



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.

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Happy reading!



Signal outage forces passengers to walk

Chennai: Stranded commuters walk along the tracks on the Chennai Beach-Tambaram-Chengalpet corridor near Chetpet after a signal malfunction near Tambaram crippled train services in Chennai. The disruption left hundreds of office-goers delayed and threw peak-hour rail traffic into chaos. | ASHWIN PRASATH



கல்விக்கு என்றும் சிறப்புரிமை – ஸ்டாலின் அரசின் தனிப்பெருமை !!



19.34
இலட்சம்

முதலமைச்சரின் காலை உணவுத் திட்டம்
19.34 இலட்சம் மாணவர்களுக்கு
தினசரி உண்டச்சத்து மிக்க காலை உணவு



10
இலட்சம்

உலகை வெல்லும் இளைய தலைமுறை
10 இலட்சம் மாணவர்களுக்கு
மடிக்கணினிகள்



ரூ. 1000
12,35,807

புதுமைப்பெண் & தமிழ்ப்புதல்வன் திட்டம்
12,35,807 மாணவ மாணவியர்கள்
மாதந்தோறும் ரூ.1,000 பெறுகிறார்கள்



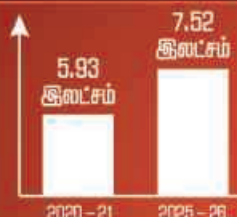
5
ஆண்டுகளில்
11,668

உயர்ந்தது ஆசிரியர் நியமனங்கள்
5 ஆண்டுகளில்
11,668 ஆசிரியர்கள் நியமனம்



4.81 இலட்சம்

நான் முதல்வன் திட்டம்
4.81 இலட்சம் மாணவர்களுக்குத்
திறன் சான்றிதழ்கள்



உயரும் உயர்கல்வி சேர்க்கை (GER)
உயர்கல்விச் சேர்க்கையில் தமிழ்நாடு புதிய சாதனை
2020-21ஆம் ஆண்டில் 5.93 இலட்சம் மாணவர்கள்
2025-26ஆம் ஆண்டில் 7.52 இலட்சம் மாணவர்கள்



42
30,148

புதிய கலை மற்றும் அறிவியல் கல்லூரிகள்
42 புதிய கலை மற்றும் அறிவியல்
கல்லூரிகள் துவங்கப்பட்டு
30,148 மாணவர்கள் கூடுதலாகச் சேர்க்கை



**வெல்வோம்
ஒன்றாக!**

தமிழ்நாட்டின் வளர்ச்சிப் பயணத்தில் ஒருவரையும் பின்தங்க விடமாட்டோம் !



Uttar Pradesh Builds India's Next Data Centre Hub

Uttar Pradesh is charting a bold new course in India's digital journey by emerging as a next generation Data Centre and AI hub under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath. Guided by his clear vision for a technologically empowered and economically self-reliant state, UP government has undertaken decisive policy reforms and made substantial public investments to build a future-ready digital ecosystem. By seamlessly integrating hyperscale data centre clusters, AI-driven innovation, world class digital infrastructure and a robust pool of skilled human capital, the State is creating an environment where technology and governance converge to drive inclusive growth. The proactive approach of Uttar Pradesh Government has not only strengthened investor confidence but has also positioned the State as a preferred destination for India's data driven growth and global digital investments.

Data Centre Ecosystem in UP

AI Data Centre at Greater Noida: The Government of Uttar Pradesh signed a landmark MoU at the World Economic Forum 2026 with AM Green Group to set up a 1 GW AI-focused data centre, with investments of nearly USD 25 billion.

Phased, Future-Ready Development: The project will be developed in phases, with initial capacity expected by 2028 and full 1 GW operations targeted by 2030.

Yotta Infrastructure's Large-Scale Expansion: Yotta Infrastructure, part of the Hiranandani Group, is investing around ₹39,000 crore in multiple data centre facilities in Greater Noida, with Yotta D1 operational and D2 & D3 under development.



Robotics & Emerging Tech Mission

- The Uttar Pradesh Robotics Mission is being scaled up with an earmark of ₹100 crore to develop robotics innovation hubs, especially in Noida and Greater Noida, jumpstarting automation, advanced manufacturing, and tech R&D.
- This push aligns with the state's broader initiatives in AI, photonics, quantum tech, and advanced industries to strengthen its competitive edge.



CM Digital Entrepreneurship & Innovation Schemes

- The Tech Yuva-Samarth Yuva initiative receives ₹100 crore to train youth in cutting-edge digital skills (AI, AR/VR/XR), preparing them for tomorrow's job markets.
- World-class U-Hubs (Innovation & Startup Ecosystems) are proposed in key cities like Lucknow and Gautam Buddha Nagar to nurture startups, research and entrepreneurship.
- These schemes aim to foster digital entrepreneurship, boost employment, and attract technology investments.



Jan Vishwas Siddhant

- The Jan Vishwas Siddhant (Principle of Public Trust), a core governance philosophy, emphasizes ease of living, prompt services, and citizen empowerment through streamlined digital delivery of services (e-governance and mobile platforms). (General reference to the approach in state governance)
- Digitalisation under Jan Vishwas Siddhant aims to reduce bureaucracy, increase transparency, and make government services simple and accessible.



Strategic Impact for Economy & Youth

- UP's digital infrastructure investments are expected to create skilled jobs, attract global enterprises, and foster a technology-based economy.
- The state's focus on data centres, AI labs, and youth-centric schemes positions it as a national leader in emerging technologies, propelled by strong public policy and fiscal support.



The Invest UP Advantage

-  **Direct Subsidies:** 7% capital subsidy (up to ₹20 crore) on fixed capital investments (excluding land).
-  **Land Rebates:** Up to 25% land subsidy in Paschimanchal (Noida/Greater Noida) and up to 50% in Bundelkhand and Poorvanchal regions.
-  **Zero Duty:** 100% exemption on stamp duty for the first transaction and 100% electricity duty exemption for 10 years.
-  **Power Reliability:** Government-backed dual-grid power supply for the first eight DC parks to ensure zero downtime.

Uttar Pradesh's 2026-27 Budget and policy directions reflect a strategic transformation from traditional infrastructure to a digital infrastructure ecosystem that supports data centres, innovation clusters, robotics missions, and entrepreneurial growth. With institutional backing like the State Data Authority and targeted budget allocations, UP is setting new benchmarks in technology led governance, economic development and youth empowerment. The budget size has nearly tripled over nine years, reflecting robust fiscal capacity to deliver high-impact programmes.



Data Centre Cluster Initiative

- Allocation for Data Centre Cluster: ₹100 crore specifically earmarked in the UP Budget 2026-27 to develop multiple data centre clusters across the state.
- Massive long-term investment drive: Uttar Pradesh plans to build data centre parks worth approximately ₹30,000 crore, targeting large-scale digital infrastructure and cloud capacity.
- Eight Modern Data Centre Parks: Targets 900 MW capacity to boost the state's digital economy and attract private investment.



State Data Authority

- The state government has proposed the establishment of a State Data Authority with a ₹100 crore allocation to unify data policy, improve accuracy, and enhance real-time data management across government departments.
- The Authority will coordinate data standards, support governance reforms, and enable evidence-based decision-making across sectors like health, agriculture, education, and public services.



Maier wins gold in women's ski cross

Livigno: From left, Germany's Daniela Maier, Sweden's Sandra Naeslund and Switzerland's Fanny Smith compete during the women's ski cross finals at the 2026 Winter Olympics, in Livigno, Italy, on Friday. The Winter Games are on till February 22 | AP



CHENNAI THANGAMAYIL FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

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(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055.
Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886, Website: www.mysoresandal.org e-mail: ksdl.dgmmts@gmail.com
Date: 20.02.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>) with respect to supply of following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last Date of Submission
1	KSDL/2025-26/IND0948	Procurement of D-Limonene	1200 Kgs	19-02-2026	06-03-2026
2	KSDL/2025-26/IND0949	Procurement of Geranyl Tiglate	700 Kgs	19-02-2026	06-03-2026
3	KSDL/2025-26/IND0950	Procurement of Hexyl Cinnamic Aldehyde	2300 Kgs	19-02-2026	06-03-2026
4	KSDL/2025-26/IND0951	Procurement of Aldehyde C-10 decylic	300 Kgs	19-02-2026	06-03-2026
5	KSDL/2025-26/IND0952	Procurement of Nerol	2000 Kgs	19-02-2026	06-03-2026
6	KSDL/2025-26/IND0953	Procurement of LINALOOL EX-BASIL	1500 Kgs	19-02-2026	06-03-2026
7	KSDL/2025-26/IND0954	Procurement of Phenyl Ethyl Alcohol	10000 Kgs	19-02-2026	06-03-2026
8	KSDL/2025-26/IND0955	Procurement of Herculyn-D	1600 Kgs	19-02-2026	06-03-2026
9	KSDL/2025-26/IND0956	Procurement of Linalyl Acetate	3400 Kgs	19-02-2026	06-03-2026
10	KSDL/2025-26/IND0957	Procurement of Iso Menthone	3300 Kgs	19-02-2026	06-03-2026
11	KSDL/2025-26/IND0959	Procurement of Mentha Citrata Oil	16700 Kgs	19-02-2026	06-03-2026
12	KSDL/2025-26/IND0960	Procurement of Terpinol	6100 Kgs	19-02-2026	06-03-2026
13	KSDL/2025-26/IND0961	Procurement of Lemongrass oil	700 Kgs	19-02-2026	06-03-2026
14	KSDL/2025-26/IND0962	Procurement of Para Cresyl Phenyl Acetate	680 Kgs	19-02-2026	06-03-2026

For any further queries/clarifications please contact the undersigned.

Sd/-
Asst. General Manager (Materials)

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

Authorised Officer's Details Name: Smt. P. Meenakumari; Mobile No: 9790960729
City Case Officer details: Name: Shri.K. Ranjeethkumar Mobile No: 9486848516

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

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 16.03.2026 for the recovery of the dues to the State Bank of India, SARB-II, Chennai, from the borrowers as mentioned below.

BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Shri. C.V. VICTOR S/o. Mr. VARKEES, (i) No. 56, Raj Paris Villa, Flat No. 9, 3rd Floor, New Avadi Road, Kilpauk, Chennai - 600010.
(ii) Orange Diagnostics, No. 1/18, V.G.P. Murphy Square, 2nd floor, GST Road, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai - 600016.
(iii) Orange Diagnostics, No. 15, P.S. Sivasamy Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 600004.
(iv) Krish Crocus Apartments, Flat No. F, Plot Nos. 6,7 & 8, Manohar Nagar, 15th Street, Pallikarai, Chennai - 600100.

Outstanding Amount : Rs.1,85,93,743/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Five Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Seven Hundred And Forty Three Only) in Housing loan as on 19.02.2026 with future interest, costs, etc.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Name of the Title deed Holder-Mr. C.V. Victor S/o. Mr. Varkees Description of the Immovable Property SCHEDULE "A": All that piece and parcel of Land consisting of Plot no. 6,7,8 in Manohar Nagar, 15' Street Extension, situated at Pallikarai Village, Sholinganallur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, comprised in Old Survey No. 618/1, New Survey No. 618/12 measuring about 5400 Sq.ft. bounded on the North by Plot no. 9, South by Plot No.5, East by 20 ft Road, West by Vacant Land Situate within the Registration Sub District of Chennai South Joint I and Registration District of South Chennai. SCHEDULE "B" 1045 Sq.ft. undivided share out of 5400 Sq.ft land of the Schedule 'A' mentioned property together with Flat bearing No.F in second floor measuring 2043 sq.ft., of super built up area (inclusive of common area, and a covered car parking in stilt floor) of apartment known as "KRISH CROCUS" bearing Plot Nos. 6,7, & 8, Manohar Nagar Extension, Pallikarai, Chennai. Property Address: Flat No.F, second floor, Plot Nos. 6,7 & 8, "Krish Crocus Apartment", Manohar Nagar Extension, Manohar Nagar 15' Street, Pallikarai, Chennai - 600100. (Covered under Sale Deed No.10403/2018 dated-28.09.2018 and Construction Agreement No.10402/2018 dated-24.07.2018) Asset ID: SBIN200032674282

Encumbrances known to the Bank, if any : NIL

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 75,00,000/- EMD ₹ 7,50,000/- BID INCREMENT AMOUNT ₹ 50,000/-

Date and Time of Inspection of Properties: 09.03.2026, between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 16.03.2026 Time: 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM With auto time extension of 10 minutes each till sale is completed

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

Place : Chennai, Date : 19.02.2026

Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch - II

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India
Relationship beyond banking

CHENNAI ASSET RECOVERY DEPARTMENT
"Star House" 4th Floor, No.30, Erabalu Street, Chennai-600 001, Ph: 66777459 / 469 / 462 / 508, Email: AssetRecovery.Chennai@bankofindia.bank.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 CUM NOTICE TO BORROWERS / GUARANTORS

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of BANK OF INDIA, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of the dues to the BANK OF INDIA, Following Branches from the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) as mentioned below. The Reserve Price, EMD Amount and Property details are as mentioned hereunder:

SL.No.1 : Mogappair Branch : Name & Address : 1. Mrs. Annalakshmi, W/o.Balakrishnan, 2. Mrs. A.Uthra (Gurantor)
Present Outstanding Amount : Rs. 29,67,734/- + interest p.a with monthly rests from 07.01.2026 and cost and other charges.

Description of Immovable Properties : Equitable Mortgage of residential Flat No.S-5, Second Floor, Block-1, known as "Arun Excello Apartment, Compact Homes Manjari" 5th Street, Kancheepuram, having built up area of 810 Sq.ft together with 341 Sq.ft of UDS in the total Land area: Acre 1.6194 cents (70541Sq.ft) comprised in S.No. 229/8B, 230/8, 230/9A1, 230/9B, 230/9C, 230/9D, 230/9E, 230/9F, 230/9G, 230/9H, 229/11A2 (part) and 230/12B, of Mevalurkuppam Village, Taluk-Sripurambudur, Kancheepuram District, situated within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and Sub-Registration District of Sripurambudur, Property in the name of Mrs B. Annalakshmi W/o Balakrishnan, Boundaries: North by: S.No. 230/7 and 229/4, South by : OSR Land & Road, East by S.No.230/11, 230/10 and 230/12, West by : S.No.229/8A, 229/9A2, and OSR Land, In.

Status of Possession : SYMBOLIC POSSESSION

Reserve Price:Rs.21,50,000/- EMD :Rs.2,15,000/- Bid Increment :Rs.50,000/-

SL.No.2 : Anna Nagar (Chennai) Branch : Borrower's Name & Address: 1. Mrs Chitra, M, 2. Mr Mohan,R
Present Outstanding Amount : Rs. 2,92,25,678/- + p.a with monthly rests from 26.09.2025 and cost and other charges

Description of Immovable Properties : 1597 Sq.ft Out of 2,74,448 Sq.ft of land with 3275 Sq. Ft of Carpet Area(5037 Sq.ft of Super Built up area) in Apartment No. A901 in 9th Floor with one Covered Car Parking and one Tandem Covered Car Park area including a share in the common built up area in Residential Apartment known as "CASA GRANDE ECR 14", Comprised in S.No.35/2A2, 35/2B2, 36/28, 36/3, 37/1, 37/2, 37/5, part, 37/6A, 48/38, 48/3C, 48/4, 48/5B in Kanathur Reddykuppam Village, Thiropur Taluk, Chengalpatt District, property owned by Mrs Chitra & Mr R. Mohan, bounded on the Boundaries: North by : OSR Land (Land comprised in S.Nos. 48/2(p), 48/3(p), 47/7B1, 47/7B2, 48/5(P), 37/5(P), 35/2B(P), 35/2A(P), South by: Land comprised in S. Nos. 38/1, 38/3A, 37/6(P), 35/3, East by: Land Comprised in Survey Nos. 36/4, 36/2(P), 37/6(P), 37/5(P) and 60 feet wide road, West by: Land Comprised in Survey Nos. 40 and 38/1(P), 48/3(p), 47/4.

Status of Possession : SYMBOLIC POSSESSION

Reserve Price: Rs.37,40,000/- EMD :Rs.34,74,000/- Bid Increment : Rs.1,00,000/-

SL.No.3 : Theagarayanagar C&P Banking Borrower's Name & Address : 1. Mrs. Pooja Balagopal (Borrower) 2. Mrs.Gandhimathi Selvam (Co-Borrower)
Present Outstanding Amount : Rs. 97,37,963/- + interest p.a with monthly rests from 10.03.2026 and cost and other charges.

Description of Immovable Properties : Eq. Mortgage of residential Flat bearing No.F-3, 2 BHK, First Floor, in "JWAY KILLY" along with 382 Sq.ft UDS, out of 2160 Sq.ft, Plot No.5 having total extend of 3600Sq.ft, situated at No.154, Madipakkam Village, "Kuberan Nagar", 8th Street, comprised in Survey No.132/74(Old Survey No.132/1) Patta No.22150, Madipakkam "A" Village, Sholinganallur Taluk, Chennai District within the Registration District of Chennai South and Sub-Registration District of Velachery. Property in the name of Mrs.Pooja B. Bounded on North of 30 Feet Road, South of other Plots of Kuberan Nagar Layout, East of Plot No.4, West of Plot No.6.

Status of Possession : SYMBOLIC POSSESSION

Reserve Price:Rs.60,00,000/- EMD :Rs.6,00,000/- Bid Increment : Rs.50,000/-

SL.No.4 : Mylapore C&P Banking : Borrower's Name & Address : 1. Mr. Saphagiri.V (Borrower-Mortgagor) 2. Mrs. Chitralekha.K (Guarantor)
Present Outstanding Amount : Rs. 54,69,050/- + interest p.a with monthly rests from 22.08.2025 and cost and other charges.

Description of Immovable Properties : All that piece and parcel of residential Flat bearing S-1,2nd floor, Plot No 4C, 12A Block, Celestyn Apartments, Nookampalayam Main Road, Perumbakkam, Chennai-600100, Comprised in Survey No. 16/3 (Part) & 16/3A (Part), New Survey No:163/3B, 163/3C, 163/4D, and 164/1B of Perumbakkam Village, Tambaram Taluk, Chengalpattu District. Property (PLOT No.4 C) bounded by: Boundaries:- North by: North: 24 ft Common Passage, South by: 20 feet Road, East by : Common Block(Multipurpose Hall & Gym), West by: Block 10, Document No. and date: 9018/2021 dtd 04.08.2021.

Status of Possession : SYMBOLIC POSSESSION

Reserve Price: Rs. 33,00,000/- EMD :Rs. 3,30,000/- Bid Increment : Rs.50,000/-

Date & Time of E-auction 10.03.2026 between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM
(with unlimited extension of 10 minutes if bidding continues till sale is concluded).

Last date for submission of online EMD **09.03.2026 Up to 5.00 PM**
Inspection Date & Time of the Property **07.03.2026 at 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM**

To the best knowledge and information available with the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property referred above. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of the property and to inspect & satisfy them. The auction will be online E-Auction Sale/Bidding and shall be done only through "Online Electronic Bidding" process through the website <https://BAANKNET.com>. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.bankofindia.bank.in/tenders>.

The successful bidder to remit the TDS @1% as applicable u/s. 194 1-A. (Rs.50.00 Lacs and above property)

SALE NOTICE TO BORROWERS / GUARANTORS : Dear Sir / Madam, The Authorised Officer, in exercise of the Powers conferred under Section 13(4), took possession of the secured assets, more, particularly described in the schedule mentioned above and a sale notice was issued in SI.No.1. Ref. No: CZO/BOI/ARD/SN/2025-26/166 dated : 18.02.2026, SI.No.2. Ref. No: CZO/BOI/ARD/SN/2025-26/CA/ 179, dated : 18.02.2026, SI.No.3. Ref. No: CZO/BOI/ARD/SN/2025-26/ 181, dated : 18.02.2026, SI.No.4. Ref. No: CZO/BOI/ARD/SN/2025-26/CA/182, dated : 18.02.2026.

Date : 19.02.2026
Place: Chennai

Authorised Officer, Bank of India

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone No. 080-22265383. website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-28/1717/2025-26 Date:20.02.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under Two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the work : Formation of Industrial Layout including Formation of 15M wide Roads including asphaltting, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage works & HDPE Water Supply Pipeline etc., at Kadechuru Industrial Area, 2nd Phase Sub Layout, Yadagiri Taluk, Yadagiri District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **09.03.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2

DIPR/CP/IA/5779/2025-26

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
H.O. : BENGALURU - CHENNAI CIRCLE OFFICE
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

781-785, Ground Floor, Rayala Towers, Mount Road, Chennai-600 002.
Email : recro2chn@canarabank.com

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic / Constructive / Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 12.03.2026 (Time: 11.30 am to 12.30 pm) (with auto extension of 5 minutes each till sale is completed) for recovery of bank's dues from the following Borrowers / Guarantors.

