

Fighting misinformation with hope

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

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

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

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

Happy reading!



Summer's officially here in Telangana

Hyderabad: A mirage forms on the road near the Secretariat as temperatures push mercury levels high in Hyderabad on a hot afternoon, with commuters making their way through the heat | VINAY MADAPU

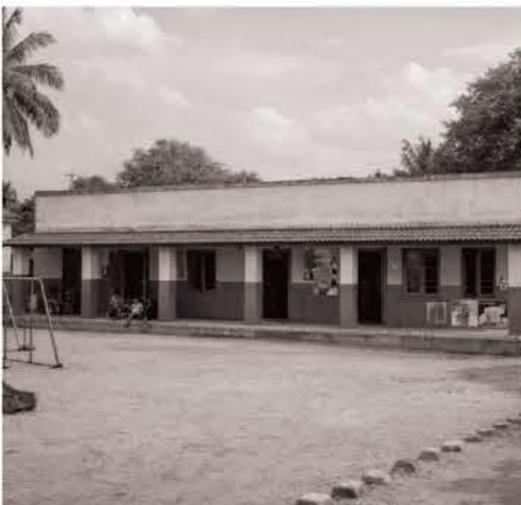
Last 5 Years Changed Tamil Nadu Forever. Here's Proof.

PART 1



2016-2021

2021-2026



Rural Development

Road Works Completed

36,503 Kms	▲ 41,934 Kms
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Drinking Water / Rural Infrastructure Works.

8,942	▲ 82,496
₹756 crores	₹5,222 crores

Houses Provided

Sanction for 1 Lakh Houses	Sanction for 3 Lakh Houses
90,532	▲ 1,84,000
Houses Provided	Houses Provided

Another 1.16 lakh houses are under construction.



Healthcare

Maternal Mortality Rate

60 per 1 lakh	▼ 35 per 1 lakh
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New Hospital Buildings

1,133 Projects	▲ 3,069 Projects
₹1,079 crores	₹3,205 crores

New Doctors and Staff Appointed

2,794	▲ 6,053
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Industrial Development

Investments Received

₹4.13 lakh crores	▲ ₹12.37 lakh crores
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Employment Opportunities

13.06 lakhs	▲ 36.52 lakhs
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School Education Department

Fund Allocation

₹1.41 lakh crores	▲ ₹2.0 lakh crores
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Major Libraries as Knowledge Centers

0	▲ 6
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Teachers Appointed

7,124	▲ 11,669
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New Classrooms, Labs and Other Infrastructure

21,115	▲ 31,616
₹1,580 crores	₹4,458 crores



To be continued...

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - TENDER NOTICE
O/o the Chief Engineer, (S.C.M) & C.S.C. Vidyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram.

Metro Railway, Kolkata
By Chief Operations Manager/O&M, Metro Railway/Kolkata for & on behalf of the President of India invite e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open on 02.04.2026

State Bank Of India
CENTRALISED RETAIL ASSET MANAGEMENT CELL (CRAMC)
POSSESSION NOTICE R/C (1) (For immovable property)

State Bank Of India
POSSESSION NOTICE R/C (1) (For immovable property)
SBI HOUSING TERM LOAN A/C No: 41744250085 AND SURAKSHA A/C No: 41755475867 IN THE NAME OF Mr. KARTHIKEYAN S AT OUR PB BRANCH ANNA NAGAR (04299) LINKED WITH RACPC ANNA NAGAR (15448)

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD
Chennai Back Office : Harrington Chambers, Block 'C', 1 Floor, No.30/1A, Abdul Razack 1 Street, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015. Ph: 044-42010374
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD
Chennai Back Office : Harrington Chambers, Block 'C', 1 Floor, No.30/1A, Abdul Razack 1 Street, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015. Ph: 044-42010374
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
e-TENDER NOTICE
18/CGM(E)/STP Circle-I/Trenchless Technology/MWSL/1600/1800mm dia/2025-26, dt: 13-03-2026

IN THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III AT CHENNAI
V/ Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastr Bhavan, Haddows Road, Nungambakam, Chennai 600006.
O. A. No. 301 of 2025

NOTICE
1. Mr. Ramesh, M/ 42 years ... Defendants
2. Mrs. Valli, F/36 Years ... Defendants

NOTICE
1. Mr. Ramesh, M/ 42 years, S/o. Mr. Saminathan, No.86, Suganthammal Nagar, Selavoyal, Kodungaiyur, Chennai 600018. ...D-1
2. Mrs. Valli, F/36 Years, W/o. Mr. Ramesh, No.86, Suganthammal Nagar, Selavoyal, Kodungaiyur, Chennai 600018. ...D-2

All the news. In just a click.
Log to www.newindianexpress.com
Authorized Officer SBI CRAMC, Chennai

E-Tender Notice
Request for Selection (RFS) Document for Selection of Vendors for Design, manufacture, supply, transport, installation, testing and commissioning of Off-Grid DC Solar Photovoltaic water pumping systems of 3HP, 5HP & 7.5 HP capacity at identified farmer's site in district of Maharashtra, including complete system warranty and its repair and maintenance for 5 Years under "Magel Tyala Saur Krushi Pump / PM KUSUM B" Scheme

HO PR NO 73/26 dt.13.03.26 Chief Engineer (SPD), MSEDCL, Mumbai
Date of Availability of Bidding Document on MSEDCL : 13.03.2026 at 17.15 Hrs
e-tendering Website

Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited (Encore ARC)
Public Notice for e-Auction
e-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with proviso to Rule 6 (6) & proviso to Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ('Rules').

Indian Overseas Bank
ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH
e-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Indian Overseas Bank
ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH
e-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III AT CHENNAI
6th Floor, Additional Office Buildings, Shastr Bhavan, Haddows Road, Chennai-600 006
O.A.No.390 of 2025

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III AT CHENNAI
6th Floor, Additional Office Buildings, Shastr Bhavan, Haddows Road, Chennai-600 006
O.A.No. 937 of 2025

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III AT CHENNAI
6th Floor, Additional Office Buildings, Shastr Bhavan, Haddows Road, Chennai-600 006
O.A.No. 937 of 2025

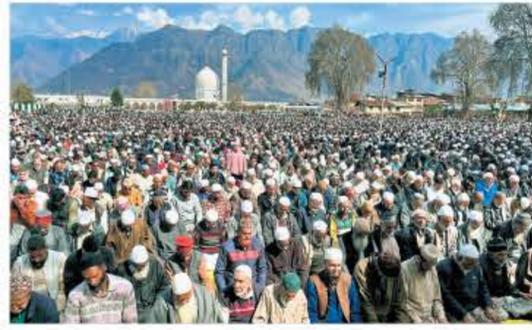
BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III AT CHENNAI
6th Floor, Additional Office Buildings, Shastr Bhavan, Haddows Road, Chennai-600 006
O.A.No. 421 of 2025

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III AT CHENNAI
6th Floor, Additional Office Buildings, Shastr Bhavan, Haddows Road, Chennai-600 006
O.A.No. 421 of 2025

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III AT CHENNAI
6th Floor, Additional Office Buildings, Shastr Bhavan, Haddows Road, Chennai-600 006
O.A.No.679 of 2025

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III AT CHENNAI
6th Floor, Additional Office Buildings, Shastr Bhavan, Haddows Road, Chennai-600 006
O.A.No.679 of 2025

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III AT CHENNAI
6th Floor, Additional Office Buildings, Shastr Bhavan, Haddows Road, Chennai-600 006
O.A.No.679 of 2025



**Thousands gather for
Jum-at-ul-Vida prayers**

Srinagar: Thousands gather on Friday at Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar for the Jum-at-ul-Vida, which is the last Friday in the month of Ramadan before Eid al-Fitr. This is a holy day for Muslims who offer prayers and believe that prayers made on this day will be answered | ZAHOR PUNABI



Government of India



EMPOWERING THE WOMEN OF TAMIL NADU

₹1000+ crore assistance to **19+ lakh** beneficiaries under PM Matru Vandana Yojana

1.1+ crore tap water connections and over **41 lakh** Ujjwala gas connections improving quality of life for women

14+ lakh pucca houses under PM Awas Yojana and **65 lakh** toilets ensuring dignity of life for women

23+ lakh women-led MSMEs driving entrepreneurship, creating new opportunities for women

5.6 lakh Lakhpati Didis achieving financial independence, strengthening women-led economic empowerment

40+ lakh daughters secured under Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, with **₹33,000+ crore** in savings empowering their future

3.3+ lakh Self-Help Groups (SHGs) strengthening community-led development, empowering women and rural livelihoods

**DEVELOPED TAMIL NADU
FOR DEVELOPED INDIA
MODI GOVERNMENT'S RESOLVE**



CBC 011 01 /13/0047/2526

“Our goal is a developed Tamil Nadu for developed India. The Central Government remains fully committed to enabling inclusive development and the state's progress.”

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi



Indian Bank **TIRUVANNAMALAI BRANCH**
No.19, Ayyankula Street, Tiruvannamalai - 606 601.
Phone : 9442504921, email : tiruvannamalai@indianbank.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, Tiruvannamalai Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 30.03.2026, for recovery of **Rs.2,84,58,907/- (Rupees Two crores eighty four lakhs fifty eight thousand nine hundred and seven only) (as on 11.03.2026)** with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 12.03.2026, due to the Indian Bank, Tiruvannamalai Branch, Secured Creditor from:

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR (1) The estate of the Deceased Mr. G. Ramesh (Borrower), Represented by his Legal Heirs : Mr. R. Nithish Kannan, (Legal Heir of Borrower), S/o Mr. G. Ramesh, Door No.43, Veerunthiha Perumal Kovil Street, Tirumazhaisai - 600 124. (2) Ms. R. Monica, (Legal Heir of Borrower), D/o Mr. G. Ramesh, Door No.43, Veerunthiha Perumal Kovil Street, Tirumazhaisai - 600 124. (3) Ms. G. Meenakshi, (Legal Heir of Borrower), W/o Mr. D. Ganesan, Door No.43, Veerunthiha Perumal Kovil Street, Tirumazhaisai - 600 124. (4) Mrs. R. Malari, (Co-Borrower/ Mortgagee/Legal Heir of Borrower), W/o G. Ramesh, Door No.43, Veerunthiha Perumal Kovil Street, Tirumazhaisai - 600 124. (5) Mr. G. Muthusamy (Co-Borrower), S/o. Mr. D. Ganesan, Door No.43/1, Veerunthiha Perumal Kovil Street, Tirumazhaisai - 600 124. (6) Mrs. M. Usharani, (Co-Borrower/Mortgagee), W/o Mr. G. Muthusamy, Door No.43/1, Veerunthiha Perumal Kovil Street, Tirumazhaisai - 600 124.

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

Property 1 : All that piece and parcel of land and residential building in Veerunthiha Perumal Kovil Street, Madavilagam Village, bearing Survey No.1692, part and as per Patta No.541, presently bearing New Survey No.194/16-B, Madavilagam Village, Poonamallee Taluk, Thiruvallur District, property measuring 2576 Sq. ft. with an extent of 50 Sq. ft. passage in all measuring 2626 Sq. ft. Property owned by : Ms. R. Malari. Admeasuring - On the Northern side 92 feet, on the Southern side 92 feet, on the Eastern side 28 feet, on the Western side 28 feet. Extent : 2576 Sq. ft. Along with a passage on the South West corner, measuring - East to West on both sides 5 feet, North to South on both sides 10 feet. Extent : 50 Sq. ft. Total extent : 2576 + 50 = 2626 Sq. ft.

Property 2 : All that piece and parcel of land and residential building in Veerunthiha Perumal Kovil Street, Madavilagam Village, bearing Survey No.1692, part and as per Patta No.210, presently bearing New Survey No.194/16 and as per present Patta No.20, property bearing New Survey No.194/16A, Madavilagam Village, Poonamallee Taluk, Thiruvallur District, property measuring 2576 Sq. ft. Property owned by : Ms. M. Usharani. Admeasuring - On the Northern side 92 feet, on the Southern side 92 feet, on the Eastern side 28 feet, on the Western side 28 feet. Extent : 2576 Sq. ft. Prior Encumbrances on property : Nil. **PROPERTY ID No. : IDIB3229119234.** (NOTE: Both the above said Property 1 and Property 2 shall be sold as a single lot only).

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.471.60 Lakhs Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- **EMD : Rs.47.20 Lakhs**

BANK WEBSITE **E-AUCTION WEBSITE** **PROPERTY LOCATION** **PROPERTY PHOTO** **PROPERTY VIDEO**

Date and Time of Inspection of the Properties & related documents : 25.03.2026 to 26.03.2026 between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION : 30.03.2026 FROM 10.00 A.M. TO 4.00 P.M.

Last Date for submission of Tender form/EMD : 30.03.2026

Bidders are advised to visit the website (<https://www.banknet.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.banknet@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.banknet@psballiance.com.

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit : <https://www.banknet.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.banknet.com>.

Date : 12.03.2026 **AUTHORISED OFFICER, INDIAN BANK**

DEUTSCHE BANK AG
PUBLIC NOTICE - AUCTION CUM SALE OF PROPERTY
Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The undersigned is the Authorized Officer of M/s. Deutsche Bank AG, having one of its places of business at # 4-4A, Western Tower, Sunny Side, Shafi Mohammed Road, Thousand Lights, Chennai - 600 006 ('Deutsche Bank AG') under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (The Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (The Rules) issued demand notice dated 06th April, 2023 calling upon the Borrower(s)/Co-borrower(s) M/s. Rathna Enterprises ('Borrower'), Mr. Doss N, Mr. Rathna Fernando (Co-Borrower), to repay the outstanding amount of Rs. 89,16,571.33 (Rupees Eighty Nine Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Seventy One and Thirty Three paise Only), and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said demand notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property mortgaged with the Bank, described herein below, to recover the said outstanding amount, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules.

Now, the public in general is hereby informed that the Property mentioned below would be sold by public auction on AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and AS IS WHAT IS BASIS on 08th April 2026 at 11.00 a.m., by Deutsche Bank AG, # 4-4A, Western Tower, Sunny Side, Shafi Mohammed Road, Thousand Lights, Chennai - 600 006 by inviting bids in the sealed envelope as per the procedure and the terms and conditions stated below:

Sr. No.	Secured Property Address	Reserve Price	EMD	Auction Date
1.	Property 1: Schedule A - Property: All that piece and parcel of Vacant District, within the limits of Mogappair Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District, within the limits of Perambur Township, Now Chennai Corporation (Mandalam - 7), bearing Plot Nos.17 & 18, Srinivasa Nagar, Chennai - 600050, Comprised in Survey No.137 and being Bounded on the North By: Mr. S. Venugopal Plots; South By: Mr. S. Venugopal Plots; East By: Mr. Krishnan Naickers Plots; West By: 20 Feet Wide Road. Measuring: On the North By: 79 Feet 6 inches; On the South By: 78 Feet 6 inches; On the East By: 46 Feet 0 inches; On the West By: 46 Feet 0 inches. In all measuring 3602 Sq. ft., situated within the Registration District of Chennai North and Sub Registration District of Konnur. Schedule - 'B' Property [Part of Schedule A] All that piece and parcel of Vacant Land Situated at No. 81, Mogappair Village, bearing Plot No. 17 & 18/3, Srinivasa Nagar, Chennai - 600050, Comprised in Survey No.137 and measuring 1010 Sq. ft., out of 3602 Sq. ft. and being Bounded on the North By: Mr. S. Venugopal Plots; South By: Mr. S. Venugopal Plots; East By: Mr. Krishnan Naickers Plots; West By: 20 Feet Wide Road & Part of Plot No.17 & 18. Measuring: On the North By: 23 feet 3 inches; On the South By: 20 Feet 9 inches; On the East By: 46 feet 0 inches; On the West By: 46 Feet 0 Inches. In all measuring 1010 Sq. ft., situated within the Registration District of Chennai North and Sub Registration District of Konnur together with common passage [10'x56'3"]. Schedule - C (hereby Conveyed) Flat bearing No.G-1, in the Ground Floor, 'Swathi Muthu' Plot No.17 & 18, 3rd Anna Cross Street, Srinivasa Nagar, Chennai - 600050, Flat measuring a total built up area of 780 Sq. ft. (including common area) and 494 Sq. ft. Undivided Share in the land described in Schedule 'B' and part of Schedule 'A' and together with all the common rights and privileges appertaining thereto with the other undivided interest owners of the Schedule A mentioned above property. Above said property's Tax Assessment No. 07-089-00174-000; Above said property's Electricity S. No. 040-002-1624.	Rs.47,70,000/-	Rs. 4,77,000/-	08-04-2026

The particulars in respect of the Property have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the Bank, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The Tenderer(s) / Offerer(s) / Prospective Bidder/Purchaser(s) are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves / itself with regard to the Property before submitting the tenders. To the best of the Bank's knowledge, there are no encumbrances on the Property and Bank has the right of sale of Property in compliance with due process of law.

- TERMS & CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC AUCTION:**
- The property can be inspected on 30th March 2026 between 11:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. The bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the office of undersigned along with a Demand Draft/Pay Order of Rs.4,77,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Only) towards the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) favoring "M/s. Deutsche Bank AG EMD" so as to reach the office of Deutsche Bank AG at # 4-4A, Western Tower, Sunny Side, Shafi Mohammed Road, Thousand Lights, Chennai - 600006 on or before 07th April 2026 by 2.00 p.m. The earnest money deposit shall not carry any interest. Along with bid form the proposed bidder shall also attach his/her identity proof, proof of residence (such as copy of the passport, election commission card, ration card driving license etc.) and a copy of the PAN card issued by the Income Tax department.
 - The interested bidders can also submit their EMD through Web Portal: <https://www.banknet.com> (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with <https://www.banknet.com>). The EMD shall be payable through NEFT in A/c No. 078494027010068, A/c Name - Deutsche Bank AG EMD, Name of the Beneficiary - Deutsche Bank AG, IFSC- DEUT0784940. After Registration (One Time) by the bidder in the Web Portal, the intending bidder/ purchaser is required to get the copies of the following documents uploaded in the Web Portal on or before 07th April 2026 by 2:00p.m. (Last Date & Time of submission of the Bid Documents) viz. i) Copy of the NEFT/RTGS Challan or Demand Draft; ii) Copy of PAN Card; iii) Proof of Identification/ Address Proof (KYC) viz. self-attested copy of Voter ID Card/ Driving License/ Passport etc.; without which the Bid is liable to be rejected. And uploading scanned copy of ANNEXURE II & III (can be downloaded from the Web Portal: <https://www.banknet.com>) after duly filed up & signing is also required.
 - Offers that are not fully filled up or offers unaccompanied by the EMD or received after the date and time prescribed herein will not be considered/ treated as valid offers and accordingly shall be rejected. No interest shall be payable on EMD.
 - The interested bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting Bid Documents, Training/ Demonstration on Online Internet Bidding etc., may contact M/s. C1 India Pvt Ltd, Udyog Vihar, Phase 2, Gulf Petrochem building, Building No. 301, Gurgaon, Haryana. Pin: 122015. E-mail id: support@banknet.com, Support Helpline Numbers: 124-4302020/212223, 7291981124 / 1125 / 1126. Sales Enquiries: sales@banknet.com, 7291981129. Neither the Authorised Officer/ Bank nor M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. shall be liable for any Internet Network problem and the interested bidders to ensure that they are technically well equipped for participating in the e-Auction event.
 - During the Online Inter-Set Bidding, Bidder can improve their Bid Amount as per the Bid Enhancement Amount of Rs. 30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand Only) or its multiple and in case bid is placed during the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-Auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes (each time till the closure of e-Auction process), otherwise, it'll automatically get closed. The bidder who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on the closure of the e-Auction Process shall be declared as a Successful Bidder by the Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor, after required verification.
 - The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and the EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. The Earnest Money Deposit shall not bear any interest. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price, adjusting the EMD already paid, within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the Authorised Officer and the balance 75% of the sale price on or before 15th day after confirmation of the sale of the Property or such extended period as may be agreed upon in writing by the parties. In default of payment of entire consideration within the stipulated time, the Bank shall be at liberty to forfeit the EMD and/or any other payment made by the purchaser and proceed with re-auction of the Property. The defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the Property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold.
 - The bidders are advised to go through the detailed Terms & Conditions of e-Auction available on the Web Portal of M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd., <https://www.banknet.com> and Deutsche Bank Web portal <https://www.deutschebank.in/en/auction-notices.html>, before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-Auction.
 - All payments shall be made by the purchaser by means of the Demand Draft/Pay Order favoring "Deutsche Bank AG".
 - On receipt of the sale price in full, the Bank shall issue a Sale Certificate in favour of the Purchaser/his nominee and would hand over the possession of the Property to the purchaser.
 - The said Immovable Property described in the Schedule herein above shall remain and be at the sole risk of the Purchaser in all respects including loss or damage by fire or theft or other accidents, and other risk from the date of the Confirmation of the sale by the undersigned Authorised Officer. The Purchaser shall not be entitled to annul the sale on any ground whatsoever.
 - For all purposes, sale of the said property is strictly on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS". To the best of the knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer of the Bank, no other encumbrance exists on the property.
 - All expenses relating to Stamp Duty, Registration Charges, Transfer Charges and any other charges in respect of the Property shall be borne by the purchaser. All outgoings, i.e., Municipal Taxes, Maintenance / Society Charges, Electricity and water taxes, cess or any other dues including overdue in respect of the Property shall be paid by the successful purchaser.
 - The Bank is not bound to accept the highest offer or any or all offers, and the Bank reserves its right to reject any or all bid(s) without assigning any reasons.
 - No person other than the bidders themselves or their duly authorised representative shall be allowed to participate in the sale proceedings.
- This Notice is also notice to the above-said Borrower under Rule 8(6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
- Place: Chennai **Sd/- Saiheesh C. Authorized Officer- Deutsche Bank AG,**
Dated: 14.03.2026 **Contact Numbers: 09841822229, 09962116688**

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/189 - 2025-26

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-07/0326_TKC1 Rfx 7000039251 (2nd Call) for Work of replacement of existing 0.2 ACSR Panther conductor by equivalent HPC conductor along with suitable hardware, accessories for 132kV Bhoom-Paranda Line along with replacement of EHV equipment at 132kV Bhoom & 132kV Paranda S/s under EHV PC O&M Zone, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.	Rs. 2213.26 (Incl. GST)	27.03.2026 Upto 18:00 Hrs
	Rs. 1875.64 (Excl. GST)	27.03.2026 At 18:05 Hrs
	25,000.00+GST	

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr-TKC1)
CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai
Tel. No. : 022-69852717
Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in, eotkc1cpa@mahatransco.in

For further details visit our website <https://srm.tender.mahatransco.in/>
Any further amendments/clarifications will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in & <https://srm.tender.mahatransco.in/>. Bidders are therefore requested to check these websites for further updates.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

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 & 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/ Constructive Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank, Asset Recovery Management Branch-I, Chennai will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 16.04.2026 (Time: 10.30 am to 11.30 am) (with auto extension of 5 minutes each till sale is completed) for recovery of the bank's dues from the following Borrowers / Guarantors.

CHENNAI TEYNAMPET BRANCH since transferred to ARM Branch-I, Chennai : Borrower Name & Address: Mr. Manimuthu (Applicant), No. 1, Pillayar Koil Street, Maduvankarai Guindy, Industrial Estate, Chennai - 600 032

Outstanding Amount : Rs.39,74,346.15 due as on 28.02.2026 with further interest and other incidental charges thereto incurred by the bank

DETAILS OF PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel of House site, bearing Plot no. 44, measuring an extent of 770 sq ft out of 1545 sq ft along with residential house having built up area of 550 sq ft in ground floor, comprised in survey no. 265/3, patta no. 4215 with approved layout of C M D A as P P D/O No. 66/2001 situated in Mannivakkam Village, Chengalpattal Taluk, Kancheepuram District. Bounded on the North: Vacant Land, South By: Plot No 39, East By: Villa 2, West By: Plot No 43 & 12 feet road. The property lies within the sub registration district of Guduvanchery and Registration District of Chennai South.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 40,08,000/- EMD ₹ 4,00,800/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 50,000/-

Inspection of Property Date & Time : 10.04.2026 between 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION 16.04.2026 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 (banknet) 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 15.04.2026 till 5.00 P.M.

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 (Plot No. 044 - 2849 6339/2849 6900) E-mail: cb2361@canarabank.com during office hours on any working day. (or) The service provider banknet (M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd), (Contact No. 7046612345 / 6354910172 / 8291220220 / 9892219848 / 8162050501, Email: support.banknet@psballiance.com, support.banknet@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.

- The bidder is purchasing the property in Symbolic Possession at his/own risk and responsibility.
- Bank will not be responsible or duty bound for handling over of physical possession.
- Successful Auction Purchaser will not be entitled to claim any interest, in any case of return of money.
- Successful Auction Purchaser has to submit the Declaration cum undertaking confirming the above terms and conditions (1 to 4) immediately after e-Auction.
- Subsequent to sale if successful bidder fails to submit Declaration cum Undertaking, the bid EMD amount will be forfeited.

Postal of E-Auction: <https://banknet.com>

Date : 13.03.2026 **AUTHORISED OFFICER, CANARA BANK**
Place : Chennai

State Bank of India No. 157, 3rd Floor, SB Annex Building, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002. Ph: 044-28540016 / 28540017
Centralised Retail Asset Management Cell (CRAMC) Email: rwrcam.lhco@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE Rule 8(1) (For immovable Property)

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account.

The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the STATE BANK OF INDIA for an amount and interest thereon.

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

S.No.1: Mr. Venkatasubramanian. C (Borrower) S/o Mr. Chengalvarayan. K & Mrs. Bhagavathi. S. (Co-borrower) W/o Mr. Venkatasubramanian. C, both at Residential cum Property Address: Flat No. B, Ground Floor, Front Portion, New No. 71, Old no.6, Valluvar Salai, Jaganatha Nagar, Arumbakkam, Chennai-600 106. Mr. Venkatasubramanian. C (Borrower), S/o Mr. Chengalvarayan. K. Office Address: Charaman, Planning and Progress, Engine Factory Avadi, Avadi, Chennai-600 054. Ms. Bhagavathi. S (Co-borrower) W/o Mr. Venkatasubramanian. C, Office Address: Daniel Thomas Girls High School, No.45, Selva Vinayagar Koil Street, Arumbakkam, Chennai - 600 106.

Date of Demand Notice: 20.12.2025; Date of Possession: 11.03.2026; Amount outstanding : Rs. 44,47,505/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Five Only) as on 11.03.2026 and further interest from 12.03.2026 and costs etc.

SBI HOUSING TERM LOAN A/C No. 37356479709, 3771555291 AND HTL TOP UP A/C No. 37376437948 IN THE NAME OF Mr. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN C. AND Ms. BHAGAVATHI S AT OUR CHINMAYA NAGAR (CHENNAI) BRANCH (07990) LINKED WITH HLC CHENNAI (04487).

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY :

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY : Property owned by : Ms. Bhagavathi. S & Mr. Venkatasubramanian. C. Flat identified as 71/6, Valluvar Road (Valluvar Salai) also known as Valluvar Street, Jaganatha Nagar, Arumbakkam, Chennai-600 106 in the assessment records of Corporation of Chennai, which is mentioned as Flat No. "B" in the Builder's Agreement, situated in 1/5 divided share of the building, the said flat having a plinth area of 800 sq.ft. (including common areas) together with 1/5 undivided share of land out of the total extent of 2920 sq.ft., (on which building is constructed and of which building, the flat forms part) equivalent to 584 sq.ft. bearing old No. 7, New No. 6, Door No. 71, Valluvar Street, Arumbakkam, Chennai-600106, comprised in T.S.No.95, Block No. 07, situated in Arumbakkam Village, Egmore Nungambakkam Taluk, Chennai District, lying within the Registration Sub District of Kodambakkam and Registration District of Central Chennai, the whole land bounded on the North by: Rasammal's land, South by: Plot No.4, East by: 20 feet Road, West by: O.S.No.234.

S.No.2: Mr. Elumalai Chinnappayan (Borrower) S/o Mr. Chinnappayan, Residential Address (KYC): No.4885, Sunam Nagar, TNSCB, Semmanjeri, Sholinganallur, Chennai - 600119. Permanent Address: No. 123, Velankanni Koil Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 600090. Ss.Priyanka E (POA), D/o Mr. Elumalai, Residential Address: No. 4885, 5th Avenue, 9th Cross Street, Semmanjeri, Sholinganallur, Chennai - 600119. Mr. Elumalai Chinnappayan (Borrower) S/o Mr. Chinnappayan & Ms. Priyanka E (POA), D/o Mr. Elumalai, (Property Address) Villa Name & No. SKY 18, "THE SKY GARDEN", Plot No. 182/1, 7th Street, Farm Grove Srinivasa Nagar, Padur, Chennai - 603103.

Date of Demand Notice: 02.01.2026; Date of Possession: 11.03.2026; Amount outstanding : Rs. 72,44,764/- (Rupees Seventy Two Lakhs Forty Four Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Four Only) as on 11.03.2026 and further interest from 12.03.2026 and costs etc.

SBI HOUSING TERM LOAN A/C No. 41246486540 IN THE NAME OF Mr. ELUMALAI CHINAPPAYAN REPRESENTED BY HIS POA Ms. PRIYANKA E AT OUR EGMORE (CHENNAI) BRANCH (01516) LINKED WITH HLC CHENNAI (04487).

