are not. Ask which loans are outstanding and what each one costs, then settle the dearest first. Nothing else you do with this money works as reliably.

Get the cash out of the house

Money held as cash earns nothing, cannot be recovered if it goes, and shrinks a little every year. If it is meant as the family's emergency fund, say so, agree how large it ought to be, and move it where it can be reached within a day and still grow.

Insure the bills instead of paying them

The survey's two most revealing numbers sit beside each other: 7.7 per cent going out on medical bills, 2.1 per cent going into cover. A health policy would absorb the first for a fraction of it and release the rest of the money to do something. If your parents are over sixty and uninsured, this is the most urgent line on the page, because waiting periods mean cover bought during a crisis does not pay.

Then put the arrangement on one page and look at it again next year. A figure fixed in 2017 may well need to rise in 2026.

Sending money home is among the more admirable things people do with an income. It deserves better than being the one financial decision in the house that nobody is allowed to examine.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Nehal Mota is Co-founder of Finnovate Financial Services, a SEBI Registered Investment Adviser. Views are personal. This article is educational in nature and does not constitute investment advice.

Views are personal. This article is educational in nature and does not constitute investment advice.

Car sales cross 5L for first time in Oct

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

CAR sales shattered all previous records in October 2026 with industry sales estimated to be about 5.25-5.30 lakh, up from 4,60,739 units sold in October 2025. This marks the first time the industry has breached 5 lakh monthly dispatch milestone. The record volume came despite a high base of October last year when the full impact of GST 2.0 was reflected for the first time.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki (MSIL) set a new record as it sold 2.76 lakh units last month, up 25% YoY. While domestic passenger vehicle (PV) sales grew 20% to 2.12 lakh units, exports rose about 60% to 49,872 units. Owing to record sales, the carmaker is left with a network stock of just 12 days and has a pending order book of 2.45 lakh units.

Maruti plans to raise CNG vehicle production from Jan

Partho Banerjee, senior executive officer, marketing & sales, MSIL, said from January onwards, it plans to increase production capacity for its CNG vehicles. He added that the existing CNG production capacity remains constrained, limiting its ability to meet customer demand



For MSIL, small car sales grew 38% YoY to 40,646 units. The automaker recorded its highest-ever monthly SUV sales, with volumes reaching 73,058 units. CNG vehicle sales stood at 87,000 units in October 2026, with CNG models accounting for about 40% of total sales.

Partho Banerjee, senior executive officer, marketing and sales, MSIL, said from January onwards, the company plans to increase production capacity for its CNG vehicles. He added that the existing CNG production capacity remains constrained, limiting its ability to meet customer demand. MSIL is expected to have gained market share of 2% in the domestic car market.

Hyundai, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) and Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles also reported sales in October. Hyundai (HMIL) achieved its highest-ever total monthly sales of 82,299 units (domestic + exports) in October 2026, registering a strong 17.7% YoY growth. The milestone was driven by record domestic sales of 62,799 units (+16.7% YoY) and exports of 19,500 units (+21.1% YoY). Tarun Garg, MD & CEO - HMIL, said, "Strong festive demand, coupled with healthy momentum in both domestic and export markets, helped us set this new sales record. "

Tata.Cars recorded sales of 75,426 units in the domestic and international markets in October 2026, up 23% YoY.

Gross GST collections up 23% in Oct at ₹2.31L cr on rise in import revenues

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

THE festive season sales in October lit up the government's tax coffers as gross goods and services tax collections rose 22.9% year-on-year to ₹2.31 lakh crore during the month. The collections were also helped by a sharp rise in import revenues, as per the provisional government data released on Sunday. This is the second-highest monthly gross GST collection ever, with highest being at ₹2.42 lakh crore in April 2026.

GST from imports grew 42.2% to ₹72,246 crore, while revenue from domestic transactions saw a healthy double-digit growth of 15.8% to ₹1.59 lakh crore in October. After accounting for refunds, net GST collections rose 25.6% to ₹2.03 lakh crore in Octoberas against ₹1.61 lakh crore in the corresponding month last year. Total refunds during the month rose 6.5% to ₹27,934 crore.



HEALTHY GROWTH

- Import revenue rises by 42.2% to ₹72,246 crore
- Gross domestic revenue rises 15.8% to ₹1.59L cr in Oct
- Net GST mop-up increases 25.6% to ₹2.03L cr in Oct

Reacting to the GST revenue numbers, Manoj Mishra, Partner and Tax Controversy Management Leader, Grant Thornton Bharat, says the timing is significant as October collections capture the festive-season demand cycle, which typically brings higher consumer spending, retail activity and movement of goods across sectors.

Experts attribute the 42% surge in import revenue to a large supply of raw and intermediary goods ahead of the festival season. Nitin Vijaivergia, Partner, Price Waterhouse & Co LLP, says this trend merits attention from a domestic manufacturing perspective as well. The cumulative gross GST collections for the current financial year (Apr-Oct) has reached ₹14.77 lakh crore, a growth of 13.2% to over ₹13.05 lakh crore in the same period last year.

Cloud over Pant's fitness for NZ Tests

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant was on Sunday ruled out of the third and final red-ball fixture between India A and New Zealand A, starting on November 7, as a precautionary measure, casting a shadow over his availability for the first Test in Wellington. The first Test begins on November 19 at the Basin Reserve. "At the moment, I have no information. And once I get it, we'll share it with you," said Gautam Gambhir.

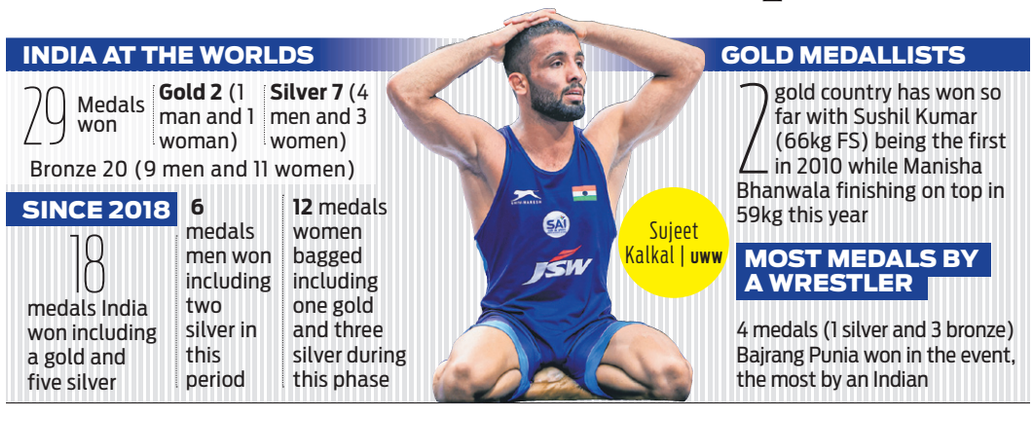
Women saving grace as their male counterparts continue to disappoint

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

THANKS to Manisha Bhanwala's historic gold and her fellow women wrestlers' two silver and one bronze, India registered their best-ever show at the World Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan in 65 years. The result hints towards exponential growth of the sport in the country but a deeper look and it will reveal how performances of men wrestlers have spiralled down in the last few years.

With all of them (both freestyle and Greco-Roman) returning empty-handed, it's been four editions since they won a medal at the event. In fact since 2018, out of total 18 medals Indian won, women bagged 12 including a gold and three silver. Their male counterparts came home with six medals (half of women's tally), which included two second-placed finishes, in this period, highlighting the stark contrasts between the two.

As the 2028 LA Olympics is less than a couple of years away, the decline in the show needs immediate attention. It's primarily been the men wrestlers, who have been winning at least a medal at the Games since 2008 (Sushil Kumar's a bronze and a silver in 2008 and 2012 respectively, Yogeshwar Dutt's bronze in 2012, Ravi Dahiya's silver and Bajrang Punia's bronze in 2020 — held in 2021 — and Aman Sehrawat's bronze in 2024) except for 2016 when they drew blank. Sakshi Malik (58kg) won a bronze in that edition.



"Felicitation programmes after the Asian Games left the wrestlers with little time to train ahead of the Worlds. This is something, which every stakeholder including the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and wrestlers, need to understand and make sure such things don't recur in future," Sanjay Kumar Singh, WFI president, said.

India's freestyle foreign coach Shako Emzarios Bentinidis sung from the same hymn sheet and said Sujeet Kalkal, who clinched gold in the 65kg weight category at the Asian Games, missed out on a medal at the Worlds because of distractions. "As for Sujeet, he wasn't able to train properly following the Asian Games. I understand that there is a culture of ceremonies and awards celebrations after winning gold medals, and I get all that but because of it he lost his focus a bit. But I believe this defeat will ultimately prove beneficial," Bentinidis told this mast. Besides, India's squad also missed the services of experienced wrestlers like Aman Sehrawat, Deepak Punia and Antim Panghal. All three won medals in Japan before deciding to skip the Worlds. "Several young athletes took part for the first time. It was a very significant experience. We need time to change the system within Indian wrestling; starting from the New Year, we must establish order and discipline. Only then will we see major results — without this, it will be difficult," he added.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Right calls over popular ones: Gauti

India lose fifth T20I, but win series 3-2 as the focus now shifts to the 50-over format

GOMESH S @ Chennai

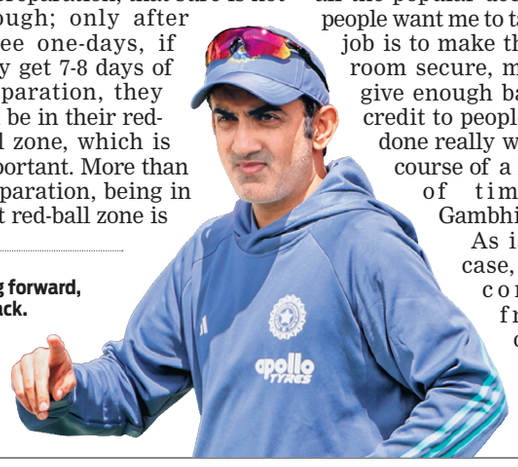


India players celebrate with the trophy after the fifth and final T20I against New Zealand in Hamilton on Sunday | BCCI

WHEN India landed in New Zealand just two days out from the first T20I after being on road for almost three weeks, if they were offered a 3-2 scoreline in the shortest format of the long tour, they would have taken it with both hands.

Which is why, despite losing the last two matches, including the fifth T20I on Sunday — India scored 191/8 before the hosts chased it down in 18 overs — head coach Gautam Gambhir seemed immensely proud of the side. He acknowledged the planning went behind the scenes, but credited the young team, most of them touring the country for the first, for adapting to the conditions. He also had high praise for Shreyas for leading an inexperienced bowling attack and ensuring the result. "I thought that Shreyas has done a fabulous job with so much inexperience in their bowling lineup because as a captain, you're only as good as how your bowlers or your batters perform," Gambhir said. As it is known by now, the preparations have largely been focussed on the longer formats with the shadow red-ball tour underway. The former India captain said that the planning happens at the highest level knowing what is at stake. Which is why several Test stars will leave the ODI squad after the third match to prepare for the Tests. He felt his job was to make the right calls and not the popular ones, especially while rotating stars within the squad.