Chennai Shenoy Nagar Branch No. 27, Pulla Avenue Shenoy Nagar, Chennai - 600030
Mob: 91 9444926451, 9444720972 Email : cb01614@canarabank.com

S.No.1: Borrower Name & Address: M/s. Chola Enterprises, Rep. by its Proprietor Mr. P. Kuzhal Mannan, No. 5, Mariamman Kovil Street, Melma Nagar, Poonamallee, Chennai - 600056 Also at, Plot No.14, Leelavathi Nagar Extension, Chikkurayapuram, Chennai - 600122. Mr. P. Kuzhal Mannan, S/o. Mr. Pachaiappan, No.5, Mariamman Kovil Street Melma Nagar, Poonamallee, Chennai - 600056

Outstanding Amount : Rs. 50,74,512.67/- as on 17.02.2026 with further interest and other incidental charges thereto incurred by the Bank

DETAILS OF PROPERTY: Name of the Title Holder: Mr. P. Kuzhal Mannan vide Settlement Deed 4106/2021 All that piece and parcel of land and building bearing Plot No. 35, J.J. Nagar, Phase I, situated at No. 66, Periyapalayam Village, Uthukkottai Taluk, Thiruvallur District, Old Patta No. 6865, New Patta No.6870, comprised in Old S.No. 181/4A1D8B, New S.No. 181/4A1D8B1A, as per patta New S.No. 181/1341 (Land Approval vide No.Se.Mu.Na.Ka.No.1234/2021/A6, dated 25.08.2021) land measuring 1200 sq.ft. Bounded on the East by : Plot no. 34, West by : Plot no. 36, North by : Vacant land, South by : 24 feet broad road, Measuring: East : 40 feet, West : 40 feet, North : 30 feet, South : 30 feet, Situated within the Sub-Registration District of Aarani and Registration District of North-Chennai.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 22,50,000/- EMD ₹ 2,25,000/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 25,000/-

Chennai Egmore - II Branch No.16, Police Commissioner Office Road P.B.No.516, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 Tel +91 044 28190334 Mob 91 9444396483 Email: cb16014@canarabank.com

S.No.2: Borrower Name & Address: M/s.Swamy Agency, A Partnership Firm, Rep. by its Partners Mr. Swamy R V and Late Mr.Madhavan G, No. 54, 62, Mudichur Road, Tambaram West, Chennai, Thirumudikkam, Chennai - 600045, Mr. Swamy R V, S/o Mr. Viswanathan, No. 18, Alamelupuram Lakshmiapuram, Extn 2 Mudichur Road, West Tambaram, Chennai - 600045, Mrs. Beulah M (Legal Heir of Late Mr. Madhavan G), W/o. Late Mr. Madhavan G, No. 6/2, Ambedkar Street, Nandambakkam, Kancheepuram, Chennai - 600089, Miss. Prathiksha Devshree M (Legal Heir of Late Mr. Madhavan G), D/o. Late Mr. Madhavan G, No. 6/2, Ambedkar Street, Nandambakkam, Kancheepuram, Chennai - 600089, Minor Barani Mithra M (Represented By Mrs.Beulah M), Legal Heir of Late Mr. Madhavan G, D/o. Late Mr. Madhavan G, No. 6/2, Ambedkar Street, Nandambakkam, Kancheepuram, Chennai - 600089, Minor Lakshana Shree Mithra (Represented By Mrs.Beulah M), Legal Heir of Late Mr. Madhavan G, D/o. Late Mr. Madhavan G, No. 6/2, Ambedkar Street, Nandambakkam, Kancheepuram, Chennai - 600089.

Outstanding Amount : Rs. 3,03,32,487.91/- as on 17.02.2026 with further interest and other incidental charges thereto incurred by the Bank

DETAILS OF PROPERTY: Name of the Title Holder: Mr.Madhavan G All that piece and parcel of properties bearing D.No.6, Kanniamman Koil Street, Ambedkar Street, Thulasigapuram, Nandambakkam Village, Tambaram Taluk, measuring a total extent of 2475 Sq.ft., comprised in Gramanatham Old S.No.94 part, New S.No. 222/4B, Aalur Taluk, (As per patta bearing No.637, dated 17.08.2015, issued by Zonal Deputy Tahsildar, Tambaram, in the name of Mr.G.Madhavan, an extent of 2.07 Ares of land, comprised in S.No.222/4B, of Nandambakkam), (as per property tax receipt bearing No.2015-2016/N12/0223401, dated 23.06.2015, issued by Corporation of Chennai, in the name of G.Madhavan, premises bearing No.6, Ambedkar Road, Thulusigapuram, Nandambakkam, Chennai), and bounded on the North by : Property situate to Balaji, South by : Road (Ambedkar Street), East by : Palaimmal's house and Plot, West by : Rajeswari's house and Plot, ITEM - I: Admeasuring 720 Sq.ft. Northern side : 15 Feet, Southern side : 15 Feet, Eastern side : 48 Feet, Western side : 48 Feet, ITEM - II: Admeasuring 1755 Sq.ft. Northern side : 45 Feet, Southern side : 9 Feet, Eastern side : 63 Feet, Western side : 67 Feet, Totalling (Item I + Item II = 720 Sq.ft.+ 1755 Sq.ft.) 2475 Sq.ft. Situated within the Sub-registration district of Aalur and Registration district of Chennai South.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 96,60,000/- EMD ₹ 9,66,000/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 1,00,000/-

INSPECTION OF PROPERTY DATE & TIME : 06.03.2026; between 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 12.03.2026 Between 11.30 AM & 12.30 PM with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each.

EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (Baanknet) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before 11.03.2026, 5.00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) (or) The service provider Baanknet (M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd), (Contact No. 7046612345 / 6354910172 / 8291220220 / 9892219848 / 8160205051, Email: support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com / support.ebkay@procure247.com).

Portal of E-Auction: <https://baanknet.com>

Date : 18.02.2026
Place : Chennai

AUTHORISED OFFICER, CANARA BANK

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
H.O. : BENGALURU - CHENNAI CIRCLE OFFICE
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

781-785, Ground Floor, Rayala Towers, Mount Road, Chennai-600 002.
Email : recro2chn@canarabank.com

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic / Constructive / Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 26.03.2026 (Time: 11.30 am to 12.30 pm) (with auto extension of 5 minutes each till sale is completed) for recovery of bank's dues from the following Borrowers / Guarantors.

Chennai Kolathur Branch (16062), No. 1157A, 1st Main Road, Poompohar Nagar, Kolathur, Chennai - 600099, Mob: 9944838284, Email: cb16062@canarabank.com

Borrower Name & Address: 1. Mr. K. Yoganand, S/o. Mr. Kamalanathan, 2. Mrs. D. S. Kaavya, W/o. Mr. K. Yoganand, Both are residing at: 56A, 120A, BB Road, 4th Lane, Vyasarpadi, Chennai - 600039. Also at: Flat No. G1, Block No.18, Plot No.50, Annapoorana Apartments, 3rd Street, Annapoorana Nagar, Ponniannamnedu, Chennai-600110.

Outstanding Amount : Rs. 34,18,832.29 as on 17.02.2026 with further interest and other incidental charges thereto incurred by the Bank

DETAILS OF PROPERTY: Name of the Title Holder: Mr. K. Yoganand & Mrs. D S Kaavya & CERSAI Security Interest ID: 4000638860000 All the piece and parcel of land and building bearing, Sub divided as Plot No.4, Annapoorana Nagar, Madhavaram, Chennai, comprised in Survey No. 125/2 of No.50, Madhavaram Village, Chennai District, land measuring an extent of 380 Sq.ft. Undivided Share of Land out of total extent of 2400 Sq.ft., together with Flat No. G1, Ground Floor, Block No.18, having a built up area of 905 Sq.ft. (including common area) and Bounded on the North by : 24 Feet Road, South by : Plot New No.5, Old No.3 (Sub-division), East by : Plot New No.17, Old No.3 (Sub-division), West by : Plot New No.5, Old No.3 (Sub-division), Admeasuring East to West on the Northern Side 40 Feet, East to West on the Southern Side 40 Feet, North to South on the Eastern Side 60 Feet, North to South on the Western Side 60 Feet, The above the Property within the Sub-Registration District of Madhavaram and Registration District of Chennai North.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 40,10,000/- EMD ₹ 4,01,000/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 25,000/-

INSPECTION OF PROPERTY DATE & TIME : 06.03.2026; between 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 26.03.2026 Between 11.30 AM & 12.30 PM with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each.

EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (Baanknet) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before 25.03.2026, 5.00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) (or) The service provider Baanknet (M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd), (Contact No. 7046612345 / 6354910172 / 8291220220 / 9892219848 / 8160205051, Email: support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com / support.ebkay@procure247.com).

Portal of E-Auction: <https://baanknet.com>

Date : 18.02.2026
Place : Chennai

AUTHORISED OFFICER, CANARA BANK

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DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, CHENNAI
6th Floor, Additional Office, Building Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006

DRC No. 353/2024 in T.A No. 342/2023

In the Matter of:
State Bank of India, Retail Assets Centralized Processing Centre, No.16, Whannels Road, First Floor, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
Represented by its Chief Manager. ...Certificate Holder

-VS-

Mr.S.Syed Ghouse and another ...Certificate Debtors To,
1. Mr.S.Syed Ghouse, Plot No.211, S-1, 2nd Floor, Super Foundations, Pulavar Ilam, Chowdhry Nagar, 11th Main Road, Valasaravakkam, Chennai - 600 087.
2. Mrs. Yasmin Banu, W/o.S.Syed Ghouse. Plot No.211, S-1, 2nd Floor, Super Foundations, Pulavar Ilam, Chowdhry Nagar, 11th Main Road, Valasaravakkam, Chennai - 600 087. ...Certificate Debtor

DEMAND NOTICE

(Under rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income-Tax Act,1961 and Section 29 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act,1993)

In terms of the Recovery Certificate dated 15.06.2024 copy enclosed together with schedule(s)) issued in TA No. 342/2023 by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal II, Chennai an amount of Rs. 96,42,532.00 (Rupees Ninety Six Lakhs Forty Two Thousands Five Hundred Thirty Two Only) as per the DRC enclosed from the date of filing of T.A i.e., 19.12.2020 till the date of realization, is due against you, jointly and severally.

2. You are hereby called upon to deposit sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rule.

3. You are further put on notice that in terms of Rule 16 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 read with Section 29 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, you/your representatives in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to you, except with the permission of the Recovery Officer.

4. You are also directed to appear before this Forum on 12/03/2026 at 11.30 a.m and report compliance of payment.

5. This demand notice is now published in this newspaper since the demand notice dated on 31/08/2024 sent to Certificate Debtors unserved returned.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 19th day of February, 2026.
(A.VENKATESAN),
RECOVERY OFFICER

THIRUVALLUR REGIONAL OFFICE केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
M R N Towers, Second Floor, J N Road, Tiruvallur - 600001
H.O. : BENGALURU - CHENNAI CIRCLE OFFICE
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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 following Branches of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 10.03.2026 for recovery of dues mentioned below due to the following Branches of Canara Bank, from the following Borrowers / Guarantors.

SURYANAGARAM BRANCH (DPC: 16268): S No 206/6A, Pothturpet Main Road, Thekkalur Village, Thiruvallur



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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NO CASH PAYMENTS AT NATIONAL HIGHWAY TOLL PLAZAS FROM APRIL

Starting April, cash transactions may not be accepted at NHAI toll plazas, aiming to create a fully digital National Highway toll ecosystem

WILL AID TRANSPARENCY, SAYS CENTRE

The ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH) on Friday said the transition will help to enhance 'Ease of Commuting' for highway users by improving lane throughput, reducing congestion at fee plazas and bringing greater consistency and transparency in toll transactions. Users are most likely to only be allowed to pay the road toll through digital or UPI mode

LOOKING AT CUTTING CASH TRANSACTIONS

- As per current National Highway fee rules, vehicles entering a toll plaza without a valid, functional FASTag are charged twice the applicable user fee, if paid in cash, and 1.25 times from UPI mode
- These initiatives have collectively advanced the objective of reducing dependency on cash transactions and digitizing the toll framework

1,150

TOLL PLAZAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED

US SC strikes down Trump's global tariffs

US President denounces the adverse ruling, announces new 10% global tariff

PUSHPITA DEY & JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

IN a landmark judgment with significant implications for India's trade outlook, the US Supreme Court has ruled that President Donald Trump acted beyond his legal authority in imposing sweeping global tariffs under emergency powers.

The court held that tariffs are effectively taxes and the Constitution assigns taxation powers to the Congress, not the President. In a 6-3 decision authored by Chief Justice John Roberts, the court held that the use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to introduce broad-based tariffs lacked Congressional authorisation. The justices ruled that IEEPA did not grant the power to the President to impose tariffs on trading partners. The court emphasized that the law of imposing tariff is only meant for use in national emergencies.

Trump reacted furiously, alleging that the court was influenced by "foreign interests". He also announced a 10% "global tariff" under a trade law known as Section 122.

In light of the US court ruling, more than half of the Indian exports will not have to pay even the 18% tariff and, therefore, India may choose not to rush to sign the Bilateral Trade Agreement, say experts.

"Removal of reciprocal tariffs will free about 55% of India's exports to the US from the 18% duty, leaving them subject only to standard MFN (most favoured nation) tariffs. On the remaining exports, Section 232 tariffs will continue — 50% on steel and aluminium and 25% on certain auto components — while products accounting for roughly 40% of export value, including smartphones, petroleum products and medicines, will remain exempt from US tariffs," said Ajay Srivastava, founder of Global Trade Research Initiative.

"The US had agreed to reduce reciprocal tariffs on India to 18%, which shall no longer remain relevant following the Court's decision. This is also likely pave the way for potential refunds of tariffs collected without adequate legal basis," said Manoj Mishra, partner and tax controversy management leader at Grant Thornton Bharat.

(With agency inputs)



I'm ashamed of certain members of the court, absolutely ashamed, for not having the courage to do what's right for our country

Donald Trump

Refunds could be a mess

The Treasury had collected more than \$133 billion from the import tariffs Trump imposed. But Supreme Court did not clarify whether companies that paid tariffs can get a refund

Critics welcome SC ruling

Opponents of the tariffs are cheering it. 'We Pay the Tariffs' a coalition of businesses, called it a tremendous win

SC directs use of judicial officers in Bengal SIR

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

IN a dramatic turn of events, the Supreme Court on Friday directed for deployment of judicial officers, including retired judges, for easy and smooth conduct of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise in West Bengal, after noting that there was a clear lack of cooperation between the State government and the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The court said it had to pass the "extraordinary order" due to "extraordinary circumstances." The court requested the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice Sujoy Paul to allot



We are left with hardly any option but to request Calcutta HC CJ to spare serving judicial officers along with former judicial officers who can aid in disposal of claims under logical discrepancy list — SC

serving and former judicial officers in the rank of district judges or above for SIR duties.

Chief Justice Paul has been asked to convene a meeting on Saturday, to be attended by Chief Secretary, DGP, official from the EC, Advocate General

of the state, Additional Solicitor General of the Centre and Registrar General of the high court on the issue.

"There is an unfortunate blame game of allegations and counter allegations which shows trust deficit between the

TRINAMOL SAYS IT'S A BLOW TO ECI

Hailing the SC order to deploy judicial officers for SIR exercise, the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) said that it is a blow to the Election Commission, which has failed in discharging its constitutional responsibilities. "SC just delivered the knockout punch... all logical discrepancy cases will be handled by judicial officers," said TMC's Kalyan Banerjee

WB government and the ECI. Now the process is stuck at the stage of claims and objections

of the persons who have been included in the logical discrepancy list," said a three-judge bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and Justice Vipin Pancholi.

Directing to appoint judicial officers to adjudicate claims and objections in the SIR process in WB, the top court clarified that it was left with no other option but to involve the state judiciary for conclusion of the SIR exercise in Bengal.

The court was hearing a batch of pleas challenging the ECI's exercise of electoral rolls in West Bengal, where ECI submitted that they were not being provided well-qualified officers to conduct SIR.

SHIRTLESS PROTEST



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A group of Indian Youth Congress workers on Friday staged a bizarre, shirtless protest at the India AI Impact Summit, shouting slogans against the government and the India-US trade deal before being confronted by members of the public and escorted away by security personnel.

The protesters were seen waving white T-shirts printed with images of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump. Police said they had registered online and obtained QR codes to enter the venue. They allegedly concealed the T-shirts under their jackets and pulled them out dramatically when they reached Hall No. 5.

The protest drew a sharp reaction from the BJP, with party spokesperson Sambit Patra saying, "For the Congress, I have just three words—topless, brainless and shameless."

IYC national president Uday Bhanu Chib defended the action, saying, "Peaceful protest is our right in a democracy."

HC orders FIR in job scam involving Nehru

Min: Did no wrong

Responding to the direction of the high court, Minister K N Nehru said that he would legally contest the case and prove that no wrongdoing had been committed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Madras High Court on Friday directed the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) to register a case, without delay, based on the information shared by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) regarding the alleged cash-for-jobs scam in the Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MAWS) Department headed by Minister KN Nehru. The

court raised serious doubts and expressed concern over the state's disinclination to register a case despite the source information shared with them three and a half months ago.

Reacting to the order, Nehru said that he will fight the case and prove that he has not done anything wrong.

Passing orders on a writ petition filed by AIADMK MP IS Inbadurai, a division bench of Chief Justice Manindra Mo-

han Shrivastava and Justice G Arul Murugan on Friday held that once information discloses the commission of a cognisable offence, registration of an FIR is mandatory and cannot be deferred in the name of a prolonged preliminary inquiry.

"It is not a case where they have received a bare complaint which necessitated the state to conduct an inquiry through the vigilance department," the court said.

PTI

EXPRESS READ

HC rejects Ramadoss's plea to freeze 'Mango'

Chennai: The Madras High Court on Friday dismissed writ petitions filed by PMK founder S Ramadoss seeking a direction to the ECI to freeze the party's 'Mango' symbol and defer the announcement of elections in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry until he is recognised as the party president | PB



Today's Match

7pm: New Zealand vs Pakistan (Colombo)

MHA invokes Official Secrets Act to secure note printing press HQ

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Centre has designated the headquarters of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) in the national capital as a "prohibited place" under the provisions of the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

The decision is aimed at reinforcing security at the strategic installation and preventing any unauthorised access that could compromise sensitive information or cause damage to the premises, officials said.

They said that the move is preventive in nature and intended to strengthen safe-

guards around the facility and noted that any breach of information or harm to the headquarters could potentially be exploited by forces inimical to India's interests.

The order also clarified that it supersedes an earlier notification dated February 15, 2022, except in cases where actions have already been taken under the previous directive.

The notified premises comprise the SPMCIL Headquarters Office located in World Trade Centre in Delhi.

A wholly owned Schedule 'A' Miniratna Category-I company, SPMCIL manufactures currency notes coins.

All about OSA

Under the OSA, areas designated as prohibited are subject to heightened security restrictions. Unauthorised access, photography, sketching, or collection of information in such premises can attract stringent penal provisions under the Act

OPS warms up to DMK, says party will win

T MURUGANANDHAM @ Chennai

HINTING at the possibility of joining hands with the DMK, former chief minister O Panneerselvam on Friday said that the incumbent DMK government has a good chance of being voted back to power due to its achievements in the last five years.

After the concluding session of the 16th Assembly, Panneerselvam, who quit the NDA recently, called on Chief Minister MK Stalin in his chamber and greeted him for completing the



term successfully. When asked by reporters later as to whether he intended to join the DMK, Panneerselvam simply said, "be patient".

Panneerselvam's statement comes months after his sup-

porters — Manoj Pandian, JCD Prabhakar, R Vaithilingam, A Subburathinam and many others — deserted him, citing his delay in taking a decision on the alliance issue. Veteran politician Panruti S Ramachandran, who was with the OPS camp till recently, had launched his own political party also citing Panneerselvam's indecisiveness.

Whether Panneerselvam will formally join DMK or have electoral alliance with it to get a few seats is not clear as his legal fight to lay claims to the AIADMK is still on.

