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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

CHENNAI • WEDNESDAY • JUNE 03, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

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INTERNET LOVES ARMY PILOT'S PROPOSAL TO PARTNER POST P.O.P

A newly qualified Army pilot proposed to his girlfriend right after his graduation ceremony in Nashik — with a helicopter as the backdrop

TO NEW BEGINNINGS AFTER TOUGH TRAINING

The video spread quickly online, with people responding to how genuine and unscripted the whole thing felt. Captain Bharat Bhardwaj called it a "love ka salute" — and joked that while officers give and receive salutes at work, back home, the wife is in charge. For the Captain, the day marked the end of a tough professional journey, and the start of a new one



NASHIK

IS WHERE THE ARMY TRAINS ITS COMBAT HELICOPTER PILOTS

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 • KALABURGI

Finally, CBSE heads roll

Board Chairman Rahul Singh and Secretary Himanshu Gupta shifted, replaced with Lokhande Prashant Sitaram & Varun Bhardwaj respectively; OSM system probe ordered



S LALITHA @ New Delhi

IN a major administrative shake-up following controversy over the CBSE's new digital evaluation system for Class XII board examinations, the Centre on Tuesday removed CBSE Chairman Rahul Singh and Secretary Himanshu Gupta with immediate effect and ordered a high-level inquiry into the procurement of the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system used for evaluating answer sheets. The government also announced the constitution of a one-member committee headed by S Radha Chauhan, Chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission, to investigate the award and procurement of services related to the OSM platform. It directed the committee to submit its report to the Department of Personnel and Training within a month.

According to the official order, Chauhan has been authorised to seek assistance from officials of other departments during the inquiry, while the Capacity Building Commission will provide secretarial support. The action came hours after the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education held a meeting with senior officials of the CBSE and the Ministry of Education to review complaints surrounding the implementation of the digital marking system.

Later, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed Lokhande Prashant Sitaram, a 2001 batch IAS officer as the new CBSE Chairperson. Varun Bhardwaj, Indian Information Service officer of 2008 batch was appointed the Board's secretary.

While Rahul Singh was transferred as Additional Secretary in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Gupta was sent back to parent cadre with the 'extended period of cooling off'.

Controversy erupted after the declaration of Class XII results on May 13, with students and parents alleging widespread discrepancies in evaluation, technical glitches, delays in verification and re-evaluation processes, and lack of transparency in the OSM system.

While student Sidhant Sartak alleged that three tenders were rigged to favour Hyderabad-based Coemtp Edu-Teck Pvt Ltd in the award of the OSM contract, the CBSE in its pushback submitted a report to the committee, defending the implementation of the system. It also said that portal-related glitches had been rectified. The controversy deepened after another student, Vedant Shrivastava, claimed that CBSE had uploaded and evaluated another candidate's answer sheet under his name.

EXPRESS READ

NIA looks at Hamas link in Pahalgam attack

New Delhi: In a significant development in the Pahalgam terror attack investigation, the NIA has flagged the need to examine links between Pakistan-backed terror groups and Hamas based on similarities between October 7, 2023 attacks against Israeli revelers and Pahalgam | P9

Mahesh Aggarwal to take charge as TN DGP today

Chennai: Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal, a 1994-batch IPS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, will take charge as the state's new DGP and Head of Police Force on Wednesday. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Tuesday approved his repatriation from the BSF to TN with immediate effect | P5



Following Karnataka High Court's order, workers remove posters of D Shivakumar in front of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday, a day before his swearing-in ceremony. The banners had come up after his selection as CM | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

A denial of service attack attempt caused 1.5 mn hits on the CBSE re-evaluation portal within 2 mins and over 1 lakh bids of unauthorised file access

CBSE statement



'OSM tenders rigged to favour firm'

Sidhant Sartak, 17, made a detailed presentation before a Parliamentary Standing Committee, alleging that at least 15 changes were made across three tenders to favour Hyderabad-based Coemtp EduTeck Pvt Ltd over Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in the award of the OSM contract. His presentation was made in the presence of senior CBSE officials | P9

Major cyber attack as revaluation portal for Class XII opens

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

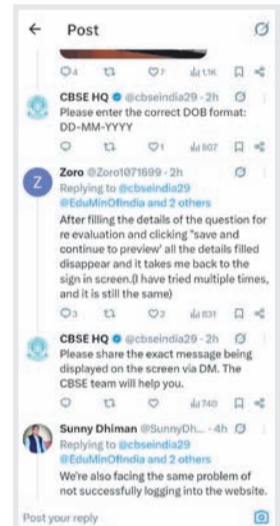
MALICIOUS actors attempted to disrupt services on the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) Class XII re-evaluation portal through a barrage of cyber attacks on Tuesday, the day it became operational. The Board shared the information after complaints from thousands of students since early morning that they were unable to login to the portal.

An official statement from the Board said that the portal currently supports usage by 8,000 concurrent users and a total of 16,000 had successfully completed their submissions for re-evaluation of marks by 3 pm. "While thousands of students accessed the CBSE re-evaluation portal today, malicious actors attempted to disrupt services through a barrage of cyberattacks. Most recent being a denial of service attack attempt causing 1.5 million hits on the portal within a matter of 2 minutes and more than 1 lakh attempts of unauthorised file access."

The platform has been further refined by the CBSE based on student feedback, it said. Session time limits have been extended to make the process more convenient and seamless, it added.

There was enormous criticism from students over the need for Aadhaar verification. In another statement, the CBSE said, "Aadhaar Verification has been included for security reasons." It also clarified that in the case of children who do not have this document, the parent's, relative's or guardian's Aadhaar details may be used. "In this case, the Aadhaar Name, Date of birth and Gender must be of the person whose Aadhaar number is used," it added.

The portal was finally opened to begin the re-evaluation process early in the day with the Board announcing it at 4.42 am on its social media handles.



Screengrab of students failing to login to the portal

Annamalai suspense on as Shah summons Nagenthran

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR AND SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR @ New Delhi/Chennai

AFTER aggrieved former Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai met Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday, the BJP leadership summoned state BJP president Nainar Nagenthran to Delhi, fuelling speculation of a possible mutual reconciliation.

With the party leadership requesting him to reconsider his decision, sources said Annamalai hasn't formally submitted his resignation yet.

As for Nagenthran, he arrived in the Capital and was scheduled to meet Shah to find an amicable solution.

During his meeting with Shah, Annamalai spoke about his prolonged differences with the state unit leadership after being removed as president of the TN unit in 2025 to patch up with the AIADMK.



Union home minister Amit Shah with TN BJP leader Annamalai in Delhi | P11

Sources said Annamalai had made up his mind to quit and return to Chennai immediately after his resignation is accepted. He intended to part ways without burning his bridges with the top leadership. But since he was asked to reconsider his decision, he may return to Chennai on June 4, sources said. Though he was offered a Rajya Sabha

ticket and a ministerial berth, he declined, preferring to work in TN, sources said.

Annamalai first met BJP national general secretary B L Santhosh before proceeding to meet party president Nitin Nabin. In Tamil Nadu, several district-level functionaries loyal to Annamalai are said to have resigned following reports of his impending exit.

HC acquits 4 in double murder case, slams cop

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Madurai

ACQUITTING four persons in a 2012 double murder case in Dindigul due to a slipshod investigation, the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court on Monday ordered departmental action against the then Thadikombu police inspector who investigated the case.

Justices N Anand Venkatesh and KK Ramakrishnan, who passed the order on a batch of appeals filed by the accused, pointed out that even the amputated part of the victim's arm was not recovered by the probe officer. Four suspects — Selvaraj, Selvapandi, Muthukumar and Thoongan — had

challenged the conviction and life sentence imposed on them by a sessions court in Dindigul in 2023 before the HC bench.

According to prosecution, the deceased, Kannan and Periyasamy, were relatives and

Kannan was married to the daughter of Selvaraj, one of the accused. The suspects developed enmity with the victims after the marriage between Kannan and Selvaraj's daughter ended in divorce. On May 18, 2012, as the victims were on their way to a Tasmac shop in Thadikombu, the four accused and three others, including Kannan's ex-wife, allegedly came to the spot in an auto and attacked them with sickles. P7

Four killed in car-lorry crash near Tiruchy



The mangled remains of the car that collided with a lorry on Tuesday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tiruchy

FOUR persons were killed and three others sustained injuries when a car collided head-on with a lorry at Jambunathapuram near Musiri in Tiruchy district on Tuesday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Murugesan (50) and his son Karthik (28), natives of Perambalur, his relative S Balasubramanian (31) and his wife Kavitha (25), natives of Varadakshiyar Street in Srirangam. The injured are Murugesan's wife Chithra (45), daughter Narmatha (28), and Balasubramanian's son Yegan (1). They are undergoing treatment at Musiri Government Hospital.

According to police sources, the incident took place when Murugesan, his family members and relatives were travelling from Srirangam to a temple in Kodumudi in the car. The vehicle was driven by Balasubramanian. As they neared an oil mill at Jambunathapuram on the Thuraiyur-Perambalur road, Balasubramanian allegedly lost control of the car, and it collided with a lorry coming from the opposite direction, sources said. P7

No role for third-party mediation in border dispute with Nepal, says India

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA on Tuesday firmly rejected any role for third parties in resolving its boundary dispute with Nepal, responding to remarks by Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah in Parliament on Sunday in which he called for involvement of the UK and China in efforts to resolve the border issue.

The Indian response came amid a deepening political controversy in Nepal, where Shah's comments have triggered protests and repeated disruptions in Parliament. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India had



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Nepal's Rastriya Swatantra Party president Rabi Lamichhane in New Delhi Tuesday | P11

taken note of both Shah's statement and a subsequent clarification issued by Nepal's Foreign Ministry. Reiterating New Delhi's long-

standing position that boundary issues must be addressed bilaterally, he pointed out that most of the India-Nepal border has already been settled. "While close to 98% of the India-Nepal boundary has been demarcated, there are some unresolved segments. The shifting of the course of Gandak river has resulted in this situation. There are cases of cross-border occupation and encroachment of the boundary which are currently being mapped jointly," he said.

The fallout from Shah's comments paralysed Nepal's Parliament for a second consecutive day on Tuesday.

Malabar's football aspirations manifest in the flesh at 2026 FIFA WC

RONNIE KURIAKOSE @ Kochi

KERALA'S love affair with football has found a moment of history. Tahsin Mohammed Jamshid, who has roots in Kannur, has earned a place in Qatar's 26-member squad for the FIFA World Cup. He has also become the first Malayali to make a World Cup team.

The 19-year-old, however, won't be the only player with Indian heritage at the football

gala. Nishan Velupillay, whose roots trace back to Tamil Nadu, will be representing Australia. Born and raised in Qatar to parents from Malabar region, Tahsin was named in the final squad after figuring in the country's probable list. He is also the first player of Indian origin to feature in the Qatar Stars League. He plays for Al-Duhail SC, the country's oldest football team. "Tahsin may be playing for

Another with TN roots Nishan Velupillay, whose roots trace back to Tamil Nadu, will be representing Australia. Velupillay, 25, has seven senior caps and three goals for Australia, having debuted for his country against China and scoring in 2024

Qatar, but Malabar's aspirations run through his veins. His parents moved to Qatar in 1996. It was during an inter-

school football tournament that he was first scouted," said D Ravi Kumar, a veteran journalist who has covered the football scene in Qatar extensively.

Tahsin trained at Aspire Academy for Sports Excellence, which is globally renowned for its state-of-the-art facilities, and went on to represent Qatar at the Under-16, Under-17 and Un-

der-19 levels. "It is not common that players of different origin feature in a national side, but because of Tahsin's exceptional talent, he was considered," Ravi said.

Tahsin's international debut came during the World Cup qualification campaign against Afghanistan. Though included in the squad against India, he did not feature

in the match but later played in Qatar's decisive final two qualification fixtures.

"The boy plays as winger. But under Julien Lopetegui, the head coach of Qatar, we may see him move into a more defined position in midfield," Ravi said.

Tahsin is the second son of Hibasil Jamshid, a Thalassery (Kozhikode) native working as a chief accountant in Qatar, and Shyma.



TMC SUPREMO MAMATA PROTESTS ATTACKS

Former CM addresses a sit-in protest against the attacks on party leaders and workers in Kolkata on Tuesday | P10



Adverse effect in patients, Must state pay aid for deaths at party events? HC seeks TN, AIADMK reply

Tiruchy hosp flags dexamethasone injection related to student's demise

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE drug control department collected samples of dexamethasone from the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital (MGMGH) in Tiruchy, after the hospital flagged three cases of adverse reaction to the injection of the drug, including the recent death of a 20-year-old nursing student who had undergone elective septoplasty procedure at the hospital.

According to official sources, the Tamil Nadu Medical Service Corporation (TNMSC) supplied MGMGH with 4,000 ampoules of dexamethasone (a corticosteroid) in April, of which nearly 3,700 were already used and around 300 remaining in stock. The drug control department collected the remaining samples and sent them to King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research, Guindy, and results are awaited. Health inspectors also recalled the supply of 8mg dexamethasone (batch number CHI-60004) from government hospitals across the state.

On May 29, Dr S Kumaravel, dean of MGMGH, wrote to the director of medical education and research requesting urgent drug analysis and necessary preventive action. The dean had mentioned that the concern was raised by the professor and head of anaesthesiology department regarding the adverse reactions.

The dean observed adverse reactions in the three patients, which included ventricular tachyarrhythmia, cardiomyopathy, severe left ventricular dysfunction, hypotension and refractory cardiogenic shock, following intravenous administration of the drug from the batch.

Furthermore, retrospective analysis revealed that the 20-year-old nursing student, who underwent elective septoplasty on May 22, had also developed similar clinical features after administration of dexamethasone from the batch.

A senior TNMSC official said, "Other than these three cases we have not received informa-

tion about any other cases from hospitals so far. We have issued a 'stop order' and sent samples of the drug for testing. The test report is awaited."

Regarding the death of the nursing student, another senior official said, "We can confirm the cause of death only after we receive the postmortem report."

Nursing student's death: Inquiry panel completes probe, submits report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE four-member inquiry committee — headed by Dr N Baskar, medical superintendent, Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH) — formed to probe into allegations of medical negligence in the case of a third-year nursing student who died while under treatment at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital,

Tiruchy, completed its inquiry and submitted a report to the government. The inquiry committee suspects that a dexamethasone injection caused the demise of the student, sources said.

According to officials, the third-year nursing student underwent elective septoplasty on May 22 and had developed ventricular arrhythmia followed by cardiomyopathy with refractory cardiogenic shock after administration of dexamethasone (8mg) injection.

Official sources said

that the patient was administered a cocktail of anaesthetic drugs before the procedure. However, when dexamethasone was administered, the patient developed a severe allergic reaction, leading to the committee suspecting the drug to be the cause of her death. However, the government is waiting for the toxicology and biopsy reports to arrive at a scientific conclusion, they added.

"Though a cocktail of drugs was given before, three patients, including the student, developed a reaction only after the dexamethasone was administered. The doctors observed the changes and immediately initiated first-aid measures. The other two patients have recovered. Dexamethasone, a corticosteroid, is used also to treat allergic reactions. But it rarely causes an allergic reaction in an individual. However, the cause can be ascertained only after the relevant reports are out," an official said.

The inquiry panel was constituted after the deceased student's friends and family members staged a protest alleging medical negligence by those involved in her surgery.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE Madras High Court directed the Tamil Nadu government and the AIADMK to file counter affidavits within two weeks on whether the state is liable to pay compensation to persons who die in untoward incidents at events organised by political parties.

Justice Mohammed Shaffiq issued the direction while hearing a petition filed in 2025, by P Vadivelu, a daily-wage labourer from Tondiarpet, seeking ₹50 lakh compensation for the death of his 14-year-old daughter, Yuvasree, in a stampede during an AIADMK relief distribution programme at Sunnambu Kalvai, R K Nagar, in December 2023.

According to the petitioner, the AIADMK organised the relief distribution event on December 9, 2023, for cyclone Michaung-affected residents.

The programme was attended by AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami and was organised by the party's R K Nagar West secretary Nithyanantham.

Yuvasree, a Class 9 student, had gone to collect relief materials along with her aunt when a stampede broke out due to the massive crowd. She was severely hurt

and later declared brought dead at the Stanley Government Hospital. An RTI response obtained from the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Vannarapetai, confirmed the programme was organised by the AIADMK.

The petitioner contended that the tragedy occurred due to the complete absence of barri-

acades, crowd management personnel, medical assistance and coordination with law enforcement, despite authorities being fully aware that a massive crowd was expected. The father invoked articles 21 and 14 of the Constitution, arguing the state's negligence amounted to a violation of the right to life with safety and dignity.

Vadivelu, who earns ₹550 a day, submitted that a representation sent to the then government in July 2025 seeking compensation received no response, prompting him to approach the court.

Justice Shaffiq directed both the state government and AIADMK to file their responses within two weeks and adjourned the matter for further hearing.



V Yuvasree (14)



IN THE HC

Suppression of income by Vijay: Court allows withdrawal of plea for I-T probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE Madras High Court on Tuesday permitted the withdrawal of a petition seeking a probe into alleged income suppression by Chief Minister and TVK chief C Joseph Vijay. A division bench of Chief Justice S A Dharmadhikari and Justice G Arul Murugan accepted the petitioner's request to withdraw the plea and ordered accordingly.

The petitioner M Rajkumar of Chennai, sought directions to the Director General of Income Tax Investigation (DGIT) and the Principal Commissioner of Income Tax (Central) to examine mate-

rials and findings recorded during search proceedings, sworn statements recorded during assessment proceedings, and the penalty order passed under the Income Tax Act against Vijay, and to initiate appropriate proceedings.

Rajkumar had also sought directions to an appropriate law enforcement agency to register an FIR against Vijay and investigate cognisable offences under sections 420, 467, 470, 471 and 120B of the IPC in connection with alleged suppression of income, receipt of unaccounted cash remuneration and concealment of financial transactions disclosed during search and statutory

proceedings. A third relief was sought for the DGIT and the Principal Commissioner to place materials gathered during the search before the authority under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act for examining existence of a scheduled predicate offence and proceeds of crime.

It may be noted that this is the third petition filed in the matter. In the first petition, seeking an inquiry by the Income Tax department which is pending, the court has directed the department to file its response and issue notice to Vijay. The second petition, seeking an inquiry by the Election Commission, was dismissed on the ground that such directions could not be issued after elections were declared.



Pvt schools told to publish fee structures online before June 5

CHENNAI: Following an order of the Tamil Nadu Information Commission, the Directorate of Private Schools has directed all private schools in the state to publicly display the fee structure approved by the Fee Determination Committee and publish it on their websites by June 5.

In a recent order, the State Information Commission observed that the public should not be made to run from pillar to post to obtain details of the approved fee structure of private schools. It directed the school education department to ensure all private schools

proactively disclose the information. The directorate has instructed all private nursery, primary, matriculation, CBSE and other board schools to prominently display the approved fee structure for public viewing, publish the details on their websites and include class-wise fee details in student admission application forms by June 5. The directorate has also directed Chief Educational Officers and District Educational Officers (Private Schools) to monitor compliance and submit reports, along with photo evidence, by June 10. ENS



Renovation works in full swing at the Courtallam Main Falls in Tenkasi on Tuesday, ahead of the tourist season | V KARTHIK ALAGU

LGBTQIA+ representatives meet health minister

CHENNAI: The members of the LGBTQIA+ community met Health Minister K G Arunraj at the secretariat on Tuesday and submitted an outline of their demands, urging the government to oppose the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026. The committee, in their representation, said that the state should oppose Act as it directly contravenes evidence-based medical guidelines for gender-affirmative care. They also requested it to re-frame existing healthcare laws, policies and programmes, and consider enacting a state-level inclusive menstrual leave. ENS

Man arrested for assaulting 8-year-old at home

CHENNAI: A 47-year-old man was arrested by the Red Hills All Women Police on charges of sexually assaulting an 8-year-old girl at his house on Monday. The arrested man was identified as Senthil Kumar, a lorry driver. The police said that Senthil lured the victim when his wife and children were away. After the girl went to his house, Senthil allegedly sexually assaulted her. The girl ran back home and informed her parents who lodged a police complaint. The police filed a Pocco case and arrested Senthil. After inquiry, he was sent to judicial custody. ENS

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHS

03rd June: The Cosmic Menu in the best restaurants, the menus are often well-laid-out, easy to read, descriptive and fun. But the menu of life isn't usually like that, if it appears at all. More often we observe the options and lay out the menu ourselves. As Mercury and Neptune square off, poke around to see what's available. Ask questions. Wake up to the full delicious array.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
 Just because something works on paper doesn't mean it will in real life. The logical solutions won't be enough to fix what goes wrong. The key ingredients for success today: creativity, vision, empathy and patience.

TAURUS (Apr 20 - May 20)
 People make choices that don't seem quite right to you. Of course, you don't have full access to their reasons, their history or what they need to learn for themselves. You still feel pulled to step in.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
 There's a point in which enjoyment tips into "too much," and unfortunately, that line isn't always so easy to see. Getting carried away can be part of the fun, but it's only really fun if there is a safety net.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
 Your offer is changing. Can you put it into words yet? There's something you're delivering that will be better accepted and compensated with the right description. Play with the wording, style and tone. It takes time to get this right.

LEO (July 23 - Aug 22)
 No matter what was lost in the past, today is still yours to win. Just lean into your natural tendencies. They won't steer you wrong. The afternoon is for troubleshooting and problem-solving. With a bit of adjustment, you'll make it work.

VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sept 22)
 There's plenty of noise and not enough signal today, posing a challenge to clear communication. But if anyone can sidestep the pitfalls, it's you. Expect misinformation. Check sources. Stay out of the arguments; they aren't worth it.

LIBRA (Sept 23 - Oct 23)
 Collaboration is the way to multiplied results. Not just more hands, but more ideas and shared energy. And there's a bonus layer: Letting others share credit deepens the satisfaction. So stay open to input. You will be both influential and influenced.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 21)
 It's a day of three. You'll move three things out of the way. There will be a shift in the plans, priorities and expectations. You'll delay one thing, say no to another and rethink a third.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
 You'll master the fine art of being a boss without being bossy. It's a tightrope walk to be sure, but as long as you're paying attention to the feedback others give you, you'll maintain your balance and cross to the other side.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
 The problem you couldn't solve last week comes back around. This time, approach from a different angle. Consider that the details may be less important than you were making them. This is something that just needs to be done, perhaps imperfectly.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
 Recommit to what you want. Go after it daily. Like the river that cuts through rock, this is not about how powerful or sharp you are; it's about what you can do over time with persistence.

PISCES (Feb 19 - Mar 20)
 You'll make major progress with a project. An easy, related state of mind allows you to focus well and get an impressive amount of work done. Also, upgrading some aspect of your technology will give you a thrill.

SUDOKU EASY
 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.

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

CROSS WORD

ACROSS

- Nod when told to go (6)
- Family stress (6)
- Break silence before treat is ruined (7)
- Frosted look seen when I'm in debt? (5)
- Brush and clean thoroughly (5)
- Straightens things out and becomes more friendly (7)
- His work is above most people (11)
- Men said to be not men at all (7)
- There are four to each deck used for lifting (5)
- The ban is also about opening two letters (5)
- One benefits from such a policy (7)
- Yarn that's embroidered (6)
- Ill-suited for obligations (6)

DOWN

- Part of the mass is identified with St. Francis (6)
- Heavenly body, one seen in flight (5)
- Distinguished though plainly ineffective (7)
- Feverish activity in temples? (5)
- Girl can put up a calendar (7)
- He's barely seen in camp (6)
- Foreign money in great volume could be awkward (11)
- Handy cover for a sewer (7)
- One may get belted taking part in this sport? (6)
- A sick benefit prescription? (6)
- Quiet comments made when on a date in Rome (6)
- Take sweetheart and run (5)
- Tooth one has right in the middle - a canine (5)

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

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

What do you say we take it apart and do it again?

I can't believe we totally finished!

We did it! Great job!

WHEN THEY COMPLETED THE JIGSAW PUZZLE, THEY WERE ---

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

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: DEPTH STASH APPEAL COOKIE
 Answer: To reach the mountain's summit, climbers need to be in --- TIP-TOP SHAPE

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Against, 5 Award, 8 Close quarters, 9 Trust, 10 Arsenal, 11 Eponym, 12 Apathy, 15 Posture, 17 Exact, 19 Reinstatement, 20 Ratty, 21 Treadle.

DOWN: 1 Ascot, 2 Anonymous gift, 3 No entry, 4 Toucan, 5 Aras, 6 A means to an end, 7 Display, 11 Emperor, 13 Precede, 14 Intact, 16 Essay, 18 Title.

GCC to track kids out of school with in-depth survey

PRAVEENA S A @ Chennai



GREATER Chennai Corporation (GCC) Commissioner GS Sameeran on Tuesday announced that the civic body will soon conduct a comprehensive socio-economic survey of children across the city...

The survey is expected to commence within the next two to three months, Sameeran told TNIE. Sameeran said the proposed survey would go beyond identifying school dropouts and examine multiple socio-economic factors affecting children's access to education.

Toxic smoke near secretariat traced to sulphur fire at port

S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

Sulphur stored in open

During previous visits, TNIE observed sulphur being stored in the open without adequate covering. Locals that strong winds often carry fine yellow sulphur particles onto nearby roads

PANIC gripped areas around the secretariat on Tuesday after thick smoke spread across the neighbourhood, raising concerns among government staff, commuters and residents.

Government sources told TNIE that sulphur deposits stored at the Chennai Port had caught fire, leading to the release of dense smoke. The fire was brought under control within 10 minutes by firefighting personnel.

situation and prevent further spread of the smoke. The smoke drifted towards the secretariat complex and nearby areas, causing alarm among employees and visitors.

Officials said the situation was quickly contained and there was no immediate threat to public safety. Air quality and environmental conditions in the area are being monitored.



Visitors and staff at the secretariat wore face masks after a fog-like haze, suspected to contain an unidentified chemical, was noticed on Tuesday afternoon in Chennai. The smoke is believed to have originated from Chennai Port | P JAWAHAR

Police rule out ganja link in Washermenpet youth murder; AIADMK, BJP slam TVK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE police, while ruling out claims that the murder of Vishnu (25) at New Washermenpet was linked to him speaking out against sale of ganja, stated that the killing stemmed from a series of clashes between two local groups that began during a cricket match in the last week of May.

Speaking to TNIE, a senior police officer said the first altercation broke out during a cricket match between the groups, which was followed by another clash a few days later, leading to the registration of a case.

amid political criticism over the murder. AIADMK general chief Edappadi K Palaniswami accused the TVK government of failing to maintain law and order and curb drug menace.

Citing the arrest of two TVK functionaries in a gang rape case near Thoothukudi, EPS also questioned Vijay's ability to control his party cadre. Referring to Vijay's earlier remarks that opposition parties should wait six months before criticising his government, EPS asked whether people should continue to suffer while the government completed a "six-month crash course" on governance.

BJP state president Nainar Nagenthran also criticised the government, alleging that it had failed to curb ganja-related crimes and maintain law and order.

On May 27, the police said Vishnu was attacked near his residence by a group led by Naren alias Naresh Kumar, along with several associates. Armed with knives, hammers and iron rods, the assailants allegedly inflicted severe head injuries on him.



ADDRESSED TO CM

The Chief Minister's Special Cell has installed a drop box outside the state secretariat at Fort St George in Chennai, to enable the public to submit petitions easily | ASHWIN PRASATH

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED NAVRATNA COMPANY (A Govt. of India Undertaking) e-Procurement Notice

TAMILNADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MASS COMMUNICATION (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) ADMISSION NOTICE: 2026-27

THE ALL-NEW APP THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS

PUBLIC NOTICE Energy Private Limited to transact with the lands totally admeasuring 102 Acres situated at Pudukottai Village, Gandarvakottai Taluk, Gandarvakottai S. R. O, Pudukottai District, Tamil Nadu.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MASS COMMUNICATION (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) REGISTRATION OPENS FOR ADMISSION TO POST GRADUATE (PG) - PROGRAMMES

C.B.M.COLLEGE (Govt.Aided Institution) SAKETHAPURI, KOVAIPUDUR, COIMBATORE-641042

Regional Office Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, (ROSARB) 1st floor, No.10, C.P Ramasamy Road, Alwarpet, Chennai-600 018.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

New RBI norms create hurdle for TVK's crop loan waiver promise

To implement complete waiver, government requires around ₹15,000 crore, and entire amount would have to be settled within 60 days from the date the scheme is rolled out

B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

THE waiver of crop loans taken from cooperative institutions, one of the election promises of the TVK, is facing significant implementation challenges, as the new RBI guidelines that came into effect in November last year mandate governments to settle dues owed to co-op banks within 45 to 60 days whenever a loan waiver is announced.

Given the state's debt condition, the norms not only constrain the government but also discourage political parties from making large scale crop loan waiver promises in future elections. Conventionally, state governments settled the loan dues to the cooperative banks at the rate of 20% per annum, senior state government officials told *TNIE*.

In its election promise, TVK had announced a waiver of crop loans taken from cooperative societies and banks for farmers owning less than five acres of land. For landholdings larger than five acres, a 50% loan waiver was promised. While the AIADMK also promised a waiver of agricultural loans without any ceiling, the DMK refrained from promising waiver of any category of loans in its poll manifesto. "At present, implementing TVK's poll promise would require around ₹15,000 crore, and the entire amount would have to be settled within 60 days from the date the loan waiver is given effect," said a cooperatives department official.

The crop loan waiver of ₹6,100 crore announced by former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa in 2016 was reimbursed to cooperative banks in five annual installments. Simi-

larly, the ₹12,800 crore crop loan waiver announced by former Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami just three months before the 2021 Assembly election was repaid by the subsequent DMK government in five annual installments of around ₹2,100 to ₹2,400 crore each.

After assuming office in May 2021, the DMK government paid ₹4,376 crore to NABARD, while the remaining ₹8,823 crore was settled in installments to cooperative institutions. Additionally, the DMK government also waived jewel loans of up to five sovereigns, amounting to ₹4,904

crore, benefiting around 11 lakh people. It also waived loans availed by SHGs to the tune of ₹2,117 crore, benefiting 10.56 lakh members.