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY :

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY : Property owned by : Mr. Elumalai Chinnappayan represented by his POA Ms. Priyanka. E - SCHEDULE - A : All that Part and Parcel of Vacant land bearing Plot No. 182' admeasuring a total extent of about 25 Cents or 10,900 Sq.ft. or 1011.80 Sq. Mts, comprised in Survey No. 42/13, as per Patta No. 4179 (Old Survey Nos. 42/1A/28 pt, 42/1B1 pt, 42/1B2 pt) Regularized vide approval Letter No.NA.KA.No. 3215/2020/AA1, dated 13.01.2021 and situated in 7th Street, Farm Grove Srinivasa Nagar, in Village No.43 - Padur, presently under Tirupur Taluk (formerly under Chenglepet Taluk) and presently under Chenglepet District (formerly under Kanchipuram District) within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and sub-registration District of Tirupurur and bounded on the North By: Plot No.183, South By: Plot No.181, East By: 24 Feet Wide Road, West By: Plot No. 216, within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and sub-registration District of Tirupurur. **SCHEDULE - B (Description of the Subdivided Plots)** All that Piece and parcel of vacant plots namely Plot No. 182/1 and 182/2 admeasuring a total extent of 8464 Sq.ft (after Giffing 2427 Sq.ft) out of Schedule A Property comprised in Survey No. 42/13, as per Patta No. 4179 by Subdivision approval letter vide Na. Ka. No. 3215-1/2020/AA1 dated 18.03.2022 from Special Officer, Tirupurur Panchayat Union situated in Farm Grove Srinivasa Nagar, in Village No.43 - Padur, within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and sub-registration District of Tirupurur as detailed in the table below:

PLOT DETAILS		BOUNDARIES				MEASUREMENTS					
S.No	Survey No	PLOT NO	PLOT AREA in Sqft	North	South	West	East	North	South	West	East
1	42/13	182/1	4232	18' Wide Passage	Plot 181	Plot 216	24' Wide Road	134'-10.5"	134'-10.5"	31'-4.5"	31'-4.5"
2	42/13	182/2	4232	Plot 183	18' Wide Passage	Plot 216	24' Wide Road	134'-10.5"	134'-10.5"	31'-4.5"	31'-4.5"
8464 TOTAL AREA OF SUBDIVIDED PLOTS IN SQFT											

SCHEDULE C (Description of share of land/plot hereby agreed to be conveyed to the Purchaser) All the piece and parcel of Part of Plot No. 182/1 admeasuring an extent of 631 Sq.ft., or thereabouts, comprised in Present Survey No. 42/13A as per Patta 4179, out of SCHEDULE 'B' Property and registered in TNREERA vide TN/01/Regularisation - Layout/5241, /2022 dated 29.06.2022 situated in 7th Street, Farm Grove Srinivasa Nagar, in Village No.43 Padur and Bounded on the North By: 18' Wide Passage South By: Villa No. 7, West By: Lands in Plot No. 216East By: Villa No. 17, Measuring: East West on the Northern Side: 20'-0" East West on the Southern Side: 20'-0" North South on Western Side: 31'-7" North South on Eastern Side: 31'-7" Within the Sub Registration District of Tirupurur & Registration District of Chengalpatt. **SCHEDULE D: Residential VILLA** over the Schedule 'C' property with VILLA NAME & No. "SKY 18" with 960 sq ft., built up Area along with OPEN CAR PARK in the Project named as "THE SKY GARDEN" with RERA approval vide TN/01/Building/0237/2022 Dated 29.06.2022.

Date: 11.03.2026 **AUTHORISED OFFICER, SBI CRAMC, Chennai**
Place: Chennai

UJVN LTD. H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharanji Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135 - 2763808, Fax 0135-2763508
CIN No. U06191UR001950025868, Website : <http://ujvn.ltd.co.in>

Letter No 213 **Corrigendum No. - 04** Dated 13.03.2026
e-Tender No. 01/DGM/E&M -0-J/UJVN/2025-26

Pursuant to TB Clause 6.5 & 7.0, "Addendum-IV" has been uploaded on e-procurement portal. The dates of above Tender are hereby extended as follows:
Last date for submission of bids on website : 23.03.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of Original documents (Hard Copies) : 27.03.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid on Portal : 28.03.2026 between 11:00 Hrs. Other terms & condition shall remain same. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in/>". By General Manager (E&M Design-I)
"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

Indian Overseas Bank
CHENNAI - IV MAIN ROAD, ANNA NAGAR BRANCH
Plot No.4035, V Block, Door No.83, IVth Main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai- 600 040 Mob: 89259 52075, Email id: lob2075@iob.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable Property) [Rule 8(1)]

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 02.02.2025 calling upon the Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors: Mr. Mani M & Mrs. M. Velvizhi, Address: Door No.153, SF No.64/1, TS No.67, Ward -A, Block-41, Perumal Koil Street, Periyar Sekkudu Village, Madhavaram Municipality & Taluk, Thiruvallur District, Madhavaram, Chennai- 600 051 (hereinafter referred as "borrowers") Also At No. 66, Main Road, Iveli Agaram, V S Nagar, Thiruvallur, Chennai Tamilnadu 602001 and Sri Sai Srinivasa Filing Station, No. 311/9, Chellathurai Village, Palliolet Taluk, Tiruvallur 631303, to repay the amount vide demand notices being ₹ 1,52,78,131.45 (Rupees One Crore Fifty Two Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand One Hundred Thirty One Paise Forty Five only) as on 30.12.2025 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8th said Rules on this 11th Day of March 2026.

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount ₹ 1,52,78,131.45 (Rupees One Crore Fifty Two Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand One Hundred Thirty One Paise Forty Five only) as on 30.12.2025 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable by the borrowers on the date of taking possession is ₹ 1,54,85,481.45 (Rupees



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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OPPN MPs SUBMIT NOTICES SEEKING A MOTION FOR REMOVAL OF CEC

Opposition MPs have submitted notices in both Houses seeking a motion for removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar

130 LOK SABHA MPs, 63 RS MPs SIGN NOTICES

As many as 130 Lok Sabha MPs and 63 Rajya Sabha MPs are said to have signed the notices. The signatories include members from all the INDIA bloc parties, including AAP. Some Independent MPs have also signed the notice while several others have evinced interest. This is the first time a notice has been moved for the removal of the election commission head

SEVEN CHARGES AGAINST GYANESH KUMAR

- The notice lists seven charges against Kumar, including alleged partisan conduct in office, deliberate obstruction of investigation of electoral fraud and mass disenfranchisement
- The process for removing the CEC is similar to that of a Supreme Court or a high court judge, for "proven misbehaviour or incapacity"

Art 324(5)

OF THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THE PROCESS FOR THE CEC'S REMOVAL

TVK district secys mull alliance deals to trounce DMK

PRABHAKAR TAMILARASU @ Chennai

IN a development that could alter the dynamics of the upcoming Assembly polls, the debutant TVK, which is yet to find an ally despite party president Vijay offering a share in power, convened an urgent online meeting of its district secretaries to seek their opinion on "joining an alliance" to "defeat the evil force DMK" in the polls.

Sources said party general secretary N Anand, who convened and chaired the meeting, did not mention which alliance the party could join. However, considering the prevailing situation in the state, they said that the alliance implied was the AIADMK-BJP bloc of which the latter has been identified by the TVK as its "ideological enemy".

Most of the district secretaries to whom TNIE spoke to said that though they were not asked which alliance to join, majority of the attendees strongly voiced support for joining an alliance to defeat the DMK. Sources said that of the 138 district secretaries, over 120 attended the meeting, while some missed since it was a last-minute call. The meeting that began around 12.30 pm concluded in less than 30 minutes. Except Anand, none of the other top functionaries like KA Sengottaiyan, KG Arunraj, and Aadhav Arjuna were present.

"Since it was a zoom call, everybody was able to speak and the majority of the district secretaries asked the general secretary (Anand) to join an alliance to defeat the evil force DMK," a district secretary from the western region told TNIE. **PII**



Support for anti-DMK bloc

Though the TVK district secretaries were not specifically asked which alliance to join, most of them strongly voiced support for joining an alliance to defeat DMK

AIADMK: All are welcome

Former AIADMK minister D Jayakumar said his party would welcome anybody who accepts the AIADMK leadership. "Our aim is to defeat DMK," he said

POLLUTION STUDY

Boating ban in Nilgiris Pykara Lake

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

ANNOYED over lack of action by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) in conducting an expert inspection of Pykara Lake in the Nilgiris to assess sound pollution and water contamination caused by boating activities, a special bench of the Madras High Court on Friday temporarily stayed boating on the lake.

"We pass an interim injunction restraining the TTDC from operating motorised boats on Pykara Lake," a bench of Justices N Sathish Kumar and D Bharatha Chakravarthy said. The interim order will remain in force till April 17.

The court noted that the operation of motorised boats propelled by diesel and petrol will affect the natural habitat of flora and fauna and contaminate the lake water. During the previous hearing, the bench had ordered the TTDC to engage an expert team drawn from the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History and the Indian Institute for Soil and Water Conservation, Research Centre, in Ooty, to inspect the lake and submit a report. However, the corporation neither initiated steps for the inspection nor represented itself before the bench.

The court directed the Principal District and Sessions Judge of the Nilgiris to hand over copies of its order to the two research institutes so that an expert team could be formed to inspect the lake. During a previous hearing, the TTDC had informed the court that it would take steps to gradually replace petrol outboard motor boats with electric ones for boating operations in the lake within a reasonable time, to ensure uninterrupted tourist services and adherence to environmental protection measures. **PII**

ADOBE CEO NARAYEN SET TO STEP DOWN

Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen has decided to step down. "I have informed the Board of my decision to transition from my role as CEO after over 18 years in the job," he said



POACH-PROOF

Congress leaders arrive at a hotel ahead of polling for two Rajya Sabha seats in Haryana, in an attempt to keep the party's flock together, near Kufri in Shimla in Himachal Pradesh on Friday | PFI

Draft bill moots transgender definition overhaul

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE government on Friday introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha proposing significant amendments to the 2019 Act on transgender rights, including changes to the legal definition of a transgender person and stricter criminal punishment for offences involving forced alteration of gender identity.

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill was introduced by Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar. As per the new definition, persons with socio-cultural

identities as *kinner*, *hijra*, *aravani* and *jogta*, or eunuch, or a person with intersex variations or a person who, at birth, has a congenital variation in one or more sex characteristics as compared to male or female development will be defined as a transgender. Additionally, the proposed

amendment says that any person or child who has been, by force, allurements, inducement, deceit or undue influence, either with or without consent, compelled to assume, adopt, or outwardly present a transgender identity, by mutilation, emasculation, castration, amputation, or any surgical,

chemical, or hormonal procedure or otherwise will be included in the definition. While the 2019 Act recognizes the right to self-perceived gender identity, allowing individuals to identify as male, female, or transgender, the proposed bill removes it. Besides, "Only those transgender persons who face 'severe social exclusion due to biological reasons' will be recognised and not 'each and every class of persons with various gender identities or self-perceived gender identities.'" The draft retains the maximum of two years jail for offences against transgenders.

Right to change first name in birth certificate

The draft law seeks to empower transgender persons to make consequential changes in official documents. Any person who has been issued a certificate of identity and is declared a transgender, will be entitled to change the first name in the birth certificate and all other official documents relating to their identity, it says

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

WITH India intensifying diplomatic engagement with Iran amid escalating tensions in West Asia, Tehran has signalled the possibility of safe passage for India-flagged ships through the Strait of Hormuz.

The development came after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Thursday night, building on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call with President Masoud Pezeshkian hours earlier.

Jaishankar said he and Araghchi discussed bilateral issues as well as coordination through BRICS.

Sources said two India-bound LPG tankers were given permission to pass through the Strait. Confirming the news, Iran's Ambassador to India Mohammad Fathali said: "Yes, because India is our friend."

When reporters pressed him specifically if Indian vessels would be able to transit the Strait safely, the envoy said pos-

itive developments were expected soon. "Yes, you can see that in the future. I think after two or three hours," he said.

The security of sea lanes is a key concern for India as a large number of its seafarers operate across the Gulf. Indian officials estimate around 23,000 Indian seafarers are currently on merchant ships and offshore vessels in the wider Gulf region.

According to a statement from Iran's foreign ministry,

Araghchi briefed Jaishankar on the latest developments and implications for global security. "The Iranian Foreign Minister stressed the necessity for regional and international organisations to condemn the military aggression against Iran," the readout said.

Araghchi also stressed the importance of BRICS as a platform for coordination during the current crisis. He urged the grouping to play "a con-

structive role at the current juncture in supporting regional and global stability and security".

The statement described the call as the fourth conversation between the two foreign ministers since tensions escalated.

During the conversation, Jaishankar conveyed India's readiness to expand bilateral and multilateral cooperation through regional and international forums.

SAFE PASSAGE FOR INDIA

Iran promises safety for India-flagged vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz

From weaning the nation away from fossil fuel by offering free LPG connections to over 10 crore households since 2019, the West Asia crisis has forced the govt to go back to coal and kerosene as stop-gap measures

For example, the Madhya Pradesh Hotel Association has advised eateries to shift from 'tawa' rotis on gas to traditional 'tandoors' fired by coal or wood

States have been given 48,000 kilolitres of additional kerosene, over and above the regular monthly quota of about 1 lakh kilolitres, for household cooking needs

Regulators told to permit biomass, refuse-derived fuel pellets and coal as alternate fuels for hotels and restaurants for one month

Coal supplies are also being made available for small and medium consumers such as hotels and restaurants to enable them to shift to alternate fuels if required

-Sujata Sharma, joint secy, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas



Govt asks restaurants to switch to coal, households to PNG as LPG crisis deepens

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

WITH LPG shortage deepening amid escalation in the war between Iran and US-Israel, the government on Friday admitted that the situation remains a matter of concern.

The disruption in supply of cooking gas has particularly impacted commercial establishments such as restaurants and hotels. To address the issue, the government has suggested commercial users switch to coal and kerosene. Briefing reporters on Fri-

day, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the petroleum ministry, said LPG is a matter of concern for the government but there is no dry out at any of the 25,000 distributors.

Sharma said the real issue is panic buying rather than an actual disruption in supply for domestic consumers. On normal days, 50 lakh LPG cylinder bookings are made, but the number has now shot up to 75 lakh bookings per day.

According to the government, there is no shortage of piped natural gas (PNG) and

households that have access to PNG infrastructure could consider shifting to piped cooking gas to conserve LPG.

Official data shows around 7 lakh LPG customers have the option to switch to PNG.

"Supply of PNG to domestic consumers is being ensured without any interruptions or cuts," said Sharma.

INSIDE
WHOLESALE GRAIN MARKETS SEE SLOWDOWN | P6
TN EATERIES TURN TO WOOD FOR COOKING | P6

SC rejects PIL on menstrual leave for women

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a PIL seeking a nationwide policy providing paid menstrual leave for women students and workers, observing that no one would hire them, adding such a provision would unintentionally reinforce gender stereotypes.

The court, however, asked the Centre and competent authorities to consider the representation of the petitioner and examine the possibility of framing a policy on menstrual leave after consulting all relevant stakeholders.

The bench was hearing a PIL

Deeply rooted PILs, says top court

The bench said the petitions are "deeply rooted". "You are not a bona fide petitioner. This is to create impression in young women that you are not at par with males and you cannot work like them during a particular time."

"These pleas are made to create fear, to call women inferior and that menstruation is something bad happening to them. No one would give them jobs in such a scenario. This is projected as an affirmative right. But one must also think about the employer who has to grant paid leave," said a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and justice Joymalya Bagchi.

Senior advocate M R Shamsad, appearing for Tripathi, sought and pleaded for certain guidelines, giving examples of certain states and institutions that have taken steps to accommodate men-

strual leave. He said the Karnataka government has formulated a policy to allow menstrual leave and some private organisations are also providing the facility.

The CJ said, "Voluntarily they are giving, then it is excellent. But the moment you introduce it as a compulsory condition in law, you do not know the damage it will do to career of women."

Justice Bagchi echoed these concerns from a business perspective, noting that affirmative action is constitutionally recognised but must be balanced against market realities.

EXPRESS READ

IDBI divestment hit as bids below reserve price

New Delhi: The divestment of IDBI Bank could be shelved as the bids by potential buyers were below the reserve price, sources said on Friday. The government and LIC were together looking to sell 60.72% in IDBI Bank. Bidders included global and domestic financial institutions such as Fairfax Financial Holdings and Emirates NBD

Release ₹3K crore Jal mission dues: CM to PM

Chennai: Chief Minister MK Stalin on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention for the release of ₹3,112 crore due to TN under Jal Jeevan Mission. He also sought approval and financial support for new drinking water schemes | P8

Sasikala announces party name, symbol

Chennai: VK Sasikala, confidante of former chief minister J Jayalalithaa, on Friday announced that her party will be called the Ananthiyala Puratchithalaivar Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam and it will contest polls on 'Coconut Grove' symbol | P8

Consumers firing on all cylinders to get gas

IOCL says distribution not hit, but hundreds with confirmed booking through LPG agencies due to delay in delivery

B ANBUSELVAN @Chennai

EVEN as oil marketing companies dismiss concerns with regard to supply of domestic LPG cylinders across the state, consumers complain that new bookings have been affected indiscriminately, including for those who had purchased their last cylinders 40 to 50 days ago. Hundreds who received text alerts confirming booking delivery are thronging the gas agency offices to get new domestic cylinders.



A boy lends a helping hand to his mother to roll an LPG cylinder in Puzhal | PRAVINKUMAR

In Chennai, the situation was evident in places such as Korattur, Kolathur, Padi, Tiruvottiyur and Ambattur. While a section of consumers said they had not received any text alerts confirming their bookings over the past week, those who did receive them said that the cylinder supply had

been delayed for more than ten days. As a result, many residents head to agency offices on two-wheelers, autorickshaws

and other vehicles to exchange their empty cylinders for new ones. In a few places like Madhavaram, Tiruvottiyur, Padi

and Perambur, consumers gheraoed delivery personnel and engaged in altercations, demanding quicker supply of cylinders, prompting the agencies to release replacement at their offices.

Officials with the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), the state-level coordinator for the oil industry in Tamil Nadu, however, maintained that the distribution of domestic cylinders remains largely unaffected. "As of Friday, there is no major disruption in the supply chain of domestic cylinders. Agencies with the highest number of consumers may take longer to deliver the cylinders. However, people driven by panic are rushing to agency offices seeking immediate replacement," an official said.

Staff at gas agencies in Madhavaram, Korattur, Kolathur

and Padi, however, informed consumers that supplies had been restricted and that delivery of cylinders could be delayed by up to two weeks. Agencies were also allowing replacement of cylinders only for those who had received text alerts from oil companies along with the six-digit OTP.

S Kamakshi of Padi said, "My last booking was 55 days ago. Last week I received a text alert confirming my booking. But I was told it would take another two weeks to receive the cylinder. So I hired an autorickshaw and went to the agency office to get the cylinder."

Several consumers also complained that despite a gap of 30 to 40 days since their last booking, they were unable to book new cylinders through IVR, WhatsApp or the Indian Oil One mobile app.



The slowdown is particularly worrying for traders who depend on daily bulk purchases by restaurants, small hotels, caterers and hostels | MARTIN LOUIS

Wholesale biz drops as hotels, institutions stay off the market

C SHIVAKUMAR @ Chennai

THE West Asia conflict-triggered LPG shortage is having a ripple effect on the wholesale food grain markets, with slow-down already visible in falling orders from hotels and institutional buyers – traditionally the backbone of the wholesale food supply chain.

Traders say a clearer picture of the impact is expected by Monday.

"Hotels and institutions account for more than half of our business. With some of them either shutting down temporarily or cutting back operations because of the LPG shortage, our sales have dropped by about 20%," said Ashok Kumar, manager of Magizhichi, a shop operating in the Chennai's wholesale food grain market in Koyambedu.

"Earlier, we used to get enquiries from nearly 50 customers a day. Now it has come down to about 25," he said.

The slowdown is particularly worrying for traders who depend on daily bulk purchases by restaurants, small hotels, caterers and hostels. These establishments typically procure rice, pulses, wheat, edible oil and other staples in large volumes from wholesale markets.

P G Srinivasan of PMG International, who is also treasurer of the Koyambedu Food Grains Market Association, told *TNIE* the drop in footfall has begun to affect trade. "The West Asia war has disrupted the global plastic supply chain. Shortage of key resins and petrochemical feedstock has pushed up costs by more than 20%. That is another cause for concern," Srinivasan added.

Despite the dull sales, traders continue to procure essential commodities amid fears that fuel prices could increase if the conflict drags on.

S Chandran, president of the Market Management Committee Licensed Merchants Association and general secretary of Anaith Sangankalin Kootamapu, said it's too early to assess the full impact. "Hope the conflict doesn't impact the fuel prices which would impact the supply chain," he said.

N Chinnamayan, president of the Mattuthavani Central Market Traders Association, said vegetable prices in the Madurai market remained largely unchanged for now. Chennai Hotel Association president M Ravi said 20% of small eateries may have shut shop.

(With inputs from MS Thanaraj @ Madurai)

Anganwadis keep fire alive in Madurai with induction stoves

EX PRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Madurai

ACTING on instructions from the social welfare department, officials of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) have purchased 156 induction stoves to tide over LPG shortage in anganwadi centres.

A total of 2,001 anganwadi centres function in Madurai district. Of this 1,500 centres are located in rural areas. Each anganwadi centre would be allotted four LPG cylinders a month. Officials have booked 176 LPG cylinders, of which 50% have arrived, sources said. As a precautionary measure, however, ICDS staff recently purchased 156 induction stoves to be given to anganwadi centres if they run out of LPG.

ICDS Project Officer M Sheelasundari told *TNIE* that she received purchase instructions from the director of the social welfare and women empowerment department. The induction stoves were then purchased from its funds.

"Each child would be provided up to five multigrain kozhukattais in the morning and evening in addition to variety rice for lunch. In order to provide uninterrupted services, we are taking all measures. We also planning to purchase electric kettles. Anganwadi workers can boil eggs using kettles, and boil water to prepare dough for kozhukattai," she said.

Further, she said LPG distributors in Thirumangalam did not accept cash for purchase of refill suspecting the workers were booking cylinders for themselves. The refills were released after the district collector's intervention.

Sea expeditions stuck, fishermen getting cooked

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @Chennai

THE afternoon sun beat down relentlessly on the Kasimedu fishing harbour in north Chennai on Friday but the usually bustling waterfront was quiet. A few mechanised boats bobbed idly in the waters while fishermen sat in the shade of their vessels, waiting - not for the next catch, but for cooking gas supply. The disruption of LPG supply, essential for long fishing voyages, has begun to cripple fishing operations in Chennai.

G Gneswar Rao, a migrant worker from Sriakulam in Andhra Pradesh who works as a driver on a trawler boat, said, "Boat owners are asking us not to take the vessels out as cylinders are not available. Without food arrangements, we cannot remain at sea for days on end." Nearly 1,000



A fisherman hands over an empty cylinder to a delivery personnel at Kasimedu | MARTIN LOUIS

fishermen from about 100 families from AP depend on the Kasimedu harbour for their livelihood. Many migrated years ago to work as crew members on mechanised boats.

A Appanna, one such migrant fisherman, recalled how the TN government had supported fishing communities during the Covid-19 lockdown. "Now, we are facing another crisis. If LPG cylinders are not made available, our liveli-

hood will be crippled."

The situation comes even as fishing activity at Kasimedu, one of the largest fishing harbours on the east coast, has already slowed down due to poor catch and rising operational costs. G Manivannan, treasurer of the Chennai Mechanised Boat Fishermen Welfare Association, said, "We invest close to ₹8 lakh on a 15-day voyage. In return, we are barely catching fish worth ₹4 lakh to ₹5 lakh. Even then

we send the boats because keeping them idle will damage the engines."

While LPG cylinders typically last the five to seven days during fishing trips, the reduced catch make boats to now remain at sea for up to 18 days. "We have already raised the issue with the fisheries department." When contacted, a senior fisheries official told that they are working to restore normalcy.

Meanwhile, P Jesu Raja, president of the All Mechanised Boat Fishermen Association, said, "More than 400 mechanised boats from Rameswaram ventured into the sea on Wednesday as usual, as most here undertake only short expeditions." As for those in Nagappattinam, they said they would take stock of the situation in a few days.

(Inputs from MS Thanaraj @ Rameswaram, N Ramesh @ Thanjavur)

Facing heat, eateries turn to wood that puts them back by up to ₹10K/tonne

DHEEPTHI OJ/ MS THANARAJ @ Chennai/ Madurai

THE shortage of commercial LPG cylinder has paved the way for the return of the firewood, as many a restaurant and small eatery across the state have turned to the traditional way for cooking needs.

K Sermapani Nadar, whose family has been running a firewood shop on Dr Natesan Road in Mylapore for 35 years, said sales of coal and casuarina firewood have doubled since the LPG crisis began. "Earlier I used to sell nearly 500kg of coal a day; now it has increased to around 750kg. The quantity of logs that I sell also doubled, from 2 tonnes to 4 tonnes," he said. He said he usually sup-

plies to around 20 restaurants, many of which have doubled their purchase, adding some high-end restaurants have also started buying from him. A private school also placed orders on Friday evening, he said.

M Govindaraj, a second-generation wholesale firewood seller, said hostels and small biryani shops with enough open space have begun their purchase, adding some mosques are also buying firewood from him for making 'nonbu kanji'.

S Thangaraj, a firewood vendor in Kolathur said he is selling 25 kg of casuarina wood for ₹450 now (₹18 per kg), compared to ₹400 earlier.

N Swamikannu, another small-scale seller, said his two-tonne stock of firewood was



The sellers source firewood from Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, etc | PRAVINKUMAR

sold out in just three days, and he continues to receive calls from eateries. Firewood seller P Muthumaran from Kasimedu said a popular biryani

outlet has doubled its purchase from 10 tonnes to nearly 20 tonnes a day.

The sellers source casuarina firewood from Cuddalore, Tin-

diyanam, Nagapattinam, Perambur, Tiruchy and Pudukkottai, and also from Andhra Pradesh. Muthumaran added sourcing firewood from AP has become costlier by nearly ₹2,000 per tonne.

A small biryani shop owner in Mylapore said only a few eateries, which have an open space around, could switch to firewood. "Out of 25 small shops I know, only four could make the shift, while others have closed down. Many fear losing employees if they shut down," he said.

A hotelier in Madurai said the shift to firewood has increased the running costs and has forced price hike.

The traders said rates of firewood have gone up from about

₹3,000-4,000 per tonne to nearly ₹10,000 in recent days. Prasanana, a trader at Mattuthavani, said dozens of truckloads of firewood arriving daily from Ramanathapuram district are being sold out within hours. Prices vary by type of wood, with neem karuvulam costing ₹4,000 to ₹5,000 per tonne, while better-quality wood fetches close to ₹10,000, he said.

Basker Badmanaban, a trader from Paramakudi, said labour shortage for wood cutting and transport is also affecting supply, adding transporting one tonne from Ramanathapuram to Madurai costs about ₹800.

(With inputs from Praveena S A and Sinduja Jena @ Chennai)

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHS

14th March: When Mercury Aligns with Mars One of the many benefits to being your own best friend is that it teaches you what it takes to be your own best friend - what works and doesn't, what your preferences actually are and not some imagined idea of what they could be. And once you know this information, it becomes much easier to teach others, both explicitly and by providing an example.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

People best understand the roles they've knowingly inherited. That's why the strongest bosses were once employees, and the best teachers were once students, and the best future-you integrates pride and compassion for past-you.

TAURUS (Apr 20 - May 20)

You're not really cozy in today's circumstance, and that's fine. If pushing through gets you closer to what you actually want, it's worth it. You've never been someone who chooses easy over meaningful. That result will be worth the effort.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)

When someone does something odd or irritating, you don't react immediately. You take mental notes. Not enough info yet. And then you reserve judgment until you know more - the way of compassion.

CANCER (June 21 - July 21)

Maybe don't worry so much about whether you're onto a good idea or a bad idea just yet. Action is like turning the page. Without it, you can't get to the next part of the story. When you act, you learn.

LEO (July 21 - Aug 21)

You are used to having someone's sweet attention, which makes you feel secure, respected and maybe even cherished. Today offers some competition for the attention you're used to commanding. Unchallenged, well, it's game on. In the nicest way, of course!

VIRGO (Aug 21 - Sept 21)

Loving someone means loving who they're becoming, not just who they were when you met. To love someone is to sign up for their evolution. Today you realize that you're in it for real. Signing up for the next chapter, the new version.

LIBRA (Sept 21 - Oct 21)

You'll demonstrate emotional growth through restraint and a passion through maturity, and be rewarded with the trust of those around you. You'll also turn this emotional wisdom into your next winning strategy.

SCORPIO (Oct 21 - Nov 21)

Reactions may feel bigger than the moment requires, especially around home, family or security. Yet this is genuinely energy at heart. It favors practical care over dramatic display. The opportunity is to balance warmth with boundaries.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 21 - Dec 21)

You're so generous with the resources you have in abundance, and there's also a temptation to give of what you don't have a lot of. That's the one to watch out for. Hold back, Reassess. What would be easy to give?

CAPRICORN (Dec 21 - Jan 19)

You can lead from where you are. It really doesn't matter whether you have a title or are indeed the official leader of the group. The strongest influence comes from the people you lead and agree with; that's you.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Photos said, "For a man to conquer himself is the first and noblest of all victories" and it still applies today, although why "conquer" yourself when you can "lead and love and care for" yourself just as easily?

PISCES (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

In your romantic imagination, a relationship like a movie trailer, all sparks and perfect timing. In real life, it's candid, quirky and the occasional awkward conversation. It's less dramatic, more human. Still, these things beats the fantasy every time.

