



CITY UNION BANK

## **Fighting misinformation with hope**

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

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

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

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

**Happy reading!**





# THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

CHENNAI • TUESDAY • MARCH 19, 2024 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION



## TENSIONS HIGH AS PAK AIRSTRIKES IN AFGHAN TERRITORY KILLS EIGHT

The Pakistan Army said eight terrorists were killed in 'anti-terror operations' in the border regions inside Afghanistan on Monday

## A RESPONSE TO ATTACK ON ARMY OUTPOST: PAK

The airstrikes come amid heightened tensions between the two neighbours over a series of terrorist attacks in Pakistan's Balochistan province, which Islamabad has blamed on groups based in Afghanistan. Pakistan said Monday's airstrikes, which were in response to a recent attack on one of its army outposts, targeted a group allied with Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan | P11

## STRIKE KILLED CIVILIANS, SAYS TALIBAN

Afghan Taliban said Pakistan targeted civilian homes and claimed five women and three children were killed in the pre-dawn strike. Tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan rose after the Taliban took power in Kabul in 2021. Pakistan said it had repeatedly urged the group to act against terror outfits operating in Afghanistan

6,000

PAK TALIBAN FIGHTERS IN AFGHANISTAN, SAYS PAKISTAN OFFICIAL



Governor RN Ravi K Ponmudy

## Minister post for Ponmudy: DMK goes to SC, slams gov

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@ New Delhi/Chennai

THE Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider a plea of the Tamil Nadu government against the refusal of Governor RN Ravi to appoint senior DMK leader K Ponmudy as a minister in the state cabinet. The DMK said the governor's own interpretation of the SC order stating that the conviction has only been suspended and not set aside is an absurd interpretation and is an affront to the SC order. "President Draupadi Murmu must recall him immediately as he is an insult to the office of the governor," the DMK said.

The governor, in a letter to Chief Minister M K Stalin on Sunday, refused to re-induct the senior DMK leader into the cabinet, saying it would be against constitutional morality. Ponmudy was reinstated as a legislator after the Supreme Court suspended his conviction in a disproportionate assets case.

A bench of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra on Monday took note of the submissions of senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi and P Wilson, appearing for the state government, that the matter should be urgently listed for hearing. "Please send an email. I will look into it," the CJI said.

"Governor of Tamil Nadu is breaching the constitutional mandate to follow the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in discharge of his official functions. He also disregards and delays granting of assent to the bills passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly," the state said in its petition. P7

## EXPRESS READ

### Modi holds his first-ever roadshow in Tamil Nadu

Colombore: PM Modi on Monday conducted his first roadshow in TN. At the end of the 2.5km roadshow from Saibaba Colony to RS Puram in Colombore, the PM paid homage to the victims of the 1998 serial blast. This is PM's first political engagement in TN after the announcement of LS election schedule by the EC | P4

### OPS cannot use AIADMK name, party flag: Judge

Chennai: The Madras HC on Monday barred former CM O Panneerselvam from using the AIADMK flag, symbol, and letterhead. "Merely because the suits challenging the validity of the resolution (that ousted him) are pending, OPS cannot contend that he is still a primary member of the party," the court said | P2

### 9 dead, 15 injured after building collapse

Kolkata: At least nine persons died and 15 other were seriously injured after an under construction building collapsed here on Monday. Police arrested building promoter Mohammad Waser on charges of murder. The BJP demanded the arrest of local TMC councillor Shams Iqbal for his involvement in the project | P10

## SC raps SBI for selective data share on bonds

Directs bank to disclose all details, including alphanumeric numbers, to the poll panel

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY  
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday directed the State Bank of India (SBI) to disclose all details related to the electoral bonds in its possession by March 21, including the unique alphanumeric numbers that can link donors to political parties.

Rapping the public sector lender over selective disclosure, the Supreme Court said it had in its February 15 verdict sought complete disclosure of all data related to electoral bonds in the bank's possession.

The bench noted the submission of senior advocate Harish Salve, who appeared for the SBI, that there is no reservation on the part of the bank in disclosing all the details of electoral bonds in its possession.

"We had asked all details to be disclosed by the SBI which includes electoral bond numbers as well. Let SBI not be selective in disclosure," the five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said.

The bank's chairperson was also directed to file an affidavit by 5 pm on March 21 stating that all details have been disclosed to the Election Commission (EC). The court went on to

direct the Chief Election Commissioner to file a detailed compliance affidavit by March 21 to ensure no further complications arise over the matter.

The details sought are related to electoral bonds purchased and redeemed after April 12, 2019. The court, however, rejected a plea urging it to order the SBI to disclose details related to electoral bonds purchased and redeemed prior to this date.

"With effect from April 12, 2019, we had directed the collection of details. Everyone was put to notice at that time. This is why we did not ask for disclosure of bonds sold prior to the interim order. This was a conscious choice by the Constitution Bench," the bench said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said after the March 11 order (on SBI's plea for time till June 30 to furnish details of electoral bonds to the EC), those before the court started giving press interviews deliberately embarrassing the bench. But the court said its shoulders were "broad enough" to face the broadside.

Chief Justice Chandrachud said once the court delivers a judgment, it becomes the nation's property and is open for debate. He went on to say that court was only concerned about enforcing its directions.

### Plea against disclosure

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain pleas by Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India and Confederation of Indian Industry seeking to delay the disclosure of electoral bond numbers | P12

## Double NDA deal in Bihar, Tamil Nadu



RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP on Monday ironed out its seat-sharing deal with National Democratic Alliance partners in Bihar, pocketing 17 of the 40 Lok Sabha seats in the state. It emerged as the undisputed big brother in the alliance, as the JD(U) will contest from 16, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) 5 and the Hindustan Awam Morcha (HAM) and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) one each.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP, JD(U) and the undivided LJP were part of the NDA, which won 39 of the 40 seats. Both the BJP and JD(U) had contested from 17 seats each at that point in time.

The big headline maker this time was Chirag Paswan, son of LJP founder Ram Vilas Paswan. His faction, LJP (RV), got five constituencies, including the prestigious Hajipur, the seat held by his late dad. Chirag later said he will vacate his Jamui seat and contest from Hajipur.

Chirag's gain was Union minister Pasupati Kumar Paras's loss. Paras, the brother of Ram Vilas, is the sitting MP from Hajipur. His breakaway faction of the LJP has five seats in the outgoing Lok Sabha. Paras is expected to tap the RJD-led grand alliance in Bihar in a day or two.

BJP sources said they were trying to mollify Paras with possibly a governor's berth while accommodating his son and others from his faction in the assembly elections.

However, his party could go it alone or forge a tie-up with the opposition. The NDA deal was announced by Vinod Tawde, BJP in-charge of Bihar unit of the party. For the full break-up of NDA seats, see the accompanying graphic.

### BJP

Paschim Champaran (2), Purni Champaran (3), Aurangabad (37), Madhubani (6), Araria (9), Darbhanga (14), Muzaffarpur (15), Maharajganj (19), Saran (20), Ujjainpur (22), Begusarai (24), Nawada (39), Patna Sahib (30), Patliputra (31), Arrah (32), Buxar (33) and Sasaram (34)

### JD(U)

Valmiki Nagar (1), Sitamarhi (5), Jhansi (7), Supaul (8), Kishanganj (10), Khatwa (11), Purnia (12), Madhepura (13), Gopalganj (17), Siwan (18), Bhagalpur (26), Banka (27), Munger (28), Nalanda (29), Jehanabad (36) and Sheohar (4)

### LJP (Ram Vilas)

Valmiki (16), Hajipur (21), Samastipur (23), Khatwa (25) and Jamui (40)

### HAM

Gaya (38)

### RLM

Karakat (35)



PMK general secretary Vadivel Ramanan made the announcement after executive committee meeting on Monday | EXPRESS

## PMK joins BJP team, shuns AIADMK's call

T MURUGANANDHAM @ Chennai

ENDING days of speculation about whether the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) will join hands with the AIADMK or BJP, the party on Monday announced that it has decided to go with the saffron party for the Lok Sabha poll. A formal announcement on the number of Lok Sabha seats and the candidates to be fielded would be made by PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss soon, party general secretary Vadivel Ramanan said. The development has come as a shot in the arm for the BJP which has been unsuccessful so far in roping in bigger parties.

The party announced its decision on Monday after a crucial executive committee meeting held at Thailapuram in Villupuram district in which the party's district secretaries and presidents and key office-bearers took part. Asked whether forging an alliance with the BJP would be a setback for the PMK, Ramanan said, "We don't think so. Having an alliance with the BJP will be useful for the PMK and would augur well for the future of the party."

The PMK allied with the AIADMK and the BJP in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections. In the 2021 Assembly elections, too, the alliance continued. However, in September 2021, the PMK walked out of the AIADMK-led alliance, ahead of the local body polls. There have been many rounds of informal talks between the AIADMK and PMK. Senior AIADMK leader C Ve Shanmugam too met the PMK founder S Ramadoss a few times. However, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, a few days ago, said AIADMK is not holding talks with the PMK and talks are on only with the DMK, hinting that the alliance may not fructify. P7

### Poll panel transfers West Bengal DGP

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India on Monday ordered the transfers of the West Bengal DGP and home secretaries in six states — Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It also mandated the appointment of Vivek Sahay, once suspended by the poll panel, as the new Bengal police chief | P9

### Names of Cong seats in TN announced

Chennai: Days after allotting nine Lok Sabha seats to the Congress in TN and the lone seat in Puducherry, the DMK on Monday announced the names of constituencies given to the grand old party. Sivaganga, Cuddalore, Krishnagiri, Kannyakumari, Tiruvallur (reserved), Mayiladuthurai, Tirunelveli, Karur, and Virudhunagar are the nine seats given to the Congress. K Selvarajunthangal, TNCC chief, said the names of candidates would be announced in two days | P4



## POWER CENTRE

CISF and Tamil Nadu police personnel during a flag march held in Nungambakkam on Monday in connection with upcoming Lok Sabha elections | P JAYANAR

## Tamilisai quits gov, L-G posts to 'work for people'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@ Chennai

Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, Telangana Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, has decided to step down from both the posts and has submitted her resignation to President Droupadi Murmu. She has expressed her interest to reenter active politics and "directly work for the people".

Speaking to reporters in Chennai on Monday, she re-

fused to confirm if she was planning to contest in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "I will share my plans after my resignation is accepted," she said. However, sources in the BJP said she is likely to contest the election from the Chennai South constituency.

She said the PM and the top leadership of the BJP knew her true desire and it was after informing them that she had sent her resignation to the President. She said working directly for the people has al-



ways been her desire and she was a "people's Governor" of Telangana and Puducherry. "No, there was no pressure (to quit). I resigned of my own volition as my desire is to serve

the public directly. I want to involve myself in intense public service," the former BJP Tamil Nadu president said.

She pointed out that she had managed the affairs of Puducherry during a three-month 'President's Rule', and recalled that she has "worked with four chief ministers" during her stint as governor and L-G. In 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Soundararajan contested in Thoothukudi and lost to DMK leader Kanimozhi Karunanidhi.

## ARMY FORMS ELITE UNIT TO RESEARCH FUTURE TECH

The unit called Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group or STEAG will do research on AI, machine learning, 5G, 6G, quantum computing for military uses | P9

## Satyendar Jain back in jail after SC cancels bail

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY  
@ New Delhi

AAP leader and former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain on Monday returned to Tihar jail after the Supreme Court cancelled his regular bail plea and asked him to surrender immediately. He was out on interim bail on health grounds in the Delhi excise policy scam case since May 26 last year. The bail was extended multiple times on various grounds, primarily citing his health.

A two-judge bench of justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mishra declined Jain's plea to grant him at least a week to surrender, though he claimed that he continued to be unwell. "Jain arrived at Tihar jail in the evening. He was taken to jail number 7 after the formalities of lodging him in the prison were completed," a jail offi-

cial said. On December 14, 2023, the court had extended his interim bail till January 8. On January 17, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Jain, had requested regular bail claiming that the health of his client was deteriorating. The Enforcement Directorate had registered a case against Jain, based on a CBI complaint that he had acquired movable properties in the name of various persons for which he did not give satisfactory answers.

## Ad-hoc panel dissolved, WFI requests nat'l camp

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Monday dissolved the ad-hoc committee formed on December 27, 2023 to manage the day-to-day affairs of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). The decision paved the way for the federation led by Sanjay Kumar Singh, considered a close associate of former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, to take administrative control of the sport.

"The decision to dissolve the Ad-hoc Committee comes in light of the lifting of the ban on the Wrestling Federation of In-

dia (WFI) by the United World Wrestling (UWW) and the successful completion of Selection Trials by the Ad-hoc Committee appointed by the IOA as per the directives of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi," said the IOA order.

Interestingly, the sports ministry — which on December 24, 2023 directed the IOA to form the ad-hoc committee three days after the Sanjay Singh-led panel won 13 out of 15 posts in the election — has not issued any order this time. The IOA also instructed WFI to appoint a "Safeguarding Com-

mittee" to address concerns of sexual harassment apart from conducting elections of the Athletes' Commission.

Soon after the order, Sanjay Singh wrote to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) requesting it to facilitate the hosting of national camps for the Asian Championships and Asian Olympic Games Qualifier scheduled next month. "The top-four (gold, silver and two bronze medalists) of the trials are eligible for the camp," Sanjay Singh told this daily.

This means Vinesh, who par-

ticipated in two weight categories — 50kg and 53kg winning the first and finishing with bronze in the second — will be named as a camper. Bajrang Punia, who lost the 65kg semi-final before skipping the bronze medal bout, may miss out. Sources, however, believe he can still make it if SAI wants. "If the SAI wants to add names including of Bajrang, it can do that," said a WFI source.

Notably, Bajrang and Vinesh, along with Sakshi Malik, spearheaded the protest against Brij Bhushan last year accusing the UP strongman of sexual harassment.



# Water crunch ahead: TN reservoirs only 33% full despite ample rains

Water department officials say infrastructure damage during intense rains in the southern districts has made it impossible for the state to store water above 50% of total capacity

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN @ Chennai

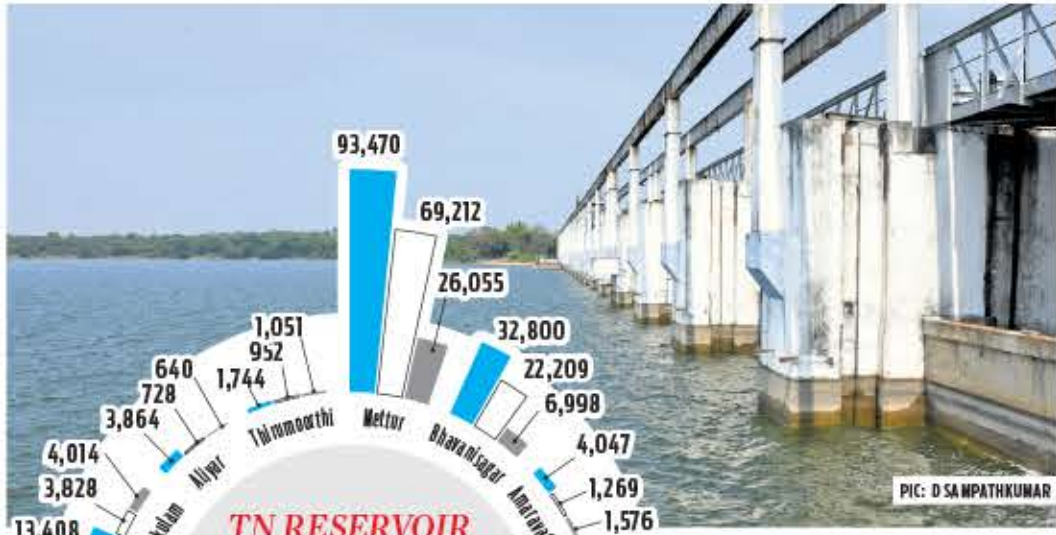
IN spite of the state receiving bountiful rains during this year's northeast monsoon, the state's water reserves have reached worryingly low levels. Compared to last year, the state has witnessed a staggering 50% decrease in its water storage.

Reports indicate that, as of Monday, the state's reserves stand at 76.233 tmcft, which makes for only 33.99% of the total capacity of 224.297 tmcft. In contrast, same day last year (March 19, 2023), the storage level was at a more satisfactory 60% of full capacity (135.087 tmcft). The concerning situation has prompted the Water Resources Department (WRD) to anticipate potential water shortages in rural areas this summer.

According to official WRD data accessed by *TNIE*, out of the state's 90 reservoirs, six of them have run dry, 25 others are only 20% full, and 39 more between 20-50%. It is noteworthy that apart from Tirunelveli's Vandal Odai, which has reached its maximum storage capacity of 58 million cubic feet (mcf), none of the other state reservoirs have reached full capacity.

While WRD officials have assured that there will be no shortage of drinking water, they have made it clear not even a single drop of water will be released for irrigation purposes during the summer, and have advised farmers to postpone cultivation.

A senior WRD official told *TNIE*, "During the intense



rains in southern districts, the state lost several storage structures along major water bodies, making it impossible to store water above 50% total capacity. To address these issues, the state government has allocated ₹280 crore for those districts." Once the tender is finalised, works can begin, he added.

Highlighting the Cauvery delta region, another official

added, "Water levels at Mettur dam, with a maximum capacity of 93.47 tmcft, stood at 69.21 tmcft this time last year (March 18, 2023) with 56.4mm of rainfall. It now stands at 26.05 tmcft with no rainfall. Unless the state receives rains in the summer months, providing drinking water would prove to be a tough task."

Regarding Chennai's status,

the official pointed out that, as of Monday, the city's drinking water reservoirs stand at 8.454 tmcft, which is 63.98% of a full capacity of 13.213 tmcft. Hence, it seems to be smooth sailing through the summer, he added.

KV Elankaran, president of the Federation of Cauvery Delta Farmers' Association, said, "We received sufficient rainfall during the northeast monsoon, but we are unable to store it properly due to the lack of infrastructure. Farmers have faced such issues every summer. Constructing more check dams across water bodies and strengthening infrastructure such as bunds, and concrete linings are the only solution to save water."

Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam secretary K Balasubramani also suggested that desilting the Mettur reservoir would aid in storing additional water.

# Court upholds dismissal of judge for aiding Kanchi seer in murder case

R SIVAKUMAR @ Chennai

THE Madras High Court has refused to interfere with the dismissal of a district judge on charges of being involved in delinquent activities to influence the trial regarding the 2004 murder of Kancheepuram Varadarajaperumal temple manager Sankararaman, in which, the late seer Sankaracharya Jayendra Saraswathi had been an accused.

A division bench of Justices SM Subramaniam and K Rajasekar passed the orders dismissing the petition filed by the additional district judge, A Rajasekaran, who was removed from service.

Rajasekaran, serving as an additional district judge, was part of the group of persons, including Jayendra Saraswathi; T Ramasamy, the sessions judge of Pudukcherry, where the trial was conducted; B Gowri Kamatchi, chief executive officer of a medical college in Thiruvananthapuram; and N Ramesh, section officer of the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, who were taped while talking on a phone call about influencing the trial in the case by making cash payments.

Following complaints from advocates S Doraisamy and P Sundararajan, submitted along with audio tapes of the conversation in 2011, the High Court administration took cognisance and initiated inquiries and disciplinary proceedings.

Action against Sessions Judge Ramasamy was dropped after a probe concluded his voice did not match the one from the audio tape. Rajasekaran was suspended from service on 2013 and was not allowed to retire on superannuation the same year. Later, he was punished with removal from service. Challenging the order, he had approached the HC.

The division bench, in its order, said, "This court does not find any infirmity with respect to the procedures followed in the departmental disciplinary proceedings." It pointed out the decision to remove Rajasekaran from service was taken by the HC's administrative committee, duly approved by the Full Court, by considering his explanations.

"Finally, regarding the quantum of punishment, we are of the opinion that judicial officers are expected to maintain a high level of integrity and in this case, the charges against the petitioner, were held proved. They are grave in nature, touching upon the integrity and honesty of the judicial officer. Therefore, the punishment of removal from service cannot be construed as disproportionate to the gravity of the proved charges. Thus, we are not inclined to interfere with the quantum of punishment," the bench said.

The bench also noted that the 'preponderance of probabilities' is established beyond any pale of doubt in the case.

## Judicial officers must maintain high integrity

"On the quantum of punishment, we are of the opinion that judicial officers are expected to maintain a high level of integrity and in this case, the charges against the petitioner, were held proved. They are grave in nature, touching upon the integrity and honesty of the judicial officer. Therefore, the punishment of removal from service cannot be construed as disproportionate to the gravity of the proved charges. Thus, we are not inclined to interfere with the quantum of punishment," the bench said.



# Postal dept to pay ₹1 lakh for dragging on suit for 38 yrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

SLAMMING the postal department for dragging litigations over land acquisition for constructing a post office in Coimbatore for 38 years, a division bench of the Madras High Court, consisting of Justices R Subramaniam and P Velmurugan, on Monday imposed a cost of ₹1 lakh and directed the department to pay the amount to the Adyar Cancer Institute.

The order was passed while dismissing a contempt of court petition filed by the postal department against Leema Rose whose land was supposed to have been acquired for constructing the post office by a notification issued in 1982 but the project did not take off due to litigations.

"We direct the postal department to pay a cost of ₹1,00,000 to the Cancer Institute, Adyar, Chennai for having wasted the time of this court in various litigations from 1985 to 2023, for nearly 38 years. The cost shall be recovered from the officers of the department responsible for the failure," the bench said in its order. The contempt petition was filed for disobeying the 2019 order of the court but the division bench held that there is no contempt of court since the land owners could not get planning permission for the absence of a public pathway.

The bench deplored that if persons who are discharging public functions remained negligent and recalcitrant like the officials of the postal department in the case at hand, "even god cannot save this country!"

# TN to set up coaching centres to aid pupils in clearing central govt exams

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

IN a move to encourage more state students to take up and clear central-level examinations, including banking, railways and also those by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) will soon open residential coaching centres in Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai.

The coaching centre in Chennai will accommodate 400 students, while those in Madurai and Coimbatore will coach batches of 300 students each. The centres are set to start operating in three months, will

have at least four classrooms, one auditorium, library room, study hall with computers and also separate hostels for men and women. The coaching itself will be split across classroom sessions, doubt-clearing sessions, self-studying and tests. It will cover modules/subjects, depending on the respective exam standards, for a duration of six months.

"Students usually tend to focus solely on TNPSC examinations and overlook other opportunities due to various prevalent misconceptions. While rigorous preparation is crucial for any competitive examination, Tamil Nadu's

youngsters are missing out on employment opportunities in these other sectors, and the fact is also backed by statistics. We hope these coaching centres will encourage them to pursue these options," said a TNSDC official.

The project is being executed under the competitive exam vertical of the Naan Mudhalvan Scheme that aims to assist Tamil Nadu youngsters succeed in examinations conducted by central recruitment agencies by providing free training and support, thereby increasing the state's representation in central services. Candidates for the coaching centres will be chosen through a screening test conducted by TNSDC.

## Long distance trains get new AC, sleeper coaches

Chennai: Southern Railway has announced the augmentation of three pairs of long-distance trains with AC and sleeper coaches.

According to an official release on Monday, the Chennai Central - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, will include an additional AC Three Tier Coach permanently. Effective from March 21, 2024, for trains departing from Chennai Central, and from March 23 for those from Katra. Similarly, the Chennai Central - Lucknow Express will be permanently augmented with one additional AC Three Tier Coach, starting from Chennai Central, and from March 25, departing from Lucknow. Also, the Nagercoll - Gandhidham BG Weekly Express will be permanently augmented with one Sleeper Class Coach, starting from Nagercoll on March 19 and from Gandhidham BG on March 22, the release added. ENS

# Former CM Panneerselvam restrained from using AIADMK flag, symbol and letterhead

R SIVAKUMAR @ Chennai

IN yet another legal victory to AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, the Madras High Court on Monday barred former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam from using the party's flag, symbol and letterhead, besides claiming to be the coordinator.

Justice N Sathish Kumar passed the orders on the petitions filed by Palaniswami in this regard. He said the court is satisfied that the 'prima facie case' and the 'balance of convenience' are in favour of the plaintiff, Palaniswami, and said in the order, "The court is of the definite opinion

that if the defendant (Panneerselvam) is not restrained as sought by the plaintiff, it will lead to confusion."

He also pointed out that no courts have declared invalid the 2022 resolutions of the AIADMK general council meeting to the effect of expelling Panneerselvam and his supporters from the party.

"Merely the suits challenging the validity of the resolution are pending, Panneerselvam cannot contend that he is still continuing as a primary member of the party and can use the letter pad, symbol and flag of the party," the

judge reasoned.

Unless and until his expulsion is declared to be void by the competent court, he cannot interfere with the affairs of the general secretary elected by the majority of members in the general council meeting, Justice Sathish Kumar noted.

He also stated that mere pendency of the suit will not entail Panneerselvam to continue as a primary member or coordinator of the political party, particularly when the majority of the members in the general council expelled him and his supporters.

## Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

19<sup>th</sup> March: There's another planetary pile-up on the way. Many ancient sages considered what we should do at such times. The world is changing fast, and we are all playing our part, no matter how small. We don't know where revolution will strike next. But, then, perhaps it's us who need to change, and then society will follow.

**ARIES** (Mar 21 - Apr 20)  
When friends fall out, you're always the one who seems to get upset. Your planetary influences are becoming kinder and something will happen to restore your faith in human nature. You'll be experiencing social changes soon, and you may be surprised to be proved wrong on a major matter!

**TAURUS** (Apr 21 - May 21)  
It may be some weeks before you are able to make total sense of a partner's behavior. In the meantime, you are quite justified in pushing ahead with your own plans. But, and this is a very big but indeed, never promote your personal interests at someone else's expense.

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21)  
So much of what has been going on has been hidden from view, so it's hardly surprising that you're not fully in command of the situation. But be prepared for a friend to blurt out the truth. And, when they do, be sure to have your story ready! And keep smiling.

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 21)  
Quiet contemplation and solitude are advisable if at all possible, all the more so because you need time to put recent events into perspective. Try not to take on too many new commitments, otherwise you'll soon find that something has to go.

**LEO** (July 24 - Aug 23)  
If possible, put professional crises on hold and take advantage of opportunities to improve your domestic situation and family relationships. Excellent prospects will come your way if a move of home or domestic improvements are planned. Try not to be overwhelmed by too much information, though.

**VIRGO** (Aug 24 - Sept 23)  
You were born under a sensitive sign, and you'll be mightily relieved to hear that the planets are about to cease hassling you and your friends. Expect your responsibilities at work to multiply daily, and avoid over-committing yourself until you're clear about all the options.

**LIBRA** (Sept 24 - Oct 23)  
The Moon's helpful influence will assist you in your efforts to get a relationship back on the rails. You must take the initiative. If you're still feeling stressed at the weekend, it could be because you are not listening to your gut to let up. Relax whenever you can!

**SCORPIO** (Oct 24 - Nov 22)  
There's still a great deal on your plate and recent family changes are settling down. Don't be too kind if a partner seems to have been in the cupboard for too long. Professional challenges are looming, but you'll soon be able to break free with one bound.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23 - Dec 22)  
There's definitely something bothering you at the moment, you just don't know what it is. There's an air of mystery, and skeletons which have been in the cupboard for too long are threatening to come out. And, when they do, you will have to improvise - and fast!

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 23 - Jan 20)  
Routine chores are piling up and need to be tackled without delay. This is a process you must be aware of if you are to make the most of your many talents and avoid being distracted by trivia. Professional challenges are looming, but you'll soon be able to break free with one bound.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21 - Feb 19)  
Listen to people who are in a position to help you, especially to advise you on certain decisions which will have to be taken quite soon. In fact, it's clear that a family member has been party responsible for your present, peculiar predicament. Maybe they can show you the way out!

**PISCES** (Feb 20 - Mar 20)  
After recent difficulties and delays you may not have yet woken up to the fact that you're closer to achieving a major ambition than seemed likely a short while ago. News which you have been longing for will arrive before long, so please hang on in there.

**SUDOKU EVIL**

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.

**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

- Institutions that train large groups of swimmers (7)
- Bowler for example had to agree to differ (8)
- Was upset over the bandage (6)
- Boy about five sees another (4)
- Jane broke a horse in for a period after Elizabeth (8)
- Nocturnal phantom could be deadly in the open (10)
- Kingdoms about to receive charity (6)
- A cheering word (6)
- Table inlaid with naacre design for a holy place (10)
- Organic defence for the soul? (8)
- Is such a championship never close? (4)
- The south side is hot and humid (5)
- They may well ruin a sea trip (7)

**DOWN**

- Single issue of new coins (5)
- Bowler for example had to agree to differ (8)
- Was upset over the bandage (6)
- It has a strong scent (10)
- Still on equal terms but quits (4)
- Power line lasting for generations (7)
- Its owner will have impressions of many countries (5,5)
- Coke and cannabis for a crank (8)
- Arranged several displays (7)
- Supported by arms or threatened by them? (4,2)
- Birds in the wilderness (5)
- Small yet troublesome inflammation (4)

**JUMBLE**

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

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Will you look at that? Look at what he's wearing!

Are these your drawings in the jumble?

What's a jumble?

Smile! I'll put you all in a cartoon!

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

WHEN THE JUMBLE CARTOONIST BEGAN SKETCHING PEOPLE AT THE PARK, HE ---

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

Answers Monday

Yesterday's Jumbles: FIGHT DOUGH INVEST OPAQUE

Answer: He didn't know a fathom equalled six feet because that unit of measure was --- OUT OF HIS DEPTH

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS**

**ACROSS:** 1 Whistlers, 9 Oratory, 10 Banjo, 11 Trick, 12 Builders, 14 Opener, 16 Vered, 18 Explorer, 19 Star, 22 Soun, 23 Alport, 24 Go into space.

**DOWN:** 2 bats, 3 Idol, 4 Try-out, 5 Belated, 6 Shores, 7 Controversy, 8 Considerate, 10 Tennyson, 15 Espanto, 17 Legato, 20 Stalk, 21 Gulp.



# Over 8,000 political signs in city removed so far: DEO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

WITH the model code of conduct coming into effect, the Chennai Corporation has removed over 8,000 political signs across the city till Monday evening, district election officer (DEO) J Radhakrishnan, said after chairing a consultative meeting with representatives of recognised political parties. The meeting was held at Ripon Building on Monday.

Radhakrishnan briefed the representatives of political parties on do's and don'ts during the campaign period. The corporation has so far removed 5,139 wall paintings, as many as 2,939 posters, 149 banners and 158 flags with political signs across the city. The Election Commission has directed that statues of leaders need not be covered, however any stone plaque near such statues will be covered, Radhakrishnan clarified.

The corporation has appointed three returning officers for each parliamentary constituency and 16 additional returning officers for the 16 Assembly constituencies within the cor-



District Election Officer J Radhakrishnan speaking at a meeting held at Ripon Building on Monday | P JAWAHAR

poration limits. Candidates can submit their nominations for each constituency at the regional deputy commissioner offices.

The DEO also directed the political parties to follow the guidelines while filing nomination and also during the campaign. "Prior permission has to be obtained for road shows and efforts should be made to ensure that such shows by different political parties do not clash with each other," Radhakrishnan said. The political parties were also directed to maintain a separate bank account for election expenses in-

cluded by the candidate and also include social media expenses in them.

While responding to a question on cash seizure by surveillance teams, Radhakrishnan said steps have been taken to ensure the early release of seized money if proper documents are provided. "Public are requested to cooperate and abide by the election rules. The seized money is accounted for through a centralised portal, which can be accessed by all agencies. The seized money will be released quickly if proper documents are provided," he said.

# DMK panchayat prez, driver arrested for murder of party cadre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

VANDALUR panchayat president Muthamizhselvi (50), belonging to the DMK, and her driver Durairaj (40) were arrested on Monday in connection with the murder of DMK functionary Aramudhan near Vandalur on February 29. A total of nine persons surrendered in this connection at Sathyamangalam and Sriyilliputhur courts on March 1 and March 2. A case has been registered and inquiry is on.

According to the Vandalur-Otteri police, Muthamizhselvi and Durairaj were nabbed from the house of the woman's relative near Vandalur. A senior police officer said, "Inquiry is under way, and we are yet to ascertain the motive of Aramudhan's murder."

It may be noted that a gang had hurled petrol bombs at Muthamizhselvi's husband

Vijayaraj and hacked him to death in 2016. The police are investigating whether Aramudhan was killed in retaliation for this murder.

On February 29, Aramudhan was going in a car to oversee the construction of a bus stand on Vandalur-Walajabad Road which was to be inaugurated on March 1. Around 7 pm, five men riding three bikes surrounded the car near Walajabad bridge and hurled petrol bombs at the vehicle. Aramudhan tried to get down and flee but the gang

hacked him and fled. Passersby rushed him to a nearby private hospital and was then sent to Chromepet Government Hospital where doctors declared him dead. The Otteri police sent the body for postmortem. Aramudhan was the deputy chairman of Kattankulathur Panchayat union and DMK's secretary of Kattankulathur union (north).



# ICF rolls out 1,000<sup>th</sup> DPRS coach during FY 2023-24

DPRS coaches include coaches for Vande Bharat trains, electric multiple units, mainline electric multiple units, self-propelled inspection cars, self-propelled accident relief trains Officials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE Integral Coach Factory has rolled out the 1,000th distributed power system coach during the current financial year 2023-24. DPRS type of coaches include coaches for Vande Bharat trains, electric multiple units, mainline electric multiple units (MEMU), self-propelled inspection cars (SPIC), self-propelled accident relief trains (SPART), etc.

"Such a huge volume of DPRS coaches, which are in high demand, have been produced by the Indian railways for the first time," ICF said in a statement. U Subba Rao, general manager, ICF congratulated the staff and officers for their achievement.

## EXPRESS READ



### Law college bags second prize in all India moot contest

Chennai: Students of the Government Law College in Chengalpattu won second place in the All India Moot Court Competition on Consumer Law held in Puducherry from March 8 to 10. Among the 55 teams that participated, PS Sivani, M Shanmathi, E Deepa of the Chengalpattu college, bagged the second prize and awarded ₹25,000 on March 15 by Union Minister Piyush Goyal. ENS

# Financial crisis: Madras univ staff wear black badge to work

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR @Chennai

EMPLOYEES of Madras University on Monday wore black badges to work with the institution yet to find a permanent solution to its financial crisis.

At present, the university has been diverting the fees received from students through the Institute of Distance Education (IDE) to pay the salaries, employees said.

The I-T department had frozen more than 50 bank accounts saying that the university has to pay ₹424 crore tax on the grounds that the university could not be considered a government university as the state's contribution to the funds was less than 50% since 2016-17. Following this, the university gave an undertaking that the amount would be paid in installments and defroze the accounts at the beginning of this month. Salaries for

the employees were credited late while the contractual employees are still awaiting their pending dues for the past three months.

According to the employees, there are several deductions in their salaries, including insurance and loans they have got from cooperative societies. "The university has only credited us the salaries with help of IDE funds. It has not paid the insurance and loan deductions to the institutions concerned. This will

only cause problems for us as we have to pay the amount with an additional interest," a senior professor from the university said.

Moreover, professors said the university is already providing books for students pursuing distance education courses late as some of the funds are diverted for other expenses. Now, they are planning to divert the entire IDE funds to pay the salaries this year. This is against the welfare

of students and the government has to step in before the situation goes out of hand, the employees said.

"There are more than 130 temporary workers on the four campuses in Chennai. We are yet to get salaries since January. While we are paid around ₹9,000 a month. We are borrowing money every month to make ends meet. Since we are essential staff, we feel bad to quit as well," a watchman in the university said.

## IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, FRIST CLASS 'B' COURT, PONDA-GOIA

Crim. Case No. 601/OA/NIA/2019/B  
CNR No.: GANG08-001634-2019  
BTL Logistics Pvt.Ltd. ... Complainant  
V/s  
Varman Tiles ... Accused

### FORM No.4 PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

WHEREAS, complaint has been made before me that Accused: Varman Tiles, Shanti Nagar West, Opp. Professional Courier, Housur-635109, Tamilnadu, Through its Authorised Signatory Mr. Narayanasamy Varadharajan, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable u/s 138 of NI Act and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said Accused: Varman Tiles, Shanti Nagar West, Opp. Professional Courier, Housur-635109, Tamilnadu, Through its Authorised Signatory Mr. Narayanasamy Varadharajan, has absconded (or has concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant) PROCLAMATION is hereby made that the said Accused: Varman Tiles, Shanti Nagar West, Opp. Professional Courier, Housur-635109, Tamilnadu, Through its Authorised Signatory Mr. Narayanasamy Varadharajan, is required to appear before Court of J.M.F.C. Ponda to answer the said complaint within 30 days from this date. The case is fixed for hearing on 21/03/2024 at 10.00 a.m. Dated this 21.02.2024

Sd/- (Queency D'Silva)  
Judicial Magistrate, First Class  
'B' Court, Ponda.

DV/Adv/2975/2024

## KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of India Undertaking)

### OPEN E-TENDER (SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM) INVITATION NOTICE

**Name of Work:** Rate contract for Cement Concrete for Foundation and plinth in Normal, Hard & Rocky soil for 2X25 KV traction system in Chennai - Veppampattu section of Chennai, Southern Railway. **Tender Notice No:** KR/CO/EL/MAS-VEU/T/8/24, Dtd: 19/03/2024. **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) Months. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 5,76,34,150/- excluding GST. **EMD:** ₹ 4,38,200/- **Last Date & Time for Online Submission of Tender:** 03/04/2024 up to 15.00 Hrs. **Opening of Tender:** On 03/04/2024, at 15.30 Hrs.