"See, planning happens at the BCCI level, and it is very important to prioritize. For Test players, if they only get three days of preparation, that sure is not enough; only after three one-days, if they get 7-8 days of preparation, they can be in their red-ball zone, which is important. More than preparation, being in that red-ball zone is very important because we all know there is a huge difference between red-ball cricket and white-ball cricket under any conditions. So actually, when they get 8-9 days of preparation time, I think that will be a good preparation if they use it really well." "My job is to take the right decision, not the popular decision. It's very easy for me to be in that dressing room and take all the popular decisions that people want me to take. But my job is to make the dressing room secure, my job is to give enough backing and credit to people who have done really well over the course of a long period of time," said Gambhir.



If we do well in the ODI series moving forward, the credit will go to this bowling attack. In batting, we have experience. But when you come overseas, your bowlers win the series, especially in ODIs and Tests -Gautam Gambhir

As is often the case, this press conference from the coach too had some headline-worthy quotes. Asked if there was any fear going into the series with just a practice session, he said his dictionary does not have the word "fear." "That word does not exist in my life," he said, before going on to add how had India lost the series the lone practice session would not have been a talking point.

"In India, only results are looked at, nothing else. My job is to see how best we can prepare the players, whether I can share my knowledge with them and try to keep them in a good space, and make them show that they are absolutely aggressive. Because we have played that kind of cricket for the past two and a half years — high risk, high reward. Sometimes we will lose matches, sometimes we will lose one-sided matches, we will lose going forward too, but our philosophy will not change."

Brief scores: India 191/8 in 20 ovs (Ishan 61, Shreyas 50; Milne 4/19) **lost to** NZ 195/3 in 18 ovs (Seifert 93, Phillips 65 n.o).

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Hylo Open: Shuttlers Sen and Sindhu secure titles

ENS/AGENCIES @ Chennai

DOUBLE Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen made it a super Sunday for India as they secured the women's and men's singles titles at the Hylo Open Super 500 badminton tournament in Germany on Sunday.

Sindhu, who won the Japan Open earlier in the year before finishing second at the French Open last week, showed utter dominance against eighth seed and world No. 25 Line Højmark Kjærsfeldt of Denmark to beat her 21-12, 21-14 39 minutes. It was her second title of the season. "It was important for me to give my 100 per cent irrespective of who the opponent was. We've played a lot of times and for me it was important that I focus on every point. It's just not about the whole game, but every point mattered to me," Sindhu said. "I took the lead from the beginning and I didn't give her a chance," she added.



Lakshya Sen beat Jonatan Christie in the final on Sunday | BADMINTON PHOTO

Asked if she was back to her best, Sindhu said: "Definitely yes. Hats off to my whole team, we've been planning accordingly. As you keep growing, it's important to be smarter in what you choose. "But at the same time, it was important for me to just stay calm. There is still room to improve. Things are getting better and I'm happy with that," she said.

Meanwhile, Sen cruised past Jonatan Christie 21-17, 21-10 in the men's singles final to complete a memorable double for India. With the win, the world No. 8 Sindhu earned 9,200 ranking points to strengthen her bid for a place in the season-ending World Tour Finals.

Sen, who won the Australian Open and reached the finals at Hong Kong Open in 2025, said he was happy to get back to winning ways. "I think it's been quite some time since I won a tournament, so it feels really good to play this well. The last two matches that I've played were like really top quality opponents and I managed to beat them convincingly. Happy with the way I played and really happy to win a tournament," Sen said.

Admitting that he came into the event low on confidence, Sen decided to take one game at a time. "I would say, a couple of first-round losses really plays with your confidence, but again, the way I played the tournament from round one, I think it gave me a lot of confidence," he explained.

After two home wins, TN seek momentum

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

TAMIL NADU will look to carry forward the momentum of their hard-fought win over Railways when they take on Chandigarh at the Sector 16 cricket stadium in a Group D round match of the Ranji Trophy.

Chandigarh, with just one point from three games, will be under severe pressure. On the other hand, Tamil Nadu with a cushion of 14 points will go for an outright win. They also will take confidence from the wins against hosts in 2025 and 2024.

"We have a good team that ticks all the boxes and I am sure they will carry forward the momentum of the win against Railways against Chandigarh. We will go all out for full points, no doubt about that," said TR Arasu, senior Tamil Nadu selection committee member. "If you see, Chandigarh has just one point, so they will be under immense pressure and this should be exploited by our boys," he added.

Asked if the shuffling of batting line-up from the Railways match would continue, Arasu said it was a tactical call taken by team management based on the pitch. "We need to have a settled batting order. Against Railways at that point of time what the team management felt they did. We selectors don't interfere. However, that (shuffling) will not be the norm. They will bat according to the batting specifications earlier, there won't be any jumbled batting going here and there and all this. So, it will be the general order which will be revealed before the game. he said.

SELECT FIXTURES

Group B: At Guwahati: Assam vs Karnataka, At Secunderabad: Hyderabad vs Chhattisgarh, At Mullanpur: Punjab vs Andhra; **Group C:** At Bhubaneswar: Odisha vs Jharkhand, At Palam: New Delhi vs Services, At Ahmedabad: Gujarat vs Kerala; **Group D:** At Chandigarh: Chandigarh vs Tamil Nadu

Another area that Tamil Nadu batters need to work upon is shot selection. Chasing a small total against Railways they tried too many things and the top-order succumbed. Pradosh Ranjan Paul, who generally plays straight, suddenly went for a switch hit and got out leg before.

"Shot selection is one area that the team can work upon. Pradosh is a class player, on that day he could have avoided that shot," he said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com



Arsenal's Kai Havertz (R) rejoices his goal with his teammate | AFP

Arsenal end Anfield jinx to go top of table

AGENCIES @ Liverpool

ARSENAL moved to the top of the Premier League with their first win away to Liverpool in 14 years as Kai Havertz's early strike secured a 1-0 victory for the Gunners.

The defending champions were made to suffer after the German's 16th-minute opener but held out for what could be a telling win in their quest to retain the title. Arsenal climbed three points clear of Manchester City at the top of the table.

Liverpool produced arguably their spell of Andoni Iraola's early months in charge with a blistering 30 minutes after conceding, but failed to take their chances.

Meanwhile Aston Villa's surge up the Premier League table stalled in a 1-1 draw against Fulham in Birmingham due to an own goal from goalkeeper Zion Suzuki. The in-form Nicolas Jackson put Unai Emery's men in front before Suzuki fumbled Alex Iwobi's corner.

Liga: Barca thrash Alaves

BARCELONA: Raphinha and Lamine Yamal each struck twice as Barcelona thrashed Alaves 6-1 late on Saturday to reclaim their La Liga lead and get back after two defeats. Earlier, Real Madrid demolished Racing Santander 3-0. Kylian Mbappe, Jude Bellingham and Yan Diomande were the goalscorers.

Change in environment does the trick for Maaya

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai



Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi | FILE

"IT has been a long year," young tennis prodigy Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi said with a sigh. It is not what you would usually hear from a 17-year-old, especially when they are trying to enjoy life until adulthood hits them. But since the 2025 Chennai Open, a lot has changed, on and off the court, for Maaya.

And when she takes on eighth seed and World No 106 Katarzyna Kawa in the round of 32 of the women's singles, she has an opportunity to show how much she has grown from her first-round exit in this event last year. Firstly, Maaya, whose reputation shot up after she joined Rafael Nadal's academy in Mallorca last year, left the academy after the Wimbledon Junior Grand Slam event in July. She made the switch to the Elite Tennis Center in Cannes, France, run by French-Monegasque Jean-Rene Lisnard. The academy has produced the likes of Daniil Medvedev and Mirra Andreeva. "There were no problems with the Rafa Nadal Academy. It was just that I felt like I needed a change. And people (her agent, family members) were thinking about it and we thought this would be better for me. I'm just happy with where I am now. I'm just training, I'm getting used to the place," she said after practice at the SDAT Tennis Stadium on Sunday.

On the court, the 17-year-old from Coimbatore has had a lean patch both in the senior and junior circuit until October, as she failed to get past the first round in most events. With Junior Slams, she endured a similar fate, with the best run being a second round appearance at the Junior French Open in May-June this year. But she won the W35 Lagos event in Portugal, a USD 30,000 event. "Winning a senior title has been a goal for me this year and I'm happy with that. Even the following week was not bad (a quarterfinal run in W35 Monastir, Tunisia).

Ever since joining Lisnard's academy, Maaya said that there is gradual improvement. One thing she is pleased with is the alignment of goals with her and the coaches.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

ACT: Skipper Harmanpreet fires hat-trick in 4-2 win

JALANDHAR: Skipper Harmanpreet Singh continued his goal-scoring spree with a fine hat-trick as five-time champions India defeated Malaysia 4-2 to register their fourth consecutive win at the Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Sunday. It was a rematch of the Asian Games gold medal match where India prevailed over Malaysia 5-1 in Japan recently.

SC Delhi score late goals to stun Mumbai City 3-2

MUMBAI: Sporting Club Delhi scored three goals in the final 20 minutes, including two in stoppage time, to pull off a dramatic 3-2 comeback win over Mumbai City FC in their Indian Super League match on Sunday. Mumbai City appeared in control after taking a 2-0 half-time lead through Muhammad Ajsal (6th minute) and Zothanpuia (27th).

Lifter Usha tops her 61kg group at Worlds

NINGBO (CHINA): Indian weightlifter Usha topped Group D, while compatriot Nirupama Devi endured a disappointing outing to finish fourth in Group C of the women's 61kg event at the IWF World Championships on Sunday. Usha lifted a total of 212kg — 93kg in snatch and 119kg in clean and jerk — to finish ahead of others in her group.

Boxers shine as India finish on top with 14 medals

NEW DELHI: Indian pugilists won four gold, two silver and eight bronze medals to finish atop the medals tally at the 46th International Tammer Boxing Tournament in Finland. Aarti Dhariyal (women's 54kg), Ankushita Boro (women's 65kg), Arundhati Chaudhary (women's 70kg) and Pawan Bartwal (men's 55kg) clinched gold, while Md Hussamuddin (men's 60kg) and Jaismine (women's 57kg) settled for silver.

Indian Navy win MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai



India Navy players celebrate their title triumph on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

RIDING on Kuldeep's strike in the sudden death, Indian Navy defeated BPCL 5-4in the final of the 97th All India MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup Hockey Tournament here on Sunday.

In an evenly contested encounter, Indian Navy took the lead through Abhishek Topno in the 14h minute. Anmol Ekka with his brilliance converted a penalty corner in the second quarter (30 minute) for BPCL to level the scores 1-1. In the next two quarters, both teams raided each other with little success. The shoot out ended in a deadlock with both teams committing identical errors and the scoreboard reading 4-4

In the sudden death, Sudeep of BCPL got the first opportunity to strike and missed the chance. Later, Kuldeep held on to his nerves and scored the winner to the delight of the large crowd. Former Olympian V Baskaran had a word of praise for the way the final was played. "In a final, you do not expect teams to concede soft goals. So naturally one expected the match to go to a tie breaker. As none wanted to take risk, it was apt that it ended in sudden death," Baskaran told this daily.