"In total, the DMK government settled dues of nearly ₹19,000 crore to NABARD and cooperative institutions from 2021-22 to 2025-26 to implement the crop loan, jewel loan and SHG loan waivers. The incumbent TVK government would have to repay around ₹15,000 crore within 60 days if it chooses to implement its poll promise, which would not be an easy task for any government," the

official said.

On May 25, the state government announced a waiver of crop loans up to ₹50,000 for marginal farmers, and a 50% waiver on crop loans up to ₹50,000 for small farmers. Additionally, large farmers who had availed crop loans of up to ₹1 lakh were granted a waiver of ₹5,000 each. The scheme was estimated to benefit 14.22 lakh farmers and entail an expenditure of ₹2,044.46 crore for the government.

Officials recalled that ahead of the 2026 Assembly election, when there was widespread expectation that the DMK would announce a jewel loan waiver in its manifesto, a large number of borrowers pledged jewellery of up to 5 sovereigns with cooperative banks. As a result, the outstanding jewel loan portfolio in cooperative institutions swelled to nearly ₹40,000 crore. However, after examining the loan data from the cooperation department, the DMK manifesto preparation committee chose not to include jewel loan waiver promise in its election manifesto.

A senior official said, "The government is exploring various options to assess whether any further relaxations can be extended under the crop loan waiver scheme, taking into account the state's financial position. However, no decision has been taken so far."

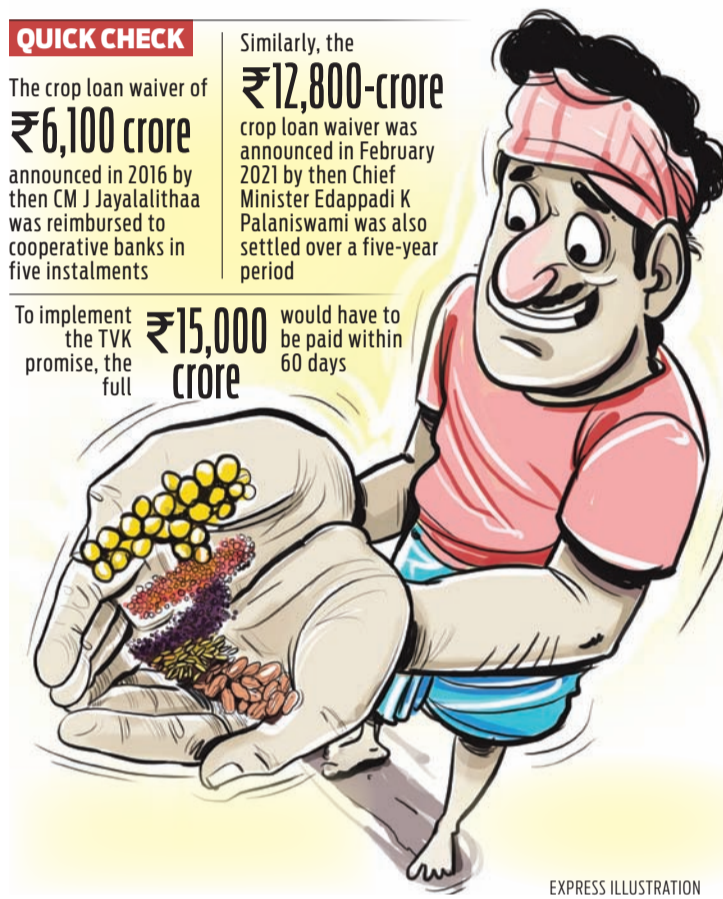
A TVK spokesperson who did not want to be named said they were unaware of the RBI regulations at the time of preparing the election manifesto. "Our intention was to give a full loan waiver to the farmers, but we did not know the practical difficulties at the time of preparing it. Still, we would stand by the farmers," he said.

QUICK CHECK

The crop loan waiver of ₹6,100 crore announced in 2016 by then CM J Jayalalithaa was reimbursed to cooperative banks in five instalments

Similarly, the ₹12,800-crore crop loan waiver was announced in February 2021 by then Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and also settled over a five-year period

To implement the TVK promise, the full ₹15,000 crore would have to be paid within 60 days



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

TN signs MoU, to receive ₹2,177 crore from centre for Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

TAMIL Nadu has signed an MoU with the union government, extending the implementation period of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) from December 2024 to December 2028. The deal was signed on Tuesday in the presence of Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay and Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil. While the CM participated from the secretariat, Patil joined through video conference from New Delhi.

The first phase of the mission was implemented between 2019 and 2024. The programme covered 45 new multi-village drinking water supply schemes, retrofitting of 56 combined water supply schemes and implementation of 21,258 single-village schemes.

During the extended phase, Tamil Nadu will receive an initial allocation of ₹2,177 crore



The MoU was signed in the presence of Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay and Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil on Tuesday | EXPRESS

from the Union Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation. Under the programme, the National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM) and the State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee (SLSSC) approved functional household tap connections for 46.71 lakh rural households, benefiting around 1.86 crore people across Tamil Nadu, said an official state-

ment. The total approved cost of the first phase was ₹18,123 crore, including ₹ 9,025 crore from the centre and ₹9,097 crore from the state government.

This extension of the JJM is expected to help ensure safe, adequate and sustainable drinking water supply to all rural households in the state, the statement said.

Vijay lacks temperament befitting CM, says A Raja

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

DMK deputy general secretary and MP A Raja on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, accusing him of lacking constitutional morality and temperament befitting his office. "Why does he show hesitation, confusion and helplessness inside the assembly, but roar in Tiruchy? Whoever wrote that script should answer," Raja told reporters at Anna Arivalayam on Tuesday.

Referring to BR Ambedkar's speech in the Constituent Assembly, Raja said constitutional morality which applies to chief ministers, ministers and prime ministers alike, was conspicuously absent in Vijay's conduct in Tiruchy. "He (Vijay) has degraded his own office by speaking without accountability," he said.

Raja also took aim at Vijay's visit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying CMs of Assam, West Bengal and Kerala were given 40-50 minutes each with the PM, but TN's CM was allotted barely 10 minutes, and he (Vijay) returned without meeting anyone besides Nirmala Sitharaman, he said. "You went to the PM and came back silently. Where is your bravery now, bro?" he asked. On Vijay referring to DMK and TVK as the "only real competitors" and dismissing others as "allu, sillu", Raja said, "The same people you dismiss, you went to their homes with a shawl, begged for votes.



DMK MP A Raja addressing the press in Chennai on Tuesday | EXPRESS

Is that principled politics?"

Raja also questioned the 'Singapenn' scheme, demanding to know its budget allocation, number of vehicles procured, and police personnel assigned. "You signed a file and gave it a name. What else did you do?" he said. "Police are under you, transfers are under you. How much time do you need to fix law and order?" he asked.

Continuing his attack, the MP also questioned Vijay's silence on the governor's office using saffron attire on Thiruvalluvar statue, judgment on cow and calf slaughter, and Karnataka CM-elect DK Shivakumar's statement that the Mekedatu dam project faces no obstacle now that DMK is in opposition. "Your ministers said 'no comments' on Katchatheevu. What kind of ministers are they? We are ready to stand by every legitimate decision of this government. But that doesn't mean we will stay silent on your incompetence," he added.

RDO to decide on AIADMK Pudukkottai office dispute today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Pudukkottai/ Chennai

THE Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) is set to decide on Wednesday which faction has the right to use the locked AIADMK district office in Pudukkottai. The dispute arose after AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami removed Viralimalai MLA C Vijayabaskar from the post of Pudukkottai north district secretary and appointed V Palanivel in his place. Vijayabaskar was among several AIADMK functionaries who were removed from party posts for backing the TVK during the trust vote.

At the peace meeting chaired by RDO A Prakash on Tuesday, Palanivel's side argued he should be allowed to take charge of the office and carry out party work as the officially appointed district secretary. A lawyer representing the rival faction, sought three weeks' time to respond to the claim. After hearing both sides, the RDO said orders will be issued on Wednesday. Meanwhile in Chennai, Palaniswami said he is taking all necessary steps to help the party overcome its current challenges and emerge stronger. He said although the party secured 47 seats, a few individuals who have enjoyed various positions in the organisation are now engaged in activities aimed at destroying it.

Won't contest Tiruchy East by-election, says Thiruma

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

VCK president Thol Thirumavalavan on Tuesday said he would not contest the Tiruchy East bypoll or join the state cabinet, asserting that he has never nursed any desire to become a minister. Speaking to party cadre in a video on social media, Thirumavalavan revealed that he was approached twice before the election to align with Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's camp, but had declined both offers.

"But I did not want to become the trump card that broke the Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA)," he said. Thiruma said that after the election, some within the VCK had suggested that the party seek representation in the cabinet and that senior functionaries had conveyed the proposal to Vijay on his behalf. However, he reiterated that he personally had no interest in becoming a minister.

On his decision to support the TVK government despite not being part of the ruling alliance during the election, Thirumavalavan said the move was driven by the need to prevent political instability.

State poll body expedites delimitation work ahead of local body elections

T MURUGANANDHAM @ Chennai

THE State Election Commission (SEC) has stepped up efforts to complete the delimitation of wards, a key prerequisite for holding the local body elections in the state. The SEC is currently undertaking the delimitation of ward boundaries for 11 district panchayats, 40 panchayat unions and 177 village panchayats.

State Election Commissioner B Jothi Nirmalasamy on Tuesday directed officials to expedite the work. The direction was issued during a meeting of the delimitation commission in Chennai. The commission also decided to recommend to the government the finalisation of the number of members to be elected to the local bodies. The tenure of elected representatives in rural local bodies across 28 districts ended on January 5, 2025, following which special officers have been administering them. In the remaining dis-

tricts, the tenure of representatives will end on October 19. Tenure of urban local body representatives will end on March 1, 2027. "The delimitation panel is regularising the newly-created local bodies by fixing their ward boundaries. The population as per the 2011 Census is being used as the basis for the exercise. Only after delimitation is completed can reservations for women and SC/ST candidates be finalised," an official said.



SUMMER SPLASH

Light evening rain in Madurai city on Tuesday proved to be a welcome relief from the hot summer condition | KK SUNDAR

7-am inspection mandate for corpn commissioners

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR @ Chennai

THE Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MAWS) department has directed commissioners of all city corporations to begin field inspections before 7 am every day and remain accessible through wireless communication during rounds to address civic issues.

Sources said that the directions, issued through additional chief secretary to govt Gagandeep Singh Bedi, aims to prioritise complaints on water supply, solid and liquid waste manage-

ment and pothole repairs. While TVK performed strongly in urban areas in the recent election, urban local bodies continue to be controlled by DMK-dominated representatives. Officials have been instructed to closely monitor road sweeping operations, source-level waste segregation, composting and biominer activities, and conduct detailed weekly reviews of conservancy work. They have also been asked to step up greening initiatives by utilising open space reservation (OSR) lands,

waterbodies and road avenues. As part of beautification efforts, urban local bodies have been directed to improve traffic islands with greenery, decorative lighting and water fountains wherever feasible. Officials have been directed to remove unauthorised posters from public places.

Commissioners have been asked to ensure efficient tax collection and transparency in granting building plan approvals, while avoiding delays beyond timelines prescribed by the Directorate of

Municipal Administration.

The advisory further stressed the need for surprise inspections of urban local body hospitals, improvements in healthcare infrastructure and patient care, and measures to upgrade school infrastructure. Officials have also been instructed to strengthen implementation of the Animal Birth Control programme to address the stray dog population.

Commissioners have been directed to personally inspect major projects, including underground sewerage schemes, and ensure adherence to quality.

Vaiko at crossroads as discontent grows in MDMK

S KUMARESAN @ Chennai

SIGNS of growing unease within the MDMK over its role in the DMK-led alliance has come to the fore, with party general secretary Vaiko publicly voicing dissatisfaction over the number of seats allotted to it and its inability to contest elections on its own symbol. Discussions on the future of MDMK is expected to dominate the party's general council meeting on June 27.

Speaking to reporters in Chennai, Vaiko said the MDMK has stood firmly with the DMK

and contributed significantly to the alliance's electoral success. "I campaigned in 34 constituencies in support of DMK. The DMK won 24 of those seats. While our two MLAs won with the support of alliance votes, our contribution to the alliance's victory should also be recognised," he said. Pointing out that several alliance partners were allotted more seats, Vaiko said the MDMK was given only four constituencies, leaving

cadres disappointed. "Many cadre feel that we should have contested on our own symbol. Other alliance parties contested on their respective symbols even though some of them won only one or two seats," Vaiko said.

The remark comes a day after MDMK principal secretary and Tiruchy MP Durai Vaiko said contesting on the DMK symbol constrained the party's political flexibility after the election. "The views expressed by Du-

rai Vaiko reflect the feelings of many cadre. No decision has been taken. All opinions will be discussed at the general council meeting," Vaiko added.

Sources said several district secretaries and second-rung leaders are expected to raise concerns over the alliance arrangement at the June 27 meet.

A section of the leadership believes that contesting on party's own symbol in future elections is essential to rebuilding the organisation and regaining its recognised state party status.

Mahesh K Aggarwal Ops at 88 more quarries to be suspended: Minister to assume charge as new DGP today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

MAHESH Kumar Aggarwal, a 1994-batch IPS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, is set to take charge as the state's new Director General of Police (DGP) and Head of Police Force (HoPF) on Wednesday. On Tuesday, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved Aggarwal's repatriation from BSF to his parent cadre with immediate effect. Aggarwal was serving as special director general of BSF and was also holding additional charge of the force's Eastern Command headquartered in Kolkata. The order was issued following a proposal from the Union Home Ministry.



Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal

Before his deputation to the Centre, Aggarwal held several key positions in the Tamil Nadu Police. He served as commissioner of police, Greater Chennai Police, and later as director general of armed police and special director general of CB-CID.

New TN legal team for Supreme Court

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday revamped its legal representation before the Supreme Court by appointing a fresh set of advocates-on-record and senior counsel to handle the state's cases in New Delhi. Rupali Francesca Samuel, B Karunakaran, Vrinda Bhandari, Jayasree Narasimhan, and Kanika Kalaiyaran are the new advocates-on-record. Prashanto Chandra Sen and HariPriya Padmanabhan have been appointed as counsel at the rank of AAG on a temporary basis.

Over the course of his career, Aggarwal has been awarded the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and the Chief Minister's Medal for his contributions to policing and public service.

With his appointment, Aggarwal will become the first full-time DGP and HoPF since the retirement of DGP Shankar Jiwaj in August last year.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE natural resources department is planning to suspend the operations of another 88 stone quarries where violations have been detected.

At a review meeting held at the secretariat on Tuesday, which was chaired by minister TKP Prabhu, officials discussed the follow-up action being tak-

en against temporarily suspended quarries and measures to prevent illegal quarrying.

Last week, the minister inspected stone quarries in Tenkasi, Kanniyakumari, Virudhunagar and Madurai districts. Following the inspections, quarries found to be operating in violation of regulations were

ordered to shut down temporarily.

Subsequently, officials from the geology and mining department conducted intensive inspections across the state last week. Of the 431 quarries inspected, violations were detected in 155. Operations at 67 quarries were temporarily suspended and pen-

alty proceedings have been initiated against them. Further action is underway to suspend operations at the remaining 88 quarries, according to an official statement.

To curb illegal quarrying and unauthorised mineral extraction and transportation, the department is also planning to deploy advanced drone technology to survey quarries.

Cop lands in soup after his 'advice' on evading police scrutiny goes viral

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A crime wing inspector attached to the St Thomas Mount police has been shifted to the vacancy reserve (VR) pending inquiry after a purported audio recording of him instructing a man facing a police complaint, on how to escape police scrutiny, went viral online. A senior police officer has been deputed to examine the authenticity of the recording and file a report.

The issue stems from a dispute involving Praboth Ravin-

dran and his wife Regina, of Madipakkam, who previously worked as legal advisers for an overseas education consultancy in St Thomas Mount. Police sources said a complaint was lodged on May 22 by a man who alleged that Praboth owed him ₹2.29 lakh. Sources said that Praboth later appeared before the police and produced documents showing the amount had already been repaid, following which the complainant withdrew the complaint.

The controversy began after

Regina released an audio recording that she claimed captured a conversation between her husband and Inspector Ambedkar. In the clip, the person advises the recipient to switch off phone connectivity, avoid sharing information and remain out of reach while police searches are underway. In another video, Regina alleged that the police came to her house for a search without a proper warrant.

When the issue reached senior police officials, Ambedkar was sent to VR.

Disabled man detained for attempt to steal bike in Velachery

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A migrant worker with mental disabilities was detained by the Velachery police after he allegedly attempted to steal a motorcycle parked near a hotel on the 100ft Road in Velachery on Monday. He was found to be in an inebriated state and claimed that he was an army personnel, the police said. After an inquiry, he was let go with a warning.

According to the police, the motorcycle owner had parked his vehicle outside the hotel when the suspect, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, tried to unlock it using a key in his possession. The owner noticed the attempt and confronted him, leading to a heated argument, the police said.

The altercation attracted the attention of passersby, who accused the man of trying to steal the vehicle.

A section of the public allegedly restrained and assaulted him. Police said the man sustained injuries to his face during the incident.

The disturbance caused traffic congestion on the busy stretch for nearly 30 minutes.



Kauvery Hospital inaugurated its new speciality outpatient department and day care block on the AVM Studio premises in Vadapalani on May 28 | EXPRESS

Ministers inspect Mobis India plant after blaze

Chennai: Industries Minister S Keerthana and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils Minister SPK Thennarasu inspected Mobis India Limited's manufacturing facility at Irungattukottai where a fire broke out on Sunday, as the state government sought to reassure investors about safety and emergency response measures in one of its largest automobile manufacturing clusters. The ministers held discussions with representatives of Hyundai Motor India and Mobis India. The facility employs more than 500 workers in shifts and supplies audio components.

EXPRESS READ

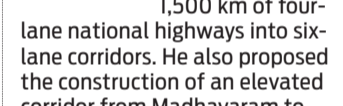
Self-immolation attempt thwarted

Chennai: A man from Villupuram, Ezhilan, attempted self-immolation outside the secretariat in Chennai on Tuesday morning by pouring petrol on himself, triggering panic in the high-security zone. The police personnel on security duty immediately intervened, doused him with water and handed him over to the Fort police for inquiry. The Fort police said the man, Anand Babu, had been duped of ₹7 lakh in the name of getting a loan. (Assistance for suicidal thoughts is available on helpline 104 and 044-24640050)

Aadhav urges centre to widen TN NHs to 6-lane

Chennai: State Highways Minister Aadhav Arjuna submitted a memorandum to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways

Nitin Gadkari, in New Delhi on Tuesday, seeking approval for a slew of infrastructure projects, including the widening of 1,500 km of four-lane national highways into six-lane corridors. He also proposed the construction of an elevated corridor from Madhavaram to Cholavaram, and from Maduravoyal to Sriperumbudur.



Aadhav Arjuna

BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
 Corporate Office: Cerebrum It Park B2 Building, 5th Floor, Kalyani Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra - 411014. Branch Office: Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd, Ground floor, Chateaud Ampa, No.37, Nelson Manickam Road Chennai-600029. Authorized Officer's Details: Name: Rathish Ramachandran, Email ID: Rathishramachandran@bajajhousing.co.in, Mob No. 9840165469 & 9773385461

APPENDIX IV - A [Rule 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the securitisation and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of the security interest act 2002 read with proviso to rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken over by the Authorized Officer of the Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "Without Recourse Basis" for recovery of the loan dues, applicable interest, charges and costs etc., payable to Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd as detailed below.

Details of Borrower / Co Borrowers and Loan Details	1. Date & Time of E-Auction, 2. Last Date of Submission of EMD, 3. Date & Time of the Property Inspection	1. Reserve Price, 2. EMD of the Property, 3. Bid Increment
LAN: 403HSLD068705 AND 403TSHED095934, 1. RK Arunkumar (Borrower) At 24 Ramajayan Homes S-1 1st St Anthony Nagar, Tirumalai voyal, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600061. Total Outstanding: Rs.46,31,966/- (Rupees Forty Six Lakhs Thirty One Thousand Nine Hundred And Sixty Six Only) as on 28/05/2026 along with future interest and charges accrued w.e.f. 28/05/2026	1) E-Auction Date: 20-June-2026 Between 11:00 AM To 12:00 PM With Unlimited Extension Of 5 Minutes, 2) Last Date Of Submission Of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) With Kyc is: 19-June-2026. Up To 5:00 P.M. 3) Date Of Inspection: 03-June-26 To 19-June-26 Between 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM	1) Reserve Price For Immovable Property 53,58,000/- (Rupees Fifty Three Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Only), 2) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs.5,35,800/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Only) 10% Of Reserve Price, 3) Bid Increment: Rs. 60,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) & In Such Multiples.

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of land and building bearing Door No.16, Old No. 51, Situated at St. Anthony Nagar, Avadi, Comprised in Survey No. 884, within the Sub-Registration District of Ambattur and Registration District of Chennai North, Avadi local body, Tiruvallur District, forming part of "Rameyan Homes", measuring an extent of 1800 Sq.ft. Out of which 510 sq.ft. of Undivided share of land, stands mortgaged and bounded on the East by: Plot No. 25, West by: Plot No. 23, North by: 30 Feet Road, South by: Plot No. 31.

Terms and Conditions of the Public Auction are as under:

- The Secured asset will not be sold below the Reserve price.
- The Auction Sale will be online through e-auction portal.
- The e-Auction will take place through portal <https://bajaj.auctions.in>, on 20-June-2026 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM on onwards with unlimited auto extension of 5 minutes each.
- For detailed terms and conditions please refer company website URL <https://www.bajajhousingfinance.in/auction-notices> or for any clarification please connect with Authorized officer.

Date: 03/06/2026
 Place: Chennai
 Authorized Officer (Rathish Ramachandran)
 Bajaj Housing Finance Limited

Indian Bank
EKKADUTHANGAL BRANCH
 Plot No.24, Door No.68/24, Achutan Nagar, Poonamallee Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032. email : ekkaduthangal@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 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Ekkaduthangal Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 07.07.2026, for recovery of Rs.54,39,250/- (Rupees Fifty four lakhs thirty nine thousand two hundred and fifty only) (as on 18.05.2026) with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 19.05.2026, due to the Indian Bank, Ekkaduthangal Branch, Secured Creditor from:

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWERS (1) N Radhakrishnan, (Borrower/Mortgagor), S/o Narayanasamy, No.2, 4D, Methas Park Royal Apartment, Padi Kuppam Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040. (2) S Priya, (Co-borrower/Mortgagor), W/o N. Radhakrishnan, No.2, 4D, Methas Park Royal Apartment, Padi Kuppam Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040.

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

All that piece and parcel of the residential flat bearing Flat No.C, in First Floor of the apartment name by Maier Blossom, having a build up area of 837 Sq. ft. (837/6503 Sq. ft.) together with 547 Sq. ft. of undivided share of land out of 4250 Sq. ft., situated in Plot No.109, comprised in S. No.84/18 in Sri Devi Karumariamman Nagar, now Rajagopalan Street, Valasaravakkam Village, formerly Ambattur Taluk, Tiruvallur District presently Maduravoyal Taluk, Chennai District. And having a linear measurement of - North side : 40 feet, South side : 40 feet, East side : 103 feet, West side : 109 feet. And the total measurement of 4250 Sq. ft. Situated within in the Sub-Registration District of Virugambakkam, in the Registration District of Chennai South. **Prior Encumbrances on property: Nil. PROPERTY ID No. : LDB7685057593**

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.55.00 Lakhs Bid increment : Rs.25,000/- **EMD : Rs.5.50 Lakhs**

Date and Time of Inspection of the Properties & related documents :	BANK WEBSITE	E-AUCTION WEBSITE	DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION :
02.07.2026 to 03.07.2026 between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.			07.07.2026 FROM 10.00 A.M. AND 4.00 P.M.

Last Date for submission of Tender form/EMD : 07.07.2026

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 : 29.05.2026
 Place : Chennai
 AUTHORISED OFFICER,
 INDIAN BANK

Ministry of Tribal Affairs
 Government of India

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CBC 43101/13/0007/2627

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the following agricultural lands comprised in various Survey Numbers situated at Cheyyur Village, "C" "D" & "E" Blocks, Cheyyur Taluk and Chengalpattu District more fully described in the Schedule hereunder (hereinafter referred to as schedule properties) from the concerned owners. Any person/s, bank, financial institution having any claims in respect of the schedule properties hereunder either in full or any part thereof by way of Sale, Exchange, Mortgage, Gift, Trust, Inheritance, Possession, Tenancy, Lease, Lien, leave and licence or otherwise howsoever or otherwise having an objection to the sale and transfer of the schedule properties by the intending vendors in favour of my client, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing along with supporting documents of such claim or objection to the undersigned at the below mentioned address within a period of **FOURTEEN DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be construed and accepted by my client that there are no Claims or Objection whatsoever and the same shall be considered as having been non-existent/waived/abandoned on the schedule mentioned properties and my client shall thereupon proceed to acquire the schedule mentioned properties from the intending vendors, notwithstanding any claim or objection.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTIES

Item No.1

All that piece and parcel of lands comprised in various Survey Numbers as detailed hereunder, situated at Cheyyur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk and District within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and the Registration Sub-District of Cheyyur and presently owned by M/s. Agni Business and Management Services Private Limited.

Survey No.	Extent in Acre
148/1D	1.06
148/3	0.46
148/5	0.46
149/1	0.30
149/3	0.56
149/7	0.64
149/10	0.28
150/5	0.68
150/7	0.74
152/4C	0.74
152/4D	0.62
152/5	1.43

Item No.2

All that piece and parcel of lands comprised in various Survey Numbers as detailed hereunder, situated at Cheyyur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk and District within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and the Registration Sub-District of Cheyyur and presently owned by M/s. Agni Estates and Foundations Private Limited

Survey No.	Extent in Acre
140/2A	0.075
140/2B	0.075
140/2C	0.075
140/2D	0.30
140/2E	0.23
140/2F	0.23
140/2G	0.23.5
140/2H	0.68
147/6	0.47
148/4	0.43
149/5	1.57
149/8	0.73
149/11	0.26
150/6	0.66
152/1B4	0.12
152/4B	0.91
153/1A	1.66
153/1B	2.00
153/2	0.23
154/1	0.25
154/2	0.50
154/4B	0.94
154/5	1.50
155/1B	1.14
155/2	0.50
155/4	0.80
156/1A	3.40
156/1B	1.35
156/2A	0.88
156/2B1	0.11
156/2B2	0.11
156/2B3	0.11
156/3A	0.46
156/3B	0.41
156/3C	0.58
159/1	2.91
187/2	2.40

Item No.3

All that piece and parcel of lands comprised in various Survey Numbers as detailed hereunder, situated at Cheyyur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk and District within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and the Registration Sub-District of Cheyyur and presently owned by M/s. Surya Developers and Promoters (P) Limited

Survey No.	Extent in Acre
136/2B	0.94
142/1	2.20
142/2	0.44
143/1	1.12
143/2	2.00
144/1	0.23
144/2	0.55
146/1C	1.08
147/3	0.94
147/4	0.76
148/1A	0.99
148/1B	0.62
148/1C	1.36
148/2	0.78
149/2	0.40
149/4	0.62
150/1	0.72
150/3	1.58
151/2B1	1.35

Item No.4

All that piece and parcel of lands comprised in various Survey Numbers as detailed hereunder, situated at Cheyyur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk and District within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and the Registration Sub-District of Cheyyur and presently owned by M/s. Vishnusturya Logistics Private Limited

Survey No.	Extent in Acre
137/3	0.20
140/4	0.50
142/1A	0.96
145/1B1	1.38
146/1A	0.61
146/2	1.33
147/1	0.62
149/9	1.06
150/2	0.40
150/3	0.20
151/1B1	0.57
151/1B2	0.54
151/1B3	0.54
151/1B4	0.54
151/1B5	0.54
151/2B2	1.33
162/1	1.33
162/2	0.33

R. ESWARAN,
 Advocate,
 'Annai Illam'
 No.8, Varadarajan Street
 Duraisami Nagar, Chitlapakkam
 Chennai - 600 064.
 Mobile No.9840998649

DEMAND NOTICE Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act) read with Rule 8(1) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules) in pursuance of the said Act and the said Rules, the undersigned, the Authorised Officer of IIFL Home Finance Ltd. (IIFL HFL) (Formerly known as India Infinitive Housing Finance Ltd.) has issued Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, to the Borrower(s) to pay within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The details of the Borrower(s), amount due as on date of Demand Notice and security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under:-

Table with columns: Name of the Borrower(s), Demand Notice Date & Amount, Description of Secured Asset (immovable property). Includes entries for Mr. Harish S, Mrs. Sridhiva S, Mrs. Senthil Kumar, Mr. Sourav Guha, Mr. Sundar Magesh, International Crown Associates, Mr. Nachiyappan Subramanian, Mr. Nachiyappan Subramanian, Mr. Nachiyappan Subramanian.

If the said Borrower fail to make payment to IIFL HFL as aforesaid, IIFL HFL may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act, and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the Borrowers. For further details please contact to Authorised Officer at Branch Office: Old No.41, New No.76, Block-1, Nu Tech Building, 3rd Floor, 1st main Road, CIT Nagar West, Nandambam, Chennai-600035 Land mark (near to Hyundai Showroom) or Corporate Office: IIFL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ghaziabad, Haryana, India. Place: Kancheepuram, Date: 03.06.2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.

Canara Bank ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH-I 8th FLOOR, CANARA TOWERS 524, ANNA SALAI, TEYNAMPET, CHENNAI 600 018 Tel.No. 044 - 2849 6339, 2849 6900. E-MAIL:cb2361@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Guarantors that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession to the Authorised Officer of Various Branch of the Canara Bank, since transferred to Asset Recovery Management Branch-I, Chennai will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 20.06.2026 (Time: 10.30 am to 11.30 am) (with auto extension of 5 minutes each till sale is completed) for recovery of bank's dues from the following Borrowers / Guarantors.

Sl.No.1: Abhiramapuram Branch-Borrower Name & Address: 1.) Mr.M.Arokia Doss (mortgagor) 2.) Mrs.V.Nandhakumari W/o. Mr.Arokia Doss, all are residing at 26/8, 6th street, Rangarajapuram, Saidapet, Chennai - 600015. Outstanding Amount: Rs.44,24,21.21 due as on 31.05.2026 with further interest and other incidental charges thereto incurred by the Bank.