**Name of Work:** Rate contract for Cement Concrete for Foundation and plinth in Normal, Hard & Rocky soil for 2X25 KV traction system in Veppampattu - Arakkonam section of Chennai, Southern Railway. **Tender Notice No:** KR/CO/EL/VEU-AJJ/T/9/24, Dtd: 19/03/2024. **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) Months. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 5,76,34,150/- excluding GST. **EMD:** ₹ 4,38,200/- **Last Date & Time for Online Submission of Tender:** 03/04/2024 up to 15.00 Hrs. **Opening of Tender:** On 03/04/2024, at 15.30 Hrs.

**Name of Work:** Rate contract for Cement Concrete for Foundation and plinth in Normal, Hard & Rocky soil for 2X25 KV traction system in Arakkonam - Renigunta section of Chennai, Southern Railway. **Tender Notice No:** KR/CO/EL/AJJ-RU/T/10/24, Dtd: 19/03/2024. **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) Months. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 6,42,08,200/- excluding GST. **EMD:** ₹ 4,71,000/- **Last Date & Time for Online Submission of Tender:** 03/04/2024 up to 15.00 Hrs. **Opening of Tender:** On 03/04/2024, at 15.30 Hrs.

Amendments / Corrigendum if any, would be uploaded on IREPS website only. **Submission of Tender Documents :** Through IREPS. Manual Tender Documents shall not be accepted.



STAY UP-TO-DATE  
WITH THE  
LATEST NEWS

## पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

### NOTICE

- Approval under Regulation 23 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2023 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2019 for determination of Transmission Tariff from Actual DOCO to 31-03-2024 for Asset-1: 765kV Spare (1-ph) Reactor unit at 765kV Chilaiakurpetta Substation and Asset-2: Scheme to bypass NGR to use Switchable line reactor as Bus reactor at 765kV Chilaiakurpetta Substation in Southern Region.
- The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are:  
(i) TANGEDCO (ii) PCKL (iii) BESCOM (iv) GESCOM (v) HESCOM, (vi) MESCOM, (vii) CESC (viii) KSEB (ix) TSSPOL (x) TSNPOL (xi) Electricity Dept. of Puducherry (xii) Electricity Dept. of Goa (xiii) APSPCDL (xiv) APEDCL (xv) APCPDCL
- Tariff details:

Asset	Appportioned approved cost (RCE)	Cost upto DOCO	Transmission tariff			
			2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Asset-1	824	689.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.46
Asset-2	122	68.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.53

- A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at <https://www.powergrid.in/en/powergrid-southern-interconnector-transmission-system-limited>
- The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4 floor, Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Secunderabad Date: 13.03.2024

Sd/-  
CEO (PS/SL)

### POWERGRID SOUTHERN INTERCONNECTOR TRANSMISSION SYSTEM LIMITED

(A Government of India Enterprise)  
Corporate Office: Saudamini, Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana-122 001  
Registered Office: 9-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katkaria Sarai, New Delhi-110 016  
Website: [www.powergrid.in](http://www.powergrid.in), CNIL: 1401010, 1989500038/21

### A Maharashtra PSU

### BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III

CHENNAI  
6th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road, Nungambakam, Chennai - 600006  
O.A.No.37 of 2024

M/s. City Union Bank Ltd., Madhavayal Branch,  
Represented by its Branch Manager,  
KRM Towers, 4-A, Pallavan Nagar Main Road,  
Singaravelan Nagar, Madhavayal, Chennai - 600095. ... Applicant Bank

-Vs-  
M/s. Malaiyarsai Coats,  
Rep. by its Proprietor Mr. S. Ramachandran,  
Having Business at PK-17, SIDCO Industrial Estate, Ekkattuthangal,  
Guindy, Chennai - 600032 & 2 others ... Defendants

To:  
D1 M/s. Malaiyarsai Coats,  
Rep. by its Proprietor Mr. S. Ramachandran,  
Having Business at PK-17, SIDCO Industrial Estate,  
Ekkattuthangal, Guindy, Chennai - 600032.

D2 Mr. S. Ramachandran, S/o. Mr. Subbiah Pandian,  
No.8, 40th Street, Pudur, Near Jawahar Vidyalaya School,  
Ashok Nagar, Chennai - 600083. ...Defendants

D3 Mrs. R. Sudha, W/o. Mr. S. Ramachandran,  
No.8, 40th Street, Pudur, Near Jawahar Vidyalaya School,  
Ashok Nagar, Chennai - 600083. ...Defendants

### SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS 1 TO 3 THROUGH SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

Whereas the above named Applicant has filed the above referred application in this Tribunal for Recovery of a sum of Rs.1,33,93,664/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Three Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Four only) from the Defendants.

Whereas the Service of Summons to D1, D2 and D3 could not be effected in the ordinary manner and whereas substituted service has been ordered by this Hon'ble Tribunal, and hence this Notice through Paper Publication.

You are therefore directed to appear before this Hon'ble Tribunal in person or through a duly instructed Advocate and file Written Statement on or before 01-04-2024 at 11.00 a.m. and show cause as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

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

Given under my hand and seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal on this the 07th day of March 2024.

Registrar  
Debts Recovery Tribunal-III, Chennai

## NOTICE

TITAN COMPANY LIMITED, Registered Office: 3, Sipcot Industrial Complex, Hosur 635126.

NOTICE is hereby given that the certificate for the undermentioned securities of the Company has been lost and the holder of the said securities has applied to the Company to issue duplicate certificate.

Any person who has a claim in respect of the said securities should lodge such claim with the Company at its Registered Office within 15 days from this date, else the Company will proceed to issue duplicate certificate without further intimation.

Name of the holder	Kind of Securities & face value	No. of Securities	Distinctive numbers
R.Venkatesan	Equity Share with face value Rs.1	280	25754341 to 25754620

Chennai-20  
19-03-2024  
R.VENKATESAN

## POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized Officer of BANK OF BARODA under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance Act, 2002 (Ord.3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 18.12.2023 calling upon the Borrowers Mr.Anbalagan D S/o Duraiavel and Mrs. Latha A W/o Anbalagan, residing at New No 20 Old No 45, Thiruvengadam Street, Periyar Road, Chennai and also at Plot No. 13, Villa No. 13, Jains -Sri Om Nagar, Phase-II/4, Sriperumbudur -Thiruvallur taluk, Thodukadu Village, Thiruvallur Taluk & at 32/48 Ramamoorthy Colony Main Road, Thiruvu ka nagar, Chennai and to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.13,15,906/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Nine Hundred and Six Only) as on 17.12.2023 plus further interest and charges from 18.12.2023 within 80 days from the date of receipt of the 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 powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 13.03.2024.

The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors 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 Bank of Baroda for an amount of Rs.13,53,603.47 (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Six Hundred and Three and Forty Seven Paise Only) as on 12.03.2024 with interest upto 09.03.2024 and further interest hereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.

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

### DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:

**Schedule A :** All that piece and parcel of land situated at approved layout of "Sri Om Nagar (Phase II/4), Thodukadupanchayat vide resolution No. : 118, dated 03.03.2008 at No. 138, Thodukadu village, Thiruvallur taluk, Thiruvallur district, within Sub Registration District of Sriperumbudur, comprised in the following S.Nos 226/9, 10 part, 227/13 part, 17 part, 250/1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7A, 7B part, 8 part, 251/1, 2, 3 part, 4 part, 5, 6, 7 part, 8 part, 9, 10 part, 11 part, 14 part total measuring an extent of 4 acres 84 cents.

**Schedule B :** All that piece and parcel of land bearing Plot No. 13, situated at approved layout of "Sri Om Nagar (Phase II/4), Thodukadupanchayat vide resolution No. : 118, dated 03.03.2008, marked RED in the plan annexed herewith comprised in survey No.250/6 Situated in No.138, Thodukadu Village, Thiruvallur taluk, Thiruvallur district, Sub Registration District of Sriperumbudur and Kadambathur Panchayat Union limits, Thiruvallur Revenue and registration district of Chengalpatt, measuring on the North 35 feet, South 35 feet, East 40 feet and West 40 feet, in all admeasuring an extent of 1400 sq.ft. or thereabouts: Bounded on the Plot No. :13 North By : 23' Road, South By: Plot No. 12, East By : Plot No. 14, West By : Phase III.

**Schedule C :** Villa No. 13, measuring 683 sqft constructed building thereon in the schedule 'B' land.

Place : Chennai  
Date : 13.03.2024

AUTHORIZED OFFICER  
BANK OF BARODA

## THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY (A Central University) HYDERABAD - 500 007

### EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION No. I/2024

The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, a Central University, invites applications from the eligible candidates for the post of Registrar, Finance Officer, and the Controller of Examinations through Direct Recruitment/Deputation on Tenure basis in the pay level of 14 (Rs. 1,44,200 to Rs.2,18,200) as per 7th CPC pay matrix.

Application forms and the information regarding the eligibility criteria such as Essential Qualifications, Experience, Age etc., can be downloaded from the University website [www.eflu.ac.in](http://www.eflu.ac.in).

The filled in applications should reach the University on or before -10-04-2024  
Date:10-04-2024

Sd/-  
REGISTRAR IIC

## T. NAGAR BRANCH

No.7, Prakasham Road, T. Nagar, Chennai - 600 017.  
Telephone : 044-2815 6578 / 6578 / 7756 / 8718.  
e-mail : [tnagar@indianbank.co.in](mailto:tnagar@indianbank.co.in)

### POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian 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(2) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 20.12.2023 calling upon the Borrower : (1) M/s. Maruthi Engineering Consultants, (Borrower in respect of SOD and GECLS loan), Proprietor : Mr. N. Muthukumar, No.7, Kannappan Salai, Ashok Nagar, Chennai - 600 083, (2) Mr. N. Muthukumar, (Borrower in respect of Home loan/Proprietor in respect of M/s. Maruthi Engineering Consultants/Guarantor/Mortgagor), No.145, 13th Street, Sri Krishna Nagar II Part, Madhavayal Village, Ambattur Taluk, Chennai - 600 095, Also at : No.2A, Park Avenue, 19th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai - 600 083, (3) Mrs. M. Uma Maheswari, (Co-borrower in respect of Home loan/Guarantor in respect of SOD and GECLS loan/Mortgagor), No.2A, Park Avenue, 19th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai - 600 083, (4) Mr. A. Venkataraman Reddy, (Guarantor), No.11/1, Hyder Garden 4th Street, Perambur Barracks, Chennai - 600 012, with our T. Nagar branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Home Loan A/c No. 6599221139 - Rs.58,65,233.73, SOD A/c No.6574843636 - Rs.53,31,828.16, GECLS A/c No.7006622958 - Rs.5,14,252.05, TOTAL - Rs.1,12,56,734.23 (Rupees One crore twelve lakhs fifty six thousand seven hundred thirty four and paise twenty three only) as on 19.12.2023, with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of this said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantor/Mortgagor 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 8 and 9 of the said rules on this 13th day of March 2024.

The Borrowers/Guarantor/Mortgagor 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 the Indian Bank for an amount of Rs.1,17,11,313.94 (Rupees One crore seventeen lakhs eleven thousand three hundred thirteen and paise ninety four only) as on 12.03.2024 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon.

"We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities"

### DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder:

**Property jointly owned by Mr. N. Muthukumar and Mrs. M. Uma Maheswari :** All that piece and parcel of land and building bearing Plot No.145, 13th Street, Sri Krishna Nagar II Part, Madhavayal Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District comprised in Survey No.315/1A2 of Madhavayal Village measuring an extent of 2400 Sq. ft. of land together with Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor building including all connections thereon being bounded on the - North by : 30 feet Road (13th Street), South by : Land belongs to K. Rajakumar, East by : Land belongs to K. Shanmugam, West by : Land belongs to Tanny Gupta. Measuring - North to South on the Eastern side 60 feet, Western side 60 feet, East to West on the Northern side 40 feet, Southern side 40 feet, in all admeasuring an extent of 2400 Sq. ft. of land together with 1500 Sq. ft. Ground Floor, 1800 Sq. ft. First Floor and 450 Sq. ft. Second Floor building thereon situated with the Registration Sub District of Virugambakkam and Registration District of Chennai South.

Date : 13.03.2024

Place : Chennai

Authorised Officer,  
Indian Bank.



DMK, allies get battle-ready as seats finalised

Quick look

MDMK

The decision to field Dural Vaiko in Tiruchy was decided unanimously at a high-level meeting of the party here on Monday after the formal allocation of seat to them in the alliance. Vaiko told reporters the MDMK candidate would contest under the party's symbol, 'Top', or any other available free symbol

DMK

The party's decision to contest in Coimbatore and Theni Lok Sabha seats has sparked jubilation in the respective party units of the region. Coimbatore hasn't been won by the DMK since 1996, and the victory in Theni, formerly Periyakulam constituency, dates back to the 1996 general election

CPI

CPI announced its candidates for two constituencies, Tiruppur and Nagapattinam, on Monday. Incumbent MP K Subbarayan has been named for the Tiruppur seat again, while Val Selvaraj will contest from Nagapattinam

KMDK

Kongunadu Makkal Desiya Katchi (KMDK) on Monday announced S Suriyamurthy as its candidate for the Namakkal constituency, where the party will contest in DMK's "Rising Sun" symbol

Three constituencies changed for Congress; MDMK's Dural Vaiko to contest from Tiruchy; barring Congress and DMK, other parties in the INDIA alliance have announced candidates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

AFTER prolonged negotiations at various levels, DMK and Congress have finalised the list of constituencies the two will be contesting from in the DMK-led INDIA bloc in Tamil Nadu. Of the nine constituencies Congress contested in 2019, it will re-contest from six while three have been changed. The party will contest again in Pudukkottai.

Instead of Tiruchy, Arani and Theni it contested last time, the party has been allotted Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai and Tirunelveli. In 2019, it had won Tiruchy and Arani while losing Theni. The grand old party will contest again in Tiruvallur (SC), Sivaganga, Krishnagiri, Karur, Virudhunagar, and Kanyakumari.

Tiruchy was allotted to MDMK, where its principal secretary Dural Vaiko will contest. The DMK allotted Cuddalore and Tirunelveli, which it won last time, to Congress. It can be recalled that incumbent DMK MP of Cuddalore TRVS Ramesh was facing a murder case. DMK's MP from Tirunelveli S Gnanathiraviam also faced several allegations.

According to sources in both DMK and Congress, DMK was considering replacing five constituencies for Congress, including Karur and Virudhunagar, Rahul Gandhi intervened and requested that some of them be not changed.



Stalin campaigning for the candidates of DMK and its allies in Madurai ahead of the Lok Sabha election in 2019 | FILE PICTURE

Congress sources said former TNCC president KS Alagiri, who hails from Cuddalore district, was assured that he could contest from the place. Other names doing rounds in Congress circles include TN Minorities Commission chairperson S Peter Alphonse for Tirunelveli constituency and All India Professionals Congress chairperson

Praveen Chakravarty from Mayiladuthurai. After finalising the constituencies, TNCC president K Selvaperumthurai told reporters the constituencies were favourable to them in terms of winnability.

After finalising the constituencies, TNCC president K Selvaperumthurai told reporters the constituencies were favourable to them in terms of winnability.

POLL POSITION			
DMK	CONGRESS	VCK	
Chennai North	Tiruvallur (SC)	Chidambaram (SC)	Thol Thirumavalavan
Chennai South	Krishnagiri	Villupuram (SC)	D Ravi Kumar
Chennai Central	Karur	CPI	
Sriperumbudur	Cuddalore	Tiruppur	K Subbarayan
Kancheepuram (SC)	Mayiladuthurai	Nagapattinam (SC)	Val Selvaraj
Arakkonam	Sivaganga	CPM	
Vellore	Virudhunagar	Madurai	Su Venkatesan
Dharmapuri	Tirunelveli	Dindigul	R Sachidanandam
Tiruvannamalai	Kanniyakumari	MDMK	
Arani		Tiruchirappalli	Dural Vaiko
Kallakurichi		IUML	
Salem		Ramanathapuram	K Navaskani
Erode		KMDK (DMK'S SYMBOL)	
Nilgiris (SC)		Namakkal	S Suriyamurthy
Coimbatore			
Polki			
Perambalur			
Thanjavur			
Theni			
Thoothukkudi			
Tenkasi (SC)			

■ Coimbatore hasn't been won by the DMK since 1996, and the last victory in Theni, formerly Periyakulam constituency, dates back to the 1996 general election

After a 10-year-long gap, DMK in direct fight in Coimbatore

M SARAVANAN @ Coimbatore

AFTER a decade, the DMK will field its candidate in Coimbatore parliamentary constituency. DMK last won the Coimbatore LS seat in 1980 and 1996. The party was unsuccessful in 1998 and 2014.

CPM won the seat in 2019, but DMK has kept Coimbatore, to itself this time. Sources said youth wing secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin will likely lead the campaigning as the party is keen to break the Coimbatore jinx.

Considered to be the stronghold of arch rival AIADMK, the DMK allotted the seat to allies. In 2014, AIADMK won with a margin of 42,016 and DMK was pushed to the third place behind C P Radhakrishnan of the BJP. The BJP too has cultivated a sizeable vote bank in the constituency since 1996.

Even in 2021 assembly election, when AIADMK led by Edappadi K Palaniswami lost the power to DMK, candidates of the Two Leaves party and allies won all six seats - Sullur, Coimbatore South, Coimbatore North, Singanailur, Sullur, all in Coimbatore and Palladam in Tiruppur district that falls under the Coimbatore Lok Sabha constituency. Apart from this, AIADMK alliance won in all ten constituencies in Coimbatore in that election. In 2016, AIADMK won 9 out of 10 seats and DMK managed to win just the Singanailur seat (N Karthik).

With DMK returning to power, the party focussed its efforts on

in Coimbatore and earned a massive victory in the urban local body elections held in 2022. Former minister V Senthil Balaji, who was the in-charge of Coimbatore, played a major role in the victory. With Balaji out of active politics due to imprisonment in the jobs-for-cash scam case, sources said youth wing secretary and minister Udhayanidhi Stalin will likely take the reins of campaigning as the party is keen to break the Coimbatore jinx.

Also, speculation is rife that BJP would be fielding a strong candidate in Coimbatore. Given the equations between the two parties that are ideologically different from each other, the DMK will go all out to prove its strength in Coimbatore. This became clear after the party wrested the seat from ally CPM in exchange for Dindigul, from where it won by around 5 lakh votes in 2019.

Speaking to *TNIE*, DMK's urban district secretary N Karthik said, "Peoples' support for DMK has increased manifold on seeing the government's implementation of projects and schemes for Coimbatore. There is overwhelming enthusiasm among our cadres as we are going to contest directly in the constituency. The cadres have been making the demand for a long time and they are fired up as the high-command has accepted it. As many as 21 functionaries have submitted applications expressing willingness to contest from Coimbatore. Whoever is fielded will win by a huge margin."

With three ministers in Erode field, DMK aims to wipe out bitter 2014 memories

P SRINIVASAN @ Erode

EMBOLDENED by the presence of three ministers in the district, the DMK is setting out to wipe away the bitter memories of defeat in this relatively new Lok Sabha constituency. The year 2014 was the worst for the DMK as the party was relegated to third place. Having allotted the seat to allies in the past, the DMK will be fielding its own candidate in the constituency this time.

Erode Lok Sabha constituency was created in 2008 after the delimitation process. Three LS elections have been held here - 2009, 2014, and 2019. In 2009, MDMK

candidate A Ganesamurthy, who contested as part of the AIADMK alliance, defeated Congress candidate EVKS Elangovan, who contested in the DMK alliance.

In 2014, AIADMK fielded S Selvakumara Chinnayan who defeated MDMK candidate A Ganesamurthy, who contested under the BJP-led NDA. DMK's H Pavithravalli was pushed to third place. In 2019, Ganesamurthy, who contested on DMK's 'Rising Sun' symbol defeated AIADMK's G Manimaran.

Even as seat sharing discussions were under way, there was

speculation that MDMK would be allotted the Erode seat by the DMK and Ganesamurthy may be fielded again. However, MDMK was allotted Tiruchy seat, and DMK has decided to field its candidate in Erode.

The DMK candidate will have the support of Ministers S Muthusamy, M P Saminathan, and N Kayalvizhi. A DMK functionary said, "In line with the wishes of party functionaries and cadres, the high command has decided to field a candidate in Erode, which has made the party cadres happy. The victory of our candidate has already

been confirmed."

He added, "No matter who is fielded here, DMK's victory will not be affected because the DMK alliance has won four (Erode East, Erode West, Kangayam, and Dharapuram) out of the six assembly constituencies, which come under the Erode Lok Sabha constituency, during the 2021 State assembly election. Among the four assembly segments, we have MLAs from three constituencies, except Erode East, serving as ministers. This is our greatest strength. We are confident that Ministers S Muthusamy, M P Saminathan, N Kayalvizhi will make DMK win in

Erode this election."

The two other assembly segments in Erode Lok Sabha, Kumarapalayam were captured by AIADMK and Modakurichi by BJP respectively.

According to DMK sources, local strongman and Minister for Housing and Urban Development S Muthusamy had suggested three names to the party high command. Names of DMK's youth wing deputy secretary K E Prakash, Erode South youth wing organiser J Thiruvasakam, party's weaver's wing secretary S L T P Sachidanandam are doing the rounds as probable candidates for Erode.

Seizures by ECI squads till 9 am on March 18



₹2.81 Cr  
CASH



₹0.26 Cr  
LIQUOR



₹0.20 Cr  
NARCOTICS

PRECIOUS METALS ₹0.18 Cr

TOTAL ₹3.50 Cr

BJP cadre upbeat, vendors upset over loss of business

ARAVIND RAI @ Coimbatore

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the city for a road show on Monday enthused the BJP cadre. But scores of traders, vendors and hawkers who make a living in Anna daily market on the Mettupalayam Road and East TV Samy Road in RS Puram were distraught after losing their day's earnings as all shops in the route in which the PM's motorcade passed were shut for security reasons. Sources said business worth ₹10 crore was affected as a result of the closure of the shops.

More than 500 shops, including vegetable markets and hotels, situated on Mettupalayam Road and East TV Samy Road in RS Puram remained closed since Monday morning. They were also allegedly warned against opening. "They should have conducted the road show on Sunday when almost all the shops remain closed. It would have spared us the hardship. Daily wage labourers were the most affected," said Rakesh Kumar, a hardware store proprietor on the Mettupalayam Road.

Coimbatore Anna market all traders association treasurer K Abdul Samath told *TNIE*, "Police on Sunday instructed us to keep the shops closed. So, all 476 shops were closed. Even farmers were affected as the majority of the vendors trade in perishable goods. On Sunday, we had to close the shops by afternoon. We threw away the veggies and oth-



With the road from Saibaba Colony to RS Puram closed following security reasons, patients seen walking their way to hospital | S SENRAGAPANDIYAN

er perishable goods. Over ₹2 crore worth of daily trade has been affected in the Anna Market due to the closure of shops."

A tea stall owner on East TV Samy Road, seeking anonymity, said Monday is one of the profitable days for him and the forced closure of the shop deprived him of revenue. Apart from him, motorists were irked over the changes in the traffic at several places across the city due to the road show.

"To reach Town Hall or Ukkadam from Kavundampalayam, we were asked to take a left turn from the Mettupalayam Road to Sangapur Road, reach Gandhipuram via Ganapathy and then reach our desired destinations. This is absolutely ridiculous. Just like a Vijay-Vivek movie, everywhere we went, it was only 'Take Diversion' on Monday, thanks to Modi's roadshow," said, G Saranya, a motorist.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Coimbatore

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi held a roadshow in Coimbatore city on Monday amid heavy security after an intelligence alert about a security threat and reports of a hoax bomb threat that surfaced just hours before he visited the city. At the end of the rally, he paid homage to the victims of the 1998 serial bomb blast, at RS Puram.

A five-tier security cover was given across his travel route in the city, with personnel from the Special Protection Group (SPG), Central Industrial Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Coimbatore City Police, and various other units actively involved in conducting thorough investigations.

It was the PM's first political engagement in the state after the announcement of the seven-phase schedule of the Lok Sabha election on Saturday.

The roadshow started from Saibaba Kovil junction and ended at DB Road-TV Samy Road junction at RS Puram after passing through North Coimbatore, Sindhamani junction, Crosscut junction and East TV Samy Road between 5.45 pm and 6.45 pm.

The roadshow organiser, Coimbatore district unit of the BJP, claimed that the event was held so that the PM can meet the people and sensitise



PM Narendra Modi waving to the people in Coimbatore | S SENRAGAPANDIYAN

them regarding the various welfare measures and schemes provided by the office of the Prime Minister.

Also police claimed that it was the first roadshow programme in Coimbatore in which the PM participated. No such program has been allowed so far here.

Initially, the Coimbatore city police denied permission for the event citing security threats. But the Madras High Court on Friday ordered the police to allow the roadshow after the party approached it.

Following the court's order, the distance of the event was reduced from 4 km to 2.6 km after a joint security assessment by the SPG officials and

the city police. The areas adjacent to the roadshow were brought under complete security surveillance and vehicle checks in other parts of the city were also intensified. The shops on the route were shut down after 1 pm.

At the venue, RS Puram police asked people to keep their mobile phone in their pant pockets or in handbags, and asked them to avoid holding phones and water bottles in hand.

On February 27, during the public meeting held at Palladam in Tirupur district, a cadre mistakenly threw his mobile phone at PM's vehicle while showering flowers on him.

A few hours before the event,

5,000 cops, 100 SPG officials put on duty

Around 5,000 police personnel from Coimbatore and other districts and 100 SPG officials designated for the prime minister's security took the entire route under their control.

a private matriculation school at Ramanathapuram in the city received a bomb threat email from an unknown person on Monday morning. The Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad checked thoroughly and declared that it was a hoax threat.

Around 5,000 police personnel from Coimbatore and other districts and 100 SPG officials designated for the prime minister's security took the entire route under their control.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached Coimbatore Airport by 5.30 pm on a special flight and reached the venue at Saibaba Kovil by 5.50 pm. The roadshow started at 6.10 pm and he reached RS Puram at 7.15 pm where he spent around five minutes and paid homage to the victims of the 1998 bomb blast. He left the venue at 7.20 pm and moved to Circuit House at Red Fields at night.

On Tuesday morning, the PM is scheduled to fly to Kerala by chopper and after attending a program at Palakkad, Modi will reach Salem by helicopter, where he will be addressing a public meeting.

NCB brings Jaffer Sadiq to Chennai for investigation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

JAFFER Sadiq, the alleged mastermind of the ₹2,000 crore international drug mafia, was brought to Chennai by NCB for inquiry. He has been kept in the custody of the NCB Chennai.

An NCB source said, Sadiq was taken to certain places in Chennai and was questioned about the financial trail of the drug trade. "We cannot disclose the places where he was taken. He will be taken to Delhi on Monday night," he said.

Sadiq was arrested from Delhi on March 10. His godown at Perungudi was raided on March 14, a day after his aide G Sadhanandhan was arrested in Chennai.

A source said Sadhanandhan handled logistics for Sadiq and also managed the packing and distribution. Apart from the Perungudi godown, another godown in Tiruchy was also used by Sadhanandhan.

Nearly 10 days before his arrest, the NCB officials conducted a search at Sadiq's house in Mylapore and sealed it. The officials had seized documents but did not reveal details. Sadiq, who is also a film producer, was expelled from his post of deputy organiser of the DMK NRI wing of Chennai West district soon after reports emerged about his alleged links to the drug network.



## Police release picture of two men suspected of kidnapping infant

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
@Thoothukudi

**AFTER** a four-month-old was abducted from her mother when they were sleeping on the roadside on March 9, the Thoothukudi police have released photos of two men, who are suspected to have kidnapped the child.

According to sources, one Santhiya of Vellore was sleeping on a footpath beside the Anthoniyar Church on VE road when her infant was kidnapped.

Based on CCTV footage, the police are searching for the infant, while Thoothukudii SP L Balaji Saravanan has deputed 10 special teams to search for the accused in Tirunelveli, Nagercoil, Madurai and Virudhunagar districts.

After analysing the footage, the police have zeroed in on two suspects who offered prayers at the Sivan temple on Sivarathri. The men were also spotted at VE Road around 2.45 am, and it is suspected that one of them



An image of the two suspects released by the police | EXPRESS

abducted the infant. According to a press release from the district police office, those with information about the suspects can call +91 94981 19010, +91 95141 44100, 0461-2340651 or 0461-2340700. The identity of the callers will be kept anonymous, and they will be rewarded, the release stated.

### CCTV footage

Police zeroed in on the two who offered prayers at the temple on Sivaraatri. The men were also spotted at VE Road around 2.45 am, and it is suspected that one of them abducted the infant.

## Paarivendhar to contest on BJP symbol in Perambalur

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tiruchy**

INDIYA Jananayaka Katchi (IJK) founder TR Paariyendhar announced on Monday that he will be contesting the Lok Sabha election on the BJP symbol from Perambalur. Addressing media persons after attending an internal party meeting here, Paariyendhar, who is also the incumbent MP, said he would never go back to the DMK-led alliance.

The IJK, which had partnered with the DMK previously, had recently joined the NDA. Accusing the DMK of being a corrupt and dynasty party, Paarivendhar said he was not able to wash away the "sins" of partnering with the DMK. When asked about DMK's KN Arun Nehru, his potential opponent, the IJK founder said, "I don't see him as competition. What background does he have?" "I hope people will elect me again as I have, in my personal capacity, done five times more for the constituency than any other MPs in the state," he added.

## EXPRESS READ

## Doctors treat teenager with stroke

Chennai: Doctors at SRM Global Hospitals treated an 18-year-old girl who suffered a stroke due to a blood clot in the brain. The girl was attending a class when she suddenly experienced dizziness and headache. She could not move her left limbs and was rushed to the hospital. The clot was dissolved using drugs and she regained her mobility. The treatment was done within 37 minutes of the event which prevented disability, a release said. ENS

**NONE HARMED**

## 24-hr battle ends, tusker sent into Aanai Maduvu forest

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Coimbatore**

**AFTER** nearly 24 hours of struggle, Coimbatore forest division personnel sent back a tusker inside the Aanai Maduvu forest at 6 am on Monday. It had come close to Perur locality on the outskirts of Coimbatore city.

Sources said the tusker, aged between 13 and 15, travelled more than 25 km from Karadimadai, through Theethipalayam, Vedapatti, Perur, Siruvani main road into Aanai Maduvu forest. The animal entered Aanai Maduvu without damage to properties or harming humans en route.

Madukkarai forest range officer R Arun Kumar had ensured water

availability. The team led by Arun Kumar tried to divert the animal inside Madukkarai forest, but it went in the opposite direction on Siruvani road and reached Aanal Maduvu forest at 6am. It again moved near Maruthamalai on Monday evening.

"We have engaged more than 20 forest staff to prevent the elephant from getting close to human habitations and NGO members are helping us. Currently, we only plan to divert the animal as it is attracted by food like cattle feed and other vegetable crops. Moreover, age is another key factor as most male elephants behave like this," said source in the forest department.

er vegetable crops. Moreover, age is another key factor as most male elephants behave like this," said source in the forest department.

**INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)  
(LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)**

**SRM e-Tender No. T-2414/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender  
(RFx No. 6000001165)**

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

**"Construction of 220kV DC line by making LILO on existing 220kV Padgha - Kamba- Vasai line at location no. 18, Dist. Palghar under Vashi Zone, Maharashtra."**

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website <https://srmfetender.mahatransco.in>

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 11.03.2024.

**Sd/-  
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL**

**TENDER NOTICE**  
**SAINIK SCHOOL**  
AMARAVATHINAGAR - 642 102,  
UDUMALPET TALUK,  
TIRUPUR DISTRICT

Invites Sealed Tenders  
before 08-04-2024 to Supply  
Stitched Uniforms as Enlisted  
in Our School Website  
[www.sainikschoolamaravathinagar.edu.in](http://www.sainikschoolamaravathinagar.edu.in)

**PRINCIPAL**



**MAHATRANSCO**  
Interstate Data Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

**INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)**  
**(LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)**

**SRM e-Tender No. T-2420/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx) No. 6000001183)**

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Construction of L1LO on 400kV Lonikand-I - Jejur Ckt-I with Quad Moose Conductor at 765kV Power Grid (Shikrapur) Substation under Pune Zone, MSETCL, Maharashtra [Route Length (28.869 km)]"

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website <https://srmstender.mahatransco.in>

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 15.03.2024.

**Sd/-**  
**Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL**

**ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ**  
...भारो का प्रतिाक !



**punjab national bank**  
...the name you can BANK upon !

Circle Sastra Centre, Chennai, No.769, 2nd Floor, Spencer Plaza, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002.  
Email:cs3612@pnb.co.in; Phone: 044 - 2850 2043, 94444 44470

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
**ON 26.04.2024 between 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM**

**Last Date & Time of Submission of EMD and Documents is 25.04.2024 UPTO 04:00 PM**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties. Details of the encumbrances known to the secured Creditors-Not known.

**Sl.No.1 : BO : Avadi (298000), Thennarasu P A/c Nos. : 2980008700000639, 298000NC00034575, 298000NG00042181.**

**Description of Immovable Properties :** Property on the name of M.Balamurugan - All that piece and parcel of Southern side of land measuring 1200 Sq.Ft. (out of 2400Sq.Ft.) being Plot No.9 Part (Sub-Division approval bearing No.233/197) in 13th Cross Street, Thiruvalluvar Street, Kodungalur, Chennai-600118 comprising 15' x 80' and 15' x 18' Borewell and 15' x 18' Borewell situated at the North end of Tondiarpet Taluk, Palayamkottai, Chennai District, within the limits of Chennai Corporation, and the lands bounded on the North by : Northern portion of plot No.9 owned by Mr. Kumar, South by: Plot No.10, East by: Plot No.13, West by: 30Feet wide Road, Measuring: Northern Side 60 feet, Southern Side: 60 feet, Eastern Side 20 feet, Western Side:20 feet, situate within the Sub-Registrar District of Madhavaram and Registration District of Chennai North. Latitude, Longitude & Co-ordinates: 13.129209, 80.253483

<b>RESERVE PRICE : Rs.94,50,000/-</b>	<b>EMD :Rs.9,45,000/-</b>	<b>BID INCREMENT : Rs. 1,00,000/-</b>
---------------------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------------

**Outstanding Amount : Rs.1,17,10,870.80 as on 29.02.2024 plus further interest and other charges with effect from 01.03.2024 (Less Recoverables). Possession Status : Symbolic**

**Date of Notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT : 28.12.2023 under Section 13 (4) : 13.03.2024**

**S.No.53:** BO : Padappai, Kancheepuram, Mr. Lokanathakumar.N and Mrs.V Bhagavathiammal.  
Name and Address of the Borrower /Guarantor: Mr. Lokanathakumar.N (Borrower / Mortgagor),  
Mrs.V Bhagavathiammal, (Borrower / Mortgagor) Both residing at : No.4/331, KR Puram, Padappai,  
Kancheepuram District, Tamilnadu -601301.

**Description of Immovable Properties :**Property-1 belongs to Mr.Lokanathakumar.N and Mrs.V Bhagavathiammal:- All that piece and parcel of land and building bearing Plot No.65, Measuring 1 ground and 60 Sq.ft (2460 Sq.ft.), in the layout named K.R.Puram, Padappai, [DTCP Approved Reference No.SR/DTCP/88-691/T.P No.45] and comprised in the Survey No.524/1 and 1B, as per partha no.832, Re Survey No.107 of 1977, which was formerly comprised in the Survey No.18, now known as Telukudi Kancheepuram District, bounded on the North by: Plot No.64, East, South by: 24 feet footpath road, 40 feet, East by: Survey No.523, 60 feet, West by: Plot No.66, 60 feet. Together with a residential building thereon and lying within the limits of Padappai 1st Grade Panchayat Union in Kundruthur Panchayat Union at Padappai and within the Sub Registration District of Padappai and Within the Registration District of Chennai South. Latitude and Longitudes Coordinates: Latitude: 12.866274, Longitude: 80.028562.