'Supporter echoed public sentiments'

Commenting on remarks made by his supporter, MLA Ayyappan, who had said the DMK govt would continue in power with the blessings of MGR and Jaya, OPS said that Ayyappan had "echoed people's sentiments"

JAI GURU DEV

MAHARISHI VIDYA MANDIR GROUP OF SCHOOLS

JEE MAIN - 2026 (SESSION 1) RESULTS

HIGHEST NUMBER OF SELECTIONS FROM A SINGLE INSTITUTION IN TAMILNADU

DARSH

99.99 PERCENTILE

SOORVA G

99.98 PERCENTILE

ARAVIND K

99.98 PERCENTILE

ARHAAN HAIDER

99.98 PERCENTILE

SACHITH JAIKUMAR

99.97 PERCENTILE

KUNARESH

99.96 PERCENTILE

KARUN STANLEY J

99.96 PERCENTILE

VIDUTH KRISHNAN R

99.94 PERCENTILE

V SRINAM

99.91 PERCENTILE

GOVIND K

99.91 PERCENTILE

SAIVIKULAKRISHNAN

99.89 PERCENTILE

HANISH C R

99.88 PERCENTILE

ANBILDEE J G

99.88 PERCENTILE

S SANTOSH

99.86 PERCENTILE

AMRITHAN LOKANATHAN

99.86 PERCENTILE

BALAJI MALLIKARJUN

99.85 PERCENTILE

NITHIN K

99.84 PERCENTILE

HIRRA SINGH

99.83 PERCENTILE

PHARHARAN

99.82 PERCENTILE

DESHAYAN R

99.81 PERCENTILE

BOBHAN ARVIND K

99.77 PERCENTILE

JASON DANIEL D

99.76 PERCENTILE

SHIVANI

99.75 PERCENTILE

ADARSH C

99.73 PERCENTILE

CHIRUPAVATHAN

99.69 PERCENTILE

REJITH M

99.68 PERCENTILE

HASAL KISHOR

99.67 PERCENTILE

SIDDHANT H

99.66 PERCENTILE

VEDHIAL

99.66 PERCENTILE

TANISHK

99.64 PERCENTILE

NEETHANTH R

99.62 PERCENTILE

SHANMUGH

99.62 PERCENTILE

ALIEN PRASAD S

99.60 PERCENTILE

SHARATH G R

99.58 PERCENTILE

TANAY KIRAN R

99.55 PERCENTILE

SHRINETH G R

99.55 PERCENTILE

B MITHAN KARTH

99.53 PERCENTILE

VARUN VARBER

99.51 PERCENTILE

CARSHIK KANNA

99.49 PERCENTILE

ABHINAVANDE

99.47 PERCENTILE

RACHIN ANAND

99.45 PERCENTILE

NITHIN K

99.44 PERCENTILE

PRANAV VEDANT

99.43 PERCENTILE

BHISHANTH

99.41 PERCENTILE

GOVIND D

99.37 PERCENTILE

GOUTHAM V

99.34 PERCENTILE

PRANAV ANAND S

99.28 PERCENTILE

DEEPAK ANCHUTHERI

99.27 PERCENTILE

AMAR AL FAYED

99.20 PERCENTILE

JAYANTH K

99.17 PERCENTILE

GUJARATHAN RAN

99.15 PERCENTILE

DEVESH R

99.12 PERCENTILE

STEVEN LAMBERS

99.12 PERCENTILE

ANUSHTHAN K

99.10 PERCENTILE

HISHANSHI S

99.08 PERCENTILE

SOUNADHAN

99.00 PERCENTILE

RESULTS

Above 99.9 percentile - 10 students

Above 99.8 percentile - 20 students

Above 99.7 percentile - 24 students

HIGHLIGHTS

Above 99.6 percentile - 33 students

Above 99.5 percentile - 38 students

Above 99.0 percentile - 56 students

And Many More...

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE STUDENTS!

YOU MADE US PROUD

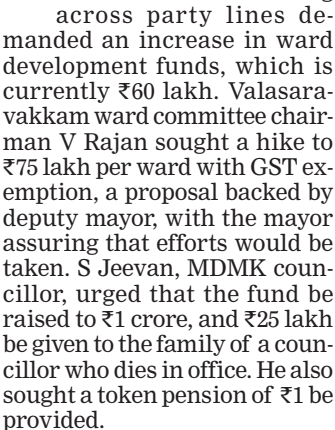
Chetpet Campus:
Maharishi Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School, 28, Dr. Guruswamy Road, Chennai-31. Ph: 044 26427088

Sriperumbudur Campus:
Maharishi International Residential School, Sunguvarchathiram, Sriperumbudur, TN- 602106. Mob: 9566060000

Yesterday's Jumbles: PRUNE ICIER POETRY MIGHTY
 Answer: Numbers 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 will never show signs of age and always be — IN THEIR PRIME

Hundreds of passengers forced to disembark & walk along tracks due to work at Egmore station; suburban services will be affected till April 5

CHENNAI: The state government on Friday disbursed ₹7.21 crore to 144 beneficiaries under various start-up and innovation schemes, underscoring its push to strengthen rural entrepreneurship and incubation capacity. At an event titled Velum Ondraga held at the Chennai Metro Rail Limited headquarters, MSME Minister T M Anbarasan handed over sanction orders under programmes implemented by the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (StartupTN). A key component of the initiative is the Gramam Thorum Puthozhil Scheme, which has identified 100 villages across the state to host start-ups. In the first phase, 62 rural entrepreneurs received ₹1 lakh each. *ENS*



CBC 17217/12/0006/2526



Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN OF ENEMY PROPERTY FOR INDIA

Kaiser-I-Hind Building, Currimbhoy Road, Ballard Estate, Mumbai-400001

NOTICE FOR DISPOSAL OF ENEMY PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION

The office of the Custodian of Enemy Property of India (CEPI) is a Statutory Authority under the provisions of the Enemy Property Act, 1968. The Head Office is at Delhi and one of its Branch Office is at Mumbai.

(03/2026) E-AUCTION

The O/o CEPI is undertaking e-Auction of Enemy Properties through e-auction portal of MSTC Ltd including the following property :-

S. No.	Khasra No / House No, Area, Village, Tehsil & District	Starting Price (₹)	Pre Bid EMD (₹)	Incremental at Value (₹)
1	Khasra No/House No – RS No 4331, Area- 0.4796 Ground (1151 Sq.ft.), VoC Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	2,02,51,131	10,12,557	25,000
2	Khasra No/House No.-RS No 4332, Area-1 Ground & 221 Sq feet (2621sq.ft.),VoC Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	4,61,14,869	23,05,743	25,000
3	Khasra No-51 Hissa No 6, Area- 1110 Sq. Mtr. Govalkot, Chiplun, District Ratnagiri, Maharashtra	46,95,300	2,34,765	20,000
4	Khasra No-80 Hissa No 4, Area- 730 Sq Mtr. Govalkot, Chiplun, District Ratnagiri, Maharashtra	30,87,900	1,54,395	20,000
5	Khasra No-86 Hissa No 10, Area- 860 Sq Mtr. Govalkot, Chiplun, District Ratnagiri, Maharashtra	36,37,800	1,81,890	20,000
6	CTS No.662 (Old Sy.No.1170) 282.20 Sq Mtr. Govalkot, Chiplun, District Ratnagiri, Maharashtra	14,58,974	72,949	15,000
7	CTS No.2317/2, 26.57 Sq.Mtr., Guleddurga, Badami Taluka, District Bagalkot, Karnataka	1,17,000	5,850	5,000

Details of the above property and other conditions / details are available on and the QR Code below:-
<https://enemyproperty.mha.gov.in/epweb/viewDocument?uid=654>

For MSTC Ltd e-auction portal, log on to: <https://enemyproperty.mha.gov.in/epweb/viewDocument?uid=655>

The details can be downloaded / viewed from above websites / by scanning QR Code. The E-Auction notice / inspection period is from **13.02.2026 to 15.03.2026**. The E-Auction will take place on **16.03.2026 from 11.00 Hrs to 16.00 Hrs**. All interested persons are advised to see Amendments / Changes in the Bid Document, if any, which will be uploaded on the website.



Date and Time of E-Auction

16.03.2026 11:00 Hrs. to 16:00 Hrs.

DMK will return to power, surpass its own achievements, says Stalin

In last speech in the final Assembly session, CM thanks governor, EPS and deputy CM

T MURUGANANDHAM @ Chennai

PITCHING for a performance-based mandate from the people ahead of the forthcoming Assembly elections, Chief Minister MK Stalin on Friday expressed confidence that the DMK would return to power, asserting that the next government would surpass the achievements of the past five years.

Addressing the concluding session of the 16th Assembly, Stalin thanked Governor RN Ravi, Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, ministers, Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami, officials and the voters of his Kolathur constituency.

“Despite fiscal constraints, we implemented numerous landmark schemes,” he said, listing initiatives such as Vidiyal Payanam, Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam, Naan Mudhalvan, the Breakfast Scheme, Pudhumai Penn, the assured pension scheme for government employees, Inuyir Kappom and temple renovation works, besides welfare measures for children, youth, women, farmers, weavers,



Chief Minister MK Stalin leaving the House after addressing the concluding session of the 16th Assembly on Friday | P JAWAHAR

Assembly met for 167 days, adopted 230 Bills

Chennai: Speaker M Appavu on Friday presented a detailed account of the functioning of the 16th Legislative Assembly, stating that the House met for a total of 167 days since its first session on June 21, 2021. Appavu said the total duration of proceedings was 770 hours and 23 minutes till noon on Friday. A total of 230 government Bills were passed during the five-year period, including 14 that were re-adopted after being returned by the governor. ENS

marginalised communities and persons with disabilities.

Stating that he had functioned guided solely by his conscience, Stalin said experience of the last five years has strengthened him further and that he was confident of taking Tamil Nadu to greater heights. “I remain ready to work harder. I firmly believe that tomorrow’s Tamil Nadu will welcome us again. The Dravidian Model 2.0 government will surpass even our own achievements.” With conviction, the CM said, “We shall win again. We shall return to form the government. We shall

continue to implement schemes for the people of Tamil Nadu.” Replying to the discussion on the interim budget, Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu said the DMK government would be judged favourably for its commitment to social justice, inclusive growth and economic progress. He said the government had navigated the Covid pandemic, natural disasters and fiscal pressures while safeguarding state rights within federal framework.

Agriculture Minister MRK Panneerselvam said the introduction of exclusive agricul-

ture budgets since 2021-22 had strengthened the sector. Over five years, ₹1,94,076 crore was allotted to agriculture, with ₹47,248 crore proposed for 2026-27—nearly ₹13,000 crore more than in 2021-22. While MLAs of Congress, VCK, CPM, CPI, and others hailed the achievements of the DMK government, the principal opposition party in the Assembly, the AIADMK, and its allies BJP and the Anbumani faction of the PMK, skipped the proceedings on the concluding session of the 16th Assembly.

(With inputs from S Kumaresan)

BJP releases ‘report card’, says DMK implemented only 31% of its promises

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Chennai

THE BJP on Friday released a “report card” on the DMK government, which is nearing the completion of its tenure, and dubbed it an “all fail” government. The party claimed that the DMK has fulfilled only 160 of the 505 promises made in its 2021 poll manifesto. As per the report card, the government’s performance was “average” in education, sports, Tamil language and culture, labour and industrial welfare, public welfare and the right to worship. It rated the government as having failed in sectors, including administration, infrastructure, social justice, health, environment, water management, women welfare, transport, fishermen welfare, animal



BJP state president Nainar Nagenthiran posing with the report card outside the Assembly | P JAWAHAR

welfare, agriculture and employment.

Speaking to reporters, BJP state president Nainar Nagenthiran said that DMK leaders, including Chief Minister MK Stalin and MP Kanimozhi, had provided conflicting figures on the number of manifesto promises fulfilled.

Claiming that the BJP had independently examined the manifesto, he said marks were awarded based on actual implementation. He also alleged that schemes such as the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai were implemented in its bid to elevate Udhayanidhi Stalin as the next CM.

Will not succumb to BJP’s pressure tactics, says TVK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Madurai

IN its first targeted criticism of the BJP in two years since launch, actor Vijay’s Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) on Friday said the party would not yield to “pressure tactics” from the saffron party and reiterated its stand of not aligning with the national party.

Speaking to reporters in Madurai on the sidelines of a family event, TVK general secretary (propaganda and policy) KG Arunraj said party founder Vijay had clearly declared the BJP as “ideological adversary”.

Further, the former IRS officer alleged that the BJP had made several attempts to intimidate the TVK through various means, including obstructing release of *Jana Nayagan* and through “threats of an inquiry by the CBI”.

“Our leader (Vijay) continues to function without succumbing to any pressure,” he said. Exuding confidence about the party’s electoral prospects, Arunraj said the TVK was witnessing strong grassroots momentum, particularly among youth, and expressed hope of securing a majority to form the government. The TVK leader also criticised the DMK, questioning the timing of its alliance-building efforts and its tie-up with the DMDK. He said the development reflected



90% OF YOUNG VOTERS WANT VIJAY AS CM, SAYS SENGOTTAIYAN

Erode: TVK chief coordinator KA Sengottaiyan said the party’s election manifesto will surprise everyone, and that 90% of voters between 18 to 45 years of age in the state want Vijay to become the chief minister. While criticising VB G-RAM-G scheme, he said, “The centre is currently insisting on a 40% contribution towards the scheme from the state governments. This has created unemployment in the villages. The parties in the NDA and DMK alliance are not ready to question this. It is for these reasons that people want Vijay as CM,” he said.

anxiety in the DMK ahead of the polls. Accusing the state government of adopting “double standards,” he said permission for TVK’s outreach programmes were delayed or denied, while those of the ruling party were cleared swiftly. To a question of TVK’s alliance strategy, Arunraj said the party had already announced it would share power with allies.

Be proactive in fighting attacks on DMK: Stalin to IT wing cadre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Chennai

CITING attempts by rival parties to create division among allies and friendly forces, Chief Minister and DMK president MK Stalin on Friday urged the party’s IT wing functionaries to remain vigilant and counter misinformation. He also asked the functionaries to make clear the party’s political agenda online rather than remaining on the defensive.

Alleging that opponents are attempting to create unrest in the state through misinformation, Stalin termed fake news as the primary challenge before the cadre. He accused right-wing networks of operating numerous fake social media accounts to spread misinformation. “We must not fall prey to such malicious designs,” he said.

Stalin expressed confidence that the upcoming Assembly election would deliver another clean sweep. “For 75 years, the DMK has remained a firebrand movement in Tamil Nadu, and you are its firewall,” he told the cadre, adding DMK is perhaps the only political movement in India to deploy digital agents at the booth level.

“Trending hashtags alone is not the goal; setting the agenda is,” he added.

TN misses SOTR target by ₹14,355 cr, blames it on GST

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Chennai

THE interim budget of the Tamil Nadu government for the year 2026-27 has revealed a shortfall of ₹14,355 crore in the realisation of the target fixed for State’s Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) for 2025-26. However, the state government, in its medium-term fiscal plan for 2026-27, indicated that past shortfalls will be addressed by strengthening compliance and administration.

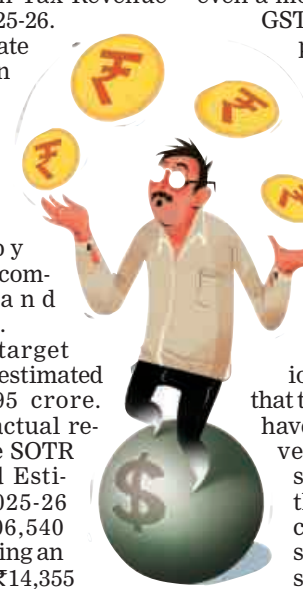
The SOTR target for 2025-26 was estimated to be ₹2,20,895 crore. However, the actual realisation in the SOTR in the Revised Estimates for 2025-26 stood at ₹2,06,540 crore, thus leaving an SOTR gap of ₹14,355

crore, which is considered a moderate shortfall.

The interim budget for 2026-27 attributes the shortfall primarily to lower-than-expected GST collections. Since GST constitutes the largest share of Tamil Nadu’s own tax revenue, even a moderate slowdown in

GST growth has a disproportionate impact on overall SOTR. The budget explicitly noted that the reduction is mainly attributable to the decline in GST receipts.

When asked about the shortfall in realising the target fixed for SOTR during 2025-26, a senior official told *TNIE* that the budget documents have dealt with this development and reasoned it out. He said the budget also indicated measures for setting right this shortfall.



The SOTR for 2026-27 is estimated to reach ₹2,29,579 crore—an 11% increase over the revised estimate for 2025-26. The interim budget said this taking into account both the positive impact of improved economic activity arising from trade deals with the US and the European Union, and the adverse impact of the GST rate rationalisation exercise conducted the previous year. The interim budget also projected the SOTR for the next two financial years to be ₹2,61,720.20 crore in 2027-28 and ₹2,98,361.02 crore in 2028-29. The growth rates of SOTR are estimated to be 14% in 2027-28 and 2028-29. The shortfall also comes amid fiscal friction between the state and the union government. The interim budget refers to impacts from GST rate rationalisation, an unannounced IGST deduction, and reductions in certain fund transfers. While these may not directly reduce SOTR, they tighten overall fiscal space and complicate revenue management.

DMK leaders link north Indian migrants with ganja trade, spark row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Chennai

DMK MP Kanimozhi NVN Somu and MSME minister TM Anbarasan triggered a controversy by allegedly blaming north Indian migrant workers for the drug menace in Tamil Nadu. The statements were made during a party meeting in the city on Friday.

In a video clip of the meeting, Kanimozhi is heard saying “while our children, who studied Tamil and English, are working abroad as engineers, doctors and scientists, those who studied Hindi are coming to Tamil Nadu to sell ganja and pani puri”.

Anbarasan, who also spoke on the same stage earlier, claimed around 10,000 people arrive in Tamil Nadu daily from northern states, “with some bringing one or two kilograms of ganja”. He said the DMK government had brought the situation under control and

that such problems would not have arisen had the previous AIADMK government taken similar steps. He also claimed ganja has a free run in other states.

Reacting to the remarks, the state unit of BJP condemned the DMK leaders for “targeting and demeaning” north Indian migrant workers. Former state BJP president K Annamalai said despite repeated at-

tacks on migrant workers in Tamil Nadu, DMK ministers and MPs “appear to have learnt absolutely nothing, except how to normalise their hate against migrant workers”. Calling it a pattern, Annamalai said such targeted and demeaning rhetoric against migrant workers has become a routine affair under the DMK regime. “By repeatedly stereotyping an entire section of people as criminals and petty offenders, the DMK is actively legitimising social hostility and violence on the ground,” he said.



TIMELY SHOWERS

Madurai city witnessed a sudden downpour in the evening hours on Friday. The IMD has predicted intense rainfall at isolated places over south Tamil Nadu on February 21 and 22 | KK SUNDAR

EPS mum, Vijay demands Nehru’s exit from cabinet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Chennai

THE Madras High Court directing Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) to register case in the alleged cash-for-jobs scam in the Municipal Administration department headed by KN Nehru has given new ammunition to political parties, including the BJP and actor-politician Vijay-led TVK, to intensify their attack on the government.

Meanwhile, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami did not respond to the order as of Friday night, though

the party’s Rajya Sabha MP IS Inbadurai is one of the petitioners in the case.

Talking to reporters at the Madras HC, Inbadurai said following the ED’s complaint to the DGP on the ₹1,020 crore scam four months ago, DVAC had not registered any FIR.

“When I filed the case, it was argued that I did it to gain political mileage,” he said, adding after he moved the court, state claimed a preliminary inquiry was under way. He said the current order to register an FIR shows that the court has accepted his argument that the state is delaying justice in the



case.

Responding to the order, Vijay said the order is yet another major embarrassment for the “corruption-tainted” DMK government.

In a post on X, he said the minister facing the charges

should step down voluntarily, failing which he should be removed from the cabinet.

He also asserted that the public is waiting to vote out “the deeply corrupt government” in the upcoming election.

BJP state president Nainar Nagenthiran said the DMK’s “fortress of corruption” is crumbling, adding the countdown has begun for the DMK government “that is swindling public money and thriving on commissions”.

PMK president Dr Anbumani Ramadoss urged the authorities to initiate an inquiry against Nehru.

In grassroots outreach to new cadre, DMK restarts 'mandrams' across TN

PRABHAKAR TAMILARASU
@ Chennai

EVEN as some senior leaders in the DMK are seen "vibing" and "chilling" in an effort to bridge the generational gap, the party's youth wing has returned to its organisational roots, reviving grassroots 'mandrams' as training grounds for a new generation of cadres.

The DMK Youth Wing has begun establishing youth mandrams across Tamil Nadu, with a plan to set up one in every street comprising at least 20 members. The first phase of the initiative was inaugurated on Thursday in the western part of the Thousand Lights Assembly

constituency in Chennai West district by Youth Wing secretary and Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin.

Party sources said the exercise aims to strengthen ideological training and grassroots political engagement at a time when political parties increasingly rely on digital outreach.

Historically, mandrams functioned as ideological nerve centres of the Dravidian movement. Named after figures such as Thiruvalluvar, Periyar, C N Annadurai and M Karunanidhi, these forums served as local political schools where cadres read movement publications,

debated contemporary politics, discussed social issues, and organised street-corner meetings and neighbourhood campaigns.

Senior leaders said the current initiative seeks to recreate that ecosystem of political education. Planned activities under the revived mandrams include collective reading of party literature, discussions on public policy and current affairs, door-to-door outreach, and small-scale public meetings. The move also echoes former CM Karunanidhi's early 1990s effort to institutionalise ideological learning through

the 'Dravida Marumalarchi Mandram', a postal-based course designed to familiarise cadres with the history and principles of the Dravidian movement.

Political observers view the initiative as an attempt to strengthen the party's grassroots presence ahead of elections while reinforcing Dravidian political discourse among a new generation of voters. Political analyst and researcher Vignesh Rajahmani said the decision to revive mandrams must be seen in the context of a new generation of voters lacking strong ideological affiliations.

"The rise of actor Vijay's party has exposed the emergence



Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin inaugurating the DMK party 'mandrams' in Thousand Lights Assembly constituency in Chennai | EXPRESS

of an apolitical and economically fragile section of young people who have largely remained outside structured po-

litical engagement," he said. According to him, the Dravidian movement historically relied on discussion forums and collec-

tive learning spaces to shape political consciousness.

"Mandrams were reflective spaces where ideas were debated and absorbed, unlike television debates that reward quick point-scoring. Reviving them signals a return to the DMK's foundational method of politicising society through dialogue," he said.