DETAILS OF PROPERTY: Property in the name of Mr.Arokia Doss : (Cersai ID : 400063151326): All that piece and parcel of residential flat No.61, Ground Floor, measuring an extent of 720 sq.ft in plinth area and measuring an extent of 275 sq.ft UDS in 1535 sq.ft (as per documents 1592 sq.ft) in land, comprised in TS No.1/14 as per patta New TS no.1/79 situated at No.26/8 Rangarajapuram 6th street Venkatapuram Saidapet Chennai - 600015 Mambalam - Guindy Taluk Chennai District. Boundaries: North by : 6th Street South by : House belonging to Mr.Lakshmanan East by : Remaining portion of land belonging to Mr.Selvarangaraja West by : Sandilpa House And situated within the Registration district of Chennai South and Sub Registration district of Adayar.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 28,35,000/- EMD ₹ 2,83,500/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 50,000/-

Sl.No.2: Specialized NRI Branch: Borrower Name & Address: Mr. E.Lokesh, S/o. Elangovan, Plot No.61, A1, Nakkshatra Vilas Selva Nagar, Varadarajapuram, Chennai-600048. Outstanding Amount: Rs.76,25,252.97 due as on 31.05.2026 with further interest and other incidental charges thereto incurred by the Bank.

DETAILS OF PROPERTY: Property in the name of Mr E Lokesh S/o Elangovan (Cersai ID: 400066648002) All that piece and parcel of Land and building (residential flat) being a Flat marked as No.204* in Second Floor measuring 1207 Sq.ft, super plinth area (Including Common Area) in the building known as " Sai Anuksha Tower" together with 418Sq.ft undivided share out of the total extent of land measuring 6400 Sq.ft bearing Plot Nos.112 and 113, in the layout known as "Dream Park" (Approved Layout No.PPD/L0.No.14/2006) comprised in old survey Nos.232/5A, 232/5B, 232/6A, 232/6B,, as per Patta New survey Nos.232/32, 232/33 situated at Sitalhapakkam Village, Previously Tambaram Taluk, Presently Sholinganallur Taluk, Kancheepuram District (Postal Address: Flat No 204, Second Floor, "Sai Anuksha Tower", Plot No. 112 & 113, Dream Park Road, Sitalhapakkam, Chennai - 600 126) and bounded on the Plot No: 112 & 113 North by Plot No.108 & 109, South by 40 Feet Wide Road, East by Plot Nos.104,105 and 106, West by Plot No.114 & 111 And situated within the sub Registration District of Selayur and Registration District of Chennai South.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 39,00,000/- EMD ₹ 3,90,000/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 50,000/-

Sl.No.3: Abhiramapuram Branch: Borrowers Name & Address: 1.) Mr.Govri Shankar T (Borrower) S/o Late Mr.Thiagaraj M. No.22 S, Thiruvengadam Nagar, 2nd street, MGR Salai, Kandanchavadi, Chennai-600096. 2. Mrs.Sheeladevi K (Co-Borrower) No.22 S1, Thiruvengadam Nagar, 2nd street, MGR Salai, Kandanchavadi Chennai - 600096. Legal heirs of Late Mr.Thiagaraj M (Guarantor): 3. Smt.T.Gloria Amala Legal heir of Late.Mr.Thiagaraj M.No.22 S Thiruvengadam Nagar, 2nd Street, MGR Salai, Kandanchavadi, Chennai - 600096. 4. Mr.T.Senthamizh Selvan Legal heir of Late Mr.Thiagaraj M. No.22 S Thiruvengadam Nagar, 2nd Street, MGR Salai, Kandanchavadi, Chennai - 600096. 5. Smt.T.Diyya. Legal heir of Late Mr.Thiagaraj M. No.22 S Thiruvengadam Nagar, 2nd Street, MGR Salai, Kandanchavadi, Chennai - 600096.

Outstanding Amount: Rs. 31,46,796.44 due as on 31.05.2026 with further interest and other incidental charges thereto incurred by the bank

DETAILS OF PROPERTY: Properties in the name of Mr.T.Govri Shankar: (Cersai ID: 400028066747): All that part and parcel of 320 sq.ft Undivided share of land, in and out of the extent of 1782 sq.ft, along with Residential flat bearing No.S-1, in the Second floor, having a built up area of 875 sq.ft (inclusive of proportionate shares in common areas) with one covered car parking No.S-2 at Plot No.22 S, as per PPA No. PPA/CWC14/06901/2013, formerly Plot No.22, in Thiruvengadam Nagar, 2nd Street, comprised in Survey No.2, Survey No.7/1, 7/2, 7/3, as per patta survey No.7/19, new patta No.674, as per Patta Survey No.7/19, situated at Perungudi village, formerly Saidapet Taluk, formerly Chengalpatt district then Kancheepuram district now within the limits of Corporation of Chennai, and the entire land bounded in the : North by : Plot No.22, South by : Plot No.21, East by : Land and building, West by : Road And lying within the Registration District of South and Sub Registration District of Neelangari.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 40,00,000/- EMD ₹ 4,00,000/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 50,000/-

S.No. 4 THYAGARAYANAGAR (T.NAGAR) BRANCH: Borrowers Name & Address: 1. Mrs.Radha (Borrower), W/o Mr.Kartheesan, No.17, 3rd street, Ezhil Nagar, Soorapattu, Tiruvallur Dist - 600066. 2. Mr.Kartheesan (Guarantor), C/O Krishnanchari, No 63 2nd Fl Ramanji House, Ranga Avenue, 3rd Cross Street, Srinivasa Nagar, Kadhrivedu, Kancheepuram Dist - 600066.

Outstanding Amount: Rs. 74,14,984.41 due as on 31.05.2026 with further interest and other incidental charges thereto incurred by the bank

DETAILS OF PROPERTY: Properties in the name of Mrs.Radha: (Cersai ID: 400066109773) Schedule A: All that piece and parcel of residential flat with Plot Sub-Divided into four Plots as A, B, C & D - EXTENT for Plot No. B - measuring 2260 Sq. Ft., and common Passage 300 Sq. Ft., out of 724 Sq. Ft., in all measuring 2560 Sq. Ft., Ward No. H, Block No. 9, Comprised in Survey No. 318/5 Part, Town Survey No. 23/6A, 23/6B and 23/6C, Situated at No. 17, KEELKATTALAI VILLAGE, (New No. 17, Madipakkam Part II) "BALAMURUGAN NAGAR", in Tambaram Taluk, Presently Pallavaram Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Presently Chengalpatt District, within the Sub-Registration District of Pallavaram and Registration District of Chennai-South. BOUNDED ON THE: North By: Survey No. 326 and 327, South By: Sub-Division Plot No. A, East By: Survey No. 318/6, West By: Sub-Division Plot No. C and 12 Feet Wide Common Passage. Admeasuring 2260 Sq. Ft., And undivided share of land measuring 348 Sq. Ft. out of 2260 Sq. Ft., together with passage Proportionate Undivided share of 50 Sq. Ft., in 300 Sq. Ft., out of 724 Sq. Ft., total measuring 398 Sq. Ft., including common passage of right, title and interest in the schedule "A" mentioned property, together with all its common rights, Flat in BLOCK-B, Second Floor, bearing Flat No. S3 measuring 874 Sq. Ft., super built-up area (inclusive of common areas), with Covered Car-Parking marked as CS-3.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 58,00,000/- EMD ₹ 5,80,000/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 1,00,000/-

S.No.5: CHENNAI FORT ST. GEORGE BRANCH: Borrower Name & Address: 1.) Ms.Kamalakshi represented by its proprietrix Ms.Anuvashini V, Old no.4, new No.7, Srinivasa Street, T Nagar, Chennai - 600017. 2.) Ms.Anuvashini V, D/o Mr.Vivakar, A 703, tower 7th floor, Lancer Grubias Citrus Apartments, Tiruvallur, Chennai - 600087.

Outstanding Amount: Rs. 70,52,602.22 due as on 31.05.2026 with further interest and other incidental charges thereto incurred by the bank

DETAILS OF PROPERTY: (Property in the name of Ms. V. Anuvashini conveyed through Doc No: 5314/2023 Cersai ID: 400076143498) All that part and parcel of land located at Tiruchirappalli - Registration District, Tiruchirappalli Taluk, Thiruvallur Sub-Registration Office, Srinangan Taluk, Mutharasalanur Village, Agraharam, Sub Division Natham Survey No.277/7A measuring an extent of 3999 sq. ft. (as per document) /3846.10 sq.ft (as per site) with all usual pathway and easements rights etc., This property situated within the limits of Mutharasalanur village Panchayat Board, Anthanallur village Panchayat Union Agraharam.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 56,00,000/- EMD ₹ 5,60,000/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 1,00,000/-

Inspection of Property Date & Time: 17.06.2026 between 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION 20.06.2026 Between 10.30 AM to 11.30 AM with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each.

EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (baanknet) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before 19.06.2026 till 3.00 PM.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may Contact Canara Bank Asset Recovery Management Branch-I, Chennai (Ph. No. 044 - 2849 6339 /2849 6900) E-mail: cb2361@canarabank.com during office hours on any working day. The service provider baanknet (M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.), (Contact No.7046612345/ 6354910172 / 824122028 / 9882219848 / 816020551, Email:support.baanknet@psballiance.com, support.baanknet@procure247.com).

For the properties which are in symbolic possession of the bank, the Auction purchaser has to comply with the following terms and conditions in addition to the standard terms and condition of the sale. 1. The bidder is purchasing the property in Symbolic Possession at his/own risk and responsibility. 2. Bank will not be responsible or duly bound for handing over of physical possession. 3. Successful Auction Purchaser will not be entitled to claim any interest, in any case of return of money. 4. Successful Auction Purchaser has to submit the Declaration cum undertaking confirming the above terms and conditions (1 to 4) immediately after e-Auction. 5. Subsequent to sale if successful bidder fails to submit Declaration cum Undertaking, the bid EMD amount will be forfeited.

Portal of E-Auction: https://baanknet.com Date: 02.06.2026 Place: Chennai AUTHORISED OFFICER, CANARA BANK

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC -SHAR SRIHARIKOTA-524124 Brief E-TENDER NOTICE e-Tender Notice No.PT-AC-26-008 Date: 02/06/2026 On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

Table with columns: Sl. No., Brief Name of work, Value (Rs). Item 1: Replacement of Air conditioning system serving for Kalpana Guest House at Keepakam Area, SDSC SHAR. Value: 8.02 Lakhs.

Last date for sale (Tender documents can be downloaded) up to 16/06/2026 14:30 hrs. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html and tender free view at https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro. Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

IndusInd Bank Registered Office: IndusInd Bank Limited, 2401 Gen. Thimmapaya Road (Cantonment), Pune - 411 001, India No. 25, Steeple Reach, A Block, 3rd Floor, Cathedral Road, Gopalapuram, Chennai-600086 APPENDIX IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described secured asset is mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken on 19.08.2025 by the Authorised Officer of M/s. IndusInd Bank Ltd. The secured creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" based on 24.06.2026 for recovery of Rs. 1,79,44,343.23 (Rupees One Crore Seventy Nine Lakhs Forty Four Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Three and Twenty Three Paise Only) as on 30.04.2026 with further interest at the contractual rate and costs, charges and expenses due to IndusInd Bank Ltd., from the borrower M/s. Aara Silks & guarantors Mr. Rabiathul Aadvia P, J. Moothien Abdul Kader.

Table with columns: Names of Borrower, Property to be sold, Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit, Bid Increase Amount, Known encumbrance, Claims, Inspection of Property, Contact Person and Phone No.

For detailed terms & conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditors website i.e. https://www.indusind.com for detailed terms & conditions of e-auction-sale of respective property and other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the e-auction. Bidders may also visit the website https://www.bankauctions.com or contact service provider M/s. C1 India Private Limited, Bidder Support Nos.: 0124-4302020/21/22, +91 7291981124 / 1125 / 1126; email: support@bankauctions.com, Mr. Prabakaran, Contact No. +91 74182 81709. This notice of 15 days is being given to all of you in compliance of Rule 8, sub rule 6 of SARFAESI Rules under the SARFAESI Act 2002. Date: 02.06.2026 Place: Chennai Sd/- Authorised Officer, IndusInd Bank Ltd.

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India No.5, Kanniamman Kovil Street, Shenoy Nagar Chennai - 600030. Ph:8667763711/9324805061. E-Mail:ubin0805068@unionbankofindia.bank.in DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SEC.13 (2) SARFAESI Act 2002 To (1) M/s. SANTOSHI ENTERTAINMENTS No. 3, Vijayaraghava Road, T Nagar, Chennai 600017, (2) Mrs. A. PUSHPA (Proprietor) No 80/42, Mylapra Street, Ayanavaram, Chennai-600023, (3) Mrs. A. PRERANA (Guarantor) No 80/42, Mylapra Street, Ayanavaram, Chennai-600023. Notice under Sec.13 (2) read with Sec.13 (3) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. You the addressee 1, 2 & 3 herein have availed the following credit facilities from our SHENGY NAGAR BRANCH and failed to pay the dues/installment/ interest / operate the accounts satisfactorily and hence, in terms of the RBI guidelines/ as to the Income Recognition and Prudential Accounting Norms, your account/s has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset as on 14/05/2026. As on 14/05/2026 a sum of Rs.51,22,921.72 (Rupees Fifty One Lacs Twenty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty One Rupees & Paise Seventy Two) is outstanding in your account/s. The particulars of amount due to the Bank from 1, 2 and 3 of you in respect of the aforesaid account/s are as under:

Table with columns: Type of Facility, Outstanding amount as on 14.05.2026, Un applied interest as on 14.05.2026, Penal interest (Simple), Cost/Charges incurred by Bank, Total dues as on 14.05.2026.

Total Dues as on 14-05-2026 is Rs. 51,22,921.72/- and interest thereon. Owner of Property: Mrs. PUSHPA W/o Mr. Ashok To secure the repayment of the monies due or the monies that may become due to the Bank, Mrs. PUSHPA W/o Mr. Ashok had executed documents on 04.09.2023 and created security interest by way of: Mortgage of immovable property described herein below: Schedule 'B' Schedule of Property Residential Apartment bearing No.T2-0411, having RERA carpet area of 599 Sq.ft., in the 4th Floor, in the 'T2' Block, in the building complex known as "UTSAV". The proportionate share pertaining to the Apartment in the Common areas is 357 Sq.ft., along with 288 Sq.ft. UDS out of Land there beneath measuring 1,19,785 Sq.ft., Cooks Road, Otteri, Chennai- 600012, comprised in R.S. Nos.273/48 (Part) and 274/49 (Part), Block No.17, of Perambur Village, Purasawalkam-Perambur Taluk, Chennai District, bounded on the North by: R.S. No.273/35, South by: Property retained by vendor in R.S. Nos.273/48 (Part), 274/49 (Part) and 274/1, East by: Cooks Road, West by: R.S. Nos.273/9 and 274/49 (Part). And having within Registration District of Chennai Central and Sub Registration District of Purasawalkam.

Therefore You are hereby called upon in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, to pay a sum of Rs.51,22,921.72 (Rupees Fifty One Lacs Twenty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty One Rupees & Paise Seventy Two) together with further interest and charges at the contractual rate as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the aforesaid securities by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act. As per section 13 (13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained /prevented from disposing of or dealing with the above securities without the consent of the bank. Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 25.05.2026. Place: Chennai Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank POONAMALLEE BRANCH No.5, J.C.N. Street, Poonamallee, Chennai - 600 056. Telephone : 044-2649 1666/2627 2042. Email: poonamallee@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 Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Poonamallee Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 19.06.2026, for recovery of Rs.6,14,28,828.36 (Rupees Six crores fourteen lakhs twenty eight thousand eight hundred twenty eight and paise thirty six only) (as on 02.06.2026) with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 03.06.2026, due to the Indian Bank, Poonamallee Branch, Secured Creditor from: NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR (1) M/s. VMC Exports Pvt Ltd, (Borrower), Represented by its Directors : Dr. Arumugam V & Mrs. Saranya C. No.10/21 G, Thiru Vi Ka Street, Pallavaram, Chennai - 600 043. (2) Dr. Arumugam V, (Director cum Mortgagor), No.10/21 G, Thiru Vi Ka Street, Pallavaram, Chennai - 600 043. (3) Mrs. Saranya C (Director), 10/118, Thiru Vi Ka Nagar, Harur, Dharmapuri, Tamilnadu - 636 903. (4) Dr. Sharmila T, (Guarantor cum Mortgagor), No.10/21 G, Thiru Vi Ka Street, Pallavaram, Chennai - 600 043. (5) Mrs. Shanmugam Vellaimurugan, (Guarantor), H4, Sapphire Block, Basyam Navarathna Apartment, 300/1, Thirunelmarai Main Road, Chromepet, Kancheepuram - 600 044. SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below: All the piece and parcels of Gamanatham vacant site property situated in old Survey No. 137/B, New Survey No. 137/2B2, situated in Harur Village and Taluk of Dharmapuri District, extent of 55 Cents owned by Dr. V. Arumugam. Prior Encumbrances on property: Nil. PROPERTY ID No. : IDIB7121166490 RESERVE PRICE : Rs.9.50 Crores Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- EMD : Rs.0.95 Crores

Date and Time of Inspection of the Properties & related documents : 15.06.2026 to 16.06.2026 between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION : 19.06.2026 Between 10.00 A.M. AND 4.00 P.M. Last Date for submission of Tender form/EMD : 19.06.2026 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 : 02.06.2026 Place : Chennai. AUTHORISED OFFICER, INDIAN BANK.

TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD (Regd. Office at 57, V.E. Road, Thoothukudi) VALASARAVAKKAM BRANCH Sree Pushpa Complex, First Floor, Door No.91, Kamakodi Nagar, Valasaravakkam, Chennai - 87. To Date: 29.05.2026

1. M/s. Smart Decor, (Borrower) 1, 103, Chakravarty Nagar, Rajendra Cholan 3rd Ward, Unamacherry, Kolappakkam, Chennai - 600048 2. Mr.M.Rajesh, S/o.R.Mohan, (Partner /Guarantor) No. 56-1, 6th Floor, Ruby Land Mark, Vandiar, Padappal Road, Manivakkam, Chennai - 600048 Also at: No. 282, Ramya Nagar Extension, Thellayar Agram, Chennai - 600122 3. Mr.M.Nethaji Chandramohan, S/o.Muniappan, (Partner /Guarantor) No.103, Rajendra Chozhan Street, Chakravarty Nagar, Unamacherry, Kolappakkam, Chennai - 600048. 4. Mr.C.Sakthivel, S/o.P.Chelliah, (Guarantor/ Mortgagor) No.C-5, CDS, Vandikar Road, Angalammam Kol2nd Street, Velachery, Chennai-600 042 Also at: FZ, Kannan Flats 16, Cart Track Road, Guindy Industrial Estate, Chennai 600 032

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets mortgaged / charged to the Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) and 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) M/s. Smart Decor, Rep. by its Partners, Mr.M.Rajesh, S/o.R.Mohan & Mr.M.Nethaji Chandramohan, S/o.Muniappan and Guarantor (s) Mr.C.Sakthivel, S/o.P.Chelliah that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, Valasaravakkam Branch, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 16.07.2026 for recovery of Rs.32,44,841.00 (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Forty One Only) as on 30.04.2026 due to the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, Valasaravakkam Branch with subsequent interest and expenses. The Reserve Price will be Rs. 1,15,50,000/- (Rupees One Crore Fifteen Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be Rs.11,55,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Only).

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: Land to the extent of 3000.00 Sq.ft. situated at Plot No.101, Janakpuri Nagar Layout, S.No. 14/31, Patta No.6327, and per patta New S.No.143/66-B, Kolappakkam Village, situated within Sub-Registration District of Guduvanchery and registration district of Chennai South, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District standing in the name of Mr.C.Sakthivel, S/o.M.P.Chelliah. Boundaries: North by Plot No.104, South by: Lay out Park, East by: Plot No.107 & 108, West by: 30 Feet Road & Plot No.102

Table with columns: E - Auction website, Upset Price, Date and time of E - Auction, Earnest Money Deposit, Last date for submission of bid form with EMD, Place of Submission of BID form and EMD, Bid Multiplier.

TERMS & CONDITIONS Note: • Bid form for participating in the e-auction is available in the website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net. • Bidders shall hold a valid Digital Signature Certificate issued by competent authority and valid email ID (e-mail ID is absolutely necessary for the intending bidder) with regard to other relevant information and allotment of ID & password. For participating in the e-auction Contact: M/s. Procurement Technology Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Ahmedabad, Help Line: No. 079-4023025 / 826 / 827 / 813 / 814 / 815 / 816 / 817 / 818 / 819 / 800 Email ID: support@auctiontiger.net & rampasad@auctiontiger.net Mobile No.: 92655 62818, 92655 62821. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in secured creditor's website i.e. (www.tmb.bank.in)

Authorised Officer Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd (For Valasaravakkam Branch) Place: Chennai Date : 29.05.2026 (Phone No.98652 88858, 98766 34444)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY Palakkad Division E-Tender Notice No. PGT/OT/13/2026 dated 01/06/2026

For and behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination / Southern Railway / Palakkad invites E-TENDERS for the following works.

Table with columns: Sl. No, Name of work, Approximate Cash value in (₹) Lakhs, Bid Security Amount ₹, Tender closing date on 15.00 hrs, completion Period in months. Includes items like Zonal contract (Works) Execution of piece meal works and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of One year from 01.07.2026 to 30.06.2027.

1. All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time. 2. Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.7.2017 onwards. 3. For complete details of the above tenders please visit Web site "http://www.reps.gov.in." Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting Tender. Sr. Divisional Engineer/West/Southern Railway/Palakkad (For and on behalf of the President of India)

16 IAS OFFICERS TRANSFERRED

In another round of bureaucratic reshuffle, the state government has transferred 16 IAS officers. Sajjansingh R Chavan has been appointed as secretary to governor

Name	Present post	New post
Sajjansingh R Chavan	Secretary, Youth Welfare & Sports Development dept	Secretary to the Governor, Lok Bhavan
Ranjeet Singh	Collector, Theni	Collector Tenkasi
Durga Moorthi	Collector, Namakkal	Collector, Dindigul
Rashmi Siddharth Zagade	Collector, Chennai	Special Secretary, Higher Education Department
Har Sahay Meena	Vice Chairman, Science City	Commissioner, Land Reforms
Ajay Yadav	MD, Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Limited	Commissioner, Milk Production and Dairy Development
Dr J Vijaya Rani	MD, Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation	Director, Horticulture and Plantation Crops
P Kumaravel Pandian	Director, Horticulture and Plantation Crops	Member Secretary, State Planning Commission
P Rathinasamy	Collector, Ariyalur	Director, Technical Education
Dr R Sukumar	Collector, Tirunelveli	Director, Stationery and Printing
A John Louis	Director and MD, Avavin	MD, Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation
T Anbalagan	MD, Tamil Nadu Sugar Corporation Limited	CEO, Tamil Nadu Maritime Board
Dr JU Chandrakala	Collector, Ranipet	MD, Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Limited
Dr S Visakan	Director, Technical Education	Vice Chairman, Science City
V Sivakrishnamurthy	Deputy Commissioner (Works), GCC	JMD, TWAD
R Anamika	Joint Commissioner, Municipal Administration	JMD, TNUHDB

SC orders action against 118 govt staff over encroachment in Agasthyamalai

NEW DELHI: Taking a serious note of encroachments within the protected areas of the Agasthyamalai ecological landscape in Tamil Nadu, the Supreme Court has directed that a time-bound eviction plan be prepared and implemented on priority.

The apex court also directed that disciplinary and legal action be initiated against all identified 118 serving and retired government servants who are found to be encroachers.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said encroachments within the pro-

tected areas of Agasthyamalai landscape, including Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve and the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, have persisted and proliferated over several decades despite specific directions issued by the Madras High Court and the orders passed by the top court.

"The present proceedings concern not merely questions of regulatory compliance or administrative accountability, but strike at the very heart of envi-

ronmental governance and the constitutional obligation of the State to preserve and protect ecologically sensitive regions," the bench said.

It delivered its verdict on May 29 on a plea raising issues, including those concerning preservation of reserve forests, wildlife sanctuaries and tiger reserves in TN.

It noted that as per a July 2025 interim report of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), the Agasthyamalai ecological landscape covers 3,500.36 square km encompassing sev-

eral districts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

It noted that as per report submitted by the district magistrate of Theni, a total of 4,601 encroachers have occupied 5,072.653 hectares of land in reserved forests and only 1.8% of the total encroached forest land has been reclaimed.

The bench directed that the state shall consider imposing additional penalties on all present and former government employees found to be encroachers, and require such persons to deposit appropriate environmental restitution. **PTI**

Only four found guilty by trial court, 3 acquitted

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AFTER the attack, both were rushed to the hospital in separate ambulances. While Kannan died on the way, Periyasamy succumbed to his injuries five days later. A case was registered against all seven accused, but only four were found guilty by the trial court and the other three were acquitted.

Hearing the appeals, the judges noted that the prosecution's case solely hinged on the eye-witness statements of Kannan's parents and the dying declaration of Periyasamy. Kannan's parents claimed to have received a phone call stating that the accused were chasing their son and Periyasamy in Thadikombu. However, the person who informed them was not identified.

The HC also said the exact time of the incident was not known, and the investigation officer failed to record the statements of vital witnesses.

The judges also wondered if the inspector even visited the crime scene in person, as the records showed he neither took samples of the chilli powder nor recovered the amputated portion of Periyasamy's left arm.

Mohana second woman to be elevated from Bar to apex court

MADURAI: Senior advocate V Mohana's appointment as judge in the Supreme Court has gained spotlight across the nation, justifiably so. For, she is only the second woman judge to be directly elevated from the Bar to the apex court. Born in Coimbatore in June 1966, Mohana was one among the first batch of graduates of the five-year integrated law course in then Coimbatore Law College in 1988. She started her career under advocate Panchapakesan and moved to Delhi in 1992, where she joined the office of former SC judge Indu Malhotra, the first woman judge to be being directly elevated from the Bar. **ENS**



Senior advocate V Mohana's appointment as judge in the Supreme Court has gained spotlight across the nation, justifiably so.

Seven held for sexually harassing woman in Tiruvannamalai

TIRUVANNAMALAI: A 23-year-old woman was allegedly sexually harassed and robbed by a group of men near Thirumalaikodi bypass road on the outskirts of Tiruvannamalai. Seven persons were arrested on Tuesday. According to police, the incident took place on Sunday night when the woman was speaking with her male friend near the bypass stretch. A group of seven men allegedly intervened, removed her gold earring and took her to a secluded spot and sexually harassed her. The suspects later fled the scene, leaving the woman behind. She subsequently lodged a complaint at the Tiruvannamalai West Police Station, following which a case was registered. Police said the stolen jewellery was recovered and returned to the complainant. Further probe is on. **ENS**

Man out on bail in Pocco case held for assaulting minor

TIRUNELVELI: A 34-year-old man who was out on bail in a Pocco case was arrested by Tirunelveli city police for allegedly sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl on Tuesday. The suspect was identified as N Muthu of Tirunelveli. According to sources, the girl was walking from her home to a shop when the suspect allegedly committed the crime. She managed to escape from him and informed her parents. Based on a complaint lodged by them, the all-women police filed a case arrested Muthu. "He committed the crime while on bail in another case under the Pocco Act," the police sources added. **ENS**

Two succumb to injuries during treatment, probe on

Continued from page 1: While Balasubramanian and Karthik died on the spot, the other occupants of the car sustained severe injuries. Upon receiving information, the Jambunathapuram police rushed to the spot, rescued the injured persons, and shifted them to Musiri Government Hospital. Though Murugesan and Kavitha were later shifted to the Tiruchy Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital (MGMGH), they succumbed to injuries. Meanwhile, the police have registered a case and inquiry is under way with the lorry driver, L Gnanasuriya (28) of Tiruvannamalai, in connection with the accident.

BRANCH SHIFTING

For better convenience of our valued customers, our **CHENNAI - THIRUNINRAVUR** branch will be shifted to a new premises with effect from **03.09.2026**. The new address is mentioned below:
Muthoot Finance Ltd
Ground Floor, No. 285/A9, CTH Road, Lakshmiapuram, 5th Main Road, Thirunindravur, Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu State, PIN - 602024.
Phone No. : 91889 02152.
Email id : mgthi2992@muthootgroup.com
In case of any grievance please call - 0484 4804074
We solicit your continued patronage and support.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Open E-Tender Notice No. : 47-MLDT-26-27, dated 27.05.2026, 44-MLDT-26-27, dated 29.05.2026. Open e-Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Malda, Eastern Railway, Malda Town Office Building, PO-Jhaljhaila, Dist-Malda, Pin-732102 (W.B.) for following work - **Sl. No. 1. Tender No. : 47-MLDT-26-27. Name of work :** Open e-tender for P. Way work for 5.2 TKM plain track and 18 Nos. turnouts laying & linking including ancillary works in connection with yard remodeling of Bhagalpur station for extension of existing running lines to accommodate full length goods trains and enhance terminal capacity in section of Sr. Section Engineer/P. Way/Bhagalpur-I under the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/Bhagalpur under Sr. Divisional Engineer-II/Eastern Railway/Malda. **Tender Value :** ₹ 80,41,241.37. **Sl. No. 2. Tender No. : 44-MLDT-26-27. Name of work :** Open e-tender for the work of different type of track activity like casual renewal of rail-sleeper-switch-SEJ, tamping of track, deep screening, assisting track machine, cleaning of drainage system etc. with other ancillary work at Jamalpur Diesel Shed in the section of Sr. Section Engineer/P. Way-1/Jamalpur under Assistant Engineer/Line/Jamalpur in the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer-III/Eastern Railway/Malda. **Tender Value :** ₹ 62,34,805.97. **Tender closing date & time :** 19.06.2026, 15.30 hrs. (for sl. no. 1) & 22.06.2026, 15.30 hrs. (for sl. no. 2). **Website particulars & Notice Board :** www.ireps.gov.in/DRM Office/Malda Town. (MLD-68/2026-27) **Tender Notice is also available at websites :** www.easternrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in **Follow us at :** @EasternRailway f@easternrailwayheadquarter

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyan Bhawan Block-DJ, Sector-8, Bidhanagar, Kolkata-700091
CIN: U40191WB2007SGC113474 | www.wbsetcl.in

E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED:-

NIT No.: CE/CTD/WBSETCL/Procurement/2026-27/01 Date: 03.06.2026	Procurement of Dissolved Gas Analysis (DGA) test set of Transformer Oil along with associated items and works as per technical specification.
NIT No.: CE/CTD/WBSETCL/Procurement/2026-27/02 Date: 03.06.2026	Procurement of Numerical Transformer Differential Relays (both two winding and three winding) as per technical specification.