<p><b>Name and Address of the Borrower /Guarantor:</b> P. Thennarasu, S/o. Parthiban, T. Vijayalakshmi, W/o. P. Thennarasu, <b>Both residing at:</b> Plot No. 369, Door No. 26, Kanimozhi Industries Arcch Anthionary Nagar, Annex-I Prathyusha St, Vellanorai Post, Avadi Taluk, Thiruvallur District, Chennai- 600 062.</p>			
<p><b>Description of Immovable Properties / Property in the name of P. Thennarasu:</b> All that piece and parcel of land admeasuring 2400 Sft comprised in S. No 54 as per UDRP patta No. S No 54/2 &amp; 54/3, Plot no 369, Door No 13, 24, Arch Anthionary Nagar, Prathyusha St Vellanorai post, Ambattur, Thiruvallur and bounded on the North : 23 Feet Wide Road, South: Plot no 383, East: Plot no 368, West: Plot no 370. Lying in the Sub-Registration District of Avadi and Registration District of Chennai South.</p> <p><b>Latitude and Longitudes Coordinates:</b> 13.183983, N0.114983.</p>			
<p><b>RESERVE PRICE : Rs.81,27,000/- EMD : Rs.8,12,700/- BID INCREMENT : Rs.1,00,000/-</b></p>			
<p><b>Outstanding Amount :</b> Rs. 87,7204.13 as on 29.02.2024 plus further interest and other charges with effect from 01.03.2024 (Less Recoveries) Possession Status : Symbolic</p>			
<p><b>Date of Notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT : 06.11.2023 under Section 13 (4) : 03.02.2024</b></p>			
<p><b>SI.No.2 :</b> BO : Chenglepet, Chennai (177610), Hare Krishna Bags</p> <p><b>Name and Address of the Borrower /Guarantor:</b> M/s. Hare Krishna Bags, Prop: S. Kalaiyannan, No.1, Kothumali Kollai Street, Opp. Police Station, Thirukazhukundam, Kanchepuram 603109. <b>Mr. S. Kalaiyannan</b>, S/o. Selvarajan, (Borrower/Mortgagor), 18/14 North Madu Street, Thirukazhukundam, Kanchepuram 603107. <b>Mr. Anand</b>, S/o. Nethaji Sivakumar, (Guarantor/Mortgagor), No.2, Kothumali Kollai Street, Opp. Police Station, Thirukazhukundam, Kanchepuram - 603109.</p>			
<p><b>Description of Immovable Properties / Property in the name of Mr. N. Anand &amp; Mr. S. Kalaiyannan:</b> All that piece and parcel of the land and building at Mullikothai Village: <b>Item I :</b> Bearing Grama Natham Old Survey No. 1131/1 New Survey No.274/25 to an extent of 759 sq.ft out of 11625 sqft. As per patta new survey no. 274/25C. Bounded on the : North by : Common Passage, South by : House belongs to Pazhani Mudaliyar, East by : Item II property to an extent of 240 sq.ft. West by : 25 feet common passage. Measuring : East to West on the Northern side : 37 feet 4 inches, East to West on the Southern side : 37 feet 4 inches, North to South on the Eastern side : 20 feet 3 inches, North to South on the Western side : 20 feet 3 inches. <b>Item II :</b> bearing Grama Natham Old Survey No. 1131/1 New Survey No.274/25 to an extent of 240 sq.ft. out of 11625 sqft. As per patta new survey no. 274/25C Bounded on the : North by : Common Passage, South by : House belongs to Pazhani Mudaliyar, East by : Item III property to an extent of 2570 sq.ft. West by : Item I property to an extent of 759 sq.ft. Measuring : East to West on the Northern side : 9 feet 6 inches, East to West on the Southern side : 9 feet 6 inches, North to South on the Eastern side : 25 feet, North to South on the Western side : 25 feet. <b>Item III:</b> Bearing Grama Natham Old Survey No. 1131/1 New Survey No.274/25 to an extent of 2570 sq.ft out of 11625 sqft. As per patta new survey no. 274/25, Bounded on the : North by : Common Passage, South by : Plot belongs to Natarajan Vagayara, East by : Item IV property to an extent of 330 sq.ft. West by : Item I property to an extent of 240 sq.ft. Measuring : East to West on the Northern side : 58 feet 4 inches East to West on the Southern side : 58 feet 4 inches North to South on the Eastern side : 44 feet, North to South on the Western side : 44 feet. <b>Item IV :</b> Bearing Grama Natham Old Survey No. 1131/1 New Survey No.274/25 to an extent of 330 sq.ft out of 11625 sqft. As per patta new survey no. 274/25C. Bounded on the : North by : Common Passage, South by : Plot belongs to Natarajan Vagayara, East by : Plot belongs to Ananthupathi, West by : Item III property to an extent of 2570 sq.ft. Measuring : East to West on the Northern side : 9 feet, East to West on the Southern side : 6 feet, North to South on the Eastern side : 44 feet, North to South on the Western side : 44 feet.</p> <p><b>Latitude and Longitudes Coordinates:</b> 12.576086 N, 80.096019 E.</p>			
<p><b>RESERVE PRICE : Rs.22,00,000/- EMD : Rs.2,20,000/- BID INCREMENT : Rs. 50,000/-</b></p>			
<p><b>Outstanding Amount :</b> Rs. 22,42,592.79 as on 29.02.2024 with further interest and charges w.e.f. 01.03.2024 Less Recoveries made. Possession Status : Symbolic</p>			
<p><b>Date of Notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT : 21.10.2023 under Section 13 (4) : 05.02.2024</b></p>			
<p><b>SI.No.3 :</b> BO : Madras (028620), Lakshmi Prabhavathi. A</p> <p><b>Name and Address of the Borrower /Guarantor:</b> Mrs. A. Lakshmi Prabhavathi, W/o Sukumaran, Mr. Sukumaran M. Mohana Krishnan, All are residing at : 39/2 Vanchinathan 1st street, Peramburam, Chennai- 600011.</p>			
<p><b>Description of Immovable Properties / Property in the name of A. Lakshmi Prabhavathi:</b> All that piece and parcel of building in the first floor having plinth area of 1100 sq ft (inclusive of common area) along with undivided share in land measuring 300 sq ft out of 1118 sq ft at Old No 38, New No 39/2, Vanchinathan 1st Street, Perambur Chennai. Land comprised under old survey No 27/1 R S No 27/1E, T S No 49 part, Block No 2, Siruvallur Village, Perambur, Purasawalkam Taluk, Chennai along with right in the common passage leading to First Floor, Stair Case, Over Head Tank, Electricity Service. Connection No. 01062018742 within the Redrawing District of Chennai North and Sub Registration District of Sembium. Boundaries: North : Land &amp; Building owned by the settlor, South : Vanchinathan 1st Street, East : 6 feet common passage, West : Property of Mr.Kathiravelu Mudaliar. <b>Latitude, Longitude &amp; Co-ordinates:</b> 13.111097, 80.236054.</p>			
<p><b>RESERVE PRICE : Rs.29,70,000/- EMD : Rs. 2,97,000/- BID INCREMENT : Rs. 50,000/-</b></p>			
<p><b>Outstanding Amount :</b> Rs.21,70,327.13% as on 29.02.2024 plus further interest and other charges from 01.03.2024, less recovery if any. Possession Status : Symbolic</p>			
<p><b>Date of Notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT : 11.06.2021 under Section 13 (4) : 23.02.2024</b></p>			
<p><b>SI.No.4 :</b> BO : AVADI (298000), M. Balamurugan, A/c. Nos. 298000NC00033664, 2980009300002003 Sree Murugan Industries, (Represented by its Prop. M. Balamurugan), A/c Nos. 2980008790000204, 2980001000000057</p> <p><b>Name and Address of the Borrower /Guarantor:</b> M/s. Sree Murugan Industries (Represented by its Prop. M. Balamurugan), No.42, Kulandai Jesus Nagar, Karani Village, Chennai, Tamil Nadu- 600055, M/s. Sree Murugan Industries (Represented by its Prop. M. Balamurugan), Plot No.608 Inland Jesus Nagar, Karani Village, Poochalithipudai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu- 600055, <b>Shri. Balamurugan M</b> (Prop. M/s. Sree Murugan Industries), No.42, Kulandai Jesus Nagar, Karani Village, Chennai, Tamil Nadu- 600055.</p>			

<b>RESERVE PRICE : Rs.76,00,000/-</b>	<b>EMD : Rs.7,60,000/-</b>	<b>BID INCREMENT : Rs.1,00,000/-</b>
<p><b>Property-2 belongs to Mrs.V.Bhagavathiammal, W/o. Mr. Lokanathakumar.N.:- "A" SCHEDULE:-</b> All that piece and parcel of land situated at No. 183, Karanaihallam Village, Kundrathur Taluk, Kancheepuram District comprised in Survey Nos. and total extent of <b>208.21 cents (90696.3 Sq.ft)</b> as detailed below and thereabouts and bounded on the <b>Item No.1:- Survey No: 23/3A/24 PART, extent of 17.0 cents / 7405.20 Sqft.</b> North by: Remaining extent in Survey No 23/24A, South by: Survey No 29/1 part, East by : Survey No 29/2A part, West by : Survey No 23/3 part. <b>Item No. 2:- Survey No: 23/3 PART, extent of 12.5 cents / 5445 Sqft.</b> North by: Remaining extent in survey No 23/3, South by: Survey No 29/1 part, East by : Survey No 23/24 part, West by: Remaining extent in Survey No 23/3 &amp; 28/2 part. <b>Item No.3:- Survey No: 28/2 PART, extent of 48.0 cents / 20908.8 Sqft.</b> North by: Remaining extent in Survey No 28/2, South by: Survey No 27/5 &amp; 27/5C, East by : Survey No 23/3 part &amp; 29/1, West by : Survey No 28/1 part. <b>Item No4:- Survey No: 27/5B PART, extent of 3.0 cents / 1306.8 Sqft.</b> North by: Survey No 28/2 part, South by : Remaining extent in Survey No 27/5B, East by : Survey No 27/5C part, West by : Survey No 27/5A part. <b>Item No5:- Survey No: 27/5C PART, extent of 4.0 cents / 1742.4 Sqft.</b> North by: Survey No 28/2 part &amp; 29/1 part, South by: Remaining extent in Survey No 27/5C, East by : Survey No 27/5D part, West by : Survey No 27/5B part. <b>Item No6:- Survey No: 29/1 PART, extent of 93.71 cents / 40820.1 Sqft.</b> North by: Survey No 23/24A, 23/3 &amp; 29/2B part, South by: Remaining extent in Survey No 29/1 (OSR) &amp; 27/5C, East by : Survey No 29/2B &amp; 31/1 part, West by : Survey No 28/2 part. <b>Item No.7:- Survey No: 29/2A PART, extent of 9.0 cents / 3920.4 Sqft.</b> North by: Remaining extent in survey No 29/2A, South by: Survey No 29/2B part, East by: Remaining extent in Survey No 29/2A (Road), West by : Survey No 23/24A part. <b>Item No.8:- Survey No: 29/2B PART, extent of 14.0 cents / 6098.4 Sqft.</b> North by: Survey No 29/2A part, South by: Survey No 29/1 part &amp; 31/1 part, East by: Remaining extent in Survey No 29/2B (Road), West by : Survey No 29/1 (part). <b>Item No.9:- Survey No: 31/1 PART, extent of 7.0 cents / 3049.2 Sqft.</b> North by: Survey No 29/2B part, South by: Survey No 33/2A1 part, East by: Remaining extent in Survey No 31/1 (Road), West by : Survey No 29/1 part, situate within the Registration District of Chengalpatt &amp; Sub Registration District of Senguvarchathiram. <b>"B" SCHEDULE:-</b> 421 Sq.ft. Undivided share and interest in all that piece and parcel of land more particularly described in "A" Schedule above written. <b>"C" SCHEDULE:-</b> Apartment bearing No. G-6 with a super built-up area of 685 sq.ft. (Plot area is a proportionate common area) in the Ground floor in "BLOCK - 3" of the project named "COMPARC HOMES-MADRULIKA" constructed in the property mentioned above. <b>Latitude and Longitudes Coordinates:</b> Latitude: 12.870600, Longitude: 79.975488.</p>		
<b>RESERVE PRICE : Rs.19,00,000/-</b>	<b>EMD : Rs.1,90,000/-</b>	<b>BID INCREMENT : Rs. 25,000/-</b>
<p><b>Outstanding Amount : Rs.94,97,840.17 as on 29.02.2024 with further interest and charges w.e.f. 01.03.2024 Less Recoveries made, Possession Status : Symbolic</b></p>		
<p><b>Date of Notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT : 27.10.2023 under Section 13 (4) : 05.02.2024</b></p>		
<p><b>Sl.No.6: BO : Mylapore Chennai (043300) &amp; R.H. ROAD, Chennai, Mr. Rajesh Elanchezian and Mr.C. Elanchezian.</b></p>		
<p><b>Name and Address of the Borrower /Guarantor: Mr.Rajesh Elanchezian, (Borrower / Mortgage), Mr. C. Elanchezian, (Borrower / Mortgage), Mrs.Malini Elanchezian, W/o.C.Elanchezian, (Guarantor) All are residing at; No.C4, C5, Maxorth Nagar, Kolappakkam, Porur, Chennai- 600122.</b></p>		
<p><b>Description of Immoveable Properties : Property belonging to Dr.E. Rajesh &amp; Dr.C. Elanchezian - Item No.1:- All that piece and parcel of land measuring 2500 sqft bearing Plot No.C4 (Plot Sub Division approved by the Commissioner, Kundrathur panchayat, Union at Padappai vide permit bearing No.7798 and D.Dis.No.4963/2005 dated 10.06.2005) in Maxworth Nagar, Pammal, Chennai and comprised in the then Survey No.82/2 and as per Patta No.1199, Re Survey No.82/2A2 in Kolappakkam Village, Sripurumbudur Taluk in Kancheepuram District being bounded on the North by : Land in survey No.89, South by: 24 feet Road, East by: Plot No.C3, West by: Plot No.C3. Measuring on the Northern side : 33 feet 6 inches, Southern side : 33 feet, Eastern Side : 79 feet 9 inches, Western side : 70 feet 4 inches. <b>Item No.2:-</b> All that piece and parcel of land measuring 3350 sqft bearing Plot No.C5 (Plot Sub Division approved by the commissioner, Kundrathur Panchayat Union at Padappai vide permit bearing No.7798 and D.Dis.No.4963/2005 dated 10.06.2005) in Maxworth Nagar, Pammal, Chennai and comprised in the then Survey No.82/2 and as per Patta No.1199, Re Survey No.82/2A2 in Kolappakkam Village, Sripurumbudur Taluk in Kancheepuram District being bounded on the North by : Land in survey No.89, South by: 24 feet Road, East by : Land in Survey No.82/2 part, West by : Plot No.C4. Measuring on the Northern side : 39 feet 6 inches, Southern side : 39 feet, Eastern Side : 91 feet , Western side : 79 feet 9 inches. Together with building thereon and Lying within the limits of Pammal Municipality and within the Registration Sub District of Pammal and in the Registration District of Chennai South.</b></p>		
<p><b>Latitude and Longitudes Coordinates:-</b> Latitude: 13.01433059, Longitude: 80.15127843.</p>		
<b>RESERVE PRICE : Rs.3,03,30,000/-</b>	<b>EMD : Rs.3,03,30,000/-</b>	<b>BID INCREMENT : Rs. 1,00,000/-</b>
<p><b>Outstanding Amount : Rs.2,98,07,963.72 as on 29.02.2024 with further interest and charges w.e.f. 01.03.2024 Less Recoveries made, Possession Status : Symbolic</b></p>		
<p><b>Date of Notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT : 05.01.2023 under Section 13 (4) : 16.03.2023</b></p>		
<p><b>The sale shall be subject to the Terms &amp; Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer <a href="https://www.ibapi.in">https://www.ibapi.in</a>, <a href="https://eprocure.gov.in/publish/app">https://eprocure.gov.in/publish/app</a>, <a href="http://www.mstccommerce.com">http://www.mstccommerce.com</a>, <a href="http://www.pnbindia.in">http://www.pnbindia.in</a>.</b></p>		
<p><b>STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002</b></p>		
<p><b>Date: 18.03.2024</b></p>		<b>Authorized Officer</b>
<p><b>Place: Chennai</b></p>		<b>Punjab National Bank - Secured Credit</b>

<div>  <b>STATE BANK OF INDIA</b>            CHENNAI METRO REGION – 1         </div>					
AUCTION NOTICE FOR JEWELS					
<p>Jewels pledged with our Bank were not redeemed / borrower has not paid, even after sending prior information to following borrowers. Hence if the dues are not repaid by borrower before <b>21.03.2024 (THURSDAY)</b>, pledged jewels will be auctioned "<b>As is What is basis</b>" on <b>22.03.2024(FRIDAY)</b> at <b>3.30 pm</b></p>					
CONDITIONS FOR AUCTION					
1. Those interested in taking part in the auction should deposit <b>Rs. 20,000 / - on 22.03.2024 at 10.00 a.m.</b> 2. Only those who have paid 10% in advance for the jewels to be auctioned can visit during office hours on the day of the auction and inspect the jewels, in the presence of both the Manager and the Gold appraiser. 3. Jewels will be auctioned as they are and Bank shall not be liable in any way for the quality of the jewels auctioned. 4. The Bank reserves the right to reject or postpone the auction without giving any reason whatsoever. 5. This applies to the legal heirs of the borrowers who are deceased					
Sl. No.	Branch Name	Borrower Name	A/c.No.	Loan Sanctioned Date	Weight in Grams
1.	Ayanavaram (Chennai)	Sowmiyan	42290113815	22-09-2023	59.7
2.	Dr. Alagappa Road Chennai	Deepak Kumar	41932487078	20-05-2023	99.8
3.	Dr. Alagappa Road Chennai	Abirami S	42002489495	15-06-2023	82.4
4.	Dr. Alagappa Road Chennai	Abirami S	42002509489	15-06-2023	130.4
5.	Dr. Alagappa Road Chennai	Abirami S	42002510643	15-06-2023	164.6
6.	ICF Branch Chennai	Mohammed Aleemuddin K M	41525328859	22-12-2022	83.9
7.	Kodungaiyur Chennai	N Yaminii Prasanna Lakshmi	41525845562	22-12-2022	315.9
8.	Mannadi (Chennai)	Sivakumar E	42259734321	12-09-2023	72.7
9.	Mint Terminus (Chennai)	Sasikala E	41746107532	13-03-2023	65.1
10.	New Avadi Road Chennai	Almas A	42064934310	07-07-2023	62.6
11.	New Avadi Road Chennai	Varalakshmi C	42104246322	21-07-2023	30.2
12.	New Washermanpet (Chennai)	Nirmala Suresh	41518509550	20-12-2022	27.3
13.	New Washermanpet (Chennai)	Shanmugasundaram Kandasamy	42480263265	30-11-2023	144.7
14.	New Washermanpet (Chennai)	Shanmugasundaram Kandasamy	42480263594	30-11-2023	165.3
15.	New washermanpet (Chennai)	Shanmugasundaram Kandasamy	42480263866	30-11-2023	133.8
16.	Periamet (Chennai)	Malyadai Yamarthi P Sivaramakrishnan	40678962731	10-12-2021	34.8
17.	Periamet (Chennai)	P Dhansingh M	41131935258	14-08-2022	163.1
18.	Royapuram (Chennai)	Dhansingh M	42118727570	28-07-2022	23.8
19.	Royapuram (Chennai)	Saravanan S	41868118193	27-04-2023	93.6
20.	Sowcarpet (Chennai)	Sivakumar E	42047022938	10-07-2023	237.9
21.	Tondiarpet (Chennai)	R Sharmila	41508295790	31-12-2022	32.9
22.	Tondiarpet (Chennai)	Hemavathy K	42030357260	26-06-2023	24
23.	Tondiarpet (Chennai)	Samitha A	42085441149	14-07-2023	27.6
24.	Villivakkam (Chennai)	K Raajkumar	39813688483	19-11-2020	75.9

<b>Date: 19.03.2024</b> <b>Place: Chennai.</b>	<b>Regional Manager</b> <b>State Bank of India</b>
---	---

 <b>Indian Bank</b> ALANABAD	<b>POSSESSION NOTICE</b> (for immovable properties)	<b>KOVILAM BRANCH</b> No.5258, Mannalapuram Main Road, Kovilam, Kancheepuram - 683 112, Telephone : 94-47819408, email : kva31jan@indianbank.co.in
<p>Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of the Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices on the dates mentioned below calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers of our Kovilam Branch to repay the amount as mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.</p> <p>The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notices are hereby given to the Borrowers/ Co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below, in respective columns against the respective Borrowers and more particularly described in the possession notices tendered to the respective Borrowers, exercise of the powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on this <b>15th day of March of the year 2024.</b></p> <p>The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank, for the amounts mentioned herein below and charges, interest thereon till date of payment.</p> <p><b>"We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities".</b></p>		
<p><b>1. Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors Name &amp; Address : (1) M/s. Senthur Granites, (Borrower), Proprietor : Mr. N. Ruthravel, 245/Bajajal Koli Street, Vadannemmel, Perur PO, Tirupurur Taluk - 603 104. (2) M/s. Sri Vinayaga Granite &amp; Marble Fixing, (Borrower) 2, Proprietor : Mr. K. Nandagopal, 245/Bajajal Koli Street, Vadannemmel, Perur PO, Tirupurur Taluk - 603 104. (3) Mr. N. Ruthravel, (Proprietor in respect of M/s. Senthur Granites), 245/Bajajal Koli Street, Vadannemmel, Perur PO, Tirupurur Taluk - 603 104. (4) Mr. K. Nandagopal, (Proprietor in respect of M/s. Sri Vinayaga Granite &amp; Marble Fixing and Guarantor in respect of M/s. Senthur Granites), 245/Bajajal Koli Street, Vadannemmel, Perur PO, Tirupurur Taluk - 603 104. (5) Mrs. Vasanthi, (Guarantor/ Mortgagee in respect of M/s. Senthur Granites and M/s. Sri Vinayaga Granite &amp; Marble Fixing), 245/Bajajal Koli Street, Vadannemmel, Perur PO, Tirupurur Taluk - 603 104.</b></p>		
<p><b>Demand Notice dated : 04.11.2023. Total amount due : M/s. Senthur Granites Account No. 6313601584 - Rs. 25,98,935/- (Rupees Twenty five lakhs ninety eight thousand eight hundred and thirty five only) &amp; M/s. Sri Vinayaga Granite &amp; Marble Fixing Account No. 6017090945 - Rs. 12,10,070/- (Rupees Twelve lakhs ten thousand and seventy only).</b></p>		
<p><b>Description of the Immoveable Property : Item 1 : Land and building bearing at No.45, Vadannemmel Village, comprised in Old S. No.334/1, New S. No. 392/20, measuring an extent of 655 Sq. ft., Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District. Item 2 : Property inherited and adjacent to property mentioned in Item 1 as per Joint Patta as in Doc 5022/1996 dated 24.01.1996 admeasuring 1.5 Cents and total admeasuring 3 Cents, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram Dist. Bounded on the - North by : Munusamy Plot, South by : Common path, East by : S. No. 392/32 (excluding the Vasanthi's Plot), West by : Navanatham Plot. And within the Sub-Registration District of Thirupurur and Registration District of Chengalpattu.</b></p>		
<p><b>2. Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors Name &amp; Address : (1) Mrs. A. Jenitha, (Borrower/Mortgagor), Wo Mr. F. Kumar, 5/55-2, Madha Koli Street, Thirupandiyaippan Panchayat, Pannur - 602 108. (2) Mr. F. Kumar, (Co-borrower), Wo Mr. Francis K, 5/55-2, Madha Koli Street, Thirupandiyaippan Panchayat, Pannur - 602 108. (3) Mr. P. Felix Martin, (Guarantor), S/o Pappiah, 3/353, Middle Street, Kilachen, Thiruvallur District, 331 402.</b></p>		
<p><b>Demand Notice dated : 06.10.2023. Total amount due : Rs.15,28,471/- (Rupees Fifteen lakhs twenty eight thousand four hundred and seventeen only).</b></p>		
<p><b>Description of the Immoveable Property : 1359 Sq. ft. of land together with residential house admg. 858.00 Sq. ft. plinth area located at Plot No. 1, Sunguvarchattam- Thiruvallur Road, comprised in S. No. 14/4, 14/6, Patta New S. No. 14/4A2A2, 14/4A2A3, in V. No.145, Thirupanthi Village, Thiruvallur Taluk &amp; District and bounded on the - North by : 20 Feet Layout Road, South by : Plot No. 2, East by : Thiruvallur-Sunguvarchattam Road, West by : Plot No.8. And within the Sub-Registration District of Sunguvarchattam and Registration District of Chengalpattu.</b></p>		
<p><b>3. Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors Name &amp; Address : (1) Mr. R. Loganathan, (Borrower), Wo Mr. K. Sengam, 121, Thulukanatham Koli Street, Kanathur Kuppam, Post Kovalam, Chengalpattu (erst Kancheepuram) - 603 112, Tamilnadu. (2) Mrs. Indira L., (Co-borrower), Wo Mr. R. Loganathan, 121, Thulukanatham Koli Street, Kanathur Kuppam, Post Kovalam, Chengalpattu (erst Kancheepuram) - 603 112, Tamilnadu. (3) Mr. B. Bakayaraj, (Guarantor), S/o Babu, 162, MGR Street, Kanathur, Post Kovalam, Chengalpattu - 603 112, Tamilnadu.</b></p>		
<p><b>Demand Notice dated : 06.10.2023. Total amount due : Rs. 3,62,084/- (Rupees Three lakhs sixty two thousand and eighty four only).</b></p>		
<p><b>Description of the Immoveable Property : 700.00 Sq. ft. of land together with Residential house bearing Door No.121, having Plinth area of GF : 629.00 Sq. ft. including porch &amp; stair located in Thulukanatham Koli Street, V. No.35, comprised in as per Patta No.525, New S. No.55/41C, Old S. No.55/41, Gramam Netham Old S. No.55/1 (part), Kanathur Reddikuppam Village &amp; Panchayat, Thiruvallur Taluk &amp; District and bounded on the - North by : Kanathur Kuppam District and bounded on the - North by : Property sold by Govindan &amp; Annamalai/Sri Jagan house, South by : Thulukanatham Koli Street, East : 3 ft wide common path way/ lane &amp; house, West : Sri Anumugam property/House No.120. And within the Sub-Registration District of Thirupurur and Registration District of Chengalpattu.</b></p>		
Date : 15.03.2024 Place : Kovilam		<b>Authorised Officer,</b> <b>Indian Bank</b>



**Central Coalfields Limited**  
A Miniratna Company  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

**NOTICE**

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. [www.coalindia.in/respective](http://www.coalindia.in/respective) Subsidiary Company (CCL, [www.centralcoalfields.in](http://www.centralcoalfields.in)). CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> in addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal <https://gem.gov.in>"

**KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-TENDER NOTICE**

O/o the Executive Engineer, PMU, Electrical Circle, Kattakada, Thiruvananthapuram

E-tender ID: 2024\_KSEB\_644852\_2 PAC: 4,50,15,405/- Last Date: 26.03.2024 03.00pm

E-tender ID: 2024\_KSEB\_645254\_2 PAC: 3,81,02,382/- Last Date: 26.03.2024 03.00pm

E-tender ID: 2024\_KSEB\_647825\_2 PAC: 2,35,84,878/- Last Date: 27.03.2024 03.00pm

O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle, Kattakada, Thiruvananthapuram

E-tender ID: 2024\_KSEB\_646661\_2 PAC: 13,59,48,182/- Last Date: 27.03.2024 03.00pm

E-tender ID: 2024\_KSEB\_648185\_2 PAC: 7,16,74,124/- Last Date: 27.03.2024 03.00pm

Visit [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in) and [www.kseb.in](http://www.kseb.in) Ref: PR/MCI/E48/L-e-tender/2024

"Harrington Chambers", Block No.C, 1 Floor, No.30/1A, Abdul Razack 1st 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 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued **Demand Notice** to following Borrowers/Mortgagors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However, The Borrowers/Mortgagors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken **PHYSICAL POSSESSION** of the following properties in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) and U/s 14 of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said Rules.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the mentioned borrowers that the below described immovable properties have been mortgaged to LIC HFL, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of LIC HFL will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & without any recourse basis on **March 15, 2024**. The reserve price and EMD details pertaining to the properties are mentioned below.

#### Property 1 - M/s. ARIHANT RETAIL PRIVATE LIMITED & Mr. VISHAL SURANA

Loan No - 510100004758 & 510100005557

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF LAND AND BUILDING WITH BUILT UP AREA OF **60540 SQ FT** WITH A LAND AREA OF **29664 SQ FT** COMPRISED IN RE-SURVEY NOS 1753/1 & 1753/2 (OLD NO 54 & 57), BLOCK NO 25, COLLECTORS CERTIFICATE NO 3533, TONDIARPET DIVISION, FORT - TONDIARPET TALUK, BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY: CEMETERY ROAD, EAST BY: R.S. No. 1751/1, SOUTH BY: R.S. No. 1752/2, WEST BY: R.S. No. 1752/2 IN NEW NO 18 (OLD NO 72) CEMETERY ROAD, CHENNAI - 600021 SITUATED WITHIN THE SUB REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF ROYAPURAM AND REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF CHENNAI NORTH.

Date of Demand Notice: 29.04.2021	Account Details
<b>Amt Demanded:</b> Rs.54,96,31,528.41/- with further Interest, Cost and Expenses.	<b>Beneficiary Name:</b> LIC Housing Finance Ltd.
<b>Date of Symbolic Possession:</b> 04.12.2021	<b>Bank:</b> Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub
<b>Date of Physical Possession:</b> 23.09.2022	<b>Account No:</b> HFLESOCHAD04758
<b>Reserve Price:</b> Rs.51,00,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty One Crores only)	<b>IFSC Code:</b> UTIB0CCH274
<b>EMD:</b> Rs.5,10,00,000/- (Rupees Five Crores Ten Lakhs only)	

#### Property 2 - D SATHISH, JAYAKRISHNAN S, M/s. NOBLE SHIPPING & LOGISTICS PVT. LTD. & YESJAY EXPORTS

Loan No - 510600009981 & 510600010004

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

**ITEM NO. 1** - ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF LANDED PROPERTY SITUATED AT PLOT NO.6, "V.O.C. NAGAR EXTENSION", COMPRISED IN OLD SURVEY NO. 13/8, AS PER PATTA NEW SURVEY NO. 13/88 OF NO. 116 INJAMBAKKAM VILLAGE, FORMERLY TAMBARAM TALUK, PRESENTLY SHOLINGNALLUR TALUK, KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT, MEASURING AN EXTENT OF 2400 SQ.FT. AND BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY: 22 FEET ROAD, SOUTH BY: PROPERTY IN SURVEY NO. 13/6A1 AND 13/6A2, EAST BY: PLOT NO. 7, WEST BY: PLOT NO. 5, ADMEASURING EAST TO WEST ON THE NORTHERN SIDE: 25 FEET, 0 INCH, EAST TO WEST ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE: 22 FEET, 0 INCH, NORTH TO SOUTH ON THE EASTERN SIDE : 96 FEET, 0 INCH, NORTH TO SOUTH ON THE WESTERN SIDE: 95 FEET, 0 INCH AND LYING WITHIN THE REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF CHENNAI-SOUTH AND SUB-REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF NEELANKARAI. **ITEM NO. 2** - ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF LANDED PROPERTY SITUATED AT PLOT NO. 7, "V.O.C. NAGAR EXTENSION", COMPRISED IN OLD SURVEY NO. 13/8, AS PER PATTA NEW SURVEY NO. 13/8C OF NO. 116 INJAMBAKKAM VILLAGE, FORMERLY TAMBARAM TALUK, PRESENTLY SHOLINGNALLUR TALUK, KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT, MEASURING AN EXTENT OF 4800 SQ.FT. AND BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY: 22FEET ROAD, SOUTH BY: PROPERTY IN SURVEY NO. 13/6A1 AND 13/6A2, EAST BY: PLOT NO. 8, WEST BY: PLOT NO. 6, ADMEASURING EAST TO WEST ON THE NORTHERN SIDE: 49 FEET, 6 INCHES, EAST TO WEST ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE : 49 FEET, 6 INCHES, NORTH TO SOUTH ON THE EASTERN SIDE : 97 FEET, 6 INCHES, NORTH TO SOUTH ON THE WESTERN SIDE: 96 FEET, 6 INCHES AND LYING WITHIN THE REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF CHENNAI-SOUTH AND SUB-REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF NEELANKARAI. **ITEM NO. 3** - ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF LANDED PROPERTY SITUATED AT PLOT NO. 8, "V.O.C. NAGAR EXTENSION", COMPRISED IN OLD SURVEY NO. 13/8, AS PER PATTA NEW SURVEY NO. 13/8D OF NO. 116 INJAMBAKKAM VILLAGE, FORMERLY TAMBARAM TALUK, PRESENTLY SHOLINGNALLUR TALUK, KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT, MEASURING AN EXTENT OF 4800 SQ.FT. AND BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY: 22FEET ROAD, SOUTH BY: PROPERTY IN SURVEY NO. 13/6A1 AND 13/6A2, EAST BY: PLOT NO. 9, WEST BY: PLOT NO. 7, ADMEASURING EAST TO WEST ON THE NORTHERN SIDE: 48 FEET, 6 INCHES, EAST TO WEST ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE: 48 FEET, 6 INCHES, NORTH TO SOUTH ON THE EASTERN SIDE: 100 FEET, 6 INCHES, NORTH TO SOUTH ON THE WESTERN SIDE: 97 FEET, 6 INCHES, AND LYING WITHIN THE REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF CHENNAI-SOUTH AND SUB-REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF NEELANKARAI. ITEMS 1 TO 3 PUT TOGETHER MEASURING AN EXTENT OF **12000 SQ.FT. OF LAND WITH BUILDING THEREON** BEARING PLOT NOS. 6, 7 AND 8, AS PER CORPORATION RECORD DOOR NO.2/104E, "V.O.C. NAGAR EXTENSION", INJAMBAKKAM, CHENNAI - 600197.

As per EC, subsequent to our Charge, attachment of Income Tax Department is reflected.

Date of Demand Notice: 15.11.2017	Account Details
<b>Amt Demanded:</b> Rs.10,69,84,672/- with further Interest, Cost and Expenses.	<b>Beneficiary Name:</b> LIC Housing Finance Ltd.
<b>Date of Symbolic Possession:</b> 15.09.2021	<b>Bank:</b> Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub
<b>Date of Physical Possession:</b> 06.06.2023	<b>Account No:</b> HFLESOMAY09981
<b>Reserve Price:</b> Rs.10,00,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Crore only)	<b>IFSC Code:</b> UTIB0CCH274
<b>EMD:</b> Rs.1,00,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore only)	

#### Property 3 - M/s. SUJATHA BIOTECH, Late Dr. CK RAJKUMAR, Mrs. SUJATHA RAJKUMAR & OTHER LEGAL HEIRS, M/s NAMBI & CO

Loan No - 510100004765

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE LAND & BUILDING AT NEW DOOR NO. 23, OLD DOOR NO. 8, DR AMBEDKAR ROAD, KODAMBAKKAM, CHENNAI - 600 024, COMPRISED IN T.S. No. 4/5 (PART), PATTA IN C.A. No. 278/93-94 AS PER PATTA T.S. No. 4/73, BLOCK NO. 45 OF PULIYUR VILLAGE, EGMORE - NUNGAMBAKKAM TALUK, MEASURING 12,069 SQ. FT., TOGETHER WITH BUILDING THEREON MEASURING 16,040 SQ. FT., & THE LAND BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY - JANAKI AMMAL STREET, SOUTH BY - PROPERTY OF MRS. VASUKI, EAST BY - BLOCK NO.9 & WEST BY - AMBEDKAR ROAD, SITUATED WITHIN THE SUB REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF KODAMBAKKAM AND REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF CHENNAI CENTRAL.