Vignesh added that the move comes at a time when the party faces stronger ideological competition and a weakening of traditional electoral binaries.

"By turning mandrams into training grounds for youth, the party is shifting back into a long-term cadre-building mode," he added.

HC: Dispose of ECR building violation appeals by May 31

Court says 798 properties identified for violations or deviations in construction

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Madras High Court on Friday directed the authorities to complete the hearing and disposal of pending appeals relating to construction violations on ECR by May 31.

Passing orders on a batch of writ petitions concerning properties in Neelankarai, Injambakkam, Sholinganallur and Uthandi, a Division Bench of Justice Anita Sumanth and Justice Mummuni Sudheer Kumar recorded that 798 properties had been identified for violations or deviations in construction. Of these, 440 notices had filed appeals or revision petitions, while 84 appeals have been disposed of so far. The order copy said the officer who heard the appeals and revisions in October 2024 had since retired without passing orders. Taking note of the delay, the bench directed S Kanchanamala,

chief planner (road transport), CMDA, presently on deputation as additional secretary (technical) in the Housing and Urban Development Department, to hear the pending appeals and revisions.

The petitioners who have filed appeals or revisions may appear before the authority between February 23 and March 30 between 10.30 am and 5.30 pm on any working day. The order itself shall be treated as notice of hearing and no fresh notice need be issued, the court said.

The bench directed that the parties be granted personal hearing and reasoned that speaking orders be passed in accordance with law. If petitioners fail to appear, the authority is at liberty to pass orders based on available records. The court also clarified that those who have not filed appeals or revision petitions are liable to be proceeded in accordance with law.



IN GOD WE TRUST

Devotees offer prayers on the first Friday of Ramzan month at Evening Bazaar Mosque in Broadway, Chennai | ASHWIN PRASATH

Man arrested for harassing college student

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A man who allegedly harassed a college student and attacked her father was arrested on Thursday.

According to police, Sasikumar (23) and a group waylaid a 19-year-old girl near Anna Salai on Tuesday and harassed her. The persons were allegedly drunk. The girl ran away from them, but the group harassed her again the same night near a shop.

The girl informed her parents about this, and her father alerted the police. However, he did not give a written complaint, police claimed. On Thursday, when the girl's father saw Sasikumar, he confronted him. In a fit of rage, Sasikumar attacked the girl's father and also broke the windows of a nearby shop. Based on a complaint from the shop owner, Sasikumar was arrested.

Udhaya inaugurates 3-day property exhibition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

DEPUTY Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Friday inaugurated FAIRPRO 2026, the flagship property exhibition organised by Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI), Chennai, underscoring sustained end-user demand in Chennai's housing market.

The three-day fair, now in its 18th edition, is being held at the Chennai Trade Centre.

Navin Kumar, managing director of Navin's and treasurer of CREDAI Chennai, said the exhibition had been scaled up



Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin releasing a roster during the inauguration of 18th edition of CREDAI FAIRPRO 2026 at Chennai Trade Centre on Friday | MARTIN LOUIS

this year to reflect the breadth of activity across residential, commercial and plotted developments in the city and its emerging corridors. Chennai

remains largely an end-user-driven market, he said, supported by steady office-space absorption and job creation. Annual residential launches

in the city have risen from about 16,000 units five to ten years ago to over 25,000 units now, while prices have remained relatively stable, creating favourable conditions for buyers, Kumar added.

More than 80 developers affiliated with CREDAI, Chennai, are showcasing over 500 projects, comprising around 52,600 units across apartments, villas, plots and commercial spaces. The portfolio spans roughly 57.2 million sq ft, with ticket sizes ranging from ₹15 lakh to ₹15 crore. Organisers expect footfall of over 50,000 visitors during the three-day event.

6 STOLEN TWO-WHEELERS RECOVERED, 3 HELD

CHENNAI: Three persons, including two juveniles, were arrested on Thursday for stealing a two-wheeler from a woman in Kolathur. A total of six vehicles were recovered from the trio. According to police, Jayabharathi (34), a resident of Kolathur, had parked her two-wheeler outside her house on the night of February 6. She found the vehicle missing the next morning. Based on her complaint, the Kolathur police registered a case and intensified vehicle checks. On Thursday, they arrested Jegadeesh (19) of Vandavasi in Tiruvannamalai district. He had recently come to Chennai and was staying in a room. Two juveniles aged 16 and 17, who were in contact with him, were also secured. Investigation revealed that Jegadeesh and the juveniles had been targeting residential streets at night, stealing two-wheelers and hiding them in Chennai and Tiruvannamalai for resale at throwaway prices. ENS

IMMORTALS

Shri GNANASAMBANDAM of Rajakipakkam passed away on February 05, 2026

Shri ARUNACHALAM M SP of Ambattur passed away on February 13, 2026

Shri PICHANDI of Perambur passed away on February 13, 2026

Smt PREMA SADASIVAM of Chromepet passed away on February 15, 2026

Shri MAHAVEER CHAD JAIN of Kondithope passed away on February 15, 2026

Smt RENUKA DEVI SELVAM of Iyyappanthangal passed away on February 16, 2026

Smt SUNDARAMBAL of Velachery passed away on February 18, 2026

Smt PANCHAVARANAM of Kilpauk passed away on February 19, 2026

Their eyes were donated to Sankara Nethralaya. Ph : 28281919

Pay a lasting tribute to the departed in The New Indian Express's special remembrance column

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

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL III, CHENNAI

6th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006
DRC No. 1554/2025

Punjab National Bank, Virugambakkam Branch (erstwhile United Bank of India) ...Certificate Holder

T.N. Subramanian & Another Vs- ...Certificate Debtors

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice Under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 (as amended from time to time) and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961

To
1. T.N.Subramanian, S/o.T.S.Narayanan, No.14-A, Ekambaram Iyer Street, Venkatapuram, Ambattur, Chennai - 600 053.
&
T.N.Subramanian, S/o.T.S.Narayanan, No.1317, Nattu Subbrayan Street, Mylapore, Chennai- 600 004.

2. Mrs. Aparna, Door No.2, Chinnasamy Street, Venkatapuram, Ambattur, Chennai - 600 053.

1. In view of the Recovery Certificate DRC No. 62/2017 issued on 13/02/2017 by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-3 Chennai, under Sub Sections 7 and 22 of Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 (as amended from time to time) in terms of Order dated 31/12/2016 in OA No.28/2014, specifying that an amount of Rs.8,75,748.29/- [Rupees Eight Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Eight And Paise Twenty Nine Only] together with simple interest@ 7.5 % per annum, from 01/01/2018 till the date of realization, along with costs, is due/recoverable from you in terms of the DRC.

2. You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of this notice, to the Certificate Holder Bank, failing which the recovery shall be made as per the extant rules.

3. The Certificate Debtor No. 1 and 2 service of Demand Notice returned unserved.

4. Therefore the Tribunal ordered for paper publication of Demand Notice in one issue of English & Tamil Edition, for service to be completed by way of substituted service. The next date of hearing is fixed on 17/03/2026 at 11.30 A.M. for your appearance.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 19th day of February 2026

(P. PREMKUMAR)
RECOVERY OFFICER

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION

BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

B.D.C.No.81/ 0604 /2026

e - Short TENDER NOTICE (Two Cover System)

e -Tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer (Buildings) for the following works as per details furnished below

Various Works in Buildings Department in Zone - 02, 04 and 11. (Under Capital and NNT Fund)

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

Lowest work value Rs. 71,15,465/-	Lowest EMD Rs. 72,000/-
Highest work value Rs. 4,17,37,000/-	Highest EMD Rs. 4,18,000/-

Tender date and time: 03.03.2026 up to 3.00 P.M
Tender open date and time: 04.03.2026 up to 11.00 A.M
Superintending Engineer (Buildings)
DIPR / 1292/ Tender / 2026

EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINANCE LTD)
Registered Office: 4th Floor, Phase - II, Spencer Plaza, No.769, Mount Road, Anna Salai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Pincode - 600 002. Ph: 044-42995000, 044-42995050

POSSESSION NOTICE (U/s. Rule 8 (1) - for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with [Rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers to repay the total outstanding amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Since the below mentioned Borrowers having failed to repay the below stated amount within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the below mentioned borrowers and the public in general that, the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the schedule mentioned properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited and further interest and other charges thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets."

Branch: Acharapakkam, Loan No: SEACRPK0412862, Borrowers: 1. Mr.Elango, 2. Mr.Ezhumalai, 3.Mrs.Mallika, Demand Notice Date & Amount: 29.04.2025 & Rs.4,42,493/-, Date of Possession: 19.02.2026

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of land and Building, Comprised in Old S.No.154/2 Part, New No.194/9, with an extent of 3970 Sq.ft., Which is Situated at Porpanankaranai Village, Anakundram Madurantakkam Taluk, Chengalpatt District, and bounded on the North by :Gramanatham Vacant Land, South by :Road, East by: Mr.Paranthaman's Land, West by : Mr.Natraj's land, Measurement: Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Acharapakkam and Registration District of Chengalpattu.

Date : 21.02.2026
Place : Chennai

Authorised Officer,
Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited.

Advertisement No. 21/2026

Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of

Chairman & Managing Director

In
Northern Coalfields Limited

Last date of submission of application by the applicant is by 15:00 hours on
13/03/2026

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is by 17:00 hours on
23/03/2026

For details login to website
<https://www.pesb.gov.in>

CORRIGENDUM

In reference to the tender for "Hiring of an Integrated Technical Support Agency (TSA) for Agri-Entrepreneur Promotion, Agri-Horti Marketing, and Value Chain Development" bearing Tender ID- 2025_AHWW_66881_1 & Tender Reference No. IN-AD-509514-CS-QCBS, It is hereby notified that due to unavoidable circumstances, the above mentioned procurement activity stands cancelled.

Accordingly, the tender process initiated for the said activity is hereby withdrawn with immediate effect. All concerned bidders are requested to take note of this cancellation.

The authority reserves the right to re-invite the procurement at a later stage.

Sd/-
Director, Horti. & Soil Conservation
(Co-Project Director, Agri. Horti. PIU, TRESP)
Government of Tripura, Agartala.

ICA/C/4419/26

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD

(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2337353, FAX No. 0471-3045647),
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL-2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/22/2025 E- TENDER NOTICE Date: 18.02.2026

Online bids are invited for the procurement of Anti Haemophilia Drugs vide e-tender no KMSCL/ED/HEAM/RC/2026/002 dtd. 18.02.2026 for Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala.

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Last Date & time of Uploading of tender	Date & time of Technical Bid opening
1.	Recombinant Anti Haemophilic factor VIII (SHL & EHL) 500 IU	04.03.2026 5.00 pm.	06.03.2026 11.00 am.

Tender documents can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

(Sd/-)MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work: **Name of Work:** Supply, fixing, commissioning & maintenance of Rail Gauge Face Lubricator machine at Green Line (from Salt Lake Sector-V to Howrah Maidan section) of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Approx Cost of Work:** Rs. 2,10,51,120.00. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 2,55,300.00. **Completion Period:** 60 Months. **Date and time of Closing:** 17.03.2026 at 12:00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website www.i-reps.gov.in in Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be posted only on the website.

Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2551-2026 (Open)

Follow us at: [metrorailwaykolk](https://www.facebook.com/metrorailwaykolk) [metroraikolkata](https://www.facebook.com/metroraikolkata)

Government of Karnataka

DIRECTORATE OF URBAN LAND TRANSPORT

URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER URBAN LAND TRANSPORT

BMTc, TTMC 'B' Block, (Above Bus Stand), 4th Floor, K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027. Ph : 080-22226627 / 6628. Fax : 080-22226630. E-Mail : dultbangalore@gmail.com, du@karnataka.gov.in W: <https://dult.karnataka.gov.in>

No:DULT-TECH/30/2024 Dated : 20.02.2026

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) invites E-bids (Call-2) from the qualified consultancies for the services of preparation of Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) for the Belagavi and Mangaluru cities of Karnataka. The last date for the receipt of e-bid on the KPMP portal for the tender is **05.03.2026, 5.30pm**. The bidders may download the tender document for from <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> web portal. Tender Numbers are as follows: **Belagavi: DULT/2025-26/SE0021/CALL-2, Mangaluru: DULT/2025-26/SE0028/CALL-2.**

Sd/- Special Officer
Directorate of Urban Land Transport
Urban Development Department

DIPR/CP/5771/Shridi Sai/2025-26

CAN FIN HOMES LTD

Branch: Ambattur

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

CIN NO.L85110KA1987PLC008699

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

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

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

NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Ambattur Branch, will be sold by holding e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 20.02.2026, for recovery of **Rs.56,12,760/-** (Rupees Fifty Six Lakhs Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty only) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from Mr. Joseph Richard Rana and Joseph Vijaya kumar (Borrowers) and Evelyne Lourdes Aparna (Guarantor), as on 20.02.2026, together with further interest and other charges thereon. The Reserve Price will be **Rs.29,00,000/-** (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.2,90,000/-** (Rupees Two Lakhs Ninety Thousand only)

Description of the property

Schedule A: All the piece and parcel of the land bearing Old Door No.32, New No.26 in Gandhi Street, Mogappair East, comprised in S.No.475/1 and as per New Patta Block No.55, T.S.No. 94, 95, 96,97 of Mogappair Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District measuring **2052 sq.ft.** North by : Block No 53 Gandhi Street, South by : T S No 111 Canal, East by: T S No 97, 98, 100, West by: T.S. No. 93.

Schedule B: 303 Sq.ft UDS in the land in the A Schedule property with a flat measuring built up area of 730 sq.ft inclusive of common area and car parking in first floor of property bearing no Flat F2 'Subhadri Flats', Old Door No.32, New No.26 in Gandhi Street, Mogappair East, Chennai - 600037 comprised in S.No. 475/1 and as per new Patta Block No.55, Ward No. H T S No.94, 95, 96,97 of Mogappair Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District.

Known Encumbrance : Subsequent to the equitable mortgage in favour of Can Fin Homes Ltd., the said 3rd parties have created subsequent sale deed over the secured assets. The creation of said subsequent sale deed over the secured assets are not binding on Can Fin Homes Ltd as the mortgage created in favour of Can Fin Homes Ltd is prior to the said transaction.

The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (<https://www.canfinhomes.com/SearchAuction.aspx>).

Link for participating in e-auction : www.bankeauctionwizard.com

Date : 20.02.2026
Place : Ambattur

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank

ZONAL OFFICE, CHENNAI NORTH

2nd Floor, Krest Building, No.2, Jehangir Street, Chennai - 600 001. Telephone : 044 - 2521 8315, 2521 8315. email : zochennai@indianbank.bank.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Indian Bank has initiated the process of fraud examination in the Account M/s. **Shri Jeya Subramania Agencies (Prop. : Sh Subramani Muthukumar)**, Account Number : 7653511365, PAN : DAQPM2307R. In this connection Show Cause Notices dated 23.12.2025 were issued to the following Borrower. The said Show Cause notices contains the allegations made by the bank against the persons/entities/promoters/directors/guarantors against whom allegation of fraud is being examined and were issued to provide an opportunity to make their submission against the allegations made by the Bank within 21 days from the receipt of the Show Cause Notice. These Notices were sent by Registered/Speed Post at the recorded addresses. The said Show Cause Notices issued to the persons/entities/promoters/directors/guarantors have returned un-delivered as per postal track consignment. The details of such notices are as under :-

(1) M/s. Shri Jeya Subramania Agencies (Borrower), (Proprietor : Sh Subramani Muthukumar), 2/14, 10th Street, Balaji Nagar, Adambakkam, Chennai - 88 (Speed Post Track No.ET2235223851N). Also at : 27,Sundaramoorthy Street, SM Block, Jafferkhanpet, Chennai - 83 (Speed Post Track No.ET223522371IN). Also at : 7, Shekizhar IInd Street, MGR Nagar, Chennai - 78 (Speed Post Track No.ET2235220438IN).

Now, by means of this paper publication of this notice, the Bank advances the above mentioned borrower to forthwith approach our **Indian Bank, Chetput Branch, Address : 812, Periyar E V R High Road, Chetput, Chennai - 10**, to collect the notice within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and to respond within 21 days from the date of collection of the notice. In case we don't receive any response within 21 days after collection of the notice or the notice is not collected within 7 days from the date of this publication, it will be treated and deemed that they don't have any submission in the matter and the Bank shall proceed further in the matter.

Date : 21.02.2026
Place : Chennai

Indian Bank,
Zonal Office, Chennai North.

State Bank Of India

No. 157, 3rd Floor, SB Annex Building, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002. Ph: 044-28540016/28540017/28540018 Email: rwcramc.lhoche@sbi.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (HEREINAFTER CALLED 'ACT')

Mr. Alaudeen M (Borrower)/S/o.Mr. Mahaboob Basha, Mrs. Asha A (Co-borrower) W/o.Mr. Alaudeen M, both at Residential Address: No. 25, Kakkam Street, Athiyur, Madhurandagam, Vichoor, Chennai-603106. Property Address: Flat No. F2, First Floor, 'Aishwaryam', Plot No. 15A & 15B, Govindarajapuram 1st Street, Nandhivaram, Guduvanchery, Chennai - 603202. Mr. Alaudeen M, S/o.Mr. Mahaboob Basha, Office Address: Employee Code: 00018, Sr. Executive-Airport Operations, Expo Freight Private Limited, No. 16, Haddows Road 1st Street, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600006.

At your request, you have been granted by the SBI Home Loan A/c No. 40697795947 & Saraksha A/c No.40707910929 in the name of Mr. Alaudeen M & Mrs. Asha.A at our HNI Ashok Nagar (18228) Branch Linked With RACPC CHENNAI (04487).

Date of Notice: 02/02/2026; Amount outstanding : Rs. 29,80,837/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Eighty Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Seven Only) as on 02/02/2026 with further interest from 03/02/2026 and incidental expenses, costs etc.,

(Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Securities) HTL A/c No. 40697795947: **SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: 'A' SCHEDULE:** All that piece and parcel of land bearing Plot Nos. 15A & 15B, totally measuring an extent of 3,600 square feet, (i.e., Plot No. 15A, measuring an extent of 1,800 square feet and Plot No. 15B, measuring an extent of 1,800 square feet) in the layout named 'Govindarajapuram', comprised in Survey No. 506/2, Patta No. 9270, as per patta sub-division Survey No. 506/2E, situated in No. 64/2020, dated 7.2.2020, Ma.Vu. No. 179/20, Executive Officer, Nandhivaram-Guduvanchery Town Panchayat, Kancheepuram District.Boundaries for Plot Nos. 15A & 15B, Extent of 3,600 square feet: North by: Vacant land South by : Road East by : Plot No.16 West by : Plot No.14 Measuring North to South on the Eastern side:90 feet North to South on the Western side : 90 feet East to West on the Northern side : 40 feet East to West on the Southern side : 40 feet The above property is situated within the Kattankulathur Panchayat Union Limits and within the Registration District of Chennai South and Registration Sub-District of Guduvanchery. **'B' SCHEDULE:** 332 square feet undivided share of land out of Schedule 'A' property with Flat No. F-2 in First Floor measuring an extent of 802 Sq.ft., with one Car Parking and all common amenities, in the name known as 'Aishwaryam'.

As you have defaulted in repayment of your dues to the bank, we have classified your account as **Non-Performing Assets with effect from 01/02/2026** in accordance with the directions of Reserve Bank of India. For the reasons stated above we hereby give you notice under Section 13(2) of the noted Act and call upon you to discharge in full your liabilities by paying to the Bank the amount mentioned above with contractual rate of interest, incidental expenses, cost, charges etc., within a period of **60 days** from the date of this notice, failing which please note that we will, at your risks as to costs and consequences, exercise the powers vested with the bank under Section 13 of the Act, 2002 against the secured assets mentioned above. Please take note that as per Section 13(13) of the aforesaid Act, you are restrained from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of the secured assets referred to above.

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.

Place: Chennai Authorised Officer, SBI CRAMC, Chennai

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH-I
No.524, 8th Floor, Canara Towers, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai-600018.
Tel.No. 044 - 2849 6339, 2849 6900. E-MAIL: cb2361@canarabank.com, Website: www.canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank, under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a **Demand Notice dated 08.12.2025** in respect of the credit facilities availed from our Canara Bank, Abhiramapuram Branch, calling upon the borrower M/s. Roshan Constructions represented by its proprietor Mr.Arakia Doss and M/s. Nandha catering Services represented by its proprietrix Mrs.V.Nandhakumari to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 70,24,478.54** (Rupees Seventy Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Four Hundred And Seventy Eight And Paise Fifty Four) as on 30.11.2025 together with further interest rate as per demand notice and compounded monthly thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers / guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers / guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned being Authorised Officer of Canara Bank, Asset Recovery Management Branch, Chennai-600018 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 Rules 8 & 9 of the said Rules on this the **18th day of February 2026**.