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS



UP SPECIAL TEACHER ELIGIBILITY TEST (SPECIAL TET)
Date: Nov 3, 2026

RRB ASSISTANT LOCO PILOT (ALP) CBT-1
Dates: Nov 3–5, 2026

SSC JUNIOR ENGINEER (JE) PAPER-I
Dates: Nov 3–6, 2026

THE MAKING OF A UNIVERSITY

Dr Atul Chauhan speaks about the principles guiding Amity University's academic ecosystem, the relationship between research and enterprise, and the opportunities universities must create for young people

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

WHAT does it take to build a university that can keep pace with the changing expectations of higher education? Dr Atul Chauhan, Chancellor of Amity University, Uttar Pradesh, and President of the Amity Education Group, has spent decades overseeing that endeavour. We spoke to him to hear how he views the responsibilities of university leadership and the direction higher education must take.

Q How does Amity review its curricula, and what informs decisions to introduce or revise courses?

All our degree programmes and constituent courses undergo a mandatory 360-degree triennial review, supplemented by interim revisions to integrate emerging sectoral trends. Industry feedback is a primary consideration. External experts serve on course-level committees, programme review boards, and the University Academic Council. Partnerships with organisations such as Tata, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and CII support specialised programmes across engineering, technology, management, and health sciences. Industry practitioners and university faculty jointly design and deliver these curricula, ensuring a seamless translation of operational industry insights into the academic environment.

Q How much flexibility do students have to pursue academic interests beyond their chosen field of study?

Multidisciplinary education has been part of our approach even before the National Education Policy took shape. Our AMITY BOUNDLESS platform allows undergraduates to choose from more than 60 secondary major disciplines and over 85 minor concentrations, creating pathways across 100 fields. This degree of personalisation empowers students to custom-design their own educational trajectories to tackle the multipronged challenges of a fast-changing world. Students can also enrol in unrestricted electives suited to their interests while developing the core competencies of their primary degree programmes.

The higher education ecosystem stands at the cusp of one of the most defining periods in its history. Universities cannot remain primarily places where students acquire knowledge; they must learn how to learn, unlearn, and relearn

—Dr Atul Chauhan, President of Amity Education Group



Q&A

Q What happens to research and student projects that show potential for commercial application?

Amity's innovation ecosystem combines entrepreneurship education, prototyping infrastructure and venture support to transition early-stage academic research into commercially viable market ventures. The Amity Centre for Entrepreneurship Development offers credit-bearing minors in Entrepreneurship and Innovation and Design. The Amity Innovation Design Centre supports early-stage ideas, while the Technology Enabling Centre, backed by the Department of Science and Technology, helps move technologies towards industrial application. Our incubation network includes centres across India and 17 virtual hubs. Ventures can also access Amity Capital Ventures and dedicated seed funds, alongside hackathons and venture-mentoring networks. Our ecosystem has nurtured more than 200 ventures and supported over 40 student- and faculty-led start-ups.

ACCORDING TO UNESCO, HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLMENT WORLDWIDE HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED SINCE 2000, PLACING NEW DEMANDS ON UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEMS

Q What academic opportunities do Amity's international campuses offer students and faculty?

Amity has a presence across 11 countries, with an academic and research network spanning student and faculty exchange, joint research, curriculum development, and international progression. The campuses in Dubai and Mauritius are autonomous, chartered degree-awarding institutions recognised by their respective governments, while the Tashkent campus is authorised to deliver Indian-accredited degree programmes. The New York campus functions as a Global Research Hub, bringing together Amity and external scientists for collaborative research and wider cross-border academic exchange opportunities. The London campus offers academic opportunities and pathways in the UK. Meaningful collaboration, for me, requires academic purpose, students and faculty at its centre, and continuity.

Q What informs Amity's approach to placements, and how does the university prepare students for employment after graduation?

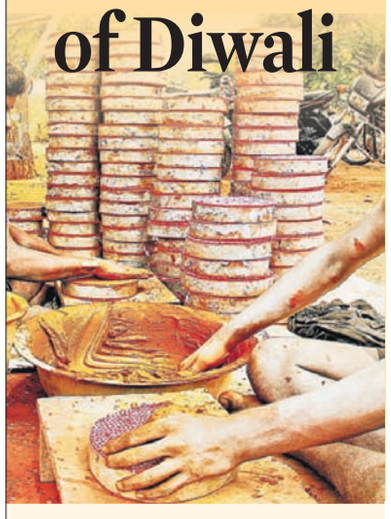
Behind every placement statistic is a young person and a family hoping for a good future. Students need to be adaptable, curious and confident enough to respond to changing hiring patterns and the cross-sectoral disruption of emerging technologies. Anticipating the macro-shift towards sustainable energy and artificial intelligence, Amity offers programmes, electives and minors in data analytics, green energy systems, quantum technologies and space sciences. Our Amity Centre for Artificial Intelligence, equipped with high-performance computing infrastructure including NVIDIA DGX systems, supports research in Explainable AI, generative AI, and multimodal machine learning. Students work with AI applications in healthcare, cybersecurity, and industrial automation. Our MISSION SPACE, MISSION QUANTUM and MISSION HYDROGEN ENERGY initiatives align with national science priorities and support the Government of India's Viksit Bharat@2047 vision for socio-economic and technological development. We want graduates to build meaningful careers and retrain when required.

Q How many students receive scholarships, and what determines the eligibility and distribution of these awards?

A: We believe quality education should be accessible and affordable. Through a comprehensive, philanthropy-driven financial aid policy designed to democratise higher education, Amity has awarded scholarships to more than 50,000 students. These include merit scholarships for strong board examination results and awards for high achievers in national and institutional entrance examinations. We also offer Champs Sports Scholarships for athletes, and assistance for defence personnel and the dependants of martyrs. Divyaang Scholarships support students with physical and locomotor disabilities, while Amity Alumni Scholarships encourage further academic progression among alumni. These programmes aim to support academic excellence and widen access.

READ A LONGER VERSION OF THIS INTERVIEW ON EDEXLIVE.COM

The hidden cost of Diwali



Festivals create seasonal work in small businesses that employ children. It brings family finances, children's education and workplace safety into focus

ARYA VIDYA

EVERY Diwali, demand for sweets, flowers, decorations and firecrackers adds to the workload of shops and small businesses. In financially strained households, children may be expected to help with packing, stocking and sales. Research on child labour reveals how such work intersects with economic pressures and gaps in legal protection.

Consider Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu, which produces nearly 90 per cent of India's fireworks. A 2026 study, *A Critical Study of Child Labour in Sivakasi Fireworks Industries*, estimates that 45,000 of the 100,000 workers in the region's match and fireworks sectors are children, most below 14.

price tag

The legal position is complicated. A separate study, *The Legal Fiction of "Family Enterprises": A Critical Analysis of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, and Its Disproportionate Impact on the Girl Child*, examines a provision that prohibits the employment of children below 14 but allows them to assist in family enterprises outside school hours. The authors argue that this exemption fails to distinguish small household activities from larger commercial operations and can legitimise unpaid domestic work, including cooking, cleaning and caregiving, placing a disproportionate burden on girls and potentially affecting their education. Authorities must identify children in hazardous work and scrutinise family enterprises where unpaid labour can go unnoticed. Schools and local bodies must track attendance during seasonal rushes, when absences may signal that children are being put to work.

SEE A CHILD BEING EMPLOYED?
CALL 1098
India's 24-hour Child Helpline, to report children in distress, including *suspected child labour*

School healthcare takes more than a room

YECHURI SASHIKANTH

FOR students who spend several hours at school every day, timely access to healthcare can make a difference to their safety and well-being. The Delhi government's proposal to set up medical rooms in all 1,086 government schools, staffed by trained health workers, brings this need into focus. With an estimated annual allocation of Rs 48.87 crore and a phased rollout planned, the proposal raises a practical question: what healthcare should schools be equipped to provide?

The government has introduced many programmes, such as the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, to support children's health. Kerala's Aksharam Arogyam and Tamil Nadu's Ilam Thalir Thittam are examples of state-level initiatives addressing students' well-being. While health education helps students understand their needs, a dedicated medical room could provide immediate support when a child falls ill or suffers an injury during school hours. Headaches, stomach aches, fever, dehydration, cuts, bruises, and sports-related injuries are among the health concerns children may experience at school.

care plan

A medical room can help schools respond to illnesses and injuries. Trained staff and clear referral procedures are vital to ensure no student is left without care when it matters the most

However, healthcare must also address menstrual discomfort, stress and other emotional concerns. Dr Sailaja Simma, a happiness and well-being teacher at Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology, says children's learning and behaviour are closely linked to their physical and emotional well-being. Teachers should be trained to recognise changes in behaviour, concentration and attendance, and refer students to professionals when necessary, she adds.

"A dedicated medical room can give students a private space to discuss their physical and emotional concerns and seek help without feeling embarrassed or judged," Dr Simma says.

Dr Shailaja Mane, head of the Department of Paediatrics at DPU Super Specialty Hospital, notes that serious conditions require urgent medical attention. "Breathing difficulties, severe bleeding, seizures, unconsciousness, serious allergic reactions or suspected fractures require urgent medical attention," she says. A school medical room could provide space for initial assessment, first aid and rest while staff contact parents or arrange further care. It cannot replace a hospital or primary health centre. Trained health workers must recognise warning signs and follow clear referral and emergency procedures. Dr Mane says such facilities also need appropriate equipment, regular supplies, trained staff and emergency contact details.School staff must know when to seek professional help, particularly for serious conditions.



THE CAMPUS PITCH

As companies turn to students to expand their presence on campus, student ambassadors share what their role involves and the perks and challenges it brings

buzz crew

KARTHIKEYA S

WHO better to introduce a brand to college students than one of their own? Companies are engaging student ambassadors to reach college communities by promoting products and organising events, while giving them professional experience. Deekshith Reddy Chinthakindi, a fourth-year BTech student at VNR VJIET, Hyderabad, has been a Student Tribe campus ambassador for two years.

"I help organise events for them on my campus, and act as an official bridge between the brand and the students," he says. He has helped organise the Gen-Z Automobile Expo at T-Works, Hyderabad, and built a student network across colleges. He says the role helped him secure a growth internship at Student Tribe. He has also received vouchers and tickets to concerts and movie premieres.

At NIAT Kolhapur, second-year BTech students Chandan Kumar and Pruthviraj Ganihar established an AWS Student Builder Group to introduce peers to cloud computing through workshops and hands-on activities. To be selected, they submitted a video explaining an AWS service.

"We weren't expected to be experts in cloud computing. The selection process tested how well we were able to understand the service," Chandan says.

So far, the group has conducted two events and built a community of around 600 students. Its leaders must organise six events and a flagship event during the academic year. "We receive AWS credits, guidance from an account manager, and access to two paid certification exams at no cost," Pruthviraj says.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old Mahesh Yadav, a second-year BTech student, is part of Google's Student Ambassador programme. His interest in Google's AI ecosystem drew him to the role. Ambassadors organise monthly campus activities, conduct workshops and product demonstrations, create social media content and submit reports with student feedback. Those meeting stipulated milestones may also receive branded merchandise and cash prizes, he adds.