Date of Demand Notice: 17.04.2018	Account Details
<b>Amt Demanded:</b> Rs.23,40,59,801/- with further Interest, Cost and Expenses.	<b>Beneficiary Name:</b> LIC Housing Finance Ltd.
<b>Date of Symbolic Possession:</b> 03.08.2018	<b>Bank:</b> Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub
<b>Date of Physical Possession:</b> 07.03.2022	<b>Account No:</b> HFLESOMAY04765
<b>Reserve Price:</b> Rs.25,00,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Crore only)	<b>IFSC Code:</b> UTIB0CCH274
<b>EMD:</b> Rs.2,50,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crores Fifty Lakhs only)	

#### Other Details of E-Auction:

a) Website of E-Auction	<a href="http://www.auctionbazaar.com">www.auctionbazaar.com</a>
b) Date & time of Inspection of Photo copies of property documents	12th March 2024 between 11.00 AM to 3.00 PM at <b>LIC Housing Finance Ltd., Chennai Back Office Harrington Chamber, Block 'A', 1 Floor, No.30/1A, Abdul Razack I Street, Saidapet, Chennai - 600015.</b>
c) Inspection of the Property: Time to be fixed as per the Office convenience:	13th March 2024 between 11.00 AM to 3.00 PM Contact person: <b>Mr. Manoj</b> , Mob No. 88611 45681
d) Last date of submission of Online Tender / Bid	<b>14th March 2024 - 5.00 P.M.</b>
e) E Auction Date	<b>15th March 2024 - 11.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.</b>

Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets / properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LICHL Invites OFFERS through online mode only to purchase the said property as per the following Terms and Conditions as mentioned below:

#### THE TERMS & CONDITIONS OF THE E-AUCTION SALE ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

- E-Auction Sale is being held on 'As is where is Basis is' and 'As is what is Basis', 'Whatever there is Basis' and 'Without Any Recourse Basis', and will be conducted "Online". The E-Auction will be conducted through LIC HFL approved E-auction service provider - M/s. Auction Bazaar.
- To the best of the knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, no other encumbrance exists on the mortgaged property, except as disclosed in the publications. However, the interested Bidders are bound by the principle of "caveat emptor" (Buyer Beware) and it will be the responsibility of the Bidders to conduct their own independent due diligence verifications regarding the Location and Identity of the property, Inspection of Public records in the Sub Registrars' Offices/Civil Courts, to find any encumbrances, statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, Income Tax, Excise Duty, Labor Dues, electricity and maintenance dues, etc., of the Secured Asset. The Successful bidders shall have to bear all outgoing i.e., municipal taxes, maintenance/society charges, electricity charges, water charges, stamp duty, registration charges, (if applicable), if any and all other incidentals charges, cost including all outgoing relating to the respective properties over and above the sale price. LICHL will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, liabilities, etc., of whatsoever nature pending upon the properties as mentioned above.
- The intending bidders should register their names at portal "[www.auctionbazaar.com](http://www.auctionbazaar.com)" and get their user-id and password free of cost. Prospective bidders may avail online training on E-Auction from the service provider as follows: **M/s. Auction Bazaar, Park Avenue 2, 7-1-28/1/A/1, Park Ave Road, Leela Nagar, Ameerpet, Hyderabad, Telangana 500 016. Mr. Ashok G, contact@auctionbazaar.com Mobile: 77990 72999.**
- The E-auction Sale is subject to the conditions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act/Rules 2002 and the terms and conditions mentioned hereunder/ website also subject to conditions in the offer/bid documents to be submitted by the intending/participating bidders.
- Every bidder is required to have his/her own email address in order to participate in the online E-auction. Once Intending Bidder formally registers as a qualified tenderer before Authorized Officer of LICHL, will have to express his/her interest to participate through the E-auction bidding platform, by submitting documents. It shall be the tenderer's/online bidder's sole responsibility to procure his/her login ID and password from the E-auction service provider.
- The aforesaid properties shall not be sold below the Reserve Price mentioned above.
- The said Deposit/s shall be adjusted in the case of successful bidder/s, otherwise refunded. The said earnest money deposit/s will not carry any interest.
- If the successful bidder defaults in effecting payments or fails to adhere to the terms and condition of E-Auction in any manner the amount already deposited will be forfeited and he/she shall not have any claim as such for forfeited amount.
- The offer/s along with the aforesaid Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) can be submitted "online" through the portal [www.auctionbazaar.com](http://www.auctionbazaar.com) along with the EMD and scanned copy of KYC documents including PAN Card & (Aadhar Card) address proof, to the service provider, mentioned above on or before the Bid Submission due date & time as per Other details of Auction (d) above.
- That, after opening the tenders, the intending bidders who have submitted their bids for not less than the reserve price will be given an opportunity at the sole discretion of the Authorized Officer to increase the bidding amount.
- Initial Bidding increment is fixed as Rs.5,00,000/- which will be dynamically decided by the Authorized Officer.
- The successful bidder/s shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the EMD paid already, immediately on acceptance of offer by the Authorized officer in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposited shall be forfeited. The balance 75% of the sale price is payable within 15 days from the date of confirmation of the sale solely at the discretion of the Authorized Officer. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited. The Authorized Officer shall not be required to give any further notice of forfeiture to the successful bidder.
- The successful bidder should bear the charges/fees payable on sale certificate, such as registration fees, stamp duty, taxes, or any other duties payable for getting the secured asset transferred in his/her name.
- The Sale Certificate will be issued only in the name of the successful bidder and only after receipt of the entire/sale price.
- The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, Mortgagor/s and Guarantor/s that they can bring the intending buyer/purchaser for purchasing the properties mentioned above, as per the terms and Conditions of the E-Auction Sale.
- Inspection of the photo copies of documents and Property Inspection of the above said properties can be done on request and as per convenience of Authorized Officer. Interested bidders shall contact the designated official as per the other details of Auction (b) & (c) mentioned above. All conveyance and other expenses related to Inspection of the property/document copies shall be borne by the interested bidders.
- The Authorized Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer or any or all offers and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The LIC Housing Finance Limited reserves the right to CANCEL / ACCEPT / REJECT / ALTER / MODIFY / POSTPONE the TENDER SALE / AUCTION without giving any reason whatsoever or prior Notice.
- The sale is subject to confirmation by the Secured Creditor, viz., LIC Housing Finance Ltd.
- For detailed terms and Conditions of the sale and full description of the properties please refer to the website of approved e-auction service provider "M/s. Auction Bazaar and website [www.auctionbazaar.com](http://www.auctionbazaar.com)

Place: Chennai

Date: 29.02.2024

Sd/-

Authorised Officer

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

**SBI State Bank Of India**  
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch (05170)

2nd Floor, Indian Red Cross Buildings,  
432, Montieth Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008.  
Ph: 044-2881182 / 34. E-mail: [sbi.05170@sbi.co.in](mailto:sbi.05170@sbi.co.in)

**NOTICE TO BORROWERS (DEMAND NOTICE)**

NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (hereinafter called 'Act')

Notice is hereby given that the following Borrowers who have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as **Non-Performing Assets (NPA)** on For **SI.No.1: 02.05.2023**, For **SI.No.2: 14.12.2023**, For **SI.No.3: 13.11.2023**, For **SI.No.4: 03.09.2023**. The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, but they have been returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

**SI.No.1: BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Mr. Mohamed Sirajudeen S/o. Mr. Mohamed Ali, No. 6/6, First Floor, THNB Flats, Pandiya Residency, Behind Sri Prathyanagari Devi Temple, Sholinganallur, Chennai 600 119. Also, at: 10.5.30 R. Radha Krishnan Street, Pons Illam, Palanchettipatti, Theni - 625531. Office Address: M/s. Greenfield Enterprises, No. 60, 3rd Cross Street, Kasturba Nagar, Kallurthi, Chennai - 600020. Property Address: Villa No. 20, Block No. 02, The Village No. 106, OMR, Kalavakkam, Tirupurur, Chennai - 603110.**

**Nature of Facility : Housing Term Loan A/c No. 39540041873; Branch: Chinmaya Nagar Branch; Amount outstanding : Rs.1,96,83,504/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Six Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Five Hundred and Four only) as on 23.02.2024 with further interest and incidental expenses, costs**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED PROPERTY :**

**Schedule A:** All that the piece and parcel of the land totally admeasuring Acres 40.130 Cents in Survey Nos. 225/3B, 226/1C, 227, 229/1A, 241/2B3B, 247/6A, 247/7B, 247/8, 247/9, 247/10, 248/1, 248/2, 248/3, 248/4, 248/5, 248/6, 248/7, 248/8, old survey No. 199/2 new survey 258/14 of Kalavakkam Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu, bounded by North by: Survey No.s 223, 241(P), 231 (P), South by: Survey No.s 229/2, 241(P), 228, 229/1B, East by: Survey No. 242, West by: Road. Within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and Sub Registration District of Thirupurur. **Schedule B:** All that piece and parcel of the land admeasuring 35.745 Acres being the Saleable Area after deducting 4.385 Acres gifted out of 40.130 Acres and comprised in Survey Nos. 225/3B, 226/1C, 227, 229/1A, 241/2B3B, 247/6A, 247/7B, 247/8, 247/10, 248/1, 248/2, 248/3, 248/4, 248/5, 248/6, 248/7, 248/8, old survey No. 199/2 new Survey 258/14 of Kalavakkam Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu. The Developer has duly obtained necessary permissions from the Executive Officer of Thirupurur vide Planning Permit No. 06/2010 in Letter No 97/2008 Dated 30th December 2010, in letter No. 344/2008 Dated 21st December 2010 for the project. **Schedule C:** All that the undivided right, title, interest and ownership in the land admeasuring 2000 Sq ft out of the Schedule B mentioned Land. Residential Row house/Attached Villa bearing No. 20 in the Block No. 02 in 'THE VILLAGE' with 2705 Sq.Feet of saleable area.

**SI.No.2: BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Mrs. Sumithra.R, Old No.29/A, New No.103, Kappal Pool Street, Old Washermenpet, Chennai-600021. Property Address: Flat No.201, Second Floor, Door No.243, David Nagar, Gnanammal Road, Padappai Village, Kundrathur Taluk, Kancheepuram District.**

**Nature of Facility : HTI-39789789780; Branch: Kancheepuram Branch; Amount outstanding : Rs.58,52,261/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Lacs Fifty Two Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty One Only) (Principal +Interest) as on 23.02.2024 with further interest and incidental expenses, costs**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED PROPERTY :**

All that piece and parcel of vacant land with building undivided share to an extent of 359 sq.ft., out of 5663 sq.ft. Built up area 1128 sq.ft., Flat No.201, Second Floor, E.B.Connection etc., DTCP approval No.24/2017, comprised in Old Survey No.544, New Survey No.544/SA1E, under Patta No.584 situated at near David Nagar, Gnanammal Road, situated at Padappai Village, Kundrathur Taluk, Kancheepuram District within the Panchayat limit of Padappai. Bounded on the North by: Gnanammal Road in Survey No.544, South by: Survey No.542, East by: Land belonging to Mrs.Mary Ambrose in Survey No.544, West by: Land belonging to Sri.Joseph in Survey No.544. **Measuring :** On the North : 98 Links east to West, On the South: 98 Links East to West, On the West : 137 Links North to South, On the East : 145 Links North to South. Undivided Share to an extent of 359 sq.ft., out of 5663 sq.ft., Built up area 1128 sq.ft., Flat No.201, Second Floor, E.B.Connection etc., and situated within the Registration District of Kancheepuram and the office of Sub Registrar Padappai.

**SI.No.3: BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Mr.Mohammed Junaid S/o.Sickandar Basha, No.68/289, Linghi Chetty Street, Mannady, Chennai-600001. Also, at: No.11, Velayutham Street, Mannady, Paryys, Chennai-600001. Office Address: M/s.SAJ Enterprises, 48/99, Thiyappa Street, Seven wells, Broadway, Chennai-600001. Property Address: Plot No.56, Flat No.9-2, Ground Floor, Mahalakshmi Nagar, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Varadharajapuram Village, Chengalpattu-602109**

**Nature of Facility : HTI-39832562841; Branch: SBI Intouch Branch, Egmore ; Amount outstanding : Rs.60,71,557/- (Rupees Sixty lacs seventy one thousand five hundred and fifty seven only) (Principal + Interest) as on 23.02.2024 with further interest and incidental expenses, costs**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED PROPERTY :**

**Schedule A:** All that piece and parcel of vacant land with building bearing Plot No.56, Undivided share to an extent of 442 sq.ft., out of 1800 sq.ft., built up area 1175 sq.ft., Flat No.62, ground floor, E.B.Connection etc., 'Mahalakshmi Nagar' layout CMDA approved No.18/96, comprised in survey No.244/3 and 244/4, Patta No.5411, as per Patta in New Survey No.244/9, situated at No.82, Varadharajapuram Village, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Chengalpattu District, within the Registration District of South Chennai and Registration Sub-District of Padappai. Bounded on the North by : 30 feet Road, South by: Plot No.65, East by: Plot No.57, West by: Park. **Measuring :** East to West on the Northern side : 30 feet. Southern side : 30 feet, North to South on the Eastern side : 60 feet. Western Side : 60 feet. Undivided share to an extent of 442 sq.ft out of 1800 sq.ft., Built up area 1175 sq.ft., Flat No.62, Ground Floor, E.B. Connection etc. **Schedule B:** 442 Sq.ft., undivided share of land in Schedule 'A' mentioned above. **Schedule C:** Flat No. 62 in Ground Floor 442 Sq.ft., Undivided share of land in 'B' schedule mentioned property.

**SI.No.4: BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Mr.R.Sathish Kumar S/o.Mr.S.Ramachandran, No.2/560, Plot M, Flat G1, Balaji Flats, Jagannathan Street, Balaji Garden, Madipakkam, Chennai-600091. Office Address: Wizzzy Credit Management Services, No-1F4, Dwaraka Complex, Bharathi Nagar, Sai Baba Street, Madipakkam, Chennai-600091. Property Address: Flat No.F2, 1st Floor, Plot No.92, Sri Ranganathan Nagar, Padappai, Chennai-600091.**

**Nature of Facility : HTL-3878163086, SURAKSHA -38746800261; Branch: SBI Intouch Branch, Egmore; Amount outstanding : Rs.63.56.58 (Rupees Sixty Three Lacs Fifty Six Thousand And Eighty Two Only) (principal + Interest) as on 23.02.2024, with further interest and incidental expenses, costs**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED PROPERTY :**

All that piece and parcel of the land with building bearing Plot No.92, Undivided Share to an extent of 685 sq.ft out of 2740 sq.ft., Built up Area 1575 sq.ft., flat No.F2, First floor, sanctioned layout known as Sri Ranganathan Nagar, Approved by LP/DTCP No.392/89, comprised in survey No.459/1, as per Patta No.3223, Survey No.459/1,459/3B,479/584, situated at Padappai Village, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, This property lies within the Sub-Registration District of Padappai and Registration of South Chennai. Bounded on the North by : 30 feet Road South by : Plot No.89 East by : Plot No.93 West by : Plot No.91. **Measuring:** North to South on the Eastern Side - 67 feet North to South on the western Side-69 feet 6 inches East to West on the Northern Side - 40 feet East to West on the Southern Side - 40 feet. Undivided Share to an extent of 685 sq.ft out of 2740 sq.ft., Built up area 1575 sq.ft., flat No.F2, First floor, E.B.Connection etc.

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The borrower/guarantor 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.

**Our Earlier Notices under SARFAESI Act stands Withdrawn.**

**Date : SI.No.1: 23.02.2024, SI.No.2 & 3: 26.02.2024, SI.No.4: 28.02.2024**

**Place : Chennai**

**Authorized Officer, SBI, SARB, Chennai**

**QuoteExpress**

**YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR INSPIRATION. YOU HAVE TO GO AFTER IT WITH A CLUB**

JACK LONDON

## Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office : 802, Natraj By Rustomjee, Western Express Highway, Sir M.V. Road,

Andheri East, Mumbai - 400069, Maharashtra.

Tambaram Branch :New No. 29, Old No - 6, Survey No. 326/1, Venkatesa Chowdy Street, 1st Floor, Phoneix Towers, West Tambaram, Chennai - 600045.(TN).

### APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) 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, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the 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 having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) 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 the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. 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. The borrower 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 AHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Sl No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / (CO-BORROWER LOAN CODE NO.	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
1	25600000076 Tambaram Branch) Muthusamy M (Borrower) Thamaraiselvi S (Co Borrower) Vasanthi S (Guarantor)	Survey No 766 8c Sri Raghavendharar Avenue Phase II Plot No 87 Priority Garden Sri Raghavendharar Avenue Phase II Ukkada Sathan Ur Village, Chennai-603306, Tamil Nadu. Bounded On East: 23 Feet wide Sri Sai Baba Street, West: Plot No.88, North : 20 wide lakshmi Street And South :V.No.185, Sozhanthangal.	10-12-2023 ₹ 3,65,281.00 (Rupees Three Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Two Hundred Eighty One Only)	15-03-2024

Place : Tambaram

Date : 19.03.2024



Authorised Officer

Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

### SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Branch Office- ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Myhtree Tower, Bormanhalli Hosur Main Road Bangalore- 560068

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic 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 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. 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 ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
---------	---	--	--	----------------



# IGST on imported med axed to help mom treat 3-yr-old

HC clears way for woman to buy ₹6L drug for Spinal Muscular Atrophy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@Kochi

IN a display of judicial compassion and intervention, the Kerala High Court has stepped in to address the plight of a mother grappling with the dire medical needs of her three-year-old child affected by the life-threatening rare disease Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA).

The court recently issued an order permitting her to purchase the drug Risdiplam, sold under the brand name Evrysdi, from the dealer without paying IGST. The court issued the order on the petition filed by the mother seeking a directive to the Union government not to collect IGST from the distributor for the purchase of the drug which is imported from F-Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, Switzerland. The petitioner is sourcing the medicine from a distributor in Ernakulam.

She submitted that a circular issued by the Centre said that

the import of medicines for treating individuals suffering from life-threatening diseases can be considered for exemption on a case-to-case basis. The present price of Risdiplam is ₹6.07 lakh per bottle, including 12% GST.

The court pointed out that it was clear from the terms of the circular, minutes of the GST council, and the provisions of Article 279A(4) of the Constitution that the Union finance minister is competent to consider the grant of exemption from IGST for the import of medicines for individuals who are suffering from life-threatening diseases. The case of the petitioner appears to be eminently qualified for the grant of such exemption.

Advocate T Sanjay, counsel for the petitioner, said that the child needs several bottles of Risdiplam and the price of the same is unbearable to an ordi-

nary citizen. She sent a request on September 17, 2023, to the Union finance minister to grant exemption to her from the levy of GST on Risdiplam so that the waived amount can be utilized by the petitioner for her and her son's basic needs.

According to her, she is incurring huge medical expenditures for his treatment by way of hospital and medical equipment expenses.

Such huge expenses are beyond the means of the petitioner, who is jobless and survives on the remittances of her husband, who is working in Dubai.

The total amount incurred by her for the purchase during the period from March 16, 2022, to February 10, 2023, alone comes to ₹24,26,668.

The petitioner further submitted that Risdiplam sold in India is 15 times costlier than in China and Pakistan.

# Shopkeeper alleges assault for playing Hanuman Chalisa, police deny charge



CCTV footage of a shopkeeper being assaulted at his shop in Halasooru Gate Police Station limits in Bengaluru | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@Bengaluru

A 26-year-old shopkeeper was attacked by a group of six men for reportedly playing 'Hanuman Chalisa', claiming that the loud music will disturb 'Azan' prayers. The incident happened at Siddannagalli in Halasuru Gate police limits on Sunday between 6 pm and 6.40 pm. The police, said that during their investigation they found that the victim was neither playing 'Hanuman Chalisa' nor the fight was over the music disturbing 'Azan' prayers.

The video of the incident went viral and netizens took to social media and poured in their comments. The victim, G Mukesh, a resident of Cubbonpet, filed a police complaint against Suleman, Shanavaz, Rohith, Dyanish, Taruna and others at 10.30 pm on Sunday. Mukesh was taken to Victoria Hospital for treatment.

On Monday, Mukesh told the media that the accused attacked him for playing 'Hanu-

man Chalisa'. "I was at my shop when the accused threatened me to stop playing the bhajans as it would disturb their 'Azan' prayers. When I did not listen, they threatened to stab me. Then they attacked me after pulling me out of the shop. The accused recently attacked another person in the same locality and the police did not act," he alleged.

According to the FIR, the victim was at his shop, Krishna Telecom, in Siddannagalli when the accused picked up a fight with him for playing music loud.

As verbal altercation escalated, the accused pulled him out of the shop and attacked him with weapons.

The police have arrested three accused Suleman, Shanavaz and Rohith. "Our investigations did not find any proof to support the allegations made by the victim to the media. Even the complaint does not mention the said accusation," said an officer, who is part of the investigation.

# Guv cannot decide who should be a minister: DMK 'PMK-BJP unnatural alliance will backfire'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"THE governor is acting as a political opponent of the government and is challenging the government on its policies and the legislature on the laws enacted by it. The state government is thus forced to file this plea before the apex court," the state said in its petition.

DMK MP and party's legal advisor P Wilson, said Governor Ravi is proving to be a repeat offender and is acting with scant regard to the Constitution. Wilson said the gov-

ernor's own interpretation of the SC order stating that the conviction has only been suspended and not set aside is an absurd interpretation and is an affront to the SC order.

The DMK MP also pointed out that a governor cannot decide who should be a minister on moral grounds or any other grounds and this legal position is a well-settled one. Wilson also charged that the governor's confrontation with the government is unsur-

prising since he is acting as the de facto president of the TN's BJP unit. "The governor is seeking to run a parallel government from the Raj Bhavan because the BJP can never set foot in Fort St. George. I urge the President of India to recall him immediately," he added. "The governor is bound by the orders of the SC under Articles 142 & 144 of the Constitution of India. His blatant refusal to accede to the CM's request to appoint Ponnudya as

the higher education minister amounts to subversion of the rule of law and violation of Article 164(1) of the Constitution," he added. "When the conviction order of the HC is 'suspended' by apex court, it means that order is non-existent in the eyes of the law," Wilson said. A two-judge bench of the SC headed by Justice Abhay S Oka on March 11 stayed his conviction in the DA case. It also suspended the sentence of his wife, P Vishalatchi, and allowed her to move the special court for bail.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ON Sunday, PMK MLA R Arul called on AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami at his residence in Chennai and held discussions. This gave rise to expectations that the PMK has almost decided to go with the AIADMK. However, on Monday, the party meeting at Thailapuram took the call to go with BJP.

AIADMK sought to downplay the development. AIADMK spokesperson Kovai M Satyan told TNIE, "Mega alliance is a

perception game. The AIADMK had proved its might by going all alone earlier. We have more than two crore cadres which is 30% of the eligible voters. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the BJP doesn't have the bandwidth to ensure the victory of its allies. Getting parties may help the BJP to set in motion a narrative that the party has gained more votes but an alliance with the AIADMK will ensure the victory of the allies as our organisational structure will work for our partners on the ground." Satyan also said

the alliance between the PMK and BJP would backfire on them as it is not a natural alliance.

A senior leader of the AIADMK, told TNIE, "We don't see this as a setback. AIADMK had contested the elections on its own and made history in the past. An electoral alliance is an entity formed by like-minded parties. It is better to forge an alliance with like-minded parties instead of facing trouble by aligning with parties that don't have an agreement with us and call it a mega alliance."

**MAHATRANSCO**  
www.mahatransco.com

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
MSETCL invites online bids (E-Tender) for following

S.N	Tender No. & Description
1	Rfx. No. 7000030929; Supply & ETC for replacement of 2Nos existing MOCB DC Breaker with SF6 DC Breaker at HVDC Terminal Station Chandrapur. EMD Rs. 2312092/- & Tender Fees: Rs. 25000/- (GST extra)

Tenders Available at : <https://srmtender.mahatransco.in>; Due date for online submission upto: 30.03.2024, 11:00 Hrs; Tender Opening 30.03.2024, 12:00 Hrs if possible

--Sd--  
Chief Engineer, EHV PC O&M Zone Nagpur

**Indian Bank**

**POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under the Section 13(12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice dated 04.10.2023 calling upon the Borrower and Guarantors: (1) M/s. Hitro Energy Solutions, New No.784, Old No.426, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035, (2) Mr. N.S. Rangachari, (Proprietor), S/o Sundaravaradhan, No.2, Athulya No.13, Pithivi Avenue II Street, East Abiramapuram, Chennai - 600 018, (3) Mrs. Nirmala Rangachari, (Guarantor), W/o Mr. N.S. Rangachari, No.2, Athulya No.13, Pithivi Avenue II Street, East Abiramapuram, Chennai - 600 018, (4) J. Mohan, (Guarantor), Flat No.9, Second and Third Floor, Ashwrooda Apartments, New Door No.330, Old Door No.248/A, Ambujammal Street, Off. TTK Road, Alwarpet, Chennai - 600 018, to repay the amount mentioned in the Demand notice being Rs.12,40,08,919.44 (Rupees Twelve crores forty lakhs eight thousand nine hundred nineteen and paise forty four only) as on 29.09.2023 together with future interest from 30.09.2023 till date of payment and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The amount due as on 13.03.2024 is Rs.13,20,21,779.26 (Rupees Thirteen crores twenty lakhs twenty one thousand seven hundred seventy nine and paise twenty six only) with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon.

The Borrower and Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers & Guarantors 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 Section 13(4) of the said Act read with said rules on this 15th day of March 2024.

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 the Indian Bank for an amount of Rs.13,20,21,779.26 (Rupees Thirteen crores twenty lakhs twenty one thousand seven hundred seventy nine and paise twenty six only) as on 13.03.2024 together with future interest and costs thereon.

"We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities".

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder:  
**Mortgaged Asset owned by Mr. J. Mohan - Schedule A Property :** All that piece and parcel of land measuring 2 Acres 16 Cents, comprised on S. No. 434/1D, Chettipunniam Village, Chengelpet Taluk, Kancheepuram District and the land bounded on the North by : Forest lands in S. No.381 and 383 and land in S. No.434/1C, South by : 30 feet Road and Plot No.70 in Senthil Nagar, East by : Panchayath Road and land in S. No.434/2C and 433/1, West by : Reserve forest, Situated within the Registration Sub District and Registration District of Chengelpet. **Schedule B Property - Item I :** Apartment A, 2nd Floor, plinth area 1086 Sq. ft., common area 236 Sq. ft., club area 58 Sq. ft., in Block A, Apartment name and style of "ROYAL TOWN" along with 600 Sq. ft. of undivided share of land out of 2 Acres 16 Cents, comprised in S. No.434/1D, Chettipunniam Village, Chengelpet Taluk, Kancheepuram District. **Item II :** Apartment B, 2nd Floor, plinth area 1220 Sq. ft., common area 265 Sq. ft., club area 65 Sq. ft., in Block A, Apartment name and style of "ROYAL TOWN" along with 674 Sq. ft. of undivided share of land out of 2 Acres 16 Cents, comprised in S. No.434/1D, Chettipunniam Village, Chengelpet Taluk, Kancheepuram District. **Item III :** Apartment C, 2nd Floor, plinth area 1094 Sq. ft., common area 238 Sq. ft., club area 58 Sq. ft., in Block A, Apartment name and style of "ROYAL TOWN" along with 604 Sq. ft. of undivided share of land out of 2 Acres 16 Cents, comprised in S. No.434/1D, Chettipunniam Village, Chengelpet Taluk, Kancheepuram District. **Item IV :** Apartment D, 2nd Floor, plinth area 1095 Sq. ft., common area 238 Sq. ft., club area 58 Sq. ft., in Block A, Apartment name and style of "ROYAL TOWN" along with 605 Sq. ft. of undivided share of land out of 2 Acres 16 Cents, comprised in S. No.434/1D, Chettipunniam Village, Chengelpet Taluk, Kancheepuram District. **Item V :** Apartment E, 2nd Floor, plinth area 1116 Sq. ft., common area 243 Sq. ft., club area 59 Sq. ft., in Block A, Apartment name and style of "ROYAL TOWN" along with 616 Sq. ft. of undivided share of land out of 2 Acres 16 Cents, comprised in S. No.434/1D, Chettipunniam Village, Chengelpet Taluk, Kancheepuram District. **Item VI :** Apartment F, 2nd Floor, plinth area 1085 Sq. ft., common area 236 Sq. ft., club area 58 Sq. ft., in Block A, apartment name and style of "ROYAL TOWN" along with 599 Sq. ft. of undivided share of land out of 2 Acres 16 Cents, comprised in S. No.434/1D, Chettipunniam Village, Chengelpet Taluk, Kancheepuram District. **Item VII :** Apartment G, 2nd Floor, plinth area 1087 Sq. ft., common area 236 Sq. ft., club area 58 Sq. ft., in Block A, Apartment name and style of "ROYAL TOWN" along with 600 Sq. ft. of undivided share of land out of 2 Acres 16 Cents, comprised in S. No.434/1D, Chettipunniam Village, Chengelpet Taluk, Kancheepuram District.

Date : 15.03.2024  
Place : Chengelpet

**Authorised Officer, Indian Bank,  
SAM Branch, Chennai - 600 008.**

**Pudur Ambattur Branch** (Dp Code -3082)  
No.128, Redhills Road, Palaniappa Nagar,  
Pudur Ambattur, Chennai - 600053  
Mob : 94441 43082 Email:cb3082@canarabank.com

**Canara Bank**

**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.  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of PUDUR AMBATTUR Branch of the Canara Bank will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 24.04.2024 (Time 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.) for recovery of as on 29.02.2024 is ₹ 50,45,083.81 (Rupees Fifty Lakh Forty Five Thousand and Eighty Three and Paise Eighty One only) plus further interest thereon due to the PUDUR AMBATTUR Branch of Canara Bank from the following Borrowers / Guarantors.  
**Borrower:** 1.SHA Construction, No.11, Anandhan Street (Near IPC Church), Ganapathi Nagar, Oragadam, Ambattur, Chennai - 600 053.  
**2. Mrs. Velvizhi, Proprietor of M/s Sha Construction, Plot No. 11, Anandhan Street, No. 52, Oragadam Village, Ambattur, Chennai-600053.**  
**DETAILS OF PROPERTY**  
(Property Owned by Velvizhi) All that piece and parcel of property being the vacant plot being Plot No.11, Anandhan Street, No.52, Oragadam Village, Ambattur, Chennai - 600 053 and comprised in Survey No.723, Oragadam Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District and measuring North and South: 39'0" and 40'0", East and West: 84'0" and 82'0", And in all measuring a total extent of 3278 sq. ft. and bounded on North: 30 ft Common Path Anandhan Street, South: Plot No. 15 in Sangam Street, East: Plot No. 12 in Anandhan Street, West: Plot No. 10 in Anandhan Street.  
**RESERVE PRICE: ₹ 85,00,000/-; EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT: ₹ 8,50,000/-**  
**Bid Multiplier : ₹ 10,000/-**  
The earnest money deposit shall be deposited on or before 22.04.2024 till 4.00 p.m.  
The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer, from 18.04.2024 to 22.04.2024 between 11.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.  
EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of Demand draft in favour of Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, PUDUR AMBATTUR Branch OR shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank, PUDUR AMBATTUR Branch, A/c No. 208272434, IFSC Code: CNRB0003082  
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website ([www.canarabank.com](http://www.canarabank.com)) or the service provider M/s. Canbank Computer Services Limited, Bengaluru. Mr.Pankaj D.D. Contact No.094806 91777, Mr.Ramesh TH. Contact No.085536 43144, Mr.Saravanan K. Contact No.094448 09621 E Mail: [eauction@canb.co.in](mailto:eauction@canb.co.in), [canbnc@canb.co.in](mailto:canbnc@canb.co.in) or may contact Manager, Canara Bank, PUDUR AMBATTUR Branch (Ph: No. 94441 43082) during office hours on any working day.  
**Portal of E-Auction: <https://indianbankseaction.com>**  
Date : 15.03.2024  
Place : Chennai

Authorised Officer,  
Canara Bank

**Karnataka Bank Ltd**  
Your Family Bank. Across India.



**ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH**  
No.324, Ground Floor, Thambu Chetty Street, Chennai - 600 001  
Phone : 944-23463559 (Gen) / 9877351984 (CM) E-Mail : [chennai.arn@kbbank.com](mailto:chennai.arn@kbbank.com)  
Website : [www.karnatakabank.com](http://www.karnatakabank.com) CIN : L8510KA1524PLC001128

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**  
Whereas, the Authorized Officer of KARNATAKA BANK LIMITED, 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 demand notice dated 04.01.2024 calling upon the borrower/mortgagor/guarantor (1) Mr. M Velmurgan S/o Mr. Mookan (2) Mrs. Rajalakshmi W/o Mr. M Velmurgan Both (1) & (2) addressed at No. 62, Mallian Ponnappan Street, Triplicane, Chennai-600 005 to repay total amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.14,93,753.50 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty three and Paise Fifty only) as on 04.01.2024 under PS-TERM LOAN A/c No.4887001800081201 along with further interest from 14.12.2023, with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
The borrower, mortgagors and the guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, mortgagors, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 16th March 2024.  
The borrowers, the mortgagors and the guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property mentioned herein below and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Karnataka Bank Ltd., Chennai- Triplicane Branch for an amount of Rs.15,26,840.50 (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Forty and Paise Fifty Only) as on 14.03.2024 under PS-TERM LOAN A/c No.4887001800081201 along with further interest from 14.03.2024, plus costs.  
(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).  
**Description of the Immovable Property**  
All that Piece and parcel of Apartment referred as flat No.13 having 150 sq. ft. Undivided share out of 2465 Sq.ft. ( As per Patra 2206 Sq. ft. as per plan approval 2186 Sq.ft.) together with plinth area of 480 Sq. ft., comprised in Old Survey No. 1187, Re Survey No. 3979 (As per Collector Certificate No. 3979 being R.S.No.2800), Old Door No. 37/13 ( As per Collector Certificate Old Door No. 33), New No. 77/13 Veeraraghavamudali Street, Big street, Triplicane, Chennai 600 005 situated at Triplicane Village, Mylapore - Triplicane Taluk, Chennai Central District. Boundaries: North by: Property in R.S.No. 2799; South by: R.S. No. 2801; East by: Property in R.S.No. 2798; West by: R.S.No. 2787; and lying within the Sub-Registration District of Triplicane and the Registration District of Chennai Central. Latitude: 13.060370 Longitude: 80.275820  
Place : Triplicane, Mylapore - Triplicane Taluk, Chennai  
Date : 16.03.2024

**CHIEF MANAGER & AUTHORISED OFFICER**  
Karnataka Bank Ltd.







**ICICI Bank**

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

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
Whereas  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic 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 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. 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 ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Muneeswarani P & Rajalakshmi M Door No. 125, Mettu Street, Srivilliputtur, S. No. 710, Virudhunagar Virudhunagar- 626125/ LBVNR00003914304	Schedule A of Property Virudhunagar-District, Virudhunagar Registration District, Srivilliputtur Sub-District, Srivilliputtur Town, Mettu Street, Western Side, Northern Side Town Survey Ward No. 2, Now Municipal Town Survey No. 716, Now As Per Town Planning Ward No. 26 Town Survey No.710, Old Door No. 125, Now As Per New Tax Assessment No. 23330 Bearing Door No.125 A Built House Bounded On: North: Common Path South : Common Path East : House Belonging To Madasamy Ponnuthave West : Common Path Measuring East To West Northern Side: 11.5 Feet East To West Southern Side: 12 1/2 Feet North To South Eastern Side: 43.5 Feet North To South Western Side: 43.5 Feet North To South Southern Side: 43.5 Feet North To South Eastern Side: 43.5 Feet North To South Northern Side: 4 Mts. East West Southern Side: 3.8 Mts. North South Eastern Side: 12.2 Mts. North South Western Side : 12 Mts. Thus Totalling 47.5 Sq. Mts. Date of Symbolic Possession 15th March 2024	03/02/2023 Rs. 8,14,380/-	Chennai

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: March 19, 2024  
Place: Chennai

**Authorised Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**



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

— Ramnath Goenka

## WIDER CONSULTATION NEEDED ON ONE ELECTION PROPOSAL

THE Union government has moved quickly on the issue of simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha and all state legislatures. The Centre-appointed committee headed by former President Ramnath Kovind recently submitted its report on the 'one nation, one election' proposal to the government. The Law Commission is also likely to give its report on the subject soon. But issues relating to federalism and grassroots democratic voices have been raised against the move. The main argument in favour of this move is to save the country from the huge expenses, running into thousands of crores of rupees, incurred for holding frequent elections. The other argument is that the repeated deployment of armed forces on election duty adversely impacts the country's security situation. It is also argued that simultaneous polls will boost voter turnout and end the policy paralysis caused by the frequent imposition of the model code of conduct. These are valid arguments.

But equally compelling arguments have been raised against it. The parties opposed to it—including the Congress, the Left parties, SP, BSP, DMK, AAP and TMC—have argued that simultaneous polls will allow for the dominance of national issues and undermine the state and local issues on which assembly elections are fought. The unique problems confronting different states that are championed by regional parties may be overshadowed by the national agenda of large parties, putting the regional parties at a disadvantage. Frequent elections also keep politicians on their toes; a change in the system may diminish their accountability.

When India gained independence, it started off with simultaneous elections. But premature dissolution of state assemblies brought in the present system, which followed a natural cycle based on the need. The government proposes to break this cycle and enforce uniformity. The Kovind committee has suggested that in case of premature dissolution of an assembly or the Lok Sabha, elections should be held only for the remaining term so that the end of the term coincides with the next election cycle. So the committee's prescription may not drastically bring down the number of elections. Significant issues have been raised by those who are in favour of the move and those opposed to it. The two sides need closer engagement to find a common ground. The government should allow wider consultation before taking a final view on the subject.

## NEW EV POLICY IS A BREAK FROM THE PAST

THE government's decision to drastically reduce the import duty on fully-built electric vehicles from 70 percent to 15 percent is a big move that indicates a break with the past. It is also a climbdown by the government on its Atmanirbhar policy, under which it has encouraged domestic manufacturing by keeping import duties high on several goods. The new policy also shows that the government is ready to go the extra mile to attract big companies. The policy is the result of months of hard bargaining between the government and one of the world's largest EV manufacturers, Tesla. The US-based company, owned by maverick businessman Elon Musk, had set out conditions for investing in India—bringing down the import duty for a limited period was one of them. The hard bargain seem to have worked with the government, which has taken pride in attracting marquee brands to manufacture in India.

The new policy states the government will now allow, for a period of 5 years, the import of completely built-up (CBU) electric cars that have a minimum cost, insurance and freight value of \$35,000 at a 15 percent import duty. At present, CBU vehicles priced more than \$40,000 attract a 100 percent duty, while those below \$40,000 are subject to 70 percent tax. But the benefit of lower import duty will be available only for companies that commit a minimum investment of \$4,150 crore or \$500 million to manufacture in India. The companies will also have to comply with additional conditions such as increasing the rate of localisation to 25 percent within three years and to 50 percent in five years.

The new EV policy is significant given the climate goals India has set out to achieve by 2030 in the short term and by 2070 in the long term. India has committed to reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. The new policy will see more EV options for customers in India as domestic manufacturers, barring a few, have largely played a wait-and-watch game. It would also force many internal combustion engine makers in India to wake up to the need for having an EV market plan in place. The competition, though, would increase in the premium category. Indian manufacturers can still be competitive in the below-₹30-lakh price segment.

### QUICK TAKE

#### A LESSON IN HUMOUR

Joe Biden took a break from his presidential race this weekend to crack a few jokes at the Gridiron Club dinner, a Washington tradition that began in the 1880s. The 81-year-old US president quipped about his 77-year-old challenger in front of world leaders, business bosses and journalists: "One candidate is too old and mentally unfit to be president. The other one is me." Among the things the world's biggest democracy may want to learn from one of the oldest is this tradition of allowing a safe space for the free flow of political humour amid a fractious fight. The other is the idea of holding public debates among the top contenders.