The Borrowers / Guarantors' attention is invited to the provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrowers / Guarantors 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 Canara Bank, Asset Recovery Management Branch I, Chennai, Eighth Floor, Circle Office Building, No.553/1 Anna Salai, Teynampet Chennai-600 018, for an amount of **Rs. 72,03,059/-** (Rupees Seventy two Lakhs Three Thousand and Fifty Nine Only) as on 31.01.2026 together with further interest and costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Properties in the name of Mrs.V.Nandhakumari: All that piece and parcel of residential flat No.62, Ground Floor, measuring an extent of 720 sq.ft in plinth area and measuring an extent of 275 sq.ft UDS in 1535 sq.ft (as per documents 1592 sq.ft) in land , comprised in TS No.1/14 as per patta New TS no.1/79 situated at No.26/8 Rangarajapuram 6th street Venkatapuram Saidapet Chennai - 600015 Mambalam – Guindy Taluk Chennai district. Boundaries: North by : 6th street, South by : House belonging to Mr.Lakshmanan, East by : Remaining portion of land belonging to Mr.Selvarangaraja, West by : Sandipal House and situated within the Registration district of Chennai South and Sub Registration district of Adayar..

Place: Chennai
Date: 18.02.2026

Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

बैंक ऑफ बरोडा Bank of Baroda

AMBATTUR BRANCH

Seven Star Complex, 1st Floor, 119 MTH Road, Ambattur-600053
Phone: 044-23454228/229/230

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **01.12.2025**, calling upon the Borrower **Shri Devanandhan N K and Mrs. Saritha S K** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs 27,74,319.19** (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Three Hundred Nineteen and Nineteen paise only) together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment 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 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 the **19th day of February of the year 2026**.

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 properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for an amount of **Rs 27,74,319.19/-** (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Three Hundred Nineteen and Nineteen paise only) and further interest thereon 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

All that Piece and parcel of property with 303 sq.ft of undivided share out of land measuring an extent of 2556 sq.ft, together with Flat bearing Flat No F-2 in First floor in the building with an area of 899 sq.ft, (including common area) together with one car park marked as car parking to Flat No F-2 bearing Plot No E, a layout approved by the Corporation of Chennai vide Sub-division Planning permit No SD/WDC007/00270/2012, situated at 16 feet private passage connecting to T.S.No. 14/3 in Block No 5 of ward C of Menambadu Village in Ambattur Taluk, Tiruvallur District and the land **bounded on the North by:** Land and Building comprised in Survey No 6, **South by:** 16 Feet Private Passage, exclusively formed as access only to the Plot Nos A to H, **East by:** Plot No F belonging to Mr. Nandagopal, **West by:** Land comprised in Survey 7/1A.

Place : Ambattur
Date : 19.02.2026

Authorised Officer
BANK OF BARODA

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Divisional Railway Manager / Electrical / Salem Division, Salem -5

E-TENDER NOTICE No: SA-E15-2025-26-W1-W6 Dated 19 / 02 / 2026

For and on behalf of the President of India Invites E- Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc. can be viewed / downloaded from website portal www.i-reps.gov.in.

E-Tender Notice No., Date and Name of Work	Details
1) SA-E15-2025-26-W1 dated: 19/02/2026. Improvement to Station building, Platform Shelter and Platform Surface in NSG-6 Stations in Salem (SA) section over Salem Division-Electrical Arrangements.	Approx. cost- ₹ 31,14,715.00/- EMD - ₹ 62,300.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months.
2) SA-E15-2025-26-W2 dated: 19/02/2026. Improvement to Station building, Platform Shelter and Platform Surface in NSG-6 Stations in Attur(ATU) section over Salem Division-Electrical Arrangements.	Approx. cost- ₹ 24,08,355.00/- EMD - ₹ 48,200.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months.
3) SA-E15-2025-26-W3 dated: 19/02/2026. Improvement to Station building, Platform Shelter and Platform Surface in NSG-6 Stations in Erode(ED) over Salem Division-Electrical Arrangements.	Approx. cost- ₹ 4,44,669.00/- EMD - ₹ 8,900.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months.
4) SA-E15-2025-26-W4 dated: 19/02/2026. Improvement to Station building, Platform Shelter and Platform Surface in NSG-6 Stations in Karur(KRR) over Salem Division-Electrical Arrangements.	Approx. cost- ₹ 33,82,168.00/- EMD - ₹ 67,700.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months.
5) SA-E15-2025-26-W5 dated: 19/02/2026. Improvement to Station building, Platform Shelter and Platform Surface in NSG-6 Stations in Coimbatore(CBE) over Salem Division-Electrical Arrangements.	Approx. cost- ₹ 7,41,115.00/- EMD - ₹ 14,800.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months.
6) SA-E15-2025-26-W6 dated: 19/02/2026. Improvement to Station building, Platform Shelter and Platform Surface in NSG-6 Stations in Mettupalayam(MTP) over Salem Division-Electrical Arrangements.	Approx. cost- ₹ 10,69,693.00/- EMD - ₹ 21,400.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months.
For all the works Closing Time & Date	15.00hrs. on 20.03.2026
For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date	15.30hrs. on 20.03.2026

All Addendum / Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website portal www.i-reps.gov.in and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical) / Salem, Southern Railway, Salem-536005

Government of India
Department of Space
ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC)
Mahendragiri P.O., Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu – 627 133, India

E-TENDER NOTICE Dated : 19-02-2026

On Behalf of the President of India, item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

Sl. No.	Name of Works (Civil Work - Sl.no: 01 & 02; Air Conditioning Work - Sl.no: 03; Composite Work - Sl.no: 04)	Estimated Cost ₹ (in Lakhs)	Period of completion	EMD(₹)
1	NIT no:IPRC/CMGT/DI/e-173/MA/CPH-75/2025-26 Maintenance works of Aluminium and wooden joineries, Replacement of damaged / broken glasses, false ceilings, floor sheets, hardware fittings, sun control films etc., at various buildings / facilities in Group A & Group D areas and also in CISF / Essential Staff Housing Colony, IPRC, Mahendragiri. (Civil work)	89.69	24 (Twenty Four months)	1,79,400
2	NIT no:IPRC/CMGT/DI/e-176/MI/CPH-77/2025-26 Resurfacing and widening of existing bituminous road, storm water drain and allied civil works adjacent to new CUS building at IPRC, Mahendragiri. (Civil work)	23.24	02 (Two months)	46,500
3	NIT no:IPRC/CMGT/DI/e-177/MI/AC-05/2025-26 Providing cold air feeding unit in Engine bay of SIET at IPRC, Mahendragiri. (AC Work)	14.56	03 (Three months)	29,200
4	NIT no:IPRC/CMGT/DI/e-174/AMW/CMP-07/2025-26 Construction of Distribution Canteen near at Group A area at IPRC, Mahendragiri. (Civil, PH & Electrical works)	49.32	06 (Six months)	98,700

Dates for Online Request: From 21-02-2026 [1000 hours] To: 02-03-2026 [2330 hours] [for s.no:1 to 3 only]
To: 06-03-2026 [2330 hours] [for s.no: 4 only]
05-03-2026 [1000 hours] [for s.no: 1 to 3 only]
17-03-2026 [1400 hours] [for s.no: 4 only]

Due Time & Date of Submission :

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website <https://www.isro.gov.in> Tenders, Hindi and tender free view at <https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro>

Note : All future correspondence (Corrigenda) for the above work(s) shall be published only on the websites mentioned above.

GROUP HEAD, CMG, IPRC.

UJVN Limited

H.O.: "UJJAWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone : 0135-2763808; Fax : 0135- 2763508
CIN No: U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website : www.ujvn.com

RO No. 145 Corrigendum No.06 (Time Extension) Dated : 19/02/2026 e-Tender No. 01/DGM (E&M D-II)/UJVNL/2025-26

Due to unavoidable reasons, the dates of e-Tender No. 01/DGM(E&M D-II)/UJVNL/2025-26 invited by office of The Dy. General Manager, E&M Design-II, UJVN Ltd., Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun Uttarakhand) are hereby extended as follows:
Last date for submission of bid on e-portal : 05.03.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of Original document (Hard copies) : 07.03.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of opening of Technical bid on e-portal : 09.03.2026 from 11:00 Hrs.
Other terms & condition shall remain same. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in".

Dy. General Manager (E&M Design-II)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
P.H. DIVISION KORAPUT
Behind State Bank of India Koraput,
Telephone-cum-Fax-06852-250740, Email ID-eeptkpr@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
e-procurement Notice for 2025-26
1st Corrigendum

Modification of Bid Identification No.SE.PH.KPT-15 of 2025-26 Dt.06.02.2026
Modification of date extension of work as follows :

Critical Dates:-

Sl. No.	Description	Critical Dates
(i)	Period of availability of tenders on-line :	From 11.00 Hrs. of 25.02.2026 to 17.00 Hrs. of 09.03.2026
(ii)	Last date & time of bidding on-line :	17.00 Hrs. of 09.03.2026
(iii)	Date & time of opening of Technical Bid :	11.00 Hrs. of 10.03.2026

All other terms & condition of DTCL shall remain unchanged. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd/- (Er. Chiranjibi Mahali), Superintending Engineer,
DIPR- 13001/13008/1/25-26/0002 P.H. Division, Koraput

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH-I
No.524, 8th Floor, Canara Towers, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai-600018.
Tel.No. 044 - 2849 6339, 2849 6900. E-MAIL: cb2361@canarabank.com, Website: www.canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank, under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a **Demand Notice dated 08.12.2025** in respect of the credit facilities availed from our Canara Bank, Abhiramapuram Branch, calling upon the borrower Mr.Arakia Doss and Mrs.V.Nandhakumari to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 41,90,966.19** (Rupees Forty One lakhs Fifty thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Six and paise Nineteen only) as on 15.11.2025 together with further interest rate as per demand notice and compounded monthly thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers / guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers / guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned being Authorised Officer of Canara Bank, Asset Recovery Management Branch, Chennai-600018 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 Rules 8 & 9 of the said Rules on this the **18th day of February 2026**.

The Borrowers / Guarantors' attention is invited to the provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrowers / Guarantors 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 Canara Bank, Asset Recovery Management Branch I, Chennai, Eighth Floor, Circle Office Building, No.553/1 Anna Salai, Teynampet Chennai-600 018, for an amount of **Rs. 43,06,143.19** (Rupees Forty three Lakhs Six Thousand One hundred and Forty three and paise Nineteen Only) as on 15.02.2026 together with further interest and costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Property in the name of Mr.ArakiaDoss: All that piece and parcel of residential flat No. G1, Ground Floor, measuring an extent of 720 sq.ft in plinth area and measuring an extent of 275 sq.ft UDS in 1535 sq.ft (as per documents 1592 sq.ft) in land , comprised in TS No.1/14 as per patta New TS no.1/79 situated at No.26/8 Rangarajapuram 6th street Venkatapuram Saidapet Chennai - 600015 Mambalam – Guindy Taluk Chennai district Boundaries: North by : 6th street, South by : House belonging to Mr.Lakshmanan, East by : Remaining portion of land belonging to Mr.Selvarangaraja, West by : Sandipal House and situated within the Registration district of Chennai South and Sub Registration district of Adayar.

Place: Chennai
Date: 18.02.2026

Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDERS, Engineering Department

E-tender on behalf of the president of India acting through Sr. Divisional Engineer (Co-ordination), Divisional Railway Manager (Works), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for the following works: - NIT No. - DRMW-JBP-25-2026 Dated: 17/02/2026.

Name of work with location - Jabalpur Division: Proposed preparation of DPR/Technical feasibility, bore hole details and for collection all data required for works on various section in Jabalpur division.

Approx cost of the work (Rs.) 2,59,44,458/- **Earnest money (In Rs.)** 2,79,700/- **Completion Period - 24 Months.** NIT No. - DRMW-JBP-26-2026 Dated: 17/02/2026.

Name of work with location GWCB: Development of Gondawali Goods Shed Beohari Sub-division under Assistant Divisional Engineer, **Approx cost of the work (Rs.)** 15,41,38,934/- **Earnest money (In Rs.)** 9,20,700/- **Completion period - 18 Months.** For all above NIT'S Last date & Time for submission of tender (Up to 15.00 Hrs. On)- 13/03/2026. The complete information of the above 'e-tender' is available on website "https://i-reps.gov.in" and also placed on notice board of the Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Office, West Central Railway, Jabalpur. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against above tenders.

Sd/-
Divisional Railway Manager (works)
West Central Railway, Jabalpur

Quote Express

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

SAM LEVENSÓN

RAJASTHAN CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY FEDERATION LIMITED, SARAS SANKUL, JLN MARG, JAIPUR-302017

TEL. – 2702501-508, FAX – 0141 – 2702537, GRAM – DAIRYFED, E-MAIL – rcdfnh-jp1@SANCHARNET.IN FO&AH E-MAIL – foahrcdf@gmail.com foahrcdf@rajasthan.gov.in

No.RCDF/FO&AH/1101(SSG)/2025-26/51680-82 Dated:-19.02.2026

NOTICE INVITING E- TENDER FOR HYBRID MULTICUT SORGHUM SUDAN GRASS (SSG) Seed - (RED COLOUR)

E-tender invited from the reputed Seed Producing Agencies or companies having valid license in Seed Business, for supply of approximately 3000.00 Quintal Per Year TFL (5 Kg. cloth packing) Hybrid Multicut Sorghum Sudan Grass (SSG) Seed Red Colour at various milk unions/farms in Rajasthan. Estimated tender value Rs. 384.00 lakhs. The tender form alongwith terms & conditions may be obtained from the website <https://www.e-proc.rajasthan.gov.in> & it may be viewed at www.sarasmilfed.rajasthan.gov.in www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in online tender submission due date 02.03.2026 (Pre-Bid Meeting date-23.02.2026) and online technical bid opening at 03.00 PM on dated 02.03.2026.

UBN CDF2526GLRC01765
Raj.Samwadi/C/25/20955

General Manager (FO&AH)

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Joint Commissioner, Zone-1,
Mayohall Premises, Residency Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

No: BCCC/JC-1/TEND/01/2025-26 Date: 20-02-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER - (CALL-2) (Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Joint Commissioner (Zone-1), BCCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors / Firm registered in BCCC or equivalent registration with Labour Department or any State Government Organizations for the Work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Data Entry Operators to Offices under the Joint Commissioner, Zone-1, Mayohall, Residency Road, Bengaluru - 560001. (to be deployed to the BCCC Offices spread across) (No. of Data Entry Operators Required - 95) - (Call-2) - Estimated Amount (Inclusive of Taxes) (in Rs.): 2,97,46,476/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 6



CCB police conducted a search operation at RTI activist Snehamayi Krishna's residence and office at Bhairaveshwara Nagar in Mysuru on Friday | UDAYASHANKAR

Activist uploads 'fake' audio clip of ex-MUDA chief, detained

BENGALURU: Social activist Snehamayi Krishna, who had filed a complaint against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others in connection the alleged illegal allotment of Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) sites, was detained by the Bengaluru Central Crime Branch (CCB) police on Friday, for allegedly creating fake documents and uploading a fabricated audio clip on social media, based on a complaint file by ex-MUDA Commissioner DB Natesh.

On Tuesday, Krishna had uploaded a six-second audio clip in which a person, Natesh as claimed by Krishna, was heard saying, "We should find some link to establish connection with Snehamayi Krishna one-to-one." The activist had alleged in the post that there has been constant effort to lure him into retracting from the MUDA case. "Earlier, I had filed a complaint when Srinidhi and Harsha had tried to lure me. Now, former MUDA Commissioner Natesh has contacted a person close to him, asking the person to take me to him. I have got the audio recording of the same and I will submit it to the court seeking investigation," Krishna posted.

Adulterated ghee: AP forms panel to examine SIT report

One-man commission will assess lapses and violations in enforcement of tender conditions

S VISWANATH @ Vijayawada

THE Andhra Pradesh government on Friday issued orders, appointing retired IAS officer Dinesh Kumar as the One-Man Committee to examine the allegations of supply of adulterated and substandard ghee to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD).

After the Supreme Court-appointed SIT, led by the Central Bureau of Investigation, which investigated the supply of adulterated ghee to the TTD, submitted its report, the government had decided to constitute a One-Man Committee to study the lapses and take action against the officials responsible. The One-Man Committee has been tasked to examine the Self-Contained Note and recommend initiation of suitable action as deemed fit against erring committee members and senior officials of TTD for lapses, omissions, and failures in the relaxation as well as enforcement of ghee tender norms.

The Terms of Reference of the Committee are to assess administrative lapses, omissions or failures in relaxation and enforcement of tender conditions, to examine whether decisions were taken with due diligence, recorded justification and procedural compliance, to identify the extent of administrative responsibility, if any, of officers, committee members or functionaries of TTD in relation to the lapses noted and to recommend appropriate administrative or disciplinary action confining its examination strictly to administrative and govern-



The iconic Tirumala laddu, a symbol of divine grace at the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams | EXPRESS

ance aspects. The Committee may call for records, seek written clarifications and obtain expert assistance with prior approval of the government, and should submit its report within 45 days from the date of issue of the order. The report should be recommendatory in nature and will be examined by the government to take further action.

A case was registered in the Tirupati East Police Station pertaining to the supply of adulterated and sub-standard ghee to the TTD. The Supreme Court entrusted the investigation to an Independent Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the supervision of the CBI Director. The Special Investigation Team, after completion of investigation, filed chargesheet in the court on January 23, 2026 and also submitted a Self-Contained Note (SCN) recommending initiation of suitable action as deemed fit against erring committee members and senior officials of TTD for lapses, omissions, and failures in the relaxation as well as enforcement of ghee tender conditions. Against this backdrop, the government constituted the One-Man Committee.

Queen of Arabian Sea to glow with 'Devi' energy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

As the setting sun paints the sky crimson on Saturday, the Arabian Sea will glow with feminine energy as The New Indian Express Group hosts the 38th edition of Devi Awards in Kochi. Set to be held at Taj Vivanta, Marine Drive, the event will see Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Tourism Suresh Gopi present the awards to 11 women achievers from diverse backgrounds and walks of life.

Since its inception in 2014, the Devi Awards, held across 10

Indian cities, has celebrated more than 300 inspiring women

from Kerala are: animal conservationist Sosamma Iype, scientist A Seema, scholar Litty Chacko, educator Nalini Chandran, visual artist P S Jalaja, Koodiyattam exponent Kapila Venu, social worker Dr P

Bhanumathi, entrepreneur Reshma Suresh, heavy vehicle driver Radhamani Amma, dancer-actor Paris Laxmi, and singer Abhaya Hiranmayi.

Each of them has breached gender barriers, defied social expectations and rewritten professional conventions. This is the third time that Kochi is hosting the event. The first edition in the city was held in 2016, with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan as the chief guest. In



EXPRESS READ

Probe idol theft plaint in Karur temple: HC to police

Madurai: The Madurai Bench of Madras HC on Friday directed the Karur police to conduct proper investigation into a complaint alleging theft of the Murugan idol in Bala Dhandayuthapani temple in Thogaimalai. A bench of justices GR Swaminathan and R Kalaimathi gave the direction while disposing of a Public Interest Litigation filed by V Sanglimuthu of Thogaimalai seeking investigation into his complaint. Sanglimuthu said that balalayam for the temple was conducted in 2022 and the idol was removed. The consecration was held in November 2025. However, claiming that the idol was damaged during the interregnum, a non-hereditary trustee of the temple illegally replaced the moolavar idol.



SIMS Hospital on Thursday inaugurated Integrated Sleep Institute, India's first fully coordinated, multidisciplinary centre dedicated exclusively to sleep health. The institute brings together 10 specialties under one framework, integrating medical, surgical, diagnostic and supportive services into a seamless, evidence-based care pathway. The institute offers comprehensive and personalised treatment for neurological, psychological, and respiratory sleep disorders across all age groups | EXPRESS

4, including two 14-yr-olds, held for assaulting minor

THANJAVUR: Four people, including two 17-year-old boys, have been arrested for alleged sexual harassment of a 14-year-old girl returning from school near Sengipatti in Thanjavur. Police said the girl studying in Class 9 was on February 18 walking towards the bus stop after school when a 17-year-old boy from a nearby village waylaid her. He then told her that she should not love anyone except him. He also pulled her hand. Three others, including another 17-year-old, who accompanied the boy also entered into an argument with the girl and harassed her. When passersby intervened, all the four sped away in the car, the police added. Based on a complaint by the parents of the girl, the Sengipatti police registered a case under the Pocso Act.

OPS's support may help DMK in south TN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

RESPONDING to a query on remarks made by P Ayyappan, Usilampatti legislator and his lone supporter in the Assembly, who had said that the DMK government would continue in power with the blessings of MG Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa, Panneerselvam said Ayyappan has "echoed the people's sentiments". To a question if he endorsed his supporter's view, the former CM said, "the DMK has a chance to win the 2026 Assembly election and form the government for the second time."

Panneerselvam, who was earlier involved in a power tussle with AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, was ex-

pelled from the AIADMK. He is seen as a prominent Mukkulathor face and his endorsement of the ruling party may strengthen the DMK's electoral prospects in the south.

Meanwhile, DMK deputy spokesperson A Subburathinam, who was a staunch supporter of Panneerselvam before joining the DMK recently, welcomed the remarks and expressed his wish that OPS should join the DMK soon.

Questioned about OPS's hesitation to declare his support for the DMK, Subburathinam said, "It is clear that Panneerselvam has decided to align with the DMK, and that is why he said the people of TN have decided to elect the DMK again."