Students say these programmes also help them develop important soft skills. "My journey has been about learning by doing, meeting new people, and making the most of every opportunity," Deekshith says. Pruthviraj adds that his role as a student leader for AWS has improved his communication, public speaking and crowd management skills.

Balancing these responsibilities with academics can be challenging. "You have to keep up with academics along with ambassador responsibilities, and your social life can get compromised," Mahesh says. Despite the demands, students see these programmes as opportunities to build networks, gain practical experience and develop professional skills while still in college.



BOOK SMART

Is UGC NET For English Testing Deeper Knowledge?

SAKUNTH KUMAR

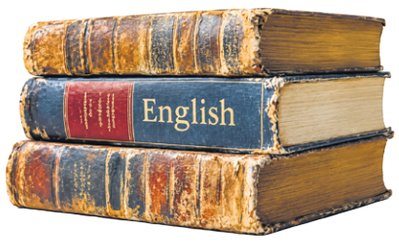
UGC NET English preparation requires candidates to memorise authors, major works, publication years and literary movements. Recent question papers appear to emphasise connections across literary periods, texts and critical traditions. A review of English Paper II questions from 2024 to early 2026 examines this apparent change in emphasis and the range of knowledge candidates are expected to possess.

page turn

A 2024 paper tested the chronology of Agatha Christie's detective novels and Shakespeare's plays. In January 2025, candidates had to arrange Orientalism, *The Dialogic Imagination, Discourse on Colonialism and Nation and Narration* chronologically, and identify R K Narayan works published after Independence.

The June 2025 paper tested the chronology of Indian English novels, including *The Serpent and the Rope*, *Two Leaves and a Bud* and *Waiting for the Mahatma,* alongside English education in India and concepts associated with Jacques Derrida and Bertolt Brecht. In January 2026, questions covered Shakespeare, Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party* and Samuel Beckett's novel trilogy.

Aravind M, who has qualified UGC NET six times and TNSET, says the examination's coverage has evolved. "Since 2019, the UGC NET English Literature exam has shifted weightage towards British Literature chronology, Literary Theory, Research Methodology and Cultural Studies. Recently, the focus has expanded to Linguistics, English Language Teaching, Indian Writing, and critical perspectives such as Disability and Queer Studies," he says.



Recent question papers test literary chronology, criticism and textual knowledge, prompting debate over the balance between recall and conceptual understanding

S Saisushma, a Junior Research Fellow at Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati, who has qualified UGC NET four times, questions whether the examination adequately assesses candidates' readiness to teach in higher education.

"The paper tests the memory of students by asking questions on authors, titles and chronology," she says. Such questions alone, she argues, cannot establish a candidate's readiness for an assistant professorship. "Memory is important, but conceptual questions should not be sidelined. The examination should be a combination of all the factors required for declaring a candidate eligible for assistant professorship."

These papers establish the range of knowledge candidates must master, but not that chronology questions have become more frequent. The question is whether this knowledge is assessed alongside the ability to interpret texts and engage with ideas. For an examination determining eligibility to teach in higher education, that balance matters.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Chennai Express

READSHAREFOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
Mail us: cityexpresschn@gmail.com

02.11.2026
MONDAY



DAY'S DIARY

Happy Birthday!

French painter Jean-Siméon Chardin, known for his innovative approach to light and composition, was born on this day in 1699

ART CAREER

He pursued his passion for art by studying under various teachers, notably Noël-Nicolas Coypel, from whom he learnt to paint directly from nature



MASTERPIECE

His major works include 'The Buffet', 'The Skate', 'Woman Sealing a Letter', 'Saying Grace', and 'Still Life with Bottle of Olives'



ARTISTIC STYLE

Though he borrowed themes and compositions from northern painters, his freshness and originality gave his work a special character



Ram Charan's next launched

PG 4

CARVINGS TO CLICK ON

Records of Tamil stone inscriptions, including those in the Tamil-Brahmi or Tamili script, largely confined to ink and pages, are finding a digital platform led by a common man

NIDHARSHANA RAJU

IMAGINE a web domain dedicated to providing information about Tamil Nadu's stone inscriptions. It provides details of more than 8,500 inscriptions, including those in Tamil-Brahmi (aka Tamili), with their dates, locations, and summaries. It also allows you to look up the meaning of words found in these inscriptions and check where, when, and under whose regime they were used the most.

Hover your cursor over Tamil-Brahmi letters to find their contemporary Tamil equivalents, an aid for enthusiasts to identify and potentially read the script. Add image and word mapping to the mix, and an embedded interactive map that allows you to locate stone inscriptions. Now imagine all this data, found in the published books of the state and research scholars, made easily searchable and readable online, for free.

There's no need to imagine it. Udhayam.in already exists.

The project is largely the work of one person, Udhaya Shankar, a full-time designer employed at a private company. He devotes an average of six hours every day to Udhayam.in.

Seventeen years of his groundwork, fuelled by his own passion and interest in the subject, led to the Tamil Heritage Trust recognising his work and honouring him in the city on October 25. The trust honoured him with the THT Prof. S. Swaminathan Heritage Award 2026, which included a citation and a cash prize of ₹50,000.

Speaking of his selection, PS Sriraman, a retired superintending archaeologist with the Archaeological Survey of India and a jury member, says, "Awarding Udhaya was a unanimous decision. There were brilliantly performing individuals from whom we had to choose... But we are happy and proud to have chosen the right person, who has individually put in such a large effort."

Where it began

The engineering graduate recalls his passion for creating *kolam* art and his dream to distribute it through the internet as the starting point of his domain's journey. "This was around 2007. I didn't understand the technology enough to start a website because I was just a designer," he shares, adding, "There was a Google group I was a part of back then, and I met the group's admin once. I told him about how I have digitised *kolams,* and he took interest. Within five days, he created a website (Udhayam.in) to upload around 500 of my *kolam* designs to maintain it as a database."

Soon after, a request to create a font for Tamil-Brahmi came knocking at Udhaya's door. "At that time, I couldn't read Tamil-Brahmi, and I was recommended a few books to learn to read inscriptions from," he says. Having learnt to read the script, he began comparing the forms of its letters across inscriptions to design the font (refer image). So he travelled, took pictures of stone inscriptions, standardised the style, and the result was the Adinatha Tamil-Brahmi font, released in 2012.

The font project led Udhaya to the broader idea of creating a searchable database of Tamil inscriptions from different periods. "Many scholars, students, and enthusiasts may be spending a lot of time finding the right books in libraries as I did. To simplify it for them, I began the work for the digital database around 2015," Udhaya shares.

Hurdles and dreams

"Ascertaining the locations of where these inscriptions are found was one of the most difficult parts," Udhaya says. Place names and district boundaries in older publications did not always correspond to those in use today. He explains, "From books — my source data — I started hunting for the villages first, found the inscriptions, and linked them to their location information as of today. I basically had to reverse engineer."

Old records placed inscription ARIE 1887/66 in Kirumuttugur in the erstwhile North Arcot district. After a tiring search, Udhaya identified the village as present-day Kilumuttukur in Vellore district's KV Kuppam Taluk.

Another task that proved to be difficult for him was deciphering and digitising more than 100 symbols found in inscriptions. "That is something I am still working on," he teases. Alongside this, the work to enrich the domain with more data (close to 32,000 more inscriptions) is also underway.

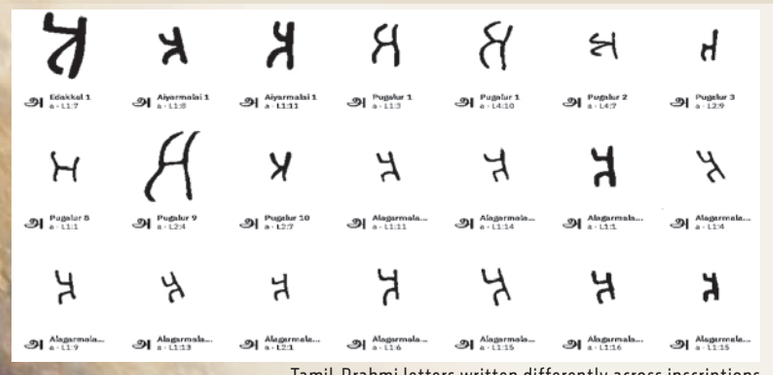
"I have ideas to develop all this further, that could take me 10 years at least. There are some 13 ideas actually. I even want to work on copper plate inscriptions in the near future, and I definitely would want to work on it all full-time if I get enough financial aid," he says, on a bittersweet note. The project, which costs close to ₹10 lakh annually, gets funded 90 per cent by Udhaya himself, he says. "The rest of it is from donations both in cash and in kind (like laptops). Over the years, volunteers have helped me in whatever ways they can, and I have hired a handful of students to help with typing out inscriptions," he notes.

In the end, the dream that fuels his long and tiring days is simple: "To turn inscriptions into easily searchable, accessible, and readable data for the future generations."

To power this dream through donations, contact 9940232560.

DESIGNED TO LEARN

Staying true to his passion for *kolams*, the website features a dedicated gallery showcasing his designs, alongside a section titled 'Arttube', where visitors can learn to trace and recreate his *kolam* patterns. There are also free Tamil fonts available for use.



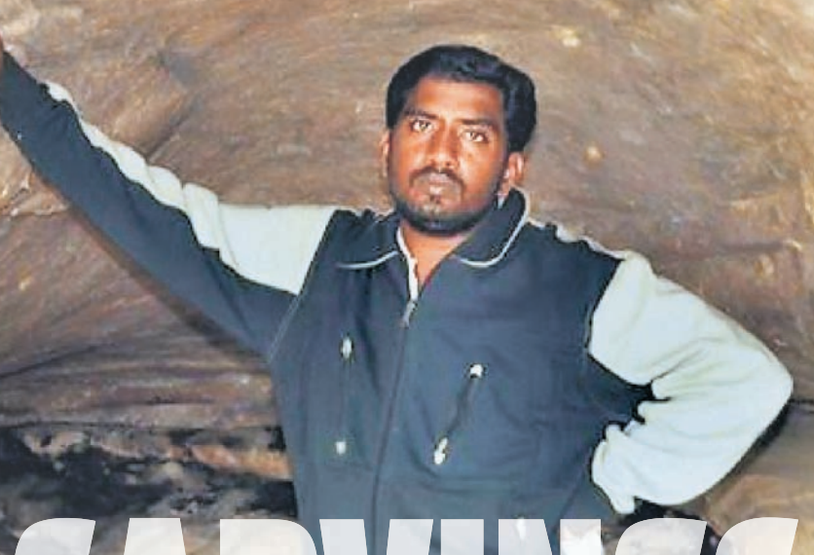
Tamil-Brahmi letters written differently across inscriptions



An inscription from St Thomas Mount church

AWARD FOR EPIGRAPHIST

Tamil Heritage Trust also awarded the V. Venkayya Epigraphy Award 2026 to the late Dr C Somasundara Rao, in recognition of his contributions to epigraphy. His daughter, Surya Lakshmi, accepted the award. Recalling the late epigraphist's goodwill, Surya shares, "After his death, I got to know that back in the day, there was a poor student who couldn't afford a book. My father, who had the copy of the book, wrote the book by hand — a script of 77 inscriptions — and gave it to the student... My *nana* breathed, lived, and even died in epigraphy because the last work of his that was in progress before he died was writing the acceptance speech for this award... I am greatly beholden to the Tamil Heritage Trust for having bestowed this award on my father."