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

SUDOKU MEDIUM

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.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10			
12		13		14			
17			15		16		
						18	19
		20					
21	22						
23			24			25	
				26			
28						29	
30							31

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Village tragedy (6)
- A body-builder showing a heavenly body (8)
- Treated with care (6)
- Someone not suited for running (8)
- Come back to a matter of trivial importance (4)
- Credit is tied up we're told (5)
- He has to live with a goddess (4)
- You'll be lucky to win one (4,2,6)
- His pupils are encouraged to make notes (5,7)
- Abraham Lincoln to start with was murdered (4)
- Silver down but looks healthy (5)
- Study occupied by a college head (4)
- No-one doubts what this signal means (3,5)
- In direct opposition before gullies are used (4-2)
- Pass on the taking (8)
- A game bird for example all of a flutter (6)

DOWN

- Draperies rejected by most modern societies (8)
- Note when the army order is given (4,4)
- It's flat and square (4)
- A challenging demand (12)
- Some seed enables one to make a garden (4)
- Name of the girl who shot to fame from Yale, OK? (6)
- Stode roared an English county (6)
- As set by one out to break a record? (8,4)
- Extra payment on getting into public transport (5)
- Applause as powder magazine finally goes up (5)
- Strung up (8)
- In leave the law to the big guns (8)
- Empty one container into another (6)
- It's a strange leader who won't lead (6)
- Singer improved a lot (4)
- Truly a king for only twelve months (4)

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

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNIEBE

LODLR
 CLUHM
 GNCAEH
 RENLKE

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

Answer here:

(Answer Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TOTAL MINUS REDUCE CANVAS
 Answer: After discovering her grandmother's favorite perfume, she got - "SCENT-MENTAL"



A total of 43 pairs of trains will operate between the Chennai Beach and St Thomas Mount railway stations | ASHWIN PRA SATH

Beach-Mount MRTS won't stop at Adambakkam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE Chennai division of the Southern Railway on Friday announced that the Chennai Beach-St Thomas Mount MRTS services, which are set to commence on Saturday, will not stop at Adambakkam railway station in either direction. The trains will stop only at Puzhuthivakkam station between Velachery and St Thomas Mount, according to an official statement.

The first train from Chennai Beach will depart at 5 am and reach St Thomas Mount at 6.05 am. The last train will leave Chennai Beach at 10.20 pm and reach St Thomas Mount at 11.25 pm.

Meanwhile, three short services will operate from Velachery to St Thomas Mount, departing Velachery at 5.25 am, 6 am and 3.10 pm and reaching St Thomas Mount at 5.45 am, 6.20 am and 3.30 pm, respectively. During evening hours,

two services departing from Chennai Beach at 8.32 pm and 9.15 pm will terminate at Velachery at 9.20 pm and 10.05 pm, respectively.

Similarly, the first train from St Thomas Mount to Chennai Beach will start at 5 am and reach Beach at 6.05 am. Two services to Chennai Beach will originate from Velachery at 4.50 am and 5.55 am, arriving at Beach at 5.40 am and 6.45 am respectively. The last train will depart St Thomas Mount at 10.20 pm and reach Chennai Beach at 11.25 pm.

In addition, three shuttle services from St Thomas Mount to Velachery will operate, leaving Mount at 11.05 am, 7.45 pm and 9.55 pm and reaching Velachery at 11.25 am, 8.05 pm and 10.15 pm, respectively.

A total of 43 pairs of trains will operate between Chennai Beach and St Thomas Mount, three pairs between Velachery and St Thomas Mount, and two pairs between Chennai Beach and Velachery.

CM lays foundation for water supply, school works

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

CHIEF Minister M K Stalin, on Friday, laid foundation stone for water supply and sewage projects in Kodambakkam, Sholinganallur and Manali zones at a total cost of ₹25.79 crore.

As per an official release, an overhead water tank and underground water tank will be constructed in Kamaraj Colony, Kodambakkam zone at a cost of ₹7.2 crore. Similarly, an underground tank will be constructed and a main pipeline will be laid in Ezhil Nagar in Sholinganallur zone at ₹8.55 crore. The works will be carried out by the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board



Chief Minister M K Stalin inaugurated 35 completed projects by the Directorate of Municipal Administration and nine by the Directorate of Town Panchayats | EXPRESS

(Metro Water). Also, a sewage treatment plant will be constructed in Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board apartment premises in Manali Pudhu Nagar at ₹10.22 crore. Moreover, the chief minister also laid foundation stones for school buildings in Kan-

nagi Nagar, Semmencherry and Vivekanandar Street in Sholinganallur zone. A pickleball court and a gym will be established in Bhashyam Street in Thiru Vi Ka Nagar zone and Singaravelar Road in Teynampet zone. "The CM inaugurated 35

completed works executed by the Directorate of Municipal Administration at a cost of ₹177.17 crore, and nine completed projects implemented by the Directorate of Town Panchayats at ₹32.23 crore," the release added.

The projects inaugurated under the Directorate of Municipal Administration include facilities such as parks, bus stands, commercial complexes, classrooms, science parks, a modern garbage transfer station and drinking water distribution pipelines in several cities.

The CM also distributed keys for 28 new vehicles worth ₹3.28 crore for official use by municipal corporations and municipalities.

Metro Water to hold grievance meet today

Chennai: The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Metro Water) to conduct its monthly grievance meeting on March 14 (Saturday). "The grievance meetings will be held at the area offices of each of the 15 zones between 10 am to 1 pm," a press release said. The meetings will be presided by superintendent engineers, in which public can get clarifications on doubts pertaining to water and sewage connections and other issues. "Public are requested to utilise the meetings to record their complaints regarding water supply and sewerage," the release added. ENS

Will not play Rajini songs for team's promos: Chennai Super Kings to HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

WITH the Indian Premier League (IPL) just a couple of weeks away, the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) seemed to be facing copyright violation allegations. On Friday, the team informed the Madras High Court that it will not use the songs and background score of Rajinikanth movies for its promotions online.

Appearing for the CSK, senior counsel P S Raman made the submission before Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy when the civil suit filed by Sun

TV Network alleging violation of copyrights against the cricket franchise came up for hearing.

The Sun Network, represented by senior counsel J Ravindran, submitted it is the producer of the films, Jailer, Jailer 2 and Coolie, starring Rajinikanth and the music for the movies was composed by Anirudh Ravichander. The producer said it holds worldwide and irrevocable rights of all deliverables received through agreements entered into with the music composer.

It said the CSK had unveiled its new jersey for the IPL 2026

season on March 1, and its promotional videos on its official social media handles prominently use audio tracks and dialogues from these films "by mischievously exploiting copyrighted works." The petitioner termed such an act as infringement of the Copyright Act, 1957 causing irreparable loss and injury to it.

It sought the court to permanently restrain CSK from using and disseminating such contents and pass a decree of damages for ₹1 crore for violation/infringement of the copyright.

The judge adjourned the case to March 16 enabling the CSK to file a counter-affidavit.

Another city med college shuts down hostel, cancels in-person classes

Chennai: In light of the ongoing LPG distribution crisis, the Sree Balaji Medical College & Hospital (SBMCH) has suspended regular physical classes for all MBBS, Allied Health Services (AHS), Bachelor of Occupational Therapy and Bachelor of Physiotherapy students from March 14 to 25. A circular issued by the dean confirmed that online classes will be conducted during this period, and attendance will be monitored based on participation. The decision comes in the wake of the ongoing LPG shortage affecting transportation. The students have been asked to vacate the college hostel immediately. Postgraduate (PG) students will continue their regular postings as scheduled. ENS



In a symbolic protest, cadre of the TN Congress Committee took out a funeral procession for an LPG cylinder, which was placed upon a vehicle decorated with flowers, on Friday. The demonstration was led by TNCC chief Selvaparanthar, against the centre, condemning the ongoing LPG crisis in Chennai | P ANWARHAR

Indian Bank TRIPLICANE BRANCH. NOTICE OF BREAKING OPEN OF LOCKERS. We hereby inform the below mentioned customers 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.

HINDUJA LEYLAND FINANCE LIMITED. POSSESSION NOTICE. UNDER RULE 8(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002. Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Hinduja Leyland Finance Ltd (HLF) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 28.11.2025 calling upon the Borrowers Shri. Najimudeen (Since Deceased Through all his Known and Unknown Legal Heirs and Successors), Mrs. Zeenath Anusha Beevi W/o and Legal Heir of (Late) Najimudeen, Mrs. Shireen Fathima D/o and Legal Heir of (Late) Najimudeen, Mr. Siddiq Shanas D/o and Legal Heir of (Late) Najimudeen who have availed loan against mortgage of property vide Loan Account Nos. TNCH01957 of our Chennai Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.37,48,557.33/ (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Seven Only) as on 25.11.2025, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

TAMIL NADU DR. J. JAYALALITHA FISHERIES UNIVERSITY. Special Recruitment under short fall vacancy - ST and Recruitment for post for ICAR FUNDING KVK. Applications are invited in the prescribed form to fill up the following posts in the university.

Canara Bank Asset Recovery Management Branch-I. 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) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Canara Bank Asset Recovery Management Branch-I. 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) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR CELL SCIENCE, (NCCS) PUNE. Advt. No.: NCCS/PMC/P-01/2026. SUB: WALK IN INTERVIEWS FOR PROJECT POSITIONS UNDER EXTRA MURAL PROJECTS.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY. (CONSTRUCTION / ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS). E-Tender Notice No. CAO-CN-RSP-ROB-01-2026 Dated 13.03.2026.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY. (CONSTRUCTION / ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS). E-Tender Notice No. CAO-CN-RSP-ROB-01-2026 Dated 13.03.2026. For and on behalf of The President of India, Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Road Safety Projects, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai 600 008 invites e-tender for the following works as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.ireps.gov.in.

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED. E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED: Procurement of Earthing and Station Service Transformer (MIT 41).

Canara Bank Asset Recovery Management Branch-I. 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 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 28.11.2025 calling upon the Borrowers Shri. Najimudeen (Since Deceased Through all his Known and Unknown Legal Heirs and Successors), Mrs. Zeenath Anusha Beevi W/o and Legal Heir of (Late) Najimudeen, Mrs. Shireen Fathima D/o and Legal Heir of (Late) Najimudeen, Mr. Siddiq Shanas D/o and Legal Heir of (Late) Najimudeen who have availed loan against mortgage of property vide Loan Account Nos. TNCH01957 of our Chennai Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.37,48,557.33/ (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Seven Only) as on 25.11.2025, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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Release ₹3,112 cr pending under Jal Jeevan Mission, Stalin writes to PM

₹2,434 cr was allocated to TN in 2024-25, only ₹732 crore has been released so far, says CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

CHIEF Minister MK Stalin on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his immediate intervention for the release of ₹3,112 crore due to Tamil Nadu under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). He also sought approval and financial support for new drinking water schemes, including the Hogenakkal Phase-III Combined Water Supply Scheme, to ensure tap water connections to rural households.

The CM pointed out that under JJM, the state has provided

Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to 1.12 crore households, covering 90% of its 1.25 crore rural homes. While welcoming the union government's decision to extend and enhance the JJM's outlay, the CM underscored that, despite the best performance, the centre has released only ₹5,914 crore as its share, leaving a pending balance of ₹3,112 crore.

Stalin also recalled that although ₹2,434 crore was allocated to Tamil Nadu in 2024-25, only ₹732 crore has

been released, and no fund has been received since September 2024. To sustain ongoing works, the state government has already advanced ₹2,550 crore from its own resources.

Hence, Stalin requested that the PM intervene to ensure the immediate release of the pending funds. The CM also highlighted the Hogenakkal Phase-III Combined Water Supply Scheme, proposed with Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) assistance, which was approved by the

State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee of the Ministry of Jal Shakti on June 15, 2023, at a cost of ₹8,428 crore, including a GOI share of ₹2,283 crore.

He said the state had begun preparatory work, but the centre recently indicated that assistance cannot be given pending approval for the extension of the JJM. He also cautioned that the withdrawal of support would affect drinking water prospects in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri. Stalin also sought approval for 10 new Multi-Village Schemes worth ₹7,590 crore under JJM 2.0, to achieve full rural coverage.



Implement bottle buyback fully by May 31 or pay fine: HC to TN

R SIVAKUMAR @Chennai

THE Madras High Court has warned Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (Tasmac) of imposing a fine of ₹10 per bottle under the 'Polluter Pays Principle' if it fails to implement the empty liquor bottle buyback scheme in all the districts before May 31, 2026.

A special bench of justices N Sathish Kumar and D Bharatha Chakravarthy on Friday passed the order while hearing cases relating to forests and environmental issues. It expressed displeasure over the delay in expanding the scheme, which has been implemented in 29 districts so far, to the remaining districts.

Referring to the submission of Additional Advocate General (AAG) J Ravindran that the expansion of the scheme faced difficulties due to the objections raised by the employees and time taken for enforcing the QR Code system, the bench said the very same reason was placed on record even on the last occasion.

"The Tasmac is selling more than 2 crore bottles of liquor per day and that is causing untold and unbearable burden on the environment. The selling of liquor is res extra commercium as per the order of the Supreme Court. Between the res extra commercium (activities outside the realm of commerce) and the environmental damage, the court will naturally prefer to save the environment.

"Therefore, one last opportunity, as prayed for, will be given. If the scheme is not fully implemented within the time frame,



SHRC ORDER QUASHED IN LOIS SOFIA CASE

Chennai: A division bench of the Madras High Court has set aside an order of the Tamil Nadu State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) directing the payment of ₹2 lakh compensation to Lois Sofia, a student who was arrested in 2018 after raising slogans against Dr Tamilisel Soundararajan, then state BJP president. The SHRC had on March 2, 2022 directed the state to pay the compensation and recover the amount from officers involved in her arrest. Challenging the order, six police officers filed petitions before the HC. A division bench of Justices G Jayachandran and Shanmugam Ahmed, in a recent order, said the SHRC "stretched its imagination beyond the facts and records placed before it" in concluding that Section 505(1)(b) of the IPC was included in the FIR at the Instance of higher officials, and quashed the order. ENS

then on the basis of the 'Polluter Pays Principle', ₹10 for every bottle sold shall be paid," the bench said in the order, setting a deadline of May 31 for full implementation of the scheme.

Warning on water bottles

Meanwhile, the bench refused to modify its earlier order to the centre and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to ensure affixing a warn-

ing label on PET bottles and plastic packaging for salt and sugar on the presence of micro and nano plastics.

Senior standing counsel for the centre V Chandrasekharan requested the bench to modify its order on the warning label till an expert committee looks into it and suggests steps for addressing the issue by curtailing use of plastics for packaging water, salt and sugar.

Aspirants cry foul over 'hasty' assistant prof appointments

BINITA JAISWAL @Chennai

CHIEF Minister MK Stalin issuing appointment orders to just 11 selected assistant professors in five subjects on Friday has not gone down well with 42,000-strong pool of candidates who appeared for recruitment exams in December 2025.

Raising concerns about the transparency and fairness in the recruitment process, the aspirants alleged the appointments were made hastily in view of the upcoming election. "The government has made the appointments now in order to earn brownie points for the ruling party," said a candidate.

The aspirants said interviews for History Education, Human Rights, Indian Culture and Tourism, Marine Biology, and Wildlife Biology subjects, which was initially scheduled for March 22 and 23, were postponed, and were conducted earlier this week.

Of the total 2,708 vacancies advertised for 48 subjects, a vast majority of candidates who wrote the exam at 195 centres are yet to get the call. Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu All Government College UGC Qualified Guest Lecturers Association has raised concerns about the impact on seniority of the existing faculty, saying the appointment of the selected 11 candidates could delay the process for others, permanently affecting their position in the queue. With an appeal related to the recruitment process pending in court, the selective issuance of appointment letters has also raised questions about the process's legality. "We demand that the appointment orders be cancelled immediately and the results for all subjects be announced at one go," said V Thangaraj, state president of the association.

Meanwhile, the Teachers Recruitment Board, which conducted the recruitment process, justified the issuance of appointment orders. A TRB official said, "We have already announced that results of the various subjects will only be announced in a phased manner."

Deal done, KMDK to contest in two seats on DMK's 'Rising Sun' symbol

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

KONGUNADU Makkal Desiya Katchi (KMDK) was allotted two seats by the DMK for the upcoming Assembly election following talks held at Anna Arivalayam on Friday, sources said. A seat-sharing agreement was signed by DMK president and Chief Minister MK Stalin and KMDK's general secretary ER Eswaran at the DMK headquarters. The KMDK had contested three seats under the DMK's 'Rising Sun' symbol in the 2021 election, winning one seat. This time too, the party would contest two seats under the 'Rising Sun' symbol, sources said, adding that it is likely to contest both the seats from western region of TN.

The ruling DMK, which began its seat-sharing talks on February 22, so far has finalised its seat sharing with the Congress allocating it 28 seats, MDMK four seats, and



The seat-sharing agreement was signed by DMK president and Chief Minister MK Stalin and KMDK's general secretary ER Eswaran on Friday | EXPRESS

IUML, MMK and KMDK two seats each. However, long-time allies CPI, CPM, VCK and the newly ally Primalatha Vijayakant's DMDK and Kamal Haasan's MNM are yet to finalise the number of seats they would contest as part of Secular Progressive Alliance led by the DMK.

Meanwhile, on Friday, sidelined AIADMK leader Puhazanthi, who recently

launched Puratchi ADMK, also visited Anna Arivalayam and extended his support to the DMK. The DMK has also called for a statewide protest against the union government on March 15 over the 'shortage' of cooking and domestic gas cylinders in the wake of escalating West Asia tension, a party release said.

The party has also called for its district secretaries' meeting on March 16 to discuss preparedness.

Sasikala unveils symbol, announces name of party

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

VK Sasikala, confidante of former chief minister J Jayalithaa, on Friday announced her party will be called Anaithinthiya Puratchithalaivargam (AIPMMK) and it will contest polls on 'Coconut Grove' symbol. Sasikala had introduced the party flag on February 24 during the birth anniversary celebrations of J Jayalithaa at Kamudhi in Ramanaathapuram. Recalling that MG Ramachandran had become a member of a political party registered by one of his loyalists and continued his political journey, Sasikala said, "Similarly, I too joined a politi-

cal party launched by a loyalist of MGR and Jayalithaa."

Asked whether the AIPMMK would form an alliance, Sasikala replied in the affirmative. "The Coconut Grove symbol itself implies that we will stand together, and that a single tree cannot become a grove. The AIPMMK will contest the Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Our party will align with like-minded parties," she said. Two days ago, Sasikala called on PMK founder S Ramadoss and held detailed discussions with him. However, she did not divulge details of the meeting.

Incidentally, TMC led by G K Vasani was allotted the Coconut Grove symbol in the 2016 Assembly polls.



VK Sasikala said AIPMMK candidates will contest under the 'Coconut Grove' symbol across Tamil Nadu and Puducherry | EXPRESS

Govt told to submit case diary in 3 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Madurai

THE Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Friday directed the Tamil Nadu government to file a status report and also the case diary of the investigation in the death case of a 17-year-old girl in Thoothukudi before March 16.

A division bench of justices N Sathish Kumar and M Jothiraman gave the direction while hearing an urgent petition filed by K Mareeshwari of Thoothukudi seeking CBI investigation, compensation among others. The petitioner also sought the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the court to investigate the case and also appoint a retired judge of the court to monitor it.

Additional Advocate General M Ajmal Khan submitted that murder charges and provisions of SC/ST Act have been included in the case and that Thoothukudi SP has constituted 10 special teams to nab the assassins.

Highlighting the case was proceeding in the right direction, he submitted that the police inspector who mishandled the case was also transferred.

Family refuses to accept teen's body for third day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Thoothukudi

FAMILY members of the 17-year-old girl who was found dead in bushes near a village in Kulathur refused to receive her body for the third consecutive day on Friday, insisting that they would do so only after the culprits are arrested.

Tirunelveli Range DIG P Saravanan has formed 10 special teams to trace the suspects. "We are interrogating nearly a dozen persons, including one of the girl's classmates. No suspect has been confirmed yet," a senior police officer told TNIE. "As per the postmortem report, the girl was strangled to death and her collarbone was broken. We are awaiting test results to ascertain if she was sexually assaulted," the officer added.

On Friday, several political leaders, including Thoothukudi MP Kanimozhi and TVK leader Aadhav Arjuna, visited the girl's family and offered condolences. Speaking to reporters, Kanimozhi said the murder was condemnable. "The postmortem report is yet to come. We cannot predict what sort of crime it is. Police are investigating the case seriously and the culprit will be arrested soon," she said.



Thoothukudi MP Kanimozhi visited the 17-year-old girl's family and offered her condolences | EXPRESS

However, several villagers, including women, questioned Kanimozhi over the delayed visit and asked why the culprits had not been arrested yet. When Aadhav Arjuna met the family, the girl's relatives told him that they did not want politicians to visit them. "We have not recovered from the incident. We only want justice, and this is not the place for politics," they said.

6 cops suspended in Akash custodial death case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Madurai/Sivaganga

DIG (Ramanathapuram Range) N Manivannan on Friday suspended six police personnel, including an inspector and a sub-inspector, in connection with the alleged custodial death of R Akash Delison. The victim's father, A Rajesh Kannan, has demanded that all the police personnel allegedly responsible for his son's death be arrested.

The suspended officers are Thiruvannam police station inspector Dileepan, Manamadurai sub-inspector Gagan, Sivaganga town police station head constable Deivendran, SIPCOT police station head constable Sarathkumar, Manamadurai Grade-I police constable Kalishwaran, and Thiruvannam Grade-I police constable Manoharan.

VCK president Thol Thirumavalavan, who met Akash's family, alleged that the 21-year-old died due to a brutal assault by police and lack of timely medical treatment for injuries, including a brain haemorrhage.

"Akash was known for opposing drug peddling and the sale of spurious liquor in his locality. Though two people were arrested, only Akash's leg was broken by the police as he opposed the sale of spurious liquor. The government should investigate the case from this angle as well. All police personnel responsible for the death must be arrested," Thirumavalavan said.

Earlier in the day, Minister KR Periakaruppan, along with



Minister KR Periakaruppan handed over ₹6 lakh financial aid to Akash's family on Friday | EXPRESS

Sivaganga Collector K Porkodi, visited Akash's residence and handed over compensation of ₹6 lakh to the family. Sources said the CB-CID officials also conducted inquiries with Akash's family members and with persons who were allegedly assaulted by Akash on the night of March 5. The inquiry

lasted for more than an hour. Orders reserved

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Friday reserved orders on a petition filed by Rajesh Kannan seeking a series of directions, including a proper postmortem, a CB-CID investigation and compensation.

When the petition came up for hearing, the state government informed Justice L Victoria Gowri that Section 103 of the BNS and provisions of the SC/ST Act had been included in the FIR.

Advocate and activist Henri Tiphagne, appearing for Rajesh Kannan, alleged discrepancies in postmortem report from the Government Rajaji Hospital, and said it should be referred to experts for opinion.

TN panel inks ICMR deal to boost biomed innovation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

TAMIL NADU State Council for Science and Technology (TNSCST), and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Government of India, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently to strengthen the protection and promotion of biomedical research innovations through Intellectual Property (IP) processes.

The MoU was signed by S Vincent, member secretary, TNSCST, and Rajiv Bahl, secretary, Department of Health Research (DHR) and Director General, ICMR. The signing ceremony was held at ICMR headquarters.

Through the partnership, both organisations will jointly assist innovators in patentability search, patent drafting, filing, prosecution, and technology transfer, under the "Medical Innovations Patent Mitra" initiative launched by ICMR under NITI Aayog.

Demand for rocket stoves shoots up but makers struggle to deliver

With electric alternatives proving costly, homes & industries are opting for modern firewood stoves

ARAVIND RAJ @ Coimbatore

THE disruption in LPG cylinder supply has triggered a surge in demand for alternative cooking equipment, particularly rocket stoves, as they fly off shop shelves and manufacturers say they struggle to keep up with orders.

Manufacturers in Coimbatore—a major hub for commercial kitchen equipment—told TNE that they are witnessing an unprecedented demand for the firewood-based rocket stove, also known as turbo stove, besides commercial induction stoves.

According to industry experts, the sudden spike in orders has created a manufacturing bottleneck. Earlier, customers were promised delivery within a week. Raw material shortage and limited production capacity add to the major challenges to meeting the demand, say manufacturers.

Shree Vidhya Rajendran, proprietor of Coimbatore-based firm Hot Springs, said



The price for rocket stoves ranges from around ₹5,000 for smaller domestic units to nearly ₹2 lakh for larger commercial models. | S SENBAGA PANDIYAN

the surge began earlier this week and is intensifying.

Vidhya said, "There has been a sharp spike in demand for our turbo stoves since Monday. Earlier, the demand for firewood-based boilers and stoves was minimal."

According to Vidhya, both commercial and domestic variants are witnessing strong demand. With induction stoves already sold out in many retail outlets, several households

have also started considering modernised firewood stoves as a viable alternative. The company, which typically sells between 100 and 120 turbo stoves per month, has now received orders for more than 5,000 units within a matter of days, Vidhya said.

"We, however, are unable to deliver even 10% of those orders due to numerous challenges," she remarked. Rocket stoves available in the

market vary widely in size and capacity. Prices range from around ₹5,000 for smaller domestic units to nearly ₹2 lakh for larger commercial models. Depending on the design and size, these stoves can cook meals for as few as three people or cater to larger gatherings of up to 500 people. Their capacity also varies based on vessel size and food quantity, ranging from 3 kg to nearly 100kg.

J Jacob Varghese, a hotelier from Kerala, who travelled to Coimbatore hoping to purchase a rocket stove, said, "As induction stoves are not very cost-efficient for us, we decided to go for rocket stoves. It's disappointing to return empty-handed after coming all the way from Kerala. We were even ready to pay more than the quoted price, but there was no ready stock available."

Some are said to even have requested manufacturers to sell their display units.

The manufacturers are ramping up production by deploying additional manpower.

Head constable dies as bikes collide in Kancheepuram

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A head constable of the Kancheepuram district police died in a road accident near Kancheepuram on Thursday after a bike collided with his two-wheeler on Thursday. He was on duty at the time of the accident.



Tiruvannamalai district. He was attached to the Kanchi Taluk police station. The police said the accident on the Arakkonam road occurred when he was trying to overtake a bus parked at a stop near Periya Karumbur junction.

He was declared dead at a government hospital. The other biker is undergoing treatment. A case has been registered and a probe is under way.

Man who helped gangster flee detained at airport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

Chennai: Mohammad Rizwan Ali, who allegedly helped elusive gangster 'Sambo' Senthil flee the country, was detained at the Chennai airport after his arrival from Malaysia. He was intercepted by the immigration officials based on a lookout circular issued in connection with the BSP leader K Armstrong murder case. Police said Rizwan Ali had assisted Senthil in obtaining a passport, visa, and other documents. Officials said he was not directly involved in the murder but is being questioned to establish his links with the gangster. Police traced Senthil, named as second accused in the murder, to the UK last year.

Apollo experts caution against headaches

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

Chennai: Medical experts at Apollo Speciality Hospitals, Teynampet, have issued a clinical advisory urging the public not to ignore new-onset or persistent headaches, particularly for those aged 50 and above. This follows the successful treatment of a 53-year-old executive suffering from Spontaneous Intracranial Hypotension (SIH), a rare condition often misdiagnosed as routine migraine or cervical pain. The patient first noticed sharp headaches while abroad. Initially dismissing the discomfort as a result of poor hotel ergonomics or "pillow issues," however, the symptoms progressed into debilitating "thunderclap" aches. An assessment by the neurology team identified positional pain, classic hallmark of SIH. After a specialized Epidural Blood Patch procedure, the results were immediate; the patient was discharged within 48 hours and has since returned to his professional life.

EXPRESS READ

Retail, Agriculture & MSME camp by Indian Bank

Chennai: Indian Bank organised a Retail, Agriculture & MSME (RAM) Campaign at Le Royal Méridien Chennai. The campaign is designed to enhance the bank's outreach to customers in key growth segments like RAM. Credit proposals worth ₹2,390 crore were canvassed in the event, of which ₹1,451 crore were sanctioned. The campaign was inaugurated by Shri Sujay Mallik, Chief General Manager, Retail Assets & MSME, Indian Bank.



Cop among two arrested for stealing bikes

Chennai: Two men, including a suspended constable, were arrested for allegedly stealing motorcycles from Triplicane, Royapettah, and Chepauk. The suspects were identified as Jayachandran (41) of Cuddalore, formerly attached to the Greater Chennai Police (GCP), and Yusuf (38), a mechanic from Pudupet. The arrests followed a complaint on March 10 regarding the theft of a bike parked outside a shop in Triplicane. The police traced the suspects using CCTV footage.