INTERESTING developments in the domain of Sino-Indian relations took place almost simultaneously last fortnight. The relationship has not been in the best of states since May 2020, when the East Ladakh standoff commenced between the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the Indian Army and resulted in some serious clashes at Galwan on June 15, 2020. The relationship seemed to have only further south.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Sela Tunnel, which has been bored at a cost of ₹825 crore and is 1.5 km long at a height of 3,000 metres, well below the height of 4,200 metres at which the Sela Pass exists. The Chinese seemed to have their age-old objection about the visit of any dignitary to Arunachal Pradesh, which they claim as their territory called Southern Tibet (or Zangnam). For the Indian PM, it was perhaps a carefully thought-out measure to assert sovereignty and project a sense of strategic confidence in the face of repeated psychological warfare. The completion of the tunnel in an area it calls its own is itself objected to by the PLA. Little does China and its official media, *The Global Times*, say about the entire corridor it has constructed through Gilgit-Baltistan, an area legitimately belonging to India.

Militarily, the Sela tunnel acts as a force multiplier in the speedy deployment of troops to hot war locations in the Kameng division of Arunachal Pradesh, one of the regions where the PLA and the Indian Army clashed during the Sino-Indian border war in 1962. With all-weather rapid induction of troops, the tunnel provides a psychological boost for India's military commanders who have always had to fret over the optimum size of deployment for winter and the quantum of winter stocking of supplies and ammunition.

For the layman, it needs to be understood that on the PLA side beyond the Bumla pass north of Tawang, the Tibetan plateau opens out into rolling plains, making logistics and reinforcements the least of its problems. Almost on the same lines, Eastern Ladakh also bears for the Indian Army the challenge of the Ladakh range from Leh to the battle areas. Srinagar and Pathankot have a problem of winter connectivity to Leh through the Himalayan and the Zaskar ranges. For the PLA, Indian infrastructure development should be worrisome, but India is only doing what the PLA did 20-30 years ago and continues to do. It should also be aware that permanent locations with habitat and storage have come up in important places all along the

Beijing has reacted sharply to some of New Delhi's recent strategic achievements. The Middle Kingdom needs to be clear about the inevitable rise of its neighbouring middle power

## DEVELOPMENTS THAT RATTLED CHINA IN A FORTNIGHT

LT GEN SYED ATA HASNAIN (RETD)

Former Commander, Srinagar-based 15 Corps, Now Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir



SOURAV ROY

LAC, converting it almost akin to the LoC, which is manned very densely by the Indian Army to prevent any loss of territory.

The other development is in the field of future weaponry India tested the Made-in-India Agni-5 missile with multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle (MIRV) technology. MIRVs consist of several reentry vehicles, each equipped to carry multiple warheads (2-10) that can be designated for various targets, spaced hundreds of kilometres apart. Alternatively, multiple warheads can target a single location.

This is different from other missile technologies, where a single missile carries only one warhead and targets only a single location. Under Project Divyasthra, this is a

classic Indian achievement. Only the five big powers possess this capability, which is complex enough to let the warheads be decoys for the adversary's anti-ballistic missiles, or cause far greater destruction through delivery of nuclear munitions to multiple targets several kilometres apart.

While the US MIRV capability exists at 12,000-15,000 km, it is not just the long range but the achievement of complex technologies of reentry and multiple targeting that gives greater nuclear deterrence capability to India in a calibrated way. Although Pakistan is reported to be developing a similar capability, India's progress is not aimed at any one adversary but a broad future range of contingencies where the possession of such capability provides inherent deterrence.

ity provides inherent deterrence.

Some interesting outcomes appear evident from the successful India MIRV launch. Firstly, with the MIRV range at 5,000 km (with perhaps more to come) China's *Global Times* quotes Qian Feng, a director of one of its research departments, as saying, "It particularly shows that India's main hypothetical enemy is China, with its goal of having missile coverage over China to enhance deterrence capabilities." What China, its leadership and military hierarchy have to realise is that India, too, is developing at a fast rate and gaining greater confidence as its economy, research and development, technology and human parameters all improve. This is natural for any nation to aspire for.

India is fully perceptive that China does not wish to see India grow and become an alternative pole in Asia. Understanding the inevitability of India's growth, China wishes to scuttle whatever it can to delay the achievement of India's aspiration. The actions China commenced in April-May 2020 in Ladakh have been followed by a tirade of hostility to force India to commit itself far more to its strategic security. It continues to include a mix of various measures to keep India on the defensive; the most recent being the placement of spy vessels of the PLA Navy in the vicinity of India's maritime zone to obtain data from Indian technology tests such as the MIRV. Terming 10,000 Indian troops in Eastern Ladakh, under various stages of re-orbiting, as incursions on the LAC, when these troops have remained deployed here since April-May 2020, is also unfortunate.

What China needs to realise is that keeping Sino-Indian relations in the grey zone of 'friend, adversary, partner or collaborator' is not helpful to either nation. In a competitive world, with a young population and dynamic human capital, India has all the potential to grow beyond the threshold of a middle power; events such as landmark technological achievements will continuously contribute to China's unfortunate perceptions, and the scope for that will increase manifold with more progress. It probably fears this happening before it has achieved its own threshold objectives, such as the re-integration of all its perceived former territories. Being a potential superpower too, it's not easy to let go of perceptions. Can India do anything more to ease misperception and intent? It will give us more leeway for rapid growth and perhaps even collaboration. Time to think.

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

## CAA TURNS BENGAL VOTERS' FOCUS FROM SANDESHKHALI

SHIKHA MUKERJEE

Senior Journalist

bigger battle to capture or retain the hearts and minds of voters across West Bengal. The change is certainly a small relief for Banerjee politically, as she settles down to defend her turf, counter the accusation of being anti-women and anti-people, and challenge the BJP on its performance as a party for the poor.



The Centre's notification of the CAA has changed the political wind in the partitioned state where the question of citizenship remains a lightning rod. The war of central and state guarantees also shows the gaps in services and entitlements left by some of the schemes

The race to capture the public imagination is a competition between the BJP on the one hand and the Congress, regional and smaller parties on the other. The fight is in large part over the fulfillment of the guarantees the Modi regime offered in 2019 and the next round of guarantees he has offered across the country. In West Bengal, the guarantees of the Mamata government to deliver immediate relief and cash transfers to women, school-going students, unemployed young men and women, the sick and the old are part of the safety net she has put in place to mitigate the impact of poverty and access to opportunities.

The guarantee-versus-guarantee fight, between the credibility of guarantor Modi versus other guarantor Banerjee, is a pattern repeated in states where regional parties are in power. It can be argued that this is competitive populism. It can also be ar-

gued that regional parties in power like the Trinamool are compelled to find ways of covering the deficits in terms of services and entitlements left behind by the Centre's policies and welfare programmes.

In recent public rallies, it was inevitable that Banerjee focused on how the Modi government had penalised the poor in West Bengal by withholding, for two years, outstanding payments to 23 lakh people under the national rural employment scheme and release of payouts under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. It was just as predictable that Modi would attack the West Bengal regime for blocking the flow of benefits under the Ujjwala and Ayushman Bharat schemes, and obstructing the development of the state.

There is no doubt that West Bengal is for Modi, as it is for Banerjee, an important theatre of the war for votes in 2024. Quite apart from the obvious opportunity the state offers for the BJP as it scrambles to find almost 70 seats that it must add to fulfill Modi's target of a 370-seat haul, there is also the pain and the humiliation it suffered in 2021 when it made a no-holds-barred pitch to capture the state and install a BJP government.

This much was obvious from Modi's speech in Siliguri, where he declared winning big in West Bengal in the Lok Sabha would be a stepping stone to winning the state in 2026. To get to 2026, the BJP and Modi need to engage with voters across West Bengal and link them to the larger arena of politics across the country, where the idea of double-engine sarkars and vikas have succeeded in various states.

The incompetence of the national political leadership in stitching together a narrative that can include the issues of land grab and the nexus between politics, administration and crime unveiled by the incidents in Sandeshkhali and the snags in unrolling benefits under national schemes is one reason why a plan like 'one nation, one election' seems a bad alternative to a flawed system of multiple elections at different times. The diversity of challenges and the difference in the scales on which solutions need to be found defy the logic of one election.

(Views are personal)

### MAIL BAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

#### Without bias

Ref: General elections to test ECI credibility as a bipartisan body (Mar 18). Election commissioners are appointed to verify the credibility of candidates. They are bound by rules to ensure the smooth functioning of elections. It is the ECI's job to ensure no candidate is trying to use unfair means or spreading fake news to win votes. One hopes they do their job dutifully and without bias. Ravi Nair, Palakkad

#### Model code

It will be a nail-biting electoral battle for a month and a half with seven-phase polls in problematic states like West Bengal. Kharage's fears of Modi's gift of eloquence enticing voters in long spells towards the lotus symbol are to be accepted and cannot be avoided. The CEC must be severe on violators of the model code of conduct and should not be subservient to parties in power and disqualify culprits without fear or favour. Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

#### Tall claims

Ref: Inclusive growth in India key to Viksit Bharat (Mar 18). An exhaustive evaluation about the present state of the Indian economy will show us that even after 75 years since independence, our performance is far from satisfactory. There is no meaning in projecting tall claims that our economy is robust. BV K Thampi, Thiruvananthapuram

#### Condemn attacks

Ref: Int'l students of Guj varsity attacked over prayer row (Mar 18). The violent attack by a mob on some foreign Muslim students inside the Gujarat University hostel in Ahmedabad while they were offering namaz needs to be condemned in unequivocal terms. Attacks on Muslims seem to have become a routine in India ever since the BJP came to power. Hate against them has gone mainstream. R Sivakumar, Chennai

#### Against Constitution

The assault on foreign Muslim students will bring a bad name to the country. This unfortunate incident is against the letter and spirit of our Constitution wherein secular values are enshrined. The authorities should come down heavily against the culprits. NA Joseph, Ettumanoor

#### Religious tolerance

It is a disgrace that those who were praying were attacked. Such atrocities are unheard of from any democratic country. We, being the largest democracy, should be a good example to others regarding religious tolerance. But no meta of the ruling party ever takes a stand condemning such heinous acts. Religious intolerance is not good for any nation. M Haneef, Kottayam



# 'Be ready for a surprise result coming from Bengal'

PM Modi has been making frequent trips to Tamil Nadu as the state is Uttar Pradesh of South, says political strategist Prashant Kishor at Hyderabad Dialogues

**T**HE BJP's target of 400 seats is psychological warfare and the party on its own is highly unlikely to win 370 seats, said ace political strategist **Prashant Kishor**. Speaking at the Hyderabad Dialogues organised by this newspaper, he nevertheless said that the BJP is currently in pole position and predicted that it will outperform better than the Trinamool in West Bengal. Kishor highlighted PM Modi's frequent visits to Tamil Nadu and noted the party will increase its vote share in the southern state. Excerpts:

**PM Modi is on campaign mode. Does the BJP look more set for the race than anyone else in the fray? Do you therefore see 2024 as a foregone conclusion?** I don't think they have done anything that they have not been doing in the last five years. He (PM Narendra Modi) is in campaign mode forever. So to that extent, I don't see this as an aberration. I don't have a crystal ball to make a prediction about who is going to win, but one can make an informed guess. The BJP-led NDA, for sure have a massive advantage over their opponents. Not necessarily because they are early with their campaign, not necessarily because he (Modi) is hugely popular, not only because they have huge electoral muscle.

It is because the Opposition has not been able to put their act together, certainly not well in time to raise a challenge. In a democracy, especially in a country like India, one should never underestimate the size or the opportunity for the Opposition. A majority of Indians are always in opposition. No party gets more than 40% of the vote. It is not a subjective assessment. Just look at data from the last 75 years. Nobody has been able to get 50% or more votes in India. Meaning, whoever went to vote, more than half were not convinced with who you are, your policies, your promises, your ideology. So, the Opposition is never weak in India. When you have close to 700 mil-

lion people still not making ₹100 a day, you must not take the Opposition lightly.

What we are seeing is Opposition parties, or the formation of Opposition parties, could be weak. The Opposition, per se, is not weak in this country. And that is why a leader like Modi perpetually appears to be in campaign mode. If elections were to happen tomorrow, there is no prize for guessing that the BJP-led NDA would have a huge advantage.

**Sitting in the Deccan plateau, how realistic does BJP's Mission South look like?** There's a tendency to say the South is terra incognita for the BJP. But in reality, it is emerging as a force in Telangana with a 14% vote share, making deft moves in Andhra Pradesh, and has run governments in Karnataka. Firstly, in a pan-South sense, what do you think of the typology of the whole region having a reflexive "anti-BJP" politics of seeing them as a "northern" party?

I think it is an oversimplification. I have never subscribed to this idea of North-South from the BJP's politics point of view, because in Karnataka for almost 20 years now, they have been either the ruling party or principal opposition. So this North-South thing does not hold.

What does hold is the whole country, you can make a division — East and South, and West and North. When I say East and South, I start from Bihar. Then I go to Bengal, Odisha and come down to Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. This East and South roughly accounts for 210 seats. For the BJP, even with their 'great performance' in last election in Bengal, Odisha, and in Bihar with 100% strike rate, total count is less than 50 — including 17 in Bihar, and 18 in Bengal. A lot of people think that the BJP has swept Bihar. But the BJP fought only 17 out of 40 seats, and they won 17. In Bengal, they won only 18 seats. Out of these around 210 seats, the BJP's total count is less than 50.

If you are a BJP supporter, you'd like to see whether your



PHOTO CREDIT: LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

graph is increasing in East and South or not. One can safely say that their graph is increasing. It may not immediately translate into a dramatically higher number of seats, but definitely this tally is going to go up. From Bihar, Bengal, Odisha, Andhra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, the total tally of BJP vis-a-vis what they got in 2019 is going to go up. How much... I don't want to make a guess, but it would be up by a few seats at least. What would be important to understand is their vote share will go up dramatically.

I have already said, and I repeat myself, that in Tamil Nadu, I see BJP breaking into double-digit vote share. That would be a massive development politically, like what we have seen in Telangana, 14%.

So in a state like Tamil Nadu, if the BJP breaks into double-digit vote share, even if they get no seats, that would be a moment of significance. In Odisha, they are already number one. In Bengal, again, I don't want to make a prediction, but unlike most people, I'm predicting that the BJP will do better than the TMC in all likelihood. Be ready for a surprise result coming from Bengal in favour of the BJP.

They're increasing seats in all other states, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra. I don't know if they would be able to add seats in Tamil Nadu or Kerala, but

certainly there will be an increase in vote share. So from that point of view, they are the rising political force. It may take five years, it may take 10 years, but they will gain in this area.

They are cognisant of this fact that this is the area where they need to build. They're investing time, energy. Look at the number of visits the PM has made to Tamil Nadu alone in the last five years. Tamil Nadu now ranks third, I believe, only after Gujarat and because of the recent visit to Maharashtra, now Tamil Nadu has gone to number three.

From the opposition point of view, the problem lies in North and West: The remaining 310, 320 seats, where opposition has a strike rate against the BJP in single digits. When I say the opposition, it's not only the Congress, but four parties. The Congress is taking the BJP head on between 220 and 250 seats. In Uttar Pradesh, the SP is taking on the BJP head on in almost 65-70 seats. Then the RJD in Bihar, they are supposed to take on the BJP in 40 seats. And then finally, the NCP in Maharashtra. Until and unless these four parties, the Congress, SP, RJD, NCP, and now Shiv Sena... Unless they get their strike rate against the BJP to at least 25-30%, there is no way you can defeat it at the India level.

But in the same statement is hidden the secret of how you

can defeat the BJP. If you get 50% seats in West and North, then 150 MPs would have won either from a platform opposed to the BJP or neutral to any formation, they come into play. Another 150 non-BJP MPs from East and South, club it with [at least] 100 coming from West and North, and you have a game.

**The PM is making very frequent trips to Tamil Nadu. It could be that he is so confident of the BJP's performance in the North and Gujarat that he can focus on TN, just to increase vote share, which seems to be a certainty. Do you think he sees a collapse of the AIADMK-DMK binary?**

First, the two Dravidian parties which have been in ruling formations in the last 30-40 years, their combined vote share is going down below 70% now. And this has been the case for the last 10-15 years. For the first time, I see it's going below 65% or 60%. That means more than one-third of Tamil voters are looking for some options.

Why would the BJP like to invest so much in Tamil Nadu? It's not because there is a collapse of the DMK or AIADMK, which is not happening by the way. It's simply because, like you cannot dominate the politics of North unless you win UP and Bihar, you cannot dominate the poli-

tics of South until and unless you start being a major force in Andhra and Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu is the UP of south. So Karnataka, they have been winning for 15, 20 years. Still, you are calling them a North party. Karnataka is very much South. It's because in the minds of people, the nerve centre of the South is Tamil Nadu.

So from that point of view, there's a strategic, psychological and political game that a long-term player would like to invest in. And I see the BJP, like any other national party, they are long-term players, so they would invest, even if it means 2% or 4% of incremental vote share. Forget about the seats and all. They have enough seats, but they want to expand. And it also gives them cover in 10 years time. Sooner or later, someday, somebody will defeat them in Bihar or UP. They want a cover. That cover will come only from United Andhra or Tamil Nadu. You can't cover for a possible defeat in UP or Bihar by winning Mizoram or Goa. You have to win a large state somewhere else. That's why they are investing this much.

**How do you see the re-emergence of Congress in Telangana?**

I don't subscribe to this thought process that the Congress was finished in Telangana and all of a sudden they have emerged. Again, when you are looking at data, tell me when the Congress went down below 35% vote share in Telangana ever. It's just that after the victories, most of their MLAs deserted the party and went to the BRS, what used to be the TRS. Even in the last Assembly elections, the Congress did reasonably well. They were the principal opposition.

The Congress was a party with a constant 35% vote share, which refused to go down no matter how hard the BRS tried. So the Congress was not a dead political force, as it is in Tamil Nadu or West Bengal or Bihar or UP, where their vote share has gone down to single digits, 5%, 6%, 7%, over 20-30 years and has not moved to double digits.

**Can BJP emerge as a force in Kerala if either the LDF or the UDF collapses?** Again, the question is based on

the existing political parties or formations. I would look at Kerala as a society. Why the BJP has found it tough to break into Kerala is because of the huge population of Muslims and Christians. Now if the BJP were to break into Kerala — whether it's the LDF or UDF, forget about that — you have to have substantial support coming from Hindus, OBCs and they have tried that strategy when they played this temple issue in a big way last time. But that's not enough. Unless they break into the Christian vote and a substantial segment of Christian society starts accepting the BJP as an acceptable political ally or a platform, they would find it difficult to win Kerala. So their strategy would be to consolidate or be the dominant player among Hindus and isolate Muslims. Till now it has not happened but they are in that direction.

Language is also a major barrier. If you look at this East and South corridor I talked about, what is distinct is the language. So if you are in Bihar, how do you introduce yourself? Okay I'm Indian and I belong to so-and-so caste. I'm UPite or I am from Madhya Pradesh, but there is no sub-regional identity. But if you are a person from Odisha, you'll say I'm Indian, I'm Odia and then the caste or the class becomes the third layer. So Odisha, Kerala, Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, in all these states, the language is one additional barrier which the BJP, or for that matter, any Hindi-speaking party has to overcome in order to become a dominant political force.

**PM Modi is claiming that his party will win 370 to 400 seats. Your take.**

Well, this is part of psychological warfare. Just see how the public narrative has been shifted from whether BJP/NDA is winning or losing versus whether they are going to get 370 or not. So the prime minister making that statement on the floor of Parliament has made people, even those who are skeptics, take notice. The BJP appears to be in pole position, they have a massive lead over the opposition formation. But the BJP on its own, going to 370, meaning additional 70 odd seats for them is highly unlikely.

## EC orders removal of home secys of 6 states, Bengal DGP

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

**T**O ensure fair voting in the upcoming Lok Sabha and assembly polls in a few states, the Election Commission on Monday issued orders for removal of the West Bengal DGP and home secretaries in six states — Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Besides the home secretaries and the DGP, sources said, the EC has also removed the secretaries of the General Administrative Departments of Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

In the order to the chief secretary of West Bengal, the EC said, "Rajiv Kumar, IPS, Director General & Inspector General of Police, West Bengal, be shifted to a non-election-related post with immediate effect and his charge should be given to the next senior officer in the police headquarters till posting of new DG & IG."

The West Bengal government on its part issued an order appointing 1988-cadre IPS officer Vivek Sahay as the DG & IGP of the state, replacing Rajiv Kumar until further order.

The poll watchdog has also taken action to remove Brihanmumbai Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal, along with several additional

**For a level-playing field**

● Besides home secretaries and a DGP, the EC has also ordered removal of secretaries of General Administrative Departments in Mizoram & Himachal Pradesh

● While Bengal carried out the order, Maharashtra failed to comply, after which the EC gave time till evening to report back

commissioners and deputy commissioners, sources said.

The commission had directed all the state governments to transfer officers connected with election-related work, who have completed three years or are in their home districts, soon after the Model Code of Conduct kicked in following announcement of the poll schedule. Maharashtra had not complied with the directions with respect to a few municipal commissioners and some additional and deputy municipal commissioners.

While conveying displeasure to the Maharashtra chief secretary, the commission directed the transfer of BMC and the additional and deputy commissioners with the direction to comply and report back to it by evening.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of Chief Election Commissioner Kumar and Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu on Monday.

## Viksit Bharat message breach of model code, privacy: Cong

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

**D**AYS after the Model Code of Conduct for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections came into force, the Opposition leaders and digital rights activists have flagged WhatsApp messages from the Union government seeking feedback from netizens on its governance initiatives.

As WhatsApp messages on 'Viksit Bharat Sampark' along with a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi started flooding smartphones, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor took to X, accusing the government of blatant misuse of machinery and data to serve the partisan political interests of the BJP. He invited Election Commission's attention to the matter.

In the online letter addressed to "My dear family members," Modi said, "I look forward to your ideas, suggestions and support as we work to fulfil the resolve of building a Viksit Bharat. Our partnership is at the threshold of completing a decade. The trust and support of 140 crore Indians inspires and motivates me."

Tharoor also shared a LinkedIn post by UAE-based consultant Anthony J Permal. "Yesterday, multiple nationalities in the UAE received a 'personal' WhatsApp message from Indian PM Modi, in blatant violation of privacy laws and etiquette. It was received by thousands of non-Indians on their private mobile numbers. How did the BJP and the Indian government get a hold of our numbers? And how can it just blatantly spam non-Indians?" he wrote.



**Left formula**

The CPI has identified one seat each in Manipur, Telangana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Assam and Jharkhand under electoral alliance with the Congress. The party has already announced its candidate for one of the two seats in Manipur. In Telangana, it is seeking Warangal Lok Sabha seat. In Maharashtra, it expects Shirdi constituency, in Punjab Bathinda and in Jharkhand Hazaribagh. As part of the LDF, the CPI got four seats to contest in Kerala — Wayanad, Mavelikkara, Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur.

## CPI zeroes in on 15 seats in 8 states

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

**T**HE CPI has identified at least 15 constituencies in eight states, including Bihar, Assam, Manipur and Jharkhand, where it wants to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections under the pact of Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

CPI general secretary D Raja said that the party might soon announce its nomination for the identified seats subject to its negotiation with INDIA bloc allies, mainly the Congress.

The Left party has identified one seat each in Manipur, Telangana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Assam and Jharkhand under the electoral alliance with the Congress. The CPI has already announced its candidate for one of the two seats in Manipur. It has fielded AITUC state unit general secretary Laishram Sotinkumar Singh in

the Inner Manipur seat.

In Telangana, the party is seeking Warangal Lok Sabha seat. In Maharashtra, it is expecting Shirdi constituency, Bathinda in Punjab and Jharkhand's Hazaribagh.

The party's state leadership in Jharkhand last week announced to go alone and contest in eight seats in the state.

In West Bengal, the CPI is staking claim to three seats, including Ghatal and Medinipur. Raja stated that talks are underway for three constituencies in Bihar too. The probable seats are Banka, Begusarai and Madhubani.

Raja said the party's state leaders are holding talks with allies including Congress, and that he is optimistic about a positive outcome. He added that hopefully the Congress would demonstrate maturity like what Tamil Nadu CM and DMK president MK Stalin showed in

the state while sparing seats for coalition partners.

"Discussions pertaining to the identified seats are being held at state level. In case, something is to be conveyed to the national leadership or my intervention is required, I will talk. Seat-sharing in Tamil Nadu has already been finalised and the CPI will be contesting on two seats in the state. Stalin's seat-sharing arrangement illustrates maturity and understanding of prevailing political situations. The Congress should also be accommodative to each member of the alliance because the target is to defeat the BJP," said Raja.

As part of the Left Democratic Front, the CPI got four seats to contest in Kerala — Wayanad, Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur and Mavelikkara. Congress has announced candidature of Rahul Gandhi from Wayanad constituency.

## Special signals unit to boost Army's tech prowess

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

**T**HE Indian Army has raised an elite technology unit, the Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG) which will undertake research and evaluation of futuristic communication technologies such as AI, 5G, 6G, machine learning and quantum technologies for defence applications.

"The groundbreaking technology-oriented STEAG will bolster our capabilities in the digital domain by imbuing such advancements in technology," the Army said.

It will be the first-of-its kind unit that will be equipped with

the capability to harness niche technology and foster collaboration with the academia and industry.

The Communications is an important component of military operations. In the fast-evolving technologies for the battlefield, the side with better communication technologies and the ability to connect the various constituents for information-sharing

will have an edge. The modern warfare necessitates the induction of new equipment to provide seamless communication support to units and formations during operations. The hi-tech unit will carry out technical scouting, evaluation, development, management of core ICT solutions, and provide user interface support by maintenance and upgrading

contemporary technologies, said the Army.

STEAG will be the nursery for developing tailored technologies spanning the complete spectrum of wired and wireless systems that will "include electronic exchanges, mobile communications, software defined radios, electronic warfare systems, 5G and 6G networks, quantum technologies, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and much more."

In line with the ongoing push towards self reliance, "STEAG will help bridge the divide between the armed forces on the one hand and industry and academia on the other."

**The groundbreaking technology-oriented STEAG will bolster our capabilities in the digital domain by imbuing such advancements in technology**

Indian Army statement





MAHARASHTRA

## Maha dissent as banner of revolt strikes all players

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai



### AJIT PAWAR'S BROTHER SPLITS

In a video that has gone viral on social media, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's younger brother Srinivas Pawar can be heard criticising him for leaving the side of NCP founder Sharad Pawar. Asserting that he was not ready to leave the founder just because he was 83, Srinivas said some of his friends advised him to side with Ajit "as the future lies with him". No one should think someone is weak because they have aged," he said.

THE ruling MahaYuti and the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra are struggling to pacify ticket aspirants who have threatened to revolt against the official candidates.

The BJP appears ill-at-ease at the Madha seat as party cadres are unhappy with the re-nominated and sitting Lok Sabha MP Ranjit Naik Nimbalkar. Discordant voices have appeared over the neglect of party veteran Vijay Singh Mohite Patil.

"In the previous Lok Sabha elections, Mohite Patil was given over one lakh votes from his Akluj constituency alone. If the family refuses to campaign or even remains silent, it will have a huge negative impact on the BJP," said a senior BJP leader. To salvage the situation, BJP minister Girish Mahajan, came as an emissary of Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis to meet Mohite Patil and his supporters in Akluj. "Mohite Patil is a big leader. I will convey this to our top leaders," said Mahajan.

On the other hand, Congress and Shiv Sena (Udhav Thackeray) are facing a tough task to resolve the Sangali Lok Sabha seat dispute. According to Sena leader Sanjay Raut, Kolhapur was the party's seat which it decided to give to Congress. In the bargain, Shiv Sena (UBT) will contest from Sangali. But Congress is adamant, asserting that Sangli has been its traditional seat.

In Baramati, Shiv Sena (Shinde) leader and ex-minister Vijay Shivtare said he would contest as an independent against the Mahayuti's Sunetra Pawar; spouse of deputy CM Ajit Pawar. In Amaravati, the BJP is likely to field sitting LS MP Navneet Rana.



UTTAR PRADESH

## Cracks surface in SP over Cong tieup, ticket to 'outsiders'

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow



### BSP MP SANGEETA JOINS BJP

BSP MP Sangeeta Azad, who represents Uttar Pradesh's Lalgarh seat in the outgoing Lok Sabha, joined the BJP on Monday in the presence of several senior leaders of the ruling party. The Dalit leader was inducted into the BJP by its national general secretary Vinod Tawde, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak and state BJP president Bhupendra Singh. Tawde assured that the BJP will give Azad full opportunity to make her contribution.

AKHILESH Yadav's decision to give party nominations to three "outsiders" in the fifth and latest list of candidates for the Lok Sabha elections has not gone down well with the party rank and file. Many aspiring Samajwadi Party leaders from western UP's Nagina, Meerut and Bhadohi seats feel disappointed.

The party nominees declared in the third round of candidate selection on Friday, especially in a few western UP seats, have fueled discontent. The party preferred Advocate Bhanu Pratap Singh from the Meerut seat and retired additional district judge (Bijnor) Manoj Kumar from Nagina in Bijnor district while sparing the Bhadohi seat for Trinamool Congress, an INDIA ally.

Party insiders say sitting MLA Atul Pradhan of Sardhana in Meerut district was an aspirant for the ticket from Meerut. He was ready to field his wife if the party did not select him. The BJP has been winning from Meerut since 2014, and Rajendra Agarwal has been the MP twice. The BSP was the runner-up in 2014 and 2019.

After the list, Pradhan wrote on X: "The people of Meerut prayed for me. I apologise to you for not getting a chance."

Even the candidature of Manoj Kumar, the party's choice for Nagina Lok Sabha constituency, has also caused some resentment. Manoj Kumar joined the SP only recently. It was speculated that the SP would leave the Nagina constituency, a reserved seat, for Azad Samaj Party chief Chandra Shekhar Azad 'Rayan.' Current party MLA Manoj Kumar Paras was also seeking a ticket from the seat for his wife Neelam. Girish Chandra was the joint SP-BSP candidate for Nagina in 2019.

WEST BENGAL

## Left, Cong talks on to keep BJP, TMC at bay

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A day after Left leaders skipped the Opposition alliance INDIA bloc's rally in Mumbai, leaders of Congress and CPM asserted that the alliance hiccups in Kerala wouldn't cast a shadow on the ongoing seat-sharing talks in West Bengal.

The absence of CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury and CPI leader D Raja sparked buzz about their cooling of relations with the Congress. CPM and CPI were upset that the Congress fielded top guns Rahul Gandhi and KC Venugopal in Wayanad and Alappuzha, respectively, against their candidates. On Sunday, in a massive show of strength, the opposition came together in Mumbai at the concluding rally of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra.

Prominent leaders, including Mallikarjun Kharge, Priyanka Gandhi, NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) president Udhav Thackeray, DMK leader MK Stalin, NC chief Farooq Abdullah, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti and others attended the rally.

However, CPM sources told this newspaper that the differences between the Kerala units of Congress and the CPI will not play a spoilsport in the seat-sharing talks in West Bengal.

Last week, the Left Front announced its list of candidates for 16 out of 42 seats. The leader said the 16 seats were decided strategically, and the talks between leaders of parties are on.

"The CPM is allied with Congress in Tamil Nadu and Bihar. Wherever Congress is in a dominant position, they try to play the big brother," said a CPM leader.

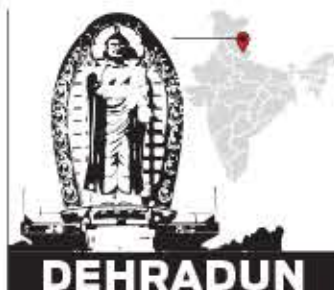
SOUND BYTES

### All-women polling booths

Thane: In Maharashtra's Thane district, which has three Lok Sabha seats, 22 booths will be managed exclusively by women personnel on polling day on May 20, said an official on Monday. Thane collector and district election officer Ashok Shingare said the voting percentage of the district was poor at around 50 per cent (in 2019) as against the national average of 67 per cent.

### Ex-RJD leader joins JD(U)

Patna: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's JD(U) claimed to have received a shot in the arm by inducting Lovely Anand, mother of turncoat RJD MLA Chetan Anand who had crossed over to the NDA during the assembly's budget session last month. She joined the party, along with younger son Anshuman amid speculations that a member of the family may be fielded by the JD(U) from the Sheohar Lok Sabha seat.



## DEHRADUN DIARY

NARENDRA SETHI

Our correspondent in Uttarakhand  
narendrasethi@  
newindianexpress.com

### Pilgrims on Char Dham Yatra to see snow this yr

Pilgrims visiting Badrinath Dham will have the unique opportunity to witness snow up close on the Aastha Path this year. Along the stretch from Hanuman Chatti to Mana, the country's first village, icebergs have formed in four locations, reaching heights of up to 15 to 20 feet. With the herculean efforts of the Border Roads Organization (BRO) using specialized machinery, the Badrinath highway has been cleared all the way to Mana. This marks the first instance in the past three years when such a significant amount of snowfall has been observed. BRO Commander Colonel Ankur Mahajan stated, "Snow has been removed from the Badrinath highway all the way to Mana Village." Such heavy snowfall was seen 2021 last.



### Cong exodus continues during poll season

There is an upheaval within the Uttarakhand Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Numerous leaders have defected to the BJP, while others remain in a state of cautious observation. Amid this political turbulence, the Congress party finds itself grappling with a critical decision — whether they should focus on the election or on their leaders. Adding to the turmoil is a provocative statement made by BJP state president Mahendra Bhatt, who boldly asserts, "In the near future, several prominent Congress leaders are poised to join the BJP." The Garhwal Lok Sabha constituency comprises 14 assembly seats. Historically, the BJP has held all but these seats.

### Dancer Raghav Juyal's journey to stardom

Once an individual is resolute in their pursuit, they persist in their efforts. Raghav Juyal is a name that needs no introduction today, having established himself as a prominent Bollywood dancer, choreographer, and now, an actor. Hailing from a middle-class family in Dehradun, Raghav was born into a household where his father Rajeev Juyal practised law and other family members were predominantly associated with the military and government roles. While Raghav was initially groomed to follow a similar path, his aspirations diverged significantly. Raghav recalls, "From a young age, my passion for acting and dancing was undeniable, leading me to actively participate in numerous competitions."

UTTARAKHAND

## Drones to keep hawk eye on high-altitude terrain

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

DURING the Lok Sabha elections, remote and inaccessible areas of Uttarakhand will be monitored with drone cameras.

Efforts will be made to enhance the communication infrastructure by closely monitoring all activities through drone technology in these shady areas.

State Chief Electoral Officer Dr BVRC Purushottam directed all District Magistrates and SPs during the election-related meeting on Sunday, stating, "Monitoring of check posts in districts adjacent to interstate and international borders should be increased in a more effective manner."

Earlier, during a press briefing, Chief Electoral Officer BVRC Purushottam revealed that Uttarakhand currently has a total of 83.21 million registered voters, marking an increase of 5.56 million voters compared to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections when the state had 77.65 million registered voters. This figure comprises 43.08 million male voters, 40.12 million female voters, and 1.45 million young voters, along with over 79,900 voters with physical disabilities, more than 6,500 voters aged over 85, and 297 voters identifying as transgender. The state currently houses 11,729 polling stations to facilitate the voting process.



MANIPUR

## EC: Displaced people can vote if they return to state

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

UNLIKE in the past, people, displaced by the ethnic violence in Manipur and taking shelter in other states, will not be able to vote in the Lok Sabha elections unless they return to their state. Manipur's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Pradeep Kumar Jha said there is no voting arrangement for people, who left the state.

On March 16, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had said the displaced people in Manipur would vote from relief camps.

"We have drawn a scheme which we have notified. The scheme allows voters in the camps to vote from their respective camps," Kumar had stated. The Manipur CEO told this newspaper the scheme is limited to Manipur's territorial jurisdiction. "The scheme is for the internally displaced persons. We know that about 60,000 people from across communities are staying in the relief camps in 10 districts. Regarding people in Mizoram, nobody has approached us," Jha said. "We are setting up special polling stations (in relief camps). But they will have to apply," the CEO said. As per the scheme, the internally displaced persons will be considered as ordinary residents of the place where they have been displaced from and treated as electors of the original place.



MADHYA PRADESH

## 11-yr-old's piggy bank & pool money from women

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

FORMER Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and BJP candidate for the Vidisha Lok Sabha seat, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, received memorable financial support from a little girl in Bhopal and women in his home district Sehore to contest the upcoming general elections as the ruling BJP candidate.

In the state capital Bhopal, an 11-year-old girl named Ashi Agrawal met the former CM on Monday morning and presented her piggy bank as a token of financial support for his candidacy in Vidisha. An elderly woman also approached Chouhan with an envelope containing money as a gesture of public support for his election campaign.

The outpouring of support from women wasn't limited to Bhopal; it grew larger in his home district Sehore as he hit the campaign trail later on Monday. Upon reaching the Ichhawar assembly segment of his home district Sehore, the ex-CM, popularly known among girls and women as Mama (maternal uncle) and Bhaiya (brother), received gifts of savings totalling around ₹50,000 from local women as a sign of popular support for his electoral campaign. "My sisters handed me money, stating it was their support for their brother to fight polls. I am overwhelmed by their love," he said.



## Court summons Rahul in 2018 Shah defamation case

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

DAYS after the Jharkhand High Court dismissed the petition filed by former Congress President Rahul Gandhi for quashing the proceedings in the trial court in connection with a criminal defamation suit filed against him for calling the then BJP President Amit Shah a "murder accused," the MP-MLA Court in Chaibasa has ordered him to appear before it physically on March 27.