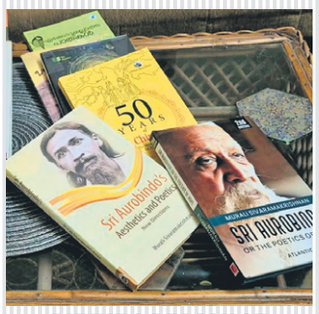


Prof S Swaminathan, co-founder of THT and chief guest historian Chithra Madhavan awarding Udhaya Shankar | P JAWAHAR

CITY READ

Anirudh Ravichander felicitates winners

The fifth edition of Chargebee Chennai Runs 2026, an initiative by Madras Round Table 1 (MRT1), took place on Sunday, November 1, bringing together Chennai's running community in support of SPASTN's RCIET initiative, which focuses on inclusive education and rehabilitation for children with disabilities. This year's edition saw 14,000 registrations. The event featured 3 km, 5 km, 10 km, and half marathon categories, along with an Inclusive Run. Music composer Anirudh Ravichander attended the prize distribution and honoured the winners across race categories. This year's edition supports SPASTN's RCIET initiative, which aims to strengthen inclusive education and rehabilitation through accessible infrastructure, educator training and integrated support for children with disabilities and their families. The proposed facility at the SPASTN campus in Taramani will include inclusive classrooms, a resource library for educators, and counselling facilities designed to support children, families, educators, and caregivers.



RHYME & REASON OF A REBEL PG 3



NEW NOTES

This year's Provoke Art Festival 2026 showcased some mesmerising performances. Among them was one of the most sought-after Carnatic vocalists of his generation, Ashwath Narayanan, who launched the music band Imir along with his band members Bharat Sundar, Sumesh Narayanan, and Rajeev Mukundan. | EXPRESS

SONU M KOTHARI

Art, a shared language

LONG before we took to the written word to express ourselves, we were already telling stories through drawings, carvings, and symbols. Art, in many ways, has a language of its own. This ability to tell different stories while finding a common thread brings the exhibition The Madras Warp together.

The event draws inspiration from the warp, the threads that hold a woven fabric together. It is an apt metaphor for a show that brings together artists working across different media, many of whom have known one another for years. "All the artists have some connection with Madras. Either they work here or have studied here. It is this city that connects us, and we are presenting the medium that we are practising all together," shares artist and curator of the show, Nivetha Mailasini.

Sixteen contemporary artists from Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Kerala will feature nearly 70 artworks spanning painting, sculpting, photography, printmaking, mixed media, and installation art. The exhibition explores concepts of memory, identity, culture, and place, while allowing each artist the freedom to interpret and express their own ideas.

The artworks carry the artists themselves, their relationships, shared histories, and individual practices that form the foundation of the exhibition. The idea, Nivetha says, emerged organically through conversations with friends, batchmates, and professional acquaintances. What began as a simple thought about putting together an exhibition gradually took shape over six months, informed by the different practices and ideas of the artists involved. Nivetha says, "We're all connected in a certain way, and we really wanted to attempt a simple and sincere exhibition that lets us express our practices."

Primarily an artist, Nivetha has a background in fine arts and arts management. Her experience working with exhibition design, archives, and curatorial practices has informed the way she has approached the show. She has put together this exhibition in a way allowing visitors to engage directly with individual bodies of work rather than viewing everything through a single lens.

The works reflect this diversity. Artist Selin Sabashini explores questions of memory and grief; photographer Hemant Kumar's pictures capture the patterns and structures that shape both the human-made and natural world; and Rishi Sasi's body of work offers layered observation, reflection, and experience, among the many who are bringing an experiential dimension to the exhibition.

Through installations and sensory elements, the viewing experience becomes more experiential. "We're all surrounded by a lot of art and design elements that we can't even eliminate from our lives," says Nivetha, adding that such everyday observations also play a huge part in the artworks that are on display.

In her own practice, Nivetha has been working with acrylic on canvas — colours such as green and red being more highlighted — mixed media and pen drawings, while experimenting with brass metal sheets and textures. One of her ongoing interests is translating aerial views of Chennai into abstract forms. Roads, buildings, and waterbodies become lines, shapes, and patterns, offering a different way of looking at a familiar city. The process has also led her to consider how landscapes change over time and what those changes reveal about the places we inhabit.

It is this openness to interpretation that the exhibition hopes to extend to its visitors. There is no prescribed way to experience the works, nor is there an expectation that everyone will walk away with the same understanding. "Art is subjective," says Nivetha.



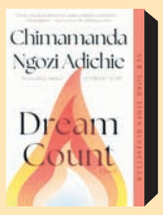
BY RISHI SASI



The Madras Warp is on display at The Lalit Kala Akademi till November 7. Entry is free.

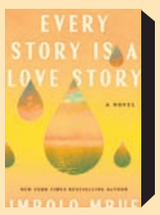
VINEESH VIJAYAN'S ART WORK

BOOK NOOK



Dream Count
by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

A searing, exquisite new novel exploring the story of four women and their loves, longings, and desires.



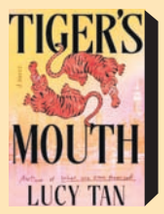
Every Story Is a Love Story
by Imbolo Mbue

What do we owe to those who have hurt us? Are we defined by our worst moments and our deepest regrets? Can forgiveness ease our suffering? This tale charts the uneven path from heartbreak to healing.



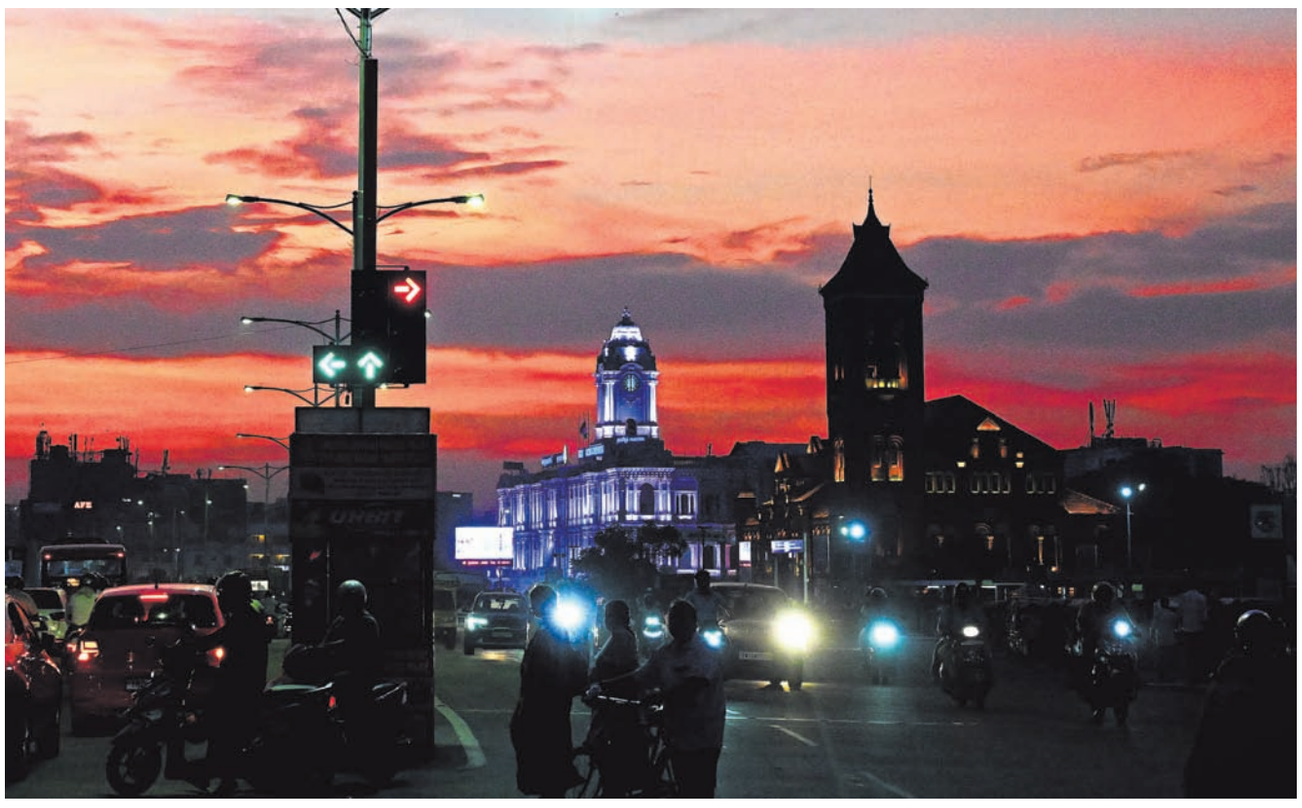
Flashlight
by Susan Choi

A monumental new novel from the National Book Award winner Susan Choi, Flashlight spans decades and continents in a spellbinding, heart-gripping investigation of family, loss, memory, and the ways in which we are shaped by what we cannot see.



Tiger's Mouth
by Lucy Tan

When two young men meet during a tech internship, it sparks an intense friendship. Nostalgic, heart-wrenching, and propulsive, Tiger's Mouth is a nuanced portrait of complex friendship, family dynamics, and love in its most unexpected forms.



CITYLIGHTS

The iconic Ripon Building and Victoria Public Hall stand silhouetted against a dramatic red-orange sunset sky amid evening traffic. | P RAVIKUMAR

QUICKFIX

CHEESE BREAD PAKODA

INGREDIENTS

- **Bread slices:** 4
- **Gram flour (besan):** 1 cup
- **Small onion, green chilli:** 1, each
- **Red chilli powder and salt:** to taste
- **Water (to make the batter)**
- **Boiled potatoes, mashed:** 2
- **Oil:** for deep frying
- **Fresh coriander (finely chopped)**
- **Grated Mozzarella cheese:** ½ cup

METHOD

- Mix the mashed potatoes, onion, green chilli, fresh coriander, salt, red chilli powder, and mozzarella cheese to make the filling.
- Spread the filling between two bread slices and cut diagonally or horizontally.
- Prepare a smooth batter by mixing gram flour, salt, and water.
- Dip each stuffed bread triangle into the batter and deep-fry until golden brown and crispy.
- Serve hot with green chutney or tomato ketchup.



Contributed by **Saba Asif,** Delhi

ASK AN XPERT



DR VIVEK ARORA
drvivekarora@hotmail.com

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

I'm planning to adopt a cat. I work night shifts, while my partner works from home. What are some good ways to build a strong bond early on with the cat, so that they don't see me as a stranger?

Your work schedule should not prevent you from developing a close relationship with your new cat. Cats often bond with several members of the household, and the quality of your interactions can be just as important as the amount of time spent together. Initially, give the cat space and let them come to you rather than insisting on physical contact. You can build positive associations by offering meals or treats, playing with a favourite toy, and spending some calm time together before or after work.