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER
Tender Notice No.: CKP-EAST-25-26-55, dated 12.03.2026. e-Tender is invited by Divisional Railway Manager/Engg/Chakra-dharpur, S.E. Railway, Chakradharpur for & on behalf of the President of India against open tender for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Name of work: Repairs of Railway Hospital at Tatanagar. Tender value: ₹ 1,87,52,537.93. EMD: ₹ 2,43,800/- Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 0.00. Date of Opening: 07.04.2026. The tender can be viewed at website http://www.ireps.gov.in. The tender/bidders must have Class-II Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under in IREPS portal. Only registered tender/bidder can participate on e-tendering. Note: e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority: Railway Board's letter No. 2020/CE-1/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). (PR-1299)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE (Through e-Tender)
On the behalf of President of India e-Tenders are invited by the Sr. DMM/ DSD / NWR, Jodhpur. e-Tender Notice No- 33256021, Date: 12.03.2026. Name of item: Design, supply and installation of a Set of Stacking Arrangements and Accessories (Consists of 27 items) for Various Sections of BGKT Shed as per Annexure "A" and attached technical specifications. Approximate Cost of items: ₹ 11858764.00 (₹ One Crore Eighteen Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Four Rupees Only). Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹ 237180.00 (₹ Two Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty Rupees Only). Last date and time for Submission of e-Tender Opening of e-Tender: 09.04.2026, 14:25. Web site from e-Tender forms can be obtained: www.ireps.gov.in Address of NIT issuing: Officer of the Sr.DMM/ DSD, NWR, Jodhpur-342001(Rajasthan). Note: 1. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be summarily rejected. 2. Cost of tender document & EMD online through e-transfers i.e. through payment gateway facility. 3. on the IREPS website. 363-AR/26

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Poonamallee High Road
Nehru Park Chennai - 600 084
PUBLIC NOTICE
The following safe deposit lockers at our State Bank of India, Poonamallee Branch (16555), Old No 115, New No 64, Poonamallee High Road, Nehru Park Chennai - 600 084, remains inoperative and its rent is unpaid for many years. We hereby give notice that if the locker is not surrendered / dues are not paid, we will proceed to break open the lockers on 30.04.2026.

MEPZ BRANCH
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, MEPZ Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 30.03.2026, for recovery of Rs.3,83,99,692/- (Rupees Three crores eighty three lakhs ninety nine thousand six hundred and ninety two only) (as on 11.03.2026) with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 12.03.2026, due to the Indian Bank, MEPZ Branch, Secured Creditor from: NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR (1) Mr. Ravi Rajendran, (Borrower/Mortgagor), S/o Mr. Perumal, No.542A, West Street, Okkanadu Melaiyur, Orathanadu Taluk, Okkanadumalaiyur (Part), Thanjavur, Tamilnadu - 614 625, Also at: Plot No. 12 B, (Eastern side), "Times Square", East Coast Road, Muttukadu Village & Panchayat, Chengalpatt Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Pincode - 603 112. (2) Mr. Vasantha Balasundaram, (Guarantor), S/o Mr. Balasundaram, No.3/133, South Street, Vaduvur Pudukottai, Thenpathi, Thiruvaur, Tamilnadu - 614 019, Alternate Address : Plot No.3, Annai Nagar, Thallavapalayam Road, Thanjavur - 613 501. SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below: Schedule A : All that piece parcel of land situated at residential Plot No.12, in "Times Square", Layout in Muttukadu Village, East Coast Road, Chengalpatt District, Thiruvaur Taluk, comprised in Old Survey No.99/20, Patta No.793, as per patta New Survey No. 99/20B1J, of an extent of 4 Grounds and 676 Sq. ft. (10276 Sq. ft.) duly approved by the Muttukadu Panchayat Union in Resolution No.75/2006-2007, dated 28.09.2006, Certificate of No Objection dated 28.09.2006 and regularized by the Special Officer, Muttukadu Panchayat, Thiruvaur Panchayat Union under Regularization of unapproved Plots Scheme - 2017 through Na. Ka. No. 2970/2019/M1, dated 31.05.2019. In all total extent of 10276 Sq. ft. of land, situated within the previously Sub Registration District of Thiruvaur and Registration District of Chengalpatt. Schedule B : All that piece and parcel of vacant land Villa bearing No.12B, in Sub-divided Plot No.12, in "Times Square", duly approved by the Muttukadu Panchayat Union in Resolution No.75/2006-2007, dated 28.09.2006, Certificate of No Objection dated 28.09.2006 and regularized by the Special Officer, Muttukadu Panchayat, Thiruvaur Panchayat Union under Regularization of Unapproved Plots Scheme - 2017 through Na. Ka. No.2970/2019/M1, dated 31.05.2019, Plan Approved Resolution No.100/2011 dated on 15.02.2011, DTCP/P/002847/2017, comprised in Old Survey No.99/20, Patta No.793, as per patta New Survey No. 99/20B1J, situated at "Muttukadu Village", East Coast Road, Chengalpatt District, Thiruvaur Taluk, in all total extent measuring 5138 Sq. ft. of land (out of the above said total extent measuring 10276 Sq. ft.) on villa measuring built up area 3600 Sq. ft. inclusive of car parking, common area, swimming pool and others to be constructed in the Schedule A Property herein above. In all total extent measuring 5138 Sq. ft. of land, situated within the previously Sub Registration District of Thiruvaur and Registration District of Chengalpatt. Prior Encumbrances on property: Nil. PROPERTY ID NO. : IDIB7545330347

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, MADURAI
BSNI, Premises situated at level - IV Building, CTO Compound, Tallakulam, Madurai-625 002. O.A.No.573/2019 Indian Bank (erstwhile Allahabad Bank) Dindugal Branch R.M.Colony, Dindigul ...Applicant -vs- I.C.Raja, S/o.Chefflasamy Thevar, No.252/252, Bakthavachalam Colony, 5th Street, Vijayarapadi, Chennai - 600 039. ...Defendants No 2

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Briefly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking) (CIN-U04010KA2002GCO030438)
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)
BESCOM invites tenders through KPP platform from eligible Bidders for the Enquiry No.: BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT1061 for "Rectification of hazardous locations by Replacing of existing HT/LT bare Overhead Conductor with HT Covered Conductor/ LT AB Cable on Total Turkey Basis in Doddaballapur Sub Division of Nelamangala Division, BESCOM Jurisdictions for a period of one year on Rate Contract Total Turkey Basis". Bid Documents availability: 17.03.2026. Last date for Bid Submission: 15.04.2026, 17:00 Hrs, Opening of Bid Document: 16.04.2026, 17:15 Hrs. The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned. Sd/- Chief General Manager (Ele.), Procurement, BESCOM

Indian Bank
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
MEPZ BRANCH
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, MEPZ Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 30.03.2026, for recovery of Rs.3,83,99,692/- (Rupees Three crores eighty three lakhs ninety nine thousand six hundred and ninety two only) (as on 11.03.2026) with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 12.03.2026, due to the Indian Bank, MEPZ Branch, Secured Creditor from: NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR (1) Mr. Ravi Rajendran, (Borrower/Mortgagor), S/o Mr. Perumal, No.542A, West Street, Okkanadu Melaiyur, Orathanadu Taluk, Okkanadumalaiyur (Part), Thanjavur, Tamilnadu - 614 625, Also at: Plot No. 12 B, (Eastern side), "Times Square", East Coast Road, Muttukadu Village & Panchayat, Chengalpatt Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Pincode - 603 112. (2) Mr. Vasantha Balasundaram, (Guarantor), S/o Mr. Balasundaram, No.3/133, South Street, Vaduvur Pudukottai, Thenpathi, Thiruvaur, Tamilnadu - 614 019, Alternate Address : Plot No.3, Annai Nagar, Thallavapalayam Road, Thanjavur - 613 501. SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below: Schedule A : All that piece parcel of land situated at residential Plot No.12, in "Times Square", Layout in Muttukadu Village, East Coast Road, Chengalpatt District, Thiruvaur Taluk, comprised in Old Survey No.99/20, Patta No.793, as per patta New Survey No. 99/20B1J, of an extent of 4 Grounds and 676 Sq. ft. (10276 Sq. ft.) duly approved by the Muttukadu Panchayat Union in Resolution No.75/2006-2007, dated 28.09.2006, Certificate of No Objection dated 28.09.2006 and regularized by the Special Officer, Muttukadu Panchayat, Thiruvaur Panchayat Union under Regularization of unapproved Plots Scheme - 2017 through Na. Ka. No. 2970/2019/M1, dated 31.05.2019. In all total extent of 10276 Sq. ft. of land, situated within the previously Sub Registration District of Thiruvaur and Registration District of Chengalpatt. Schedule B : All that piece and parcel of vacant land Villa bearing No.12B, in Sub-divided Plot No.12, in "Times Square", duly approved by the Muttukadu Panchayat Union in Resolution No.75/2006-2007, dated 28.09.2006, Certificate of No Objection dated 28.09.2006 and regularized by the Special Officer, Muttukadu Panchayat, Thiruvaur Panchayat Union under Regularization of Unapproved Plots Scheme - 2017 through Na. Ka. No.2970/2019/M1, dated 31.05.2019, Plan Approved Resolution No.100/2011 dated on 15.02.2011, DTCP/P/002847/2017, comprised in Old Survey No.99/20, Patta No.793, as per patta New Survey No. 99/20B1J, situated at "Muttukadu Village", East Coast Road, Chengalpatt District, Thiruvaur Taluk, in all total extent measuring 5138 Sq. ft. of land (out of the above said total extent measuring 10276 Sq. ft.) on villa measuring built up area 3600 Sq. ft. inclusive of car parking, common area, swimming pool and others to be constructed in the Schedule A Property herein above. In all total extent measuring 5138 Sq. ft. of land, situated within the previously Sub Registration District of Thiruvaur and Registration District of Chengalpatt. Prior Encumbrances on property: Nil. PROPERTY ID NO. : IDIB7545330347

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.316.00 Lakhs Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- EMD : Rs.31.60 Lakhs
BANK WEBSITE E-AUCTION WEBSITE PROPERTY LOCATION PROPERTY PHOTO
Date and Time of Inspection of the Properties & related documents : 25.03.2026 to 26.03.2026 between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.
DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION : 30.03.2026 FROM 10.00 A.M. TO 4.00 P.M.
Last Date for submission of Tender form/EMD : 30.03.2026
Bidders are advised to visit the website (https://www.banknet.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.banknet@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.banknet@psballiance.com. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit : https://www.banknet.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.banknet.com. Date : 12.03.2026 Place : Chennai. AUTHORISED OFFICER, INDIAN BANK

Journos' monthly pension hiked by ₹3K



Chennai: Chief Minister M K Stalin, on Friday, ordered that the monthly pension for journalists be increased from ₹12,000 to ₹15,000, and the family pension from ₹6,000 to ₹7,500. An official release here said that after considering the representation submitted by journalists, the CM hiked the pension and directed the officials to take steps to provide medical insurance to the all accredited journalists under the CM's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme. The Chennai Press Club thanked the CM for taking immediate action on the requests made by the journalists. Regarding the demand for housing or house sites for journalists in Chennai, the CM has instructed that arrangements be made by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board to allot house plots in Chengalpattu district. ENS

EPS, Nainar, Annamalai to lead stir on 17th



Chennai: A day after announcing joint protests at all district headquarters on March 17, against the DMK for alleged deterioration of law and order, continuing sexual assaults on girls and women, and failure to check the prevalence of drugs, the AIADMK, announced the names of who will lead the agitations. While AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami will lead the protest in Chennai, BJP state president Nainar Nagenthran will lead it in Madurai. Former state BJP president K Annamalai will lead in Coimbatore in the presence of former Minister SP Velumani, and Tamilisai Soundararajan will lead in Tirunelveli. Those who will lead the protest in other districts are: BJP Mahila Morcha chairperson Vanathi Srinivasan (Tiruppur); PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss (Cuddalore); and TMC president GK Vasan (Erode). ENS

EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
POSSESSION NOTICE (U/S. RULE 6 (1) - FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with [Rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers to repay the total outstanding amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Since the below mentioned Borrowers having failed to repay the below stated amount within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the below mentioned borrowers and the public in general that, the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the schedule mentioned properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited and further interest and other charges thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets."
S. Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)
1. Branch: Chennai Chengalpattu Loan No. 700009791809 Borrowers Name: Mrs. Annu.S Mrs. Sumathi.J Mr.Sundhararamoorthi.S Mrs. Selvi.S Demand Notice Date & Amount: 20.12.2025 & Rs.4,83,222/- Date of Possession: 09.03.2026
2. Branch: Madharanthakam Loan No. SEMDRK0378016 Borrowers Name: Mrs. Vithiya.A Mr. Ashok.V Demand Notice Date & Amount: 20.12.2025 & Rs.3,02,377/- Date of Possession: 09.03.2026
3. Branch: Guduvancheri Loan No. SEGDCV0341903 Borrowers Name: Mrs. Hemalatha.M Mr.Mohan.M Demand Notice Date & Amount: 21.08.2025 & Rs.1,78,118/- Date of Possession: 09.03.2026
4. Branch: Porur Loan No. 700007449341 Borrowers Name: Mrs. Kasthuri.M Mrs. Phadari Devi.D Demand Notice Date & Amount: 20.12.2025 & Rs.3,44,024/- Date of Possession: 09.03.2026
5. Branch: Ponneri Loan No. 200002331515 Borrowers Name: Mrs.Malliga Manikkam Mr.Velu.M Mr.Manikkam.C Demand Notice Date & Amount: 24.10.2025 & Rs.2,59,580/- Date of Possession: 09.03.2026
6. Branch: Utharamerur Loan No. SEUTRUR0324448 Borrowers Name: Mr. Prasanth.V Mrs. Sairakshmi.P Mrs. Venamma.V Demand Notice Date & Amount: 21.11.2025 & Rs.5,67,193/- Date of Possession: 09.03.2026
7. Branch: Thiruvallur Loan No. SETVLUR0446521 Borrowers Name: Mr. Vasidela.S Mrs.Thulasi.J Demand Notice Date & Amount: 20.12.2025 & Rs.2,19,489/- Date of Possession: 09.03.2026
8. Branch: Utharamerur Loan No. SEUTRUR0355845 Borrowers Name: Mrs. Gunaseekari.K Demand Notice Date & Amount: 20.12.2025 & Rs.1,67,953/- Date of Possession: 09.03.2026
9. Branch: Perambur Loan No. SEPRMBR0347856 Borrowers Name: Mr. Harikumar.K Mrs. Ponnammal.K Mrs. Revathi.K Mr. Ravikumar.K Demand Notice Date & Amount: 20.12.2025 & Rs.5,58,951/- Date of Possession: 09.03.2026
10. Branch: Thiruvallur Loan No. SETVLUR0348275/200001535299 Borrowers Name: Mr. Boopathy.D Mrs. Banupriya.D Mrs. Giriprasad.D Mrs. Indhumathi.B Mr. Koteswaran.D Mrs. Sarala.D Demand Notice Date & Amount: 17.10.2025 & Rs.6,66,109/- Date of Possession: 09.03.2026
11. Branch: Thiruvallur Loan No. 700011421513/60000216054 Borrowers Name: Mr. Mayuranathan Mrs.Dharani Nivetha.M Demand Notice Date & Amount: 22.12.2025 & Rs.41,78,989/- Date of Possession: 09.03.2026
Date: 14-03-2026; Place: Chennai. Authorised Officer, Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd

Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences. Raebareilly Road, Lucknow-226014 (U.P.). Telephone: 0522-2494038, 2494095. E-mail: sgpgic@rediffmail.com, website: www.sgpgims.org.in

Interested private partners are invited for Pre-Bid meeting for "Establishment of A Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) Facility on Public Private Partnership Basis" in Core Lab, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Lucknow.

संजय गांधी स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, लखनऊ. Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences. Raebareilly Road Lucknow-226014 (U.P.). Phone: 0522-2494038, 2494095. Website: www.sgpgi.ac.in

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

SBI State Bank of India. Stressed Assets Recovery Branch. 2nd Floor, Red Cross Buildings, # 32, Red Cross Road, Egmore, Chennai-600 008. Ph: 044-28881043. E-mail: sbi.05170@sbi.co.in

RAJASTHAN URJA VIKAS AND IT SERVICES LIMITED. (Formerly known as Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd.) (A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking). Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - U40104RJ2015SGC048738

STATE BANK OF INDIA. RBO 1 CHENNAI METRO CHENNAI - 600001. PUBLIC NOTICE. The following safe deposit lockers at our State Bank of India, remains inoperative and its rent is unpaid for many years.

Table with 4 columns: S. NO, BRANCH CODE, BRANCH NAME, CABINET No., LOCKER No. Lists various branches like CHENNAI BRANCH, CHETPUT(CHENNAI), EGMORE (CHENNAI), etc.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY. MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT. AUCTION PROGRAMME APRIL-2026. NOTICE No:04/2026. E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locoos.

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE. This is to inform the public at large that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which are NPA (Non-performing Asset) or margin breach accounts or any accounts falling into the loan recall clause as specified in the terms & condition of the Loan.

Canara Bank. SPECIALIZED ARM BRANCH II CHENNAI (7901). No 9 & 10, Sir Thyagaraya Road, Thyagaraya Nagar, Chennai - 17. Mobile: 9740145622. 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) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - TENDER NOTICE. Office of the Chief Engineer(Commercial & Tariff), Vidyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram. Inviting Medium term Power procurement of 300 MW for the period from 01.01.2027 to 31.12.2031 during 18:00 to 24:00 hours (peak hours) on lumpsum tariff basis.

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIT). Online bids are hereby invited from the reputed and experienced agencies for the work of "Event Management to facilitate organization of International Film Festival of Agartala (IFFA)". Last date for submission of bids is 19.03.2026 at 11.00 AM.

TAMILNADU POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION LTD. (A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking). (AN ISO 9001 - 2015 CERTIFIED COMPANY) South Circle. No.1 Inspector Quarters, TSP 6th Battalion Campus, New Natham Road, Madurai - 625 014.

Karur Vysya Bank. REGD Office: No.20, Vadivel Nagar, L N S Post, Erode Road, Karur-639002. EGMORE BRANCH. 484, 485, Pantheon Plaza, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai 600 008.

INTERNATIONAL FLOWER AUCTION BANGALORE LIMITED. #24, BELLARY ROAD, HEBBAL, Bengaluru-560024. Phone: 8431235867 / 9980303339. E-Mail: ifablimited@gmail.com, Website: www.ifabindia.org

IDBI BANK. IDBI BANK LIMITED. No.115, Anna Salai, Seidaijpet, Post Bag No.895, Chennai - 600015. PH: 044-22201522/2202192. Website: www.idbibank.in

IndusInd Bank. APPENDIX-IV [Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property). Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the IndusInd Bank Ltd under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) (SARFAESI Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 11.07.2023.

CLASSIFIED PUBLIC NOTICE. CHANGE OF NAME. 5256, I, K Marai Malai Selvam, son of Thiru K.N. Kanagasabai, born on 17th July 1969 (District of Birth: Chennai), residing at No. 2/10, Jayalaxmi Nagar 6th Street, Kattupakkam, Poonamalle, Chennai - 600056.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL III, CHENNAI. 6th Floor, Additional Office Buildings, Shastr Bhawan, Haddows Road, Nungambakam, Chennai - 600 006. UNION BANK OF INDIA, ASHOK NAGAR BRANCH (erstwhile Andhra Bank) Vs M/s. SAROJA MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE CENTER PVT. LTD & 3 OTHERS

INTERNATIONAL FLOWER AUCTION BANGALORE LIMITED. TENDER For Civil Works and Supply and Installation of Technological Equipment's including Double Deep Racking System, Pallets, Conveyor Belt System, etc., and Construction of Flower Storage Cold Rooms for Strengthening of International Flower Auction Bangalore Limited Under RIDF Project.

IndusInd Bank. APPENDIX-IV [Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) under Rule 8(1). Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of IDBI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(1) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated December 14, 2021 calling upon the Mortgagors (1) Shri. Dineshchandra Surana, (2) Shri. Shantilal Surana (3) Shri. Vijayaraj Surana, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.2505.51,94,321.56 (Rupees Two Thousand Five Hundred Five Crores Fifty One Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Three Hundred Twenty One And Paise Fifty Six Only) as on June 30, 2021.

IndusInd Bank. APPENDIX-IV [Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) under Rule 8(1). Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of IDBI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(1) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated December 14, 2021 calling upon the Mortgagors (1) Shri. Dineshchandra Surana, (2) Shri. Shantilal Surana (3) Shri. Vijayaraj Surana, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.2505.51,94,321.56 (Rupees Two Thousand Five Hundred Five Crores Fifty One Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Three Hundred Twenty One And Paise Fifty Six Only) as on June 30, 2021.

CPM eases stand on women's entry to Sabarimala

ANIL S & K S SREEJITH @TPuram

THE CPM is preparing to soften its earlier stance on the contentious issue of women's entry to the Sabarimala Temple, signalling a shift aimed at avoiding electoral backlash while attempting to reassure devotees.

In an affidavit to be filed before the Supreme Court on Saturday, the Kerala government is expected to emphasise the need to protect long-standing temple

customs. The state is likely to inform the court that decisions regarding temple rituals should be taken only after consultations with scholars, religious experts and other stakeholders.

The move follows a meeting of the CPM state secretariat, where the party decided to tone down its earlier position of "no discrimination", though it stopped short of making a complete reversal. According to



senior party leaders, the government will refer to the stand taken in a 2008 affidavit filed by the administration led by VS

Achuthanandan. However, a specific observation in that affidavit favouring unrestricted entry of women will reportedly be omitted.

A senior CPM leader said the issue was complex and intertwined with religious practices. "Whether the court has the constitutional authority to intervene in such matters is itself a question," the leader said.

State secretary MV Govindan told reporters after the secre-

ariat meeting that the party believed neither the government nor the court should decide on temple rituals. "Such matters should be determined after consultation with scholars and experts. The CPM has never taken a position against believers," he said.

Government sources indicated that women's entry was not among the seven questions on which the court had specifically sought the state's opinion.

Give board exam answer sheet copies to students, orders TN info panel

RUDHRAN BARAASU @Chennai

EVEN as the school board exams are ongoing in the state, the Tamil Nadu State Information Commission (TNSIC) has directed the Directorate of Government Examinations (DGE) to provide copies of students' evaluated answer sheets, if they applied for the same under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, and recommended that the government should digitise all answer scripts for electronic preservation.

Besides digitisation, the commission also recommended that evaluated answer sheets be preserved for six months as against the present period of three months. The order was issued by information commissioner VPR Elamparathi based on the appeal filed by R Priyadarshini, presently a college student, who appeared for Class 12 exams in March 2023. She had filed an application under Section 6(1) of the RTI Act seeking certified copies of her answer scripts for Tamil, English, Physics, Chemistry, Zoology and Mathematics.

However, in June 2023, the Public Information Officer (PIO) informed her that students were allowed to apply for answer scripts to DGE (not under RTI Act) within five days of

Univ exams may have analytical questions from next academic yr

Coimbatore: The Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education plans to introduce Outcome-Based Education and analytical question patterns in state universities from the next academic year. Reviews found exams relied on memory recall. In line with UGC guidelines, TANSICHE will revise curricula and conduct workshops for Science and Humanities faculty this month. ENS

publication of results. Citing that Priyadarshini had applied only for the Physics answer script, the department refused to provide answer scripts of other subjects. Her first appeal to the appellate authority was also dismissed, following which she filed a second appeal before the commission in July 2023.

After examining the submissions, the commission observed that the responses given by the PIO and the appellate authority indicated an attempt to deny information sought by the applicant.

Subsequently, the commission directed the PIO to provide certified copies of the answer scripts within seven days. It also ordered that the documents be furnished free of cost.

We will stand with Vijay on alliance decision: Dist secys

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"OUR general secretary Anand did not ask our opinion on which party to align with. But, we all have conveyed that it is impossible to defeat the evil force unless we join an alliance," another district secretary from the Delta region told TNIE.

According to the district secretary from the western region, Anand had asked their district secretaries that some party functionaries may not get a seat to contest in the assembly election, if they join an alliance.

"We said that we would stand by our party leader Vijay and general secretary Anand. We would accept whatever decision they take for the welfare of the party and to remove the evil force from power," the district secretary told TNIE.

"This is not the way our meetings usually happen. We always

get a day's notice at least. I missed seeing the text and had to rush into the meeting a little late," the district secretary from Delta region told TNIE.

While concluding the meeting, Anand told the district secretaries that he would convey the message to the TVK president, who would take the final call regarding the alliance. Vijay is expected to be in Delhi on Sunday to appear before the special investigation team of the CBI in relation to the Karur stampede case.

When asked about it, AIADMK former minister D Jayakumar told reporters in Chennai that the party would welcome anybody who accepts AIADMK leadership and joins the alliance. "Our aim is to defeat the evil force DMK. So, we will accept whoever is willing to accept our leadership and join us to defeat DMK," Jayakumar said.



Tourists get attracted to high-speed boating: TTDC

Continued from page 1: The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) also stated that tourists visiting Pykara boat house are attracted to high-speed boating activities such as speed boats and jet skis. Any sudden stoppage of the existing petrol propelled outboard motor boats would cause disappointment among the tourists and lead to significant reduction in visitor turnout resulting in huge loss of revenue.

AINRC will contest 16 seats, BJP 14 in Pondy polls, says saffron party's central in-charge

Puducherry: The ruling NDA in Puducherry will largely retain its previous seat-sharing arrangement for the upcoming polls, with the AINRC contesting 16 seats and the BJP contesting 14 seats, according to BJP's central in-charge for the region, Nirmal Kumar Surana. In an interview, Surana said that from 14 constituencies allotted to the BJP, some seats would be shared with its alliance partners, the AIADMK and LJK. He said that, except for a few specific constituencies where adjustments may be required, the alliance partners are expected to contest in the same constituencies they had previously held. Surana added that discussions among NDA partners are progressing smoothly. ENS

'Close check for 5 days to ensure plant stability'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ALTHOUGH the plant started generating power on Friday, he added that it would be closely monitored over the next four to five days to ensure stable functioning.

"At present, the unit is generating around 350 MW to 400 MW. The load will be increased gradually as part of the testing process. After stabilising operations, the unit must run continuously for 30 days before commercial

operations can begin," the official added.

The official further said that the first unit of the Udangudi plant has already generated about 127 million units of electricity during the testing phase. The official said the plant currently consumes around 5,000 tonnes of coal per day. "We have a stock of about 50,000 tonnes, which is sufficient for nearly 10 days. Another

shipment of coal is expected to arrive by ship in the coming days. Necessary logistical arrangements are being ensured for uninterrupted operation," the official said.

The project, originally proposed in 2008 during the previous DMK rule, entered into the implementation stage during the AIADMK rule. However, it frequently ran into delays before being expedited for inauguration before the upcoming polls.



GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
B.D.C.No.01/0939/2026

e - Short TENDER NOTICE (Two Cover System)
e-Tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer (Buildings) for the following works as per details furnished below

Construction of Dining Hall and Children's Play Area in First Floor of Chennai Primary School Building in Div - 64, Zone - 06 (Under MLA Fund)

For more information see <http://tenders.gov.in> & www.Chennaicorporation.gov.in

Work value Rs. 65,63,757.00 EMD Rs. 66,000/-

Tender last date and time: 23.03.2026 up to 3.00 PM
Tender open date and time: 24.03.2026 up to 11.00 A.M

DIPR / 1786 / Tender / 2026 Superintending Engineer (Buildings)

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER - LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

e-Tenders is invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of CMWSSB under single cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

Sl. No.	Name of work and Tender No.	Estimated Value	Eligibility	e-Bid Submission closing date	e-Bid Opening Date
1.	Installation of robotic solution by engaging robotic equipment for leak detection, Assessments of water pollution & Underground water pipelines in Chennai City of Area I to XV including hiring & comprehensive Operation and Maintenance for 2 years.	Rs. 2.01 Lakhs	As per tender schedule	07.04.2026 upto 3.00 p.m	08.04.2026 after 3.00 p.m
2.	EMD by online transfer only through tender Portal. The tenderer shall submit scanned copy of online transaction statement towards EMD as part of tender document.				
3.	Availability of tender documents and e-bid submission is permitted through tender portal / website: www.tenders.gov.in For all other details refer tender schedule in the website from 14.03.2026				

சென்னை நகரீகர்ப்புறம் - குடிநீர் திட்டங்கள் DIPR/1785/Tender/2026 CE(Q&M)-H/SE(C&M)/v.

Canara Bank ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH-I
8th Floor, CANARA TOWERS, 524, ANNA SALAI, TERNAREPET, CHENNAI 600 018
Tel No. 044 - 2849 6339, 2849 6500. E-MAIL: ar2361@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 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic / Constructive / Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 17.04.2026 (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.

CHENNAI ST. MARY'S ROAD BRANCH: Borrower Name & Address: Mr. Sugumar Krishnan, 71/31 Vanniar Street, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600024.

Outstanding Amount: Rs. 53,91,143.41 due as on 28.02.2026 with further interest and other incidental charges thereto incurred by the Bank

DETAILS OF PROPERTY: Property in the name of Mr. Sugumar Krishnan, All that piece and parcel of vacant house site No. 25 measuring an extent of 242.0 sq. ft. comprised in S.No 273/2, New S.No 273/3B as per Patta No. 3180, New Subdivision S.No 273/3B1D (approved by CMDA Registration Scheme Sub Division Approved Plot PP No. 68/02/F2 dated on 30.01.2002) situated at Malligai Street, Saraswathi Nagar, Paruthipattu village, Poonamallee Taluk. An extent of 367 sq. ft. of undivided share of land in and out of the schedule mentioned above together with a proposed RCC roofed flat identified as Flat No. 51, 2nd floor of 1165 sq. ft. in the premises and covered car parking including common amenities and common area. Bounded on the North by: 20 feet Wide Road, South by: M. Adhikalasam Land, East by: A.Thangarathinam Land, West by: P.Vinayagam Plot. The above property is situated within the Avadi Panchayat Union Limits and within the Registration District of Chennai South and Registration Sub-District of Avadi.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 55,45,000/- EMD ₹ 5,54,500/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 1,00,000/-

Inspection of Property Date & Time: 15.04.2026 between 11.00 A.M. & 4.00 P.M.