Earlier, Gandhi had filed a petition seeking exemption from physical appearance against the February 27 order passed by the MP-MLA Court

in Chaibasa which was turned down by the court on March 14. The court upholding its earlier order, asked him to appear physically on March 27.

Rahul Gandhi had made a statement on March 18, 2018 in the AICC Plenary Sessions in New Delhi stating that, "The people will accept a lying BJP leadership drunk with power because they know that, what the Bhartiya Janata Party is designed for".

Further, he went on saying that, "They will accept a man accused of murder as the President of BJP, but the people will never accept the same in the Congress Party."



## Under-construction 'illegal' building collapses in Kolkata, 9 killed & 15 hurt

PRANAB MONDAL & SULANGA SENGUPTA @ Kolkata

A five-storey under-construction building, said to be an illegal structure, collapsed in the wee hours of Monday in the adjoining tiled-roof shanties in Garden Reach area, leaving nine persons, including two women, dead and at least 15 seriously injured.

CM Mamata Banerjee visited the spot with bandage on her head as she was treated after a fall at her house on March 14.

"Sad to learn about the house collapse disaster of an under-construction building in the Garden Reach area of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. Our Mayor, Fire Minister, Secretar-



ies and Commissioner of Police, civic, police, fire and disaster management officers and teams have been on site throughout the night to mitigate the disaster. We shall provide compensation for the next of kin of the deceased and for the injured," Mamata said on her X handle.

The promoter, Mohammad Waser, of the under-construction building has been arrested on charges of murder and attempt to murder. The BJP, however, demanded arrest of local TMC councillor Shams Iqbal for his role in the alleged illegal construction housing 16 flats.

## Racket in relief for 'dead' workers unearthed in MP

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

COPS in Jabalpur of Madhya Pradesh have busted an alleged inter-state racket which showed living labourers as dead through fake death certificates to siphon monetary benefits under the government's social security scheme for labourers.

Three men identified as Sheikh Shahzad (34), Aqib Rafiq (26) and Salman alias Mohd Saddam Sheikh (27) — all residents of Jabalpur — have been arrested so far. Probe has revealed the possibility of over ₹1 crore having been siphoned by the alleged fraudsters through at least 40 fake death certificates.

According to the Jabalpur district Police Superintendent Aditya Pratap Singh, recently a middle-aged woman labourer Syeda Rizwana who resides in Jabalpur, complained to the police that the owner of a kiosk who made her worker/job card for being registered with local municipal body, had later showed her as dead in records and siphoned money worth over ₹2 crore. The Madhya Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board gives ₹6,000 for funeral arrangements and ₹2 lakh as aid to the family in natural death and ₹4 lakh work related accidental death.







6 persons of a family, including two children, killed after the roof of their room collapsed in northwest Pakistan on Monday

GLOBAL  
WEATHER

Beijing	16	-1	SNY	Los Angeles	24	13	SNY
Colombo	31	24	SNY	Melbourne	30	13	TDS
Dhaka	33	22	LR	Moscow	4	-5	WI
Dubai	35	22	SNY	New York	9	6	SNY
Houston	19	12	SNY	Singapore	33	25	TDS
Istanbul	15	8	SNY	Toronto	4	0	SN
London	15	10	LC	Washington	12	5	SNY

newindianexpress.com

CHENNAI

TUESDAY 19.03.2024

# PUTIN EXTENDS RULE IN PREORDAINED RUSSIAN ELECTION

Nearly 76 million cast their ballots for Putin, his highest vote tally ever; friends and allies quick to congratulate him but Western leaders dismiss his victory

## MOSCOW



China and Russia are each other's largest neighbours and comprehensive strategic cooperative partners in the new era. The result fully reflects the support of the Russian people

Xi Jinping, China president

Our older brother Vladimir Putin has triumphed, which bodes well for the world

Nicolas Maduro, Venezuela president

The official result is a credible indication that the Russian population supports (Putin's) management of the country

Miguel Diaz-Canel, Cuba president

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin sealed his control over Russia for six more years on Monday with a highly orchestrated landslide in an election that followed the harshest crackdown on the opposition and free speech since Soviet times.

While the result was never in doubt, Russians attempted to defy the inevitable outcome, heeding a call to protest Putin's repression at home and his war in Ukraine by showing up at polling stations at noon on Sunday. But, it was clear Putin would extend his nearly quarter-century rule with a fifth term.

With nearly all the precincts counted on Monday, election officials said Putin had secured a record number of votes 'an unsurprising development underlining the Russian leader's total

control of the country's political system.

Putin has led Russia as president or prime minister since December 1999, a tenure marked by international military aggression and an increasing intolerance for dissent. At the end of his fifth term, Putin would be the longest-serving Russian leader since Catherine the Great, who ruled during the 18th century.

As early results came in, Putin hailed them as an indication of 'trust' and 'hope' in him 'while critics saw them as another reflection of the preordained nature of the election. "Of course, we have lots of tasks ahead. But I want to make it clear for everyone: When we were consolidated, no one has ever managed to fright-

## SHELLING KILLS TWO IN RUSSIAN BORDER REGION

MOSCOW: Ukrainian shelling killed two people near Russia's border city of Belgorod on Monday, bringing the total number of dead in the region since last week to 13, authorities said. Attacks on Russian territory intensified in the run up to weekend elections that extended President Vladimir Putin's rule into the 2030s. "After air defences repelled an air attack by the Ukrainian army, two people were killed and four injured in the village of Nikolskoye," Belgorod governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said. "A 17-year-old and a man died of their wounds on the spot before the ambulance arrived. Our rescuers pulled a little girl from under the rubble of the same house," he said. AFP



en us, to suppress our will and our self-conscience. They failed in the past and they will fail in the future," he said at a meeting with his campaign staff after polls closed.

Any public criticism of Putin or his war in Ukraine has been stifled. Independent media have been crippled. His fiercest political foe, Alexei Navalny, died in an Arctic prison last month, and other critics are either in jail or in

exile. Russia's Central Election Commission said Monday that with nearly 100% of precincts counted, Putin got 87% of the vote. Central Election Commission chief Ella Pamfilova said that nearly 76 million voters cast their ballots for Putin, his highest vote tally ever.

Western leaders denounced the election as a sham, while President Volodymyr Zelenskyy particularly criticised voting in Ukrainian areas that Russia has illegally annexed, saying 'everything Russia does on the occupied territory of Ukraine is a crime'. Meanwhile, Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un quickly congratulated Putin, along with some Central and South American leaders and presidents of nations that have historic and close current ties to Russia, such as Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. AP



Everyone in the world understands that this person, like many others throughout history, has become sick with power and will stop at nothing to rule forever.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine prez

Russians have been denied a real choice after all candidates opposed to the war in Ukraine were excluded. The vote was based on repression and intimidation

European Union

Putin removes his political opponents, controls the media and then crowns himself the winner. This is not democracy

David Cameron, UK foreign minister

## Famine imminent in north Gaza, says UN report

### ROME

HALF of Gazans are experiencing "catastrophic" hunger, with famine projected to hit the territory's north by May without urgent intervention, a UN-backed food security assessment said Monday.

"To have 50% of an entire population in catastrophic, near famine levels, is unprecedented," Beth Bechdol, said the deputy director-general of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It amounts to around 1.1 million people experiencing "catastrophic food insecurity" due to the Israel-Hamas war, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) partnership said in its report.

The IPC hunger monitoring system, carried out by the United Nations and aid agencies, rates hunger levels from one to five and is used by the UN or governments in deciding whether or not to declare a famine. The situation in the north of Gaza is particularly dire, and aid agencies have reported difficulty accessing the area to distribute food.

"Famine is imminent in the northern governorates and projected to occur anytime between mid-March and May 2024," the IPC report said. "All evidence points towards a major acceleration of deaths and malnutrition. Waiting for a retrospective famine classification before acting is indefensible," it said.

Gazans were "turning to alternative sources" for food, including animal feed and "inedible items, purely out of desperation", she said. Donors have turned



Boys sit with empty pots as displaced Palestinians queue for meals provided by a charity organisation ahead of the fast-breaking 'iftar' meal during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in Rafah, Gaza Strip | AFP

to deliveries by air or sea, but air and sea missions are no alternative to land deliveries, UN agencies say.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said meeting basic food needs would require at least 300 trucks to enter Gaza every day and distribute food, especially in the north. The agency has only managed to get nine convoys into the north since the start of the year, it said.

The latest of these, on Sunday night, involved 18 truckloads of food supplies delivered to Gaza City.

The Rome-based agency said it needed Israel to "provide more entry points into Gaza" and allow use of the Ashdod port to bring in food aid. Arif Husain, WFP's chief economist, said, "Our hope is we can still avert a full-fledged famine." "But the window is shutting and it is shutting very, very fast." AFP

## Israel launches another raid on Gaza hosp

### RAFAH

ISRAELI forces launched another raid on the Gaza Strip's largest hospital on Monday, saying Hamas militants had regrouped there and fired on them from inside the compound, where Palestinian officials say tens of thousands of people have been sheltering.

The army last raided Shifa Hospital in November after claiming that Hamas maintained an elaborate command centre within and beneath the facility. The military revealed a tunnel leading to some underground rooms, as well as weapons it said were found inside the hospital. But the evidence fell short of the earlier claims, and critics accused the army of recklessly endangering the lives of civilians.

People sheltering in the hospital said

Israeli forces backed by tanks and artillery had surrounded the medical complex and that snipers were shooting at people inside. They said the army raided a number of buildings and detained dozens of people.

"We're trapped inside," said Abdel-Hady Sayed, who has been sheltering in the medical facility for over three months. "They fire at anything moving. Doctors and ambulances can't move." Gaza's Health Ministry said the Israeli army was directing gun and missile fire at a building used for specialised surgeries. It said a fire broke out at the hospital's gate.

The ministry said around 30,000 people were sheltering at the hospital, including patients, medical staff and people who have fled their homes seeking safety. AP

"Harrington Chambers", Block No. C, No. 30/1A, Abdul Razack 1st Street, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015. Ph: 044-42010374



## POSSESSION NOTICE

REF/LA/511700001517 - Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD under the Securitization 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 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 25.09.2023 calling upon the borrower Mr. Rajabaskar to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.1,00,71,376.45/- (RUPEES ONE CRORE SEVENTY ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY SIX AND PAISA FORTY FIVE ONLY) together with future interest at the contractual rate with monthly rests with effect from 26.09.2023 within 60 days from the date of the 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 of Mr. Rajabaskar, described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on 14.03.2024. The borrower 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 LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD for an amount of Rs.1,00,71,376.45/- (RUPEES ONE CRORE SEVENTY ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY SIX AND PAISA FORTY FIVE ONLY) with future interest thereon at the contractual rate in monthly rests with effect from 26.09.2023.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY - SCHEDULE

ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEING HOUSE, GROUND AND PREMISES BEARING DOOR NO. 53 (PART), SUBSEQUENT SEPARATE DOOR NO.41, PRESENT NEW DOOR NO.111, JANI JAHAN KHAN ROAD, ROYAPETTAH, CHENNAI - 600 014, COMPRISED IN OS No. 758, 759 & 777, R.S No. 1109, AS PER PATTA R.S. No. 1109/1, BLOCK NO.24, C.A. No. 942/2011 DATED 22-08-2011, MEASURING TO AN EXTENT OF 657.71 SQUARE FEET, TOGETHER WITH SUPERSTRUCTURE AND BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY: DOOR NO.40, PRESENT DOOR NO.109, JANI JAHAN KHAN ROAD, SOUTH BY: DOOR NO.42, PRESENT DOOR NO.113, JANI JAHAN KHAN ROAD, EAST BY: DOOR NO.42, PRESENT DOOR NO.113, JANI JAHAN KHAN ROAD & WEST BY: JANI JAHAN KHAN ROAD. MEASURING: NORTHERN SIDE: 55 FEET, SOUTHERN SIDE: 55 FEET, EASTERN SIDE: 10 FEET 11 INCHES & WESTERN SIDE: 13 FEET, LYING WITHIN THE REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF CHENNAI CENTRAL AND SUB REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF TRIPLIKANE.

Date: 19.03.2024

Place: Chennai

Authorized Officer,  
LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

## SHIRIRAM SHIRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

THIRUMULLAIVOYAL BRANCH: No.66, M.M Complex, 1st Floor, CTH Road, Indian Bank (Opp.), Thirumullaivoyal, Chennai - 600 062. Ph: 044-4286 8447

## POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the Shiriram Finance Limited 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 28.12.2023 calling upon the Borrowers, their Legal heirs and Guarantors (i) M/s.K.G.R. Trading Private Limited, (ii) Mrs. Banumathi, (iii) Mr. G. Lakshminarayana (iv) Mrs. Santhalakshmi (v) Mr. A. Lakshminathan, (vi) Mr. A. Lakshminathan to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.99,72,896/- (Rupees Ninety Nine Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Six Only) as on 19.11.2021 with further interest and incidental expenses, as stated above in terms of this notice u/s 13(2) of the act within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers and Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

The Borrower/Guarantors 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 Shiriram Finance Limited for an amount of Rs.2,23,67,547/- (Rupees Two Crore Twenty Three Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Seven Only) as on 13.03.2024.

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

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Property belongs to Mr. Lakshminarayana, Mr. Lakshminathan & Mr. Lakshminathan (Sale Deed Document No. 2882/2014) All that piece and parcel of Land along with Building, comprised in as per patna No.250, Punjab Survey No.81/2A2, measuring total Extent of 0.14 Acres or 35 Cents, situated at No.67, Nembiakuram Village, Thiruvallur Taluk & District, within the Sub Registration District of Thiruvallur and Registration District of Kanchipuram, Bounded on the; North by - Ramamorthy Naidu Land, South by - Church, East by - Govinda Naidu Land, West by - Road.

Date: 14.03.2024

Place: Chennai

Authorized Officer  
Shriram Finance Limited

WALAJAPET BRANCH  
18 Trunk Road, Walajapet, Pin-632513  
Email ID: walajapet@indianbank.co.in  
Phone No: 04172-232549

## 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 Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Walajapet Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 30.03.2024, for recovery of Rs. 2,16,20,017/- (Rupees Two Crores Sixteen Lacs Twenty Thousand and Seventeen only) (as on 12.03.2024) dues to the Indian Bank, Walajapet Branch, Secured Creditor, from

- M/S. Sam Leathers, Proprietor: Mr. S Immanuel  
No: 711/1-A, MBT Road Cross, Walaja Taluk, Ranipet-632001.  
... Borrower
- MR. S Immanuel, No: 174, Kamarajar Street, Bellipappa Nagar, Walaja, Ranipet-632001.  
... Borrower & Mortgagor
- MRS. I Asha Devi, W/o Mr. S Immanuel, No: 174, Kamarajar Street, Bellipappa Nagar, Walaja, Ranipet-632001.  
... Guarantor

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

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

All the part and parcel of factory land and building in Dry S.No.71/1A, T.S.No.155, Old Thiruthani road in Vannivedu village, Walaja Taluk, Ranipet District to an extent of 1.02 acres or 44472 sq.ft owned by Mr.S.Immanuel vide Sale deed Doc.No.465/2005 dated 04.02.2005 within the Walajapet Sub-Registration District / Arakonam Registration District, Ranipet District. Boundaries: North by Land owned by KAS Tanners, South by Land owned by Obaidullah, East by Land owned by S. Immanuel, West by Government Channel

Encumbrances on property	Nil
Reserve Price	Rs.194.00 Lakhs
EMD Amount	Rs.19.40 Lakhs
Bid incremental amount	Rs.100000/-
Date and time of e-auction	30.03.2024 & 11.00 AM to 03.00 PM
Property ID No.	ID18524901590

Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstccommerce.com) of our e auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDISK No. 093-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact ibapi@mstccommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapi@mstccommerce.com.

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://ibapi.in and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number '18001025026' and '011-41106131'.

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

Date: 12.03.2024

Place: Walajapet

Authorized Officer  
Indian Bank

## BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II AT CHENNAI

(6th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 006)

## O.A.No.471 of 2023

M/s.HDFC BANK LTD. Represented by its Legal Manager, Having Office at "Retail Asset Division" No.110, Cerebros Building, 4th Floor, Nelson Manickam Road, Aminjikarai, Chennai 600 029.

## Applicant

- Mr. Varun Marla Proprietor of M/s. Autocrank, S/o Kodanor Hariharas Marla, Old No. 3, New No. 171, Nehru Nagar, 1st Main Road, Old Mahabaliapuram Road, Kottivakkam, Chennai - 600041. Also At, F-176, 4th Street, Anna Nagar East, Chennai-600102.
- M/s. Autocrank Rep by its Proprietor Mr. Varun Marla, Old No. 3 New No. 171, Nehru Nagar, 1st Main Road, Old Mahabaliapuram Road, Kottivakkam, Chennai - 600041.

## Defendants

Please take notice that the above O.A.No.471 of 2023 has been filed against the Defendants for recovery of a sum of Rs.21,14,706.15 (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Six and Fifteen Paise Only) together with interest and costs.

When the above case came up on 27.02.2024 before the Learned Registrar, DRT -II, Chennai, directed paper publication against you and posted the matter to 01.04.2024

Please be present in person or through an Advocate on 01.04.2024 before the Learned Registrar, DRT -II, Chennai at 11 a.m. at 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600006 failing which the matter will be heard and determined in your absence.

M/s.D. Sathiyaraj, S. Sheik Ismail, T. Anu Priya, R. Sathiyaraj & B. Jeevitha Advocates New No. 14, Old No. 11/1, PAN Rajarathnam 4th Lane, G.A. Road, Old Washermenpet, Chennai-600 021. Counsels for the Applicant

## MAHATRANSCO

Digitally signed online bids are invited through SRM E-tender process of MSETCL in two bid system from bidders who are registered Electrical Vendors/Contractors of MSETCL for following SRM E-tender;

RFX No.	E-Tender No.	Particulars	Estimated Cost	EMD	Tender Fees
7000030993	T- 51/ 2023-24	Work of replacement of existing 0.2 ACSR & 0.4 ACSR conductor along with hardware by High Performance Conductor (HPC) of 132kV Akole-Kombhaine line for RE power evacuation under Green Energy Corridor (GEC) under Nashik Zone.	1562.74 Lakhs	Rs. 15,62,742.56/-	Rs. 25,000/- + GST

Sale period: 16.03.2024 to 30.03.2024, Last Date of Submission: 30.03.2024 up to 13:00 Hrs, Date of opening (Tech. bid): 01.04.2024 at 12:00 Hrs (if possible). Contact person: Executive Engineer, EHV PC O&M Zone, Nashik, Phone No. 0253-240301/02/07 Fax No. 0253-2403000. For further details please visit to https://srmetender.mahatransco.in

Chief Engineer, EHV PC (O&M), Zone, MSETCL, Nashik

## BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Corporate Office: Cerebrum IT Park B2 Building, 5th Floor, Kalyani Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra - 411014 Branch Office: Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd., Ground Floor Chateaud Ampa No. 37 Nelson Manickam Road Chennai 600029. Authorized Officer's Details: Rathish Ramchandran, Email ID: Rathish.ramchandran@bajajfinserv.in, Mob No. 9940286237/ 9940155459 / 98669189048

## PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (Act)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general that the below mentioned Borrower/co-borrower mortgaged the immovable property which is described hereunder to Bajaj Housing Finance Limited (BHFL) and the possession of the said immovable property (Secured asset/property) has been taken over by the Authorized Officer in accordance of the SARFAESI Act 2002 and rules there to. The secured asset will be sold through public auction by bidding for realization of the loan dues, applicable interest, charges and costs etc., payable to BHFL as detailed below. The secured asset is being sold on 20/04/2024 and the bidding will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHAT-EVER THERE IS" AND "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" under the rule number 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (hereinafter referred to as the rules), and on the terms and conditions specified here-under:

Loan account details/Borrower/s & Guarantor's Name & Address	1. Date & Time of E-Auction	2. Last Date of Submission of EMD, 3. Date & Time of the Property Inspection	1. Reserve Price	2. EMD of the Property	3. Bid Increment
LAN: 4037SHB21595 - 1.Rajivgandhi D (Borrower), 2. Geetha S K (Co-Borrower) Both At 102 Sare Homes F2 Flr, Sowbhaya Nagar Thirupurur, Fish Market Kanchipuram -603110 Total Outstanding: Rs.54,36,079/- (Rupees Fifty Four Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand and Seventy Nine Only) Along with future interest and charges accrued w.e.f 15/03/2024	1. E-Auction Date:- 20/04/2024 Between 11:00 Am To 12:00 Pm With Unlimited Extension of 5 Minutes. 2. Last Date of Submission Of Emd With Kyc Is :- 19/04/2024 Up To 5:30 PM (IST). 3. Date of Inspection :- 20/03/2024 To 18/04/2024 Between 11:00 Am To 4:00 Pm (IST).	1. Reserve Price is fixed for Immovable property: Rs. 30,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Only) 2. EMD: Rs. 3,00,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Only) 10% of Reserve Price. 3. Bid Increment: Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only) & In Such Multiples			

Description of the Immovable Property: All that part and parcel of the non-agriculture property comprised in and bearing: - Schedule A, All that piece and parcel of Vacant Land measuring 8 Grounds 1082 sq.ft., comprised in T.S.No.12, R.S.No.20/1, Block No.6, of Sembam Village at Door No.40-A, Madhavaram High Road, Sembam, Chennai - 600011 Bounded on the North by: Ponnuswamy and Krishnaveni Arumalai Land, South by: Meghanathan Land, East by: Channel and Land, West by: Madhavaram High Road, Schedule B: 553 Square Feet Undivided share Land and 825 Sq.ft., building in the Third Floor, Anand Flat, Flat No.63, Door No.40A, Madhavaram High Road, Chennai - 600011 with amenities in the Schedule A property above mentioned property.

## Terms and Conditions of the Public Auction are as under:

• "Public Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" and is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to Bajaj Housing Finance Limited. • The secured asset will not be sold below the Reserve price. • The Auction Sale will be online through e-auction portal. • The e-Auction will take place through portal https://bajajfinauctions.in, on 20th Apr, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM to onwards with unlimited auto extension of 5 minutes each. • For detailed terms and conditions please refer company website URL https://www.bajajhousingfinance.in/auction-notices or https://bajajfinauctions.in for any clarification please connect with Authorized officer.

Date: 19-March-2024, Place: Chennai Authorized Officer (Rathish Ramchandran) Bajaj Housing Finance Limited





# Tata Sons to sell ₹9K cr TCS shares

2.34 crore shares of the IT company to be put on sale at ₹4,001/share through block deal

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

TATA SONS is planning to sell 2.34 crore shares through block deals in its most valuable listed company -- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

The number of shares put on sale translates to 0.64% of the IT behemoth's total outstanding equity and this exercise is expected to raise funds worth more than ₹9,000 crore for the promoter company Tata Sons.

The offer price for the block deal is kept at ₹4,001 per share, a 3.45% discount compared to Monday's closing price for TCS. Shares of TCS ended 1.78% lower to close at ₹4,144 on the NSE and the second most valuable listed company in India had a market capitalisation of ₹15 lakh crore.

According to the shareholding pattern at the end of the December quarter, promoter entities held a 72.41% stake in TCS in which Tata Sons held a 72.38% stake while the rest was held by Tata Investment Corpo-



**TCS share closes 1.78% lower to end at ₹4,144**

The offer price for the block deal is kept at ₹4,001 per share, a 3.45% discount compared to Monday's closing price for Tata Consultancy Services. Shares of TCS ended 1.78% lower to close at ₹4,144 on the NSE and the second most valuable listed company in India had a market capitalisation of ₹15 lakh crore

ration. The stake sale by the promoter of India's largest conglomerate is seen as part of an exercise by them to avoid launching an IPO. Tata Sons is registered as a Core Investment Company (CIC) and is categorised as a non-banking finance company upper layer (NBFC-UL) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). According to current norms, all such firms have to become publicly traded company on stock exchanges by September 2025. The existing RBI rule notes if a CIC has assets worth less than ₹100 crore

and does not raise public funds, it can avoid being classified as a CIC or an 'upper layer' NBFC. In this case, they aren't required to go for a public listing. According to reports, Tata Sons may bring down its debt or transfer it to Tata Capital (another NBFC-UL) to delay its listing.

At the end of FY23, Tata Sons had a borrowing of about Rs 20,000 crore while its assets were more than ₹100 crore. Its holding in listed Tata companies is pegged at ₹16 lakh crore. Equity Research

firm Spark Capital recently pegged ₹7.8 lakh crore valuation for Tata Sons. Tata Trusts holds a 66% stake in Tata Sons, while Pallonji Mistry group has about an 18.4% stake.

Shares of the company have gained about 32% in the last one year and most analysts are bullish on the stock. The country's largest software service provider reported a 2% year-on-year (YoY) growth in consolidated net profit for the quarter to ₹11,058 crore, and revenue increased by 4% to ₹60,583 crore.

# Murthy gifts ₹240 cr Infosys shares to infant grandson

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

INFOSYS founder NR Narayana Murthy has gifted 15 lakh shares or 0.04% stake worth more than ₹240 crore in the IT company to his four-month-old grandson Eka-grah Rohan Murthy.

According to the regulatory filings, the Infosys founder has gifted these shares in an off-market transaction on March 15. Following the share transfer, Murthy's holding in Infosys fell to 0.36% from 0.40%. Infosys shares on Monday closed at ₹1,602.30 apiece on the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Eka-grah is the third grandchild of Narayana Murthy and Sudha Murthy. They have two other grandchildren Krishna and Anoushka, daughters of Akshata Murthy and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

Rohan Murthy and his wife Aparna Krishnan announced



the arrival of their baby boy in November last year. Sudha Murthy who recently took oath as Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament, holds 0.83% stake worth about ₹5,600 crore in Infosys. She holds about 3.45 crore shares as of December 31, 2023. While their daughter holds 0.94% stake, Rohan Murthy holds 1.47% stake in the IT company.

Sudha Murthy gave her husband ₹10,000 as seed capital to start the company. Murthy

founded Infosys in 1981. From a capital of \$250, it has grown to become a \$18.55 billion company. At the end of FY23, the company's total headcount stood at 3,43,234.

In January this year, Infosys was recognised as the top 3 IT services brand globally and the fastest growing IT services brand over a five-year period, according to Brand Finance. Infosys brand value has more than doubled in the last 5 years, and at over \$14 billion in 2024, Infosys is ranked as No 145 most valuable brand in the world.

Recently, Narayana Murthy's request to youngsters over the 70-hour work week sparked a debate. He had said, "My request is that our youngsters must say, 'this is my country, I want to work 70 hours a week.'" He stressed that if the country wants to make significant progress, then the youth would have to work hard.

# 'eRupee to take 4-5 years for gaining popularity among common people'

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

IT will take nearly four to five years to make central bank digital currency or eRupee popular among common people, according to banking sources.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had initiated a pilot of the retail CBDC in December 2022, reaching the goal of 10 lakh transactions daily by December 2023. Recently, the RBI announced that Digital rupee users will soon be able to conduct transactions in regions with restricted internet access. "RBI is going slow for the full scale implementation of CBDC as it entails a lot of safety, integrity and efficiency," a top banking official said. He also added that there is no urgency for CBDC as payments are happening smoothly via UPI, net banking and other mode of payments.

Meanwhile, as per sources, banking officials are divided over relevance of CBDC, as in the current scenario most payments are taking place via UPI and net banking.

"The main purpose behind introducing eRupee was to curtail cryptocurrency. The government has succeeded in achieving that target. Online transactions are already happening via net banking, UPI and other online modes, so there is no relevance of CBDC," a top official further.

Recently, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman underscored the perils linked to unregulated cryptocurrencies. She said the threats of illicit activities like terror funding and drug financing arising from lack of consistent regulations globally.

Another banking official, however, said CBDCs can be used in capital account and large scale commercial transactions as there are limitations in net banking and UPI while executing them. "Net banking and UPI have their own limitations. In addition, several other issues like financing of terror activities and counterfeiting of currencies can be sorted with the launch of CBDCs," said another official.

# SC rejects industry bodies' plea against electoral bond verdict

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court has refused to admit a plea by three industry bodies against the disclosure of unique alphanumeric code assigned to electoral bonds. Declining to admit the plea, the court said the industry bodies approached it after the judgement was delivered.

The disclosure of unique alphanumeric code would help determine which company donated how much to which political party via electoral bonds. The industry bodies -- Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), FICCI and Assocham -- had moved SC against its judgement, where it had asked the State Bank of India (SBI) to disclose the unique codes assigned to the bonds. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi appeared for all three business chambers.

In a statement FICCI said that ease of doing business is a key element of India's competitiveness globally, and retrospective actions lead to reduction of business confidence for Indian and global investors.

The industry bodies had made the submission that the SC judgement declaring electoral bonds unconstitutional, and details of the electoral bonds be made public should have been done prospectively



**'Retro actions lead to reduction of biz confidence'**

In a statement Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) said ease of doing business is a key element of India's competitiveness globally, and retrospective actions lead to reduction of business confidence for Indian and global investors

and not retrospectively.

The details of the bonds made public by the SBI -- the bank which sold the electoral bonds -- show that BJP received about ₹6,000 crore out of nearly ₹12,000 crore donations made through purchase of electoral bonds. The top three donors include TN-based Future Gaming and Hotel Services Private Ltd, followed by Hyderabad-based Megha Industries and Qwik Supply Chain Pvt Ltd. However, in absence of the disclosure of unique codes, it is difficult to ascertain which company made the donation to which political

party. Meanwhile, some experts have backed SC diktat ordering complete transparency in electoral bonds. Without transparency, the electoral bonds are as good as cash payments, says a former ICAI president, who has headed many government panels on corporate governance.

"The disclosures have unveiled cases of quid pro quo, and this is a serious matter of extortion. There have been cases where government incentives have been released only after donations have been made to the ruling parties," said the person mentioned earlier.

# Bought bonds in personal capacity: Biocon Chairperson

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

BIOCON executive chairperson Kiran Mazumdar Shaw on Monday clarified Biocon didn't make any political donation to any party for elections and that at a personal level she purchased electoral bonds that she donated to Janata Dal (Secular) and several parties.

In 2018, the JD(S) secured ₹50 lakh from Biocon. On Sunday, the Election Commission of India in its new documents disclosed that the Biocon group donated ₹1 crore again in 2019.

Soon Biocon executive chairperson posted on X, "At a personal level I purchased electoral bonds which I donated to JD(S) & several parties. My donations were nominal on the principle of funding election campaigns with white money."

"I want to make it clear what I do personally has no connection with my company," she said, adding, "It was my personal money in my account." Recently, when a user on X alleged the head of the Bengaluru-based biopharmaceutical company had donated ₹5 crore every month before the Karnataka assembly election, she replied saying, "That's incorrect. PI do the math." When a user asked, "What was asked in return for it?" She replied saying, "Nothing-I did it of my own free will."

She also replied saying, "Have you followed BPAC? (Bangalore Political Action Committee) Don't make such allegations. I have never ever made any contributions for favours. It's very sad to see such comments." The party had also secured ₹1 crore from Infosys Technologies in 2018.

## RESHUFFLE

## Rane Group Chairman to step down

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

CHENNAI-BASED auto component manufacturing Rane Group has a change of leadership with its long-time Chairman L Ganesh retiring from March 31.

He will step down from the operating entities of Rane Group, but will serve as a non-executive director on these entities and continue as Chairman and MD of Rane Holdings Limited. Ganesh has served as the Chairman of the group since November 2006. He saw the group's rise from Rs 1,050 crores to about Rs 7,200 crores and export sales share jumping to 24% from 12%.

Harish Lakshman will take over as Chairman of Rane Group from April 1st. He holds bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from BITS, Pilani, and Management degree from Purdue University. He joined ZF Rane Automotive India, earlier Rane TRW Steering Systems in 1998.

He held positions of increasing responsibilities in the areas of Marketing and Operations and became Managing Director in 2008. Harish was involved in the corporate management of Rane Group from 2012 and became its Vice Chairman in 2017. Lakshman said Ganesh's leadership drove the group to scale new heights and become a trusted supplier of safety critical components globally.

# Coal stocks at comfortable level to meet peak summer demand, says official

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THE country's coal stocks are at comfortable levels to meet the demand during the peak summer season, said a senior official from the coal ministry. The official highlighted that the current stock at 143.59 MT (million tonne) as of March 16, 2024, is significantly higher than the 109.24 MT recorded last year for the same period.

Stock at pitheads managed by Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is 82.56 MT. Additionally, the National Power Portal reports that coal stocks at power plants with capacities exceeding 189 GW stood at 45.48 MT as of March 16. Stocks at captive and commercial mines are 10.26 MT, with an additional 5.29 MT stored at PW/GSS/Ports. "We are in a very comfortable position in terms of



coal stock in the country," the official affirmed. "Even though power demand is likely to increase, our production and coal stock are sufficient to meet the demand," said the official.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a hot summer, with above-normal temperatures and an above-normal number of heatwave days from March to May due to El Nino conditions. This is expected to significantly increase power demand this summer, requiring more coal as 70% of India's power still comes from

coal-fired plants.

This year power demand is expected to grow at 6-7% year-over-year due to rising consumption from industries and households. The peak power demand in this financial year was 241 GW in September 2023, and the ministry expects it to grow at 7% annually to 260 GW in FY25. To address this anticipated rise, power ministry on March 4 advised thermal power plants (TPPs) to continue importing coal for blending at 6% till June 2024 to maintain ample stocks at plant end.

# Airlines in expansion spree to cater to summer demand

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

PREPARING for the upcoming summer season when demand for air travel remains elevated level, Indian carriers are adding new flights, connecting new sectors and aggressively expanding their fleet size.

Air India Express, the low-cost carrier (LCC) arm of Air India Group, is ramping up its operations to offer more than 360 daily departures, connecting to new business and leisure destinations.

Compared to last year's summer schedule, Air India Express is growing its network by more than 25% in the domestic market and over 20% in international flights. This translates to an additional 55 domestic flights and 19 international flights, bringing the total to 259

domestic and 109 international departures. In 2024, the summer schedule will start from March 31 and end on October 26. Air India Express will increase its frequencies to international destinations such as Abu Dhabi, Dammam, Jeddah, and Sharjah.

Last week, SpiceJet said that it has finalised lease agreements for 10 aircraft to enhance capacity and connectivity for passengers during peak travel seasons.

IndiGo, India's largest airline, is on an expansion spree. IndiGo will commence direct flights between Mumbai and Colombo three times a week, starting from April 12, 2024. IndiGo has also announced a direct flight between Bengaluru and Agatti starting from March 31, improving air connectivity to Lakshadweep.

# Star Health plans insurance offerings targeting NRIs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

STAR Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited plans to offer international insurance products in the upcoming 2024-25 financial year (FY25). It has been granted registration by IFSCA to establish an IFSC International Office (IIO) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).

The company, in a statement, said it plans to commence its operations with a branch in GIFT City by the end of March 2024. This move will help Star Health Insurance to tap into the international market by providing health insurance solutions in US dollars for the non-resident Indians.

The company will offer non-resident Indian (NRI) focused insurance, it said. Star Health Insurance will also be able to attract foreign inward business as a reinsurer. It also plans to provide insurance for Indians going abroad and India's international student community. It plans to launch its international insurance product suite in a phased manner in 2025 financial year (FY25).

Anand Roy, MD and CEO of Star Health Insurance, said, "This is a pivotal step in our expansion strategy, extending our reach beyond Indian borders and providing seamless access to health insurance offerings for non-resident Indians (NRIs) and the global Indian diaspora."

sample set companies) in FY25 to remain tepid at 3-5% for the second consecutive year, given persistent macro-economic headwinds in key markets of the US and Europe, resulting in lower discretionary IT spends by corporates. The impact is broad-based across all key sectors serviced by the industry."

However, banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) and telecom segments have contracted over others. None-

theless, critical spending and cost optimisation deals continue to gain traction, supporting growth prospects for IT services firms to some extent, he added.

In 9M FY24, in US\$ terms, ICRA's sample set companies recorded a modest year-over-year (YoY) growth of about 2.0% in revenues, against 9.2% in FY23. In terms of geography-wise trends, growth in the US saw a sharp moderation com-



# 'IT hiring to remain muted in near term, to see gradual pick-up'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

HIRING activity in the IT industry has been muted over the past five quarters due to subdued demand prospects and ICRA expects it to remain muted in the near term with gradual pick-up until the growth momentum improves.

Deepak Jotwani, assistant vice-President & sector head, ICRA, said, "Attrition levels are expected to stabilise over the

near term, inching closer to the long-term average of 12-13%, as overall slowdown in growth momentum and strong hiring in the previous fiscal has corrected the demand-supply mismatch witnessed earlier."

It forecasts the revenue growth of the Indian IT services industry to improve mildly from 2% in 9M FY24, but remain modest at 3-5% in FY25.

Jotwani added that ICRA expects revenue growth (for its





Professional boxing legend Floyd Mayweather Jr on Monday said he is eager to participate in an exhibition fight in India this year and the possibility of an opponent from the host nation cannot be ruled out. "It's possible. I look forward to having an exhibition over here in 2024. We are looking for a solid name as a solid opponent," Mayweather said.

# Post IOA order, WFI primed to regain full control of the sport

Indian Olympic Association instructs body to name "Safeguarding Committee" to address concerns of sexual harassment & conduct Athletes' Commission polls

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

DISSOLUTION of the three-member ad-hoc committee by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Monday came as a shot in the arm for the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) with the Paris Olympics only four months ago. It gives the federation freedom to take full control of the sport for the first time since the country's top wrestlers staged a massive protest against former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in January 2023.