Approach gently, speak in a soft voice, and allow the cat to sniff and investigate you. A short but consistent daily routine of play, grooming, or simply sitting together can gradually build trust and help your cat feel completely comfortable around you.

FITBIT

STRUGGLING WITH SINUSITIS? 5 GENTLE YOGA POSES TO SUPPORT RELAXATION

BALASANA (CHILD'S POSE)

- Kneel and slowly lower your hips towards your heels, extending your arms forward.
- Rest your forehead on a cushion if comfortable. Skip the pose if bending forward increases facial pressure.

SUKHASANA (EASY POSE)

- Sit cross-legged on a cushion, keeping your spine comfortably upright.
- Relax your shoulders and breathe gently through your nose if possible, without forcing your breath.

SETU BANDHASANA (BRIDGE POSE)

- Lie on your back with your knees bent and feet flat on the floor.
- Gently lift your hips, hold briefly while breathing normally, then lower slowly.

MARJARYASANA-BITILASANA (CAT-COW POSE)

- Begin on all fours, with your hands beneath your shoulders.
- Slowly round your back and then gently arch it, coordinating each movement with comfortable breathing.

SHAVASANA (CORPSE POSE)

- Lie on your back with your arms relaxed and legs comfortably apart.
- Close your eyes and focus on slow, natural breathing for a few minutes.

Practise gently and stop if a pose worsens your headache, facial pressure or discomfort. Avoid forceful breathing techniques when congested. Yoga should complement, not replace, medical care. Rest, fluids and saline nasal rinses may help manage symptoms. If symptoms persist beyond three weeks, repeatedly return or worsen significantly, seek medical advice.





By Naveen Sharma, Yoga Expert, Yoga Circle by Cult — a fitness and wellness platform

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@xpresstn
cityexpresschn@gmail.com
@newindianexpress

WHATWHENWHYWHERE



Bring Hyatt home

This Deepavali bring home the warmth of festive traditions and the sophistication of a thoughtfully curated dining experience with Diwali Party @ Home by Hyatt Regency Chennai. Guests can look forward to customised pass-around starters, a balcony barbecue featuring chef-specialised sauces, and an assortment of mains, alongside an elegant flying buffet that adds a touch of culinary theatre to the occasion.

CALL: 8939901882



Festive treats

Whether it's a gift for family and friends or a festive gesture for someone special, Oozi Bakehouse's Diwali gift boxes offer a delicious way to mark the occasion. The collection features Almond & Coconut Cake, Pistachio Delight, Roasted Cashew Date Fudge and Ghee Biscuits, alongside granola bars, and date bars.

WHERE: The Palomar by Crossway



Delightful gifts

Featuring a range of festive gifting options, The Westin Velachery presents hampers such as Traditional Zest, Heritage of Madras, The Nutty Melange, Signature Touch by Westin, Diwali Grandeur and The Wellness Bliss, among others. Starting at ₹750 plus taxes, the collection offers thoughtful choices for sharing festive cheer with family and friends. Contact: 8939892022.



Gift hampers

This festive season, Taj Coromandel, Chennai, presents an exquisite collection of thoughtfully curated hampers, wrapped in the timeless elegance of Tajness. Guests can select from an extensive range like Umang, Nakshatra, Prithvi, Aakash, Tejas, Udarsh, Ari, Subham, Divyam, and Coromandel. These hampers start from ₹1650.

CALL: 044 66002827 / 7824862311



Donut over mithai

Mad Over Donuts has launched The Diwali Luxe Edit, a limited-edition collection of three premium donuts made for gifting, sharing and celebrating together. The line-up is built on three festive flavours: rich chocolate, creamy cashew and crunchy almond. Each donut is handcrafted, 100% vegetarian, and designed to deliver a distinct mix of textures. Each donut is priced at ₹199.

WHEN: Till November 15

WHERE: Mad Over Donuts stores and on online aggregator platforms

Art of hosting

Bring warmth and colour into your household for Deepavali through art while hosting, with Fête Home and Plate & Peonie's curated edit of tableware, serveware, and home accents.

WHERE: fetehome.in

Soulful creations

Srushti Handicrafts Emporium presents 'Handicrafts Mela', a grand exhibition-cum-sale, bringing a wide range of handicraft including statues, paintings, wood, and stone carvings, and much more.

WHEN: Till November 7

WHERE: 86, Chamiers Road, Alwarpet



A Way Of Looking

Ashvita's has opened Modern: A Way of Looking, an exhibition that brings together significant artworks, books, archival material and conversations that offer a closer understanding of the artists and ideas that shaped the Indian Modern Art.

WHEN: Till December 19

ARTCORNER

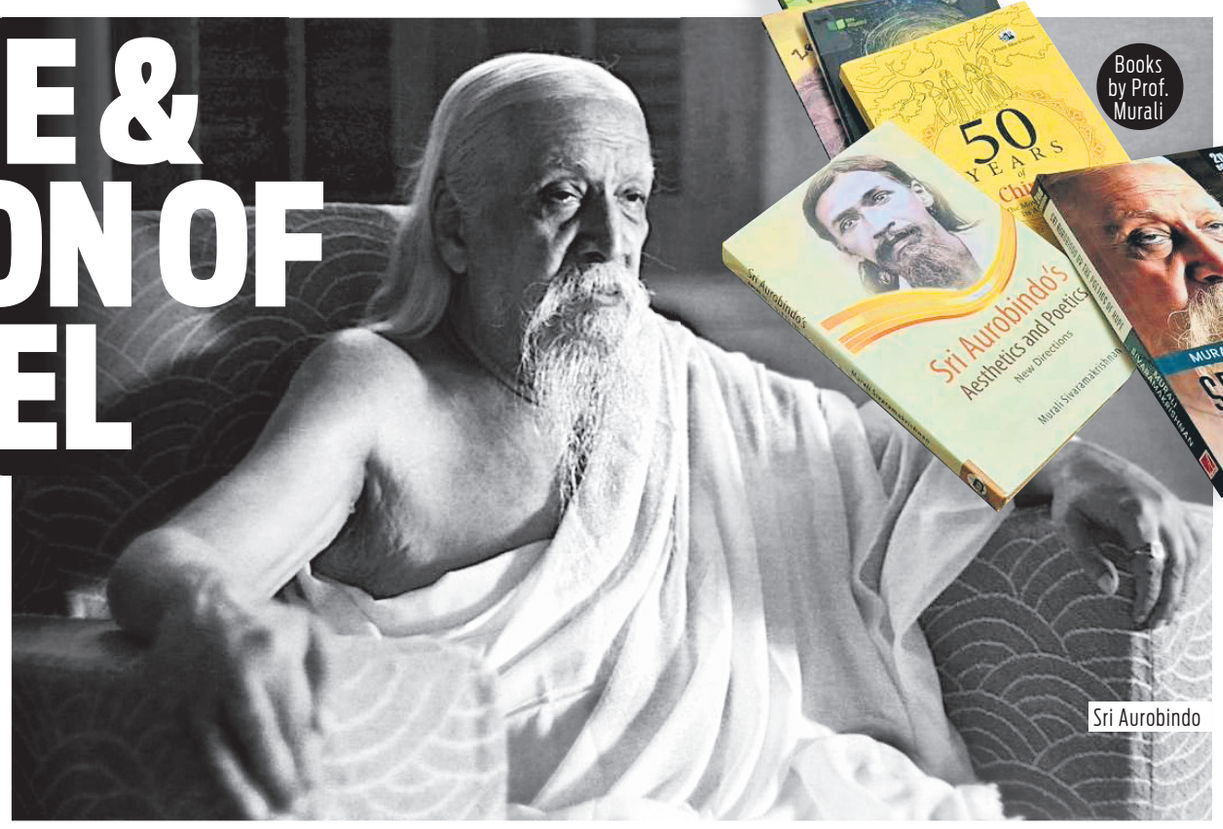


SHADOWS AND SERENITY

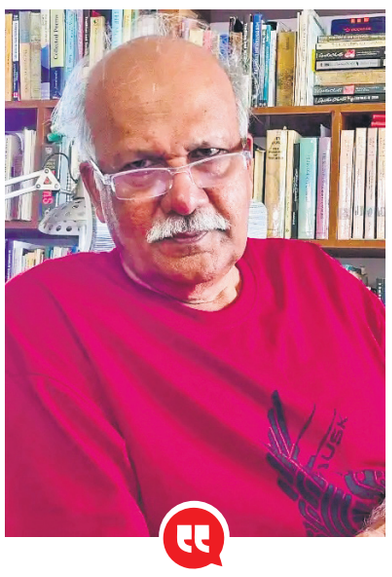
Through a depiction of a flock of birds, artist ESA Harris looks at how wonderful the world would be if everyone lived in harmony.

RHYME & REASON OF A REBEL

A conversation with professor Murali Sivaramakrishnan, who recently won the Sri Aurobindo Puraskar for his research and writings on the revolutionary guru



Sri Aurobindo



Aurobindo was a revolutionary who was awakened to the power of the atman while in Alipore Jail. He realised that true freedom meant liberation of the soul. But he did not retreat into hermitage. His spirituality too bore a revolutionary zeal.

Murali Sivaramakrishnan, scholar and writer

APARNA NAIR

A conversation with Murali Sivaramakrishnan, former head of the English department at Pondicherry University, at his home in Kerala takes one back to another Puducherry. A quieter, more contemplative place, when the coastal town was known more as the spiritual abode of Sri Aurobindo.

For decades, Aurobindo's public image was that of a yogi. His earlier life as a revolutionary, however, is receiving renewed attention, thanks to discussions about his influence on India's freedom struggle and figures such as Rash Behari Bose and Subhas Chandra Bose.

It is in this broader understanding of Aurobindo that the Sri Aurobindo Award recently bestowed on Murali acquires significance. Presented annually by Sri Aurobindo Bhavan in Kolkata, the award recognises a Malayali whose engagement with the philosopher extends beyond spirituality to his literary imagination, political ideals, and philosophy of hope.

Murali received the award on August 15 at Santiniketan in West Bengal — a date that marks both India's Independence Day and Aurobindo's birth anniversary.

For Murali, the honour reflects a growing recognition of Aurobindo's reach. "An influence that has often worked quietly, finding expression in literature, and other works of social relevance," he says.

His engagement with Aurobindo began as a young researcher at Kerala University, where he worked with the late professor Ayyappa Paniker on the book *The Mantra of Vision: An Overview of Sri Aurobindo's Aesthetics*. The research explored how Aurobindo's spirituality impacted his writing across genres.

"It was not something passive. He was a revolutionary who was awakened to the power of the soul while in Alipore Central Jail," Murali explains. "There, a young man who worked to free the country from oppressive rule went beyond the material boundaries of a nation. He realised that true freedom included the liberation of the soul. But even after this realisation, he did not retreat into hermitage. His spirituality, too, bore a revolutionary zeal."

Murali recalls how people with revolutionary pasts, such as AB Purani, were drawn to Aurobindo's vision of asceticism. "The world, in this conception, was a laboratory; work was a mission directed towards transformative change," he says.