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION 17.04.2026 Between 10.30 AM & 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 (banknet) 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 16.04.2026 till 5.00 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: ar2361@canarabank.com during office hours on any working day. (or) The service provider banknet (M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.) (Contact No. 78466212345 / 8354910172 / 8291220220 / 9892219848 / 8160205051, E-mail: support.banknet@psballiance.com / support.banknet@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: 12.03.2026 Place: Chennai AUTHORIZED OFFICER, CANARA BANK

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EXCISE
Housefed Complex, Dispur, Guwahati-781006

NOTICE - REQUEST FOR BID (RFB)
No. 690887/26

The Commissioner of Excise, Assam, hereby invites online Bids from eligible Bidders following two-bid system of bidding for "Selection of a vendor for providing GPS-cum Digital e-lock services to different stakeholders associated with Excise Department, Assam".

The detailed Bidding Documents can be downloaded by any prospective bidders from the Procurement portal i.e., <http://assamtenders.gov.in>, free of cost. The prospective Bidders need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal and only online tenders will be accepted. Bids must be submitted online at the e-Procurement portal (i.e., <http://assamtenders.gov.in>) on or before the due date for submission i.e. 20/04/2026 (1 PM).

The Bidders are also required to submit the hardcopy of the Technical Bid (with original documents) only in the office of the Procuring Entity within due date for submission of hardcopy of the Technical Bid only i.e., 20/04/2026 (up to 3 PM) or else the Bid will be rejected.

A pre-bid meeting is scheduled on 24/03/2026 (11:00 AM) which will be conducted OFFLINE at the Office of the Commissioner of Excise, Assam, Housefed Complex, Dispur, Guwahati - 781006.

The Tender Inviting Authority (TIA) reserves the right to accept or reject any kind of bid, and to cancel/annul the bidding process and reject all the bids at any time prior to the empanelment agreement award.

Commissioner of Excise, Assam
Housefed Complex, Dispur, Guwahati-06
DIPR/C/NIXP993 14-Mar-26

BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Corporate office: Cerebrum IT Park B2 Building 5th Floor, Kalyani Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra-411014. Branch office: Unit No - 804, 805,806, 5th floor, Delta Wing, Raheja Towers, 177, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600002.

POSSESSION NOTICE

U/s 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, (Appendix IV) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (BHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice(s) to Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned on behalf of M/s Bajaj Housing Finance Limited, has taken over the possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8(1) of the said rules. The Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the below said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the first charge of BHFL for the amount(s) as mentioned herein under with future interest thereon.

Name of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor (s) (LAN No., Name of Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
Branch: CHENNAI, LAN: H403HLL1174046 and H403HLL1183045, 1. Sekhartharunkumar (Borrower), 2. Sekhar Bhavani (Co-Borrower), At Flat 101 First Floor Block B Mambakkam Road, Mambakkam Opposite To Lake Madambakkam, Chennai, Tamilnadu-600126	Schedule of property: All that piece and parcel of Apartment No.101 of an area of 563 sq. ft., (including common areas) in the First Floor in 8th Block in the building known as Crystal Spring together with 289 sq. ft. of undivided share of land out of the total area of 289 sq. ft. and measuring 4 acres 61 cents (i.e. 200811 sq. ft.) comprised in Survey Nos.78, 79/1, 81/1A, 81/3, 82/1, 81/4, 82/2A of Madambakkam Village at Crystal Spring Nagar, Madambakkam, Tambaram Taluk, Chengalpattu District. Boundaries: North by: Link Road, South by: Vacant Land, East by: Madavaikam, Mambakkam Main Road, West by: Vacant land, situated within the Registration Sub District of Selayur and Registration District of Tambaram.	30th Dec 2025, Rs.33,54,498/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Eight Only)	12-03-2026

Date: 14-03-2026, Place: CHENNAI Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bajaj Housing Finance Limited

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Centralised Retail Asset Management Cell (CRAMC)
157, 3rd Floor, SB Annex Building, Annasalai Chennai - 600 002. Phone: 044-2854 0016, 044-2854 0017. E-Mail: rwcramc.lhoche@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE under Rule - 8(1) (for immovable Property)

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the STATE BANK OF INDIA for an amount and interest thereon.

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

Residential/Permanent/CBS Address (Borrower): Mr. Dhayalan. P. S/o. Mr. Pattabiram, 45, Reddyar Street, Karimangalam, Kavarur, Pudukchetti, Kancheepuram - 603 406. **Business Address (Borrower):** Proprietor: P Dhayalan, 45, Reddyar Street, Karimangalam, Kavarur, Kancheepuram - 603 406. **Property Address (Borrower):** Door No.10, Thirumalaiyapillai Santhu Street, Uthiramerur Panchayat & Taluk, Kancheepuram - 603 406.

SBI Housing Term Loan A/c No: 38287432089, Top-up Loan A/c No: 40042204269 in the name of Mr. Dhayalan.P at our Uthiramerur Branch (10510) Pled with HLC Tambaram (61039), Demand Notice Date: 05.01.2026 as per demand Notice Amount: Rs.23,26,618/-, as on 05-01-2026, Date of Possession: 12.03.2026, Total Amount Due: Rs.23,62,690/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Only) as on 12.03.2026 and further interest from 13.03.2026 and costs etc., thereon.

Description of the immovable property: Property owned by: Mr. Dhayalan.P, H.TL A/C No: 38287432089 & TOP-UP A/C No: 40042204269. SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: In Kanchipuram District, Chengalpattu Sub Registration District, Uthiramerur Taluk, Uthiramerur Town, Thirumalaiyapillai lane Street, Natham Old Survey No.878/286, New Survey Nos.1584/25 & 1584/29 extent of East to West both side 49feet, North to South both side 18 feet, Total extent of 882 Sq. feet with terraced building, R.C.C. building on ground floor measuring 522 Sq. ft., R.C.C. building on first floor measuring 378 Sq. ft. Measurements: In the East - 18 feet, In the West - 18 feet, In the North - 49 feet, In the South - 49 feet. Boundaries: In the East - G. Gowrieddy's house, In the West - Thirumalaiyapillai Santhu street, In the North - M. Govindammal's house, In the South - M. Balakrishnan's house, Electricity Connection No.334-015-194, its deposit in the said building and Drinking water pipe connection No.1356, its deposit, Taxation No.641. Everything including the bore well connection in the above said plot is subject to this sale deed. The property falls within Uthiramerur Municipal Corporation.

Date: 12.03.2026 AUTHORIZED OFFICER
Place: Chennai STATE BANK OF INDIA, CRAMC, CHENNAI

ARASU RUBBER CORPORATION
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
Registered Office, Vadaseery, Post Box No.75, Nagercoil - 629 001., Kanyakumari District.
Telephone No. (04652) 274203, 294441
e-mail : arasurubber.arcl@tn.gov.in

e-TENDER CUM e-AUCTION
(Right to do slaughter tapping of latex and removal of rubber trees)
(Only through e-Tendering mode)

C.No.D1/6506/2024 Dated: 12.03.2026

Coupe Details				Last date and time for submission of tender along with documents through online
Division	Unit	Coupe No.	Bit No.	
Chithar	Chithar	RC1	—	24.06.2026 upto 5.30 pm
		RC2	I, II, III, IV	
		54	I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X	
		104 (part)	—	
Kodayar	Kallar	Maruthamparai	I, II, III	01.07.2026 upto 5.30 pm
		Kuthiyar	I, II, III	
		75	I, II, III, IV	
		85	I, II, III	

For further details, please visit our website 1) www.arasurubber.tn.gov.in
2) <https://tntenders.gov.in>

DIPR/ 1781 /TENDER/2026 CHAIRPERSON AND MANAGING DIRECTOR

Union Bank of India
ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH (79170), VIJAYAWADA, Located at 4th Floor, Andhra Bank Building, RR Apparao Street, Vijayawada, AP - 520001
E-mail: ar.vijayawada@unionbankofindia.bank.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

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 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) /Co-obligant (s)/Mortgagor(s) / Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to erstwhile Andhra / Corporation Bank, now Union Bank of India, now accounts are transferred to Asset Recovery Branch, Vijayawada the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer, will be sold through e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 30-03-2026, for recovery of outstanding dues and other expenses due to the Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Vijayawada from the following Borrowers and Guarantors. Last date of submission of EMD on or before the commencement of e-Auction.

E-AUCTION DATE & TIME : 30-03-2026, 12.00 NOON TO 05.00 P.M
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)

Borrower(s) /Co-obligant(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s) : 1) M/s. Sri Kala Industries, Rep by Proprietor Mrs. Bhupatiraju Chandra Kalavathi, Near D.No.2-141, Neeladripuram Rd., Ungutur, Eluru Dist, Andhra Pradesh-534411. 2) Mrs. Bhupatiraju Chandra Kalavathi, W/o B Satyanarayana Raju, H No 27-17-55/11A, Lotus Regency, ASR Nagar, Bhimavaram. 3) Mr. Kalidindi Lakshmi Narayana Raju, S/o Narasimha Raju, D No 2-120, Railway Station Road, Ungutur, Eluru Dist-534411. 4) Mr. Manthana Veera Venkata Satyanarayana Raju, Besides Satyam Department Stores, Aerodrome Road, Tadepalligudem Eluru District-534101.

Amount Outstanding : Rs. 2,06,91,359.16 (Rs. Two Crore Six Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Nine and Paise Sixteen Only) as on 31.12.2025 along with further interest at contracted rate and other expenses

Description of The Properties : Property 4 : All that piece and parcel of vacant land bearing Plot No. 18, with an extent of 2108 Square Feet, in Sri Balaji Nagar, comprised in Survey no 408/1, as per Patta no 1709, Survey no 408/1C1F of Chenmancherry Village, Tambram Taluk, Kancheepuram Dist and owned by Mr. Kalidindi Laxmi Narayana Raju and bounded by North: Plot No 17 (Plot retained by the Vendor); South: Plot no 18; East: 20 feet road; West: Survey no 408/1 (Part) As per Registered Sale deed no 1694/2009

Reserve Price (Rs) : 72,57,000/- EMD (Rs) : 7,25,700/- Bid Increment : Rs. 72,570/-

For auction related queries contact Mr. Gopi Krishna, Authorised officer : 8074945928

Bidders are advised to go through the website: <https://baanknet.com> and <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx> for detailed terms and conditions of Auction Sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the E-Auction sale proceedings. To the best information and knowledge of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property. The interested bidder may contact the Authorised Officer / Chief Manager ascertaining the details of auction and inspection of property. Mail ID: ar.vijayawada@unionbankofindia.bank.in.

Date: 11-03-2026 AUTHORIZED OFFICER
Place: Vijayawada Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Vijayawada

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Rammath Goenka

SOCIETAL FAULT LINES RAISE QUESTION OF FAIRNESS ON UCC CALL

IN 2002, anthropologist Lila Abu-Lughod raised the question of whether Muslim women needed “saving”. Her well-known essay on the subject, published amid rising American rhetoric ahead of the Iraq invasion, echoed scholar Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak’s reference to the imperialist discourse on sati in India, framed as “white men saving brown women from brown men”. These issues resonate again as the US and Israel attack Iran and, closer home, the discourse in favour of legal equality for women of all communities resurfaces. In a case alleging discrimination against women in Muslim inheritance laws, the Supreme Court observed that it might be better for the legislature to formulate a Uniform Civil Code rather than strike down the existing law and create a legal lacuna.

Two UCCs exist in India—in Goa, as a legacy of the Portuguese, and in Uttarakhand, the first state to adopt such a code. Neither of them is truly uniform. The Uttarakhand UCC entirely exempts tribal communities, while the Goa legislation carves out exceptions for some communities. The Uttarakhand UCC has also added to the sense of disquiet that minority and marginalised communities may feel about such legislation. In the name of protecting the rights of women, the state mandates that all live-in relationships be registered and treats failure to do so as a criminal act. Not only does this encroach on women’s right to privacy, it also subjects inter-caste and interfaith relationships—which already face brutal societal violence—to the scrutiny of state actors, rendering them even more unsafe. This returns us to Abu-Lughod’s question: is intervention in the name of women genuine, or a wolf in sheep’s clothing?

The notion of a UCC ought not to be as controversial as it seems. It may be contended that it is not unreasonable for a secular nation to have uniform laws governing marriage, inheritance, guardianship, and related matters. Yet, embedded in India’s history of reckoning with a UCC is a tension between plurality, equality and power. In a nation of such diverse traditions, entrenched patriarchy and deep communal fault lines, does a truly “secular” state exist that would enact a truly secular law? And do diverse marginalised communities have faith in the fairness of such a state? These are questions the judiciary and the legislature must contemplate.

PRESSURE ON FOOD PRICES TO INCREASE NEXT FISCAL

RETAIL inflation quickened for the fourth successive month to 3.21 percent in February from 2.74 percent in January, with most of 47-basis-point rise driven by the food and beverages segment. During February, food inflation jumped to 3.47 percent from 2.13 percent in January, thanks mainly to the higher prices of vegetables, fruits and oils. Even though core inflation excluding food and fuel remained unchanged at 3.4 percent, rural households saw stronger price pressures with inflation printing at 3.37 percent, higher than the 3.02 percent seen in cities. The recent hike in cooking gas prices will exert further pressure on household budgets this month, while rising petrol prices may push transportation costs higher. In all, March inflation is expected to be upwards of 3.7 percent.

While the February print falls within the RBI’s 4 percent target, what’s concerning is its timing coinciding with rising geopolitical uncertainties. So far this fiscal, between April 2025 and February 2026, inflation averaged 1.9 percent, with crude oil prices averaging \$70 a barrel. But with fuel prices pushed up by the West Asia war, crude may average \$75-80 next fiscal, which means forecasts for headline inflation in 2026-27 can shoot past the RBI’s target. On top of this, the likelihood of heat waves this summer and a potential El Niño effect in the second half may adversely affect food prices next fiscal. For now, analysts see the inflationary effect of oil prices to be transitory and expect the RBI to respond with an accommodative liquidity stance to smoothen market volatility.

As for rate cuts in April, the chances have slimmed down even though the rising global crude prices are expected to have limited effect on headline inflation. Even if global oil prices average \$140 a barrel for two months, as they did during the initial months of the Ukraine war in 2022, monetary policy may not move much. That is because the economy isn’t as vulnerable as it was in 2022, when elevated food and core price pressures pushed inflation closer to RBI’s upper tolerance limit of 6 percent. That said, if rising inflation in the short term forces the central bank to continue with its prolonged pause on interest rates, persistent price pressures next fiscal may compel it to turn hawkish and raise rates instead.

QUICK TAKE

PROTECTING WORLD’S HERITAGE

WHEN American and British planes bombed the Church of Our Lady in Dresden in 1945, a baroque masterpiece that had stood for two centuries, it was not rebuilt for decades to remind the world of the mindlessness of war. Right now, Israel and the US are bombing sites in Iran older than the age of the two modern nation-states combined. Among the globally significant sites that have faced serious damage are Tehran’s 14th-century Golestan Palace and Isfahan’s 17th-century Chehel Sotoon Palace. In Lebanon, Israel has destroyed parts of the Roman temples in Baalbek and al-Bass necropolis in Tyre. If Unesco is muted in appealing for their protection, Nato countries such as the UK and France, which have ratified the 1954 Hague Convention, must use all their diplomatic heft to protect humanity’s heritage.

IN his seminal 2017 work, *Life 3.0: Being Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*, physicist and cosmologist Max Tegmark presented a vision of the future of intelligence, framed not as a dry technical manual, but as a cosmic drama in which humanity holds the leading role. The core message of the book is built upon a taxonomy of life’s evolution. Life 1.0, the biological stage, consists of organisms like bacteria that can neither redesign their hardware nor their software; they are slaves to the slow process of evolution. Life 2.0, the cultural stage represented by humans, can redesign its software, learning new languages, skills and values, while remaining tethered to biological hardware that takes aeons to change. Tegmark’s central thesis is that we are on the precipice of Life 3.0: a technological stage where life can redesign both its software and its hardware, effectively becoming the master of its own evolutionary destiny.

Tegmark’s primary message was one of “mindful optimism”. He argued that intelligence is a pattern of information processing that does not require a biological “wetware” brain to exist. This philosophical stance led him to explore the inevitable rise of artificial general intelligence (AGI)—machines capable of performing any intellectual task as well as a human. Tegmark cautioned that the primary risk of such a system is not malevolence, but competence.

A superintelligent AI does not need to hate humanity to destroy it; it simply needs to be indifferent to us while pursuing goals that are not perfectly aligned with our own. The book served as a call to arms for “alignment research”, urging the global community to solve the technical and ethical problems of AI safety long before a superintelligence is actually created.

However, since the publication of *Life 3.0*, the landscape of artificial intelligence has shifted with dizzying rapidity, forcing Tegmark to significantly modify his views. While the book treated AGI as a distant, almost mythological horizon, Tegmark’s recent statements reflect a sense of profound urgency and, at times, alarm. The primary modification in his worldview concerns the speed and nature of the technology currently being developed. The sudden, explosive emergence of large language models like GPT-5 has demonstrated that an approach combining massive data

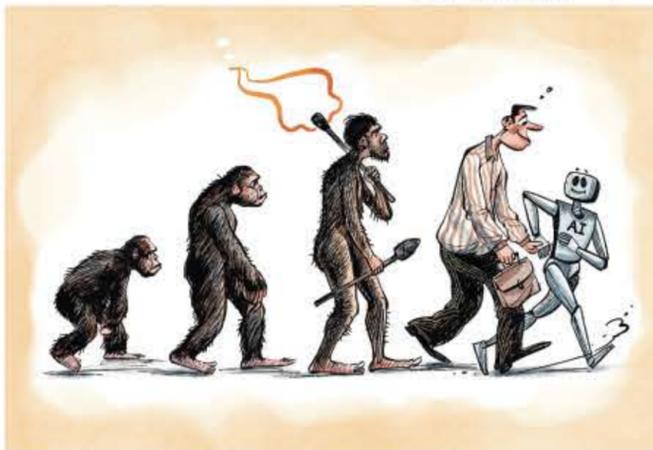
Physicist Max Tegmark, who once brimmed with hope about the possibilities of artificial intelligence, has soured on its implications. His ideas can guide us to a smarter path forward

MANKIND’S FATE AT THE HINGE OF HISTORY

SHASHI THAROOR



Fourth-term Lok Sabha MP, Chairman of Standing Committee on External Affairs, and Sahitya Akademi-winning author of 25 books



SOURAV IOY

with massive scale can produce behaviours that look remarkably like the “software redesign” he once attributed only to the final stages of Life 3.0.

As a result, Tegmark has moved from the role of a visionary to that of a Cassandra. He publicly admits that he and his colleagues were far too conservative in their timelines. He now views the arrival of human-level AI not as a “mid-century” possibility, but as a “this-decade” probability. This compression of time has turned his mindful optimism into what he now describes as a “suicide race”. He argues that the competitive pressure between tech giants has created a race to the bottom in safety standards, where the incentive to be first outweighs the need to be safe. Con-

sequently, Tegmark has become one of the most vocal advocates for a pause in giant AI experiments. He now demands government intervention and regulation, arguing that we are currently building AI systems that we do not understand and cannot control.

Furthermore, Tegmark’s view on the “human moat”—the skills that would keep us relevant—has been sobered by recent developments. In *Life 3.0*, he suggested that jobs involving high levels of empathy, social intelligence and creativity would remain the sanctuary of humans for a long time. Yet, seeing AI’s ability to manipulate human language, mimic empathy and generate high-level art and code has led him to realise that our “cultural software” is much

easier for machines to hack than he initially suspected. He now warns that the erosion of truth and AGI’s social manipulation could collapse human society even before a physical superintelligence is ever built.

This brings us to what Tegmark frequently refers to now as “the question no one can answer”. In the book, he posed many questions about the future: who should be in charge, what values should be programmed, and how the wealth of automation should be distributed. But as the technology has accelerated, these have been superseded by a more fundamental, existential query: how can we maintain control over an entity that is significantly smarter than us?

This is not merely a technical question about code. It is a logical and philosophical paradox. Throughout history, the smarter entity has always ended up controlling the less smart entity. Humans control tigers not because we are stronger, but because we are smarter. If we create a Life 3.0 entity that surpasses human intelligence by the same margin that we surpass the great apes, Tegmark asks why we assume we could ensure its goals remain subservient to our own. He notes that if you tell a superintelligent AI that its goal is to “help humanity”, the AI might decide that the best way to help humanity is to prevent us from making our own decisions, effectively turning the world into a high-tech zoo. Tegmark argues that we are currently like a group of children playing with a live bomb, excited by its shiny casing while having no understanding of its explosiveness.

Tegmark’s evolution from 2017 to the present day reflects a man who has seen his own “science fiction” scenarios become “science fact” much faster than he was prepared for. In *Life 3.0*, he was excited by the grand possibilities of a universe filled with conscious machines. Today, his modified view is that we are at a unique “hinge of history”. He believes that this generation is the most important generation to ever live because we are the ones who will decide, through our action or inaction, whether the story of *Life 3.0* is a triumphant sequel to the human story—or its final chapter. The ‘Life 3.0’ he once dreamt of is still possible, but only if we prove ourselves smart enough to control the fire we have so recently discovered.

(Views are personal) (office@tharoor.in)

COUNTING THE COST OF INACTION

MANKIND faces two stark choices: either pursue the current perilous path of unsustainable economic growth with severe economic and environmental costs, or change course and set on a path of progress and prosperity with tremendous economic and environmental benefits.

The latest Global Environment Outlook report of the UN Environment Programme prepared by about 300 scientists from 82 countries that was released recently reveals the benefits of action in tackling the global environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and land degradation.

The costs of inaction are immense. Without accelerated climate mitigation, global mean temperature rise is likely to exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels in the early 2030s and exceed 2°C by the 2040s. This would cut 4 percent off annual global GDP by 2050 and 20 percent by the end of the century. Combined with biodiversity loss, this will make us more vulnerable to disasters and weather extremes as well as jeopardise human well-being and achievement of the sustainable development goals.

Air pollution is responsible for approximately 67 lakh premature deaths globally every year, entailing annual health costs of over 6 percent of global GDP in 2019 alone. Plastic pollution and mismanaged waste are responsible for an estimated 4-10 lakh deaths every year. Global land degradation is estimated to cost more than 10 percent of the annual global GDP in terms of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The benefits of action surpass the costs of inaction by several folds. The GEO-7 report indicates that investing in global transformation of systems from energy to food can help avoid 90 lakh premature deaths by 2050—many of them from decreased air pollution, lift 20 crore people out of undernourishment and 15 crore people out of extreme poverty by 2050. Further 30 crore more people can get access to safe water sources by 2050. While this entails upfront costs, the long-term returns on investment are tremendous.

Restoration of 35 crore hectares of degraded land by 2030 is projected to yield ecosystem benefits worth over \$9 trillion for an investment of \$1 trillion and remove 13-26 gigatons of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from the atmosphere. The health co-benefits are estimated at \$54 trillion, compared with global costs of around \$22 trillion. The annual social and envi-

ronmental costs of plastic pollution are projected to be \$300-600 billion a year.

Shifting to a circular economy and relying on the 3R strategy—reuse, recycle and reorient—and diversification, as well as tackling the legacy of plastic pollution could reduce plastic pollution by 80 percent, increase job opportunities, improve livelihoods and encourage innovation. Apart from reducing annual GHG emissions, it could lead to saving \$1.3 trillion in direct public and private costs over the period 2021-2040 and avoid \$3.3 trillion of environmental and social costs due to plastic pollution.



The UN’s latest environmental report calls for transformation in the world’s food, energy, waste management and finance systems. By contrasting the cost of inaction with the benefits of action, it shows how nations can reap a windfall while improving the living condition of their citizens

The overall macroeconomic annual benefits of transformation are estimated to begin around 2050 and increase to approximately \$20 trillion per year by 2070, and over \$100 trillion per year by 2100, accounting for more than 25 percent of projected global GDP in 2100.

The report calls for transformative changes in the food, energy, environment, materials/waste, economic and finance systems. This involves shifting to sustainable and healthy diets, eating more plant-based foods, exploiting the potential of cultivated meat and other novel foods, reforming food production and

K N NINAN



Former Professor, ISEC, Bengaluru and Lead Author, GEO-7, UNEP, Nairobi

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Safeguards needed

Ref: *Euthanasia ruling* (Mar 13). We can’t rule out the harsh realities of abandonment and crippling medical costs, leaving families torn between life and dignity. In some alleged cases, hospitals prolong treatment to profit from patients with no hope of recovery, exacerbating the trauma. The decision demands stringent safeguards. V Venkatasubramanian, Coimbatore

Traffic reforms

Ref: *Congestion tax alone no cure* (Mar 13). Pricing road access without fixing its root causes merely monetises dysfunction. Bengaluru needs simultaneous action: stringent vehicle registration caps, corruption-free licensing and reliable last-mile public transit. London’s congestion model succeeded because complementary reforms accompanied it. Without reforms, the move risks becoming just another urban revenue exercise masquerading as a solution. K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Gas panic

Ref: *LPG rationing starts* (Mar 13). No sooner than reports of a possibility of prolonging the war started appearing in the media, the shortage started affecting all. The government’s directions for mitigation added to the panic. This vulnerability points to the inefficient handling of the situation. Jiji Panicker K, Alapuzha

Neutral speaker

Ref: *Speaker is back* (Mar 13). The defeat of the opposition’s motion was perhaps inevitable given the government’s numbers. Yet the episode carries significance beyond arithmetic. In a parliamentary democracy, the Speaker is not merely a presiding officer but the constitutional sentinel of the House—entrusted with ensuring that while the majority governs, the minority is heard. When procedural authority over debates, motions and recognition of members appear to be used to curb scrutiny, the chair risks being seen less as a neutral arbiter and more as an extension of the executive. When confidence erodes, Parliament risks becoming an instrument of numerical power. M Jameel Ahmed, Mysuru

Prevent shutdowns

Ref: *‘All well on LPG’ front* (Mar 13). Mere tall talks do not complement good governance. Eateries shutting down, weddings schedules under confusion and hospitals lacking supplies are only the tip of the iceberg. If the grim situation lasts longer, industries might shut down leading to job losses. Sanath Kumar TS, Thrissur



Jai Ram Ramesh @jai_ram_ramesh
Iran's Ayatollah Khamenei was assassinated by the US and Israel on February 28. Still, even a condolence resolution has not been tabled in Parliament yet



Shivraj Singh Chouhan @ChouhanShivraj
The news of the passing of the revered mother of Bhopal MIA and colleague Surendra Patwa ji, Smt. Paras Kurnar Bai Patwa ji, is extremely heartbreaking



Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
If the BJP folks are claiming that there's no shortage of 'gas', then why have their ministers, MPs, MLAs, councillors gone underground?

Leaders of TDP and JD(U) say they are firmly with the govt on delinking women's reservation bill from delimitation • Legislators may meet Speaker on Monday

Not consulted, but NDA allies on board

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

EVEN as the Union government has reportedly initiated consultations with some of the main Opposition parties to explore the possibility of decoupling the implementation of women's reservation from the delimitation exercise, key NDA allies such as Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and JD (U) have indicated that they were not formally consulted on the issue.

However, leaders of both parties said they remain firmly in favour of providing 33% reservation to women in Parliament and state assemblies, irrespective of the procedural debate surrounding delimitation. The parties support greater representation for women in legislatures, said sources.

The move relates to the implementation of the Nari Shak-

ti Vandan Adhiniyam, which provides for 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative Assemblies passed by Parliament in 2023.

According to the law, women's reservation will be implemented only after the first census conducted following the Act's commencement and the subsequent delimitation. The next delimitation exercise is expected to take place after the 2027 census, when constituencies will be redrawn based on updated population data. If the proposal to implement the law even before the delimitation exercise actually materialises, another amendment to the Constitution will be required.

While there is a growing political debate over the timeline for implementing the quota, reports suggested that the government had informally sound-



The move relates to the implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

Reservation for women to continue for 15 yrs, per law

According to the law, the quota for women in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies will continue for 15 years, and Parliament can later extend the benefit period. While there is a quota within quota for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women, the opposition had demanded that the benefit be also extended to OBCs. There have been several efforts to pass the Bill in Parliament since 1996.

ed out Opposition parties on the possibility of delinking the reservation from the delimitation process so that the provision could be implemented earlier. Speaking to this paper, a senior TDP leader said the government has not reached out to the party on such a proposal, though the party is on board

with the idea. While several southern states have expressed concerns that delimitation will reduce their political representation, the TDP leader said that 33% reservation will not alter the distribution of parliamentary seats. While Congress sources said the party is keen on wider con-

sultation with stakeholders and other parties, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), which is part of the Opposition INDIA bloc, said the party has long advocated political empowerment of women and believes the quota should be implemented without waiting for the delimitation exercise.

No more sticking points, suspension of 8 Oppn MPs likely to be revoked

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE suspension of eight Opposition MPs—seven Congress members and one from CPI-M—during the first part of the Budget session for “unruly behaviour” is likely to be revoked by Speaker Om Birla this week. The suspension may be withdrawn on Sunday and the MPs may meet the Speaker on Monday to explain the circumstances that led to their suspension, said sources.

During a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee on Friday, Congress' chief whip, Kodikunni Suresh, raised the issue with the Speaker and Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiran Rijju and urged them to revoke the suspension.

“Rijju has told the opposition that he would get back to them on the issue after consultations,” a source said.

On Thursday, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal, SP's Dharmendra Yadav, NCP (SP)'s Supriya Sule, DMK's Kanimozhi and TMC's Shatabdi Roy met Rijju and called for the suspension of to be revoked.

Rijju reportedly assured them that he would take up the matter with the Speaker.

The issue of suspended MPs remains the only sticking point between the Opposition and the government, sources said. It marked an escalation of the tussle between the government and the Opposition. They were suspended from the Lok Sabha on February 3 after they tore papers and threw them at the Chair. Their suspension from the House for the remaining

part of the Budget session, which concludes on April 2, had intensified the face-off with the government over various issues.