A senior leader who was with Panneerselvam till recently called OPS's decision as belated. "He should have joined the DMK or aligned with that party when many functionaries of the ADMK Cadres Rights Retrieval Committee advised him to do so. There was a chance of him getting an honourable number of constituencies from the DMK at that time, but now he has no other option except to support the DMK," he said. Another functionary said, "The question of whether OPS will join DMK is immaterial. The moment he praised the DMK government and predicted its return to power, it became a blot on his political career since the AIADMK made him the CM of the state thrice."

Court takes cognisance of allegations of irregularities in recruitment for 2,538 posts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"IT is a detailed source information provided by the ED with voluminous set of evidence prima facie disclosing a cognisable offence. When a preliminary inquiry ought to have been done within 14 days, the state is only finding ways and means to delay registering the case," the court noted. As per the order, the ED, by a communication dated October 27, 2025, shared information under Section 66(2) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act along with voluminous records, after seizing incriminating materials during a search in a connected case. The court recorded that the materials prima facie disclosed large-scale irregularities in the recruitment for 2,538 posts in the MAWS department, including allegations that bribes ranging from ₹25 lakh to ₹35 lakh were collected per post.

The court also dismissed contentions by the advocate general that the original bank fraud case, based on which the ED conducted searches, was quashed and that the information shared may not be relevant. "Even though the cases involving bank fraud were quashed, that has nothing to do with the incriminating materials that were seized in respect of the recruitment made to the MAWS department," the court noted.

The state contended that a preliminary inquiry was under way and that under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), such an inquiry was permissible before registration of an FIR. However, the bench observed that preliminary inquiry is not mandatory in all corruption cases and it cannot be used as a shield to indefinitely delay registration when detailed source information discloses cognisable offences. Referring to settled Supreme Court precedents, the court reiterated that a police officer cannot avoid the duty of registering an offence if a cognisable offence is disclosed and that reasonableness or credibility of information is not a condition precedent for registration. Accordingly, the bench directed the DVAC to forthwith register a case on the basis of the ED's communication and conduct a detailed and expeditious investigation in accordance with law.

The court also dismissed a connected public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by K Athinayakan, holding that his bona fides were under serious cloud in view of pending criminal cases, and disposed of the MP's petition with the above directions. Responding to the HC direction, Nehru said that he would legally contest the case and prove that no wrong-

doing had been committed. Addressing the reporters at DMK headquarters Anna Arivalayam along with DMK's organising secretary RS Bharathi, he said an FIR has been ordered by the court based on a PIL even as a detailed inquiry by the Tamil Nadu government is already under way.

"Even before the registration of the FIR, a detailed inquiry has been taking place. We have not committed any offence. We will approach the appropriate court and prove that we have done no wrong in this case as well," Nehru added.

Meanwhile, RS Bharathi alleged that the move was politically motivated and aimed at weakening the DMK ahead of elections. Referring to a communication from the ED, he claimed that attempts were being made to dent the influence of the DMK and Chief Minister MK Stalin, and to obstruct Nehru's election-related works. It may be noted that TNIE was the first to report on the ED's letter to TN police alleging a cash-for-jobs scam in the selection of officers and staff to 2,538 posts in the MAWS department, in October last year. The details emerged when the ED was investigating a bank fraud case related to True Value Homes (TVH) linked to N Ravichandran, KN Nehru's brother.



VIT vice president gets honorary doctorate

VELLORE: VIT Vice President Dr Sankar Viswanathan has been conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering and Technology Management by the Rajamangala University of Technology Krungthep (RMUTK), Thailand. This honour recognises Dr Sankar's exceptional leadership, professional achievements, and his significant contributions to the advancement of engineering and technology management from Palakorn Suwanath, Privy Council of Thailand and Dr Pichai Janmanee, President of RMUTK. In his acceptance speech, Dr Sankar acknowledged the shared culture and knowledge systems of India and Thailand and called for more active academic collaboration. The ceremony was attended by VIT Chancellor G Viswanathan, Ramani Balasundaram, Assistant Vice President Kadhambari S. Viswanathan, Dr Sravan Krishna.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III

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

TRC No.413/2023 Dated: 18.02.2026

E-AUCTION SALE

The under mentioned property will be sold by on line E-Auction through website <https://www.bankauctions.com> for recovery of a sum of Rs. 133,87,46,732.33/- (Rupees One Hundred Thirty Three Crores Eighty Seven Lakhs Four Six Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Two And Paise Thirty Three Only) as on 31/12/2025 from M/s. Gyan Leather Board Ltd & 5 Others payable to IDBI Bank Ltd., Saidapet Branch in OA No. 351/2007.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

All those piece and parcels of freehold lands covered by cadastre Nos.241/1B, 241/2, 241/3B, 241/4/1, 241/4/1A, 241/4/1B, 244 (parts), 245/2 and 296/1/2 and Reserve number 119/1A, 119/2A, 119/3A, 122/6B (part) and 122/7, containing by admeasurements 7 Acres 15 cents, situate in Village Thuthipet, Villianur Commune, Villianur Sub Registration District, Union Territory of Puducherry along with right of way in common approach road of 20 feet in width starting from the existing main road, running through reserve no.122, together with all building and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.

Upset Price: Rs. 12,50,00,000/-

(Rupees Twelve Crores Fifty Lakhs Only)

Date and Time of E-Auction

27.03.2026 between 11:00 hrs and 12:00 hrs with auto time extension of 3 minutes each, till sale is concluded.

Earnest Money Deposit : 10% of the upset price

EMD Remittance & Last Date submission of Bid form with EMD: on or before 25.03.2026 through FT/ NEFT/ RTGS of Transfer in favor of "The Recovery Officer, DRT-3, Chennai" to the credit of A/c. No.163302000000200 with Indian Overseas Bank, Cathedral Branch, Chennai-2. IFSC Code: IOBA000109

Bid Increment : Minimum Rs.5,00,000/- (or) Multiples of Rs.5,00,000/- Inspection of Property: 07.03.2026 from 11.00 A.M. to 3.00 P.M.

UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BIDS IN PHYSICAL FORM WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE TRIBUNAL & NO ENQUIRIES WILL BE ENTERTAINED.

The other details about the above auction and the e-auction bid form, declaration and detailed terms and conditions are available in the website: <https://www.bankauctions.com>, Service Provider contact person:- Mr.M Prabhakaran - 74182 81709

Further details if any, shall be obtained from IDBI Bank Ltd., Saidapet Branch, No.115, Anna Salai, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015. (Contact Person Mr.T.R.J.Kannan Babu Authorised Officer of IDBI Bank Ltd., (Cell No. 8903642095) E-Mail: kannan_babu@idbi.co.in

(P.PREMKUMAR) RECOVERY OFFICER

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

(6th Floor, Shastri Bhavan, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006, Tamil Nadu)

O.A. No. 748 of 2025

HDFC Bank Limited
Department of Special Operations
Represented by its Authorised Signatory
Mr. Francy Raju Ollukaren
Having its Office at No. 768 & 769, 5th Floor, "A" Wing, Phase III, Spencer Plaza, Mount Road, Chennai-600 002 ...Applicant

Vs.
1.M/s. Rathna Enterprises
Sole Proprietorship of Mr.N.Doss
No. 14, School Street, Sathya Nagar, Padi, Chennai - 600 050.

2.Mr.N.Doss (Sole Proprietor)
S/o,Nathan, No. 14 / 21, Nermai Nagar, 1st Cross Street, Kolathur, Chennai - 600 099 ... Defendants

NOTICE OF HEARING

Take notice that the above Original Application ("OA") has been preferred by HDFC Bank Limited under Section 19 (4) of Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the Defendants for recovery of ₹ 44,66,779.75 before the Hon'ble Debt Recovery Tribunal - II, Chennai ("DRT-II, Chennai")

The said OA was listed before the Ld. Registrar of DRT-II, Chennai, on 17.02.2026. The Ld. Registrar, DRT-II, Chennai by its Order dated 17.02.2026, directed the Applicant to cause Publication of notice of appearance to M/s. Rathna Enterprises (1st Defendant) and Mr. N. Doss, (2nd Defendant), returnable by 16.04.2026.

Accordingly, Notice is hereby given to M/s.Rathna Enterprises and Mr.N.Doss, arrayed as the 1st and 2nd Defendants in the above O.A. No. 748 of 2025 for their appearance before the Hon'ble Debt Recovery Tribunal - II, Chennai, having address at "6th Floor, Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 008, Tamil Nadu", on 16.04.2026 at about 10.30 a.m. or thereafter, either in person or through Counsel, failing which the case would be heard and decided in his absence.

B. DHANARAJ
Advocate
No. 9A, First Floor, Tarapore Towers, Door No. 826, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

NAME CHANGE

I RAMADEVI GOPALAN MAVILA KUNNIDATHU w/o Gopalan Nambiar, 77 years residing at Gurukripa, Old no. 34, New no. 20, Harleys Lane, Kellys,Kilpauk, Chennai-600010 Shall henceforth be known as

REMADEVI.M.K

NAME CHANGE

I, M.GORI (Old Name), Spouse of Ex-Army No. 1171095, PPO No. S/J/N/13300/92 W/O. K.PUTTUSWAMI GOWDAR (Late), residing at No.8/56, MRK Nagar, Nehru High Road, New Perungalathur, Chennai - 600063. have changed My Name from M.GORI to P.GOWRI (New Name).

QuoteExpress

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

SAM LEVENSON

EPSTEIN FALLOUT FACES ATLANTIC WALL, HISTORY WRITES A DARK CHAPTER

THIRTY years after the first complaint, 20 years after the first police report, and more than six years after Jeffrey Epstein was arrested for the second time on the charge of sexually abusing underage girls, the arc of justice is finally bending to haunt a few of the many rich and powerful persons associated with the convict. The latest such person to be investigated is Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, the former British prince stripped of his royal titles last year—a decade after Epstein victim Virginia Giuffrè accused him of paedophilia.

It marks an inflection point for the British royal family, even if it's not a stranger to scandals. Though the charge against Andrew—misconduct in public office, or knowingly indulging in serious wrongdoing when working for the public—is not easy to prove, the sight of someone who is still eighth in the line of succession to the British throne in handcuffs is a massive blow.

The latest revelations' fallout faces an Atlantic divide. Apart from Andrew, former British ambassador Peter Mandelson, former Norwegian prime minister Thorbjørn Jagland and former French culture minister Jack Lang have stepped down from high offices. In contrast, the only political appointee to have stepped down for association with Epstein in the US is Alexander Acosta, a former labour secretary who resigned in 2019. Apart from a few in academia, law and business, the other American associates of Epstein—including President Donald Trump—are defiant for now. They ought to remember that if morality is brazenly held acquiescent to American singularity, it's the latter that frays.

It's true that mere association with Epstein is not a crime; many associates have claimed they sought investment advice or access to leaders. But a question of ethics arises when those holding government or fiduciary posts stayed in touch with the disgraced financier even after his first conviction.

Some of the 3 million Epstein files still held back despite a law mandating their release may yet see the light of day, as demanded by hundreds of survivors. Some of the allegations may also be quietened by lawyered scrutiny. But even at the present level of disclosure, what's certain is that the abhorrent episode will go down in the court of public opinion as one of the worst transgressions of all times.

TN MUST GROW OWN TAXES TO IMPROVE FISCAL HEALTH

TAMIL Nadu, the fastest growing state in 2024-25, is facing mounting fiscal challenges. These include widening deficits and difficulties in bolstering its own tax revenues. While the interim budget presented by Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu projected the nominal gross state domestic product to rise 14.5 percent to ₹40.67 lakh crore in 2026-27, it revealed significant strains in fiscal health. The fiscal deficit was raised to 3.48 percent of GSDP in the revised estimate for 2025-26, up from the budget estimate of 3 percent. The revenue deficit has gone up sharply for the current year from a budgetary estimate of 1.2 percent to a revised estimate of 1.9 percent. The state's own tax revenue (SOTR) for 2025-26 fell short by ₹14,355 crore against the target of ₹2,20,895 crore. The outstanding debt increased marginally to 26.43 percent of GSDP.

The finance minister has squarely blamed New Delhi for the financial stress, citing the GST rate rationalisation which cost the state ₹9,600 crore, an unexpected ₹1,709-crore integrated GST deduction, and a ₹1,202-crore cut in the state's share of central taxes. The ₹9,500 crore paid by Tamil Nadu to cover for the Centre's share of Chennai Metro Phase II remains on the state's books. GST being the largest share of SOTR, the rate rationalisation implemented last year had a significant impact. The minister also criticised the 16th Finance Commission for retaining the states' share in the divisible pool of taxes at 41 percent despite the growing chorus for a higher share. Further, Tamil Nadu has accused the Centre of denying infrastructure approvals, withholding funds under centrally-sponsored schemes, reducing tax revenues without consultation and imposing arduous spending conditions.

Despite noting these headwinds, the minister expressed optimism for fiscal improvement in 2026-27. His hopes rest on stronger revenue projections, both in its own tax and non-tax revenues and the share of central taxes; he has predicted SOTR to grow from ₹2.07 lakh crore in the current year to ₹2.3 lakh crore in 2026-27. The state government, which is making higher allocations for social welfare measures as an investment to empower the marginalised and the needy, must prioritise revenue enhancement. It must revert to its core strategies for bolstering tax compliance and administrative efficiency to meaningfully grow its own kitty.

QUICK TAKE

A DANGEROUS SELF-GOAL

WHAT José Mourinho meant as a side-pass resulted in volleys against him. When the self-anointed 'Special One' among coaches clumsily tried to defend his Benfica player Gianluca Prostiani, whom Real Madrid goalscorer Vinicius Júnior accused of racist abuse during a Champions League game, the giants of football accused Mourinho of abdicating his duty of care. The Brazilian forward stated that the Argentine midfielder had called him a 'monkey', a charge supported by other players like Kylian Mbappé. Rather than speaking out against racism, Mourinho lectured Vinicius on post-goal celebrations and cast aspersions on his charge. The other offence is of Benfica supporters making monkey gestures from the stands. The European football federation, which instituted an anti-racism policy in 2013, must take stern action on all three transgressions.

MY father used to tell me that India does not value its real treasures. I knew he was not talking about objects or commodities or even the great historic monuments. He was dealing with intangibles.

He was referring to a teacher as a resource. A teacher can set fire to the imagination even in a third-rate, ramshackled school. A teacher becomes the seedling ground of the nursery of dissent even in a bureaucratic, third-rate university. A teacher is life-giving by definition. And André Bêteille was one such person.

André was exemplary. For him, the university was the cathedral of the 21st century. The class provided the daily source of the sacred. For him, the everyday lecture sustained the traditions of scholarship and knowledge that the university has protected for centuries.

We must realise that André was himself one such person. When he was at the Delhi University, it had over a dozen such intellectuals: there was Sumit Sarkar in the history department, Randhir Singh in political science, Amartya Sen in economics, and Veena Das and Jit Uberoi in sociology.

The very presence of these people gave scholarship both a sense of dignity and play, and made academics an attractive career to follow. I must emphasise that for André Bêteille, everydayness was a ritual. For him, the lecture hall, the seminar room and the conference hall—these were where the three great sacred events of the university were embodied.

One of the best ways of understanding the creativity, resilience and resistance of the university is to look at the Emergency. The Emergency marked the university as resistance incarnate. One can think of a few examples.

I remember that when my colleague Hira Singh, a combative Marxist, was arrested, it was André and Veena who took the case to the court. They fought vehemently for Professor Singh. I was amazed watching it, because no two people disagreed with Hira Singh more. I realised that the Emergency emphasised the fraternity of difference that sustained democracy.

What was even more amusing was that when Hira Singh came back from jail to attend a staff meeting, he and André fought vociferously over every issue on the meeting's agenda. For André, what Max Weber had said about science is true for teaching as a vocation.

I must recollect another event. During the final phases of the Emergency, newspapers started the campaign to raise 5,000

The renowned sociologist wanted his students to talk about music, discuss science and celebrate politics. In scholarship, he insisted on quality. To him, the university was a hallowed precinct

ANDRÉ BÉTEILLE: A GRAMMARIAN OF CULTURE



SHIV VISVANATHAN

Social scientist associated with the Compost Heap, a group researching alternative imaginations

signatures against it. André and Veena were deeply committed to it. We organised a campaign over two evenings and collected more than 5,000 signatures.

When we were organising the final package, we were confronted by a strange event: about a dozen students came protesting, even crying, claiming that their parents wanted their signatures back. They were mainly children of bureaucrats. Many of the organisers refused to respond to them, saying it was too tedious a task to retrieve the signature. But André intervened, saying they have the right to recall. He explained later that the Emergency was a muddled-up time and one should allow for a change in attitude.

I remember André's reputation as a teacher went sky-high when Ralf Dahrendorf, director of the London

School of Economics, came personally to invite him to accept the chair at the hallowed institution. André refused, saying he was too involved in India. I asked him later if there was any other reason. He looked at me and said, "Have you noticed that children in England don't look happy today? They look under pressure. I want my daughter Radha to have India as a playground for a longer period."

For André, teaching and research were hyphenated activities. He brought an everyday discipline to research which I envy. He confessed one day that he wrote at least two paragraphs a day. I sniggered and then he responded, "Two paragraphs a day is a book a year." I felt embarrassed because in the first two years of research, I had not turned out a single paragraph. It became even more embarrassing

NEW VIRTUES MEET OLD FICTION

THE Union home ministry has chosen a striking moment for a cultural reminder. With the West Bengal assembly polls expected in April-May 2026, it issued a directive on January 28 that 'Vande Mataram' be sung in its original six stanzas at all government functions, effective immediately.

The 'national song', a position conferred by a Constituent Assembly resolution on January 24, 1950, is to be sung before the national anthem at all government functions. That the decisions of the Constituent Assembly itself is not deemed sacrosanct seems apparent since the Assembly never decreed that 'Vande Mataram' should precede 'Jana Gana Mana'.

On the face of it, the directive to honour the 150th anniversary of the national song, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875 and finding cultish currency when sung by Bhavananda, a character in his novel *Anandamath*, published in 1882. Do note: fiction changes facts.

That the novelist gave the song to Bhavananda is an interesting detail. Bhavananda falls in love with Kalyani, the wife of protagonist Mahendra, and, in "expiation" of his sin, later falls fighting enemies.

Bengal, in the novel, is under the wayward administration of the "traitor" Mir Jafar, "a bad Mussalman". Then again, in the novel, all "Mussalmans" are "bad".

It's not a greatly insightful occupation to judge the past with the values of the present. Ideals, understanding and traditions change with the times. To sit in judgement of the past might afford us opportunities to feel superior to our predecessors. But all we are really doing is killing our natural kindness with our newly-acquired virtues. And so, we will not raise the question: if Bankim Chandra were living now and expressed his Islamophobic sentiments, which party would likely honour him more?

In *Anandamath*—the translation I have is that by Nares Chandra Sen Gupta—we find a pronounced racial hatred for Islam, a point that must appeal to the BJP, especially since one of their planks in the impending election is the fetishising of illegal immigrants, a euphemism for real or imagined aliens from Bangladesh.

Consider this passage from the novel: "...but our Mussalman king—how

does he protect us? Our religion is gone; so is our caste, our honour, and the sacredness of our family even! ... Unless we drive these tipsy longbeards away, a Hindu can no longer hope to save his religion."

In the latter part of the novel, Bhavananda addresses the English captain whom he has just overpowered: "Captain Saheb, we shall not kill you; the English are not our enemies. But why did you come in as friends of the Mussalmans? Come, I shall save your life, and for the present you are my prisoner. We wish all joy to Englishmen; we are your friends."

teachers. Therefore, the English shall be made our sovereign. Imbued with a knowledge of objective sciences by English education, our people will be able to comprehend subjective truths. Then there would be no difficulties to the spread of the True Faith...Till that is so...the English rule will remain undisturbed... desist from fighting with the English and follow me. Where is the enemy now? There is none. The English are a friendly power and no one, in truth, has the power to come off victorious in a fight with the English."

It must be noted that Bankim Chandra was a British civil servant and a magistrate. For his dedicated service, he was awarded the title of Rai Bahadur in 1891 and Companion of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire in 1894. Therefore, we can at least raise the question whether he was compromised in his patriotic fervour.

The national anthem, now finding itself somewhat demoted, has often been accused by the right wing of being a tribute to George V—though Rabindranath Tagore said in his 1937 letter to his friend and associate Pulin Behari Sen that that was not the case.

But Tagore did have his own British connections, too. If he is guilty of Anglophilia, surely that was a burden shared by Bankim Chandra? So, at least on this count, why bring the national anthem down from its pedestal?

The unabridged version of 'Vande Mataram' is six stanzas long. The first two praise the natural bounty of India/Bharat. The last four praise and personify Hindu goddesses such as Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati. There is no good reason why the people or children of other denominations must listen to the powers of other gods in what's yet a secular country.

It is clear that the ruling party is cynical in its politics to promote 'Vande Mataram' in this fashion. To conflate gods and goddesses with politics in a culturally diverse country is to render patriotism the last refuge of the ministries that be.