Ayyappa encouraged Murali to explore Aurobindo's idea of "overhead poetry", which drew deeply on Indian philosophy and psychology. "I have probed the mix of *sabda* and *artha* in his works through an ancient Indian linguistic framework called 'sphota shastra', which explains how speech sounds, or *dhvani*, convey meaning to the listener," says Murali. "The revelation is instantaneous, almost a burst. It emanates a certain power, which you can find in Sri Aurobindo's writings, such as his magnum opus *Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol* — the longest epic poem in English. It is a sublime blend of his spiritual vision and poetic brilliance."

The meeting of the spiritual and the literary became a central subject of Murali's study. He went on to write several books, including *Sri Aurobindo's Aesthetics and Poetics: New Directions* and *Sri Aurobindo or the Poetics of Hope*.

His research also brought him into "deep interactions" with some of Aurobindo's closest followers, such as K D Sethna, Champaklal, and Dilip Kumar Roy. "They gave me access to rare and original manuscripts of Aurobindo's works, which have now been digitised," says Murali.

"These experiences also led me to write regularly for journals such as *Mother India* and *Action*. I have since collected some of these writings in books such as *Learning to Think Like Myself*."

Tracing Aurobindo's influence on poets and writers, Murali says, similarly requires an understanding of literary movements, individual voices, and exchanges across geographical boundaries. He recalls, for instance, the intellectual exchanges between Aurobindo's disciple K D Sethna and the English poet Kathleen Raine.

Their disagreement over Aurobindo's 24,000-line *Savitri* developed into an extended dialogue. "They engaged in an intellectual duel. Their exchanges later became a book, *The English Language and the Indian Spirit: Correspondence between Kathleen Raine and K D Sethna*," says Murali.

Kathleen would go on to develop a lifelong reverence for Indian philosophy, which she explored in her autobiography, *India Seen Afar*. "As a person of letters, I could sense Aurobindo's touch in several poets across the world — Australians, New Zealanders, the English...," says Murali.

For him, Aurobindo's connections establish how his ideas "travelled across generations, through both direct engagement with his works and their reinterpretation by others".

"This has become universal. Recently, a Romanian magazine named *Creativity* asked me to review a book on the Mother (Mirra Alfassa), Aurobindo's foremost spiritual collaborator," says Murali, whose book *Roads to Nowhere* reflects Aurobindo's influence on his thinking.

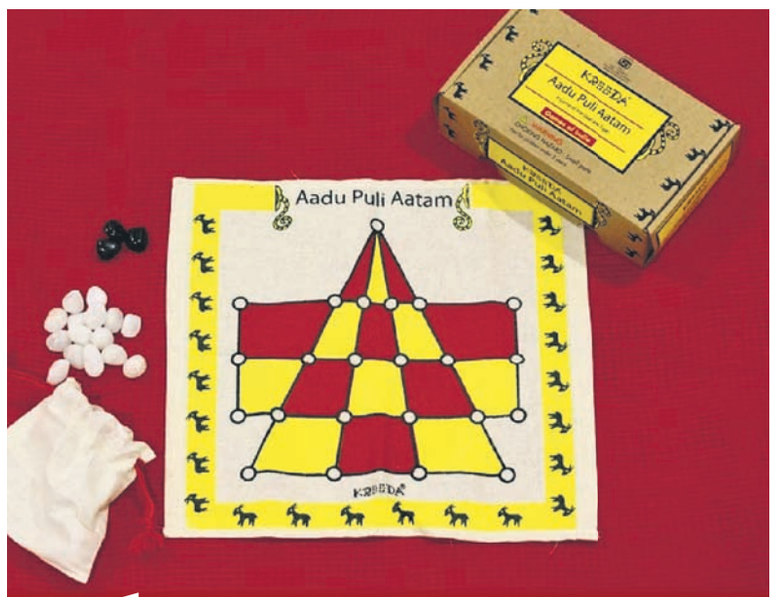
"My books on Aurobindo have been translated into Malayalam by R Jayaram, and the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Puducherry has asked for more copies. This suggests that his influence is growing."

Yet, how far Aurobindo speaks to younger generations remains an open question. "Today's youth oscillate between heightened self-absorption and a sense of futility, much like what the psychologist Ashis Nandy observed in the context of 'selfie culture'. But a sense of romance remains strong among them, as seen in their adoration of Jalaluddin Rumi and Bhagat Singh, though they understand the romantic ideals of these figures differently," he says.

"Sri Aurobindo, who indirectly influenced Bhagat Singh, was a radical mystic. He declined Mahatma Gandhi's offers to chair Congress sessions to pursue a life devoted to his own ideals. Such romanticism is still alive among the youth. Aurobindo was a practical dreamer who spoke of a dream boat that comes for those who can perceive its arrival. This thought embodies a true romantic zeal, and that is why Aurobindo remains relevant."

Aurobindo's works, Murali adds, hold an enchanting mystery. "But once we delve into it, he becomes as accessible as living and breathing. Aurobindo is not heavy; he is subtle," he says. Making that subtlety accessible to a wider readership is now his immediate task. At the behest of Aleph Book Company, Murali is working on an introduction to Aurobindo for general readers, especially the youth. "I do not go by the beta and omega of the future or the past, but believe in the alpha of the present. As Sri Aurobindo perhaps implies," he smiles.

JUST PLAY



What's in a name?

Not much, if it's a game

VERY often, when I conduct an event and we're playing a game, people will stop and ask me, "What's the name of the game?" It's a question that always makes me smile, because, for some reason, although our ancestors created wonderful games, they were not very creative when it came to naming those games.

When you look at the sheer range of games they came up with, it is staggering. There was a wide variety: dice games, strategy games, or both, where choice and chance came together; games of alignment of different types, three in a row, four in a row, three in a row with all kinds of varying boards; hunt games, asymmetric games; battlefield games and race games of so many different varieties, where game pieces start in different places and end in the same place, start at the same place and end in different places, or move in opposite directions.



VINITA SIDHARTHA
vinita@kreedagames.com or
vinitasidhartha.in

The writer is the founder of Kreeda, an organisation reviving traditional games

Somehow, when it came to naming the games, the creativity disappeared. Why?

Let's take some popular games. Bagh Bakri — the Tiger and the Goat. Aadu Puli Aattam — again the Tiger and the Goat in Tamil. Chaupad, which is derived from words associated with four parts or four sides, refers to the characteristic cross-shaped board with four arms. Ashta Chemma — eight and four. Teen Goti — three game pieces. Panch Kone — five corners. Or my personal favourite, Chaturvimshati Koshthaka — a game in 24 squares.

Perhaps games didn't need titles because they weren't products. Today a game needs a distinctive name partly because it is an object in a marketplace. The name identifies it, packages it, and differentiates it. A game transmitted orally doesn't necessarily need that. If everyone in the courtyard knows what "five stones" means, five stones is a perfectly adequate name. Perhaps the name functioned as an instruction rather than a title. Teen Goti, Panch Kone, and similar names may tell you something immediately: the number of pieces, the geometry of the board, the principal objects involved.

Perhaps the game mattered more than its name. When knowledge is passed from one person to another by demonstration, you don't necessarily ask: "What is the game called?" Maybe a game didn't have to be called something memorable in order to be memorable. It was simply the game with the five stones, or the one with the tiger and goats, or the one grandmother drew on the floor. And that's probably why the extraordinary creativity is in the play rather than the packaging.

PHOTO: PARTHIV SHAH



A VOICE THAT REFUSES TO FADE

Malika-e-Ghazal Begum Akhtar died on October 30, 1974. In an age of swipes and situationships, she reminds us that love was once whispered in couplets — with subtlety and style. A tribute by singer **Vidya Shah**, who draws from Akhtar's musical lineage.

LONG before internet sensations and influencers, there was Akhtari Bai Faizabadi, the original diva. She smoked from a long black cigarette holder, wore velvet gowns on stage, starred in films, and topped the record charts. Then she walked away from it all and came back bigger than ever. More than a century after her birth, Begum Akhtar is still the Malika-e-Ghazal, the queen of the ghazal — her ghazals and *gayaki* still evoke admiration and love.

I learnt music in her lineage, so I grew up on stories about her — incredible music, some legend, and some bits of gossip, all irresistible. While working on creating *Akhtari* in 2013, my tribute performance, I realised her life and music were inextricably fused together. The *patti lagana* — the inflexion in her voice seemed metaphorical of the heartbreak that was lived first.

She was born in 1914 in Faizabad, the old capital of Awadh, called Ayodhya today. Akhtari's mother, Mushtari Bai, was a *tawaif* who raised her alone. Her father, from the local gentry, was never part of her life, and her twin sister Zohra died in childhood. Loss came early and never quite left her voice. Love as pain became her signature, generations before sad playlists made melancholy fashionable, though her friends teased that she grew so used to sadness she could 'manufacture' it on a good day.

From a very young age, Akhtari became a popular performer. In 1920s Calcutta, she acted on stage, sang at private *mehfils*, and moved to Bombay in the 1930s, where she was drawn to the world of films. She did act in some, but quit cinema in 1939. Years later, she made a cameo as a singer in Satyajit Ray's *Jalsaghar* (1958), where she is seen sitting with her tanpura, singing *Bhar Bhar Aayi Mori Akhiyan*.

Her mother feared the film world would swallow her music, that it could mean the end of her singing career. Worried, she took Akhtari to a *Pir Saheb*. He asked for her *bayaz* — the precious notebook of songs every singer guards with her life — opened it at random, and told her to record that very ghazal. Thus was recorded one of her big hits — *Deewana banana hai to deewana bana de*.

Back in Lucknow she ran her own salon, managed by her mother, and her 78 rpm records on the megaphone label had made her famous across North India. Trained originally in khayal *gayaki* by *gharanedar* Ustads, she chose the so-called 'lighter' forms of *thumri*, *dadra* and, above all, the ghazal, which she sang with a classical depth no one has matched. She brought to Ghazal *Raagdari*, redefining the musical interpretation of the form.

With her immense popularity, poets of the day wrote for her, and they knew that if she sang their ghazal or *nazm* that could mean popularity or fame. Many of them like Jigar Moradabadi, Shakeel Badayuni, and Kaifi Azmi were good friends. My Guru, Shanti *Ji*, once told me that Shakeel once slipped her a scrap of paper as she boarded a train from Lucknow to Bhopal. By the time she arrived, she had composed what he had given her and thus was born perhaps one of her most iconic and loved ghazals — *Ae mohabbat tere anjaam pe rona aaya*.

Then came a major shift in her life. She found love. She had always longed for a 'normal family life' and went on to marry Ishtiaq Ahmad Abbasi, a Lucknow barrister. She was loved and accepted as 'Acchi Ammi' in his family. But in the 1950s, a professional singer in an elite household was unthinkable. She stopped performing. The silence broke her, and depression followed. Finally, after trying all kinds of medical help, she found her remedy in music.