For all the above mentioned NITs, bid documents can be downloaded from 03.06.2026, 06:00 P.M. and bids shall be submitted (online) up to 06:00 P.M., 02.07.2026. Visit the following websites - www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.

Coir Board
Ministry of M.S.M.E,
Government of India

VACANCY NOTIFICATION
CORRIGENDUM - DATE EXTENSION

In continuation to the Notification No. A-22011/2/2015-ADM(Personnel) dated 15.12.2025 (Advertisement dated 13.01.2026), inviting applications for filling up of the post of Director (RDT&E) at Coir Board on deputation including short term contract, the last date for receiving of the applications has been extended up to 30.06.2026. Scan QR Code for more details.

S/d SECRETARY, COIR BOARD
CBC 25131/12/0001/2627 18.05.2026

NOTICE OF BREAKING OPEN OF LOCKERS

We hereby inform the below mentioned customer of our branch who have availed Locker facility on Rental basis and not remitted the amount of Rent and Caution Deposit as required and executed by you under the Bank's rule with "conditions 7, 11 and 12 of Terms and Conditions governing the hiring of lockers" in spite of our previous reminders to you.

S. No.	Locker A/c No.	Locker ID	Name & Address of the Customer	Arrear amount
1	9912528167	25	Kamala Kannan V, No.31, K.C Garden 4th Street, Peravallur, Chennai - 600 082.	Rs.97,645/-

We therefore, give you this notice that if the arrears of the Rent and Caution Deposit as aforesaid is not paid within 10 days from the date of this notice, the locker shall be broken open and the contents disposed of in accordance with the locker agreement and you will be liable for all arrears of rent and other costs incidental thereto.

Date : 01.06.2026 **BRANCH MANAGER, INDIAN BANK, MANNADY BRANCH.**

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL III CHENNAI
(Additional office Building, Sashtri bhawan, Haddows Road, Chennai - 6)
OA 974 OF 2025

M/s Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (Encore ARC)
Ground Floor, No. 101, Executive Zone Sakthi Tower, No.766, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600002
CIN U71440DL2013PTC259461
by Authorised Signatory **K.Nagendran S/o Kumaran** -Applicant

1. M/s. Alphine Steel Tech Private Limited
RS no 104/1-5, EVR Street Sedarapet, Pudukcherry-605111

2. S. Dhanalakshmi
11, 6th Cross Extension, Sathikudi Extension Briddavanam Saram, Pondicherry - 605013 -Defendants

The Applicant has filed the OA 974 of 2025 for recovery of its outstanding dues against D1 and D2. Hon'ble DRT III Chennai has ordered notice to D1 and D2. You are hereby called upon to appear before DRT III Chennai on 08.06.2026 at 10am, failing which the matter will be decided in your absence. **Advocate.**

FACT दि फॅक्टिल इजर्स एण्ड केमिकल्स ट्राव्णकोर लिमिटेड
THE FERTILISERS AND CHEMICALS TRAVANCOR LIMITED
PIONEERS IN PROGRESS
(A Government of India Enterprise) Regd. Office: Floor, Projects and Planning, PD Administration Building Udyogamandal, Kochi, Kerala, India - 683 901, TEL: 91 484 256 8289/91 484 254 8622
Email: bibid@factltd.com; avinash.c@factltd.com; http://www.factltd.com

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
GLOBAL TENDER FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST REGARDING ENGAGING CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT A DETAILED TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY ON TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE AND FORWARD INTEGRATION OF CAPROLACTAM PLANT.
EOI Reference No.: 5971/2026-2027/E33817, Due date: 23.06.2026 14:00:00hrs. IST
For detailed tender documents please visit website epocure.gov.in. For any clarifications please contact Deputy General Manager (Projects and Planning), Projects and Planning Department, FACT Udyogamandal Complex, Pincode-683501

கனரா வங்கி **केनरा बैंक** **Canara Bank**
(A Government of India Enterprise) (A Government of India Enterprise)
General Administration Section, Circle Office, Chennai
No: 524, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai - 600 018. Ph:044 2434 9350

PREMISES REQUIRED

Offers are invited under TWO-BID SYSTEM from the owners of commercial space preferably in the Ground floor and ready for occupation with approved layout /construction which is suitable for Bank premises, with required Power load, for Branch and ATM at the following locations:

S. No	Location / Place	District	Carpet Area in sqft (Approximately)	Regional Office
1	MANALI NEW TOWN	THIRUVALLUR	1700	THIRUVALLUR
2	UTHANDI/KANATHUR	CHENGALPUT	1500	TAMBARAM
3	MEENAKSHI NAGAR	KANCHI	2000	VELLORE
4	CHENGALPATTU ALAPAKKAM	CHENGALPATTU	1700	TAMBARAM

The details are published in the Bank's Website: <https://www.canarabank.com/enders.asp>
The necessary application forms may be downloaded from the Bank's Website. **SL No.:1 to 2** Last date for submission : 17.06.2026 up to 3:00PM **SL No.:3 to 4** Last date for submission : 24.06.2026 up to 3:00PM
Further, communications, corrigendum, amendments, if any, will be hosted in Bank's website only.
Place: Chennai, Date : 03.06.2026 Assistant General Manager, Chennai Circle

TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD
(Regd. office at 57, V.E.Road, Thoothukudi)
PALLIKARANAI BRANCH
D.No.218, First Floor, Velacherry Main Road, Pallikaranai, Chennai-600 100

To 30.05.2026

1. Mr.T.Siddeswaraiiah S/o Mr.T.Siddaiah (Borrower / Mortgagor) Prop. M/s Thulasi Happy Homes, Plot No.1, 2nd Floor, Sri Sai Nilayam, Ponniamman Kovil Street, Medavakkam, Chennai - 600 100. Also at: No.-1-93-2, Miduthuru, Sannappalli Cuddappa, Andhra Pradesh - 516 203.
2. Mrs. T. Thulasamma W/o Mr.T.Siddaiah (Guarantor) Plot No.1, 2nd Floor, Sri Sai Nilayam, Ponniamman Kovil Street, Medavakkam, Chennai - 600 100. Also at: No.-1-93-2, Miduthuru, Sannappalli Cuddappa, Andhra Pradesh - 516 203.

AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets mortgaged / charged to the Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) and 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Mortgagor Mr.T.Siddeswaraiiah, S/o.Mr.T.Siddaiah, Prop. M/s.Thulasi Happy Homes and guarantor Mrs.T. Thulasamma, W/o Mr.T.Siddaiah that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, for Pallikaranai Branch will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 15.07.2026 for recovery of Rs.52,57,782.15 (Rupees Fifty Two Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Two and Paise Fifteen Only) as on 30.04.2026 due to the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, Pallikaranai Branch with subsequent interest and expenses. The Reserve Price will be Rs.80,00,000/- (Rupees Eighty Lakh Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be Rs.8,00,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Only).

Place of Submission of EMD and Auction : TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD., Pallikaranai Branch, D.No.218, First Floor, Velacherry Main Road, Pallikaranai, Chennai-600 100

Date and Time of Auction Sale 15.07.2026 at 12.00 Noon

Upset Price Rs.80,00,000/- (Rupees Eighty Lakh Only)

EMD Rs.8,00,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Only)

Description of the Property: Land to the extent of 0.567 sq.ft in total extent of 2712 sq.ft bearing Plot No.43 Comprised in Survey No.339, Patta No.10158, as per Patta Survey No.339/37 of Pallikaranai Village and a residential Flat constructed there to the extent of 1379 sq.ft including a covered car parking at Flat No.S1, 2nd Floor, Thulasi happy homes, Varadharajapuram 1st Main Road, Pallikaranai Village, Sholinganallur Taluk, Kanchipuram District standing in the name of Mr.T.Siddeswaraiiah S/o.Mr.T.Siddaiah. **Boundaries:** North by: Land of Mr.P.S.Shannuga Sundaram, South by: Plot No.42, East by - 20 feet Road, West by: Land of Mr.P.S. Shanmuga Sundaram.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in secured creditors website (www.tmb.bank.in)

Authorised Officer
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd
(For Pallikaranai Branch)
(Cell: 98655 10888 / 997663444)

Place: Chennai
Date : 30.05.2026

IndusInd Bank Registered Office: IndusInd Bank Limited, 2401 Gen. Thimmayya Road (Cantonment), Pune - 411 001, India No. 25, Steeple Reach, A Block, 3rd Floor, Cathedral Road, Gopalapuram, Chennai-600086

APPENDIX IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
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 provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described secured asset is mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken on 04.02.2026 by the Authorised Officer of M/s. IndusInd Bank Ltd. The secured creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" under the rule no. 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (hereinafter referred to as the rules) basis on 23.06.2026 for recovery of Rs. 2,04,90,884.36 (Rupees Two Crores Four Lakhs Ninety Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Four and thirty Six paise Only) as on 30.04.2026 with further interest at the contractual rate and costs, charges and expenses due to IndusInd Bank Ltd., from the borrower M/s. Shri Karthick Steels. and guarantors Mr. R.Karthikeyan and Mrs. Senthil Priya.

Names of Borrower	M/s. Shri Karthick Steels.
Property to be sold	Property of Mr. R.Karthikeyan S o Mr. S.Rajamanickam Sale Deed Doc No. 2528 2011 dated 18.07.2011. All that piece and parcel of Residential Flat bearing No.17-A5-405 on the Fourth Floor, Tower No. 7 of the Building known as "ESPLANADE", at Old Door No.7A, New Door No. 75, Vaithiyanatha Mudali Street, Tondiarpet, Chennai 600081, measuring 1611.93 Sq. ft. of Super Built Up Area including Common Areas and One Reserved Car Park Space in the Still Level, together with 1004.84 Sq.ft., Undivided Share of land out of total extent 252 Grounds and 1004 Sq. ft., or 6,05,804 Sqft. comprised in Old Survey No. 3213, 3940/A, 3940/B, 3110, 3214 & 3215, Re-Survey No. 3938, 3940/1, 3936, 3937, 3940/1 (Part), 3936/1, 3937/1 & 3938/1 situated at Tondiarpet Village, Chennai District, bounded on the North by: Property in S.No. 3941/3, South by: Vaithiyanatha Mudali Street, East by: Senniannam Koil Street and Property in S.No. 3904/2, West by: Eliya Mudali. Street and Property in S.No.3939/3, situated within the Registration District of North Chennai and Sub Registration District of Royapuram.
Reserve Price	Rs. 1,31,46,300/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty One Lakhs Forty Six Thousand Three Hundred Only)
Earnest Money Deposit (10% of Reserve Price)	Rs. 13,14,630/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty Only)
Bid Increase Amount	Rs. 50,000/-
Known encumbrance, if any	NIL to the knowledge of the bank.
Claims, if any, which have been put forward against the property & any other dues known to Secured creditor and value	Not Known to the best of knowledge of the Bank.
Inspection of Property	On 16/06/2026 between 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.
Contact Person and Phone No	Mrs. A.Krishnakumar (Authorized Officer) Mobile No: 9342332287
Last date for submission of Bid	22/06/2026 till 04.00 PM
Time and Venue of Bid Opening	E-Auction/Bidding through website (https://www.bankauctions.com) on 23/06/2026 from 11.00 am to 12:00 noon.

For detailed terms & conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditors website i.e. <https://www.indusind.com> for detailed terms & conditions of e-auction/sale of respective property and other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the e-auction. Bidders may also visit the website <https://www.bankauctions.com> or contact service provider M/s. C1 India Private Limited. Bidder Support Nos. : 0124-430200 / 21 / 22, +91 7291981124 / 1125 / 1126; email: support@bankauctions.com, Mr. Prabakaran, Contact No. +91 74182 81709

This notice of 15 days is being given to all of you in compliance of Rule 8, sub rule 6 of SARFAESI Rules under the SARFAESI Act 2002
Date: 02.06.2026 **Place: Chennai** **Sd/- Authorised Officer, IndusInd Bank Ltd.**

TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas as per Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi, Environment Impact Notification Number S.O.1533 dated 14.09.2006, public hearing at the site or in its close proximity, to be carried out in the manner prescribed in Appendix IV for ascertaining concerns of local affected persons for the projects covered in Schedule of the said Notification.

Whereas the public hearing at or in close proximity to the site has to be conducted by the State Pollution Control Board concerned in the specified manner as per paragraph 7(i) Ill. stage (3) and appendix IV of the said notification.

Whereas as required public hearing is proposed to be conducted by Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board for the following project on the date, time and venue as mentioned below.

S. No.	Name of the Project and Location	Details of Project	Date and Time	Place
1.	M/s. Shri Natural Stones, S.F. No. 738(Part-2), Thandarai Village, Denkanikottai Taluk, Krishnagiri District.	Proposed Rough Stone Quarry lease over an extent of 2.00.0 Ha.	10.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	M/s. BA Function Hall, SF.No. 181, 182, Chinna Bennangur Village, Hosur Main Road, Denkanikottai Taluk, Krishnagiri District, Pin - 635 107.

In this connection, it is informed that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the Executive Summary in English and Tamil is made available for public reference at the following places.

- Office of the District Collector, Krishnagiri District, Krishnagiri.
- O/o. The General Manager, District Industries Centre, Krishnagiri, Krishnagiri District.
- O/o. The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (Monitoring), TNPC Board, Opposite to Auxillium College, Gandhinagar, Vellore - 632 006.
- O/o. The District Environmental Engineer, TNPC Board, Plot No.149-A, 1st Floor, SIPCOT Industrial Complex, Phase-I, Dharga, Hosur - 635 126, Krishnagiri District.
- Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
- State Environment Impact Assessment Authority - Tamilnadu, No.327, Metros, 9th Floor, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035.
- Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, South Eastern Zone, 1st and 2nd Floor, Handloom Export promotion council Building, 34, Cathedral garden, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034.
- O/o. Block Development Officer, Thally Panchayat Union, Denkanikottai Taluk, Krishnagiri District.
- O/o Thasilidhar, Denkanikottai Taluk, Denkanikottai, Krishnagiri District.
- Village Panchayat Office, Thandarai Village, Village Panchayat, Denkanikottai Taluk, Krishnagiri District.

Suggestions, views, comments and objections of the public are invited within **THIRTY DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

All persons including Bonafide Residents, Environmental Groups and others, located at the project site/ sites of displacement/sites likely to be affected can participate in the Public Hearing and they can also make Oral/Written suggestions to the District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Plot No.149-A, 1st Floor, SIPCOT Industrial Complex, Phase-I, Dharga, Hosur - 635 126, Krishnagiri District on the above project.

Member Secretary,
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai - 32

DIPR/487/DISPLAY/2026

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

— Rammath Goenka

CHANGE SIGNALLED IN TN, OLD PROBLEMS PERSIST, FOLLOW-THROUGH VITAL

MANY agree that the Tamil Nadu government under Vijay deserves time to settle in and deliver results. Its moves against mining cartels, mismanaged liquor outlets and fraudulent tenders have raised expectations, while clarity of intent has reinforced early optimism. Though several sectors continue to grapple with inertia, corruption and bureaucratic rigidity, the government has begun addressing long-standing governance failures. The political backdrop remains fluid, with Vijay still engaged in coalition management and legislative consolidation even as opposition voices, including BJP leader Annamalai, continue to command public attention.

The review of minor mineral quarries and the enforcement action that followed have been widely seen as a necessary first step in tackling illegal mining and environmental degradation. But its impact will depend on whether it evolves into sustained regulatory discipline, including cancellation of unlawful leases and consistent oversight, rather than episodic crackdowns that lose momentum. In the power sector, attention has turned to procurement and tendering processes. The Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation's directive to its 12 regional units to form committees for vetting cost estimates before tenders are floated is intended to improve scrutiny and curb opacity. Yet such procedural redesign will matter only if it results in genuine transparency in bidding and execution rather than becoming another layer of paperwork.

Education presents a deeper structural challenge. State universities are under strain from acute faculty shortages that have weakened academic functioning and governance. At the University of Madras, 67.6 percent of faculty posts are vacant, while at Madurai Kamaraj University, 96 percent of professor positions remain unfilled. Adding to the governance vacuum, 15 state universities are operating without regular VCs. These gaps reflect a weakening of institutional capacity and require planned recruitment and leadership rebuilding. Healthcare faces similar pressure. Despite Tamil Nadu's relatively strong public health record, hospitals and primary health centres are struggling with staff shortages and infrastructure constraints, particularly in districts where access gaps are widening.

Beyond these sectors, the broader challenge is administrative credibility and fiscal resilience. Restoring efficiency, strengthening accountability and improving revenue generation will be critical to sustaining reform. Without a stronger financial base, even well-intentioned welfare commitments will remain constrained. The real test lies ahead. Early interventions have created cautious optimism, but only sustained implementation will show whether this becomes real reform or another cycle of unfulfilled intent.

THE US Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, outlined the Trump administration's approach to the Indo-Pacific in the following terms: "...the era of the United States subsidising the defence of wealthy nations is over. We need partners, not protectorates. We seek alliances built on shared responsibility, not dependency...Alliances only work when they are true partnerships. It is a two-way street. You don't have a strong alliance unless everyone has skin in the game. No free-loading. Alliances are not judged by the number of flags, but by the number of formations. We don't need more conferences. We need more combat power. I'm sorry to say this here: less Shangri-La, more ships, more subs".

The question, therefore, is where does it leave the Quad given that a new Anglo-Saxon military alliance called AUKUS exists concurrently?

It was the German geopolitician Karl Haushofer who first gave cartographic coherence to the Indo-Pacific in the 1920s, though his vision—of Japan, China and India, liberated from colonial domination, aligning with Germany against Anglo-American imperialism—bears no resemblance to the contemporary Quad. The current construct was christened by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Within eleven months of assuming the premiership in September 2006, during his 'Confluence of Two Seas' address to the Indian Parliament, Abe mooted the idea of the Indian and Pacific Oceans as a single, interlocking strategic space where freedom and prosperity would be mutually reinforcing. That vision became the philosophical load-bearing beam upon which the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) would be constructed.

Quad's first iteration collapsed by 2008. Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith undercut the grouping during a visit to Beijing in February that year. The Kevin Rudd government also withdrew from the Malabar naval exercise, not reversing the decision until 2020.

The decade that followed saw Beijing's belligerence intensify not only in the high Himalayas but also in the South China Sea. The expansion of its naval reach into the Indian Ocean fundamentally altered the strategic calculus of all four Quad members.

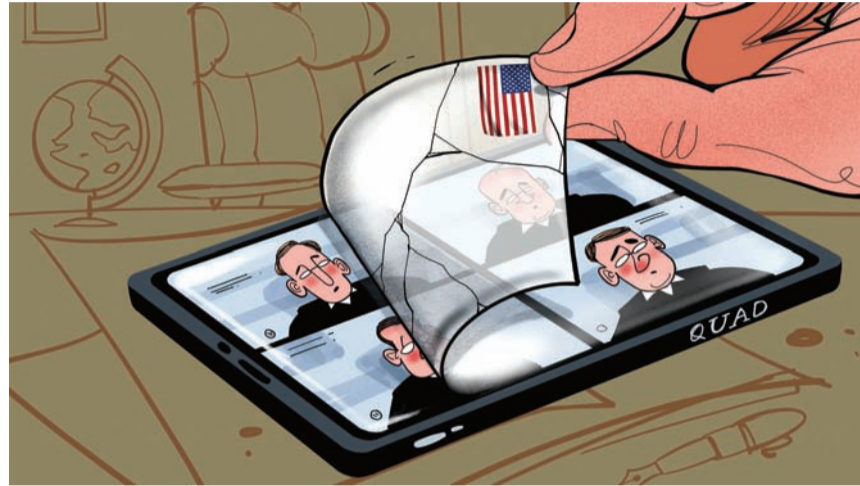
The grouping reconvened on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Manila in 2017. Two years later, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, the Quad held its first ministerial-level meeting. Australia rejoined the Malabar

As America retreats from its role as the principal outside balancer, middle powers must decide whether the Quad can fill part of the gap

QUAD AND THE MIDDLE POWERS' SHARED DILEMMA

MANISH TEWARI

MP, lawyer, former Union I&B minister and author of *A World Adrift*



SOURAV ROY

exercise. In March 2021, Quad leaders met virtually at their first summit. Since then, there have been three leaders' summits and multiple ministerial meetings.

At the 2026 meeting in New Delhi, the Quad foreign ministers agreed to augment regional maritime domain awareness through the Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration.

To understand what the Quad is requires a willingness to resist both the over-claiming of its proponents and the casual dismissal of its detractors. When Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi likened it to "sea foam", suggesting it would quickly dissipate, he was perhaps engaging in performative posturing. The sea foam has not evaporated. But it would be equally misleading to characterise the Quad as a nascent Asian Nato.

The paradox at the heart of the Quad is that it seeks to uphold a rules-based order through a need-based, preference-driven

form of engagement. The Quad operates through convergence rather than obligation. It can facilitate, coordinate and signal, but it cannot compel or guarantee. For a grouping whose object is to ensure freedom of navigation throughout the Indo-Pacific, these limitations are not trivial.

Oxymoronically, the case for the Quad's strategic utility is stronger than its critics acknowledge. The hub-and-spoke security architecture connecting Washington bilaterally to Tokyo, Seoul, Canberra and Manila while those spokes had limited direct connections was always more brittle than it appeared.

What can emerge from the Quad's existence is something more resilient: a networked security architecture in which US allies and partners develop relationships with one another, sharing situational awareness, conducting exercises and aligning diplomatic positions in ways that do not depend entirely on the unsteady

anchor of American commitment.

The Quad could provide India access to advanced technological cooperation with three of the world's most innovation-intensive economies. The US leads the world in AI research and patent filings; Japan is a global pioneer in robotics and precision manufacturing; Australia has emerged as a significant node in quantum computing research. India, with its digital infrastructure and skilled workforce, offers resilient technology supply chains.

The Quad's working groups on critical and emerging technologies—semiconductors, AI, quantum computing, clean energy and next-generation telecommunications—are central to the grouping's long-term strategic significance. Its capacity to coordinate technology governance, standards-setting and supply-chain resilience may prove more consequential than a naval exercise.

Concurrently, the Blue Dot Network, launched by the US, Japan and Australia in 2019, is a framework for infrastructure investment that presents a market-based alternative to China's debt-laden Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The Asia-Africa Growth Corridor, a joint Japan-India initiative launched in 2017, represents part of this counter-BRI architecture. The Quad's non-military public goods agenda is its principal instrument for regional legitimacy, helping secure the goodwill and strategic orientation of middle- and smaller-sized Indo-Pacific powers.

The Quad's most immediate challenge is that the national perspectives of its members do not naturally converge; they require sustained diplomatic and political investment across changes of government.

The trajectory forward is clear enough, even if the political will to follow it remains unevenly distributed. The Quad requires something architecturally more robust than the current summit-driven, working-group-dependent mode: permanent secretariat-level coordination, measurable deliverables and predictable funding commitments. It must deepen engagement with more Indo-Pacific nations to build a broader coalition of stakeholders whose active alignment with a free and open Indo-Pacific is ultimately indispensable to the realisation of that vision.

America is beating a retreat globally in the name of strategic realism. It is no longer willing to shoulder the responsibility as the single biggest outside balancer of power. The Thucydides Trap that Xi Jinping alluded to is closing portentously. The middle powers must get their act together.

(Views are personal)
(manishtewari01@gmail.com)
(Full article on newindianexpress.com)

ODISHA'S RAIN CONCERN, READY FARMERS FOR RISK

THIS could be a year of great discomfort for farmers in Odisha. Fresh from a season when it posted a record 150 lakh metric tonnes food grains production, the state is now staring at headwinds. The south-west monsoon is already delayed and the projections are not good either. Forecast of a deficit rainfall in the monsoon core zone of which Odisha is a part, must worry the state government. According to the India Meteorological Department, the probability of below-normal monsoon rainfall is 43 percent. With the mega El Niño predicted to form during this critical period, the challenges can mount quickly unless timely measures are taken. Pre-monsoon rainfall has been below average and the farming community is already in a tizzy. Yet there is very little on-the-ground information campaign to sensitise farmers about what the season has in store.

Fact be told, if the long-term weather outlook holds, the government would have its hands full. Odisha's tryst with natural calamities is well-known and if the monsoon fails, challenges would be far greater if the administration is not in a state of readiness. The scarcity of fertiliser is already being felt with the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative plant facing an ammonia shortage that has impacted production of diammonium phosphate and urea, due to the West Asia crisis. In another two months' time, when agriculture activities would be at an advanced stage, things can really get out of hand.

Odisha has been a rice-focused state, so much so that it has led to a glut. Last kharif season, it procured well over 77 lakh MT paddy. The number of farmers who enrolled for the procurement went up to a record 18.85 lakh because the BJP government has been providing an additional input assistance of ₹800 per quintal over and above the MSP. While this has driven up the farmer participation, crop diversification has been hit. Under such circumstances, if the weather gods don't shower mercy, the agriculture sector could be under tremendous pressure. At present, the confidence level on the ground is very low with price rise impacting the bottomline of farmers. Much of it can be controlled if the government firms up a comprehensive crisis management plan that includes both information and technical support for cultivators on the impending climate change risk and provides stage-by-stage guidance and insurance support. Routine advisory should be chucked; alacrity must be the need of the hour.

QUICK TAKE

THE PLASTIC TRAP

RECENT American experiments with low-plastic housing show greener construction is possible, though rarely easy or cheap. Builders in Connecticut have replaced vinyl roofs, PVC siding and synthetic insulation with wood, metal and hemp fibres, proving it's possible to reduce toxic plastic. Rising awareness after devastating fires in Los Angeles and the UK's Grenfell has exposed the health dangers of burning plastics inside homes. But sustainable alternatives remain expensive, poorly advertised and difficult to source. Governments, builders and manufacturers must invest in safer materials and transparent construction standards. Indian researchers should now focus on developing affordable replacements for harmful plastics, as people increasingly cannot even identify which common building materials contain plastic.

WFH IMPERATIVE, NOT PERK

CHANDRASEKHAR SRIPADA

Clinical professor, Indian School of Business and author of *Shaping the Future of Work: Building Flexible Work Options and Unleashing the Human Capital of Bharat*

EVERY few years, India is ambushed by the same emergency. Crude prices spike. The rupee wobbles. Petrol stations see long lines. Panic spreads. Governments scramble—subsidies, price controls, urgent diplomatic calls to Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. And then, when the pressure eases, we return to business as usual and await the next fire. Trying to solve this problem only from the supply side is not a great idea. We need to look at demand. Among the many ways to manage it is reducing fuel consumption for the office commute. The pandemic recently forced the world's largest social experiment and proved that a significant slice of the workforce could operate productively from home. Despite that evidence and lived experience, we have not converted experience into policy.

Digitally savvy India is uniquely positioned to treat remote work as a national strategy for creating inclusive, enabling employment.

India's oil crisis is structural, not cyclical. In 2024, India's oil and gas import bill stood at approximately \$143 billion, accounting for close to 89 percent of our crude oil needs. The office commute is a significant driver of road-fuel demand. Here is the arithmetic that matters: India's IT-business management and knowledge economy sector alone employs over 54 lakh workers directly, with the broader digital economy supporting upwards of a crore. A 2024 survey found that 44 percent of Indian workers commute by private car, averaging 10-15 km each way. A conservative estimate puts the fuel consumption at around 1.2-1.6 litres per commuter every day. If just 20 percent of India's one crore knowledge workers shifted to a three-day-per-week hybrid model, commuting reductions would eliminate approximately 2.4 to 3.2 billion litres of petrol and diesel consumption annually. At current prices, that translates into foreign-exchange savings of \$2 to \$3 billion a year—simply by redesigning the workweek.

The most persistent objection to remote work is that people do not work when unsupervised. The data disagrees.

Employees in hybrid arrangements worldwide report a 47 percent increase in productivity compared to full-time office work. A 2024 Zoom global study found that 84 percent of employees feel more productive in remote or hybrid settings. The Deloitte Global Workforce Trends Report 2025 notes that 72 percent of organisations

believe commuting convenience directly affects productivity and retention. According to TomTom's Traffic Index 2024, Bengaluru commuters lose over 130 hours annually to congestion—hours that could otherwise be spent working or recuperating.

Another frequent argument against remote work is that culture cannot be built unless people congregate in offices. A 2024 analysis of Trust Index Survey data covering 13 lakh employees found that cooperation does not require co-location.



Despite lived experiences and energy panics, India has failed to enable remote work as policy. Evidence largely disagrees with all major objections while metros continue to inflate. The public sector can show the way in setting up norms in workers' deliverables

A PayScale study covering more than 150,000 responses found that remote work is less influential in explaining job satisfaction and turnover than workplace attributes such as feeling appreciated, communication quality, managerial effectiveness and development opportunities. Culture is a function of leadership, trust, communication and shared values—not physical proximity. It can no longer be left to osmotic absorption in an office; it must be cultivated through shared values, role modelling, communication, virtual events and periodic in-person gatherings.

India Inc forces people to migrate to Bengaluru, Mumbai or Delhi-NCR to find work. This migration inflates metros, strains infrastructure and hollows out smaller cities. Remote work breaks this

MAIL BAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

RCB evolution

Ref: *More than a title* (Jun 2). The franchise's evolution from volatile entertainers to back-to-back champions proves that systemic, evidence-based planning outperforms erratic superstar dependency. By prioritising structural harmony, backing specialised talent and fostering deliberate mentorship, they have demystified T20 success. True operational brilliance requires sustaining this meticulous blueprint.
K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Manipur grievances

Ref: *Reader as leader* (Jun 2). The widening conflict reflects deep-seated structural disputes that have been left unaddressed for decades. By treating this purely as a short-term law-and-order failure, we ignore the historical fractures over land ownership, demographic shifts and political representation that fuel the ethnic divide. Superficial peace and heavy militarisation only temporarily suppress grievances.
VKS Krishnan, email

Informed citizens

Ref: *Reader as leader* (Jun 2). Through books, readers come across diverse cultures, ideas and experiences, which open up new perspectives. They can figure out complex issues, think over different viewpoints and grow into informed citizens. Reading also helps leaders and ordinary people alike break away from prejudice.
Raju Kolluru, Kakinada

Systemic rot

Ref: *Graft-free admin* (Jun 2). This sounds like an open acknowledgement that corruption is very much a hurdle in government machinery. The CM has attached a stigma to all honest hardworking staff without whom progress was not achievable.
Jayachandran C, Chennai

Fuel burdens

Ref: *OMCs losing ₹650 per cylinder* (Jun 2). Indians continue to pay much higher for fuel than their neighbours in Bhutan and Bangladesh. Both the central and state governments should reduce the tax burden and provide relief from rising living costs.
T Kallesh Ditya, Hyderabad

Mental sport

Ref: *Pink ball could be used* (Jun 2). Does bad light always disrupt play? Cricket, at most times, is played in the mind and not wholly oriented on skills. Trevor Bailey once said, "while they do not come off for a bad pitch, why should they, for bad light?"
Sanath Kumar T S, Thiruvir



Abhishek Singhvi @DrAMSinghvi
Winning an election is not a permit for vengeance. Democracy calls for persuasion, not persecution. India deserves better than this politics of intimidation.