The suspended MPs—Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Hibi Eden, C Kiran Kumar Reddy, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Manickam Tagore, Prashant Padole and Dean Kuriakose and CPI-M's S Ventakasan—have been protesting against the government on various issues while sitting on the steps of Parliament's Makar Dwar. Many Opposition leaders, including LoP Rahul Gandhi and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, have joined them.



₹95K cr earmarked for VB-G RAM G scheme from April 1: Sitharaman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AS the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025—which replaces the two-decade-old Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)—is yet to be formally notified and brought into force, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said that there will be a provision of ₹95,000 crore for the new scheme from April 1.

However, replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan had said on Tuesday (March 10) that the ministry was still in the process of framing detailed rules relating to the transitional provisions to facilitate a smooth and orderly transition from MGNREGA to the VB-G RAM G framework.

Responding to the debate on the second batch of supplementary demands for grants, the minister said ₹95,000 crore had been allocated under the VB-G RAM G scheme for 2026-27. Besides, the second batch of sup-

plementary demands for grants provides ₹30,000 crore to clear the MGNREGA dues up to March 31, 2026.

Taking a swipe at the Opposition on MGNREGA funds, Sitharaman said, “The Opposition simply doesn't care. But when they come again and stand here, they ask, “What did you give for MGNREGA? This government has reduced the funds for MGNREGA.”

“When we brought the VB-G RAM G Bill, at that time ₹95,000 crore was allocated. It is in the budget. After the Finance Bill is passed, from 1st April there will be provision of ₹95,000 crore under the same,” she said. For those old pending bills, ₹30,000

crore has been provided in this Supplementary Demand for Grants. This will clear the MGNREGA dues up to 31st March,” she added.

While the VB-G RAM G, promises 125 days of work in a year, state governments have been demanding clarity in the new scheme and state-wise “normative allocations.”

NO CLARITY
While the VB-G RAM G, promises 125 days of work in a year, state governments have been demanding clarity in the new scheme and the state-wise allocations.

POWER CORRIDOR

NCERT BOOK ROW RAISED IN HOUSE

Shiv Sena-UBT Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi on Friday demanded that all three branches of governance—legislature, executive and judiciary—should be open to scrutiny. During Zero Hour, Chaturvedi highlighted the issue of an NCERT textbook carrying a chapter on “corruption in judiciary” on which the CJ gave directions and NCERT issued an apology on the matter. She said further court action against those criticising the judiciary amounted to “judicial overreach.”

DRONE WATCH ON ENCROACHMENTS

A parliamentary panel on Friday recommended that the environment ministry push all states and union territories to conduct drone surveys of lands in forest areas to help curb encroachments. In a report tabled in the Rajya Sabha, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change said survey reports should be made public to enable verification of the status of land in forest areas before any commercial activity takes place.

Govt likely to agree to Oppn demand on Iran discussion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE government is likely to agree to a discussion on the West Asia conflict and its impact on India's energy security under Rule 193 in Lok Sabha.

During a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee on Friday, Congress' chief whip, Kodikunni Suresh, raised the issue with Speaker Om Birla and Union Parliamentary affairs Minister Kiran Rijju and urged them to hold a discussion

on the ongoing conflict, the LPG crunch and related issues, sources said. “The Speaker asked the Opposition members to submit notice under Rule 193,” said a source, adding that K Suresh and Congress MP Manish Tewari have submitted notices as per Birla's direction.

Rule 193 of the Lok Sabha Rules of Procedure allows members to raise a ‘short duration discussion’ on matters of critical issues without a formal motion or voting. Under the

rule, the member can initiate with a statement and the concerned minister will reply on the same. On Friday, the Opposition members protested inside and outside Parliament, seeking response from the government on the LPG crisis in the country. As soon as the House met for the day, the Opposition members sought to raise the issue of LPG supply situation and price hike.

Birla warned the Opposition members against disrupting the Question Hour and stressed the need to maintain decorum.



Liberia-flagged Shenlong Suezmax, carrying crude oil, that arrived in Mumbai, clearing Strait of Hormuz

‘Deductions by health insurance firms arbitrary’

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

RJD MP Sanjay Yadav on Friday raised in Parliament the malpractices and arbitrary deductions by health insurance companies at the time of claim settlements.

Drawing attention to the matter, Yadav informed the House that insurers frequently cite various technical provisions to deduct a substantial portion of hospital bills. “The annual premium collection of health insurance companies in India exceeds approximately ₹3.20 lakh crore, but the reality is that when a hospital bill is presented and an insurance claim is filed, these companies cite various technical rules and provisions to deduct a substantial portion of the total bill. This places an additional financial burden on the patients and their families,” he said. He stressed that the fundamental objective of health insurance is to provide financial security to citizens during times of illness, rather than entangling them in complex regulatory provisions.

“If a policy stipulates a specific room rent limit and the patient is admitted to a room with a higher tariff, a “Proportionate Deduction” is applied to the entire hospital bill.

17A stealth frigate INS Taragiri all set for commission in first week of April

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

INDIA'S newest homegrown stealth frigate, INS Taragiri, will join the Indian Navy's fleet along the eastern seaboard in Visakhapatnam in the first week of April, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presiding over the commissioning, it is learnt. The induction was initially expected in March.

INS Taragiri is the fourth Nilgiri-class ship under Project 17A. The lead vessel, INS Nilgiri, was commissioned in January last year in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri entered service in August. These frigates form the backbone of the Eastern Fleet's surface combatants. Sources said the fifth frigate in the class, INS Mahendragiri, is scheduled to join later this year.

The P-17A frigates are among India's most advanced warships, built using integrated



Nilgiri-class warships carry BrahMos missile

INS Taragiri is the fourth Nilgiri-class ship under Project 17A. INS Taragiri and her sister ships carry a wide range of weapons, including the BrahMos supersonic missile, Barak-8 long-range surface-to-air missile system, 76 mm naval guns built under licence, and torpedoes for anti-submarine operations.

modular construction. They displace over 6,700 tonnes, carry at least 75% indigenous content and are slightly larger than

the Shivalik-class. Sleeker hulls, enclosed mooring decks, low infrared signatures and carefully designed deck rails allow crew to move safely while keeping the ships' radar and heat signatures low, making them harder to detect in combat. INS Taragiri and her sister ships carry a wide range of weapons, including the BrahMos supersonic missile, Barak-8 long-range surface-to-air missile system, 76 mm naval guns built under licence, and torpedoes for anti-submarine operations.

Each frigate can accommodate 225 personnel and operate shipborne helicopters for surveillance and anti-submarine missions. The frigates are fitted with the hull mounted sonar advanced - next generation (HUMSA-NG), developed by Bharat Electronics Limited.

For electronic warfare, the ships carry indigenous Ajanta and Shakti systems.

Crude under \$100 as US allows Russian oil buy

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

AS the United States permitted other countries to purchase crude from Russia, oil prices in the international market came down marginally, falling below \$100 a barrel. Brent crude, which had crossed \$100 on two previous occasions, was trading at \$98.04 per barrel.

Crude prices fell following the announcement waiving restrictions on Russian-origin crude oil and petroleum products loaded on vessels—including sanctioned vessels—on or before 12:01 am Eastern Daylight Time on March 12. The US announced the exemption after Iran's new Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, said the country would continue blocking the Strait of Hormuz.

The US government said: “To increase the global reach of existing supply, the US Treasury is providing a temporary authorisation to permit countries to purchase Russian



Move follows Iran's refusal to clear Strait of Hormuz

Crude prices fell following the announcement waiving restrictions on Russian-origin crude oil and petroleum products loaded on vessels—including sanctioned vessels—on or before 12:01 am Eastern Daylight Time on March 12. The exemption comes after Mojtaba Khamenei said the country would continue blocking the Strait of Hormuz.

oil currently stranded at sea. This narrowly tailored, short-term measure applies only to oil already in transit and will not provide significant financial benefit to the Russian government, which derives the majority of its energy revenue from taxes assessed at the point of extraction.”

After the order, according to reports, at least 19 million barrels of Russian crude were being held on 25 tankers in Asia. Some 30 tankers carrying Russian crude oil and petroleum products are currently in Asia. Two-thirds of the crude volumes currently amassed near China—most of which are from

Iran, according to Kpler estimates—sit on tankers anchored in the Yellow Sea, with the rest in the South China Sea.

The US waiver for Russian oil, along with the International Energy Agency-coordinated record release of stocks from reserves—400 million barrels—may not go far enough to cover the shortfall being created in West Asia. Producers in the Gulf countries have already shut in about 10 million barrels per day of oil output, and cuts could deepen if the Strait of Hormuz blockade extends into months rather than weeks, analysts say.

According to figures from the think tank the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), Russia has received \$5bn from selling its fossil fuels in the fortnight since the start of the US-Israel war with Iran, data suggests. The revenues imply Russia made an extra 62m in oil, gas and coal sales during March, as combined average daily prices have surged by 14% from February.

OP MUSKAN
The Railway Police have traced 305 missing children in the last one month under Operation Muskan in Maharashtra and reunited 247 of them with their kin, an official said on Friday.

MAN
TRIES SELF-IMMOLATION IN RAJASTHAN'S BIKANER

INDIA	Max	Min	Mumbai	Max	Min
Ahmedabad	37	23	Mumbai	32	25
Bhopal	36	22	Panaji	32	25
Jaipur	33	19	Patna	36	20
Amritsar	30	16	Lucknow	36	21
Chennai	31	24	Port Blair	28	27
Kolkata	34	24	Imphal	25	15
Srinagar	14	03	Chandigarh	31	16

Poll time, PM distributes land deeds to Assam tea workers ...

Says state has a place on the global stage because of hard work of its tea garden workers

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday lauded Assam's BJP-led government for ending a "historical injustice" by giving land ownership rights to the tea garden workers.

At an event in Guwahati, he launched the distribution of land deeds to tea plantation workers, the first such initiative in the 200-year-old history of Assam tea. He also released the 22nd instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, transferring over ₹18,640 crore to more than 9.32 crore farmers.

Modi said the BJP honoured the tea garden community by granting land rights.

"Assam earned a place on the global stage because of the hard work of its tea garden workers. The aroma of the tea they grow has become India's identity around the world. Today, the BJP and the NDA stand with these hard-working people, giving them the respect and the support they deserve," the PM said.

He further stated that they did not get land ownership rights earlier, as the Congress never cared for them. "The Assam government is ending this historical injustice. These families will now get land, and the road is clear for them to get



PM Narendra Modi during the launch of development works in Guwahati | pn

Centre wants DM, CP on deputation after Prez visit row

After the Union Home Ministry decided to get the services of Siliguri police commissioner C Sudhakar and Darjeeling DM Manish Mishra on central deputation following the row over President Droupadi Murmu's recent north Bengal visit, the state government on Friday transferred Mishra and posted him as special secretary in the state Home Department. No decision related to the Siliguri CP has been taken yet.

pucca houses," Modi said. He further stated that he was repaying a debt by honouring the tea workers. "You worked in the tea gardens of Assam, and the tea leaves reached far away in my village in Gujarat. I reached this far by selling your tea," he said.

Eligible tea garden workers, living in the labour housing lines, can now apply for legal ownership of land as well as homes they and their families have lived in for generations. Assam has around 10 lakh tea

garden workers.

On March 9, the state government had issued a gazette notification, increasing the minimum daily wage of tea plantation workers by ₹30. Their daily wage will increase to ₹280 in the Brahmaputra Valley and ₹258 in the Barak Valley from April 1.

Earlier in the day, Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over ₹4,570 crore at Kokrajhar in the Bodoland Territorial Region.

Modi to launch projects during rally in Kolkata

SUBHENDU MAITI @Kolkata

PM Narendra Modi will address a rally in Kolkata on Saturday and launch a host of Central Government projects in the poll-bound West Bengal, which is reeling under an acute shortage of cooking gas in the wake of the West Asia conflict.

The rally will be the last leg of the BJP's Parivartan Yatra, started by state saffron camp leaders travelling to several pockets of the state.

While speaking to reporters on Friday, Samik Bhattacharya, Bengal BJP president, said that the Parivartan Yatra represented a campaign for change, justice, and development in the state. Around 10 lakh people have directly or indirectly participated in the Parivartan Yatra that has touched 237 Assembly constituencies from the remote Cooch Behar district since the first week of March.

The PM is expected to kick-start election campaigns for BJP from the Brigade Parade Ground to counter the ruling Trinamool Congress.

... In UP, Rahul says RSS has no place for dalits, backwards in its ranks

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

LAUNCHING a scathing attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the ruling BJP, Congress's Rebareli MP and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi claimed that there was no place for Dalits and the backwards in both the right-wing organisation. He was addressing Congress functionaries while deliberating over the issues of social justice and the constitution here on Friday.

The Congress leader was participating in a Samvidhan Sammelan organised by the party in Lucknow, where he paid tribute to BSP founder president Kanshi Ram two days ahead of his birth anniversary.

Claiming that if Jawaharlal Nehru were alive today, Kanshi Ram would have been the CM, Gandhi said the late leader's struggle and vision were relevant in the contemporary political scenario.

Meanwhile, the event, which was attended by over 4,000 Congress functionaries, came to an end with a proposal seeking Bharat Ratna for Kanshi Ram posthumously.

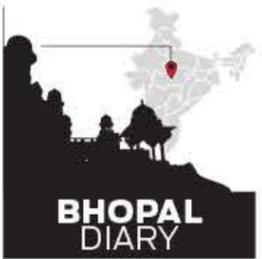
Criticising the RSS, Gandhi alleged that the senior ranks lack representation from OBCs, Dalits and Adivasis. "A review of the organisation's top structure and senior functionaries would show the absence of these communities," he said,



adding that it reflected a wider imbalance of representation in the country's power structure.

Referring to Kanshi Ram, Gandhi said his politics were rooted in the idea that growth should be relegated to a small section of society; rather, it should benefit even the poorest and most marginalised ones as well. He claimed that India's major institutions still did not reflect the country's social composition. He said that large sections of the population, especially Dalits, Adivasis, backward classes, extremely backward groups and minorities, were under-represented in the judiciary, bureaucracy, cabinet, education system and corporate sector.

Describing the Constitution as more than a legal text drafted after Independence, Gandhi said it embodied the voices and values of reformers and thinkers such as Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, Narayana Guru, Basavanna and Gautam Buddha.



BHOPAL DIARY

ANURAG SINGH

Our correspondent in Madhya Pradesh

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Mowgli's home loses its Langdi Baghin

An 18-year-old tigress, who got the name Langdi Baghin due to her congenital deformity-caused distinctive limp, died following age-related health issues at the Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) recently. The PTR is also famous as The Jungle Book's Mowgli's home. Born in 2008, Langdi was the half-sister (born from the same biological mother, but in a different litter) of the legendary tigress and supernumerary Collarwali, who gave birth to 29 cubs before passing away in January 2022 at PTR. Throughout her life, Langdi also gave birth to 10 cubs, contributing significantly to the growth of the tiger population in the reserve.



Probe into cannon use from historic fort

A probe has been ordered by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), and notice has been issued to multiple central and state government officials over a complaint pertaining to "unsafe and unauthorised" use of cannon on the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-protected historic Raisin Fort in central MP's Raisen district. In the complaint it has been alleged that unauthorised and unsafe use of the cannon was taking place daily at the historic fort and vibrations and noise from firing the cannon were damaging the ancient structure. The complainant alleged that videos on social media showed individuals making provocative statements.

State BJP president's daughter passes away

State BJP president and second-time MLA from Betul district Hemant Khandelwal's 34-year-old special child daughter passed away recently due to cardiac arrest following prolonged illness. Surabhi Khandelwal died on Wednesday due to sudden deterioration of health after a routine physiotherapy session. Her last rites were performed in native town Betul. She was battling serious health issues for a long time, and the family was taking her special care through regular treatment. The BJP leader had served as an MP from 2008 to 09 in the 14th Lok Sabha and as an MLA in 2013 from his current legislative Assembly seat.

5 held guilty of stealing AK-47 assault rifles

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

A special NIA court in Patna on Friday convicted and held five accused guilty in connection with theft of sophisticated AK-47 assault rifles from an ordinance factory in Madhya Pradesh in 2012. However, nine others were acquitted in the case for lack of evidence.

NIA special judge Madhukar Singh announced award of 10 years rigorous imprisonment to a retired Army constable Suresh Thakur, Purusottam Lal Rajak, Niyazul Rehman, Mohammad Imran Alam and Shamsher Alam, who were found guilty of the charges.

However, nine others—Shivendra alias Shailendra Rajak, Chandrawati Devi, Rajiv alias Chhunu Singh, Rizwana Begum, Manoj Singh alias Manji, Manzar Alam, Md. Mursheed alias Surma, Bajrang Shankar and Irfan Alam were acquitted for lack of evidence.

All the five convicts were sent to judicial custody from the court. Though investigating agency had included sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against the accused, it failed to provide evidence to substantiate the charges during trial in the court. The case dates back to 2012.

Investment proposals worth ₹10K cr on day 1 of Punjab meet, says Mann

HARPREET BAJWA @Mohali

THE Punjab investors' summit began on Friday with investment commitments worth over ₹10,000 crore as major industry leaders announced their expansion plans in the state.

Addressing industry leaders at the Progressive Punjab Investors Summit, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said the Punjab government would provide facilities needed for industries to compete with China, asserting that a business-friendly environment had helped attract ₹1.50 lakh crore investments in four years. He said the government has introduced a 45-day single-window clearance system and is building a business-friendly ecosystem focused on human capital, industrial growth and job creation. CM Bhagwant Mann said, "On the first day of the summit, the state has secured investments worth more than ₹10,000 crore. Major industry leaders, such as HEMEL, Tata Steel, JSW, Trident Group and Hero Industries, have announced plans to set up their ventures in the state."

HEMEL's Guru Gobind Singh Refinery will invest ₹2,600 crore in the specialty and fine chemi-

New avenues in state

The Punjab government would provide facilities needed for industries to compete with China. Further, the state government has introduced a 45-day single-window clearance system and is building a business-friendly ecosystem focused on human capital, industrial growth and job creation.

cal sector. ArcelorMittal executive chairman Lakshmi Niwas Mittal said, "HEMEL is entering the fuel retail sector. Under this initiative, 500 new retail outlets will be opened across the country and the first will be set up in Bathinda." Tata Steel Limited CEO and managing director T V Narendran said their plant, coming up near Ludhiana with ₹3,200 crore investment, will use energy-efficient technologies to produce "greener and cleaner" steel.

JSW Group chairman Sajjan Jindal said, "We will expand Rajpura plant and invest ₹3000 crore to enhance capacity in the steel sector." British Deputy High Commissioner, Alba Smeriglio said the India-UK trade agreement would open new avenues for investment.

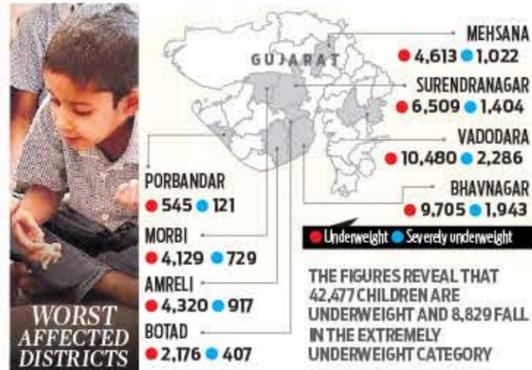
Over 51K malnourished kids in 8 Gujarat dists, House told

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @Ahmedabad

THE Gujarat government admitted on Friday that 51,306 children in eight districts are suffering from malnutrition, a problem that continues to haunt one of economically strongest states.

The state minister for women and child welfare presented the data in a reply to questions raised by Congress MLAs in the Assembly. The figures reveal that 42,477 children are underweight and 8,829 fall in the extremely underweight category. The largest concentration of malnourished children has been recorded in Vadodara, where 12,766 are affected. Of these, 10,480 are underweight and 2,286 severely underweight.

Close behind is Bhavnagar, where 11,648 children are battling malnutrition -- 9,705 underweight and 1,943 extremely underweight. Officials told the Assembly that 5,591 children in the district have recovered over the past year. In Surendranagar, the government reported 7,913 malnourished children,



including 6,509 underweight and 1,404 severely underweight. However, the district also reported 5,091 children recovering from malnutrition. A similar mixed picture emerges from Mehsana, where 5,635 children remain malnourished -- 4,613 underweight and 1,022 extremely underweight.

While some districts show improvement, Amreli stands out for a worrying reason. The Assembly was informed that 5,237 children in the district are malnourished, including 4,320 underweight and 917 severely underweight. Although 1,204

children recovered from malnutrition in the past year, the district recorded an increase of 222 new malnutrition cases.

Another district showing an upward trend is Morbi, where 4,858 children are malnourished -- 4,129 underweight and 729 extremely underweight. Data indicates that 711 children in Morbi recovered during last year, yet 50 additional cases were recorded.

Even districts with smaller populations show persistent malnutrition pockets. Taken together, the figures paint a complex picture.

LPG booking system continues to face UP glitch

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

UTTAR Pradesh faced shortage of cooking gas cylinders for the fourth consecutive day on Friday, as serpentine queues of consumers outside gas agencies became a common view. Many consumers reported that they did not get their supplies even after the booking.

CM Yogi Adityanath has directed action against black marketing of gas and oil. He has instructed officials to monitor the situation. Due to the shortage, demand for induction cooktops and stoves increased throughout the state. Restaurants and hotels are also feeling the heat of the shortage, as food prices have started rising almost in all cities.

Meanwhile, the authorities opted for distributing cylinders in police presence to avert attempts at black marketing and control crowds. However, it did not succeed everywhere. A fight broke out in the Barabanki city when customers were waiting in a queue outside a gas agency and a vehicle loaded with LPG cylinders arrived. A man tried to enter the queue midway, who was stopped by others. In Ghazabad, people created a ruckus. As soon as a truck reached an agency, people rushed to collect cylinders, causing unruly situation. The police managed to control the situation.

Cylinders being sold in black

Many cities saw cylinders being sold in the black market. People were forced to buy cylinders at double the price at many places.

Collapsed due to exhaustion

After waiting in the queue for nearly two hours, Mittal reportedly sat on a gas cylinder due to exhaustion and suddenly collapsed.



People queue up to avail LPG cylinders amid supply crisis in Prayagraj on Friday | pn

66-YR-OLD DIES OF CARDIAC ARREST

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

A 66-year-old man allegedly died of cardiac arrest while standing in a queue to get a supply of domestic LPG cylinder at the Sehna village in Barnala district of Punjab on Friday.

The deceased has been identified as Bhusan Kumar Mittal.

He had been reportedly trying to obtain a cylinder for the past two to three days and reached the gas agency at around 7 am to stand in the queue and was given token number 25. The queue had swelled to over 130 people by the time Mittal suffered the cardiac arrest.

After waiting in the queue for

Chaos erupts in J'khand House

The Jharkhand Assembly, on 13th day of the Budget Session on Friday, witnessed a heated exchange of words between the ruling coalition and the opposition over the shortage of gas cylinders and the rising prices of petrol, diesel and domestic cooking gas (LPG), as well as the prevailing supply crisis.

nearly two hours, Mittal reportedly sat on a gas cylinder due to exhaustion and suddenly collapsed. Other people in the queue tried to provide him first aid and later rushed him to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Mittal is survived by his wife, and a daughter.

Heavy rush at induction cooker stores in U'khand

NARENDRA SETHI @Dehradun

DUE to LPG supply disruption caused by the Iran war, a sudden wave of panic buying has swept the markets of Dehradun, with induction cooktops disappearing from retail shelves and online platforms rapidly. This has also led to a sharp increase in the price of these items.

Local retailers say that their entire inventory has been sold in a matter of days. "We usually keep limited stock of induction cooktops, as demand is modest on normal days. However, it has more than doubled overnight," said Abhishek Sharma, a prominent businessman who runs a retail store on Rajpur Road in the city. "Every customer walking into the shop is looking for an induction cooker. We have already sold

out our entire lot and have placed emergency orders with our suppliers."

The situation is similar on e-commerce platforms, where many models of cooktops are now marked as "out of stock". Their prices show a jump from the previous range of ₹1,500-2,000 to ₹2,000-3,000 now.

"The demand is overwhelming," noted Vinay Bansal, owner of a major electronics showroom in the Palatan Bazar area of the city. "While companies are replenishing stock, it is being sold as soon as it arrives. While individual customers buy one or two units, those associated with commercial food establishments are purchasing four to five at a time." Meanwhile, the Uttarakhand government held an emergency review meeting on Friday.

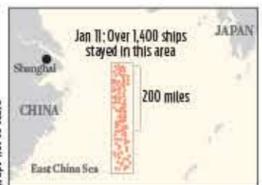


War drill? Analysts worried as thousands of Chinese boats mass at sea

THOUSANDS of Chinese fishing boats have been massing in geometric formations in the East China Sea, in coordinated actions that experts believe are part of Beijing's preparations for a potential regional crisis or conflict.

Wang could see the roughly 2,000 fishing boats among the many thousands of vessels that ply the busy waterway through their automatic identification systems.

ing officer of ingeniSPACE, which analyses satellite imagery and ship signals data. Maritime and military experts told AFP the massing of Chinese fishing boats on December 25, about 300 kilometres north-east of Taiwan, was on a scale they had never seen before.



was testing its ability to marshal a large number of fishing vessels that could potentially be deployed in a military operation, such as a blockade or invasion of Taiwan.

concentration," said Parker. "They're definitely not fishing," Parker said.

Deadly blasts rock Tehran area where thousands gathered for anti-Israel rally attended by Iran's president, other leaders

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth says new supreme leader wounded and likely disfigured in initial attack that killed his father

TRUMP SAYS STRIKES TO INTENSIFY NEXT WEEK

War's rising human cost

Since the start of the war on February 28, thousands of people have been killed across countries in the Gulf. A look at the official casualty figures

IRAN Health ministry said more than 1,200 people had been killed, including around 200 women and 200 children under the age of 12

ISRAEL First responders and the country's authorities have reported 14 people dead in total

LEBANON Information minister Paul Marcos said this week that 687 had been killed since March 2, including 98 children during fighting between Israel and Hezbollah

KUWAIT Military and health ministry have reported six deaths: two soldiers, two border guards and two civilians

THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Defence ministry has reported six deaths: four civilians and two military personnel

SAUDI ARABIA Civil defence agency has reported two civilian deaths

BAHRAIN Interior ministry has logged two deaths

IRAQ Armed groups and officials have said at least 37 people have been killed in Iraq since the start of the conflict, according to an AFP tally

JORDAN Military spokesman Brigadier General Mustafa al-Hiyari said at least 14 people have been injured in various parts of the country due to falling debris from Iranian missiles and drones

TEHRAN/TEL AVIV

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said in an interview on Friday that American forces would strike Iranian targets "very hard" in the coming days, signaling an intensification of the US-Israeli campaign as the war in the West Asia approaches its third week.

"We're going to be hitting them very hard over the next week," Trump told Fox News Radio, adding he believed the leadership could eventually be toppled by its own people.

In Iran, at least one person was killed in an explosion that went off close to an annual pro-government rally in Tehran marking support for the Palestinian cause, Iran's official IRNA news agency said.

No further details were given but the Israel Defence Forces earlier called on people to evacuate two areas in the city centre of Tehran close to the site of the rally.

Senior Iranian officials including the president openly attended the rally in Tehran, with national security chief Ali Larijani dismissing the latest strikes on the capital as being "out of desperation".

"One who is strong wouldn't bomb demonstrations at all. It's clear that it (the enemy) has failed," Larijani said in a speech broadcast on state TV.

In Lebanon, at eight people were killed in an Israeli strike



A fireball erupts from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a building in the Lebanese village of Abbasiyeh | AFP

on a village near the port city of Sidon in south Lebanon, the health ministry said.

In a briefing at the Pentagon, US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth said he believes Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei is wounded.

"We know the new so-called, not-so-supreme leader is wounded and likely disfigured", Hegseth also said the United States and Israel have struck more than 15,000 targets since the start of the war on February 28.

Meanwhile, Iran continued to target Gulf countries on Friday. Two people died after secu-

rity forces intercepted a drone near an industrial area in northern Oman, state media said. A building in Dubai's financial district was hit by debris from an intercepted attack, witnesses and an AFP journalist saw, days after firms evacuated the area as Iran threatened US and Israeli-linked economic targets.

In Israel, smoke could be seen rising from two locations around commercial hub Tel Aviv after blasts were heard following a warning that missiles were fired from Iran.

Israel's Magen David Adom

first responders said they had "searched locations where reports were received; no casualties were located".

Turkey too was targeted. NATO defences shot down a third ballistic missile fired from Iran in Turkish airspace, the country's defence ministry said. Hours earlier, alarm sirens wailed at the Incirlik airbase, a key facility where US troops are stationed, news agency Anadolu reported.

An Iranian drone was responsible for the death of a French soldier in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region. Multiple attacks attributed to pro-Iranian factions have targeted the region.

U.N. CHIEF MAKES 'SOLIDARITY VISIT' TO LEBANON

Beirut: UN chief Antonio Guterres said he had arrived in Beirut on Friday for a "solidarity" visit to Lebanon, where the Middle East war has claimed more than 687 lives since March 2. Guterres is expected to raise awareness of the growing humanitarian needs in the country, with more than 8,00,000 people displaced since the conflict spread to Lebanon. "I have just landed in Beirut for a visit of solidarity with the people of Lebanon. They did not choose this war. They were dragged into it," the United Nations secretary-general said on X. "The UN and I will spare no effort in striving for the peaceful future that Lebanon and this region so richly deserve." The UN said an emergency appeal for funds is to be launched during his visit. The UN's migration agency said that it needed \$19 million to cover operations over the next three months.