With her husband's support, she returned through a recording at All India Radio, Lucknow, where she sang *Koyaliya mat kar pukar*. The announcer was unsure how to address the artiste, given that in her earlier avatar she had been referred to as a 'Bai', but was now a married lady. The recording engineer announced her to listeners as Begum Akhtar. The name stuck forever. And thus began another chapter — one filled with renewed happiness. She was known to be witty, mischievous, and surrounded by friends, fans and admirers. A popular story goes that the Nawab of Rampur, smitten, gave her a silver chair. Complaining about him once, she was told by her friend Syeda Raza to just leave the man. "I will," she replied, "as soon as I get a table to match the chair."

She broke rules that mattered, bringing to the world of traditional music some feisty feminism! My Guru said she is said to be the first woman Ustani to tie the *ganda*, the sacred thread of the *guru-shishya* bond, on her women students, a ritual that had belonged only to men.

In a time when so much feels divided and shared histories are quietly fading, Akhtari's rendition of Jigar's ghazal stands as a powerful testament to strength and resilience.

Hum ko mita sake, ye zamane mein dam nahin,
humse zamana khud hai
zamane se hum nahi

'Bai', 'Begum', 'Ammi'. She was a trendsetter and an epoch maker, who set her own boundaries long before anyone called them that, and whose voice still finds new listeners. Press 'play' on any of her ghazals and you will hear why.

Vidya Shah is a musician and director of *Women on Record (Stories and Songs From the Gramophone Era)* and *Akhtari- a Tribute to Begum Akhtar*

CHENNAI DIGEST



Walkathon held

As part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026, announced by Central Vigilance Commission, a walkathon was organised by Canara Bank, circle office, Chennai, on Saturday, at Besant Nagar beach. It aimed to create awareness among general public about the significance of honesty, integrity, and ethical conduct in building a transparent, accountable, and corruption free society. More than 150 officials and executives of Canara Bank participated enthusiastically in the event, led by KA Sindhu, chief general manager, circle head and Suman Chakraborthy, general manager.



National Unity Day observed

Indian Bank observed National Unity Day by administering the National Unity Pledge to its staff members, reaffirming the bank's commitment to national unity, integrity, and solidarity. The pledge was administered by Ashutosh Choudhury, executive director, Indian Bank, in the presence of executive directors Shiv Bajrang Singh and Mini TM, along with the executives and staff members of the bank.



Kangana Ranaut to headline *Scary Picture*

ACTOR and politician Kangana Ranaut will soon be seen in a horror film, titled *Scary Picture*. The film is directed by Ravi Babu and is being produced by Rana Daggubati. Ravi is late veteran Telugu actor Chalapathi Rao's son and has been an actor since 1998 and a director since 2002. He last starred in *Coffee with a Killer* (2025) and directed *Razor* this year. Kangana has earlier starred in *Ek Niranjan*, which was her Telugu debut. It was released in 2009 and featured the actor alongside Prabhas. She has also featured in several horror films, including *Raaz: The Mystery Continues* (2009) and *Chandramukhi 2* (2023). The actor last appeared in *Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata*.



Madhavan to collaborate with *Chhorii* filmmaker

MADHAVAN, who has previously made his mark in the horror genre with titles like *13B* (2009) and *Shaitaan* (2024), has now signed another horror film with director Vishal Furia. The film was officially announced on Saturday. The yet-to-be-titled project is being produced by Rohit Ranjan under his banner Frostlit Production Limited. Talking about the collaboration, Vishal said in a recent interview, "Madhavan sir was always my first and only choice. I'm stoked that he has come on board and has already started getting into the world of the film. His conviction, his experience and his understanding of serious horror are very rare, and I couldn't think of anyone better for this film." Vishal Furia is known for works like the critically acclaimed Marathi film *Lapachhapi*, and the *Chhorri* film series.



Raye to compose for *Lizard Music*

GRAMMY Award-winning singer Raye is all set to compose music for Benny Safdie's upcoming film titled *Lizard Music*. She will also voice a character in the upcoming film, which is reported to be a mix of live-action and CGI characters. She joins previously announced star and producer Dwayne Johnson, Theo Leber, Alicia Silverstone, Tim Heidecker, Arya Parvathi, Regina Hall, Colman Domingo, Jeff Goldblum, Rachel McAdams, David Krumholtz and Andrew Dice Clay.

Based on Daniel Pinkwater's novel of the same name, *Lizard Music* is written for the screen by Safdie. According to the makers, the film follows a boy (Leber) left to his own devices who stumbles upon a secret late-night broadcast of lizards playing otherworldly music. *Lizard Music* is currently scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on December 27, 2027.

CRIME PATROL WILL DRAMATISE EVENTS, NOT TRAUMATISE AUDIENCE

Journalist-actor Rangaraj Pandey discusses his experience hosting Sony Vizha's *Crime Patrol*, the show's intent, motivations behind crime incidents, and more

AKSHAY KUMAR

FOR journalist-actor Rangaraj Pandey, hosting the *Crime Patrol* show on the newly launched Sony Vizha is like work away from work. The Hindi version of this show is one of the longest-running crime shows in the country. "I was, I am, and I will be with television. I will describe *Crime Patrol* as an infotainment show that will carry the regional flavour," he says. Rangaraj says he is aware of the reach the show has gained in North India and is hopeful it will replicate that success in Tamil Nadu as well. "I heard *Crime Patrol* was streamed in non-primetime too to generate viewership. Then imagine the popularity of the show," he says, adding that though there is a proven success format for the show, the network was open enough to take suggestions from him. "The only suggestion I gave the channel was to tweak the show a bit to suit the Tamil sensibilities. The initial plan was to have me host the already available content in the Hindi version. But I told them that a rural Tamilian may not be interested in a crime in Jaisalmer. So they readily agreed to focus on Tamil Nadu-centric crime stories."

Making his observations on reality shows in general, Rangaraj sees *Crime Patrol* as an IP where he can also put his journalistic responsibility to use. "This is nothing against the dance or singing shows. People need various forms of entertainment. *Crime Patrol* will make people aware of the kind of horrific crimes around them, learn from them, and ensure they keep themselves and their loved ones from harm's way." He also notes that crimes can be portrayed insensitively and guarantees this show will be different. "The real incidents that will get recreated will merely dramatise it and will not traumatise people. That is something we are all very clear about. Every episode is derived from real incidents. More importantly, we have packaged the show in a way that people learn and make themselves aware of things and not instill fear in them," asserts Rangaraj.

Having worked across print, broadcast, and digital journalism, Rangaraj strongly believes the visual medium has a bigger reach than text. "People may read about a crime incident in a paper, but they tend to move on from it easily. Whereas I feel visuals stay with you longer. You can gain a deeper understanding of the machinations of a lawbreaker and get to the bottom of a crime," he remarks, while also commenting on Sony Network's confident gamble to get into the Tamil television space when it is increasingly getting occupied by the digital platform boom. "The ever-shrinking space of television is a global phenomenon, and I don't feel it is peculiar to a particular geographical location. Expanding television operations is one thing, and expanding in Tamil Nadu is entirely different. I hear that Sony has a strong team that has conducted meticulous research before taking this step. I think their Sony Vizha will be successful and *Crime Patrol* will have a role to play in it."

Although the show and the format may be new, Rangaraj Pandey is no stranger to crimes and criminals. Boasting almost three decades in journalism, he says he can recall scores of chilling crime stories without thinking much. However, he says he cannot forget his first brush with crime reporting. "Now you may hear a lot of stories about honeymoon murders. But back when I was a cub reporter in Theni, this was completely unheard of. There was this horrific honeymoon murder I reported in the district. It could be termed a first-of-its-kind crime. The modus operandi and the gravity of the crime were shocking," he recalls. Drawing from decades of his experience as a journalist, he pinpoints envy and jealousy as a root cause of all kinds of crimes. "Be it a crime of passion, or for wealth or land, it stems from envy and an unjustifiable greed to attain the unattainable. Wanting something and working for it is fine, but the greed to usurp and find shortcuts is where a crime is born."

On the film front, Rangaraj Pandey lists out three interesting films in the pipeline. "I have completed three films so far awaiting release: *Sambavam, Raw* and *Bullet*. But I have not committed to any projects so far," he signs off.



> *People may read about a crime in a paper, but they tend to move on from it easily. Whereas I feel visuals stay with you longer. You can gain a deeper understanding and get to the bottom of a crime*
>
> — Rangaraj Pandey

Walton Goggins wraps up *Fallout S3*

WALTON Goggins recently confirmed that he has wrapped filming for the sci-fi dystopian series, *Fallout*. The Golden Globe nominee, who plays Ghoul in the series, wrote on social media, "Just took it off for the last time, season 3. This felt good. I wish this road or this song would never end. Gonna miss you California, until next time."

The cast of the series also includes Ella Purnell, Aaron Moten, Kyle MacLachlan, Moisés Arias and Frances Turner. New additions to the season 3 cast include Aaron Paul, Manny Jacinto, Emily Mortimer and Thomasin McKenzie. After completing *Fallout*, Goggins will next join Michael B Jordan and Austin Butler in the cast of *Miami Vice '85*, which is being directed by Michael Mann.





Shane Nigam, Sathyaraj team up for a new film

SHANE Nigam has started filming for his next film in Yercaud, which is being written and directed by Sham Surya. The director is known for the 2021 Harbhajan Singh-Arjun-Losliya starrer *Friendship*. The upcoming film also stars Sathyaraj, John Kokken, Farhaan Faasil, Pooja Ramachandran, Aysha, and Munishkanth. The yet-to-be-titled film brings Sathyaraj back to Malayalam cinema after a role in 2023's *Otta*. Munishkanth, who had an uncredited role in Alphonse Puthren's *Neram* (2013), is also returning to Malayalam. On the technical front, the upcoming film has director Aashiq Abu as the cinematographer, B Ajaneesh Loknath of *Kantara*-fame as the composer, editor Sreejith Sarang, art director Veeramani Ganesan, and action choreographer PC Stunts.



Big Little Lies S3 begins production

THE third season of HBO's thriller series *Big Little Lies* has gone on floors. The upcoming season brings back Merrin Dungey as Detective Adrienne Quinlan. Based on Liane Moriarty's eponymous novel, the series features Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon and Laura Dern as three friends in Monterey, whose children attend the same educational institution. They become friends with Jane (Shailene Woodley), whose child is new to the school. Eventually, they come to know about a dark piece of information that ends up in a homicide investigation. *Big Little Lies* also stars Zoe Kravitz, Adam Scott, Alexander Skarsgard, Jeffrey Nordling, and James Tupper.



RAM CHARAN-SUKUMAR PROJECT LAUNCHED



RAM Charan's upcoming project with writer-director Sukumar, was launched on Sunday. The yet-to-be-titled film, which is Ram Charan's 17th as a lead, is the actor's reunion with Sukumar after *Rangasthalam* (2018). Tentatively titled *RC17*, the film was launched with Chiranjeevi as a special guest, who performed the ceremonial first clap. Sukumar is bankrolling the film under his Sukumar Writings banner, along with Naveen Yerneni, who produces under the Mythri Movie Makers banner, along with Bhushan Kumar, who produces under the T-Series banner. Ram Charan was recently seen in Buchi Babu Sana's *Peddi*, which was presented by Sukumar. The film was a recipient of the National Award for Best Sound Design.