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



C P SURENDRAN

Author whose latest volume of poetry is Window with a Train Attached

As 'Vande Mataram' is restored to official prominence, a look at Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's *Anandamath* underscores the layered historical context of the song. The debate lies in how literary works are repurposed in modern politics

Where Bankim Chandra offers a problem of sorts for the BJP is that he is an Angophile—a secret love many BJP and RSS leaders seem to share but would not confess for obvious reasons.

At the very end of the novel, when the 'Santans' emerge victorious in their battle against Mir Jafar's soldiers, a great mystic physician-monk—the ascetic guru who pulls the strings—appears and says the "revolution" should now be deferred: "The English are great in objective sciences, and they are apt

when I realised progress reports were due. I had forgotten to submit them, but the research committee cleared me. I then realised André had filed my reports, and when I went to thank him, all he said was, "I hope I have caught your inimitable style".

For André, sociology as research required gossip and storytelling, and he was a remarkable storyteller. When I was working in Kolkata on the history of science, he told me I must know about Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, Nirmal Kumar Bose, Meghnad Saha, Jagadish Chandra Bose—and then he added that science without folktales is impoverished.

André was insistent that every student must master the basic domains of culture. He wanted us to talk about music, discuss science and celebrate politics. I remember he was dismissive of a leading political scientist's work by insisting that the latter did not know the difference between Dostoevsky and a block of wood. André felt every anthropologist was a witness to culture and must understand the grammar of that culture.

We used to quarrel very often. Many a time, in desperation, he would say, "How do I civilise you?" One day, we quarrelled so bitterly over a chapter of my thesis that I hid in the library for a week. He summoned me, looked impassively and offered me a book. It was a translation of his teacher anthropologist N K Bose's writings. On it was inscribed: "To Shiv Visvanathan, from André Bêteille, neither a patron, nor a guru." The message was clear: It captured André as an upholder of traditions, yet one who emphasised individuality and integrity.

André loved quality—he treated it like a sensorium. I remember when I was finishing my thesis and boasting about it. He said, "You haven't yet passed the test of quality control." He told me that my three evaluators would be an outstanding sociologist of science, a great sociologist of India and a leading science policy expert. They were Edward Shils, M N Srinivas and Ashok Parthasarathi. When they toasted my thesis, André smiled wickedly and claimed, "He is still to realise his potential."

One misses that wry humour; that celebration of scholarship and that tolerance for difference. I wish one could invent a few Andrés for the present-day university. We need that dignity, that commitment and that power of storytelling which sustained the ideal of freedom in the university.

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

MAIL BAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Open wounds

Ref: *Leaders must align words with core value of fraternity* (Feb 20). The editorial is accurate in reminding leaders of their influence over masses and consequent duties. In a diverse country like India, irresponsible statements can deepen open wounds. The spirit of oneness must be spread through words and actions.
Pranjal Rajpoot, Bengaluru

Colonial hangover

Ref: *What's in a name?* (Feb 20). The name-changing spree may trigger deeper conflicts. But looking from another angle, nationally, do we need foreign names any more after nearly 80 years after rejecting colonial rule? The exercise may seem unnecessary, but would any government that may succeed the present one dare to revert to old names?
Sanath Kumar TS, email

Clearing air

Ref: *Minding every breath we take* (Feb 20). I wish to praise Dr Mysore for shedding light on the silent storm brewing in our lungs. We can't afford to sweep the sharp rise of ailments under the carpet. Clean air should not be a dream, but a shared responsibility.
Raju Kolluru, Kakinada

Power grab

Ref: *SC slams states over freebies ahead of polls* (Feb 20). Freebies have been attributed to drain out some states' economy. Besides, it has created a culture of dependency and entitlement at the cost of the taxpayer's purse, only to benefit the political parties in the power-grab exercise.
Raghu Joshi, email

Sabarimala probe

Ref: *Court slams SIT, gives thantri bail* (Feb 20). The special investigative team for the Sabarimala gold theft case was a failure. Almost all accused have been let off on bail. The SIT couldn't even file a preliminary chargesheet within schedule. The team should be dissolved forthwith and a new, efficient team be tasked.
MT Thomas, email

Iran countdown

Ref: *Trump gives Iran 10 days to make deal or face 'bad things'* (Feb 20). Donald Trump's statement to Iran seems to be a sly desire and a threat. Now it's clear that the US can attack Iran at any time. Consequently, the peaceful lives of the ordinary people are going to be ruined. Heads of States should forgo cunning, selfish motives.
Amrose Dhanraj, Thiruvananthapuram



Supriya Shrinete @SupriyaShrinete
The Youth Congress comrades are fearless, they are the voice of the country's youth. They have raised their voice in support of the country's farmers, youth, and energy security



Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
If you're heading to Japan, make sure to visit Kyoto as well, so you can understand why the prime parliamentary constituency of Kashi couldn't become like Kyoto



Sambit Patra @sambitswaraj
I have only three words for the Congress — topless, brainless, and shameless!... This is the world's AI Summit, and there are no protests there

The pact to expand energy infra, accelerate development of semiconductor ecosystem ● MEA says national interest, commercial viability guiding decisions

Pax Silica signed, India joins US initiative on AI, critical minerals

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

INDIA on Friday signed a declaration to join the US-led strategic alliance “Pax Silica” at the ongoing India AI Impact Summit 2026. The move follows the announcement of a bilateral trade deal between India and the United States earlier this month and the rollback of an additional 25% tariff.

Pax Silica aims to strengthen resilient supply chains for critical minerals and artificial intelligence while addressing China's dominance in the critical minerals sector. In a joint statement released later, India and the United States said they plan to deepen cooperation under the Pax Silica framework to support future supply chains.

The two countries will explore joint initiatives such as research and development projects to expand reliable energy infrastructure, secure access to critical minerals, harness skilled workforces, and



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw with US Ambassador Sergio Gor | **SHEKHAR YADAV**

accelerate the development of trusted semiconductor ecosystems. They also intend to foster an environment in which the AI revolution is driven by the private sector, backed by robust developer tools and platforms that lower barriers to entry. Both sides aim to facilitate cross-border venture capital flows and R&D partnerships so that their democracies — and their entrepreneurs — remain architects of the future.

The initiative was first launched in December at the

Pax Silica Summit in Washington. Partner countries include Australia, Greece, Israel, Japan, Qatar, South Korea, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom. The Donald Trump administration had initially left India out of its first list of participants.

Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, said India has become part of Pax Silica and that the move will greatly benefit India's electronics and semiconductor industry.

Micron Technology CEO Sanjay Mehrotra said the initiative signed here brings technological collaboration between the US and India closer. Jacob Helberg, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, said, “... So today, as we signed the Pax Silica Declaration, we say no to weaponised dependency, and we say no to blackmail. And together, we say that economic security is national security. But we must be precise about what that word means.”

Helberg added, “From the mines to the models, we are securing the full stack of the future — the minerals deep in the earth, the silicon wafers in our labs and fabs, and the intelligence that will unleash human potential. Pax Silica is our declaration that the future belongs to those who build.”

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said Pax Silica will unite nations that believe technology should empower free people and free markets.

US does not want anyone to buy oil from Russia, says Gor

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

THE United States does not want any country buying Russian oil, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Friday, stressing Washington's position amid the Ukraine conflict and ongoing India-US trade talks. “On the oil, there's an agreement. We have seen India diversify its oil. There is a commitment. This is not about India. The United States doesn't want anyone buying Russian oil. The President has been very clear on this and wants this war to end,” Gor told reporters on the sidelines of the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

He said discussions are underway between the US Department of Energy and India's Ministry of Energy regarding imports of Venezuelan crude.

India continues to source most of its crude from the Middle East, though imports from Russia have declined in recent months as refiners adjust strategies amid geopolitical pres-



sures. When asked if Venezuelan oil would be routed through the United States or imported directly, Gor said talks are ongoing. “There is hope that there will be clarity soon,” he said, adding no final decision has been made public.

Meanwhile, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated India's position. “On Venezuela, we had said that if it is commercially viable, then we can explore buying oil from Venezuela,” he said, stressing that national interest and commercial viability guide India's oil purchasing decisions.

Cong to organise protests against trade agreement

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE Congress, along with farmer bodies, will launch a nationwide outreach campaign against the Indo-US trade deal. The party will organise ‘Kisan Sammelans’ to highlight how the trade deal will “adversely” affect the farmers.

The first such event would be organised in Bhopal on February 24, where Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi would be present.

The decision to organise ‘Kisan Sammelans’ was taken at a meeting of Congress leaders from five states—Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra, and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, in which Kharge and Gandhi were present.

CAT steps in, MES workers win 9-year-old dress allowance battle

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH @ New Delhi

FOR nearly nine years of legal fight, Military Engineer Services (MES) workers, the civilian backbone of the Indian Army, in Uttarakhand were denied a modest dress allowance the Centre had promised them. It took five ignored representations, three Central Administrative Tribunal judgments, two court orders and finally a contempt petition against top officials to make the defence ministry pay their legal due.

The workers had been seeking dress allowance of ₹5,000 per annum due since July 1, 2017. They stated that it was government-notified entitlement, applicable to central government employees following the Seventh Pay Commission's recommendations. Anand Singh Negi, a MES employee from Clement Town of Dehradun, had filed an appeal before the CAT. The MES employee unions also filed applications before the tribunal.

What was most alarming for the CAT in the case was the bureaucratic silence that preceded the court fight. “The applicants have preferred representations



dated 04.09.2022 and 12.08.2023 and reminders dated 04.09.2024, 18.09.2024 and 20.09.2024. However, the same are pending consideration by the respondents for final decision,” the tribunal observed.

The applicants had made representations on September 4, 2022 and August 12, 2023 requesting the defence ministry and MES authorities to implement the dress allowance entitlement. When no response came, they followed up with reminders on September 4, 18, and 20 of 2024, but no order came from the authorities.

Finding no relief, the workers filed application before the CAT. The bench on November 18, 2024 noted that the matter was cov-

Order after contempt petition filed against 5

The CAT directed the defence ministry and the force to consider the workers' pending representations and pass an order within two months in light of those judgments. As the deadline passed without compliance, the workers returned with contempt naming five senior officials as contemnors.

ered by judgments already passed by the Chandigarh bench in 2020 and 2023 and Guwahati bench in 2023 on the identical issue. The tribunal directed the ministry and the force to consider the workers' pending representations and pass an order within two months in light of those judgments.

As the deadline passed without compliance, the workers returned with contempt naming five senior officials as contemnors, including the defence secretary. After the contempt plea came before the bench, the ministry's counsel submitted that the earlier order had been complied with in letter and spirit. The workers then got their due.

Priest, pvt jet, paper trail & the biggest steel firm

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH @ New Delhi

SOMETIMES, it takes a priest and a private jet to expose a paper empire. For the Enforcement Directorate, the sleek Cessna 525A CJ2+, bought for ₹30.90 crore, was evidence of the alleged excesses by Bhushan Power & Steel Limited (BPSL) to commit a bank fraud worth ₹47,204 crore.

The priest came into the picture after ED informed the Appellate Tribunal at a hearing. The tribunal, under SAFEMA, subsequently upheld the ED's attachment of the jet, ruling it “direct proceeds of crime” on February 18. The order closed one chapter of a case that exposed how one of India's largest steel manufacturers allegedly built an empire on borrowed money—and deception.

As the ED started probing the case, tracing transactions across dozens of accounts and entities, it came across the Cessna, registered under Bhushan Airways Services Pvt. Ltd. (BASPL). It had been purchased in 2009 for ₹30.90 crore.

According to investigators, ₹9.90 crore of the purchase price was routed through Singal-controlled firms — Olympian Finvest Ltd., Vintage Steel Pvt. Ltd., Aromatic Steel Pvt. Ltd. and Ti-



BPSL, directors got credit worth more than ₹47k crore

Between 2007 and 2014, BPSL and its directors — including Sanjay Singal, Aarti Singal, Dinesh Kumar Yadav and Ravi Prakash Goyal — secured credit facilities exceeding ₹47,000 crore from 33 banks and financial institutions. PNB's Chandigarh branch acted as the lead lender.

tanic Steel Industries Ltd. — entities allegedly fed by BPSL's tainted bank funds. The remaining ₹21 crore came as a loan from Punjab National Bank. That loan, too, was repaid through a maze of companies, further tightening the ED's case that the aircraft was financed with diverted public money.

Then came the stunning revelation. The sole director of BASPL, the aviation company that owned the jet, was not a corporate executive or aviation professional. He was a priest, Vijay Kumar Tiwari. “It was

In the mid-2000s, as India's steel sector boomed, BPSL expanded aggressively, setting up manufacturing units across the country and unveiling ambitious growth plans. Banks bought into the projections.

Between 2007 and 2014, BPSL and its directors — including Sanjay Singal, Aarti Singal, Dinesh Kumar Yadav and Ravi Prakash Goyal — secured credit facilities exceeding ₹47,000 crore from 33 banks and financial institutions. Punjab National Bank's Chandigarh branch acted as the lead lender.

On paper, the loans were meant for industrial expansion. In practice, investigators say, a significant portion was siphoned off through a web of shell companies.

By December 2015, as repayments faltered and accounts turned irregular, Punjab National Bank declared BPSL a non-performing asset. Other lenders followed. By January 30, 2018, the outstanding default had ballooned to ₹47,204 crore.

The unravelling began with Income Tax raids in December 2014. In April 2019, the CBI registered a case, triggering the ED's money laundering probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Then the jet came into the picture.

TECHTalk

PMO ROUNDTABLE WITH GLOBAL AI CEOS

Seva Teerth, which houses Prime Minister Narendra Modi's newly relocated office, hosted a high-level roundtable with global AI CEOs on Friday, underscoring India's push to accelerate artificial intelligence development. The session, chaired by Modi, focused on AI's expanding global influence and its role in solving population-scale challenges. According to the PMO, startups showcased AI applications in healthcare from advanced diagnostics to gene therapy and digital patient records and in agriculture, using geospatial and underwater intelligence to enhance productivity and manage climate risks.



U.S. REITERATES STANCE ON AI REGULATIONS

In sharp contrast to Europe's long-standing push for tighter regulation of artificial intelligence, the US on Friday reiterated its opposition to global AI governance, battling instead for “real AI sovereignty” built through national capability and partnership with American technology providers, a position Washington has consistently maintained. At the India AI Impact Summit 2026, marked by strong European participation, Assistant to the President and the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Michael Kratsios, outlined what he described as America's alternative vision for global AI order.

Modi and Dissanayake take stock of India-Lanka ties on AI meet sidelines

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit 2026 with the two leaders taking stock of progress in bilateral relations and exploring new avenues of cooperation.

“Strengthening friendship with a valued neighbour... We took stock of the progress in India-Sri Lanka relations in recent times,” Modi said in a post on X after the meeting. The discussions covered collaboration in energy, connectivity, infrastructure, healthcare, skill, culture and the blue economy, underscoring the strategic importance both sides attach to the partnership.

The meeting with Disanay-



PM Modi with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake in New Delhi | **PTI**

ake was part of a packed diplomatic schedule that saw Modi hold seven back-to-back bilateral talks. He also met Peter Pellegrini of Slovakia, Alois, Hereditary Prince of Liechtenstein, and Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam. The India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) featured prominently in talks with European leaders, alongside discussions on digi-

tal technology, startups, defence, space, innovation and research partnerships.

Separately, Modi met UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and reiterated India's support for harnessing artificial intelligence for inclusive global development. The two also exchanged views on UN reforms, particularly enhancing the voice of the Global South.

AI fundamentally reshaping global working landscape, V-P told

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

A group of CEOs and delegates participating in the India AI Summit 2026 on Friday met Vice President CP Radhakrishnan at his residence, where they shared their perspectives on how artificial intelligence is fundamentally reshaping the global working

landscape and unlocking vast new opportunities.

The guests also highlighted AI's transformative potential across key sectors such as healthcare, education, and employment, noting that India is uniquely positioned to benefit from large-scale AI-driven innovation and deployment.

They also expressed appre-

ciation for the India AI Mission for its continued support in building a strong and collaborative AI ecosystem.

A press statement issued by the Vice President Secretariat said that the delegates described the summit as spectacular in scale and impact, showcasing a vibrant pool of young talent, innovative ideas, and

DIGIYATRA SYSTEM A BIG HIT AT SUMMIT

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

FOR the first time, DigiYatra, the facial recognition technology, has been put to use at a location other than the aviation ecosystem — the Bharat Mandapam, where the India AI Impact Summit is underway. The initiative received a good response and helped ease the rush at numerous entry points, said a source.

DigiYatra is an initiative by the civil aviation ministry that facilitates fast-tracked entry and boarding at key airports in the country. “This is the first time such a large-scale beta use of DigiYatra has been done at a location other than the airport. The response has been overwhelming. It has made the entry smooth and fast for countless visitors.



The exact number of delegates and attendees who made use of it will be collated after the event,” said an official.

Data processed by DigiYatra is automatically deleted after the summit ends. Sharing details, the official said the app for the AI summit and DigiYatra app were integrated. “One needs to open the summit app and select Enter AI Summit with DigiYatra or scan QR code using DigiYatra app and give explicit consent for face-based verification,” he said.

A member of DigiYatra Foundation said, “Deployment reflects showcasing of citizen-centric applications of digital public infrastructure and AI by civil aviation and electronics and IT ministries.”

ance,” also read the statement.

During the meeting, Radhakrishnan underlined that AI enhances accuracy, improves ease of work, and delivers meaningful benefits to society at large. Expressing optimism about the future of AI, he noted that it would not only transform existing roles but also generate new job opportunities.



57-year-old
Sikh man kidnapped from
California's San Joaquin County



GLOBAL WEATHER

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

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

EU pushes for robust security guarantees for Ukraine

KRAKÓW

ANY peace deal between Ukraine and Russia needs to include “robust” security guarantees for Kyiv for it to work, major European powers warned on Friday.

The declaration, made by the defence ministers of Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Poland during a meeting in the Polish city of Krakow, comes as the United States forges on with efforts to broker an agreement between Moscow and Kyiv to halt fighting.

Negotiators from Ukraine and Russia held talks in Geneva on Tuesday and Wednesday but reached no breakthrough. The European defence ministers said their Ukrainian counterpart joined them for part of their meeting, in which they stressed their countries’ continued support for Kyiv and backed efforts to end hostilities.

But they said, pointedly, that “ensuring the sovereignty and lasting security of Ukraine shall be an integral part of a peace agreement, and that any settlement will have to be backed up by robust security guarantees for Ukraine”.

They underlined that “strong Ukrainian Armed Forces are the first security guarantee for a Ukraine in peace”. Britain and France have taken the lead in preparing for a future deployment of a multinational force to help secure Ukraine during any agreed transition to peace.

French President Emmanuel Macron said in January his country could deploy “several thousand” troops to Ukraine.

On Friday in Krakow, French Defence Minister Catherine Vautrin told journalists that European security depended on “the establishment of a durable peace based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine”. AFP

Trump bristles at top court ruling, vows more tariffs

Supreme Court striking down tariffs marks Trump’s biggest legal defeat since reelection

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump vowed Friday to impose a 10 percent tariff on all imports into the United States after the Supreme Court handed him a stinging rebuke by striking down his signature economic policy.

He suggested that most trade deals negotiated under the threat of his tariffs remained valid, mentioning specifically India, despite the Supreme Court ruling those levies illegal.

“The India deal is on,” Trump told reporters in response to a question, while suggesting tariffs under separate authorities would replace the ones overturned by the Supreme Court. “All the deals—we’re just going to do it a different way.”

He said he was ashamed of certain members of the Supreme Court. “I’m ashamed of certain members of the court, absolutely ashamed, for not having the courage to do what’s right for our country,” Trump told reporters.

He warned that he would use a separate authority to impose a uniform tariff of 10 percent—after he spent the past year imposing various rates spontaneously to cajole and punish other countries.

“In order to protect our coun-

try, a president can actually charge more tariffs than I was charging in the past,” Trump said.

He also said it may take years to resolve the legal issue of whether some \$133 billion taken in from his tariffs must be refunded. He said the issue was “not discussed” in the US Supreme Court’s ruling declaring his global tariffs to be illegal, adding: “We’ll end up being in court for the next five years.”

The ruling did not impact sector-specific duties Trump separately imposed on imports of steel, aluminum and various other goods. Several government probes which could lead to more sectoral tariffs remain in the works.

Still, it marked Trump’s biggest defeat at the Supreme Court since returning to the White House last year.

The Supreme Court’s three liberal justices joined three conservatives in Friday’s ruling. Trump heaped praise on Brett Kavanaugh, the only justice he nominated who voted with him. Kavanaugh was joined in his dissent by fellow conservatives Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito. “The tariffs at issue here may or may not be wise policy. But as a matter of text, history, and precedent, they are clearly lawful,” Kavanaugh wrote in the dissent. AFP



Other alternatives will now be used to replace the ones that the court incorrectly rejected. In order to protect our country, a president can actually charge more tariffs than I was charging

Donald Trump

Hamas says Israel must end aggression as peace board plans Gaza future

GAZA CITY

HAMAS said any discussions on Gaza must begin with a total halt to Israeli “aggression” as Donald Trump’s “Board of Peace” maps out the territory’s future, with Israel insisting on the militants’ disarmament before reconstruction starts.