Saket Gokhale @SaketGokhale
Our system will not change until people start punishing & boycotting politicians who abandon their ideology & cross over to the BJP for their selfish agendas.



Kiren Rijiju @KirenRijiju
I'm very proud to live in India but I am ashamed of those selfish people who have no morals, who run after money and defend terrorists, Maoists & anti-India gangs.

'CBSE tendering for OSM faulty'

Whistleblower student from Jharkhand briefs Parliament panel on alleged irregularities

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

HOURS before the government shunted out two top CBSE officials, Sarthak Sidhant, a whistleblower student from Jharkhand affected by the CBSE's online marking system, made a presentation before a parliamentary panel on Tuesday on alleged irregularities in the tendering process for vendor selection for online marking in the Class XII exams.

Amid a row over the CBSE's on-screen marking system (OSM), the committee headed by Congress MP Digvijay Singh had summoned senior officials of the board and the Ministry of School Education to discuss OSM and the problems faced by students. However, the CBSE officials did not answer queries raised by panel members on the alleged irregularities in the vendor-tendering process for online marking in the Class XII exams, and instead said that they would submit a written response later, sources said.

Sarthak, who appeared in the exams, pointed out the anomalies in the tendering process of the CBSE to select vendors for online marking and put forth a set of questions for the board, sources said. He also presented a seven-page copy of his findings before the Parliamentary Committee for Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, who heard him and de-



Sarthak Sidhant appears before the House panel to make a presentation | EXPRESS

manded answers from CBSE.

Sarthak's presentation was made in the presence of now transferred CBSE Chairman Rahul Singh and Secretary, School Education, Sanjay Kumar, along with other officials of the Ministry of Education and the board.

Queries raised by the student on system anomalies and the lack of background checks before handing over the contract for OSM led the panel chairman and some members to demand answers from the board officials. While the officials answered some of the questions, they did not give replies to specific queries raised on why the contract was awarded to a firm without background checks and why norms were changed arbitrarily at the last minute. The CBSE officials said they

would make a written submission on the issues raised.

The issue of going ahead with online marking without proper system checks or trial runs and without training teachers was also raised by the panel. Besides, the chairman and some members demanded that accountability be fixed and action taken against those responsible for the anomalies.

The CBSE officials informed the panel that the board's system server, which was down, is now running fine. They told the panel that students can apply up to June 6 for reevaluation and that there is nothing to panic, sources said, adding the board asserted there is no need to extend this window as there is sufficient time to apply.

Some members sought grace marks or early evaluation.

June 6, 7 dates set for glitch-hit CUET candidates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE 3,765 students who could not take up their Common University Entrance Test (CUET) UG 2026 exam on May 30 due to a technical glitch can appear for their exams on June 6 and June 7, said a senior official of the National Testing Agency.

"Depending on the subject they have chosen, the student can appear on June 6 or June 7 whenever the exam for the specific subject is held," the official said.

Additionally, students whose exams were postponed on May 28 due to Bakrid too will be able to take up their exams during the same period, he said. "So, roughly around 67,000 students will take up this Computer Based Test (CBT) on those days," he added.

The updated admit cards for the affected students can be downloaded from the official portal, the NTA said on X late Tuesday night.

A total of 15,68,866 students had registered for the exam. Technical service provider TCS iON, is carrying out a root-cause analysis into the glitch.

MHA tightens rules for foreigners seeking stays beyond 180 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has amended the Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025, making it mandatory for foreign nationals on visas exceeding 180 days to register before the expiry of their permitted stay, if they intend to remain in India beyond that period.

The amendment, as notified by the Centre, replaces an earlier provision that allowed foreigners to register within 14 days after completing 180 days of stay in India. Under the revised rules, registration must be completed before the expiry of the 180-day period.

The notification states that in Rule 12 of the Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025, the phrase "within fourteen days after the expiry of one hundred and eighty days of his arrival in India" has been substituted with "any time before the expiry of the stipulated period of one hundred and eighty days".

The revised provision applies to foreigners holding visas valid for more than 180 days but carrying a condition that each individual stay should not exceed 180 days. Such visitors seeking to stay in India beyond the prescribed period—either on a single occasion or cumulatively during a calendar year—will now have to register before the completion of 180 days.



Amendment a relief to children born in India

Earlier rules required parents to electronically inform the registration officer within 30 days of the child's birth. Under the amended rules, this requirement will not apply where either parent is an Indian citizen and opts to retain child's Indian citizenship.

Officials said the amendment clarifies that extensions beyond the stipulated stay period would be considered only in emergent circumstances, tightening the framework governing long-term stays by foreign nationals.

The notification also introduces relief for children born in India to one or both foreign-national parents. Earlier rules required parents to electronically inform the registration officer within 30 days of the child's birth to access visa-related services, including issuance of a new visa

or exit permit, through the designated online portal or mobile application.

Under the amended rules, this requirement will not apply where either parent is an Indian citizen and opts to retain the child's Indian citizenship. However, if the child subsequently acquires the citizenship of a foreign country while residing in India, either parent must notify the registration officer within 30 days of the change in citizenship status.

The MHA has also revised reporting obligations and administrative procedures applicable to hospitals, nursing homes and other medical institutions that provide accommodation or lodging facilities to foreign nationals.

The latest changes are part of a broader overhaul of citizenship and immigration regulations. Last month, the Centre proposed amendments to the Citizenship Rules, 2009, requiring certain applicants to declare whether they possess or have surrendered passports issued by Pakistan, Afghanistan or Bangladesh.

Even earlier, the government notified the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026, introducing electronic Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI) cards, fully online application processes and stricter provisions governing dual passports held by minors.

India takes strong objection as Pak, EU joint statement mentions J&K

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA on Tuesday strongly rejected references to Jammu and Kashmir in a joint press communique issued after the eighth round of the European Union-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, asserting that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral parts of India and warning against such comments on the issue.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal was responding to a joint statement issued following talks between European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas and Pakistan Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad.

The communique stated: "The Pakistan side briefed on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. The EU side briefed on Russia's war against Ukraine. Both sides expressed support to peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy, in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter."

Reacting sharply, Jaiswal said New Delhi viewed the ref-



'Reference unwarranted'

Reacting sharply, Jaiswal said New Delhi viewed the reference as unwarranted. "We categorically reject such unwarranted references in the Joint Press Communique on matters internal to India. The UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of India.

reference as unwarranted. "We categorically reject such unwarranted references in the Joint Press Communique on matters internal to India. The UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of India. Those who have no locus standi on such matters should desist from making any comment on

them," he said.

The latest diplomatic protest comes just days after India lodged a similar objection to references made by China and Pakistan in a joint statement issued during Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Beijing. On May 26, Jaiswal had stated that India "categorically rejects unwarranted references" to Jammu and Kashmir in the China-Pakistan joint statement.

The issue surfaced during the European Union-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue held in Islamabad on Monday. While Kallas and Dar largely focused on regional developments, including the conflict involving Iran and broader geopolitical issues, the Pakistani side also raised Jammu and Kashmir during the discussions.

India has consistently maintained that Jammu and Kashmir is an internal matter and has opposed any third-party references or interventions. New Delhi's position remains that all outstanding matters with Pakistan must be addressed bilaterally and in accordance with existing agreements.

NIA probes Hamas role in Pahalgam

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

IN A significant development in the Pahalgam terror attack investigation, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has formally flagged the need to examine possible links between Pakistan-backed terror groups and Hamas.

In its charge sheet, the NIA said further investigation is required to establish whether the accused organisations—Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its proxy The Resistance Front (TRF)—have any connections with the Gaza-based Hamas, as well as other globally designated terrorist outfits, including Al Qaeda and its affiliates.

According to probe officials, their suspicion is based on the fact that they found some similarities in the modus operandi between October 7, 2023 attacks against Israeli revelers and April 22, 2025 attack on tourists in Baisaran meadow of Pahalgam.

The disclosure marks what is believed to be the first time India's premier anti-terror agency has named Hamas in an ongoing terror probe while examining its potential operational linkages with Paki-

Similarities in modus operandi led to suspicion

stan-based groups. According to investigation officials, their suspicion is based on the fact that they found some similarities in the modus operandi between October 7, 2023 attacks against Israeli revelers and April 22, 2025 attack on tourists in Baisaran meadow of Pahalgam.



stan-based groups.

According to the charge sheet, officials said, investigators are seeking to determine the nature, extent and operational dimensions of any such ties as part of a broader effort to map the international networks linked to the accused organisations.

On 22 April 2025, terrorists killed 25 Indians—24 tourists and one Kashmiri local—as

well as a Nepalese tourist at the Baisaran meadows in Pahalgam before fleeing the spot. Eyewitness accounts indicate victims were singled out on the basis of religion, and shot at close range in front of their families.

The probe aims to establish whether global terror entities played any role in facilitating, inspiring or supporting terrorist activities in Jammu and

Kashmir, they added.

The reference to Hamas assumes significance amid intelligence inputs gathered after the Pahalgam attack. Officials familiar with the probe said Indian agencies have noted increased interactions between Hamas and Pakistan-based terror outfits, including LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammed in recent months.

Security agencies have also examined whether the Pahalgam attack bore tactical similarities to Hamas-style operations. Investigators have previously pointed to parallels in planning, target selection and execution, drawing comparisons with Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, the officials said.

While investigators continue to pursue financial trails, digital evidence and cross-border networks linked to the attack, the NIA has indicated that establishing possible Hamas linkages remains a key unfinished aspect of the investigation.

The investigators believe the findings could offer important insights into emerging cooperation between Pakistan-backed terror groups and global jihadist organisations, they added.

POLITICAL SLUGFEST

'Laws flouted': Cong slams govt over Odisha protest against bauxite mining

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Tuesday targeted the Centre over protests by villagers in Odisha's Koraput district against alleged violations of the law to "bulldoze clearances" for bauxite mining, and said Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram should be concerned as to why such agitations are taking place in different parts of the state.

Kalinga Alumina Ltd is being accused of illegally diverting about 400 acres of forest lands over which agitationists have traditional and spiritual rights guaranteed under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said. "The Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh governments have constituted Task Forces to institutionalise RSS role in the implementation of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 and Forest Rights Act, 2006. Odisha will soon be the third state," he said in a post on X.

"These Task Forces subvert the basic democratic structure of implementation of the two laws passed by Parliament. The Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, an RSS affiliate, is the driving force behind this hijacking of statutory provisions. Both PESA, 1996 and FRA, 2006 emerged out of people's movements. Their essential character in letter and spirit is being deliberately sabotaged by such Task Forces which have executive responsibilities as well," Ramesh said.



Both PESA, 1996 and FRA, 2006 emerged out of people's movements. Their character in letter and spirit is being deliberately sabotaged by such Task Forces

Jairam Ramesh, Congress leader

'Protesters have rights'

Kalinga Alumina Ltd is being accused of illegally diverting 400 acres of forest lands over which agitationists have rights, Ramesh said.

BJP livid over Tharoor's Vande Mataram remark, says song not 'optional'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CONGRESS leader Shashi Tharoor's remarks questioning the need to sing all five verses of Vande Mataram at the beginning and end of official functions have drawn a sharp response from the BJP, which accused the opposition party of capitulating to the Muslim League, an ally of the ruling coalition in Kerala.

"Vande Mataram is India's national song—not a political choice and not optional. If states begin selectively ignoring national protocols for political appeasement, the very idea of national unity is weakened," BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said in a post on X. "Shashi Tharoor says it is an unnecessary imposition to sing all the stanzas. Vande Mataram in its complete form consists of six stanzas, yet you describe it as an unnecessary imposition."

Poonawalla claimed that the Congress was displaying the same mindset that had previously resulted in the national song being restricted to only two stanzas.

"Jawaharlal Nehru acted under pressure from Jinnah. At the time, he argued that Muslims would be offended. Today, Congress is once again capitulating to the same Muslim League mindset. The very same Muslim League is now governing alongside them," he claimed.

Another BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said, "The issue is not with Vande Mataram. The issue lies with those who are uncomfortable in uttering it."

On Monday, the Congress MP had told reporters that while everyone respects Vande Mataram, making the full version compulsory at every official function was difficult to justify.

'Zero tolerance': NMC calls for safe injection practices to stop infections

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE National Medical Commission (NMC) has directed all medical colleges and institutions to mandatorily implement safe injection practices to prevent transmission of blood-borne infections, including HIV, Hepatitis B (HBV), and Hepatitis C virus.

Stressing "zero tolerance" for any practice, which causes serious breaches of patient safety, the NMC said, "Strict adherence to safe injection practices is a non-negotiable patient safety mandate."

In an advisory, NMC Secretary Dr Raghav Langer cited data and evidence from international and national settings that depict unsafe injection practice may result in outbreaks of HIV and other blood-borne infections.

"Such events are entirely preventable through strict adherence to standard infection prevention and control practices," the advisory said.

"In view of the above, all the medical colleges are hereby advised to ensure full compliance to prevent the avoidable transmission of blood-borne infec-



NACO norms mandatory

Dr Langer said measures such as hand hygiene, implementation of mandatory safe injection practices using only sterile, single-use needles and syringes with strict prohibition of reuse under all circumstances need to be enforced. Further, hospital authorities were directed that they must ensure post-exposure prophylaxis as per National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) guidelines.

Any practice which can cause serious breaches of patient safety, such as reuse, vial sharing without precautions, recapping, and improper sharps disposal, must have zero tolerance—NMC

tions and adhere strictly and comply with the National Guidelines for Infection Prevention and Control," the advisory added.

Dr Langer said measures such as hand hygiene, implementation of mandatory safe injection practices using only sterile, single-use needles and syringes with strict prohibition of reuse under all circumstances need to be enforced across all facilities.

"All sharps and injection-re-

lated waste need to be segregated and disposed of as per Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016," the advisory said.

It also said that all medical colleges may "progressively adopt safety-engineered auto-disposable syringes. "The training for healthcare workers with competency assessments should be provided periodically. Any needle-stick injury/cluster of infections should be reported for investigation," it added.

ACCIDENT

A man waiting for an LPG cylinder refill was killed on Tuesday and another was seriously injured after a speeding car rammed into a queue outside a gas agency godown in UP's Muzaffarnagar, police said.

2 HELD AFTER 20 MOTORCYCLES RECOVERED IN JK-HAND

INDIA	Max	Min	Mumbai	Max	Min
Ahmedabad	27	14	Mumbai	28	23
Bhopal	26	10	Panaji	32	20
Jaipur	23	11	Patna	17	09
Amritsar	12	06	Lucknow	18	09
Chennai	28	21	Port Blair	28	24
Kolkata	23	14	Imphal	22	10
Srinagar	09	-3	Chandigarh	17	09

A handful of leaders accompanies Mamata during her dharna against attacks on Abhishek

Only 6 of 78 MLAs join Didi stir

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

ONLY six out of 78 Trinamool Congress MLAs and five MPs turned up at the protest held by former CM Mamata Banerjee at central Kolkata on Tuesday against post-poll attacks on party workers and leaders, bringing to the fore discontent within the party after its massive defeat to the BJP in the assembly elections.

The TMC won 80 out of 294 seats in West Bengal but the party's strength in the Assembly came down to 78 after the party leadership suspended two dissenting legislators Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha on charges of anti-party activities. Sixty legislators had skipped a meeting called at the party supremo's residence on Sunday.

Mamata on Tuesday held her day-long dharna at Esplanade to protest against attacks on TMC national general secretary and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, MP Kalyan Banerjee and other leaders. The programme was also intended to be a show of strength for the TMC chief at a time when the party is reeling under crisis.

The former CM asserted that she would not abandon TMC workers in "these difficult times", referring to large-scale arrests of leaders on charges of corruption, intimidation and extortion, and alleged torture



TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee holds a protest in Kolkata on Tuesday | PTI

Won't abandon workers in difficult times: Mamata

The former CM asserted that she would not abandon TMC workers in "these difficult times", referring to large-scale arrests of leaders on charges of corruption, intimidation and extortion, and alleged torture of party workers. Mamata reached the dharna site after the TMC's appeal to hold the protest at Rani Rashmoni Road was turned down.

of party workers after TMC's defeat in the Assembly polls.

Mamata reached the dharna site at Esplanade's Y-channel after the TMC's appeal to hold the protest at the adjacent Rani Rashmoni Road was turned down by the Kolkata Police. "We were not permitted to hold our programme at the place we requested. At the alternative site, the police did not allow us to set up a stage or use microphones," she said, addressing the crowd using a hand-held megaphone.

"We will move court if other parties are allowed to hold po-

litical programmes at the venue where we were denied permission to protest, or if they are allowed to hold meetings with microphones. Law cannot be imposed with discrimination," the former CM said.

"The men in uniform are being used by the BJP dispensation to do things they are not supposed to do," she alleged.

The protest was marked by intermittent chaos, with TMC workers shouting slogans amid the former CM's speech. The TMC supremo was seen accompanied by the party's old

guards Firhad Hakim, Madan Mitra, Kalyan Banerjee, Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, Chandrima Bhattacharya and Dola Sen, amid the conspicuous absence of most of the fresh faces who won the Assembly seats on TMC ticket.

Mamata alleged that the recent assault on Abhishek was carried out in a planned manner. "Had a TMC worker not supplied Abhishek with a helmet, the injury from the stone hurled at him could have turned fatal," she alleged.

Meanwhile, BJP MLA and minister Tapas Roy claimed that the TMC is heading towards a split. "Trinamool Congress will gradually disappear from the political landscape of West Bengal in coming days. There is growing dissatisfaction among many TMC leaders and legislators," Roy told reporters. He quit the TMC and joined the BJP in 2024.

Earlier, senior TMC MLA Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay asserted that a majority of the party legislators would remain with the Mamata Banerjee, and the old guards would continue to retain control of the organisation. Within an hour after Roy's claim, suspended TMC MLA Ritabrata told reporters in the assembly that the party has been "hijacked by I-PAC and it no longer belongs to Mamata Banerjee."

Srinagar airport likely to suspend flights twice a wk for 3 mnths, 15 days in Oct

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

TOURISM stakeholders in Kashmir are facing fresh anxiety and apprehending significant booking cancellations as Srinagar Airport is likely to suspend flight operations every Monday and Tuesday from July to the end of September, followed by a 15-day complete closure from October 1 for planned runway maintenance works.

According to an advisory issued by Srinagar Airport, the runway will remain unavailable every Monday and Tuesday from July 1 to September 30, 2026, as part of a scheduled maintenance programme being undertaken by the Air Force. The advisory further states that airport watch hours during this period are proposed to be restricted from 8 am to 5 pm.

Authorities have also proposed complete closure of runway operations from October 1 to October 16 for repair work. Airport officials said the plan is currently in the planning stage and that detailed schedules will be communicated through official channels once formal approval is granted.

The announcement on suspension of flight operations has come at a time when Kashmir is witnessing a strong revival in tourism activity.



Srinagar Airport is witnessing heavy passenger traffic, reflecting the growing influx of visitors to the Valley. On June 1, the airport handled 72 flights, including 36 arrivals and 36 departures. A total of 12,406 passengers travelled in 72 flights, comprising 6,348 arrivals and 6,022 departures.

Tourism stakeholders apprehend that the proposed suspension of flights for two days every week over three months, followed by a continuous 15-day closure, would adversely affect tourist arrivals and the tourism industry.

Sajad Ahmad Kralyari, Secretary General of the Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK), said the tourism sector has made a strong recovery, tourist footfall has increased substantially, and there is 100% occupancy in Gulmarg and Srinagar.



CHANDIGARH DIARY

HARPREET BAIWA

Our correspondent in Chandigarh

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Mann's morning walk that never took off

Recently, the Chief Minister's Office gave a call to a Deputy Commissioner around midnight saying that the CM Bhagwant Mann wanted to interact with morning walkers thus he was considering an early-morning walk in the city. The officer reportedly began making preparations before dawn as immediately the district administration sprang into action and went into an over drive mode. The security arrangements, route planning and logistics were quickly set in motion. Just then as suddenly as this proposed interaction with morning walkers had appeared, the plan was shelved and the much-anticipated walk never took place.



BIHAR

85-year-old gets jail term in 1992 murder case

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

AFTER an ordeal of more than three decades, an 85-year-old man from Bihar's Vaishali district, was awarded three years rigorous imprisonment by a district court on Tuesday, a day after he was held guilty in a 1992-attempt to murder case.

The convict, Deep Rai, looking frail due to age-related problems, was assisted by two policemen to reach the courtroom. Rai, a resident of Juravanpur in Vaishali district, was speechless after the court pronounced the verdict.

Additional district and sessions judge, Manoj Kumar Tiwari, had reserved its order in the case after completing the hearing on Monday. After his conviction, a video went viral showing the man being escorted by two people to the prison.

Deep Rai, the only surviving accused among the five named in the FIR was held guilty under the Arms Act in the May 10, 1992, attempt to murder case and sentenced to undergo three years in prison.

According to prosecution story, on May 10, 1992, the victim Adalat Rai's family filed a complaint at Raghupur police station, stating that he and his wife were attacked by the accused, in which they sustained serious injuries.

Spl provision for Twisha's mother-in-law in jail due to high threat perception

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

THE named accused in model actor Twisha Sharma's May 12 suspected dowry death case—her husband Samarth Singh (34) and mother-in-law and former judge Giribala Singh (63)—were sent to 14-day judicial custody by a judicial magistrate first class (JMFC) court in Bhopal on Tuesday. As the CBI did not seek extension of remand from the court, the judge sent Giribala and Samarth to judicial custody at the Bhopal Central Jail till June 16.

The legal team for the accused, led by advocate Enosh George Carlo, submitted before the court the concerns regarding the safety of the former judge and her son inside the jail. The counsel submitted that there was a strong possibility of many of the inmates at the Central Jail having been pronounced guilty and awarded punishment in criminal cases or some undertrials in cases being denied bail by Giribala during her tenure as the Bhopal District and Sessions Judge (2021-2023). It might endanger the safety of both the accused at the jail. He sought secured place for the two accused in the jail. "We didn't oppose the submissions by the defence counsel, as it appeared to be a valid concern," Anurag Srivastava,



Issue with crime scene reconstruction

In the court, Giribala raised the issue of secrecy of human-sized dummy-based crime scene reconstruction by CBI at her house on Monday being compromised due to the absence of any cover (curtain), leading to the live media/TV channel coverage of the critical procedure.

the counsel for Twisha's family, told journalists.

Considering the submissions related to the mother-son duo's security at the Central Jail, the JMFC Court directed the authorities to ensure proper security for the two accused and house them separately away from other inmates.

The CBI counsel stated before the court that since forensic reports were awaited and the statements of witnesses were to be recorded, it could again approach the court for fresh remand of the accused, if need arose for further probe.

58L farmers to get benefit as ₹36.5K cr loan waiver okayed

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE Maharashtra cabinet on Tuesday decided to waive off the farmers' crop loans but withheld the announcement due to the MLC election code of conduct. While the state has decided to waive up to ₹2 lakh in loans for the farmers, those who are not defaulters will be granted ₹50,000 as an incentive or award money. This farm loan waiver decision will benefit over 58 lakh farmers in the state.

Earlier, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis had said that his government would take the farm loan waiver decision in June 2026.

As per the cabinet, the farm loan waiver will be executed once the MLC election code of conduct is over. There are a total of 65 lakh bank accounts of the farmers who have taken the crop loan amounting to ₹36,585 crore, and of them, 58 lakh farmers are eligible for this farm loan waiver scheme.

Sources said that the state election commission (EC) has asked the state not to make an announcement of the farm loan waiver decision. "The state government had sought advice on whether they can take the decision of farm loan waiver and make the announcement. However, the EC conveyed that the state government can take the decision, but it cannot an-



Up to ₹2L to be waived, ₹50k incentive to non-defaulters

While the state has decided to waive up to ₹2 lakh in loans for the farmers, those who are not defaulters will be granted ₹50,000 as an incentive or award money. As per the cabinet, the farm loan waiver will be executed once the MLC election code of conduct is over. There are a total of 65 lakh bank accounts of farmers who have taken the loan.

nounce and execute it because of the election code of conduct in place. Therefore, the announcement of the farm loan waiver has been withheld," said a source in the state election commission.

Ajit Nawale, secretary of All India Kisan Sabha, welcomed the cabinet decision. He said that the state government has already taken a decision on farm loan waivers, so there is no need for an announcement now.

"Now, the significant thing is the implementation of the farm

loan waiver. The state government should ensure that the waived-off decision and its money should be credited to the bank by the end of June 2026. The reason is that June is the last month to repay the crop loan; otherwise, their names will figure in the defaulter list and lose the eligibility to get a new loan.

Therefore, farm loan decisions have to be executed as early as possible if the state government is keen to help the farmers to raise the loan for this Kharif season," Nawale said.

Girls' question prompts convention change

A 17-year-old Gagandeep Kaur of Tahirpura village questioned Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, which made him change a convention. She got the CM to announce that the Punjab School Education Board would stop using age as a tiebreaker to rank students with identical scores. Her poser exposed a convention that, hitherto, many accepted without examining it closely. She had scored 98% in the Class 10 PSEB exam, equal to two other students of her school. Her question stemmed from her sense of being treated unfairly. "We have to face discrimination based on gender, caste, community and marks, which is wrong," she said.

Himachal cops to penalise VIP cars too

After protests by the lawyers, the Himachal Pradesh Police have challenged vehicles belonging to several VIPs, including state PWD Minister Vikramaditya Singh and his mother Pratibha Singh, who is a former Congress state president, as her car was stopped by the protesting lawyers on the sealed road in Shimla. Cars of senior IAS and police officials were also challenged. The lawyers were upset over being barred from using the sealed road without a valid permit. They were stopping all the vehicles on the road and were checking whether they possessed permits. If the vehicle did not have a valid permit, they forced the police to issue a challan.

Woman arrested in connection with MP honey-trap racket an HIV patient

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

A middle-aged woman whose arrest led to the busting of an alleged honey-trap racket in Madhya Pradesh's Bhand district has turned out to be an HIV/AIDS patient, police said.

On May 23, the woman, while claiming that she was suffering from acute pain in the legs, requested a 60-year-old farmer in Bhand to drop her home. The farmer did it. While thanking him for the help, she requested the man to come into her house for tea. She then allegedly honey-trapped him and later started threatening to use the obscene/objectionable videos for implicating him in a false rape case.

She along with other members of the racket demanded ₹7 lakh from the farmer, failing which they said they would destroy his life. The farmer gave them ₹5,000, but they demand-



Hunt on for men involved

"Probe suggests that 6-7 men seen in the videos could have come in physical contact with the HIV-positive woman. We're now trying to identify those men, after which they would be tested for the possibility of having contracted HIV/AIDS infection," Bhand SP Suraj Verma said.

sis of their mobiles and laptop revealed obscene/objectionable videos of 15-16 men, who are suspected to have been honey-trapped.

"Probe suggests that 6-7 men seen in the videos could have come in physical contact with the HIV-positive woman. We're now trying to identify those men, after which they would be tested for the possibility of having contracted HIV/AIDS infection," Bhand SP Suraj Verma told this newspaper.

Co-op societies using drone sprayers for yields

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

IN a milestone towards modernising agricultural practices, Dhamtari is stated to have become the first district in the country to provide drone sprayer facilities to farmers directly through Primary Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies (PACS).

The initiative, conceptualised under the supervision of Dhamtari Collector Abinash Mishra, was initially launched at the Loharsi cooperative society in the district. Later, trained drone pilots from several selected cooperative societies successfully demonstrated the technology, showcasing how drone-based spraying ensures the precise application of fertilisers and pesticides, drastically cuts input costs, and saves critical time for farmers.

The Collector emphasised that integrating advanced technology with cooperative societies is a revolutionary step for



Reduces labour, lowers exposure to pesticides: Experts

According to agricultural experts, using drones allows large areas of farmland to be sprayed in a fraction of the usual time while ensuring the balanced, uniform usage of chemicals. It reduces manual labor, lowers exposure to hazardous pesticides, and minimises crop damage.

Demonstration of drone-based spraying techniques in Chhattisgarh's Dhamtari | EXPRESS

the rural economy.

"Drone technology has the potential to transform the agricultural sector. It will help our farmers work with higher efficiency at a lower cost," Mishra said. He added that consistent

efforts are underway to establish Dhamtari as a model district for agricultural innovation, ensuring even small-scale farmers can leverage scientific techniques to boost their productivity and income.

A key highlight of this initiative is its collaboration with Common Services Centres e-Governance, a cornerstone of the Digital India initiative. By empowering these PACS entities to function as CSCs, the initiative turns local cooperatives into multi-purpose service hubs. Moving forward, rural communities will not only get access to cutting-edge drone services but also a suite of digital and government services under one roof.

According to agricultural experts, using drones allows large areas of farmland to be sprayed in a fraction of the usual time while ensuring the balanced, uniform usage of chemicals. It reduces manual labour, lowers exposure to hazardous pesticides, and minimises crop damage caused by stepping into dense fields. Furthermore, the deployment of local drone pilots is opening up new avenues for skill development and employment for rural youth.



Six French hotels joined one of the world's most exclusive clubs after receiving the coveted 'palace' distinction



Table with weather forecasts for various cities including Beijing, Colombo, Dhaka, Dubai, Houston, Istanbul, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Moscow, New York, Singapore, Toronto, and Washington.