The IOA, through its order, stated the decision was taken in line with the move made by the United World Wrestling (UWW), the world governing body, last

month wherein it lifted the suspension of the national federation. "I thank IOA for coming up with the order with the Olympics round the corner," Sanjay Kumar Singh, WFI president, told this daily.

Sanjay Singh said the WFI has already written to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to organise national camps for the Asian Championships and Asian Olympic Games Qualifier scheduled in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan next month. "The medalists from the selection trials held jointly by the WFI and ad-hoc panel will be asked to join the camp. As was decided by the ad-hoc body, men will camp in Sonapat while the women will be held in Patiala. Not many

days are left for the Olympics, so the focus will be to give our wrestlers the best possible preparations. If they want foreign exposure trips ahead of the qualifier, then it will also be arranged in coordination with the government," he added.

Notably, multiple World Championships medalist Vinesh Phogat, who was the face of the protest against Brij Bhushan, had won 50kg trials and secured bronze in 63kg making her eligible for the camp. Tokyo Olympic medalist Bajrang Punia, another prominent face of the protest, however, lost the 65kg trials. The duo, along with the Rio Olympic bronze medalist Sakshi Malik, has also been protesting against the election



Sanjay Kumar Singh

of Sanjay Singh as the WFI chief, labelling him as the close associate of Brij Bhushan.

**Athletes' Commission poll**

The IOA, in the order, also directed the WFI to conduct elections of the Athletes' Commission. "However, as instructed by the UWW, it is imperative that the WFI appoint a Safeguarding Committee/Officer at the earli-

est to address the concerns of abuse and harassment and to ensure adherence to all rules, regulations and guidelines set forth by the elections of the Athletes' Commission in a time-bound manner, in accordance with the established procedures and guidelines. This step is essential to promote athlete representation and participation in the decision-making processes of the WFI," read the order.

Speaking on the directive, Sanjay Singh said the elections will be held next month during the Federation Cup. It is learnt that the tournament is scheduled in Chhattisgarh. "The federation will request all senior wrestlers to remain present so that they can elect members of

the Athletes' Commission among themselves," a source told this daily.

## Loan repayment

The IOA also asked the WFI to repay the loan provided to the ad-hoc committee for managing the federation's affairs. The panel remained at the helm twice before and after the WFI election. A three-member committee was formed on December 27 last year by the IOA after the sports ministry said the newly-elected WFI had flouted the norms. Incidentally, the sports ministry, which had instructed IOA to constitute the panel, has not commented on the recent move so far. The election was held under the supervision of

returning officer, MM Kumar, retired Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir High Court. It is learnt that the WFI was asked in the past to pay for service rendered by the returning officer and his assistant.

## Court hearing

Meanwhile, a hearing is also scheduled in the Delhi High Court on April 26 on a writ petition filed by Bajrang, Vinesh, Sakshi and her husband Satyawart Kadian challenging the WFI election. It was only after a hearing on the petition on March 7 that the WFI withdrew its circular to host the selection trials and decided to hold it jointly with the panel.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

## KNOW YOUR TEAMS

**2023 finish**  
4<sup>th</sup>

**Key players:** Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, SKY, Rohit Sharma

**AUCTION PERFORMANCE:** Even before the start of the auction, Mumbai brought in Gujarat Titans captain Hardik Pandya, who will lead the side for this season, and let go of all-rounder Cameron Green to Royal Challengers Bangalore. With their acquisition of Mohammad Nabi and Gerald Coetzee, MI's bowling only looks stronger.

**STRENGTH:** With the return of Jasprit Bumrah, who missed the 2023 season due to a back injury, Coetzee and Sri Lanka's Dilshan Madushanka, MI have one of the strongest pace units in the tournament. In captain Pandya, Rohit Sharma, Surya Kumar Yadav (still recovering from injury), and Nehal Wadhwa the five-time champions have a strong Indian batting core as well.

**POINTS TO PONDER:** Even when they made it to the qualifiers last year, MI's spinners did not have the best season in 2023. The inclusion of Nabi has been positive, but the side would hope the other spinners can step up. Many personnel changes have happened behind the scenes leading up to the season and the quicker they come together as a squad, the better it is for them.

**First phase schedule**

- Mar 24 - vs GT, Ahmedabad
- Mar 27 - vs SRH, Hyderabad
- Apr 1 - vs RR, Mumbai
- Apr 7 - vs DC, Mumbai

With the 2024 Indian Premier League beginning on Friday, a look at some of the teams and how they shape up for the this year's tournament...

## ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE

**Key players:** Virat Kohli, Faf du Plessis, Mohammed Siraj, Glenn Maxwell

**AUCTION PERFORMANCE:** RCB got Green in the package from MI before the auction and almost spent their entire auction purse on Pat Cummins. Lucky for them, they didn't end up with some domestic talent like Mayank Agar and Yash Dayal. The addition of Lockie Ferguson will bolster their pace battery.

**STRENGTH:** Du Plessis and Kohli will once again hold the key. In the bowling department, Siraj will be the core around which everyone else operates. Then, there is Maxwell, the OG T20 player. They have the experienced stars on paper, but it all will come down to how they can carry the team through the season.

**POINTS TO PONDER:** As always, their bowling is the concern, which looks a bit weaker than last year. In Karn Sharma and Dagar, RCB do have quality spinners, but Will Jacks and Maxwell would need to do a lot of heavy lifting with the ball if the Indian spinners don't turn up. How much of an impact their bowling attack can make consistently will be crucial for their chances.

**First phase schedule**

- Mar 22 - vs CSK, Chennai
- Mar 25 - vs PK, Bengaluru
- Mar 29 - vs KKR, Bengaluru
- Apr 2 - vs LSG, Bengaluru
- Apr 6 - vs RR, Jaipur

**2023 finish**  
6<sup>th</sup>

**Virat Kohli**

## KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

**Key players:** Rinku Singh, Mitchell Starc, Shreyas Iyer, Andre Russell

**AUCTION PERFORMANCE:** The biggest signing of the auction was of course Australian pacer Mitchell Starc, for 24.75 crore, who will be coming back to the league after nine years. Along with the left arm quick, KKR signed Chetan Sakaria and Rameshwarthi Singh to bolster their bowling unit. Mujeeb Ur Rahman's addition will only enrich their arsenal.

**STRENGTH:** In Rinku Singh, KKR have a solid homegrown talent who can tear up bowling attacks. Captain Shreyas Iyer, Venkatesh Iyer and Nitish Rana form a reliable Indian core. Russell is still one of the most feared big-hitters. Then there is the return of Gautam Gambhir, who helped the franchise win their first title in 2012, as mentor.

**POINTS TO PONDER:** Although Rana led the side in the previous season, KKR missed Shreyas' presence with the bat and as a captain. Although the skipper has joined the team, he is not entirely fit and has been advised to be cautious with respect to his workload. While the spin department looks settled, there is still a huge reliance on Starc with pace. That could potentially hurt the balance.

**First phase schedule**

- Mar 23 - vs SRH, Kolkata
- Mar 29 - vs RCB, Bengaluru
- Apr 3 - vs DC, Vizag

**2023 finish**  
7<sup>th</sup>

**Shreyas Iyer**

# Sai Kishore looks to carry forward Ranji success into IPL season

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @Chennai

GUJARAT Titans, who were the runners-up in the last edition of the Indian Premier League, are gearing up for the new season under their new captain Shubman Gill. Gill will be leading this edition as the change was necessitated due to the trade of Hardik Pandya to Mumbai Indians. Nevertheless, Gujarat are a strong unit and are still one of the teams that can challenge some of the revamped sides like Chennai Super Kings, Mumbai and Sunrisers Hyderabad.

R Sai Kishore, who led Tamil Nadu to the semifinals of the Ranji Trophy, is in red hot form having taken more than 50 wickets in the Indian marquee domestic tournament. IPL team combination dynamics is such that Sai Kishore could get to play a bigger role for Gujarat this time around. The simple reason being that the four foreign player rule would enable the likes of Kane Williamson, Rashid Khan, David Miller and Spencer Johnson to walk into the playing XI. A place for an Indian spinner is in the offing. Yes, some may argue the case of Noor Ahmad, but the fact that Sai Kishore is also a good batter could favour the Chennai-based player.

"We are having a good time at the camp. All of us are working in a relaxed manner and at the same time focusing on our job," Sai Kishore told this daily.

Gill will be slightly under pressure as people are bound to compare him with Pandya. However, Sai Kishore backs the composed nature of Gill to come in handy. "Gill works in a relaxed manner and knows his job well. He is friendly with all the players and interacts well with them. He understands each and every player's ability and knows how to use them," insisted the Tamil Nadu captain. "Hardik led well last season for us. This year he moved to Mumbai. In professional sport, one needs to adapt and move on. We have got in our team a few players who have been captains before. So there are no worries, plus one needs to understand that in a tournament of this size (IPL) both international and Indian players

need to mix and play. It is a team sport and as a team we will give our best," he added.

Personally, Sai Kishore has been in the best form of his life as one saw him bowl his heart out in the Ranji Trophy. "I have been working hard for the last three months. I had a fairly good Ranji season. I am also keen to do well in the IPL and most importantly, I always look to improve and be a better cricketer whatever be the format," said Sai Kishore. "From red ball to white ball, it is comparatively easy. Having played Ranji Trophy, I am in sync with the game and it will be easy to move to white-ball cricket. Comparatively white to red-ball is tough at times. I am bowling well, the ball is coming out nicely at the moment," he insisted.

The lanky Tamil Nadu spinner is once again looking forward to bowling with Rashid. The Afghan all-rounder with his unique style and variations has captured the imagination of fans world over. "He (Rashid) is a very different type of bowler. His spirit and body language is something we need to learn. He is a fearless character and I'm also fearless, so I am looking forward to an opportunity to bowl with him," observed Sai Kishore.

The likes of Williamson, Miller, Gill, B Sai Sudharsan, Abhinav Manohar, Shubman Khan, Vijay Shankar and Rahul Tewatia have it in them to win a match of their own. Williamson's presence will add calmness at the top of the order. "Sai Sudharsan gave a good account of himself last season in the IPL. This time too we expect him to do well. He is a talented and hard working boy. I am sure he has it in him to do well this season too," he added.

Ashish Nehra, coach of the Gujarat team has played a big role in putting the new entrant into the league on track. His passion and hard work has borne fruit for the team. "Nehra is a very nice human being. He is very honest and never speaks behind your back. This honesty motivates the players to take his observations, suggestions and incorporate it into their game and play to their optimum level," signed off Sai Kishore.



## EXPRESS READ

### Miami Open: Nagal in 2nd qualifying round

MIAMI: India's top tennis player Sumit Nagal advanced to the second qualifying round of the Miami Open on Monday. Going up against the unseeded Canadian, Gabriel Diallo, the Indian, seeded 16th in the qualifiers, went through 7-6(3), 6-2. Nagal is only a round away from the advancing to the main draw. He had reached the main draw at Indian Wells too, before going down to Milos Raonic, another Canadian, in straight sets (3-6, 3-6).

### Akhil, Anish win gold at Polish Grand Prix

NEW DELHI: Paris Olympics quota winners Akhil Sheoran and Anish Bhanuwal won a gold medal each at India ended their Polish Grand Prix campaign with six medals. Sheoran won gold in the men's 50m rifle 3-positions Match 2 with a record score of 468.4. Patrik Jany was 2.2 points behind at second spot. Wrocław and Dolnośląskie. Both the scores were higher than the existing world record of 466.1, held by Jiri Privratsky.

# Rohit's hand will be on my shoulder through the season: MI captain Hardik

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

IN what was his first media interaction since being ruled out of the ODI World Cup last year, Hardik Pandya, the newly appointed Mumbai Indians captain, reaffirmed that his predecessor Rohit Sharma's hand will be on his shoulders through the upcoming IPL season.

Sharma, who had been MI captain since 2013, was removed from the position after MI brought back Pandya from Gujarat Titans in an all-cash deal. Pandya was named the captain of the five-time champions shortly after. It also put a cloud over who will lead the country in the shortest format, especially with the World Cup around.

Pandya had captained India in T20Is since the 2022 T20 World Cup, but Sharma had made a comeback in the format earlier in January. Ahead of Rajkot Test against England, BCCI secretary Jay Shah cleared the air and announced that Sharma will lead the country in the upcoming global event scheduled



to be played in United States and West Indies immediately after the IPL. This, once again, set off rumors about a rift between the two senior India cricketers.

On Monday, in the pre-tourna-

ment press conference, Pandya said that he expects the dressing room environment to remain the same. "It will not be any different, he will always be there to help me. You mentioned that he is the captain of the Indian team, which helps me because this team, what it has achieved, it has achieved under him," he told the media in Mumbai on Monday. "...from now onwards, it is (about) what he has achieved, I just have to carry forward that. I don't think it will be any awkward or any different. I have played my whole career under him and he is going to have his hand on my shoulder throughout the season," Pandya added.

When asked if he has spoken with Sharma, Pandya said, "Yes and no," before adding, "We are professionals, by the time the team comes together...we have been playing cricket...it has only been a couple of months that we have not seen each other. Whenever the IPL starts, which is from today since we have the

practice game, once he comes, we will definitely have a chat." Sharma joined the camp in the team hotel later in the evening.

While the 30-year-old admitted and acknowledged the backlash and reactions from the fans, Pandya said he wants to focus on the job at hand. "The backlash... To be very honest we respect fans but at the same time, we focus on the sport and what is required. I focus on the controllables and I do not focus on what I cannot control. At the same time, we are very grateful to fans. A lot of fame and love comes from them and they have every right and I respect their opinion," he said.

The 30-year-old all-rounder said that he is keen to feature in all the games and will look to roll his arm as well. "I have no issues with my body. I plan to play all the games. Technically, I was out for three months. It was a freak injury and it had nothing to do with my earlier injuries. I tried to stop the ball and ended up getting injured," he said.



# BFI accepts high-performance director Dunne's resignation

ENS/AGENCIES @New Delhi

THE Boxing Federation of India (BFI), on Monday, announced that it has accepted the resignation of high-performance director Bernard Dunne. The Indian team will continue to train under the guidance of Dmitriy Dmitruk.

The decision was taken during BFI's way forward meeting, which was chaired by the BFI President Ajay Singh and attended by Secretary General Hemanta Kumar Kalita, Treasurer Digvijay Singh, Vice President

Rajesh Bhandari and Chairman of BFI's Disciplinary & Dispute Commission DP Bhatt. "Bernard Dunne was an integral part of BFI's set-up but unfortunately we have to mutually part ways. His resignation was accepted by the committee. During his tenure, the Indian boxers have achieved multiple milestones. We express our sincere gratitude for his dedication, hard work and contributions and we wish him best of luck for his future endeavours," commented BFI President Ajay Singh.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

STARTING the season on a positive, IDEMITSU Honda Racing India team riders Kevin Quintal and Mohsin P completed round 1 of the 2024 Asia Road Racing Championship with valuable points for the team. Quintal finished race 2 of the Asia Production 250cc (AP250cc) class of ARRC in the top 15.

## Selvan, Reddy shine

A Tamil Selvan's century off 68 balls helped Velammal Interna-

tional beat Nathella Vidhyodaya in the Thiruvallur DCA U-16 Inter Schools Knockout Tournament. **Brief scores:** Velammal International (Panchetti) 275/3 in 30 ovs (A Tamil Selvan 103 no) bt Nathella Vidhyodaya 31 in 12 ovs (Sanath Reddy 6/7), Ebenezer MHSS (Korattur) 269/2 in 30 ovs (R. T. Vetrivelvan 102 no) bt Velammal Vidyalaya (Alapakam) 78 in 19.3 ovs (M Yashwanth 30, G. Prem Rathinavel 3/5), Velammal New Gen (Machavaram) 93/10 in 28.2 ovs (G. Rubesh 51, S. Karthikeyan 3/10) lost to Velammal Bodhi Campus (Ponner) 94/6 in 17.2 ovs (PR Hantharan 3/22), Ebenezer MHSS (Pudur) 152/5 in 30 ovs lost to SBOA (Anna Nagar West Extn)



A Tamil Selvan of Velammal International School, Panchetti

155/2 in 16.2 ovs (C. Laksh 70 no).

## Naveen advances

Jabez Naveen Kumar (TRDBSA) defeated Capt Seran (TN) 3-1 in the first round of the Towers Club-All Indian Open snooker tournament. **Results: Qualifying Round 1:** Jabez Naveen Kumar (TRDBSA) bt Capt Seran (TN) 41-50, 68-29, 67-28, 46-26; Syed Skikender (QBC) bt Padmanaban (Towers Club) 77-22, 79-11, 66-19; Nareesh Kumar (TN) bt S Shivalakumar (TN) 49-60, 47-07, 53-03, 47-14; Ganesh (MUC) bt Abhinav (AACSA) 58-34, 49-16, 18-55, 60-21; Arshad (ATN) bt Manoj Chakko (TN) 62-29, 49-34, 60-23.

# Indian Wells: Alcaraz, Swiatek secure titles

AGENCIES @Indian Wells

CARLOS Alcaraz arrived at Indian Wells full of doubt about his twisted right ankle. He's leaving as a two-time champion. He defeated Daniil Medvedev 7-6(5), 6-1 for the second straight year in the Indian Wells final on Sunday.

Iga Swiatek beat Maria Sakkarri 6-4, 6-0 in just over an hour to win the women's title, with Swiatek losing just 21 games in six matches during the 12-day tournament 'an average of 3.5 games per match.





KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @New Delhi

**R**AMESH Kumar, 30, has a family history of colon cancer as he had lost his father to it. So, when Rakesh had recurrent constipation followed by loose stools, his world crashed when a growth was detected and a biopsy confirmed cancer. After undergoing surgery, followed by radiation and then chemotherapy, he is cancer-free today. But he never thought, even in his wildest dreams, that he would get colon cancer at this young age – even though he had a family history – as it is said to predominantly affect older individuals, with the majority of cases occurring in people aged 50 and above. But it is not so anymore.

"Lately, colon cancer incidence and death rates have fallen for individuals older than 50 years with an increase in screening tests like colonoscopy. However, the opposite is true for individuals younger than 50," said Dr Pragya Shukla, head of oncology at Delhi State Cancer Institute (DSCI).

Highlighting the fact that colon cancer cases in India are seeing a sudden rise, Dr Amanjeet Singh, director and head of colorectal surgery, gastro-intestinal (GI) surgery, GI oncology and bariatric surgery, gastrosciences, Medanta, said although colorectal cancer has long been associated with older age groups, there is a concerning trend emerging in India as an increasing number of cases being diagnosed among younger individuals, including Millennial and Gen Z.

"We are seeing more and more young people below 40 years in our hospital, and the concerning part is that they are being detected at the end stage of cancer. Some of these cases also include young teens below 20 years of age," he said. "This shift in demographics underscores the complex interplay of genetic predisposition and environmental factors contributing to the development of colorectal cancer," he added. He said that there are various reasons for this rise – one is Covid-19, which hindered people from visiting hospitals to get themselves screened on time for colon cancer, while the other is lifestyle changes and genetic predispositions.

According to Globocan 2020, colon cancer – a type of cancer that starts in the large intestine (colon) or rectum – is ranked fourth in incidence and fifth in mortality in the world. In India, colon cancer, also known as colorectal cancer, ranks thirteenth in incidence as well as mortality. Colon cancer typically begins as small, noncancerous clumps of cells called polyps, which eventually develop into cancer if not detected and removed early.

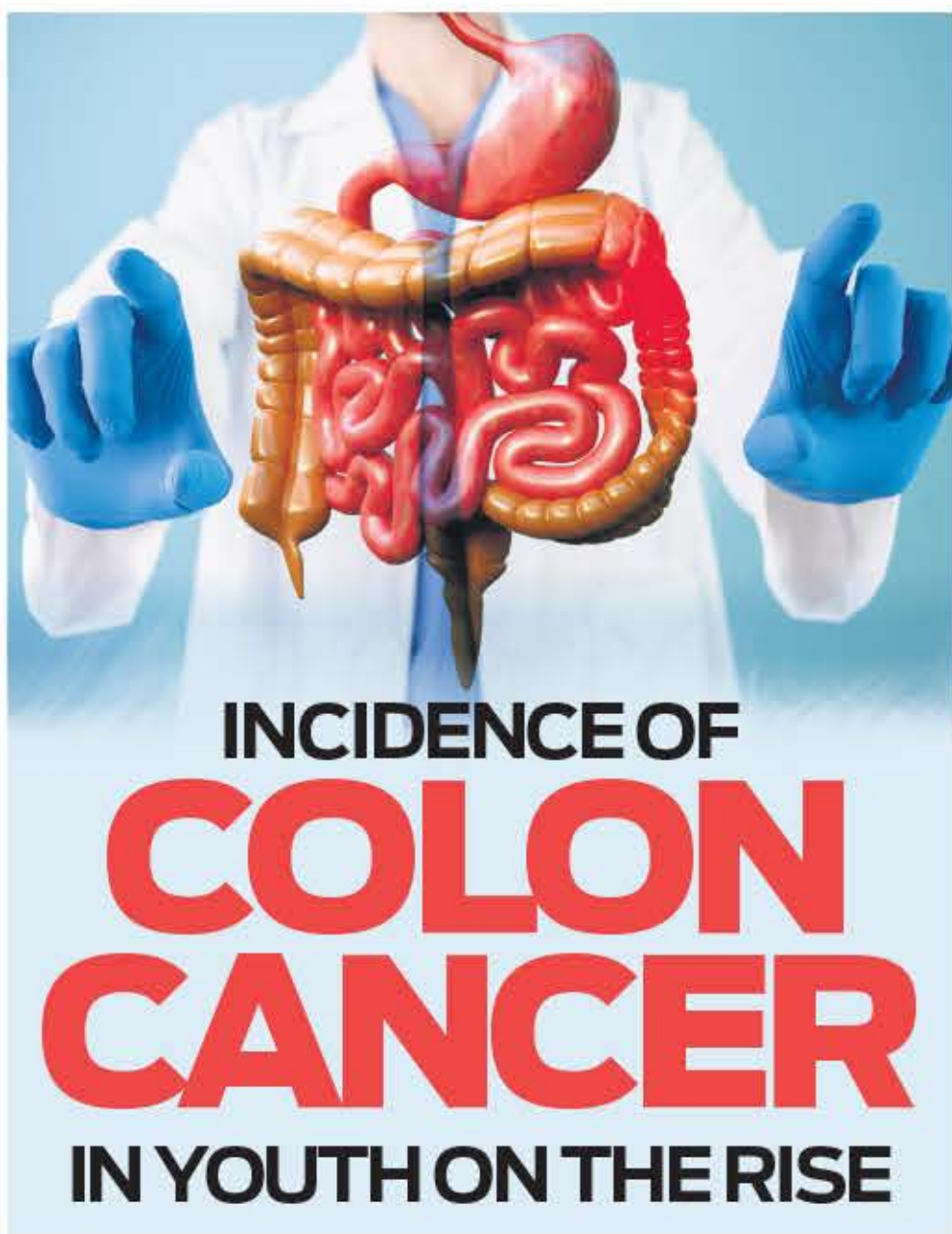
Stressing that, unlike western countries, Indians get colorectal cancer at a younger age, Dr Sandeep Nayak P, director, department of surgical oncology and robotic and laparoscopic surgery, Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru, said several factors may increase one's risk of colon cancer. Apart from age, personal and family history of colorectal cancer or polyps, other reasons include inflammatory intestinal conditions, inherited syndromes that increase colon cancer risk, red meat, sedentary lifestyle, diabetes, obesity, smoking, alcohol and radiation therapy for cancer.

"Colon cancer is more likely to go undetected as the condition typically has no symptoms, if at all, in its early stages," said Dr Arun Kumar Giri, director of surgical oncology, Aakash Healthcare, New Delhi.

"When they do appear, symptoms vary in different individuals depending on the location in the intestine and size of the tumour. Weakness or fatigue, anaemia, unexplained weight loss along with changes in your bowel habits, abdominal discomfort and blood in your stool or from the rectum are some of the common symptoms of cancer of the colon. If any of the symptoms persist, it's time to see a doctor," he said.

Dr Shukla said that individuals with any of the colorectal cancer risk factors should start screening at an earlier age. Colon cancer treatment and even its detection have seen significant advancements in India.

Dr Vidyachandra Gandhi, consultant, gastrointestinal and HPB surgeon, Manipal Hospital, Kharadi, Pune, said surgery – open,



## RISK FACTORS

- Family history of colorectal cancer
- Genetic conditions such as lynch syndrome and familial adenomatous polyposis
- Age
- Personal history
- Lifestyle factors such as a diet high in processed meats and low in fruits and vegetables, sedentary behaviour, obesity, smoking and excessive alcohol consumption

## SYMPTOMS

- Changes in bowel habits, such as constipation, diarrhoea or stool narrowing
- Blood on the stool, either dark and tar-like or bright red
- Bloating, cramping or pain in the abdomen
- Abrupt, unexplained weight loss
- Iron deficiency anaemia from chronic bleeding, which causes weakness, fatigue and paleness

laparoscopic, or Robotic – is the most common modality employed in treating colon cancer as it is effective in curing the disease at an early stage. "Surgical removal involves complete removal of the tumour and a healthy margin of the intestine and surrounding lymph nodes. Most of the rectal cancers would need chemotherapy and radiation before the surgery," he said.

Even if cancer has spread to a part of the liver, the tumour, along with part of the liver,

can be treated with surgery.

"There are other options to treat colorectal liver metastasis, like radiofrequency ablation, transarterial chemoembolisation and trans arterial radioembolisation," Dr Gandhi added. Dr Nayak said that one of the most notable advancements is using minimally invasive techniques such as laparoscopic and robotic surgery. These techniques are less traumatic to the patients and more acceptable to them. "In the hands of expert cancer surgeons, the disease clearance is better than conventional open surgery. For cancers that are in the rectum, the use of robotic surgery has made a lot of difference in the outcome for the patient," he said.

Dr Singh also said that this approach has become increasingly popular due to its ability to provide precise and effective tumour removal while minimising the impact on surrounding healthy tissue.

The introduction of precision radiation technology, such as CyberKnife, has also revolutionised radiation therapy by delivering targeted radiation directly to the tumour, minimising side effects and improving treatment outcomes. Advancements in colonoscopy techniques, including narrow-band imaging, have enhanced early detection capabilities, allowing for the identification and removal of precancerous polyps before they progress to cancer.

"These developments represent significant progress in the management of colorectal cancer in India, offering patients access to state-of-the-art treatment modalities and improving overall prognosis," said Dr Singh.

Noting that as almost 25-30% of colon cancers are being diagnosed in people under 50 years of age, Dr Giri said the best way to prevent it is with lifestyle and dietary changes by reducing intake of fatty and processed food. "A healthy lifestyle can go a long way to reduce the risk of colon cancer. Making small changes in your day-to-day life can work wonders to keep you healthy and free from cancer,"

# Vaccinate kids to lower risk of respiratory infections

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

**A**S the prevalence of common respiratory issues in children is on the rise, experts are emphasising the importance of preventive measures and advanced treatments. The most common respiratory diseases affecting children include asthma, characterised by symptoms like wheezing, shortness of breath, and chest tightness, often accompanied by fever if triggered by an infection. "A child's vulnerability to respiratory illnesses is influenced by genetics and environmental exposures. A family history of conditions like asthma increases risk, while exposure to tobacco smoke, air pollution, allergens, and indoor mould can irritate and inflame young lungs. Premature birth and low birth weight are also significant risk factors due to underdeveloped lungs and weaker immune systems, respectively," Dr Narayanaswamy, paediatrician and founder of Athreya Hospital in Bengaluru said.

## Symptoms of respiratory illnesses

- Bronchiolitis, prevalent in infants, presents with symptoms such as wheezing, coughing, rapid and difficult breathing
- Pneumonia manifests with symptoms like fever with chills, cough, rapid breathing, chest pain and fatigue
- Croup typically involves a barking cough, hoarseness, and difficulty breathing
- Flu exhibits sudden onset of fever or chills, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches, headaches, and possibly vomiting and diarrhoea in some children
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infection, common in infants and young children, shares symptoms akin to a cold.

As a preventive measure, children should be vaccinated as a primary defence. "Vaccines, including those for influenza, measles, whooping cough, and pneumococcal infections, significantly lower the risk of contracting these diseases," Dr Narayanaswamy said.

Highlighting the latest strides in diagnosing and managing childhood respiratory illnesses, Dr Ilin Kinimi, consultant, paediatric pulmonology and sleep medicine at Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, Bengaluru, said, "In asthma management, emphasis lies on education, environmental modifications, personalised action plans and pharmacological interventions to optimise control and minimise exacerbations. Collaborative efforts with allergists and immunologists are pivotal for pinpointing triggers and administering targeted therapies like allergy im-



munotherapy or biologics." Innovations in devices such as inhalers and nebulisers are making them more child-friendly and efficient in drug delivery, bolstering adherence to long-term medications. Pulmonary function tests and employing techniques like forced oscillation techniques and impulse oscillometry furnish critical insights into lung capacity and airway resistance, particularly advantageous for younger patients.

"Advanced imaging modalities like high-resolution computed tomography and MRI enhance diagnostic accuracy and precision for interventional procedures by detecting structural abnormalities and assessing lung development," Dr Ilin added.

Dr Ilin said that endobronchial interventions and minimally invasive thoracic surgeries are revolutionising treatment approaches, ensuring shorter hospital stays and improved patient comfort.

"Home ventilation devices like BIPAP and CPAP machines, alongside telemedicine and digital healthcare platforms, are breaking down geographical barriers and providing remote monitoring, thus improving access to specialised care and reducing healthcare costs."

Dr Ilin said and added that the integration of multidisciplinary teams comprising pulmonologists, gastroenterologists, physiotherapists and social workers is optimising outcomes for children with complex respiratory conditions like cystic fibrosis or neuromuscular disorders.

## NEWS CAPSULES

### CAR-T cell therapy to treat deadly brain tumour

First-in-human studies of CAR-T cell therapies for recurrent glioblastoma suggest it may eventually become useful for patients with this deadly type of brain cancer, researchers say. The treatment involves removing a patient's own T cells, genetically altering them and re-infusing them. The therapy, which has so far only been approved for a variety of blood cancers, shrank tumours in three separate early-stage glioblastoma trials designed to test the safety of the approach. In one trial, reported in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, three patients with recurrent glioblastoma were treated with CAR-T cells engineered to target various forms of EGFR proteins on the tumor cell surface.

### Study flags excess salt, low potassium intake

A recent study has flagged disturbing dietary trends of excessive salt consumption and inadequate potassium intake, which increase the risk of development of hypertension, cardiovascular and chronic kidney diseases. According to the study, conducted by researchers at The George Institute for Global Health India in collaboration with the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in Chandigarh, protein consumption was below the recommended dietary allowance and men exhibited higher nutrient intake compared to women. The study involved more than 400 adult participants encompassing healthy adults and those with early-stage chronic kidney disease.

# NAVIGATING RADIATION THERAPY: WHAT PATIENTS SHOULD EXPECT

DR VARADARAJAN SENTHIL KUMAR

**C**ANCER continues to pose a significant global health challenge, with millions of lives affected by its impact each year. Despite India witnessing a staggering 28% increase in its cancer burden over the past two decades, accessibility to cancer care remains a significant challenge, exacerbated by issues of advanced-stage diagnosis. Amidst these challenges, radiation therapy continues to be one of the more effective options to treat cancer. Navigating radiation therapy can be a daunting prospect for cancer patients. However, understanding the treatment process is vital for patients, as it can help ease the anxiety.

## What is radiation therapy?

Radiation therapy, also known as radiotherapy, is a well-established standard treatment modality for various types of cancer. It involves using precisely focused high-energy radiation beams to target and destroy cancer cells while minimising damage to surrounding healthy tissue. It can be used by itself as the only treatment or in combination with surgery, chemotherapy, or both. Sometimes radiation is used to shrink a tumour before surgery (neoadjuvant therapy) or given after surgery to halt the growth of

remaining cancer cells (adjuvant therapy). Radiation may also be combined with chemotherapy (chemoradiation) to destroy cancer cells. In people with advanced cancer, radiation may be used to reduce suffering brought on by the disease.

## A step-by-step approach

The journey starts with a consultation with a radiation oncologist, who reviews your medical history, conducts a physical examination and discusses treatment options and goals. Following the initial consultation, patients undergo a simulation process to precisely plan their radiation treatment which involves imaging scans, such as CT or MRI, to map out the treatment area and formulate a tailored treatment plan. Techniques such as skin markings, masks or specialised positioning aids ensure accurate targeting of the cancerous tissue while minimising exposure to healthy organs.

## Types of radiation therapy

Radiation therapy can be delivered in a variety of forms depending on the type of cancer, the location of the tumour, and whether it has spread. External-beam radiation therapy is the most common form of the treatment. It is applied to the body by a machine, most often in the form of x-rays but some-



times as charged particles called protons or other types of energy. Radiation therapy can also be delivered internally by placing radioactive material in the body near tumours (called brachytherapy). Examples of radiotherapy:

- **Intraoperative radiation therapy:** Delivers radiation during surgery directly to a tumour, allowing surgeons to protect nearby healthy tissue. It can use external beam or internal radiation therapy, offering higher doses to the tumour while sparing surrounding healthy tissues.
- **Image-guided radiation therapy:** Uses advanced imaging to pinpoint patient and tumour positions for treatment, without anaesthesia and with

fewer side effects. It treats various cancers, including those in the spine, lung, prostate, brain, bladder, oesophagus, liver, and bone, with precise targeting using PET simulator technology to spare healthy tissue.

- **Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy:** Delivers potent radiation to tumours while sparing healthy tissues, enhancing the chances of a cure, and reducing side effects. Using CT scans to map tumours, IMRT calculates and administers radiation from multiple angles. It treats various cancers including prostate, head and neck, lung, brain, liver, breast, lymphoma, sarcoma, and some paediatric cancers.
- **Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy:** This is an advanced technique that delivers highly focused doses of radiation to target cancer cells with remarkable precision. This method utilises sophisticated imaging technology to precisely locate the three-dimensional position of the tumour. By pinpointing the tumour's exact location, the radiation is accurately directed at cancerous cells, maximising its effectiveness while minimising side effects on nearby healthy tissues.
- **Proton Therapy:** Proton therapy delivers high radiation doses to resistant tumours while protecting nearby tissues. Unlike traditional radiation using x-rays, proton therapy targets tumours with charged particles called pro-

tons, reducing side effects.

● **Internal Radiation Therapy (Brachytherapy):** Brachytherapy places tiny radioactive seeds into or around the cancer, delivering radiation directly to the area. Seeds emit radiation mostly around the implant and can be permanent or temporary, often requiring hospitalisation. Temporary implants emit radiation for a few minutes, with precautions taken to minimise exposure to others.

From the initial consultation to the intricacies of treatment planning and the various modalities available, patients are guided through a step-by-step process designed to target cancer cells while minimising damage to healthy tissue. As patients undergo radiation treatment, they may experience various side effects, including fatigue, skin irritation and changes in appetite.

However, these side effects are often manageable and patients are encouraged to communicate openly with their healthcare team. Regular monitoring and follow-up appointments ensure that any concerns or symptoms are addressed promptly, optimising the treatment experience. With advancements in technology and techniques, radiation therapy continues to evolve, providing patients with more precise and effective treatment options.

(The author is chief medical oncologist at the India Centre of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center)

Dr Varadarajan Senthil Kumar





Interview with the cast  
of '3 Body Problem'

PG 4



## DAY'S DIARY

### War on Iraq

On this day in 2003, the United States, along with coalition forces primarily from the United Kingdom, initiated war on Iraq

## INVASION

US and allied forces invaded Iraq and toppled Saddam Hussein's regime, alleging Iraq was a threat to peace. Most countries refused to support military action against it



## AFTERMATH

By May, Iraq's army was defeated. Saddam Hussein was captured and executed. In 2004, the country was engulfed by a sectarian insurgency



## EVIDENCE

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Iraq had "mobile labs" for weapons but later acknowledged the evidence "appears not to be... that solid"

# DECIPHERING DIALECTS AND DREAMS

The Tamil version of two books by Maya Angelou, translated by Kalachuvadu Publications, was released in the city

ARCHITA RAGHU

**I**N 1978, poet and writer Maya Angelou wrote she would rise beyond "the huts of history's shame" and a pain-rooted past like a swelling black ocean. This image finds itself in a nine-stanza poem, punctuated by a measured declaration of a title: 'Still I Rise'. This verse soon became the centre of a UNCF (United Negro College Fund) campaign in 1994, embedded itself in textbooks and the imaginations of African American and oppressed communities across the world.

Years later, in the south Indian city of Chennai, Angelou's words are reiterated and find new purpose in Tamil, translated by Kalachuvadu Publications. Bookended by Black History Month and Women's History Month, the Tamil-language version of the writer's poetry collection 'Still I Rise' and memoir 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings' was released, at the US Consulate General Chennai.

Inside the consulate's brightly-lit auditorium, the Tamil audience delves into Angelou's universe of Arkansas, encounters her family and finds parallels in discrimination. This marks the "coming together of three continents — Africa, America, and Asia, across five or more oceans on the beautiful vessel, the language of Tamil," says former West Bengal governor and chief guest Gopalkrishna Gandhi.

Every project starts with an idea and this idea of translating Maya Angelou was floated by writer Salma, explains Kannan Sundaram, managing director of Kalachuvadu Publications. In a pre-Internet era, author Salma recalls chancing upon Angelou's short stories and words in Tamil magazines.