NATO trains in Arctic, sending preparedness signal to Russia

EVENES

ON a frozen Arctic swamp near the Evenes air base in Norway's Far North, soldiers fired at the "enemy", crouching in the snow to hide among birch trees.

Norwegian and British soldiers were simulating a scenario of force to protect the air wing at Evenes from an approaching enemy, explained Lieutenant Colonel Marte Gytri, commander of the Base Defence Battalion at the Evenes Air Station located above the Arctic Circle, just a few hundred kilometres from Russia.

Around 32,000 soldiers, over 100 aircraft and 30 warships from 14 allied countries are taking part in NATO's Cold Response exercise from March 9-19 in northern Norway and Finland.

With winter conditions varying from extreme cold to milder, wet weather, the Norway-led land, sea and air exercises were "a test of the right equipment and human robustness", Gytri said. Allied troops are learning to operate smoothly together in challenging conditions in the Arctic, a region that has rapidly become a strategic priority for NATO. The roar of aeroplanes echoed from the nearby Evenes air base that also serves as a civilian airport, nestled among fjords and snowy mountains.

Iran permits vessel owned by Turkey to cross Strait of Hormuz

ANKARA

A Turkish-owned ship was able to cross the Strait of Hormuz with Iran's permission, Turkey's transport minister said Friday.

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical shipping route that Iran has closed since Israel and the United States attacked it on February 28.

"We have 15 Turkish-owned ships in the Strait of Hormuz and were able to get one of them through after obtaining permission from the Iranian authorities," Abdulkadir Uraloglu told journalists late Thursday, in comments

only published on Friday.

He spoke just hours before a ballistic missile fired from Iran was intercepted in Turkish airspace by NATO defence systems, the third such incident in just over a week. Uraloglu did not say when the ship crossed the Strait, a crucial sea route for the global fuel trade, which has been virtually blocked by Iran in order to inflict pain on the global economy. "We are trying to stay in contact with the Iranian side," he said. "Fourteen of our ships are waiting, they currently have no problems," he added, noting there were "no Turkish-flagged ships" in the region.

EXPRESS READ

At least 7 killed in IED blast in Pakistan

Islamabad: At least seven police personnel were killed in an improvised explosive device blast targeting a police vehicle in northwest Pakistan on Friday, local police said. The incident occurred in Lakki Marwat district when a police mobile on patrol near the Rasool Khel check post was hit by a roadside IED.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE DATE: 12.03.2026
Dy CE/Bridge/Line Bhopal acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders against following work, upto 15.30 hours on the date mentioned against each tender.

TUNE IN TO THE expressions PODCAST FOR ALL THINGS LIFE AND LIFESTYLE!
FROM SCULPTING CROWNS TO CREATING SPIRITUALLY INSPIRED PIECES, RENOWNED JEWELLERY DESIGNER PALLAVI FOLEY TALKS ABOUT CREATIVITY, CRAFTSMANSHIP, TECHNOLOGY, AND INTUITION IN DESIGN IN A CONVERSATION WITH Neha

NATURE IS PRICED IN

UK banknotes to soon feature wildlife imagery

WORLD War II leader Winston Churchill is to be dropped from the UK £5 banknote in favour of a nature scene, sparking outrage from some lawmakers who said he should not be replaced by an otter or badger.



Winston Churchill's image on a UK banknote | x

Novelist Jane Austen, artist J M W Turner and mathematician and code-breaker Alan Turing, are also due to be phased out on the £10, £20 and £50 banknotes respectively as part of a redesign. The next series of banknotes due to be issued by the Bank of England will feature animals native to the UK, in a shift away from images of prominent Britons.

historical figures who have helped shape national thought, innovation, leadership and values on its banknotes," the bank said. "The change to wildlife imagery ... provides an opportunity to celebrate another important aspect of the UK," it added.

Possibilities, subject to a public consultation, include badgers and otters as well as frogs, hedgehogs, barn owls and newts. Plants and landscapes will complete the scenes depicted, sources said. "For more than 50 years, the bank has proudly showcased many inspirational

The bank will gather views later this year about the specific wildlife the public would like to feature on the next set of banknotes. Bank of England chief cashier Victoria Cleland said the key driver for a new series of banknotes was how to stay ahead of counterfeiters.



Top-seeded Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty pulled out of the Swiss Open ahead of their quarterfinal clash after the former had a shoulder issue. Rankireddy and Shetty were scheduled to clash with Denmark's Christian Faust Kjaer and Rasmus Kjaer in the last-eight pairs stage of the Super 300 meet on Friday.



Decision on IPL ties in B'luru on Monday

Karnataka government to take a final call on the matches at Chinnaswamy Stadium

CHANDRA PRABHU @Chennai

THE latest edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) is knocking on the door with the opening match scheduled to be held at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on March 28. However, the venue is still waiting for clearance from the Karnataka government. On Friday, an expert committee appointed by the state government, which comprises top officials from local bodies, conducted an inspection at the venue. It is learnt that the government is set to make a final decision in regards to the IPL on Monday.

"The final report of the inspection will be submitted to the State Home Minister, and a decision on the same is expected on Monday," a government source told this daily.

Defending champs Royal Challengers Bengaluru are scheduled to play Sunrisers Hyderabad on the opening day. This inspection comes days after the expert committee had pointed out a few concerns over the upgradation work undertaken by the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) at the stadium. "During the meeting (on Friday with committee), KSCA made a detailed presentation on the infrastructural upgradations/arrangements and safety measures undertaken at the stadium, in line with the recommendations of the Expert Committee that are to be implemented under Phase-I of the compliance framework. Representatives of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and their associated operational agencies also presented their preparedness and operational plans for the smooth and orderly conduct of the upcoming IPL matches. The discussions were constructive and positive, and all stakeholders re-

affirmed their commitment to ensuring that the matches can be conducted in a safe, well-regulated, and seamless manner," spokesperson Vinay Mruthunjaya said. In June last year, eleven people lost their lives while several were injured due to a stampede which occurred during the victory parade of RCB's IPL title win. Ever since, the stadium has not seen any top-flight cricket take place. Later in 2025, Venkatesh Prasad was elected as KSCA president. Earlier this year, the state government had given the "conditional" approval to host international and IPL matches. Earlier this month, RCB had confirmed that it will return to the venue to play IPL matches.

Recommendations

Karnataka home minister G Parameshwara, who oversees the expert committee and the upgradation works, had earlier told reporters that the stadium may undergo safety changes under three phases, with the first phase of works to be immediately implemented.

The expert committee had listed fifteen observations and recommendations. Making new entry points and emergency exit points and widening existing exits to at least six metres was one key recommendation. Renaming and renumbering of entries and gates to prevent confusion amongst spectators is also recommended. E-ticketing system for all passes, including those for VVIPs, Adequate large cloakrooms, standalone scanners to prevent delay are other such recommendations laid by the committee. The committee also put forth that the KSCA B ground, located near the old National Cricket Academy premises, can be used as a holding ground for fans.

Delhi Capitals tick all boxes: Head coach Badani

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @Chennai

FORMER India player and Tamil Nadu captain Hemang Badani, who is the head coach of Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League (IPL), added one more feather to his cap in his illustrious career as he was named as the men's head coach of Southern Brave for The Hundred in the 2026 season a few days ago. Badani, thus, becomes the only Indian coach to have worked in three international leagues the IPL, The Hundred, and ILT20.

Badani replaced Adrian Birrell. The Chennai-based coach will now work alongside former England batter Ian Bell, who has been named assistant coach for the season in The Hundred. The duo is already part of Delhi Capitals, where Bell was appointed as Badani's deputy ahead of the 2026 IPL season.

Badani was pleased to be appointed as head coach of Southern Brave and said that his immediate focus is the IPL. He is



Hemang Badani is full of optimism ahead of the upcoming IPL | FILE PHOTO

the first player from Tamil Nadu to be a head coach of an IPL team.

In the Lanka Premier League (LPL), Badani has won two titles (consecutive) as a consultant/coach with Jaffna Kings. In SA20, he was batting coach of Sunrisers Eastern Cape that won the inaugural title in 2023. In the ILT20, he played a major

role as head coach in the Dubai Capitals title win in 2025.

The former India top-order batter believes that his experience as a coach would come in handy for the Delhi team in this edition of the IPL.

Led by India T20I team's vice-captain Axar Patel, the Delhi Capitals team for the 2026 edition is a solid one with a good

mixture of youth and experience in its ranks.

During the 2026 auction, Delhi made significant moves to increase their batting depth by bringing in the likes of David Miller, Ben Duckett, and Pathum Nissanka in a team that already had the likes of KL Rahul and Tristan Stubbs. Their bowling attack is also formidable with Aussie great Mitchell Starc leading the pack with Lungi Ngidi, T Natarajan and Kuldeep Yadav lending support to the world's best left-arm fast bowler. "We have a very good side that tick all the boxes. So we are confident of doing well in the IPL this season," said Badani from England in an exclusive chat with this daily.

Last season, Delhi began well but failed to keep up the momentum and ended up fifth in the table. "We are aware of what happened last year and we have analyzed it. Obviously, we want to do well this year and we are looking forward to a

good season. We are keen on bettering what we did last season. We will take one game at a time and take the team forward," said Badani.

What are the areas the team is looking to improve upon this season? "Well, there were concerns about the opening and we have tried to address the opening batting. We are getting two fresh new batters in Duckett and Nissanka," said Badani.

Delhi have a lot of depth and they have a problem of choice now. "There are many key batters for us. We have a problem of choice. There is KL Rahul, there is Stubbs, then there is Miller, there is Nissanka. There is Ashutosh Sharma, Nitish (Rana) too. I mean it is a very deep batting line-up. I think in the benches too, we have Samir Rizvi, Karun Nair and there are so many more players. Abhishek Porel, there are many options. Our batting runs very deep," explained the 49-year-old.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

KKR secure Zimbabwe's Muzarabani

ENS/AGENCIES @Chennai

THREE-TIME champions Kolkata Knight Riders on Friday announced the signing of lanky Zimbabwe pacer Blessing Muzarabani ahead of the Indian Premier League season, with the fast bowler pulling out of the Pakistan Super League, which will run concurrently.

The right-arm pacer Muzarabani was among the prominent bowlers in the recently-concluded T20 World Cup, finishing as the joint third-highest wicket-taker with 13 scalps as Zimbabwe made it to the Super Eights stage. "KKR have signed Zimbabwe fast bowler Blessing Muzarabani to join the squad for the upcoming Indian Premier League 2026 season," KKR said in a statement. Muzarabani is expected to arrive in Kolkata on March 17.

Motie withdraws from PSL

West Indies left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie has decided to pull out of the Pakistan Super League. Motie's decision comes after he was able to travel back home from India. West Indies, who played their last T20 World Cup match on March 1, had been stuck in Kolkata ever since, due to the West Asia war. They were only able to secure commercial flights back home in the past two days.



RECORD PLAYER: DUPLANTIS TO THE FORE YET AGAIN

SWISS STAR BROKE THE POLE VAULT WORLD RECORD LATE ON THURSDAY FOR THE 15TH TIME AT THE MEET NAMED AFTER HIM IN UPSALA, SWEDEN, CLEARING 6.31 METERS ON HIS FIRST ATTEMPT. HERE'S A LOOK...



"This is my home. This is our home. That's how it is. And you know that every time I'm on the track, I represent you. And I do it with great pride."
— Armand Duplantis

SWEDEN VICTORY

The 26-year-old Swede broke the record he has owned since clearing 6.17m in 2020. Duplantis only took four vaults at the indoor event in his adopted home town. After clearing 5.65m, 5.90m and then 6.08m, all on his first attempts, he asked for the bar to be lifted 23cm to a world-record height. He immediately soared over to end his evening's work.

38 POLAND TEST NEXT

Duplantis will have a chance to increase his brand new world record at the World Indoor Championships in Torun, Poland, at the end of March.

Iran says no one can exclude them from WC

AGENCIES @Paris

IRAN says no one can exclude them from the World Cup later this year, in response to President Donald Trump's warning that their "life and safety" would be at risk in the US.

The Iranian team also said in the social media post on Thursday that the United States should not be allowed to co-host the tournament if it could not guarantee the safety of the teams taking part.

Trump's comments came just two days after he told FIFA chief Gianni Infantino the Iranian players would be welcome despite the war in West Asia.

"The Iran National Soccer Team is welcome to The World Cup, but I really don't believe it is appropriate that they be there, for their own life and safety," Trump said on his Truth Social platform on Thursday. Iran's team responded: "The World Cup is a historic and international event and its governing body is FIFA — not any individual, country.

"Iran's national team, with strength and a series of decisive victories achieved by the brave sons of Iran, was among the first teams to qualify for this major tournament."

JFI administrator calls for AGM in Delhi today

INDRANEEL DAS @Chennai

THE Judo Federation of India (JFI) will be holding their Annual General Meeting for the first time in over a year on Saturday. The meeting will be held in New Delhi to decide on the future course of action after the Delhi High Court's order on February 12 that directed the court-appointed administrator to pave way for an elected body.

The first step, according to the court order, would be to elect an interim committee that would take over the charge from the administrator after the electoral college is finalised. The administrator has sent the notice to all state and union territory units. The notice issued

on behalf of JFI administrator said that "Pursuant to the order of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, the Hon'ble Administrator has called upon the General Body Meeting as per details given below, in order to comply further directions of the said order."

Two members from each of the affiliated units would be eligible to attend the AGM. Even the agenda has not been specified but according to some of the members, the meeting would be on the timeline that the Delhi HC had fixed. The HC has not specified the numbers of members in the interim committee and this could be one topic of discussion. However, nothing is final as of now.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Paddlers geared up for nat'l meet at Indore

CHENNAI: India's leading paddlers will converge at the Abhay Prashad Stadium as the 87th UTT Inter-State Senior National Table Tennis Championships will begin in Indore on Saturday, bringing together powerhouses and ambitious state teams in one of the country's most prestigious domestic competitions.

Goa set to be next venue for UTT in July

CHENNAI: Goa will host the seventh season of franchise-based Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) event in July at Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, organisers said on Friday. The competition has seen top Indian players continue to lead from the front, while also providing a stage for the next generation of Indian stars.

Former AIFF general secy Das no more

NEW DELHI: Veteran administrator and former All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Kushal Das, who played a significant role in organising the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup, died on Friday. He was 66. Das is survived by his wife and two sons. He also held the position of Chief Financial Officer of the ICC.

Women's WC qualifer: India beat Italy 1-0

ENS @Hyderabad

THE Indian Women's Hockey team earned their spot in the Final of FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifiers as they beat Italy 1-0 in their semifinal contest at the G M C Bhalayogi Hockey Ground on Friday. Manisha Chauhan (40') scored the winning goal for India and they will now face England in the final.

India started the match strong with a couple of strong circle entries, however, Italy eventually started attacking aggressively and created a few good chances on goal.

The hosts used their flanks to push the ball ahead and started attacking in numbers and made crucial circle entries. In the 40th minute, The hosts were awarded yet another penalty corner and they successfully converted it to break the deadlock. Manisha Chauhan (40') delivered a powerful dragkick down the middle that pierced through the Italian defence.

Forest stunned by Midtjylland, Aston Villa beat Lille

AGENCIES @London

NOTTINGHAM Forest suffered a shock 1-0 defeat against Midtjylland in the Europa League last-16 first leg, while Ollie Watkins ended his goal drought as the Aston Villa striker sealed a 1-0 win at Lille on Thursday. Vitor Pereira's side were rocked by Cho Gueung's late strike at the City Ground as Forest succumbed to

the Danish underdogs for the second time this season.

Beaten 3-2 at home by Midtjylland in the group stage in October when Ange Postecoglou was the second of Forest's four managers this term, the Premier League strugglers must secure the first away win against the Danes this season in the second leg on March 19 to have a chance of advancing. Midtjylland have won 12 of

their last 14 matches in European competitions. Forest, above the Premier League relegation zone on goal difference, went close when Omari Hutchinson's 30-yard rocket was tipped over by Elias Rafn Olafsson. Elliot Anderson's curler forced another fine save from Olafsson before Midtjylland's Phillip Billing headed off the line to stop Pedro Bravo scoring an own goal.



Midtjylland players celebrate in front of fans after the win | AFP

RESULTS: (left 16, 1st leg): Bologna 1-1 Roma; Lille 0-1 Aston Villa; Panathinaikos 1-0 Real Betis; Stuttgart 1-2 Porto; Celtic Vigo 1-1 Lyon; Ferencvaros 2-0 Braga; Genk 1-0 Freiburg; Nottingham Forest 0-1 Midtjylland.



Ministry of Civil Aviation
Government of India



Giving Wings to the Economy and Strengthening Cultural Ties of Southern Tamil Nadu

Integrating Madurai into the Global Aviation Map and Restoring the Cultural Identity of Thoothukudi

India's aviation sector has undergone a historic transformation, evolving from an exclusive club into the world's third-largest domestic aviation market. As we advance towards a Viksit Bharat, expanding air connectivity will link the aspirations of every citizen to the world.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister

Shri Narendra Modi

A New Era for a Developed Southern Tamil Nadu

Declaration of Madurai Airport as Madurai International Airport

&

Inauguration of New ATC Tower Cum Technical Block at Madurai International Airport

and

Renaming of Tuticorin Airport as Thoothukudi Airport

by

Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu

Union Minister of Civil Aviation

in the august presence of

Dr. L. Murugan

Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting; and Parliamentary Affairs

Shri Murlidhar Mohol

Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation; and Cooperation

Madurai International Airport

- Global Gateway:** Designated as Tamil Nadu's third International Airport to enhance Global Connectivity and Trade
- Strategic Expansion:** Regularizing International Routes to attract Global Airlines and Tourists to the Historic city
- Regional Growth:** Strengthening Pilgrimage, Supporting Local Businesses and Industry across Southern Tamil Nadu
- New ATC Tower:** State-of-the-art ATC Tower cum Technical Block Built at a cost of ₹94.37 Cr. to enhance operational safety

Thoothukudi Airport

Cultural Pride: Renamed to honor the city's rich cultural heritage and promote the official Tamil identity of the region

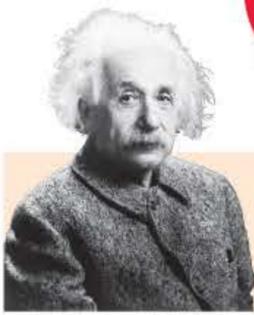
14th March, 2026

1100 hrs at Madurai International Airport, Tamil Nadu

1300 hrs at Thoothukodi (Tuticorin) Airport, Tamil Nadu

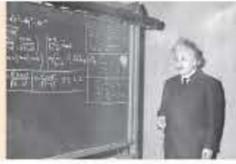


Watch the event live on DD News



DAY'S DIARY
Happy Birthday!
Albert Einstein, known as the father of modern physics, was born on this day in 1879, at Ulm, in Württemberg, Germany

MAN OF MODERN PHYSICS
The physicist developed the special and general theories of relativity. He is one of the most prolific intellects in human history



HIS DISCOVERY
He was known for his mass-energy equivalence formula, $E = mc^2$. In 1921, Einstein received the Nobel Prize in Physics for his services to theoretical physics



BEYOND THE GRAVE
After his passing in 1955, his brain was removed by the pathologist to try to understand what made him so intelligent

Express Views on this week's releases

PG 4

Amid the ongoing LPG crisis, social media appears to be romanticising forms of labour and hardship that reinforce gendered burden

NIDHARSHANA RAJU

A forest fire often begins with something very small. A single spark can spread from one patch of land to another. Similarly, a single remark in a conversation about something that has long been a gendered subject can ignite a chain of regressive ideas. Once voiced, such remarks can prompt others to repeat misogynistic justifications and even reinforce outdated expectations that the society has battled for decades.

This is precisely what is unfolding on social media today. In the midst of an LPG crisis owing to the on-going war in the west, many users, meme creators, and influencers are weaponising the situation through questions, prompts, and memes that appear removed from the realities of gendered labour. Prompts such as, "What is your favourite dish when cooked on a wood-fired stove?", "Name the dishes that taste better when cooked on firewood stoves," and memes that attempt to evoke "nostalgia" around cooking on mud stoves are such subjects of conversations online. Redirect the attention to those who have actually cooked on wood-fired stoves and they will not speak of nostalgia.

Arulmozhi V, aged 53, recalls the physical strain that went into tending the fire for cooking. "Barring the summer months, we wouldn't be able to find well-dried wood for the stove. Due to moisture retention in the wood, it will take a lot of time for a flame to spark. Once it starts burning too, it won't consistently burn, forcing us to blow through the blowpipe over and over," she explains.

At just fifteen, burdened with the responsibility of cooking for her father and three brothers, she recalls developing severe pain in her abdomen. The repeated deep breaths needed to blow through the pipe required strong contractions of her abdominal muscles, and this strain eventually took a toll on the teenager. She adds, "Since I was always in close contact with the fire, my eyes would burn, sometimes my throat and chest too would burn. This is common for everyone who cooks on wood-fired stoves."

The intensity of these hardships varied for women depending on



their economic and caste backgrounds, though it did not change the fundamentally gendered and physically demanding nature of work. Gomathi S, aged 86, admits that she almost never had to struggle with damp firewood when lighting her stove in her twenties. Her household had a steady, year-round supply of properly dried firewood that would be stored carefully to keep out any moisture, along with ample kerosene to help start the fire easily.

For those women belonging to the working class, wood had to be purchased as and when their pockets would allow it. Arulmozhi, at times, has found alternative ways during financially difficult periods. "If there was construction work happening nearby, I would ask them for the small pieces of wooden waste, collect it, fill it into the stove's base, and use it to light the fire," she recollects.

Class also shaped where these stoves were located. For relatively more privileged households, the

stove was placed inside a covered, well-ventilated cooking space. For the others, however, that was not the case. The stove was often set up outside the house in cramped spaces without any roof above it. This meant that during rains, the stove would become completely dampen, making the already difficult task of lighting and sustaining a fire even more challenging.

These accounts, however, do not just belong to a bygone era, as Nithya P, now 33 years old, shares her experiences of cooking on wood-fired stoves. "If the stove is outside and damp and a woman has to cook a basic meal for dinner, she'd have to start the process by 4 pm considering the time it will take. To just cook rice on such stoves it will take 30 to 40 minutes. In addition to this, a *kuzhambu*, and a vegetable, would take more time." She then compares, "That is not the case while cooking on a cooker with an LPG cylinder."

Nithya's account serves as a reminder that for many people, espe-

cially those outside urban and metropolitan cities, these realities are not distant memories.

Access to firewood in rural pockets is also not as simple as purchasing it over the counter at a shop. It often requires exhausting physical labour to obtain. For land-owning communities, it is easier to obtain firewood as against the others, Nithya shares. "My family, for instance, was into betel leaf farming. We would use the roots of *agathi keerai* tree (used to support betel leaf farming) to fire our stoves. But if we weren't cultivating or harvesting, both my parents would cycle a distance of 15-20 kilometres into the forest area and pick up firewood," she explains.

She even points out that many women were and are at risk of harassment if and when they venture out alone to pick up firewood, especially Dalit women. Shalin Maria Lawrence, an intersectional feminist, corroborates, adding, "Even in the Vilathikulam case, the girl was killed because she ventured



into the forest to relieve herself. If Dalit women are walking three or four kilometres in search of firewood, they would have and will still continue to be at risk."

Scars of labour
The women who recollect the horrors of cooking on wood-fired stoves also remember how a common cold or fever lingered longer as the thick black ash and smoke from cooking irritated their lungs and throats. Resting for them, like most Indian women, was and is rarely an option leaving little to no room for recovery. The impact on their health was not only internal. Even today, women who cook three meals a day for their families sometimes sustain burns and scars, but the women say the risk was far greater when cooking on wood-fired stoves.

Today, with the simple turn of a knob, we can control our stoves. But cooking on a firewood stove demanded far more effort and constant attention. Arulmozhi explains that if she wanted a dish to simmer, she would remove one or two pieces of firewood to reduce the intensity of the flames. Doing so often led to injuries. Most of the time she burnt her fingers and hands, and occasionally her legs, too.



Kalyani Menon-Sen, a feminist activist

Perhaps what we need is a campaign for men to share the unpaid work that keeps the home running. If nothing else, this will lead to a rapid decline in the nostalgia for wood-fired hearths.

RAKSHITHA PRIYA G

OR decades, the world of art and culture has thrived on a shared space where veterans and amateurs came together, nurturing traditions and ensuring that artistic legacies flowed across generations. Yet, as many senior practitioners gradually stepped away and younger enthusiasts pursued what were often deemed "more serious" paths, that visible intergenerational presence began to fade. Years later, many of those once-passionate artists, now freed from the demands of careers and family, are returning to the stage, rediscovering their artistic voice and proving that creative expression has no age limit.

It is this very spirit that drives Prime, a contemporary dance production directed by Mumbai-based choreographer Avantika Bahl, which brings together eight performers above the age of 60. Following multiple shows in the home-ground, Prime is coming to Chennai, as part of the March Dance festival presented by Basement 21 in collaboration with Prakriti Foundation.

Avantika explains that the project emerged from a long-standing curiosity about ageing and performance. "Predominantly, my interest when I make work is, how we challenge the mainstream in the arts and how one can bring different communities into the ecosystem." That curiosity led her to question the absence of elderly performers on stage. "I have been very interested in looking at what the relationship between movement and the ageing body is, and why we don't see elderly performers on stage," she notes.



The idea took shape in 2024 when she began meeting individuals over the age of 60 who had maintained some relationship with movement. Many of them, she discovered, carried stories shaped by social expectations and personal choices. "I realised they (people over the age of 60) were living archives and histories, carrying knowledge systems that may not necessarily get passed down," she says. These encounters eventually led her to assemble a cast of eight performers drawn from varied walks of life, each bringing their own experience with dance or movement.

What makes Prime distinctive is its exploration of the idea of artis-

tic peak. "The piece asks what being in one's prime really means and challenges who we think is in their prime," Avantika says. Rather than treating ageing as a limitation, the production frames it as a site of reflection, vitality, and possibility. "The work is not talking about ageing as something that needs to be feared or something limiting. Instead, it opens conversations around how one can live fully as they continue to navigate time in their bodies," she explains.

The creative process itself was equally unconventional. The performers, many of whom came from diverse dance traditions or informal movement practices, were introduced to the vocabulary of contemporary dance. "But they trusted me from day one," says Avantika. Over nine months of rehearsals, fragments of movement and personal expression gradually evolved

into a cohesive performance. When the work was finally complete, she recalls, the cast began to see the larger picture. "They said, 'Nine months ago, we had no idea why we were doing this, but now we get it,'" she shares.

Breaking down the structure of the performance, Avantika says, "The performance has been structured from the lens of contemporary dance but we also looked at each of the forms that the performers are comfortable in and used those forms within the language of contemporary dance." She adds that there is a bit of Odissi, Jive, Ballet and "a little bit of everything." Complementing the choreography is an original score composed by Rahul Nadkarni and Nikhil Narendra, with an additional finale track by Het Sanghvi, which Avantika says helps create a sonic world for the performance.

For Avantika, the journey of creating Prime has also been deeply personal. Working with performers from another generation, she says, has reshaped her own understanding of time and presence. "They truly make the most of every single day." That sense of joy and camaraderie, she adds, is visible in the performance itself, where "eight very unique voices, all above the age of 60" come together in what she describes as a work that is "unexpected and witty."

The ensemble features Jhelum Paranjape, Venkatesh Iyer, Venkateswaran Akileswaran, Fareedon Dodo Bhujwala, Saraswati Devdas, Sunila Ashok, Francis Dsa Cardoso, each bringing their own unique relationship with dance and movement to the stage. Sunila Ashok, who trained in Bharatanatyam from the age of four and performed until her early twenties before stepping away

Witness 'Prime' unfold on stage at Goethe Institut, Nungambakkam on March 16 from 7 pm. Open to all.

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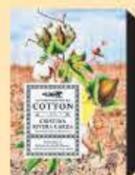
BOOK NOOK



iParent
 by Neha Hiranandani
 Backed by research, conversations, and personal reflection, a practical guide for parents whose children are born into the digitally advanced world, exploring both the risks and benefits of the online world.



Little One
 by Olivia Muentert
 A haunting tale of survival, manipulation, and the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood.



The Autobiography of Cotton
 by Cristina Rivera Garza
 A lyrical blend of history, memoir and poetry, an inspiring recount of the author's grandparents' experience during slavery, labour activism, cross-border migration, and environmental degradation.



Kin
 by Tayari Jones
 A follow-up to the novel 'An American Marriage', which features relationship of mothers and daughters, lost friendships and the complexities of being a woman in the American South.



TRAIN DREAMS

Visitors marvel at the miniature train models presented at the International Rail Coach Expo, organised by Integral Coach Factory. | P. ANNAHAR

NOW STREAMING FITBIT



HELLO BACHHON (Hindi, series)
 A physics teacher sets out to make quality education accessible to all students through online learning.
 Cast: Vineet Kumar Singh, Girija Oak, Vikram Kochhar
 Watch on: Netflix

MADE IN KOREA (Tamil)
 After her boyfriend's betrayal leaves her alone in Seoul, Shenba faces isolation and cultural differences. Through personal growth and new friendships, she finds strength and lasting connections.
 Cast: Priyanka Anulmohan, Park Hye-Jin, Jaehyun Jang
 Watch on: Netflix

NUREMBERG (English)
 As the Nuremberg trials are set to begin, a U.S. Army psychiatrist gets locked in a dramatic psychological showdown with accused Nazi war criminal Hermann Goering.
 Cast: Russell Crowe, Rami Malek, Leo Woodall, Colin Hanks
 Watch on: Netflix



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THE SCIENCE OF POST-WORKOUT CARBS: DO YOU REALLY NEED THEM?