Ceasefire hopes bleak as Israel, Hezbollah clashes continue despite Trump intervention

Fourth round of US-mediated Israel-Lebanon talks opens in Washington with demand for full truce topping the agenda

BEIRUT

ISRAELI drone strikes on southern Lebanon on Tuesday killed eight people, including two children and their father, a day after US President Donald Trump said Israel and the militant group Hezbollah agreed to dial back fighting.



Smoke rises from an Israeli airstrike that hit Qlaileh village, as it seen from the southern port city of Tyre, Lebanon | AP

The ongoing hostilities — despite Trump's announcement and a nominal ceasefire that began in April — are deepening displacement of Lebanon's conflict-weary population. They also are a significant sticking point in negotiations to extend a ceasefire in the US-Israeli war in Iran, as the Islamic Republic wants any such deal to end fighting in Lebanon, too.

Two semiofficial Iranian news agencies reported on Tuesday that the country cut off communication with mediators facilitating the ceasefire talks.

Israel warned it could strike Hezbollah strongholds in Beirut if the group continued targeting northern Israeli towns. "If Israeli towns continue to be attacked, we will evacuate and strike the Shiite Dahiyeh quarter in Beirut, Hezbollah's stronghold," Defence Minister Israel Katz told a conference.

Another round of talks between Israel and Lebanon began on Tuesday in Washington, where Lebanese negotiators are set to seek a full ceasefire that will prevent future attacks.

The talks, the first in over three decades, began in April. Hezbollah has rejected direct negotiations. They follow Israel's deepest incursion into Lebanon in 26 years and threats to strike Beirut's suburbs.

Israel vows retaliatory strikes

Israel warned it could strike Hezbollah strongholds in Beirut if the group continued targeting northern Israeli towns. "If Israeli towns continue to be attacked, we will evacuate and strike the Shiite Dahiyeh quarter in Beirut, Hezbollah's stronghold," Defence Minister Israel Katz told a conference.

The United States on Tuesday said it would like to end sanction waivers granted to countries purchasing Russian oil, saying the measures were introduced only to ease global supply concerns after the Iran war.

Rubio wants to end waivers on Russian oil sanctions

Testing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the waivers were aimed at easing the impact of rising oil prices on global economies. The waiver, first granted in March and extended twice since, expires on June 17. India is among the countries that have benefited.

WASHINGTON

THE United States on Tuesday said it would like to end sanction waivers granted to countries purchasing Russian oil, saying the measures were introduced only to ease global supply concerns after the Iran war.



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio | AFP

"There is the prospect before us, which could happen today, tomorrow or next week," Rubio said, while cautioning that there was no guarantee negotiations would ultimately succeed.

He also said Iran's supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei, wounded in US-Israeli attacks and unseem in public since taking office, is alive and increasingly active. "There are indications that he is increasingly engaging at some level," Rubio told lawmakers. AP/PTI

B'desh foreign min elected prez of UNGA 81st session

UNITED NATIONS

BANGLADESH'S Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman was on Tuesday elected as the President of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in a closely-contested election.



Khalilur Rahman

Rahman and Cyprus' Special Envoy for Multilateralism Andreas Kakouris were vying to lead the 193-member General Assembly in its 81st session, which will commence in September. In the closely contested election, the Bangladeshi diplomat secured 99 votes against Kakouris' 91 from 190 members present and voting, surpassing the 96-vote majority needed for victory.

Rahman takes over the baton from current General Assembly President and former German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, only the fifth female president of the organisation in its 80-year history. The UNGA hall erupted in applause as Baerbock announced the result. Rahman raised his hands in prayer after his victory was declared.

"Having obtained the required majority," Rahman "has been elected President of the General Assembly at its 81st session," Baerbock said, extending congratulations to her successor. Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman congratulated Khalilur Rahman.

Meanwhile, Rahman, said he will uphold the world body's work on human rights and engage all member states during his tenure. "As your president, I will dedicate myself to rebuilding trust, nurturing consensus and opening space for good faith negotiations that will lead to outcomes for all that are owned by all," Rahman said in his first remarks to the General Assembly after being elected. India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar congratulated Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman on his election. PTI

Russia intensifies aerial assault on Ukrainian cities, 18 killed, 131 hurt

KYIV

RUSSIA launched hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles against Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities overnight, killing at least 18 civilians and wounding 131 others, authorities said Tuesday. Russian President Vladimir Putin has escalated Moscow's aerial campaign in recent weeks in an apparent bid to take advantage of Ukraine's shortage of US-made air defense systems and persuade an increasingly pessimistic audience at home that Moscow is prevailing in the 4-year-old war.

Emergency rescue crews digging through the wreckage of apartment buildings pulled out the bodies of a 3-year-old child as well as those of a woman and her 8-year-old son in the central Ukrainian city of Dnipro, officials said. The attack stretched past dawn, with explosions reverberating across cities. Officials said 12 people were killed in Dnipro and six in Kyiv.

Residents had been on edge since Russia warned of a major aerial attack and urged foreign diplomats to leave. No embassies immediately reported damage on Tuesday. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealed for more US and European support, describing the massive overnight attack as "an explicit statement by Russia: If Ukraine is not protected from ballistic missiles and other missile strikes, those strikes will continue." AP

Pulte named acting intelligence chief, lacks experience

WASHINGTON

DONALD Trump has tapped Bill Pulte, head of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, to be the acting director of national intelligence — elevating a real estate scion without any clear national security credentials to a key post as the US remains at war with Iran.

Trump made the surprise announcement Tuesday on social media that Pulte would be replacing Tulsi Gabbard, the former Hawaii congresswoman who had served as the director of national intelligence.

Trump said Pulte will keep his other positions even as he fills in for Gabbard, who resigned last month after revealing her husband's cancer diagnosis.

The Republican president cited Pulte's work at the FHFA and as chair of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as evidence his experience overlaps with the skills needed to coordinate 18 federal agencies handling foreign and domestic security.

"William has deep experience managing the most sensitive matters in America, the safety and soundness of the Markets," Trump posted on Truth Social. AP



Bill Pulte

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALSDIVISION SRINAGAR. Gist of e-tender. e-NIT No: M&HDS/TS/2026-27/16/e-tendering, Dated: 01.06.2026 (Short Term)

Table with 8 columns: Name of Work, Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs), Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees), Time of completion (in days), AA Accorded Vide No., TS No, Earnest Money, Position of Funds. Includes items like SITC of Fire Alarm system at State Guest House East, Srinagar.

1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 01.06.2026 (18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 01.06.2026 (18.00 hrs)

EASTERN RAILWAY. The following e-Tenders are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General), Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Remote Control Building, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following works: Sl. No. : 1. Tender No. ELEG-OT-1334-2026-27, dtd. 29.05.2026.

THE TAMIL NADU COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED, AAVIN ILLAM, 3-A, CHAMBERS ROAD, NANDANAM, CHENNAI-600035. NOTICE INVITING TENDER (e-Submission Only) Dated: 02.06.2026

pnb Housing Finance Limited. Regd. Off: 9th Floor, Antriksh Bhawan, 22 K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001. Ph: 011-23357171, 23357172, 23705414, Web: www.pnbhousing.com

POSESSION NOTICE FOR immovable property as per Rule 8(1) and Appendix-IV. Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the PNB Housing Finance Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of Enforcement of Security Interest, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notices on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower(s) to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s) of receipt of the said notice(s).

Indian Overseas Bank. 3rd Floor, Annexe Building, Central Office, 763, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002 Phone: 044-2851 9453, 044-2854 0262. Email: iob15355@iob.bank.in

e-AUCTION 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 8(6)(9)(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 1,78,00,000/- EMD ₹ 17,80,000/- Bid Increment ₹ 5,00,000/- Item No.1b: 46216 Sq Ft., or thereabouts of vacant site forming part of Millennium Square Layout, Approved by DTCP bearing letter No.11094/2011 LA2, comprised in Sy.No.56/1A/4A, 56/1A/5B, 56/1A/5C, 56/1B/2A, 56/1B/2B and 56/2B/2 situated in Kattavakkam Village, to the extent of 46,216 sq.ft., of saleable area and clearly demarcated, comprising within a large extent of 3.39 acres of land standing in the name of M/s. Inno Estates Pvt. Ltd. Boundaries: North : Land in Sy. Nos.56/1A/4A part, 56/3 part & 56/1B/2 part, South : Land in Sy. Nos.56/1B/1 part, 56/2B/1 part, East : 30' Wide Road running across Sy. Nos.56/1B/2 part, 56/1B/2A part, West : Land in Sy. Nos.56/1A/4A part, 56/1A/5A part & 56/1B/1 part. Situated within the Sub Registration District of Walajabad and Registration District of Kancheepuram.

CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE CHANGE OF NAME MY DAUGHTER, D M R YAZHINISHREE, daughter of Thiru R.D.Madhavan, born on 19th February 2009 (District of Birth: Kancheepuram), residing at No. 62/G2, F1, 1st Floor, Rukmani Street, Sahanas Pukall, Ramapuram, KK Nagar, Chennai-600078, shall henceforth be known as YAZHINI SREE MADHAVAN R Revathy (Mother) Chennai, 12th May 2026.

CHANGE OF NAME I, VISHALI, daughter of Thiru Gajapathi, born on 9th September 1993, (District of Birth: Ranipet), residing at No. 5, T.N. Nagar, 8th Street, Palanipet, Arakonam Taluk, Vellore-631 002, shall henceforth be known as VAISHALI G Vishali Vellore, 22nd May 2026.



India to replace wholesale inflation with PPI

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

INDIA will soon adopt the Producer Price Index (PPI) as its primary framework for measuring inflation and pricing trends, gradually replacing the wholesale price index (WPI), commerce ministry said on Tuesday. The government will run both indices in parallel for five years before discontinuing the WPI.

Unlike the WPI, which captures price movements only for traded goods, the PPI will cover both goods and services and include separate output and input price indices. The transition process is already underway. The government will release



WPI and PPI data simultaneously over the next five years, after which the WPI will be phased out entirely.

As per the ministry, the move is aimed at aligning India's inflation measurement frame-

work with international best practices and recommendations of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said the new producer price indicators, including the Output Producer Price Index (Output PPI) and the Service Producer Price Index (Service PPI), will be released from June 15. "The new inflation framework will see WPI, Output PPI and Input PPI released every month, while the Service PPI will provide a quarterly snapshot of price trends in the services sector," DPIIT said. Currently, seven sectors have

been included in the service PPI. The ministry has sought data from finance ministry, including the GST department, and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to expand coverage by incorporating additional services.

The ministry said the PPI framework would allow the use of the double-deflation method, improving the measurement of real economic growth while avoiding double counting by separately accounting for changes in input and output prices. The PPI is also considered more consistent with the structure of national accounts.

WPI, PPI difference

WPI and output PPI are compiled on the basis of prices received by the producers. In WPI, weights are based on GVO estimates taken from national accounts. In output PPI, weighting diagram is based on supply table of national accounts

Benefits of PPI over WPI

PPI is consistent with national account framework and aligned with global best practices adopted by advanced economies. Availability of output PPI and Input PPI explains how inflation experienced by producer on input items are passed via the output being produced

GOVT CRACKDOWN



GAMING COS LOOK TO DIVERSIFY, EXPAND OVERSEAS

PADMINI DHURVARAJ @ Bengaluru

INDIA'S leading gaming companies are ramping up investments in e-sports, game publishing, digital entertainment and international markets as regulatory and tax pressures continue to reshape the domestic online gaming industry.

The recent Supreme Court verdict upholding the government's decision to levy 28% GST on full face value of bets has emerged as the latest setback for the sector, which had already been hit by the Centre's move to ban real-money online gaming in 2025. Industry estimates suggest the sector's tax liabilities could exceed ₹2 lakh crore, including pending tax demands, penalties and interest.

The ruling comes at a time when several gaming companies have begun diversifying beyond real-money gaming, which was once the industry's primary revenue driver.

Companies like Dream11, Mobile Premier League (MPL), Games24x7 and Zupzee expanded rapidly over the past decade as millions of Indians embraced online gaming platforms offering cash prizes. Strong investor interest, rising smartphone penetration and affordable

mobile data fuelled the sector's growth.

However, companies with broader business models are increasingly seen as better positioned to withstand taxation-related challenges.

Nazara Technologies, one of India's few listed gaming companies, has built a diversified portfolio spanning e-sports, mobile gaming, sports media and game publishing,

while also expanding its international footprint. Earlier this year, the company agreed to acquire a 50% stake in European gaming firms BlueTile Games and BestPlay Systems for ₹918 crore, strengthening its publishing and distribution capabilities.

Dream Sports, the parent of Dream11, has expanded beyond fantasy sports through investments in sports technology,

content and gaming ventures. MPL has diversified into skill-based mobile games, publishing initiatives and overseas markets, while Games24x7 has increased its focus on technology-led gaming products powered by AI alongside its core gaming platforms.

The industry's revenue profile has changed dramatically following regulatory action against real-money gaming.



DALAL-STREET

Korea surpasses India as sixth largest stock mkt

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE underperformance of India's equity market has started eroding its global standing. After Taiwan surpassed India as the fifth most valuable global market in terms of market capitalisation, the Indian stock market has now slipped below the South Korean market and now sits in seventh place.

The total market cap of Korea-listed firms has jumped to \$5 trillion, while India's has declined to \$4.8 trillion, as per Bloomberg data. The change comes as the Korean stock market's valuation has surged 85% this year while the Indian market has seen capital erosion.

The change also comes as global investors are favoring the AI trade, benefiting companies like Samsung and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co (TSMC). Semiconductor giants Samsung Electronics Co. and SK Hynix Inc together account for a significant share of Korea's Kospi index while TSMC accounts for 40-50% of Taiwan's market cap.

The AI and semiconductor firms have lifted the overall equity market in their respective countries. South Korea's KOSPI index has advanced about 100% in 2026, while Taiwan's main-board index is up 55%. US benchmark Nasdaq is up 21% in the same period. In contrast, the Indian benchmark Nifty50 has declined over 10% so far in 2026. The shift places Taiwan as the world's fifth-largest equity market. The US remain the largest market, followed by China, Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

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Mint Road observers expect MPC to hold key rates amid global risks

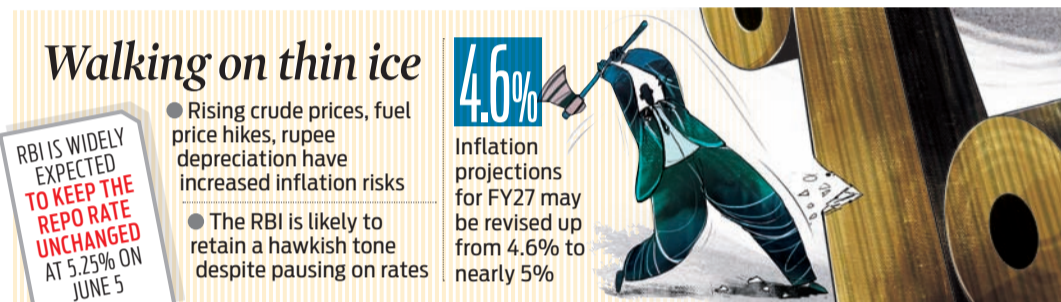
Central bank faces difficult choice between inflation and growth as crude oil prices go up

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

MOST Mint Road observers are expecting the monetary policy committee (MPC) to hold key policy rates at the forthcoming meeting scheduled for Friday even as it is expected to revise upwards the inflation forecast and downwards the growth numbers.

Since governor Sanjay Malhotra took charge in December 2024, the RBI panel has cut repo rates four times beginning February 2025 to 5.25%. But given the drought and inflation spectres, the central bank faces a difficult choice now. Its biggest worry is inflation as the crude oil price shock due to the West Asia war has upended all the fiscal maths of oil importing countries. "We expect the MPC to hold rates steady, but signal its readiness to respond should inflation risks intensify, and second-round pressures begin to emerge," StanChart bank said in a note.

While the percolation of the energy shock to real sector is



still unfolding, the RBI to flag a cloudy Brent crude outlook amid a large drawdown in energy inventories and lingering geopolitical risk, they added.

This, in conjunction with rising risk of El Niño, could tilt the RBI to raise FY27 inflation forecast, while adding downside risk to growth. We expect FY27 inflation to average 5.1%, incorporating a moderate El Niño impact.

Madhavi Arora, chief economist at Emkay Global, doesn't expect the rate-setting panel to tweak repo rate upwards. "We

expect the MPC to hold rates steady this week, while signalling readiness to respond should inflation risks intensify and second-round pressures begin to emerge. While the percolation of the energy shock to the real sector is still unfolding, the RBI is likely to flag a cloudy Brent outlook amid a drawdown in energy inventories and lingering geopolitical risks. This, in conjunction with the rising risk of El Niño, could lead the RBI to raise its FY27 inflation forecast, while adding downside risks to growth. Given the

rupee weakness, the RBI is likely to reiterate the clear delineation between monetary and forex policy under the inflation-targeting regime." Any future rate hike would be aimed at curbing domestic demand pressures or anchoring inflation expectations, rather than defending the INR, Arora said. Forex volatility will continue to be managed through reserves and regulatory measures, she added. "We will watch for policy measures aimed at encouraging USD inflows, including incentives for external borrowing and other capital flow channels."

India's May fuel exports hit 4-yr low due to domestic demand

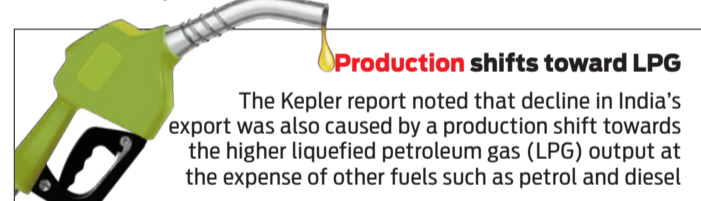
ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA'S exports of fuels, including petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), fell to their lowest level in nearly four years in May due to rising domestic demand. As per a report, the decline was aimed at ensuring adequate domestic supplies amid the conflict in West Asia and ongoing refinery maintenance.

The report, citing data from Kpler Ltd, noted that outbound

shipments of products including diesel, petrol and jet fuel averaged about 878,000 barrels a day last month, the lowest since October 2022 and down 31% from a year earlier.

The conflict, which has been ongoing for over 90 days, has led to the near closure of the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting the flow of crude oil and fuels to global customers, including India. India, which imports 88% of its crude oil needs, relies heavily



on this route, about 40% of its crude oil imports, 50% of LNG and 90% of LPG.

The report noted that India's export decline was also caused by a production shift towards

higher liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) output at the expense of other fuels. LPG is a politically sensitive household fuel used by millions of consumers for cooking, and India imported

about 90% of its needs from the Middle East prior to the war.

"This shift reduced the availability of export barrels, with gasoline and gasoil exports seeing the largest impact," said Sumit Ritolia, modeling and refining manager at Kpler.

India's refiners increased LPG production last month to a record 52,000 tonne a day, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Petroleum Ministry, said last week.

OYO parent PRISM secures Sebi nod for ₹6,500 cr IPO

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

TRAVEL and hospitality firm PRISM (parent company of OYO) has received approval from the capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise ₹6,500 crore through its proposed initial public offering (IPO), according to people aware of the development.

The company had filed its Confidential Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the market regulator at the end of Dec 2025 as part of its listing plans. The filing followed shareholders' approval at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held on December 20, 2025, where the firm received consent to raise up to ₹6,650 crore via a fresh issue of equity shares.

The proposed IPO is expected to value the company at around \$7-8 billion, according to people familiar with the matter.

The company has appointed Axis Capital, Citibank, Goldman Sachs, ICICI Securities, SBI Caps, JM Financials, InCred Capital and Intensive Fiscal Services as the book-running lead managers for the IPO.

The company will now file a public Updated Draft Red Herring Prospectus (UDRHP-1) which will be open for public comments for 21 days. As per sources, the company is planning to file this by early July. Sources said PRISM is currently evaluating market conditions and broader listing timelines while it prepares to file its UDRHP-1.

The development comes as PRISM strengthen its presence across its key markets, India, the US, and Europe and increases its focus on self-operated hotels and the growth of premium brands such as Sunday Hotels & Palette Hotels.

Godrej Industries enters wealth management biz

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

GODREJ Industries Group on Tuesday announced its entry into the wealth management business with the launch of Godrej Wealth, setting a target of managing ₹1 lakh crore in assets under management (AUM) by 2031 as it seeks to tap India's expanding affluent and high-net-worth investor segment.

The new venture will be housed under Godrej Investments, a subsidiary of Godrej Industries Group, and will operate alongside Godrej Capital, the group's lending business, forming part of its broader financial services platform. The



company plans to expand the wealth management business to 35 locations across the country over the next five years.

The launch comes at a time when India is witnessing strong wealth creation, rising financialisation of savings, increasing entrepreneurship and a growing transfer of wealth across generations.

India adds 371.5 MW data centre capacity in 2025

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

INDIA'S data centre industry continued its rapid expansion in 2025, adding 371.5 MW of live capacity during the year, up from 361.6 MW in 2024, according to the India Data Centre Market Update 2025 report by Knight Frank India.

Total operational capacity rose to 1.6 GW in 2025, and the sector is likely to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 30% over the next five years.

The report noted that India's operational data centre capacity has increased five-fold from 296 MW in 2016. Mumbai and Bengaluru together accounted



for 174 MW of the capacity added in 2025. The report said the country's data centre ecosystem is poised to play a key role in supporting India's ambition of becoming a trillion-dollar digital economy. The sector currently has 322 MW of capacity under construction, expected to become operational over the next few years.

Adani Group capex at record ₹1.53 lakh cr in FY26

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ADANI Group companies reported a record capital expenditure of ₹1.53 lakh crore (₹16.1 bn) and an all-time high EBITDA of ₹94,834 crore (₹10 bn) in the financial year 2025-26.

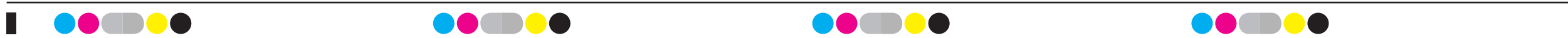
The investment programme, which the Ahmedabad-based port-to-power conglomerate claims is the largest annual capex undertaken by an Indian corporate group lifted the port-

folio's gross asset base to ₹7.85 lakh crore (₹82.8 bn), with nearly 80% of spending directed towards energy, utilities, transport, and logistics businesses. Consolidated EBITDA rose 5.6% year-on-year, as per the group's annual results and credit compendium released on Tuesday. "Core infrastructure" platform contributed 87% of this.

"FY26 marks an important in-

flexion point for the Adani Portfolio, as Adani Portfolio companies began its next phase capital cycle. The scale of capital deployment during the year is comparable to the asset base we had built over our first 25 years, reflecting both the infrastructure opportunity before India and the group's confidence in its long-term growth trajectory," said the group in a statement.

Several strategic assets entered operations during FY26 and since, including 5.1 GW of renewable energy capacity and 1.38 GWh of battery energy storage systems (now increased to 3.37 GWh) in the energy & utility vertical, Navi Mumbai International Airport, Guwahati Terminal and the Ganga Expressway (April 2026) in the transport & logistics vertical and copper smelter in the primary industries vertical.





Former India leg-spinner Sairaj Bahutule was appointed as the spin bowling coach of the men's national team, having worked in the India U-19 and India A set-up earlier. "The BCCI is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Sairaj Bahutule as the Spin Bowling Coach of the Indian Cricket Team (Senior Men)," the BCCI said in a statement.

'MEETING EXPECTATIONS OF EX-CHAMPS NOT MAIN GOAL'

Gukesh's coach Gajewski backs the 20-year-old world champion to bounce back to his best

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Oslo

OVER the last year, a number of former world champions have taken aim at D Gukesh's perceived lack of form, lack of titles and lack of big wins. The cacophony — the white noise so to speak — has been led by Garry Kasparov, Magnus Carlsen and some of the other elite GMs have run with the brief.

To all of those GMs, the Gukesh camp issued a message on Tuesday. "I don't think meeting the expectations of former world champions is his main goal," says Grzegorz Gajewski, Gukesh's primary coach. Considering the Indian world champion has seldom used any of his social media platforms to respond, this is the clearest sign yet that he hasn't been too bothered with the comments aimed at his throne since becoming world champion on that surreal Singapore night in December 2024.

But the Pole, who has been by Gukesh's side in some capacity or the other since the Wijk aan Zee event in 2023, conceded that performances 'have been disappointing'.

However, he says 'it has been full of lessons, challenges'. "His Classical results have been disappointing," he says just after dropping his ward on the eighth round of Norway Chess. But he's careful to balance that statement. "People understand that he achieved a certain level... many thought that he was overperforming for a 17-year-old, after that he's been fairly underperforming. I think it's just a matter of time for him to stabilise."

The World No. 20 has lost a ton of rating points since becoming champion (almost 50 in the last year alone) but Gajewski says he can see certain changes over the last few weeks. "Changes" in this context is over-the-board as well as away from the playing hall. "The way he has been performing here, there is optimism," he says. "It's not perfect, obviously, it's

not matching our ambitions but it's better. There's an improvement." When asked to explain, the 40-year-old says it's about his 'resilience'. "He had a couple of good games in Tata Steel and that was it. Rest of the tournament was bad, Prague was also bad. Here it's not like he has played great chess, it's normal. It's not been his A game for sure but it's easy to perform well when it's your A game. For me, the important thing is for him to keep his level regardless."

Even within this answer, the resilience is of two types. One, this ability to fight past below-par results and keep at it. And, two, the ability to convert losing positions to wins. It's what he did against R Praggnanandhaa in one of the earlier rounds

PADDY & GUKESH IN TOUCH

Gajewski revealed that Gukesh and Paddy Upton, the mental conditioning coach who was with him in 2024, are 'talking'. "They have been in touch," he said.

sharp." The 2732-rated player, who has already put in the full team of seconds for the World Championship match against Javokhir Sindarov, hasn't had a lot of time to focus purely on training because of the calendar. It's one of the reasons why he decided to pull out of the Grand Chess Tour.

While Gajewski refused to comment on the pull-out itself — "I'm not allowed to divulge those details" — he says it has been easier to find the balance between competitive matches and working on new ideas since deciding to withdraw.

"Finding the balance is a constant struggle in the current calendar," he says. "After we withdrew from the GCT, it has become a little easier for him but the last year was crazy but he also gained a lot of experience."

Full story: newindianexpress.com



D Gukesh gives an autograph to a young fan | MICHAL WALUSZA / NORWAY CHESS

Pragg beats Carlsen again, creates history

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Oslo

JUST as a very pleasant summer day in Norway's capital was starting to give way to something colder, R Praggnanandhaa created heat on the chess board to take down Magnus Carlsen for a second time in the same tournament.

The Indian 20-year-old, who had beaten the Norwegian World No. 1 with the white pieces last week, repeated the same trick, this time with the black pieces.

With this victory, he also joins one of the very few players to have beaten the 35-year-old five-time world champion thrice in Classical chess. The signs about Carlsen being in danger were there even before the start



R Praggnanandhaa | MICHAL WALUSZA / NORWAY CHESS

of round eight. In his customary pre-round small interview with the local broadcaster, he admitted to feeling shit.

And he played a very uncharacteristic match from start to finish. In the end, after he equalised a dicey-looking position, he walked his king into a forced checkmate as long as the young Indian could spot it. And Pragg,

who himself has been having an up and down tournament, spotted the continuation. After 47 moves, it was level. Seconds later, the mood changed in the commentary box as experienced broadcasters couldn't keep their excitement down. The eval bar jumped from 0.0 to #7 — a blunder of the highest order — after Carlsen's move to Kf4. With just 44 seconds on the clock, his opponent had to find

48. Qd4. And Pragg found it immediately. As soon as he played it, Carlsen's already shaky body language dropped. He fiddled around with the king for two more moves but he had already realised that his king was about to be barbecued on the board.

The win moves Praggmanandhaa to third on the table of round eight. In his customary pre-round small interview with the local broadcaster, he admitted to feeling shit.

Results: (R6) R Praggnanandhaa bt M Carlsen; (Rd 7; Monday) R Praggnanandhaa bt A Firouzja, M Carlsen bt V Keymer (Armageddon), D Gukesh bt W So (Armageddon) D Deshmukh bt K Humpy (Armageddon), A Muzychuk bt J Wenjun (Armageddon), B Asaubayeva bt Z Jiner.

with two rounds to go. Carlsen, who collected a fourth Classical loss in eight, will hope this isn't the start of something terminal.

Results: (R6) R Praggnanandhaa bt M Carlsen; (Rd 7; Monday) R Praggnanandhaa bt A Firouzja, M Carlsen bt V Keymer (Armageddon), D Gukesh bt W So (Armageddon) D Deshmukh bt K Humpy (Armageddon), A Muzychuk bt J Wenjun (Armageddon), B Asaubayeva bt Z Jiner.

Delighted Dubey ready for international challenge

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @Chennai

ON the back of a record-breaking Ranji Trophy season last year — where he scalped 69 wickets — Vidarbha's left arm spinner Harsh Dubey earned his first IPL contract midway through the 2025 campaign. Donning the Sunrisers Hyderabad jersey, he played three matches and gained valuable experience. A year later, his place in the franchise was cemented and with continued performance, Dubey earned a call-up to the Indian senior team for the one-off Test and three-match ODI series against Afghanistan later this month.

"It feels very great to be part of the Indian team. When I first got the news, I thought I was still dreaming of getting selected for the Indian team. It took five minutes for me to sink in and think that yes, I am there in the squad," he told this daily after the IPL eliminator.

He opened up on how his family sacrificed a lot for him in his journey towards getting selected for India. "I think there are a lot of people who sacrificed for me and they have put



Harsh Dubey (L) played his first full IPL season for SRH this year | BCCI

effort in me. So I think this is great for everyone I feel. Their good wishes and blessings helped me perform," he added.

The spinner credited his time playing matches at the TNCA first division, adding that it improved his skill set. "It was a very good experience as I learnt to bowl on different wickets against good quality teams. The quality of the Chennai league was good and it automatically made me improve my game," revealed the 23-year-old.

That experience, also translated into good performances in first-class cricket. "It played

a big role in my selection. For the last two seasons in Vidarbha I have been performing consistently across formats. I also got to lead Vidarbha, after which I had a fruitful India 'A' stint. So all this will come in handy, if I get an opportunity to play for the country," he said.

While the butterflies in his stomach keep him excited in the lead-up to the series, Dubey said that he is mentally ready to grab the opportunity.