"Her writing resonated with me. Once Google arrived, I searched online and found the same four to five stories there, I was interested but these stories and poems didn't reach the Tamil audience. Why shouldn't it be translated, I thought. I was dreaming of this day and it has come." This labour of love, and dream resulted from years of hard work and collaboration between the US Consulate General Chennai's Public Diplomacy and publishers.

## World of words

In, 'I Know Why A Caged Bird Sings', Angelou says, "Words mean more than what is set down on paper. It takes the human voice to infuse them with shades of deeper meaning." As Bernard Chandra — translator of the memoir — tweaked and re-worked these words to suit the Tamil dialect, one could imagine him revisiting and finding reassurance in these words. "I went through the book and was overwhelmed by passion

and emotions. This carried me through the translation work. I stand tall because I have embraced a tall person," he says.

If artist Leonardo Da Vinci was considered a complete man, Angelou is a complete phenomenal woman, notes R Sivakumar, translator of 'Still I Rise'. Speaking about his journey translating the 32-poem collection, he says, "Translating Angelou was rewarding. Her brother Bailey called her Maya fondly, it meant 'my' or 'my sister'. It is quite intimate to an Indian, it means illusion but does not stop there, it is beauty, power, and magic."

"A poem is meant to be read, but also recited and appreciated," points out Gopalkrishna. Reciting the lines from a song, "Were you there when they cruci-

fied my Lord? Well, were you there when the stone was rolled away?", he introduces the audience to a melody, written by a slave in the American colonies and passed down through generations. "This has to be seen as a metaphor, not just about Jesus but about the deliberate and cynical pain inflicted by the tyrannical on the weak; the weak in the sense of being able to rebuff the strong, not in spirit. The resurrection is the sign the weak are not weak... We must remember there are many like Maya Angelou, who see like her, compose prose and verse like her and await expression and opportunity."

## Tribute to the writer

Angelou's work is intersectional and dabbles with gender,

class, and racism and inspired a generation of literature students, theatre artiste A Mangai points out. Paying a tribute to the writer, theatre group Marapachi brings to life Angelou's life and words in a short Tamil play, focusing on poems including 'For Old Black Men' and 'When I Think About Myself'. The six-member cast of students aptly ends their play with a resounding: "I'm a woman. Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman, That's me."

State's Bureau of South and Central Asia Office of Press and Public Diplomacy Deputy Director Anne Seshadri, US Embassy New Delhi Minister-Counselor for Public Diplomacy Gloria Berben, US Consulate General Chennai's Public Engagement Officer Scott Hartmann, US Consulate General Chennai's Spokesperson Samantha Jackson, also participated in the event.

The translated books will be available for patrons to borrow from Chennai's American Center.

## When grandparents turned fashionistas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

**D**RESSED in the traditional outfits of each state of the country, the residents of Anandam Old Age Home and the students of the Special School celebrated their 21st Annual Day. Ananda Bharatham, at Sri Kuchalambal Kalyana Mahal, Chetpet, on Sunday. The chief guest of the programme was Mahesh Kumar Bajaj, executive director of Indian Bank, and the guests of honour were Dr P Balaji, dean of Government Stanley Medical College and Hospital, Dr Sridhar Vaitheswaran, assistant director and consultant psychiatrist at Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF) India, and Sheeba Lourdes, chairman of United Samaritans India.

After practising for 20 days, all the *thathas*, *paatis* and the kids from the foundation dressed up in regional outfits not only to walk on the stage but also perform the traditional dance. "To be standing there and knowing so many people watching me, made me nervous. But I managed somehow," shares Prabhakar representing Andhra Pradesh. Seetha, another resident, representing Kerala says, "I was tensed too, but when everybody started encouraging, it built my confidence and everything seemed easy."

The enthusiastic audience did not fail to participate in the event. As the models of Tamil Nadu walked back, they erupted in a chorus of 'once again'. The residents walked the stage twice with smiles from ear to ear, spreading their contagious energy. As the song 'Gummi adi



penne' played on the speakers, people formed small circles and perform along with them. To show their excitement, some clapped, some whistled and some even sang the song.

Every person walking the ramp had a story to tell. A story of their struggles to make ends meet. Narrating one of the incidents, Bhageerath Ramamoorthy, managing trustee shares, "When we were rehearsing, one of the *ammams* held my hand and said 'we were left to rust as dust, but you took us in and gave us a reason to smile during our last days' and looking at them enjoying and dancing today on stage gave me immense happiness."

"The hard work of the resi-

dents paid off today as we see people smiling and crying. In their last days, they were given the opportunity to spread joy and happiness," said Mahesh Kumar Bajaj, while Sheeba Lourdes extended her support to the organisation. "I did not know much about the home before coming here. Coming here and watching them walk with full enthusiasm and energy changed my mind and I want to associate with them in every way possible," she said.

To sum up the happenings of the evening in the words of Nandhini, a makeup artist, "Maja! It was a one-of-a-kind experience and it made me happy"

## Music Academy announces awards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

**T**HE Executive Committee of the Music Academy Madras at its meeting on March 17 decided to confer its Annual Awards on the following artistes for different categories.

The Sangita Kalanidhi will be awarded to musician TM Krishna, who is known for his powerful voice and his adherence to tradition when it comes to the art, he has experimented widely with its format.

Sangita Kala Acharya will be given to Professor Parassala Ravi (V Raveendran Nair), who has authored books on mridangam, structured syllabi for teaching the art. Geetha Raja, who is actively involved in teaching advanced and devotional music will also receive this award.

The Thiruvaiyyaru Brothers (S Narasimhan and S Venkatesan), the repositories of the music of the Melattur Bhagavata Mela tradition, will be given TTK Award. HK Narasimhamurthy, who has been a concert accompanist, a guru and an organiser, will also receive the TTK Award.

The Musicologist Award will be given to Dr Margaret Bastin, who is deeply passionate about academic research, she is a resource person who has served in multiple capacities at various educational institutions.



Neena Prasad



TM Krishna

The Sangita Kalanidhi awardee will preside over the academic sessions of the 98th Annual Conference and Concerts of The Music Academy to be held between December 15, 2024, and January 1, 2025 and will receive the award, together with those selected for the Sangita Kala Acharya, the TTK and the Musicologist awards at the Sadas on January 1, 2025.

The Nritya Kalanidhi award will be given to Neena Prasad, a top-ranking exponent and performer in Mohiniyattam. She will receive the award at the Inauguration of The Music Academy's 18th Annual Dance Festival on January 3, 2025.

## POLES, PODIUMS & PURSUITS



DESE GOWDA

**E**VEN before it kicked off, the 2024 Formula 2 season seemed to possess a list of ingredients that spelled an exciting season. This, notwithstanding the introduction of a brand new car, and the prospect of a title challenge between two highly-rated junior talents — Oliver Bearman and Andrea Kimi Antonelli — backed by Formula 1's biggest teams Ferrari and Mercedes, respectively. Yet, when the first competitive session got underway at the Bahrain International Circuit, an Indian driver in his sophomore season emerging on top wasn't something that anyone had expected.

"It was a roller coaster," shares Kush Maini. Sharing his experience topping the qualifying session in Bahrain, the 24-year-old says, "With a new car, a lot of work went into understanding the car and finding a way to be quick — from pre-season testing to the first race weekend. I was satisfied with our progress, but heading into the first weekend, if someone had told me that I would be on pole by two-tenths, I probably wouldn't have believed them. Even during free practice, we weren't in the best position. Yet, everything clicked in qualifying. The car was amazing, and the changes we made worked."

But Kush's elation was short-lived. After the governing body discovered potential 'performance altering' damage on his car, he was disqualified from the session, forcing him to start both Sprint and Feature races in last place. "When you do something so significant for yourself and the country and it's taken away through no fault of your own — it doesn't feel great. But rules are rules and it's easy to feel like a victim in

such situations. It was a difficult weekend, and it was all about controlling my emotions. In the end, we made the most out of it, finishing P7 in the feature race from 22nd on the grid and we left with some crucial points," he shares.

During the Bahrain weekend, Kush and his team stressed that the damage didn't have a positive impact on his performance and their assertion was proven right at the following event in Saudi Arabia. Kush was a close contender for pole again on the streets of Jeddah, narrowly missing out to Bearman. "Without that mistake from my side, we would have been on pole. Nevertheless, we inherited pole after Ollie went to F1. It just shows that we are competitive every weekend. Our qualifying pace is probably slightly better than our race pace. But we're getting stronger with race pace, as well. So it's a positive trajectory."

At the upcoming Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne this weekend, the Alpine Academy junior — who is currently being advised by former two-time F1 world champion Mika Hakkinen — hopes to carry forward that momentum, while doing a better job of stringing together a competitive weekend. "Australia is an exciting, bumpy track. I got my first podium in Melbourne last year, so I love the track and have fond memories of it. I'm confident that we have a solid baseline with the car. If we do everything we can, I am sure there is potential for a win or a podium," he says with a smile.

Kush insists that he is not worrying about the overall picture of the championship just yet, instead focussing on trying to maximise individual weekends. Nevertheless, he doesn't rule out his contention for the title either.

Our qualifying pace is probably slightly better than our race pace. But we're getting stronger with race pace, as well. So it's a positive trajectory.

- Kush Maini



BOOK NOOK



**Like Being Alive Twice**  
By Dharini Bhaskar  
In a nation that's about to rupture, Poppy and Tariq are in love. Tariq intends to propose; Poppy intends to say yes. Both assume that they'll fend off political blowback. For, surely, their privilege will protect them. But will it?



**Mine Your Language**  
By Abhishek Borah  
Abhishek Borah meticulously and marvellously showcases the influence of language on business. Mine Your Language will teach you to use language to influence, engage and predict.



**Wild Women**  
By Arundhati Subramaniam  
In this anthology of sacred poetry, Arundhati Subramaniam weaves together haunting voices of, by and for women across the Indian subcontinent. It traverses the poetry of ancient Buddhist nuns, Bhakti and Sufi mystics, tantrikas and Vedantins.



**A Portrait of Love**  
By Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala'  
Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala' was among the maverick writers who shaped modern Hindi literature. Translated by Gautam Choubey, the book is an ode to Nirala's genius, drawing attention to his long-ignored legacy in prose.



CAMPAIGN STRATEGIES

Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, a partu worker adopts a unique strategy to go around the city and campaign. | ASHWIN PRASATH

QUICKFIX

MASALA EGG TOAST

INGREDIENTS

- Eggs: 2

● Onion: 1 (finely chopped)

● Tomato: 1 (finely chopped)
- Bread: 2 slices

● Green chilli: 1

● Salt: 1 tsp

METHOD

- To a bowl add two eggs and whisk it well.
- To it add onions, chilli, tomato and mix it well.
- Add salt to the batter then dip the bread slices in it.
- Heat oil in a pan.
- Place the egg-coated bread slices on a pan and let it fry on both sides.
- Serve it hot once cooked.



Contributed by D Sheba, Hyderabad

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Just for laughs

Laugh your hearts out as DeadAnt Live, the comedy vanguard of the country, brings Daniel Sloss—Can't, an eight-city tour by international comedy superstar Daniel Sloss.

- 🕒 WHEN: March 22

📍 WHERE: Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Concert Hall, Chennai



Ugadi celebrations

Indulge in a captivating celebration of Ugadi and the mesmerising Kommu Koya dance as a part of the vibrant Ugadi celebrations.

- 🕒 WHEN: From March 22 to 24

📍 WHERE: DakshinaChitra Museum, Muttukadu

Holi menu

Anise at Taj Coromandel presents a specially curated Holi menu with dishes like thandai, paan patha pakoda chaat, chicken tangdi kebab and more.

- 🕒 WHEN: March 24



Spring trinkets

The Amethyst Room presents an exquisite jewellery collection by Anu Merton for the first time along with Spring Summer 2024 collection 'Solaris' by Maku.

- 🕒 WHEN: Till March 24

📍 WHERE: The Amethyst Room, 106, Chammiers Road



Elevate your fashion game

Get ready to stay ahead in the style run with the annual sale of Kushal's Fashion Jewellery offering up to 40 per cent discount on over 25,000 designs to select from. Centered on consumer insight, the campaign focusses on embracing one's self through jewellery.

- 📍 WHERE: Across all Kushal's outlets and at [www.kushals.com](http://www.kushals.com)

Easter hampers

La Patisserie at Taj Coromandel presents three hamper variants for this Easter – Cheshire Goodies Hamper, Mad Hatter Goodies Hamper, and Dodo Goodies Hamper.

- 🕒 WHEN: Till March 31

💰 PRICE: ₹1,500++ onwards

Mysore paintings

Explore the beauty and magnificence of Mysore paintings as you stroll through this exhibition, where you can also shop for the ones you fall in love with.

- 🕒 WHEN: Till March 26

📍 WHERE: CP Art Centre, Alwarpet



In high spirits

Feathers, invites whiskey aficionados and cocktail enthusiasts to raise a glass in celebration of International Whiskey Day. They are unveiling an irresistible offer on a curated selection of premium whiskey-based cocktails.

- 🕒 WHEN: Till March 31

📍 WHERE: Feathers, A Radha Hotel

Whiskey & spice

Indulge in the authentic flavors of Tamil Nadu cuisine and elevate your experience with an exclusive 30% discount on single malt whiskey.

- 🕒 WHEN: Till March 31

📍 WHERE: Sangamithirai, Feathers, A Radha Hotel



DEAR LIFE

Preeti Shenoy  
Insta: @preeti.shenoy  
Novelist, Illustrator, Speaker.

**My mom is having an affair. I overthink a lot and can't focus on myself. What do I do?**

No matter how old we become, there's always a part of us, which forever remains a child where our parents are perfect, loving beings, whose whole lives revolve around us.

As adults, though we know better, it's hard to accept our parents as flawed humans, trying to lead happier lives. A mother is universally an epitome of sacrifice and kindness, often placed on a pedestal so high, that to see her as a woman struggling under the burden of expectations placed upon her, is al-

ASK AN XPERT

most impossible. Your mother has made certain choices, including the one to stay in the marriage with your father. It's between her and her husband. It's not your duty to save your parents' marriage. You can't, even if you want to. Only they can. As long as your parents are both there for you, that's all what matters. Be kinder towards them and less judgemental.

Send your questions to [Askpreetishenoy@gmail.com](mailto:Askpreetishenoy@gmail.com)



EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

- ✉ @expressn

✉ [cityexpresschennai@gmail.com](mailto:cityexpresschennai@gmail.com)

✉ @newindianexpress

FITBIT

DANDASANA (STAFF POSE)

Dandasana refers to the spine placed like a staff or a rod. It is a great core strengthening seated asana, usually, it's practised as a warm-up pose. It may look easy but it is an intensive, strength-building workout for the hips, legs, abdomen, chest, and back. Therefore, it is considered a basic beginner pose.

STEPS

- Sit with the legs outstretched in front of the body. Point the big toes upwards.
- Keep the spine and neck erect, legs together and feet gently touching each other.
- Place the palm on the floor by the side of hips, pointing fingers towards the toes.
- Keep the arms straight to provide a firm and gentle support to the spine.
- Stretch big toes towards yourself and firmly press thighs and heels into the floor.
- Engage the leg muscles to root legs down into the ground.
- Gently press the palms against the floor to elongate back.
- Stretch the spine upwards right from the pelvis to the top of the head.
- Lift the chest up and slightly draw shoulders back to broaden collarbones.
- Maintain a straight gaze and take slow breaths.
- Hold Dandasana from 20 seconds to a minute depending on how long you feel comfortable.

LIMITATIONS

- Avoid eating prior to the practice.
- Beginners with rough-and-tough body structure practise normally. Avoid performing this pose forcibly.
- If anyone has a lower back or a wrist injury, avoid this.
- Use a blanket under the legs if hamstrings are too tight.
- If you suffer from breathing disorders, such as asthma, bronchitis or general breathlessness, make sure your back is against a wall. Should also use this method if you have ulcers or suffer from bulimia.

BENEFITS

- Develops awareness in the body.
- Evenly spreads body weight on hips and also chest and thighs.
- Expand your upper body upwards and lower body forward.
- Brings a good stretch to the lumbar back close to the sacral.
- Stretches, tones, and strengthens the back muscle.
- Keeping the torso perpendicular to the floor, gives you the feeling of grounding.
- Balances the disturbed root chakra.
- Restores the natural shape of your spine, hips, and leg.
- Builds flexibility in the hip extensors and pelvic muscles.
- Gives basic strength to the core.
- Abdominal area muscles can be worked at and strengthened.
- Strengthens all the major core muscles.
- Psoas in the hips and upper leg, erector spinae in the lumbar back, and the transverse abdominus in the lower abdomen are all actively engaged.
- Strengthens the pelvic floor muscle and promotes proper blood flow.
- Improves the function of the sciatic nerve.
- Regular practise can ease the pain of sciatica.
- Therapeutic for asthma that opens up a chest, promoting the flow of oxygen.
- Prana or subtle energy flows from the base of the spine to the crown of the head through the chakras or energy centers.
- Channels the energy to the whole body and relaxes the brain, nervous, and endocrine system.
- To experience the flow of prana, you need a consistent practise of this pose.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER



WINDOW TO WILDERNESS

A work by artist Badrunissa Irfan, part of a series on nature, currently on display at Sublime Galleria, Bengaluru.



KV VASUDEVAN

**A**GE does not determine when you will land your dream job. True to this statement, theatre actor Padma Ganapathy is now in the best phase of her life. There was no looking back for Padma since she got introduced to Bombay Gnanam by a dear friend of hers. "The conditions were crystal clear as to the volumes of rehearsals to be attended and the doors were opened only for the passionate ones without the monetary aspect." As she opens up on her fruitful sojourn with the ace dramatist, she says, "I deem it fortunate to have had the twin blessings of Goddess Padma-vathy and Lord Vinayaka, to have come under the wings of Bombay Gnanam. Yes, it has to be the name."

As a permanent member of the Mahalakshmi Ladies Drama Group, in all six of the spiritual plays, Padma says, "I am enveloped by a divine feeling, hard to express but only my eyes will know the volumes of happiness."

Padma took the plunge without the slightest hesitation and the past decade has been memorable. She says, "There is a saying that if one is lucky to find the job of one's liking, one does not have to work for the rest of their life. I derived the true meanings of life, richer by the experience of the travel with Gnanam."

#### Space to express

For Padma, the takeaway moments in the rehearsals are the space in which women can express themselves freely. "In an all-women troupe, there is no inhibition factor and we can go easy on the costumes. All the same, it is fun to slip into a man's role with the luxury of a moustache. In spiritual plays, there is

# SPIRITUAL SOJOURN ON STAGE

Theatre actor Padma Ganapathy shares her rich experiences in acting that opened several doors to explore a plethora of characters. She not just played female characters, but seamlessly donned male roles without a tinge of reluctance.



no room for error as the facts had to be given the revered due. That has been the bottomline of all Gnanam's plays and as an artiste, nothing short of perfection will please me."

Playing multiple characters is a norm in Gnanam's plays where an artiste gets to do contrasting roles. The one which lingers with Padma is the Alasinghar character in *Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa* where she played an ardent Vaishnavite, taking pleasure in volunteering and accomplishing activities planned and carried out for Swami Vivekananda. "The other one was Bhairavi Brahmin, an im-



portant character in the life of Paramahansa. He volunteers to become the guru of the saint, making him lead a life of Brahmacharyam, in spite of being married to Sharada Devi," she says.

*Baba* is a play close to Padma's heart in the way with which her two characters were shaped — one in the present day scenario as Baba Vandikaran and the other one during Baba's time as the policeman Dasganu. "The cart-puller character had me playing an educated 'man', taking up the onus of narrating Baba's life history to an atheist doctor, who eventually realises his folly and turning out to be an ardent devotee. The cop character gave me avenues where he resigns his job on the direction of Baba, finds solace in Dwarakamai, the sacred place in Shirdi, where Baba lived for six decades. A lavani dancer, the character gets introduced in that fashion, who is prevented from visiting Ganga

and Yamuna by the Baba. Dasganu is flabbergasted when Baba brings the rivers to Dwarakamai, through his feet," she explains.

As a *sishya* of Viswakendrar at the Mutt, Padma saw the winning moments in underplaying her character in *Bhagavan Nama Bodendral* where her bullying ways of Paandu whenever he visits the Mutt had the demoralising

effect on the worthy.

Dwelling on the perfection and research of Gnanam's plays, Padma recounts a moment in *Bodendral* when the artistes expressed their desire to get the blessings of the Acharyas of the Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam. She says, "We had apprehensions as to how it will be received. Imagine our surprise, the Acharyas sent their blessings through a devotee, before the inauguration. When the artistes are enveloped with a divine feel, it aptly reflects on the stage."

Shades of negativity in characters are fine for Padma, as she happily found her moorings in the twin characters in *Bhaja Govindam*. Padma says, "Playing an Andhra-based businessman visiting Kancheepuram for his sari business and annoyed with the ways of the dealing gave me the licence to shout hoarse. The arrogance of my character is doused by the Mutt pontiff, making him realise the values and virtues of life."

Happy with her fill in the divine world, Padma also found her endearing moments in social plays of Theatre Marina. A play which she remembers fondly is *Thiruvanganam* where she says, "I donned the character of a rich old lady who is god fearing but ill treats the maid. If I learned the moorings from Gnanam, director R Giridharan guided me in not

going overboard and not getting carried away. Play it simple to leave your stamp was the watchword; this has kept me in good stead over the years."

Showing her gratitude to art director Mohan Babu, a constant in all Gnanam's plays, she says, "He guides me right through on the importance of hand movements when the lip is in sync with the taped male voices."

#### Foray into social cause

Acknowledging that social plays are a welcome diversion, Padma recounts the emotionally-drenched turbulent character in *Suklapaksham*, helmed by Satish Chandrasekaran. She says, "As a victim of domestic violence, she is shattered beyond words which has a cascading effect on her only child."

Another play, *Undo*, on the effects of time travel, had its mesmerising effect on Padma. "As the wife of a wealthy man, who travels to undo his marriage in his old age, I had the avenues to mock him at every turn. In social plays, one gets the luxury to improvise it," she says.

A short play *Kizhaku Ambalapattu* helmed by Arun Kumar had Padma playing a middle-class wife of a postmaster in a village, reconciled to the mundane ways of the daily grind with no means to express her feelings. Resigned to her fate, she coaxes her husband to accept things as they are.

With a settled look in a world which looked a distant dream initially, Padma is seeing the happy augury, at the best phase of her middle age. "There is no restriction in MLDG to extend the horizons. Having donned hues of men characters, the female in me could do with characters, harping on women empowerment, befitting my experience. And why restrict myself, when the floodgates had opened from all quarters," Padma rounds it off with contentment written all over her face.

#### JUST PLAY

## Universal truth in the game of Odd or Even



VINITA SIDHARTHA  
vinita@kreedagames.com  
The writer is an author and the founder of Kreed, an organisation reviving traditional games

**I**N my last article, I spoke about tamarind seeds and few articles ago, I spoke about the red seeds known as *chirmi* or *gundamani* or *manjadi*. Traditionally, there were numerous games played around seeds of different types as they were a wonderful, versatile, and readily available material to play. In today's world where sustainability is the need of the hour, seeds performed this role wonderfully as they are natural, biodegradable and when tossed away after play reintegrate with our earth.

This variety of games played with seeds, leaves, fruit, sticks and more, have been played for years, and have spawned so many games making the treasure in the trees truly a remarkable inspirational point for play.

Seeds have numerous advantages. They're small, colourful, and come in different shapes, sizes, weights and textures, allowing for a wide variety of games based on the seed. But one interesting game is the game of Odd or Even. A simple child's game, it involves picking up a handful of seeds and holding it in your fist and challenging the opponent to decide if it's odd or even.

Many are quick to dismiss this as a guessing game, but it is the ability to understand hu-

man nature, psychology and thinking that is reflected in this. In fact, Edgar Allan Poe in his story, *The Purloined Letter*, refers to this very game. In the story, an arm-chair detective, manages to find an incriminating letter and save a lady's reputation, while police detectives are baffled in their search. The detective then refers to how he used the psychology of an individual, much like a schoolboy, uses the same psychology in the game of Odd or Even to decide, what the opponent holds in his hand.

"I knew one



(school boy) about eight years of age, whose success at guessing in the game of 'Even and Odd' attracted universal admiration. This game is simple and is played with marbles. One player holds in his hand a number of these toys and demands of another whether that number is even or odd. If the guess is right, the guesser wins one; if wrong, he loses one.

The boy to whom I allude won all the marbles of the school. Of course he had some principle of guessing; and this lay in mere observation and measurement of the astuteness of his opponents. For example, an ardent simpleton is his opponent, and, holding up his closed hand, asks, 'are they even or odd?' Our school boy replies, 'odd,' and loses; but upon the second trial he wins, for he then says to himself, the simpleton had them even upon the first trial, and his amount of cunning is just sufficient to make him have them odd upon the second; I will therefore guess odd'; — he guesses odd,

and wins.

Now, with a simpleton a degree above the first, he would have reasoned thus: 'This fellow finds that in the first instance I guessed odd, and, in the second, he will propose to himself upon the first impulse, a simple variation from even to odd, as did the first simpleton; but then a second thought will suggest that this is too simple a variation, and finally he will decide upon putting it even as before. I will therefore guess even' guesses even, and wins.

Now this mode of reasoning in the schoolboy, whom his fellows termed 'lucky,' — what, in its last analysis, is it? "It is merely," I said, "an identification of the reasoner's intellect with that of his opponent."

— Extract from *The Purloined Letter* by Edgar Allan Poe.

We are often quick to dismiss our games as simple, childish pleasures, often frivolous or of no account. But within each of them are hidden truths that could transcend, that reflect human life, human intent, human behaviour and human thinking. What is also interesting is that these truths are universal, leading to the popularity of similar games across the world.

To preserve our games and to play them regularly provides us these insights that can only improve our lives. While we refer to many of these games as Indian games, the fact that they were played in more or less the same manner across the world indicates that they are human games appealing to human nature.

Today, many things divide us — our religion, our culture, our food, our dress, our language, but a deep study of games will lead us to understand that we are united by our games for they have their basis and foundation in human belief.



CHITHRA MADHAVAN  
cityexpresschennai@gmail.com  
The writer is a historian who focuses on temple architecture

#### TEMPLE TALK

## A Siva temple studded with inscriptions



the *prakaram* are the sanctums for Ganesha; Subramanya with Valli and Devasena; and Chandikeshwara.

There are a number of inscriptions in this temple, particularly on the outer walls of the main sanctum. One of the earliest inscriptions in this temple is dated 10th century AD and belongs to a Chola king who had the title Parakesari. It is unfortunately damaged, but refers to a gift of land to the temple by a merchant of the village. A stone record of the time of Rajaraja Chola I dated 1014 AD records a donation of

land by the king for conducting a seven-day festival every year in the temple. In this inscriptions, the name of the village is mentioned as Vikramabhara-nachaturvedimangalam. One more epigraph of this king, who is referred to famously even elsewhere as 'Kandalur Salai....' Seems to record a provision for the supply of ghee everyday to the temple of Peruntirukkoil Mahadeva. An epigraph dated 1041 AD of Rajendra Chola I's time states that this stone temple was constructed by an officer named Kumarakalan Vasuevan alias Atisaya Chola Muvendavelar. Interestingly, Atisaya Chola was a title of Rajendra Chola I.

An inscription of Vijayagandagopala, a chieftain of the Telugu Choda dynasty, who ruled over this area and contributed much to temples mentions that a mandapa was constructed by a person named Virapperumal Alappirandan alias Rajaraja Sambuvarayar. A Pandya inscription



Ukkal  
**KNOW YOUR CITY**  
Ukkal, a village in Thiruvannamalai District, is about 20 km from Kanchipuram.

of Maravarman dated 1321-1322 is also found here recording an order remitting certain specified taxes due from the temple. A Vijayanagara epigraph of the reign of Harihara II mentions that this village was situated in the geographical division called Pagur-nadu in Kaliyur Kotam. The Sthala Vriksham of this temple has traditionally been the *Konrai maram*.



Photos: Chithra Madhavan

## CHENNAI DIGEST



#### ARS Group unveils new TMT Bar

ARS Group, city-based TMT Bar manufacturers, launched their new product, ARS CRS 550D. This is designed to be highly corrosion and earthquake resistant for all constructions. The group says the product stands out since its ductility component is optimal.

#### Technological efficiency in orthodontics

Postgraduate students of the Orthodontics Department at Saveetha Dental College, SIMATS, undergo extensive clinical training, treating over 100 cases individually, with a strong emphasis on practical learning and mentorship. Innovative treatment approaches include 3D surgical planning with soft tissue simulations and the exploration of techniques like mini-implants and extra-alveolar screws, with numerous cases, enriching students' clinical experience and broadening treatment possibilities, integrating technology, research, and practical training.



#### Graduation day celebrated

Hindustan College of Arts & Science celebrated its 25th graduation day. The academic report was read by S Thirumagan, principal, HCAS. Presidential address was delivered by Anand Jacob Verghese, chairman, Hindustan Group of Institutions. The chief guest N Panchanatham, UGC-standing committee member, gave the degrees to 874 graduates, and cash awards to rank holders.





A still from 3 Body Problem

PRASHANTH VALLAVAN

**T**HE most primal of all fears is the fear of the unknown. And what is more unknown than the infinite, indecipherable void of space? And what if an advanced alien species emerges out of that void to make first contact with the humans? While alien invasion stories are as old as cinema itself, Netflix's upcoming series adaptation of Cixin Liu's celebrated sci-fi novel, *The Three-Body Problem*, employs the unnerving threat of an alien contact to talk about human issues. Jovan Adepo explains, "What is really cool about the series is that we don't talk about the aliens themselves or even show them. It allows the audience to use their own imagination and sometimes your imagination can scare you more than anything we could show. In agreement with this notion, John Bradley adds that this is precisely the strength of the series. "I think *3 Body Problem* will recalibrate and re-evaluate the way we see alien invasion stories. Part of the cliché of alien stories is how aliens are often the bad guys and they are on this nihilistic mission to wipe us all out. I think the book and the show take a slightly different angle on that. This fear of the unknown doesn't have to be about an alien species, it could be about how we see people from other countries."

John Bradley and Jovan Adepo, along with actors Jess Hong, Alex Sharp, and Eliza Gonzalez, play the Oxford Five, a close-knit group of brilliant scientists, who inadvertently

## COSMIC HORROR AND HUMAN ERROR

Actors Liam Cunningham, Benedict Wong, Jovan Adepo, Jess Hong, John Bradley, and Alex Sharp, delve deep into the themes of their upcoming sci-fi series, *3 Body Problem*



LESS A  
READER  
THAN A  
VIEWER?

we have  
you  
covered.



Scan this QR code to  
see this celebrity come  
live and have this  
conversation on video.

get entangled in humanity's response to the alien threat. Jess Hong reiterates Bradley's point about the story being a metaphor for the human proclivity to fear what we do not understand and proclaims that the show is more about humans than aliens. "I think what I love the most about the series is that it is not your classic alien invasion show like *Doctor Who*,

where all these creatures come to destroy us. At its heart, *3 Body Problem* is about humanity. I think it is very philosophical and dramatic, and it uses our collective response to an alien threat as a prism to show the various ways in which we respond to fear."

Benedict Wong, who plays investigative officer Da Shi and Liam Cunningham, who plays Thomas Wade, the wealthy charismatic leader of Earth's planetary defence, throw light on the irony of

filming a series about an unknown threat to humanity while going through the COVID-19 pandemic. "Filming this during the Covid breakout was very scary because we did not know how virulent this thing could be or if it could evolve into something that could wipe us all out. It divided people," says Liam Cunningham. Benedict Wong adds, "The fear

of not knowing what to do about the threat, that we experienced during the pandemic, is in the very structure of the story." While certain cast members related to the story through real-world events, some like Alex Sharp employed a more direct approach: by diving into the source material. "After I read the book, I put it down and started staring out the window, contemplating the themes because the story makes you uncomfortable. It is a modern re-interpretation of HP Lovecraft's stories about existential dread. It made me anxious," he says. Bradley talks about how this anxiety around a cosmic threat mirrors how we, humans, treat each other. "We are programmed, in a self-preservation way, to see anybody who is different from us in any way, as an enemy. The book and the series go quite a long way to show how this is just a strange insecurity we have and if we were just a bit more accepting of people with differences, we might find that it is better for all of us."

Digging further into the central theme of the show, Cunningham explains that like all great science fiction, *3 Body Problem* could also be interpreted as a warning for humanity. "We as a species are always facing the possibility of an existential threat. And then there is a very real possibility that we could turn on each other. Not only do you have the threat from without but also a threat from within. As we know, the only way our species could survive is if we work together. Otherwise, extinction awaits us," Liam Cunningham signs off on an ominous note.



## A SPINE-CHILLING ADVENTURE

RINKU GUPTA

**N**AVEEN Chandra, who will next be seen in Prime Video's *Inspector Rishi*, elaborates how filming for the web series turned out to be more of an adventure than work.

"We shot for this psychological horror-thriller in several dense forests. It was a tough shoot for everyone. When I read the script, I knew this series would bring me out of my comfort zone. Even though I struggled to squeeze in dates at the time, I said yes immediately," says Naveen Chandra.

The cast and crew of the series shot in the forests of Talakona and Munnar for nearly two months. "It was freezing cold in Munnar. We shot from September till December during the peak rainy season. Everyone kept falling ill from time-to-time, but we battled the weather and kept on shooting."

Naveen was inspired by the energy of the cast and crew members, a large number of whom were women. "Apart from director Nandini JS, and actors Sunaina, Malini and Harini, we had seven other women crew members in the team. This was my first project with such an extensive women crew and I was in awe and moved by their passion for work in the harshest of terrains."

One of the challenges that the team faced was climbing a mountain for two hours to reach the shooting location in Munnar. "After pack-up, we all would trudge down the hills for another two hours in that rainy weather. There was no toilet facilities for anyone. We shot mostly at night in unfamiliar landscapes which were unpredictable as we wouldn't know when any crisis would come up. The second layer of challenge was to deal with leeches. "In the Talakona forests, there were leeches everywhere. We

carried kilos of salt to spread on the ground, so that the leeches would not come up to the surface and harm us. This continued for several weeks. Despite these, it was inspiring to see every member of the team working with full dedication and no complaints." The crew moved to Chennai for one part of the shoot. But there was no relief from unforgiving weather conditions there either. "After rains in the jungles, we shot in the peak of summer on a huge set, which was designed like an underground mine. Every day, at the end of the shoot, I would go back covered completely in black soot! There were also many scenes shot with VFX, which were testing."

Naveen, who is all praise for director Nandini JS, says, "From a big scar on my face right down to my raw look and costume, every detail she provided helped me get into the skin of my character. I think *Inspector Rishi* ranks amongst my best looks. Nandini is one of the best directors I've worked with. I'm both proud and grateful that the worldwide reach she gets through this, will bring her the credit she deserves."

### LOCATION DIARIES

This weekly column details the fascinating encounters that often take place on the sets of a film



Benedict Wong



Liam Cunningham



Alex Sharp



John Bradley



Jovan Adepo



Jess Hong



Naveen Chandra

## Vicky Kaushal, Triptii Dimri's *Bad Newz* to release in July

**V**ICKY Kaushal, Triptii Dimri and Ammy Virk's upcoming film, *Bad Newz*, finally has a release date. Directed by Anand Tiwari, the film is scheduled to hit theatres on July 19.

*Bad Newz*, which also stars Neha Dhupia in a prominent role, wrapped up shooting last year. Previously titled *Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam*, the film will see Vicky, Triptii and Ammy team up for the first time. It is said to be a comedy entertainer which is reportedly inspired by true events.

*Bad Newz* is a spiritual successor to the Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Diljit Dosanjh starrer *Good Newz* (2019), which revolved around the life of two couples whose lives intertwine due to a blunder made by a doctor during an in vitro fertilization (IVF) procedure. The upcoming film is produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions and Leo Media Collective.



## It's a wrap for Bharath's *Once Upon a Time in Madras*

SREEJITH MULLAPPILLY

**A**CTOR Bharath's upcoming film, *Once Upon a Time in Madras*, recently wrapped up production. In a conversation with CE, Prasad Murugan, who will be making his directorial debut with the film, explains that *Once Upon a Time in Madras* is structured as a hyperlink narrative. He further elaborates that the plot revolves around the accidental discovery of a gun and the impact it has on the lives of four different characters. Bharath plays a man who is born and brought up at an orphanage, and his life takes a dramatic turn after he stumbles upon a gun. According to the director, the gun is the common factor that connects four different characters,



all of whom hail from humble backgrounds. Each of the different plot threads takes place in a specific part of Chennai, and Prasad insists that it shows the part of the city, not

commonly shown in Tamil cinema. However, the director cautions us by saying, "Our film does not have any specific location that is instantly identifiable with Chennai. It does

not romanticise the city."

On why he chose the title, Prasad says that *Once Upon a Time in Madras* is a veiled reference to a real-life event that happened in 2013. He then adds, "The title is also catchy and has a nostalgic flavour to it." Packaged as a commercial entertainer with action and songs, *Once Upon a Time in Madras* also stars Abhirami, Pavithra Lakshmi, Anjali Nair, and Thalaivasal Vijay. On the technical front, the film has editing by San Lokesh, cinematography by Kalidas and Kannan, music by Jose Franklin, and stunts by Sugan.

Produced by MP Anand of Friday Film Factory, *Once Upon a Time in Madras* is now in post-production and is expected to release in late May or early June.