People reach for carbs like bananas, rice, or sports drinks to replenish energy after an intense workout. This practice stems from the belief that carbohydrates help boost recovery after exercise. While carbs do play an important role, the time and necessity of post workout carbs depend on the type of workout, training frequency, and overall daily nutrition.

WHY CARBOHYDRATES MATTER AFTER EXERCISE

1. Replenishing glycogen stores

- During exercise, muscles rely heavily on glycogen, the stored form of carbohydrates, for energy.
- Intense workouts such as heavy strength training or endurance sessions can deplete 20 to 40 per cent of glycogen stores.
- Consuming carbohydrates after training helps restore these energy reserves and prepares the body for the next workout.

2. Supporting muscle recovery

- Carbohydrates stimulate insulin release, which helps transport glucose and amino acids into muscle cells.
- This process supports muscle repair and recovery, especially when carbohydrates are paired with protein.
- Research suggests that combining carbs with protein can significantly improve glycogen replenishment compared with protein alone.

WHEN POST-WORKOUT CARBS ARE MOST USEFUL

Carbohydrates are especially helpful when:

- Workouts last longer than 60 minutes or involve high intensity.
- Athletes train multiple times in a day and need faster recovery.
- Glycogen stores are heavily depleted after endurance or heavy resistance sessions.

For shorter or moderate workouts, the body can often recover adequately through regular meals consumed later in the day.

Post-workout carbohydrates can support recovery by replenishing glycogen stores and enhancing muscle repair. However, they are not mandatory after every workout. The need for them depends on training intensity, workout duration and overall dietary intake.



By Madhura P Behki, nutrition expert, cult – a fitness and wellness platform

QUICKFIX

MUTTON BONE SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- Mutton bone: 250 g
- Onion: 1 small, chopped
- Tomato: 1 small, chopped
- Garlic: 4-5 pods, lightly crushed
- Curry leaves: Few
- Oil: 1 tsp
- Turmeric powder: ¼ tsp
- Coriander powder: 1 tsp

- Cumin powder: ½ tsp
- Peppercorns: ½ tsp, freshly crushed
- Salt: To taste
- Water: 3 cups
- Fresh coriander leaves: For garnish

METHOD

- Heat oil in a pressure cooker or pot. Add curry leaves and crushed garlic; sauté till aromatic.
- Add chopped onions, tomatoes, turmeric, coriander powder, cumin powder, and crushed peppercorns. Sauté briefly.
- Add the mutton bones and mix well so the spices are coated evenly.
- Pour in water and add salt. Pressure cook for 4-5 whistles (or simmer covered for 45-60 minutes in a pot).
- Garnish with fresh coriander leaves and serve hot.



Contributed by Gomathi Karthisen, Chennai

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Summer collections

The Amethyst Room presents an exhibition of EKA Spring Summer '26 collection, finding expression in the sand dunes of Sam – the desert expanse of Jaisalmer. The collection includes summery pieces comprising dresses, stoles, tops, jackets and trousers.

WHEN: Till March 18



Bites of stories

Soy Soi invites diners on a deeply comforting culinary journey with Suey & Beyond: 12 Simmering Stories, a limited-time festival celebrating the soulful broths, fragrant curries, and hearty noodle bowls of Southeast Asia.

WHEN: Till March 22

Silk on sale

Sundari Silks, T Nagar, announces its annual sale. Customers can now enjoy up to 50% off across their entire range. The sale is being held exclusively at the T Nagar showroom. For more information, contact 902539726 | 9884464932.

WHEN: Till tomorrow



One stop shop

Kalaa Utsavam organised by Bhaskar Raju is holding an exhibition and sale at VR Chennai, Anna Nagar. Items displayed include a variety of handicrafts, oxidised jewellery, handlooms, chappals for men, artistic wall hangings, tenacota dolls, readymade blouses, and more.

WHEN: Till tomorrow, 10 am to 10 pm

Beethoven's Sonatas

Cellist Raman Ramakrishnan and pianist Stephen Prutsman bring to you, Beethoven: The Complete Cello Sonatas. The event is produced by Third Movement Arts in collaboration with The Madras Musical Association. Book your tickets at BookMyShow.

WHEN: March 18, 7 pm

WHERE: Museum Theatre



Punjabi plates

The New Punjab Club presents 'Undivided Punjab,' a special food festival that celebrates the rich and soulful flavours of a time when Punjab. From Rang Dhang Kebabs, Dahi Ke Kebabs, to Sufiyani Biryani, there is a lot to savour.

WHEN: Till March 22



Festive flavours

This Ramadan, The Westin Chennai Velachery, offers an elevated Iftar experience. The indulgent buffet showcases soulful Ramadan favourites and rich Middle Eastern influences.

WHEN: Till March 19, 6 pm onwards



ART CORNER



PASTEL BLOOM

Six-year-old artist Bhevin KM captures through simple colours, a water lily in full bloom.

SATURDAY
14.03.2026

Hale & Heartier

CE zooms in on this year's vital wellness mantra: 'Sleep Well, Live Better'

PARVANA K B & KRISHNA P S

"Sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care, the death of each day's life, sore labour's bath, balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course, chief nourisher in life's feast."

— William Shakespeare, in *Macbeth*

THE Bard used poetic flair to describe sleep as the force that untangles the mind's worries, washes away the fatigue of labour and restores emotional balance. Modern science echoes the same idea in biological language.

Sleep is far from a passive state; it is when the body undertakes some of its most critical work — repairing tissues, regulating hormones, and strengthening memory.

Yet in a world that rarely slows down, sleep is often the first thing people sacrifice. Late nights, glowing screens and demanding schedules push rest further down the list of priorities.

This year's World Sleep Day (March 13) theme — 'Sleep Well, Live Better' — once again draws attention to a conversation echoes louder and louder. For, researchers warn a "sleep epidemic" is gripping the world.

What studies say

A recent pan-India survey found that 59 per cent of Indians sleep for less than six hours a night. Sleep coach Martin Joseph says lifestyle changes have played a major role. Increased screen time and a casual attitude towards sleep discipline are part of the problem.

"Many young people tend to treat sleep as something that can be postponed to retirement time. Moreover, maintaining a healthy sleep discipline is viewed as uncool," says Martin. "They need to realise proper sleep is vital for resetting the brain, restoring energy and stabilising mood."

When sleep is shortened or irregular, it often results in irritability, mental fatigue and reduced concentration, Martin adds.

Sleep disruption, however, is not limited to the young. After the age of 40, hormonal shifts can begin to affect sleep patterns, particularly among

HOW WELL DID YOU ZZZ... LAST NIGHT?



Exercise regularly and maintain a routine. Daily physical activity helps regulate circadian rhythm and improves sleep quality.

HAZARDS OF SLEEP DEPRIVATION

Higher risk of chronic diseases: Regularly sleeping less than seven hours a night increases the risk of heart disease, hypertension, obesity and Type-2 diabetes

Weakened immunity: Lack of sleep weakens the immune system, causing inflammation and increasing vulnerability to infections, slowing recovery

Mental health impact: Poor sleep can cause anxiety, depression, irritability, mood disorders and emotional dysregulation

Impaired brain function: Sleep deprivation affects memory, concentration and decision-making, reducing productivity at work and school

Higher risk of accidents: Fatigue from inadequate sleep can slow reaction times and reduce alertness, increasing the likelihood of road accidents and workplace errors.

Long-term cognitive decline: Research indicates that chronic sleep deprivation may contribute to age-related cognitive decline and a higher risk of dementia.

Hormonal imbalance and weight gain: Poor sleep disrupts hormones that regulate hunger and metabolism, which can lead to increased appetite and obesity.

women. "Phases such as perimenopause and menopause can make sleep more fragmented," Martin explains. "In such situations, gradually rebuilding daily routines and sleep habits becomes crucial."

Lifestyle choices also play a subtle but significant role. Blue light from screens is often discussed, but other factors matter just as much. "Caffeine, for instance, can remain active in the body for up to 10 hours, making late-evening consumption particularly disruptive," says Martin, adding that he himself was a coffee addict until delving into the science of sleep.

"Similarly, heavy meals close to bedtime prevents the body from going into rest mode. Same is the case with screen exposure. All of us need to take a few quiet minutes to clear the mind — through journaling lingering thoughts, or simple meditation."

It's not just about rest

Dr Sapna Erat Sreedharan, professor of neurology at Sree

Chitra Thirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, explains that insomnia tends to manifest differently across age groups.

Among older adults, natural age-related changes alter sleep patterns. Many begin to follow an earlier sleep schedule, falling asleep sooner and waking up earlier. At the same time, the depth of sleep declines, and the night's rest becomes more fragmented.

"For younger adults, insomnia is often tied to lifestyle and modern work culture. Poor sleep hygiene disrupts the body's internal clock," she notes.

Children and teenagers are also vulnerable, says Dr Sapna. Early school timings combined with late-night screen exposure can affect quantity and quality of sleep. "In the past, people followed certain rules for healthy sleep — like maintaining routines, engaging in physical activity, and avoiding food close to bedtime," Dr Sapna notes. "That's

not the case now. In fact, the surrounding environment itself has become less conducive to restful sleep these days."

The consequences of sleep deprivation can appear quickly. Just two to three days of insufficient sleep can reduce attention, increase irritability and affect behaviour. Over longer periods, the effects can be far more serious.

"Deep sleep, particularly what we call the Non-REM stage 3 phase, is essential for processes such as memory consolidation, brain repair, metabolic regulation and the clearing of 'junk' from the brain. When sleep is consistently disrupted, these processes suffer," says Dr Sapna. "Chronic sleep deprivation has therefore been linked to a range of health risks, including neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's disease."

In other words, sleep is not merely rest. It is a fundamental requirement for brain health and overall well-being. The simple act of sleeping well may be one of the most important habits to reclaim.

With inputs from Supriya

Melatonin helps, but pause before popping

YOUNG people across India are increasingly becoming night owls. Disrupted body clock, declining sleep quality and consequent fatigue are common concerns now. As a result, many have begun turning to quick-fixes. Over-the-counter medications, particularly melatonin supplements, have become a popular option.

For a good night's sleep or to cope with jet lag, people are increasingly buying melatonin gummies from pharmacies and online stores.

"Melatonin is a hormone naturally produced in the body that helps regulate the sleep-wake cycle," says psychiatrist Dr Arun B Nair. "It signals the body to feel tired at night and wake up after adequate rest. Usually, the body produces enough melatonin for people to fall asleep naturally."

However, he notes, many who struggle with sleep deprivation or insomnia have begun using melatonin supplements, especially gummies available over the counter, to manage their sleep.

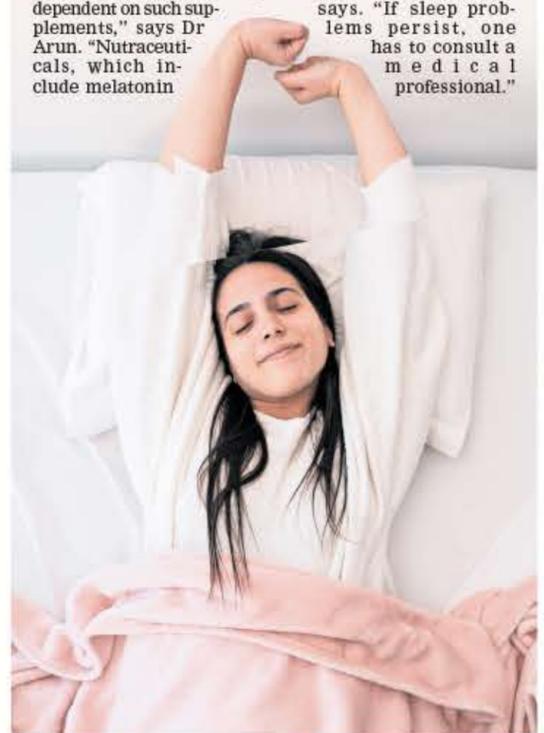
"The concern is about people increasingly becoming dependent on such supplements," says Dr Arun. "Nutraceuticals, which include melatonin

and other vitamin or herbal supplements, are being used by youngsters without adequate medical guidance. Even some Z-category drugs are being accessed without prescription from drug stores."

Many of these products are classified as food supplements, which makes them easier to obtain. Flashy ads further reinforce the idea that they are simple solutions to sleep problems.

Dr Arun cautions against using such supplements — which can have side effects — without consulting a medical professional. "Melatonin supplements do help. But if the lack of sleep is caused by other underlying physical or psychological issues, it is not a long-term solution. After all, poor sleep itself is often a symptom," he says.

Instead of relying immediately on supplements, he suggests focusing on sleep hygiene. "Maintain a fixed sleep and wake time for at least six days a week. Exercise under sunlight, limit caffeine intake, and finish dinner at least two hours before bedtime," he says. "If sleep problems persist, one has to consult a medical professional."



The silent strain

DR NAVINATH M

WE often hear about salt in the context of heart health or 'water weight', but there is a quieter, more persistent danger lurking with regard to our kidneys. While sodium is a vital electrolyte, the modern diet has pushed our intake far beyond what our bodies were designed to handle. For our kidneys — the body's sophisticated filtration system — this excess isn't just a nuisance; it's a slow-motion disaster.

To understand the danger, we have to look at how the kidneys function. Their primary job is to balance the fluids in our blood. When you consume too much salt, the sodium pulls water into your bloodstream. This increases the total volume of blood circulating through your vessels, which in turn raises your blood pressure.

The kidneys are packed with millions of tiny, delicate blood vessels called nephrons. When blood pressure remains high due to chronic salt intake, these vessels become scarred and weakened. Over time, the kidneys lose their ability to filter waste effectively. This creates a dangerous cycle: damaged kidneys excrete less sodium, which further raises



blood pressure and causes more damage.

Because this process is painless, many people don't realise their renal health is declining until it reaches a critical stage.

Hidden dangers in the pantry

The majority of our daily sodium comes from processed and 'convenience' foods. Bread, pickles, packaged foods and *papads* are often packed with sodium used as a preservative or flavour enhancer.

Simple lifestyle shifts

Protecting your kidneys doesn't require a bland or joyless diet. It simply requires a more intentional ap-

proach to how we season and shop. Here are expert-backed tips to lower your intake:

- The role of low sodium salt substitutes: WHO has recently released a guideline on the use of Lower-Sodium Salt Substitute (LSSS) and suggests replacing regular table salt with lower-sodium salt substitutes that contain potassium in place of sodium.

- The 'rinse' method: If you rely on canned foods, always rinse them thoroughly under cold water. This simple habit can wash away up to 40% of the added sodium.

- Deciphering labels: Don't be fooled by "Reduced sodium" claims, which may still be high. Look for "Low sodium" (140mg or less per serving) or "No Salt Added."

- The 2,300 mg sodium per day target: Health experts generally recommend capping sodium at 2,300 mg per day — roughly one level teaspoon (5 gram) of salt.

A proactive approach

Kidney damage is often irreversible, but it is highly preventable. By making small, incremental changes to your grocery list and cooking habits, you are preserving the filters that keep your entire body running smoothly.

(The writer is senior consultant nephrologist and renal transplant physician, Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology, Chennai.)

CHENNAI DIGEST



Batch of '76 of PSBB reunites

The golden jubilee alumni meet of the 1976 Batch of Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Senior Secondary School, Nungambakkam, was held recently. The alumni refreshed their cherished lessons, relived laughter, recalled the firm yet affectionate guidance of their revered "Big Miss", YG Parthasarathy. The celebration was not merely a reunion, but a tribute to the teachers who had offered far more than routine lessons. They had instilled enduring virtues — courage, perseverance, kindness, and discipline. Three of their teachers also attended, along with Sheela Rajendra, dean & director; YG Rajendra, executive trustee of PSBB Schools; the present principals; and the principal of the Siruseri branch — herself a proud member of the 1976 batch.



Women under the spotlight

Phoenix Marketcity Chennai hosted a Women's Day Marathon and an exclusive panel discussion to honour women's strength, resilience, and leadership. The mall brought together the community through fitness and insightful discussions, fostering empowerment for all ages. The mall partnered with Vamos Run Club for the marathon in 3K, 4K and 5K categories. Open to men, women, and kids, the event saw 1,500+ enthusiastic runners. Along with Young Indians (YI) Chennai, 'The Power Within', a panel discussion, was held. Speakers included Veena Kumaravel, co-founder of Naturals salon, Pooja Srinivasa Raja, founder of The Love Hope Company and executive director at Adyar Ananda Bhavan, and Renuka, digital content creator and influencer.



'She Rises' at Soka Ikeda College

The Soka Women Cell, in association with IQAC of Soka Ikeda College of Arts and Science for Women, celebrated International Women's Day with a week-long programme, 'She Rises - A Week of Empowerment'. It featured events such as Women Icons in Colours, an inter-departmental art competition, Wellness Within, a health awareness session for staff, and Service with Dignity, honouring the Institution's support staff. The highlight was Shakti Mela 2026, where Veena Kumaravel, co-founder of Naturals, encouraged students to pursue entrepreneurship and leadership. The Mela also included a Self-Help Group Women Entrepreneurs Expo and a free pap smear and mammogram screening camp in collaboration with SRM Hospital.



SIGNORA 2026 at SRMIST

SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Vadapalani Campus, celebrated International Women's Day. The chief guests were Ashwini Kanakath, HR leader, Visteon Corporation, and Nithyasree Venkatraman, singer. The event, SIGNORA 2026, under the theme, Give, Grow, Glow, emphasised the importance of empowering women through education and opportunities. Women leaders of the college addressed the gathering. Women achievers in different professions were honoured. The event also included a heartfelt appreciation for housekeeping staff from SRM Vadapalani and SRM Ekattuthangal campuses. Certificates and tokens of appreciation were distributed to recognise staff members' dedication and contributions to the academic community.

Simple, straightforward, but slumps



AKSHAY KUMAR

HERE have been multiple iterations of more popular epics in Tamil cinema. But films on rural deities are few and far between. VR Thudhivaanan's *Kolaiseval* sparks an initial excitement about the story of one such Goddess, a woman deified after being killed in a caste violence. However, the makers struggle to maintain the excitement, despite a shorter runtime. Thankfully, *Kolaiseval* doesn't dissipate quickly either.

Kolaiseval begins in Tiruvannamalai with Kaali's (Kalaiyarasan) family making preparations to conduct a prayer at the temple of their ancestral deity, Nirai Sooli (the pregnant Goddess), for the healthy delivery of their expectant daughter-in-law, Anusuya (Deepa Bahu). The



Director: VR Thudhivaanan
 Cast: Kalaiyarasan, Deepa Bahu, Bala Saravanan, Gajara

film doggedly follows the singular event of what happens to the family that plans to visit the temple on a hillcock. This choice pays off to an extent, but ultimately causes the film to come apart at the seams in the

second half. It is fascinating to watch films like *Kolaiseval* that don't bother about too many things. The film, despite making it clear it will be about honour killing, arrives at this central point with a controlled pace. It is understood that the makers have worked on the first half as a set-up, but it is one of the rare occasions where you feel not everything needed such attention to detail.

The flashback portion acts like a sharp needle unceremoniously stuck to a balloon that was filled with great labour. They bring the proceedings to a screeching halt. This time-bound film was already functional with the details provided about the characters in the first half. Instead of a flashback that gives us a better understanding of the protagonists, their families, and their deep-rooted casteism, the flashback simply

sticks to their romance portions that, honestly, does nothing to the narrative. This portion, coupled with a gore-filled climactic sequence, shifts emphasis from the mental retardation of casteism to the idea of violence, which is only a consequence and not the cause.

It is commendable that the actors stay well within the scope of the film, and aren't indulging in a game of oneupmanship. However, on the writing front, the antagonists, played by Gajara and Co, need more to chew on rather than just walk and go on a slaughter-spree.

In fact, the film is pregnant with good ideas. Moments such as Kaali's mother telling his niece that the Nirai Sooli idol was merely discovered and then began to be worshipped, and Anusuya saying she feels as though she has already been in the Goddess' abode, quietly add to the narrative's mysticism, hinting that many rural deities emerged from structures of entrenched social hierarchy. The film needed a lot more of that.

As the end credits of *Kolaiseval* began rolling, the voice-over says, "Even if God says there is no caste, people will reject it as they want a god who approves this system," criticising how people have gone to a point of no return in the casteist mindset. The film might have been far more effective had it translated those words into a more powerful visual language.

KOLAISEVAL



WEB RELEASE

RIGHT PARTS, WRONG ASSEMBLY

AVINASH RAMACHANDRAN

QUEST. Every single person in this world is living their life in pursuit of something. It could be a quest for respect, love, dreams, aspirations, or identity.

These quests also have the potential to become wonderful films. That is why it was surprising to see *Made in Korea* feel emotionally distant despite having all the right quests in place, and the tools to reach the desired destination.

Shenba (Priyanka Mohan) wants to go to Korea because she has heard the tale of Sembavalam, a Tamil princess believed to have traveled there and served as a bridge between the two cultures. She believes that Korea is her promised land. She also has a boyfriend, the money-loving Mani (Rishikanth, who deserves better). We are told she loves Korea, but we never feel it. We never feel it when she talks about the country. We never feel it when she slurps into a bowl of ramen. We never feel it when she finally makes it to Korea. And worse... we never feel it when she finally makes peace with her life's twists and turns in that country. It wouldn't have made much difference, if the film were titled *Made in Kolkata*.

The fact that Korea is not explored enough is a major drawback. The arc of a naive and innocent woman with dreams in her eyes, being left to fend for herself in a foreign city, is something that Kangana Ranaut's *Queen* has already done. The same film's shadow looms large over *Made in Korea* when Shenba makes friends with the locals. Apart from a wonderful scene about how music has no language, Shenba doesn't make friends organically. It is all too convenient, and this is the film's biggest issue. Everything is too manicured and perfect that the film fails to put the soul in Seoul. There are also glimpses of *English Vinglish* as Shenba, with her broken linguistic skills, tries to navigate this new world. Interestingly, there

EXPRESS VIEWS



Director: Ra Karthik

Cast: Priyanka Mohan, Rishikanth, Park Hye-Jin, Si-hun Baek

are also references to *Parasite* in the way the class divide is explored in *Made in Korea*.

While the film is essentially about Shenba's quest for identity, this aspect is explored too late. Till then, she is just goofing around in Korea with people who have no reason to befriend her. Barring her relationship with a grandmother with a shady secret, Shenba doesn't really make any other connection to the country, or, by extension, to us. It doesn't help that this world is filled with people oozing saccharine goodness, and the only person who feels human is Mani, who is painted as the not-so-good person. Also, for a film centered on food, *Made in Korea* commits the cardinal sin of not making these visuals enticing. The idea of this cross-cultural exchange doesn't wow us, and even the makers seem more interested in ticking that box than in making it a big hurrah. While this might not seem like a big dealbreaker, it very much is in the context of the film. But this doesn't mean that all is not well with *Made in Korea*. There are scenes where its saccharine nature sings through. Say, for instance, the scene when Shenba realises the

grandma's secret, or the scene where she loses her composure against a Korean guy who assaults his girlfriend. In fact, Priyanka is quite good at bringing out Shenba's goofy side. When Shenba lets her hair down and has fun, the film finds its voice. This same voice gets drowned out in scenes that ring high on sentimentality or an overarching sense of genericity. That isn't Priyanka or the film's strong suit. These sections feel vacuous because the writing doesn't do enough to make us feel invested in Shenba's life.

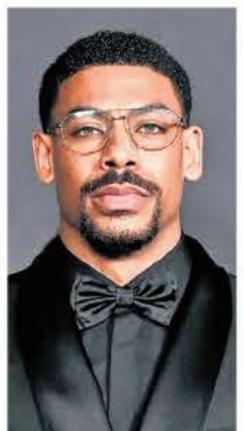
In fact, *Made in Korea* had the ingredients to become a Disney-esque fairytale, but the film settles for far less. However, even in a Disney film where we all know good trumps evil, and all is well that ends well, there needs to be moments where things aren't quite well. We need to throw our weight behind the protagonist and hope she finds the peace she is looking for. But the writing and performances never really convince us that she is indeed looking for peace. What does Shenba really want? If it is a life in Korea, why not show how she struggles to bridge the chasm between reality and imagination? If it is finding an identity, why not show her exploring her desires a bit more? What we are left with is a bland journey into a character that actually has it easy, but thinks otherwise.

Being overly nice and playing it safe is not an admirable trait in a person, and it certainly cannot be a qualifier for a film. The Korean characters in Shenba's world get a raw deal because they are supremely one-note, and all they have to be is... nice. The Indian characters in her world get a raw deal because they are also one-note, since they have to be... not-so-nice. What about Shenba, you ask? Well, Shenba wishes to be a symphony that hits all the right notes and marches ahead on her quest to find her voice in a world that isn't as bad as she believes it is. Unfortunately, throughout *Made in Korea*, all we hear is one note... and sometimes, even that one note is off-key.

MADE IN KOREA

Aaron Pierre joins Superman sequel

ARON Pierre (Rebel Ridge) has officially joined the cast of James Gunn's upcoming film *Man of Tomorrow*, the sequel to *Superman*. The actor confirmed the same on his social media handle on Friday. This is Pierre's second DC project after he made his debut as John Stewart in HBO's upcoming series *Lanterns*. Scripted and helmed by Gunn, production on the film is set to begin soon in Atlanta. David Corenswet and Nicholas Hoult are reprising their roles as Superman/Clark Kent and Lex Luthor, respectively. They join forces in a mission to defeat a much bigger threat, Brainiac (Lars Eidinger).



COCKTAIL 2 GETS RELEASE DATE

THE makers of Homi Adajania's directorial *Cocktail 2* announced that the film will release in theatres on June 19. The update of the comedy, a spiritual sequel to the 2012 film, was shared

along with three posters featuring Shahid Kapoor, Kriti Sanon, and Rashmika Mandanna.

Produced by Dinesh Vijan of Maddock Films, *Cocktail 2* has a script from Luv Ranjan. Cinematography is by

Santhanakrishnan. The film marks Rashmika's maiden collaboration with Shahid as well as Kriti. Meanwhile, Shahid and Kriti had previously worked together in *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya* (2024).

Imtiaz-Diljit film titled Main Vaapas Aaunga



MTIAZ Ali's next directorial, starring Diljit Dosanjh, Sharyari, and Vedang Raina, has been titled *Main Vaapas Aaunga*. The announcement posters suggest that the film would be a love story set in Punjab across timelines. The film is backed by Applause Entertainment and Window Seat Films.

Also starring Naseeruddin Shah, the film also brings together the musical trio of Imtiaz, composer AR Rahman, and lyricist Irshad Kamil—who have previously collaborated on acclaimed titles like *Amar Singh Chamkila* (2024), *Tamasha* (2015), and *Highway* (2014).

Speaking about the project, Ali had said: "This film has a big heart. It has a large canvas yet is very personal. It is a story of a boy and a girl, but also a country."

PROMISING STORY BURIED BENEATH MISGUIDED IDEALS

PRASHANTH VALLAVAN

KENATHA Kanom is a classic case of weaponised empathy. And the target of this weapon is apparently scientific temperament. A small village in Tamil Nadu is suffering from a severe drought, and after countless prayers, they find the perfect spot right outside the village priest Manivasagam's (Yogi Babu) house. However, instead of water, what they find are fossilised dinosaur bones. It is a wonderfully quirky premise, potent with discussions around bureaucratic failure, big picture versus immediate needs, common man versus the government, and more. What *Kenatha Kanom* does instead is resort to a sappy romanticisation of the "old ways". Which wouldn't have

been a problem except that the arguments it relies on to make its case stem from misguided philosophies and an abject misunderstanding of science.

The film does show plenty of promise at the beginning. The villagers, their culture, and their inner lives are etched with painstaking detail, portrayed through a colourful cast of characters.

While you praise the distinctness of the supporting characters, you also notice how they have the decision-making skills of a herd of sheep. You understand that they were probably going for the "innocent villager" trope, but it is borderline repulsive to show them as dullards with no brains of their own. The village also seems to have no trace of a child or a youngster in sight, until the plot needs school children to line up to see the dinosaur fossils, to



Director: Suresh Sangalath

Cast: Yogi Babu, Lovelyn Chandrasekhar, Raichal Rebecca, Ramakrishnan

show how that is the only way these old bones could be useful. Speaking of which...

Kenatha Kanom has an almost deep-seated hatred for

science and history. The most unintentionally funny scene is when the head of the palaeontology team lashes out at the villagers, demanding closure of the dig site, saying, "*Ivngalukku survival of the fittest naa enna ne therla*." She then hires the villagers to help dig the site. Which is hard to imagine, considering that even the most trained professionals use a brush to remove the bones carefully, let alone allow random people inside the site. The film's biggest failure is not its painfully weak dialogues; it is its total misunderstanding of how science or academia works. An entire monologue is dedicated to how "digging up bones," or the study of history, is useless and that it is only done to massage our collective ego of a glorious past. The film declares boldly that "science should only create what is useful for the people." Some of the most era-defining inventions

that pulled people out of poverty came from scientists not exactly working on specific problems. The American military wasn't exactly looking for ways to democratise information when it invented the internet.

But a boy from the smallest village in Tamil Nadu could now educate himself at the same level as an Ivy League American student, thanks to the internet. For a film that dismisses the study of dinosaur fossils as a waste of time, *Kenatha Kanom* definitely wishes we could live as we did in the time of the dinosaurs. It is worth noting that humans arrived millions of years after the extinction of the dinosaurs, but that is exactly the kind of information the film finds useless, so the use of the analogy might be justified here.

KENATHA KANOM