"If I get an opportunity I will grab it with both hands. I am mentally prepared to play for India. Winning the Ranji Trophy is not easy and once you are part of the (winning) process, you get to learn a lot, adapt a lot and also handle the pressure and expectation. The quality of first-class cricket in our country is good and last season almost all the top players participated and this prepares you for international cricket. Plus, the India 'A' experience too gave a glimpse of what to expect in international cricket. I think India 'A' was the last step before playing for the country," he explained.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

LEGEND SPEAKS

Shuttlers should be consistent & winning more, says Padukone

SAPTARSHI C @Bengaluru

INDIAN badminton is at a stage where balancing performance, recovery, and long-term development has become more important than ever. Speaking about the current state of the sport, India legend Prakash Padukone stressed the need for the country's leading shuttlers to manage their schedules more carefully.

"The players need to do much better than what they are doing now, especially the support they are getting now; they should be winning more tournaments and be much more consistent," Padukone, the first Indian to win the All England Open in 1980, told this daily.

Referring to elite players such as Lakshya Sen and Ayush Shetty, the former World No 1 said that constantly chasing ranking points by playing numerous tournaments may not always be the best approach, highlighting the importance of rest, recovery, and targeted preparation for major events.

"They need to be more selective with the tournaments they play and focus on performing well in those events. If they consistently reach semifinals, it will earn them the ranking points they need," he said. While expressing optimism about the future of Indian badminton, Padukone highlighted an area of concern in the women's game. He noted that while the technical abilities of Indian women shuttlers are on par with international standards, there remains a significant need to improve their physical conditioning.

"If women are losing out on tournaments, a lack of intensity could be one of the reasons. They need to focus a little more on physical pa-



Former World No 1 Prakash Padukone and Umesh Revankar, executive vice chairman of Shriram Finance, at an event in Bengaluru on Tuesday | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sindhu advances; Sen, Srikanth out

PV Sindhu marched into the Rd 2 of the Indonesia Open but Kidambi Srikanth and Lakshya Sen (both men's singles) suffered an opening-round exit in Jakarta on Tuesday. Meanwhile, men's doubles pairing of H Amsakarunan and MR Arjun also advanced.

rameters. They need to build a combination of strength, endurance, agility and power to be more consistent at the highest level," Padukone stressed. While addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday during the announcement of a partnership between Shriram Finance and the Padukone School of Badminton (PSB), Padukone stressed the importance of change in mindset — focussing on wins rather than rankings.

"Rankings are important, but players need to focus on winning major tournaments such as the All England Open and the Asian Championships. Success in those events will naturally improve their rankings," he said. His comments highlighted the importance of a balanced, long-term approach.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Ex-India coach believes schools key in growth of basketball

ENS @Chennai

FORMER Indian basketball team coach Veselin Matic felt that bringing basketball closer to schools will transform the sport in the country. The Serbian believed that the schools already are equipped with facilities and coaches to train children. "My idea is to bring a sport closer to school because schools are much better organised than sports clubs," he said in a virtual interaction.

Matic — who was in the country as part of the International Sports School Organisation (ISSO's) PE Educator upskill program in Delhi which concluded on Tuesday — also believed that the country does not have enough coaches for the players they produce and said they need to upskill. "The only coaches who work professionally are those in the Sports Authority of India (SAI). And then the rest are in state academies. There are few in Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Maharashtra. Why can't we bring an initiative centered around schools?" he said. Many great basketball players have been found as talents through the college system in the United States of America (USA). It has served the developmental pipeline for the National Basketball Association (NBA). Europe has a strong club system, where prominent outfits like FC Barcelona and Real Madrid establish youth academies.

While Matic vouched for schools to develop basketball players in the country, he believed that there is talent in colleges too. "I think about (the college system) it but it is important we begin with schools because that is where the facilities are."

Full story: newindianexpress.com



EXPRESS READ

Abhay, Veer bow out of British Open squash

BIRMINGHAM: India's Abhay Singh and Veer Chotrani lost to top-10 ranked players in their respective men's second round games to bow out of the British Open squash here. World No 24 Abhay went down to Egyptian world No 8 Mohamed Zakaria 9-11, 4-11, 11-7, 10-12 in a close contest. While world No 40 Chotrani fell to world No 6 Joel Makin, the Welshman winning 12-10, 11-9, 11-3. Anahat Singh and Ramit Tandon had made first round exits last week.

State aquatics meet: Aces are champions

CHENNAI: Aces won the overall title at the 80th Senior State aquatic championship held at Dr. TR Paarivender Aquatic Complex, SRMIST, Kattankulathur, organised by Chengalpattu District Aquatic Association. Results: Men: 50m Butterfly: B Benedicton Rohit (TDSAT) 00:23.82; 200m Butterfly: I. V Kaveen Raj (Turtles) 2:06.30; 2. M. Abdul Hafeez 2:10.22; 3. M. Abdullah (ACES) 2:10.57 (All NMRs) Individual titles: Men: V Kaveen Raj; Women: Shreenthini N. Team titles: Men: Aces, 132 pts. Women: SDAT: 125 pts. Overall: ACES, 256 pts.

South Indian volleyball tourney: SRM winners

CHENNAI: SRM Institute of Science and Technology men's volleyball team emerged victorious and took home the winners trophy at the South India level volleyball tournament organized by Thamizhannai Volleyball Club, Thanjavur. With this remarkable victory, the team successfully retained the title. In the semifinal match, the team dominated SAI Calicut Results: Final: SRM IST bt DG Vaishnav 25-19, 25-21, 21-25, 23-25, 15-5. Semifinals: SRM IST bt SAI Calicut 32-30, 25-14, 25-22.

Scaled-down CGM tournament to return with eight Grandmasters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE fourth edition of the Chennai Grand Masters, India's biggest elite Classical chess event, is set to be scaled back. The competition, scheduled to run for a week from July 16, will only comprise eight players (down from 10).

The organisers are still working out on the Challengers section for the event but as of now, the working assumption is that this year's tournament will only consist of the Masters section.

Quantbox will return as the title sponsor but some of the persisting geopolitical issues have affected the tournament. With Chennai also not having the greatest connectivity to European cities, that has also thrown a spanner into the

works.

The packed nature of the calendar has also meant a truncated space to work with. But it's understood that the organisers didn't want to compromise on the quality of the field.

So, just like the first few years, the average rating of the roster will be above 2700 ELO. Like last year, it's learned that the tournament will be held in a hotel.

The ticketing processes will begin in due course. There are plans to have a fan zone as well as allowing the paying public access to live commentary.

It's also understood that one of the big Chennai-based GMs will be part of the all-men elite field. One of the eight players, though, could be M Pranesh, who topped the Challengers

section last year. In April, the teen was a vital member of the R Vaishali camp during her win at the women's Candidates in Cyprus.

GCL fights for calendar space with Olympiad

The fourth edition of the Global Chess League (GCL) will stay in India. But the franchise-based league, to be held in a south Indian city over the first two weeks of September, will have to fight with the Olympiad for space.

It's why some of the players may have to choose if they want to be involved in the FIDE-approved league before flying out to Samarkhand to feature in the Olympiad, a blue-riband FIDE competition. As it stands, GCL is finishing on September 13 while the Olympiad is scheduled to start two days later.

AGENCIES @Paris

ALEXANDER Zverev laid down a marker at the French Open on Tuesday with a straight-sets victory over rising Spanish star Rafael Nadal to book his spot in the semifinals.

With the crushing 7-6 (3), 6-1, 6-3 win over the 19-year-old, Zverev advanced to his fifth Roland Garros semifinal in the last six years. The second seed is considered the heavy favourite to win his first Grand Slam

title, following the shock early departures of top seed Jannik Sinner and 24-time Major champion Novak Djokovic last week in Paris.

Zverev has finished runner-up three times in Grand Slam finals, including at Roland Garros two years ago.

"I want to win the matches that are ahead of me, that is my goal, that is my aim," said Zverev, who has only dropped one set en route to the last four.

"I just want to keep going,



Alexander Zverev reacts after winning the quarterfinal tie in Paris on Tuesday | AFP

FRENCH OPEN

Second seed Zverev brushes off Jodar to reach last-four stage

but yeah, we'll see."

Kostyuk takes giant step

Meanwhile, Marta Kostyuk beat compatriot Elina Svitolina to reach her maiden Grand Slam semifinal and become the first Ukrainian woman to reach the last four at Roland Garros in the professional era.

Kostyuk, the 15th seed, overcame Svitolina 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, and will take on Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva on Thursday for a place in the final.

Earlier on Monday, Aryna Sabalenka overpowered fellow four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka in the women's singles last 16.

World No 1 Sabalenka was too strong for a battling Osaka, winning 7-5, 6-3. The Belarusian will next face Diana Shnaider.

Select results: Men: Q/Fs: A Zverev bt R Jodar 7-6 (3), 6-1, 6-3. Women: Q/Fs: M Kostyuk bt E Svitolina 6-3, 2-6, 6-2; M Andreeva bt S Cirstea 6-0, 6-3. 4th Rd: A Sabalenka bt N Osaka 7-5, 6-3.



FROM working under Dr APJ Abdul Kalam on India's early missile programmes to leading the Defence Research and Development Organisation, former DRDO chairman Dr G Sathesh Reddy has been at the forefront of the country's defence trajectory. In an interaction with TNIE, he reflects on his journey, India's growing self-reliance in defence technologies and the future of warfare.

Tell us about your journey from a remote village to becoming one of India's leading missile scientists

I was born in a remote village in Nellore district, where we had no electricity until around Class 6. My mother had a dream that I would become an engineer, and I eventually became the first from my village to do so. After moving from Telugu medium to English medium, I overcame my fear of speaking English, chose to stay in India and joined DRDO, a decision that changed my life.

The turning point came when I joined Hyderabad's missile laboratory and met Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. After speaking to me about my background and giving me a book on rocket science, he assigned me to the navigation group, a decision that shaped my entire career.

Under Dr Kalam's leadership, the country launched the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme, including Prithvi, Agni, Akash, Trishul and Nag. I had the opportunity to work on the early Prithvi and Agni programmes and witness his leadership firsthand. His vision, ability to inspire people and commitment to self-reliance laid the foundation for India's missile capabilities and paved the way for programmes such as BrahMos.



PHOTO: SHRIKANTHAN VEENUSIRI

Ascientist's INDIAN DREAM

Dr G Sathesh Reddy talks to TNIE about his early life, DRDO journey and India's hypersonic ambitions

For a layperson, what makes BrahMos different from other missiles?

Generally, missiles are ballistic in nature, meaning they follow an elliptical path. If you throw a stone, it also follows an elliptical path. A ballistic missile rises to a certain altitude and then follows such a trajectory towards its target.

A cruise missile is different. It flies continuously at a very low altitude, like an air-

craft, sometimes as low as 100 metres. Because it flies low, enemy radars find it much harder to detect due to horizon limitations. Within cruise missiles, there are subsonic and supersonic variants. The American Tomahawk is subsonic, travelling below the speed of sound. BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile, travelling at nearly three times the speed of sound while flying at low altitude. That combination of

speed and flight profile makes detection and interception extremely difficult.

Why is BrahMos so difficult to intercept? It is difficult, very difficult. That is why the next generation is hypersonic missiles, which travel at around Mach 6, six times the speed of sound. India is also working in this area.

Hypersonic systems use a scramjet engine, and recently the indigenous scramjet engine was successfully tested for 1,200 seconds, a major achievement that gives us tremendous confidence about future hypersonic missile capabilities.

Today, I can confidently say that India has become self-reliant in missiles and has also developed strong capabilities in radars, sonars, torpedoes, AWACS, tanks, guns, armoured vehicles and ships. It has been a journey of three to four decades, but India has progressed on a very fast trajectory.

Which areas are critical for India's next phase of defence self-reliance?

There are still gaps in areas such as aero engines, ship propulsion systems, advanced sensors, detectors and specialised materials, though significant R&D is underway to reduce import dependence.

The confidence of the Armed Forces in DRDO today is far higher than it was a decade ago. At the same time, there is always a balance between the Armed Forces' need for immediate capabilities and the time required for indigenous development.

India is focusing strongly on self-reliance in advanced technologies, including hypersonic missiles, while development cycles have reduced from nearly 10 years to around four years. Indigenous content in the Armed Forces has risen from about 30% to nearly 65%, and I believe it could reach 80% within the next five or six years.

Private industry and startups are playing a major role, particularly in drones and cybersecurity, with nearly 90% of the drone ecosystem driven by startups. Defence spending has grown from about ₹2.5 lakh crore in 2013-14 to ₹7.85 lakh crore today, while defence exports reached about ₹39,000 crore in 2025-26, reflecting India's transition from a major importer to a growing exporter of defence equipment.

Why is aero-engine development, particularly the Kaveri programme, so challenging?

Engine development is an extremely tough task. It involves advanced materials, processing technologies, manufacturing technologies and numerous subsystems. All of these are highly complex areas.

Regarding Kaveri, I strongly believe that any development programme succeeds best when there is a stable application requirement. When the Kaveri

programme started, it was intended for the LCA.

However, both the country and the LCA programme were evolving. Over time, the LCA's requirements changed significantly, and the specifications Kaveri was originally designed for no longer matched the final aircraft requirements. As a result, we had to use an imported engine. But let me tell you, Kaveri itself has been developed. The dry version, producing around 47 kilonewtons of thrust, can be used for applications such as UAVs and similar platforms.

Many IIT graduates choose the private sector over DRDO or ISRO. How do you view this trend?

Students who get into IITs are undoubtedly bright, but that does not mean those who study elsewhere are not. Take Dr APJ Abdul Kalam himself; he was not from an IIT. Many IIT graduates have also joined DRDO and ISRO, including leaders such as Avinash Chander and Venugopal.

What has changed is the ecosystem. Today, nearly 75% of IIT graduates stay in India, while startups, incubation centres such as T-Hub and T-Works, venture funding and mentoring have created new opportunities. India now has around 2.35 lakh startups, nearly 90% led by young people.

Looking back, what have been the most memorable and challenging moments of your career?

Mission Shakti was the most memorable and defining moment of my career. It was also the most stressful, but successfully delivering on that mission was immensely satisfying. Another turning point was being posted to DRDL under Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, which shaped my career. While there were disappointments, particularly failed tests, I believe failures are the greatest teachers.

Read the full interview on TNIE website

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Canara Bank. POSSESSION NOTICE (SECTION 13(4)). Details of the property and terms of sale.

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DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY. All that piece and parcel of land measuring 1.95 acres comprised in S. No. 1/2, situated in S.No.159 in Nemilichery Village, in Alandur Taluk (previously Tambaram Taluk), Kancheepuram District, within the Registration District of South Chennai and Sub Registration District of Pallavaram.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY. Property stands in the name Mr.Subramani.G. All that piece and Parcel of the Land and Building, Comprised in S.No.608/11, Ward C, Block No.32, T.S.No.50/1, bearing Door No.27/1, Situated at Thirumullaivaoyal Road, Kovilpathal Village, Ambattur Taluk, Presently Avadi Taluk, Thiruvallur District, Avadi Municipality Limits, Thirumullaivaoyal Road, Land Measuring 4360 Sq.ft or 424 Sq.mtrs., Boundaries hereunder North by: Land Measuring 2 Cent Settled to Mr.G.Mohan; South by: Mr.Rajendran Land; East by: 20 Feet Road; West by: Solid out Land of O.R.Rangan; Measuring: East to West on the Northern Side: 18.6 Meter; East to West on the Southern Side: 18.6 Meter; North to South on the Eastern Side: 22.7 Meter; North to South on the Western Side: 22.3 Meter; Situated within the Sub-Registration District of Ambattur and Registration District of North Chennai.



DAY'S DIARY

Gemini 4 launched

On this day in 1965, NASA launched Gemini IV, the first multi-day space mission and the second crewed mission of the Gemini series

THE CREW

James McDivitt and Edward White successfully completed the four-day, 62-orbit flight between June 3 and 7. Edward became the first American to conduct a spacewalk



SPACEWALK

The Extravehicular Activity (EVA) by Edward started over the Pacific Ocean near Hawaii and lasted 23 minutes, ending over the Gulf of Mexico



OBJECTIVE

The Gemini program provided a critical bridge between the one-person Mercury program and the sophisticated Apollo missions to the Moon

Lunchbox ideas for school

PG 3

RAKSHITHA PRIYA G

THE language of style is no longer subtle. In an era where minimalism reigned, the pendulum has swung decisively in the other direction: maximalism. From statement nails and stacked jewellery to experimental make-up and personalised fashion, self-expression today is louder, shinier, and unapologetically visible. Youngsters today focus on self-expression to showcase their individuality in this fast-moving society. In this landscape, the body itself becomes an extension of personal branding, where even the smallest details are reimagined. And increasingly, that experimentation is extending to places once left untouched, including the one feature most people notice first: the smile.

What was once limited to orthodontic correction is now stepping into the realm of style as the faculties of dentistry start marketing teeth accessories through social media. These accessories are finding their way into conversations around personal aesthetics in metro cities.

What are these?

“Tooth gems, grills and even tooth tattoos — all of these have no clinical significance and are purely done for aesthetics. These are style statements, and they are largely influenced by pop culture,” says Dr Namradha Umapathy, dental surgeon at Atom Dental, Anna Nagar. While the trend may seem new, its roots go back more than a decade. Namradha recalls how one of her patients’ mothers had gotten tooth gems in the early 2010s, and adds that this renewed visibility is closely tied to social media. “People always had the interest, but they didn’t know where to get it done. Now, with dentists posting more on Instagram, people are becoming aware that these procedures are easily available,” she adds.

Bengaluru-based Dr Misba Aftreen Syed, a dentist who previously practiced in Chennai, situates the trend within a broader shift in beauty culture. “Hair, skin, nails, teeth — they’re all visible, and literally every part has been worked on. We bedazzle every part of our body. So now teeth are also getting on the trend,” she says.

The range of options is wide and constantly evolving. From single Swarovski crystals to elaborate, custom-made grills cast like jewellery, the possibilities are expansive. “Under gems, you can customise it to anything you want — the shape of the stone, the colour. And with grills, you have even more flexibility. It’s cast like jewellery, so you can design it in any shape or form,” Dr Misba explains. “The price for these procedures varies from profes-



SPARKLY SMILE, LITERALLY

Once restricted to pop culture idols, teeth accessories are making their entry into the lives of the general public

sional, design and material — silver, gold, Swarovski crystals or any other lead-free oral safe crystals — however, they are available starting from ₹1,500.

The procedure itself remains relatively simple for most clients, adding to its appeal. For tooth gems, the tooth is first cleaned and prepped, followed by the application of bonding agents and a dental composite to fix the gem. The process can take anywhere between a few minutes and under an hour, depending on the design. Grills, however, require a more elaborate approach, involving scans or impressions, model-making, and casting, often taking several days. While gems can last anywhere between a couple of months and nearly a year, depending on maintenance, experts advise limiting continuous wear to around six months, with a short break before opting for another application. Repeating the procedure on the same tooth too frequently is discouraged to prevent enamel damage.

Aesthetic awareness

Dental professionals emphasise that this trend cannot be entirely disconnected from oral health. “Food accumulation happens much more easily around tooth gems, and



WORKS BY PAVATAARINI



TOOTH GRILLS BY ATOM DENTAL

plaque formation is quicker. If it is not maintained properly, the enamel can demineralise, and it can lead to the initial stages of cavities,” warns Namradha. However, she is quick to clarify that risks are largely manageable with proper maintenance of oral hygiene and regular visits to the dentist. Removal of tooth gems requires professional intervention to avoid damaging the enamel. Tooth grills, on the other hand, can be made removable, just like jewellery.

The growing popularity of the trend has also opened doors beyond clinical settings. Tattoo artist Pavataarini, founder of Ouroboro Tattoo Studio in the city, represents a new wave of practitioners bringing a fashion-forward lens to tooth gems. Her entry into the space was personal as much as professional. She says, “I’ve been insecure about my smile, so I mainly wanted to learn it for myself. With tattoos and piercings, they’re permanent and painful. I wanted something that’s not permanent and also painless.”

Her work also focuses on aesthetics and individuality. “I don’t just place it in the centre of the tooth. I look at how a person smiles, whether they want it fully visible or slightly hidden. My fashion background helps me guide them on what will actually look good,” adds the NIFT alumna.

The clientele, too, reflects this intersection. These are commonly preferred by people under the age of 35 and who work in creative or entrepreneurial fields. “A lot of people want to get it, but they hesitate because of their jobs since these are not completely professional,” says Pavataarini.

Clients are getting as creative as they can while choosing their designs. “The most popular (design) is a butterfly. If you want multiple gems, we can do a star. I recently got to do something a little bit innovative. There was a person who wanted a South Indian-inspired gem. So we created a *bindi*-style work using a red raindrop-shaped gem and one round gem,” she recalls, adding that she did a customised tooth gem for Paal Dabba, an indie artiste. “Since he had nice big teeth, we were able to recreate the design of *paal dabba* (milk container) using three multi coloured gems.”

The professionals emphasise that people need to make an informed choice of where they are getting the procedure done. Dr Misba concludes, “In chasing trends, you don’t want to do something that’s going to irreversibly damage your teeth. Don’t go for the cheapest option, go for the safest one.”

Though the city has been conservative about this concept, just as with tattoos once, tooth accessories are navigating the space between aspiration and acceptance. For now, they remain a niche that sparkles.



SONU M KOTHARI

AT Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Concert Hall, the events unfolding on a show day are familiar. The usual practice of curtains parting, dim lights filling the stage, props in different size and shape covering the space, and then there is a character under the spotlight, standing centre stage, enthral-ling the audience.

While the setting is the same, the story that is set to play out this weekend is distinct. It is a performance that highlights the resilience, determination, and the invincible spirit of a woman. *Ananya*, a Hindi stage production traces the journey of a young woman who refuses to let adversity define her.

Presented by Stage and Spotlight, *Ananya* is adapted from an award-winning Marathi play of the same name that completed over 200 shows, the Hindi version has already drawn audiences in Mumbai, Indore, and Jaipur, earning acclaim storytelling style.

At the heart of the play is Ananya, a middle-class college topper whose future appears perfectly mapped out — a successful career ahead and a loving relationship turning into a marriage. But a tragic accident alters everything overnight.

Through moments of heart-break, humour, vulnerability, and courage, the production explores not just her journey, but also the emotional evolution of those around her, particularly the men in her life — her father, brother, and partner.

For writer and director of the play, Pratap Phad, the roots of *Ananya* lie in a deeply personal memory from his younger days. “When I was young, I used to read a lot of books. I read a Marathi book called *Aanand Kase Jagave* (How to live happily). In one of the examples, there was a girl who survived an accident. Reading

Hope under spotlight



that occurrence had a very big impact on me. From there, the story was born, and the character Ananya was born,” he shares.

What began as a 45-minute Marathi play for a theatre competition in 2009-10 soon grew into a two-hour long play. According to Pratap, the overwhelming audience response convinced him that Ananya’s story deserved a wider platform. “It’s not just about a girl. It’s a story about everyone. *Ananya* has a universal connection. It is the story of a human being who fights back after losing everything,” he explains.

Actor Shweta Gulati, who plays the titular role, describes Ananya as one of the most demanding characters she has performed. “Ananya was physically a very challenging character because of the endurance she had to show on stage. There was a lot of training to build my core strength and agility,” she says. “But more than physical, it’s an emotionally challenging role. I believe I do justice to Ananya after every performance.”

For her, presenting the protagonist as a woman adds another layer of significance to the

narrative. “As women, we face many challenges in every walk of life. It felt apt to present Ananya as a female character who undergoes hardships and overcomes them. Hopefully, she inspires not just women, but everybody,” she says.

Despite dealing with pain and loss, the production balances the story’s emotional intensity with warmth and optimism. Somna, founder of Stage and Spotlight, says that audiences can expect an experience that is both uplifting and immersive. “On the whole, there’s comedy, laughter, and a lot of emotions. It’s very positive and uplifting,” she says.

She also believes *Ananya* serves as an ideal introduction for first-time theatre-goers. “This is the perfect play for beginners because it hooks you into the story and theatre itself. There’s a play of emotions throughout. This is theatre at its best,” she says.

Ultimately, *Ananya*’s success could be attributed to it being universally human. The fear of losing everything and the courage required to begin again. Long after the curtains fall, the play hopes to leave behind a lingering reminder: even in life’s darkest moments, hope can still find a way to rise.

The play, ‘Ananya’, is scheduled to be performed on June 7 at Sir Mutha Concert Hall at 5 pm. For tickets, visit www.district.in

ANJALI RAM

BE it in crowded metros, noisy cafes or overstimulating public spaces, many people today carry tiny personal ‘anxiety toolkits’ that serve as deeply personal grounding tools for those navigating anxiety, sensory overload or emotional stress. “I have relied on comforting objects from the age of 10. Initially, I used a piece of folded cloth. As I grew older, carrying a cloth in public felt impractical, so I adapted to other ways,” admits 25-year-old Sona Sherin J, a communicative English trainer.

She now finds comfort in an earbud stick, without the buds attached to it. “I place it on my palm, and press it with my fingers in a way that creates a

TOOL KIT TO COOL KIT

mild pressure. The sensation is not painful; rather, it is soothing.” The size of the stick makes it easier for Sona to carry it everywhere discreetly.

For singer-student Roshni Ghosh, comfort comes in the form of a smiley stress ball, and a distinct object people rarely find in a must-have list — a gravel she once found near her house. “The smiley ball was gifted by a friend during one of my toughest moments, whereas the gravel reminds me of how important it is to stay stable through any situation,” she says. Roshni also carries a hand sanitiser because certain smells help calm her when anxiety intensifies. “I’m extremely sensi-

tive to smell and touch, so I inhale it when I’m anxious,” she adds.

Similarly, Anjitha Anu, who works at a private firm, never leaves home without her handy bottle of Axe oil. “Earlier, it was for headaches and travel anxiety, but gradually it became a companion to reduce my anxiety,” she shares. She also carries a handkerchief and a book that act almost like an emotional companion. Another must-have in her pouch is chocolate, which she eats when anxious.

But how do these little things help keep their stress in check? Mental health experts say these objects are far from irrational. According to consultant psy-



chiatrist Dr Pretty Duggar Gupta, anxiety pushes the brain into a constant ‘threat-monitoring mode,’ where even ordinary environments begin to feel overstimulating or unsafe. “There has been growing evidence that sensory modulation contributes to emotional regulation. Smells, textures, and familiar objects can create calming physiological responses because the brain begins associating them with safety,” she says, adding, “Comfort objects interrupt that cycle by acting as grounding anchors.” Smell, in particular, has a powerful connection to emotional memory. The olfactory system directly links to parts of the brain responsible for memory and emotion.

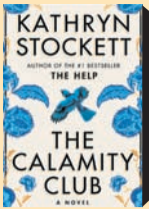
For Anjali Sunilkumar, a psychologist-actor who recently

became a mother, books became that emotional refuge long before adulthood. Although she doesn’t have a ‘comfort box’, she carries her essentials in her bag. Every time I felt out of place as a child, I would go back to reading. So now, even just holding a book brings back memories of safety,” she says.

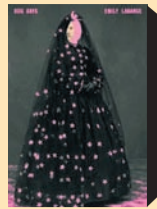
Experts say the growing visibility of such comfort objects reflects not just rising anxiety levels, but also greater emotional awareness. Instead of ‘pushing through’, many are consciously building small coping strategies into daily life. “These are preventive emotional regulation tools. They may seem small, but they help the nervous system recover in overstimulating environments,” says Dr Pretty.

(Inputs: Sonu M Kothari)

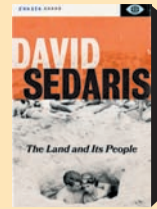
BOOK NOOK



The Calamity Club
 by Kathryn Stockett
 The novel brings together an orphan, a spinster, and a sex worker to learn to revolt against social injustice. It delves into the nature of economic hardship and the yearnings of disempowered women.



Dog Days
 by Emily Labarge
 Combining memoir, essay, and cultural criticism, the author ruminates on the personal trauma of being held hostage with her family and how languages and institutions constrain our understanding of trauma, violence, and its aftermath.



The Land and Its People: Essays
 by David Sedaris
 In this essay collection by humourist and author David Sedaris, he investigates what it means to be a traveller, a brother, a lifelong friend, while also examining ageing and life's absurdities with curiosity and glee.



All Them Dogs: A Novel
 by Djamel White
 A young Irish gangster is caught in a brutal dance between desire and loyalty as he struggles to find balance in an unsparring world. What are the choices of a man in a world of violence, murder, and dangerous secrets?



FRIENDS WITH FINS

Amid the annual 45-day fishing ban, small-boat fishermen arrive at Kasimedu fishing harbour sharing camaraderie and the day's catch. | SHIBA PRASAD SAHU

QUICKFIX

JACKFRUIT SMOOTHIE

INGREDIENTS

- **Jackfruit:** 1 cup (ripe, deseeded and chopped)
- **Banana:** 1 (for extra creaminess)
- **Milk:** 1 cup (or coconut milk for a tropical flavour)
- **Yoghurt:** ½ cup (optional for a thicker texture)
- **Ice cubes:** ½ cup



METHOD

- Add all the ingredients to a mixer.
- Blend until smooth and creamy.
- Taste and adjust the sweetness, if needed.
- Pour into a glass, garnish with chopped jackfruit.



Contributed by **Asha M, Kochi**

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Purple Oreos
 Oreo and BTS fans, get ready for the limited edition OREO & BTS Cookies — filled with a sweet creme that mixes the flavours of hotteok, a warm, sweet pancake popular in Korean street food markets. Available at retail outlets this June.



Gourmet in boxes

Turyaa Chennai introduces its all-new Gourmet Bento Box — a premium dining solution designed for business meetings, executive lunches, conferences, team gatherings and corporate celebrations. A veg Bento Box is priced at ₹1,000 plus taxes and non-veg Bento Box at ₹1,200 plus taxes. **For orders & reservations:** 73580993359597086800



A fashion affair

From dreamy Indo-westerns to dapper menswear, Studio Trioss invites you to indulge in a world where style meets charm at its exhibition happening at The Folly, Amethyst. **WHEN:** June 4 & 5, 10.30 am-8 pm

Flavour of the season

Summers bring with it a golden delight that reigns supreme across kitchens and hearts — the mango. Celebrating this beloved fruit, La Patisserie at Taj Coromandel and Anise present Mango Mania, a showcase of desserts, beverages and handcrafted treats dedicated entirely to mangoes. **WHEN:** Till June 15 **CALL:** 66002827/78248 62311

Handy work

Raise by Jean Claude Biguine introduces the Raise 24 Carat Collagen Hand Cream, a luxurious everyday essential, designed to deeply hydrate, strengthen, and restore your hands, while improving skin elasticity. Purchase the hand cream at Jean-Claude Biguine and Bounce Salons, and online at www.raisebeauty.com, Nykaa, Amazon, and Myntra.



Celebrating queer

Affections, The Queer Festival by Sunshine House, calls you to experience queer art, music, installations, workshops, and food. **WHEN:** June 7, 2 pm-8 pm **WHERE:** Backyard

Premium sweets

ITC Grand Chola announces the launch of Ritvah, a premium Indian mithai boutique. The offerings span a distinct collection, including Contemporary Indian Patisserie with creations such as Rabri Taco, Gulab Jamun Cheese Indulgence, and the sugar-free Besan Laddoo Phini Tart.

Buffet of a kind

This season, indulgence takes centre stage at Vapor Bar, Feathers Hotel, as it introduces an all-new "Liquid Buffet" — a sophisticated after-hours experience offering guests 90 minutes of unlimited premium liquor, complemented by two vegetarian and two non-vegetarian starters.



NOWSTREAMING FITBIT

REGIONAL



ROOMMATES (Kannada, series)

This comedy-drama follows four friends — Ravi, Peter, Gani, and Hari — whose ordinary lives spiral into chaos after a minor cricket ground dispute turns into a massive ego clash under their landlord's supervision.

Cast: Aashith, Aahan, Jerome Lobo, Sachin Kumar Pawar

● **Watch on:** ZEE5

FOREIGN

PROPELLER ONE-WAY NIGHT COACH (English)

Young aviation enthusiast Jeff and his mother embark on a cross-country flight to Hollywood that transforms into a life-changing journey filled with unexpected moments.

Cast: John Travolta, Ella Bleu Travolta, Olga Hoffman

● **Watch on:** Apple TV



OFF CAMPUS (English, series)

The show chronicles the love story between a music student and the university's star hockey player; explores love and the complexities of adulthood through deep friendships and enduring bonds.

Cast: Ella Bright, Belmont Cameli, Miika Abdalla, Stephen Kalyn

● **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video



SUBSCRIPTION
 Netflix: ₹199/month
 Prime Video: ₹299/month
 Jio Cinema: ₹999/year
 Disney+ Hotstar: ₹899/year
 Zee5: ₹699/year
 Viki Rakuten: ₹299/month
 Aha: ₹699/year
 SonyLIV: ₹299/month

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

✉ @xpresstn

✉ cityexpresschn@gmail.com

📍 @newindianexpress

HOW TO PUT AN END TO BINGE EATING

Binge eating is often because of emotional stress, restrictive dieting, poor meal patterns, and unmanaged cravings. A healthier relation with food will help you control this pattern.

STOP SKIPPING MEALS

Restrictive eating often leads to intense hunger later, increasing the likelihood of overeating. Eat balanced meals consistently to stabilise hunger and energy.

INCLUDE PROTEIN AND FIBRE IN EVERY MEAL

Meals low in protein and fiber digest quickly and increase cravings. Therefore, add meals that are protein- and fiber-rich like eggs, yoghurt, fruits, vegetables, and oats.

IDENTIFY EMOTIONAL EATING TRIGGERS

Tracking your emotional patterns will help you understand the triggers. This can be your first step towards control.

AVOID THE GOOD FOOD VS BAD FOOD MINDSET

If you are practicing total restriction, it may increase guilt and overeating cycles. Practicing moderation instead of complete restriction will help you.

IMPROVE SLEEP AND STRESS MANAGEMENT

Prioritise 7-8 hours of sleep and include calming practices like yoga or walking. Poor sleep disrupts hunger hormones and increases cravings for sugary, high-calorie foods.

SLOW DOWN WHILE EATING

Chewing slowly and eating without screens can help you improve your satiety. Fast eating reduces awareness of fullness cues.

DON'T KEEP TRIGGER FOODS IN EASY REACH

Try to avoid environments which make unhealthy food easily accessible. Stock healthier snack alternatives and reduce impulsive access to ultra-processed foods.

BUILD SUSTAINABLE HABITS

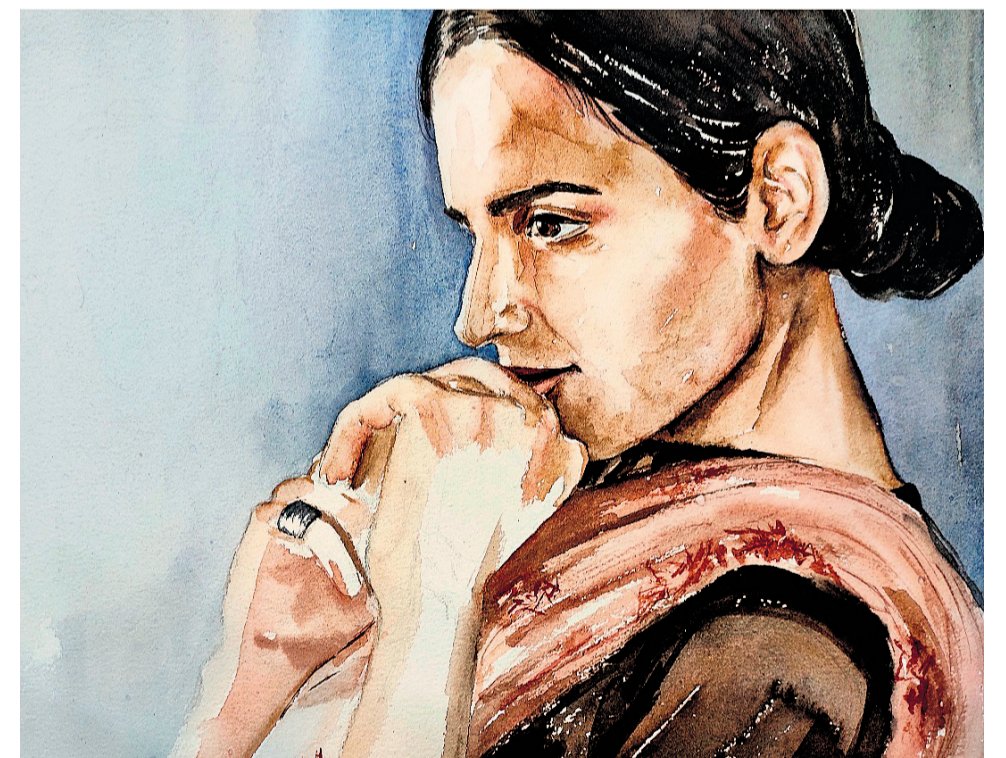
Extreme dieting after a binge often worsens the cycle. Return to normal eating patterns instead of compensating with starvation or excessive exercise.

SEEK SUPPORT IF NEEDED

Frequent binge eating may require professional support from a nutritionist or therapist.



By Madhura P Behki, nutrition expert, cult—a fitness and wellness platform



UNSPOKEN

Artist Saaya Mannathara paints a woman with a thoughtful gaze, lost in a moment of contemplation.



Vegetable Oats Cutlets

Ingredients

- Rolled oats: 1 cup ● Boiled potato: 1, large
- Carrot (grated): ½ cup ● Beans (finely chopped): ¼ cup
- Onion (finely chopped): 1, small ● Cumin powder: ½ tsp
- Salt: to taste ● Pepper: ½ tsp ● Oil: 2 tbsp

Method

Dry roast oats for 2-3 minutes and allow them to cool slightly. Mash the potato in a bowl and add oats, carrot, beans, onion, cumin powder, salt, and pepper. Mix well. Shape into small cutlets. Heat the oil in a pan and shallow-fry until golden brown on both sides. Cool slightly before packing into lunchboxes. Serve with tomato ketchup or mint chutney.



Corn and Chickpea Chaat

Ingredients

- Sweet corn (boiled): 1 cup
- Boiled chickpeas: 1 cup
- Cucumber (chopped): ½ cup
- Tomato (chopped): ½ cup
- Lime juice: 1 tsp
- Chaat masala: ½ tsp
- Salt: to taste

Method

Combine corn, chickpeas, cucumber, and tomato in a bowl. Add lime juice, chaat masala, and salt. Toss gently. Pack in small airtight containers. Add pomegranate seeds for extra colour and sweetness.

Banana Pancake Bites

Ingredients

- Bananas: 2, ripe
- Eggs: 2
- Whole wheat flour: ½ cup
- Cinnamon powder: ¼ tsp
- Butter or ghee: 1 tsp

Method

Mash bananas in a bowl until smooth. Add eggs, flour, and cinnamon powder. Mix into a smooth batter. Heat a pan and grease lightly with butter or ghee. Pour small spoonfuls of batter and cook until bubbles appear. Flip and cook the other side. Allow to cool and pack as bite-sized pieces.

SHREYA VERONICA

Forgotten sips of summer

As summer reigns mighty, CE looks back fondly on the seasonal delights that made the scorching months more bearable. Mangoes, in all their glorious varieties, undoubtedly remain the highlight of the Indian summer. But beyond mangoes lies an entire world of refreshing coolers, juices, and traditional drinks that once defined the season in every South Indian household.

Today, most people reach for packaged juices, fizzy beverages, or readily available coconut water. In the rush of modern life, many age-old summer drinks have quietly disappeared from everyday consumption — either because they require a little more effort to prepare or because convenience has overtaken tradition. Yet, these forgotten beverages carry not just nostalgia, but also immense nutritional and cooling benefits. Chefs share memories and recipes of traditional summer drinks that are rarely found today.

According to Chef Ammana Raju, executive chef at Novotel, several traditional Indian summer beverages have slowly faded away. "Owing to the long summers in the Indian subcon-



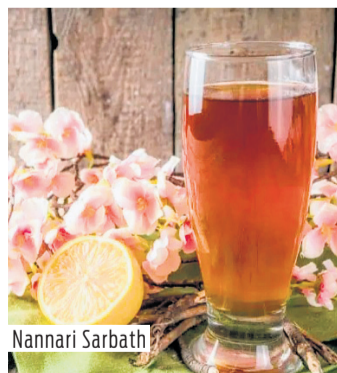
Ragi Ambali

continent, there are several popular drinks. Yet somehow, a few of them have lost their relevance because the ingredients are no longer easily available to the general public," he says.

He shares that drinks like panakkam and ragi ambali, though still cherished in some households, are now difficult to find. "The advent of packaged juices and carbonated beverages, backed by million-dollar advertising campaigns and celebrity endorsements, has made many regional drinks obsolete," he explains.



Chef Ammana fondly recalls growing up with goli soda mixed with a dash of lemon — a once-popular summer favourite that has gradually lost its charm among younger generations. One drink he continues to swear by is pineapple panakkam, a refreshing twist on the traditional drink. "The recipe is fairly simple," he says, adding, "Panakkam is mixed with pineapple juice and served with chopped pineapple as garnish. This drink provides hydration, cools the body, and rejuvenates a tired



Nannari Sarbath

soul. Using chilled pineapple juice gives the best results."

He also believes changing lifestyles have contributed to the decline of traditional beverages. "As the youth move to new cities and countries, they become excited to explore newer lifestyles and often feel more privileged holding a can of cola rather than a glass of panakkam," he adds.

Chef Meera GT recalls another forgotten summer staple, one from Telangana — Ganji varchina neelu, or plain rice starch water. "Back in the day, rice was cooked in open pots and the

starch water was drained out. It was seasoned lightly with salt and consumed as is, or sometimes stored overnight in an earthen pot along with rice and eaten the next morning with raw onions. It is rich in probiotics and extremely cooling for the body," she explains. A version of this is found in other South Indian states, too, like arisi kanji in Tamil Nadu.

In some Andhra households, the same starch water is also used to prepare a comforting dish called Lakshmi charu. Chef Meera believes modern lifestyles have pushed many such recipes aside. "We live in a world driven by convenience and food trends. Older recipes require a little planning and effort, even though they are incredibly simple and use very few ingredients," she says.

She also mentions fresh toddy, drawn early mornings, as a naturally refreshing summer drink. Even beverages like nannari sarbath, lemon soda, coconut water, and tender ice apples continue to offer relief during the harsh summer months.

More than just beverages, these traditional drinks are reminders of slower summers, simpler kitchens, and generations that understood how to stay cool naturally.

SNACK ATTACK!

As schools are set to reopen, the morning rush to pack tiffin is also back. CE rounds up healthy, lunchbox-friendly snack recipes that are quick to make and fun for children to eat

Paneer Roll-Up

Ingredients

- Whole wheat rotis: 4
- Paneer (crumbled): 1 cup
- Carrot (grated): ¼ cup
- Capsicum (finely chopped): ¼ cup
- Salt: to taste
- Pepper: ¼ tsp
- Butter: 1 tsp

Method

Heat butter in a pan and sauté the carrot and capsicum for 2 minutes. Add paneer, salt, and pepper. Mix well. Spread the filling over rotis and roll tightly. Cut into small pinwheels or pack whole. These can be prepared the previous night and refrigerated.

SUPRIYA

EARLY morning alarms are set again, and you enter the kitchen before the sun even comes up. The return of the school season also brings back the daily rush of packing lunchboxes before the school bus arrives. Between unfinished homework, missing erasers and sleepy-eyed children, preparing healthy snacks can often feel like an extra challenge during an already busy morning.

The race against time is real, and many parents find themselves reaching for packaged snacks simply because they are quick and convenient. But healthy snacks do not always have to be complicated or time-consuming. With a few simple ingredients and a little planning, they can be both nutritious and tempting. Crunchy cutlets, soft idlis, and colourful rolls — there are plenty of options that are easy to prepare on hectic mornings.

Here are a few recipes that travel well in tiffin boxes and stay fresh for hours, keeping little tummies full through the school day.

Ragi Peanut Balls

Ingredients

- Ragi flour: 1 cup ● Peanuts (roasted and crushed): ½ cup ● Jaggery: ½ cup ● Ghee: 2 tbsp
- Cardamom powder: ¼ tsp

Method

Dry roast ragi flour on low heat for 5 minutes until aromatic. Heat jaggery with 2 tablespoons water until melted. Add roasted peanuts, cardamom powder, and ragi flour. Mix well. Add ghee and combine until the mixture holds shape. Roll into small balls while still warm. These can be stored in an airtight container for up to a week.

Egg Muffins

Ingredients

- Eggs: 4
- Milk: 2 tbsp
- Spinach (chopped): ¼ cup
- Onion (finely chopped): ¼ cup
- Cheese (grated): ¼ cup
- Salt and pepper: to taste

Method

Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease muffin trays lightly. Beat eggs with milk, salt, and pepper. Add spinach, onion, and cheese. Pour mixture into muffin cups. Bake for 15-18 minutes until set and lightly golden. Cool before packing.

Moong Sprouts Dosa Rolls

Ingredients

- Dosa batter: 2 cups ● Moong sprouts: 1 cup ● Carrot (grated): ¼ cup
- Capsicum (finely chopped): ¼ cup ● Onion (finely chopped): 1, small
- Paneer (crumbled): ½ cup ● Turmeric powder: ¼ tsp
- Pepper powder: ¼ tsp ● Salt: to taste ● Oil or ghee: as required
- Coriander leaves (chopped): 2 tbsp

Method

Heat a little oil in a pan. Add onion and sauté until soft. Add moong sprouts, carrot, and capsicum. Cook for 3-4 minutes on low heat until slightly tender. Add turmeric powder, pepper, salt, and paneer. Cook for another minute. Add coriander leaves and switch off the flame. Heat a dosa pan and make lightly crisp dosas. Place a portion of the filling in the centre and roll tightly. Allow to cool slightly before packing. Serve with chutney or ketchup.

Yoghurt Fruit Parfait

Ingredients

- Thick yoghurt: 1 cup
- Honey: 1 tbsp
- Banana (sliced): 1
- Apple (chopped): 1
- Granola: ½ cup

Method

Mix honey into yoghurt. Layer yoghurt, fruits, and granola in small jars or containers. Repeat layers until filled. Keep chilled until packed. Pack granola separately to keep it crunchy.

CHENNAI DIGEST



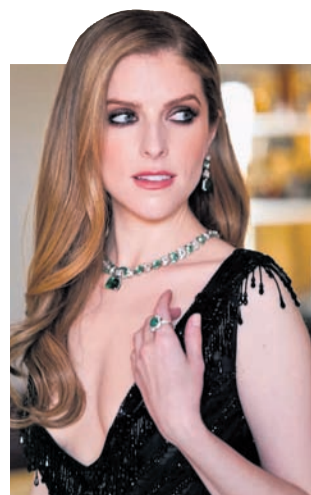
A new vertical by Kauvery

Kauvery Hospital inaugurated its Speciality OPD and Day Care Block at the AVM Studio premises in Vadapalani. It also features a dedicated dialysis centre for patients requiring long-term renal care, and a modern-day care centre for procedures and treatments that do not require prolonged hospital stay. The inauguration took place in the presence of MS Guhan, son of AVM Saravanan, alongside Dr Aravindan Selvaraj, co-founder and executive director, Kauvery Group of Hospitals.



Walkathon for a smoke-free future

GRT Hotels & Resorts successfully concluded its 'World No Tobacco Day Walkathon 2026' across 22 locations. Close to 1,500 participants — including hotel guests, staff members, families, and local community members — walked 3 km in unison to advocate for a smoke-free, tobacco-free future. The 'GReAT Being' programme, launched to integrate holistic health and mindful living into the group's culture, was at the forefront of this initiative.



Anna Kendrick to direct novel adaptation

ACTOR-FILMMAKER Anna Kendrick has been tapped to direct Netflix's highly anticipated adaptation of Taylor Jenkins Reid's bestselling novel *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, marking a major development for a project that has faced several creative changes since it was first announced. Kendrick will helm the film after previous directors Maggie Betts and Leslye Headland exited the project for undisclosed reasons. Based on Reid's 2017 novel, *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* centers on a reclusive Old Hollywood icon who decides to grant one final interview to an unknown journalist. During the candid conversation, Evelyn Hugo reveals the truth behind her seven marriages and shares untold stories of fame, ambition, betrayal, and scandal that shaped her life and career.

A SHARADHA

FOR a star who has spent decades carrying films as a leading man, Shivarajkumar is in an interesting phase of reinvention. After making a memorable impact in Rajinikanth's *Jailer* and playing a pivotal role in Dhanush's *Captain Miller*, Shivanna is now gearing up for Ram Charan's *Peddi*, directed by Buchi Babu Sana and backed by Mythri Movie Makers. The film, which hits screens on June 4, came to him at a particularly emotional moment because *Peddi* was among the first projects he resumed after a life-altering surgery. Shivarajkumar asserts that the road to recovery is not as straightforward as many think. "It took me nearly 1.5 months to settle down. People take recovery lightly, but what I had was a bladder surgery. It is like getting accustomed to a new body," says the actor, who reveals that this road also included the making of *Peddi*. "The introduction portions of my character were among the first shoots I resumed after surgery. The makers did not mind waiting for me to recover," says Shivarajkumar, adding that he asked the makers of *Peddi* to move on and cast another actor instead of him to save their resources. However, the team insisted they'd wait for Shivarajkumar to be back. Even the

'Peddi felt like my own film'

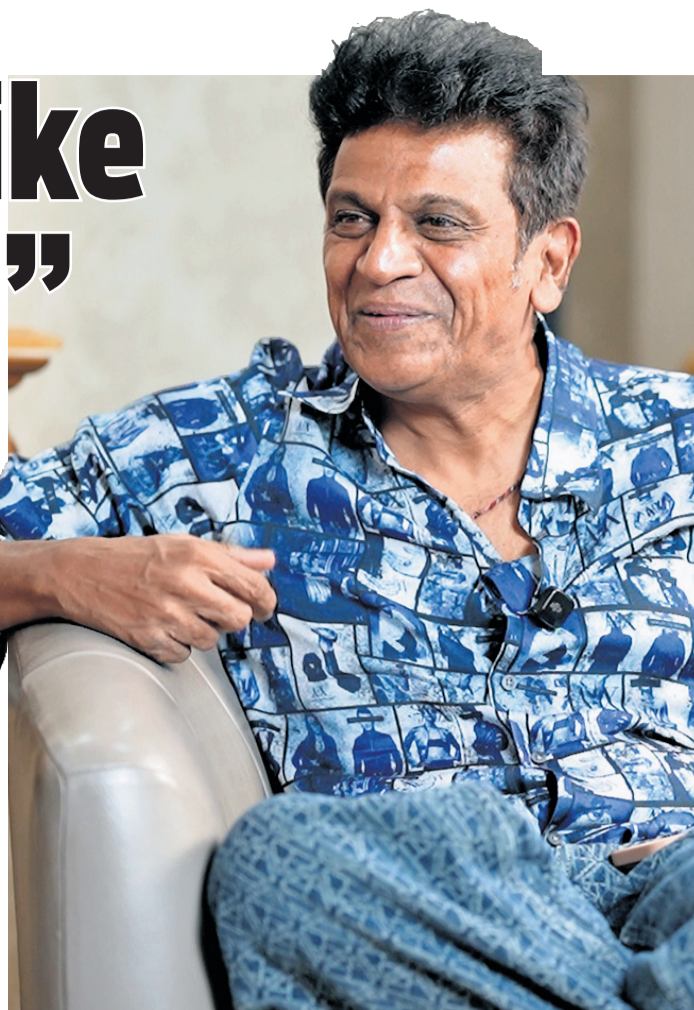
Shivarajkumar opens up about working in *Peddi*, finding emotional resonance with Ram Charan, pan-India recognition, Kannada cinema, politics, and much more



A still from *Peddi*

There is so much love I receive across regions. Audiences from other languages shower me with love.

-SHIVARAJKUMAR



actor had a change of heart, especially since the film had his 'favourite hero' Ram Charan as the lead. "I like that boy very much. More than a hero, somewhere I felt like I was working with my younger brother," says the actor, who shared a particularly fond memory he had while filming *Peddi*. "There is one scene where two brothers are talking. When I did that scene with Ram Charan, it genuinely felt like Appu and I were speaking. Even some people on the set felt the same. After that, I did not feel like backing out of the film."

Interestingly, industry conversations suggest that the role was initially imagined differently, with reports claiming that Ram Charan's father,

Chiranjeevi, was considered before the Telugu superstar suggested Shivarajkumar for the part. "It was a blessing, and sometimes these things feel like God's message. Rajini sir felt I should do *Jailer*. In the same way, perhaps Chiranjeevi felt I could play this role," says a rather pensive Shivarajkumar, adding, "There are many common emotional factors between Chiranjeevi garu's family and ours." Despite his stature and the Rajkumar legacy, it took a long time for Shivarajkumar to venture out of Kannada cinema. "I'd say it came at the right time," points out the superstar. Interestingly, another reason for this recent exploration of non-Kannada films is the kind of love he has

been receiving in other industries. "There is so much love I receive across regions. On flights and while travelling, people ask about my health. Audiences from other languages are concerned and shower me with love. I feel lucky."

Getting back to *Peddi* mode, Shivarajkumar talks about his character in the film, Gournaidu, and how it has left a really strong impression. The role is inspired by the life of the real-life wrestler Kodi Rammurthy Naidu. "I was told about the inspiration, and what I liked was the detailing and preparation." Despite *Peddi* being the film he shot during recovery, Shivarajkumar featured in a fair share of action sequences, and he credits the environment around him for acting these scenes. "The love became motivation," he says, adding, "The affection on the sets, from family, friends, industry, and fans, pushed me. It was not emotional pressure. It was genuine care." His impact through pivotal roles has also sparked a different discussion. Have *Jailer* and now *Peddi* made him realize that a strong character role can have as much impact as a lead role? "It depends on who presents it," he says, crediting Nelson, Buchi Babu Sana, and Arun Matheswaran. "Nelson was the first to make me do a cameo. Cameos rarely create magic, but sometimes they do, like the character Narasimha I played in *Jailer*, and Suriya in *Vikram*."

Will we be seeing Shivarajkumar in the upcoming biggie directed by Nelson, which marks the much-awaited reunion of Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan? "As a fan, I want to watch Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan together on screen. That itself is magic. I do not want anybody else there. But if an opportunity comes, nothing like it. Of course, Nelson will decide, and he knows best," signs off the actor.



Man, Woman and God

NAMRATA JOSHI

MAN-woman relationships form the core of several stories told on screen. In Haitian writer-director-actor Gessica Geneus's *Marie Madeleine*, it becomes an uncommon meeting ground as well as a flashpoint for love, friendship, desire, faith and freedom. The Haiti-France-Belgium-Luxembourg-Canada co-production had its world premiere in the Cannes Premiere section of the recently concluded Cannes Film Festival.

It may not quite be the case of sparks flying, but things do get upended and chaotic when Joseph (Beonard Monteau), a man of God in the making, meets a hardened sex worker, Marie Madeleine (Geneus herself), in the most unusual of circumstances, involving blood, a miscarriage, and a hospital. No two souls could be more unlike each other. One doesn't just believe in God but also in evangelising and saving the souls of one's fellow human beings. The other knows no rules and is the personification of recklessness. As spirituality locks horns with hedonism, a beautiful but tenuous and enigmatic bond starts getting cemented between the two. Will Joseph give in to his buried lust for life, or will Marie turn religious? Is it love that the two share or something deeper and defining?

The Biblical reference to Mary Magdalene, the closest follower of Jesus Christ, takes the relationship beyond the

carnal, rich as it is with the elements of sheltering, nurturing, and care. If Joseph treats Marie as someone more than a piece of flesh, she encourages his passion for photography and helps him come to terms with his true self, forbidden as his desires might be. It's all about camaraderie and solidarity in their struggles. Set in Jacmel, the film makes Haiti's southern coastal town into a character in its own right. The sea, the churches, the brothels, the queer parades, religious rallies and carnivals, the street and truck art, and the characteristic palette of bright shades get captured with vital-

CINEMA WITHOUT BORDERS

In this weekly column, the writer introduces you to powerful cinema from across the world

Film: *Marie Madeleine*

ity and vividness by cinematographer Nicolas Cannicini, with Nathania Pericles's production design bringing authenticity and character to the place. *Marie Madeleine* immerses the viewer into the everyday sights and sounds of Haiti and also makes us come face to face with its political, economic, and social realities, its dysfunctional and corrupt bureaucracy and police, its beliefs and superstitions.

Sensuous and tactile, the film pushes the envelope when it comes to the visuals and image-making. For instance, the sense of place in the film pivots on the church and the

brothel, interestingly placed right across each other. Only here is it the cloistered church that traps, limits, and intimidates, while the open brothel is all about homecoming that is welcoming and healing. Not just the story and direction, Geneus also brings a great sense of empathy to the film with her candid and flamboyant interpretation of the titular character. You don't just admire Madeleine for her strength and resolve but also feel for her predicaments and vulnerabilities and fall for her easy charm. Monteau is as effortlessly convincing in his repressions, the many interiorities and inhibitions. The two characters (like the church-brothel divide) also help frame the film from conflicting points of view—the sacred and the profane, the righteous and the amoral, the upright and the sinful. However, Geneus uses the polarising device in both cases to turn things upside down, imbuing the disreputable with compassion and high-mindedness with cruelty. How far can religion be allowed to intrude in and determine our identity, sexual orientation, and personal relationships?

The finale plays out as a needless tearjerker and eventually lessens the impact than leaving with a high. However, in the queerest ever Cannes, Geneus's critique of otherising, fanaticism, bigotry and intolerance is aptly loud and clear and universally resonant. It is also poised and elegant in its implicit call for harmony and peaceful co-existence.

GAUTHAM Ram Karthik's *Bloody Politics* has concluded production. The makers of the Dhina Raghavan directorial announced the wrap with a glimpse and stills from the sets on Tuesday.

The film, produced by Dada-fame Ganesh K Babu under his Draft by GKB, starring filmmaker-actor Selvaraghavan in a prominent role, also features Anchana Nethrun, P Vasu, Robbie, A Venkatesh, Maaran, Indhumathi, VIS Jayapalan, Aditya Kathir, and Bakkiyam Sankar, among others. On the technical front, *Bloody Politics* has composer Sam CS, cinematographer Pratheep Kaliraja, and editor Deepak.

In addition to *Bloody Politics*, Gautham also has *Running Out Of Time (Root)*, opposite Bhavya Trikha and Aparshakti Khurana, in the pipeline. He also has the Netflix project *Legacy* in his OTT debut. The ensemble of the series, which has music by Ilaiyaraaja, includes Madhavan, Nimisha Sajayan, Gulshan Devaiah, and Abhishek Banerjee.

Bloody Politics completes production



Ajay Devgn's Drishyam 3 wraps filming

ON Monday, Abhishek Pathak, director of Ajay Devgn's *Drishyam 3*, penned a heartwarming note, marking the completion of the final schedule of their film's shoot. The thriller is now scheduled for a theatrical release on October 2.

The cast of *Drishyam 3* also includes Tabu, Shriya Saran, Rajat Kapoor, Ishita Dutta, and Mrunal Jadhav. Jaideep Ahlawat and Prakash Raj join the franchise in addition. Besides directing, Abhishek has

also written the film along with Aamil Keeyan Khan and Parvez Shaikh, and produced the film with Alok Jain, Ajit Andhare and Kumar Mangat Pathak.

Interestingly, the third entry of the original Malayalam franchise starring Mohanlal, Meena, Annsiba Hassan, and Esther Anil, released on May 21 and became a commercial success. It became the highest-grossing installment in the franchise and one of the highest-grossing Malayalam films ever made.



SYDNEY SWEENEY TAKES ON A NEW ROLE

SYDNEY Sweeney, known for Emmy-nominated performances in the television series *Euphoria* and *The White Lotus*, has launched her own production company, Honey Trap. Her production banner has secured a first-look deal with Sony Pictures. Kaylee McGregor, Sweeney's long-time creative collaborator, will serve as president of production and development at the company.

The actor is already developing several projects with Sony. Among them is TriStar Pictures' remake of *Barbarella*, which will be directed by Edgar Wright. The film is based on Jean-Claude Forest's French comic book series and follows the 1968 cult classic that starred Jane Fonda. The screenplay is being written by Jane Goldman and Honey Ross. Sweeney recently featured alongside Amanda Seyfried in *The Housemaid*.

She is set to reprise her role opposite Kirsten Dunst in the sequel, *The Housemaid's Secret*.