Trump’s board met for its inaugural session in Washington on Thursday, with a number of countries pledging money and personnel for rebuilding, more than four months into a fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

But the board meeting offered no timeline for Hamas to lay down its weapons or for Israel’s army to withdraw from the shattered enclave.

“Any political process or any arrangement under discussion concerning the Gaza Strip and the future of our Palestinian people must start with the total halt of aggression,” Hamas



Palestinians sit at a long table amid the rubble of destroyed buildings as they gather for iftar during the holy month of Ramadan in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip | AP

said in a statement late Thursday. The Palestinian group also said arrangements for Gaza’s future must start with the “lifting of the blockade, and the guarantee of our people’s legitimate national rights, first and foremost their right to freedom and self-

determination”.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted that Hamas must disarm before any reconstruction begins. The Israeli leader did not attend the Washington meeting but was represented by his foreign minister Gideon Saar. AFP

Iran says draft N-deal to be ready in 2-3 days as Trump weighs limited strikes

TEHRAN/WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said he was considering a limited strike on Iran after ordering a major naval buildup in the Middle East aimed at heaping pressure on Tehran to cut a deal to curb its nuclear programme.

The latest threat came after Iran’s foreign minister said a draft proposal for an agreement with Washington would be ready in a matter of days following negotiations between the two sides in Geneva earlier this week.

Trump had suggesting on Thursday that “bad things” would happen if Tehran did not strike a deal within 10 days, which he subsequently extend-



US aircraft carrier USS Gerald Ford heading through the Strait of Gibraltar | AFP

ed to 15.

Asked by a reporter on Friday whether he was contemplating a limited military strike, Trump answered: “The

most I can say—I am considering it.”

After the talks in Geneva, Tehran said the two sides had agreed to submit drafts of a po-

tential agreement, which Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told US media would be the “next step”. “I believe that in the next two, three days, that would be ready, and after final confirmation by my superiors, that would be handed over to Steve Witkoff,” he said, referring to Trump’s main Middle East negotiator.

Araghchi also said US negotiators had not requested that Tehran end its nuclear enrichment programme, contradicting statements from American officials. “The US side has not asked for zero enrichment,” he said. His comments stand in contrast to information relayed by top US officials who has said Iran must not be allowed to enrich uranium at any level. AFP

ASIA MATTERS

SINGAPORE

CREW MEMBER DIES IN CRUISE SHIP FIRE

A fire on a Singapore-bound cruise ship killed one crew member and prompted the evacuation of hundreds of passengers, the city-state’s maritime and port authority said Friday. The blaze on the World Legacy has been extinguished, and there were no other reports of injuries among the crew or 271 passengers on board, authorities said. Four passengers, however, have been taken to hospital for “further medical assessment”. “The deceased crew member, an Indonesian national, has been transferred ashore,” the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore said.

THAILAND

ACTIVIST’S JAIL TERM EXTENDED TO 30 YRS

A Thai court sentenced a prominent lawyer to more than two years for royal insult on Friday, a rights group said, bringing his combined sentence for monarchy reform activism to more than three decades. Thailand’s strict lese majeste laws shield the royal family from criticism, with penalties of up to 15 years in prison for each offence.

INDONESIA

19% TARIFFS AGREED IN DEAL WITH U.S.

The United States and Indonesia finalised a trade deal that locks in tariff rates and non-tariff barriers to commerce, the White House announced Thursday. Officials with the Indonesian government organised a news conference in a downtown Washington hotel to commemorate the signing of the reciprocal agreement, which was originally announced in July. The accord sets a 19-percent tariff on Indonesian goods entering the United States. The Southeast Asian country had been threatened with a potential 32-percent levy prior to the agreement.

Co-founder of UK fashion giant falls from 17th floor, dies

LONDON

A British co-founder of online fast fashion retail giant ASOS has died in Thailand after falling from a high-rise balcony, police said on Friday.

Quentin Griffiths, 58, fell from the 17th floor of an apartment building in the seaside resort city of Pattaya on February 9, local law enforcement told AFP.

“The motive is still being investigated,” said police officer Kosala Ngamphong.

Griffiths had entered Thailand on a tourist visa, and the British embassy had been informed of his death, the officer added.

Griffiths was a joint founder of ASOS in 2000, when the website retailed imitations of clothing worn in movies and on TV —its acronym name standing for “As Seen On Screen”.

The firm evolved into a titan of the online fashion industry, selling established brands as well as its own low-cost line of garments with next-day delivery. In the 2025 financial year the London-headquartered firm reported revenue worth around \$3.2 billion. AFP

N Korean leader vows to boost living standards



SEOUL

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to lift living standards as he opened a landmark congress, state media said Friday, offering a glimpse of economic strains within the sanctions-hit nation.

Supreme Leader Kim took centre stage with a speech to start the Workers’ Party congress, a gathering that directs state efforts on everything from house building to war planning.

Held just once every five years, the days-long congress offers a rare glimpse into the workings of a nation where even mundane details are shrouded in secrecy.

“Today, our party is faced with heavy and urgent historic tasks of boosting economic construction and the people’s standard of living and transforming all realms of state and social life as early as possible,” Kim said.

“This requires us to wage a more active and persistent struggle without allowing even a moment’s standstill or stagnation.” For decades, nuclear weapons and military prowess came before everything else in North Korea, even as food stocks dried up and famine took hold.

But since assuming power in 2011, Kim has stressed the need to also fortify the impoverished nation’s economy.

SMART

5 Shirdi, Pandaripuram, Mantralayam

11 Kasi, Gaya, Ayothi, Agra, Delhi

6 Tamilnadu Tour Arupadai Veedu

15 Nepal Muktinath Kasi Ayothi

5 Ahobilam, Srisaillam, Mahanandhi

16 Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, Yamunotri

14 NORTH EAST 5 Hyderabad

14 Kashmir, Amritsar, Delhi

14 Shimla, Kulumanali, Kurukshetra

11 Gangtok, Darjeeling 16 Kasi

13 Rajasthan 8 Kerala

15 Panchadwarka 9 Srilanka

6 Singapore, Malaysia 4 Thailand

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So far investment commitments have crossed \$250 billion for infra-related areas and about \$20 billion for venture capital and deep-tech, says Vaishnaw

Qualcomm, Tata to make automotive modules in India

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

QUALCOMM Technologies on Friday announced a collaboration with Tata Electronics, under which Tata Electronics will serve as a manufacturing partner for Qualcomm Automotive Modules. The company said that with this partnership, Tata Electronics becomes part of Qualcomm Technologies' global network of module manufacturing partners, helping meet the growing worldwide demand for modular automotive platforms.

As part of the "Make in India" initiative, Qualcomm products will be made in India at Tata Electronics' upcoming semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facility in Jagiroad, Assam. The tie-up will support local production of technologies used in digital cockpits, infotainment, connectivity, and intelligent vehicle systems. It is likely to meet rising demand from Indian and global automakers while strengthening supply chain flexibility and regional diversification.

"Our work with Tata Electronics marks an important milestone in our automotive growth strategy. As the industry accelerates its shift toward integrated, module-based architectures, expanding manufacturing capacity in key regions becomes essential," said Nakul Duggal, EVP and Group GM, Qualcomm Technologies.

Over 80 nations expected to sign Delhi Declaration

I would like to share with you that the action summit, the previous one, had about 60 signatories in the final declaration. We have already crossed 70. We believe that it will cross 80 — Ashwini Vaishnaw

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

OVER 80 countries are likely to sign the Delhi Declaration at the India AI Impact Summit 2026, Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday.

Addressing the media, the minister said that more than 70 countries have already signed the declaration and the number could cross 80 by Saturday, the last day of the summit. The final draft will be released on Saturday along with the full list of signatories. Meanwhile, official sources said that the UK and the United States have also signed the declaration.

"I would also like to share with you that the action summit, the previous one, had nearly 60 signatories in the final declaration. We have already crossed 70. We believe that it will cross 80. All the major countries have already signed," Vaishnaw said at the summit.

The minister also said that investments have poured in during the summit, and so far commitments have crossed \$250 billion for infrastructure-related investments and about \$20 billion for venture capital and deep-tech commitments.

"We also have a lot of invest-



Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at the AI Impact Summit on Friday | SHEKHAR YADAV

ment pledges... I think the number is growing each day. So it has already crossed \$250 billion for the infra related investments and for the \$20 billion for venture capital and deep tech commitments. Investments which have been committed by investors.

This is a very important sign for us. The numbers are important, but what is important is that the world has confidence in India's role," Vaishnaw added.

The minister added that the AI Impact Summit has been a grand success on multiple fronts. He said that over five

lakh visitors attended the exhibition. For the first time, major artificial intelligence industry leaders stood on the same stage and reached a consensus on establishing artificial intelligence guardrails. He further said that the government will soon begin work on the AI Mission 2.0, which will be bigger than AI Mission 1.0.

"Many of the goals we had set for ourselves in mission 1.0 are on the verge of getting completed and many of them have actually exceeded. We wanted about 10,000 GP U's. We have 38,000 already and another 20,000 very soon going to be launched," Vaishnaw said.

AI Mission 2.0 soon

Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the government will soon begin work on the AI Mission 2.0, which will be bigger than AI Mission 1.0. The minister added that the AI Impact Summit has been a grand success on multiple fronts. He said that over five lakh visitors attended the exhibition



AI-biological intelligence can transform healthcare

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

BIOCON chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw on Friday said the convergence of biological intelligence and artificial intelligence (AI) can enable breakthroughs in predictive healthcare, regenerative science and lifespan management.

Mazumdar-Shaw said biological systems function like distributed data centres, processing information with minimal energy compared to gigawatt-powered AI systems.

"Biology has a lot to teach AI in terms of how to do it with less energy, how to do it rapidly, and how to multiplex multimodal data very quickly," Mazumdar-Shaw said. She described reprogramming cells - such as converting malignant cancer cells into non-malignant ones as the 'holy grail' of medicine. She said AI could accelerate regenerative science and help shift healthcare from hospital-centric models to predictive and preventive community care. Highlighting the importance of generational learning embedded in DNA, she cited examples such as migratory birds with navigational intelligence. On data sharing, Mazumdar-Shaw said reluctance to share information globally has created silos, but India's open digital public infrastructure offers a unique advantage.



Airtel, Zscaler to launch AI, cyber research centre in India

Telecom service provider Bharti Airtel on Friday announced a partnership with Zscaler to launch the AI & Cyber Threat Research Centre in India to strengthen cyber defenses amid rising AI-driven threats.

The companies, in a statement, said the centre will focus on protecting key sectors such as telecommunications, banking, energy, and other essential digital infrastructure, while accelerating adoption of trusted AI technologies across the country's rapidly expanding digital ecosystem.

'India must make hardware locally to reduce dependence on other countries'

NETWEB Technologies India, which has launched 'Make in India' Tyrone Camarero GB200 AI Supercomputer Powered by NVIDIA Sovereign AI Development, along with a petascale personal AI system Tyrone Camarero Spark at the India AI Impact Summit on February 18, has so far installed more than 600 supercomputers across India. **Sanjay Lodha**, chairman and MD of Netweb Technologies India, in an interaction with **Rakesh Kumar** talks about the company's latest innovations, India's AI momentum, and the importance of technological sovereignty. Edited excerpts:



What solutions is Netweb showcasing at the India AI Impact Summit 2026?

We are showcasing a range of advanced solutions from Netweb Technologies, a company that designs and manufactures supercomputers in India. In fact, we were among the first companies in the country to begin designing and manufacturing supercomputers. Today, we have installed more than 600 supercomputers across India.

Technology is evolving rapidly, especially on the GPU front, where AI is gaining momentum. At Netweb, we operate across three key areas: supercomputing, private cloud and hyper-converged infrastructure (HCI), and artificial intelligence (AI). We build and manufacture a complete AI ecosystem in India. We are one of NVIDIA's top-tier OEM partners. We design our hardware, manufacture it locally, architect the systems, and develop the software layer on top.

At this summit, we are showcasing the GB200 Grace Blackwell Superchip, NVIDIA's latest-generation chipset, integrated into a fully "Make in India" liquid-cooled system. We are also working with the B100 and B200 GPUs. All the latest NVIDIA GPUs are available in India through Netweb and are manufactured locally as part of our integrated solutions.

You mentioned 3 key business segments. Can you elaborate them?



Over the 20 years, we have contributed to several major projects, including systems under the PARAM series and large installations for institutions like the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre. We have also built India's fastest AI supercomputer. In private cloud and hyper-converged infrastructure (HCI), we serve enterprises and data centres. The era of bare-metal infrastructure is fading, with enterprises increasingly shifting toward private cloud environments. We have been active in this segment for over a decade and have established a strong presence in the market.

In AI, we bring over 15 years of experience, built on our supercomputing foundation. AI workloads need high-performance computing infrastructure. It is important that India doesn't become merely a destination for imported hardware. Technological sovereignty is key.

That is why we focus on designing and manufacturing systems in India. Sovereignty — both in hardware and software — has become increasingly important in today's geopolitical environment.

ware and software — has become increasingly important in today's geopolitical environment.

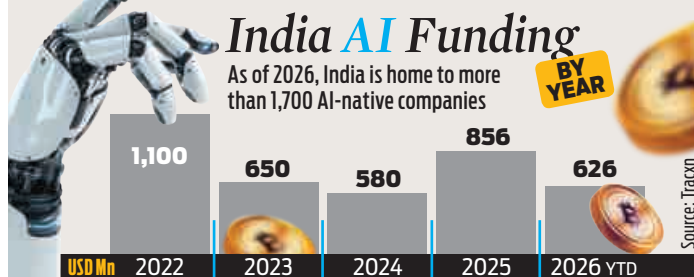
Where does India stand in terms of AI development?

India is at the forefront of AI development. Under the vision of Narendra Modi, initiatives such as the India AI Mission are creating strong momentum. The AI Impact Summit itself reflects this commitment.

For example, the GB200 chipset from NVIDIA is now being integrated into systems manufactured in India. We are not lagging in hardware integration and system manufacturing. On the software side, India has always been strong. The Government of India is investing significantly through the India AI Mission to provide GPU compute infrastructure to LLM developers and startups.

How do you see US-India trade deal impacting technology providers in India?

AI system manufacturing is largely insulated from trade deals because we are focused on domestic manufacturing and value addition. However, sovereignty remains the most important factor.



SOVEREIGN AI SECTOR RAISES \$5.5 BN AS OF '26

PADMINI DHURVARAJ @ Bengaluru

INDIA'S sovereign AI sector has raised more than \$5.5 billion across over 1,700 firms, according to a new report by Tracxn. The report, India and the Sovereign AI Shift, examines how the country is building its own artificial intelligence capabilities while staying connected to the global market.

As of 2026, India is home to more than 1,700 AI-native companies. Together, they have raised around \$5.5 billion in equity funding. These companies work across enterprise software, consumer platforms, sector-specific tools and AI infrastructure.

AI investment in India reached a high of \$1.1 billion in 2022. Funding slowed in 2023 and 2024 in line with a global venture capital slowdown. It recovered to \$856 million in 2025 and has already touched \$626 million in 2026 so far.

A key driver of this shift is the ₹10,372 crore IndiaAI Mission. The programme has allocated GPU computing power to 12 companies building foundational and specialised AI models. This move lowers the cost of training large-scale AI systems within the country. Public disclosures show that domestic AI models now range from 2.9 billion to 105 billion parameters. Some use mixture-of-experts designs to improve efficiency. For example, Sarvam AI has received 4,096 NVIDIA H100 GPUs along with about ₹99 crore in compute subsidies.

Large infrastructure funding rounds are also emerging. Neysa AI raised \$600 million at an enterprise valuation of around \$1.4 billion, reflecting growing interest in AI cloud and GPU-backed infrastructure. Globally, AI funding has crossed \$473 billion.

EXPRESS READ

State Bank in talks with Japanese banks for tie-up

MUMBAI: The country's largest lender State Bank of India is in talks with Japanese banks for collaboration in acquisition financing, RBI chairman CS Setty has said. The bank has a war chest of ₹94,000 crore for this, the chairman said, adding "the bank will be going to board soon for sops, pricing etc.." ENS

SBI MF to file for IPO next month, list in Sept

MUMBAI: The country's largest asset management company (AMC) SBI Mutual Fund is likely to file draft red herring prospectus for IPO with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) by March, and the whole process of listing will be completed by September, SBI chairman CS Setty said on Friday. ENS

Livspace cuts 1k jobs as it shifts to AI-led model

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

KKR-backed home interior platform Livspace has laid off at least 1,000 employees, nearly 12% of its workforce, in the last six months, as it moves to replace several manual roles with artificial intelligence systems.

The Bengaluru-based company earlier had about 8,000 employees. The job cuts have affected teams across design, sales, operations and marketing. A company spokesperson confirmed the changes, saying, "At Livspace, we've always been a technology-first company. As we look at the next phase of our growth, we are reorganising our internal operations to become an AI-native agentic organisation." The spokesperson added, "This hasn't been a sudden, singular event. Rather, it has been a measured, phased transition involving nearly 12% of our workforce."

Alongside the workforce realignment, co-founder Saurabh Jain has stepped down after 11 years with the company. "Saurabh has been a cornerstone of Livspace since day one and was absolutely instrumental in scaling the company to its current heights," the spokesperson said.

RBI sells net \$10.02 billion in Dec to curb rupee volatility

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sold a net \$10.02 billion in the foreign exchange market in December to contain volatility in the rupee, according to data released in the central bank's monthly bulletin on Friday.

As per the bulletin, the RBI purchased \$18.33 billion and sold \$28.35 billion during the month. The net sale was over 3% higher than in November, when the RBI had sold a net \$9.7 billion in the market. The rupee fell to a then record low of 91.0750 on December 16, pressured by concerns over a trade stalemate with the US and persistent foreign portfolio outflows. "Rupee depreciated against the US dollar in January in the wake of foreign portfolio outflows and uncertainty surrounding the India-US trade deal. In February, with net foreign portfolio flows turning positive, the INR recovered from its January lows," the RBI said in its bulletin.

The currency fell about 0.4% in December and extended its fall beyond the 91 mark in January, before re-

Budget, trade deals to boost growth: RBI

RESERVE Bank governor Sanjay Malhotra, who chairs the rate-setting panel MPC, on Friday said despite global investors remaining nervous and financial markets volatile the domestic growth drivers are firing from almost all cylinders. He said the growth outlook remains robust with benign inflation and the growth supportive budget, along with the trade deals. The minutes of the February 4-6 monetary policy meeting, released by the RBI on Friday, left the repo rate unchanged in a unanimous vote and also maintained the policy stance neutral, though the external member Ram Singh wanted it to be accommodative.

bounding following the announcement of a U.S.-India trade deal in early February.

The RBI's net outstanding forward dollar sales stood at \$62.35 billion at December-end, as against \$66.04 billion at the end of November and \$67.94 billion in December 2024. The RBI intervenes in both the spot and forward markets to manage excessive exchange rate volatility.

The rupee closed at 90.9825 on Friday, logging its sharpest weekly fall in a month amid continuing global uncertainties. As of January 30, 2026, India's forex reserves stood at \$723.8 billion, providing an import cover of over 11 months, the RBI bulletin noted.

Meanwhile, the forex reserves have climbed to a new record in the week to February 13, rising by \$8.663 billion to \$725.727 billion, the RBI has said. The latest increase follows a decline of \$6.711 billion in the previous reporting week, when the reserves slipped to \$717.064 billion. The earlier peak of \$723.774 billion was recorded in the week to January 30.

A major contributor to the rise is the spike in the foreign currency assets, which form the largest portion of the reserves. These increased by \$3.55 billion to \$573.603 billion during the week, according to the RBI data released Friday.

Ola Electric's valuation erodes by ₹57,000 crore

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

OLA Electric Mobility, led by entrepreneur Bhavish Aggarwal, has become one of India's biggest public market wealth destroyers lately. The EV company has wiped out ₹57,000 crore from its peak market cap as shares plunge to fresh lows in every session.

When its shares peaked at ₹157.53 on August 20, 2024 (weeks after listing), its valuation rose to nearly ₹69,000 crore. But a rout in share prices and mounting losses has since slashed m-cap to below ₹12,000 crore. The shares hit another all-time low of ₹26.34 on Friday and closed 3.5% lower at ₹26.58. At close, m-cap stood at ₹11,724 crore. The fresh fall came amid reports that the company is planning a major scale-down of its physical retail footprint in response to cooling demand.

In the past six months, the stock has fallen over 50% and from its all-time peak, it is now down by over 83%. The ongoing weakness in shares can be attributed to falling sales, a sharp fall in market share, CEO and founder Aggarwal reducing stake and brokerages cutting share price target after weak Q3.



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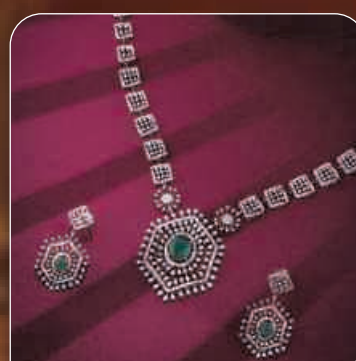
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The first English translation, by Helen Macfarlane, was published in 1850 in the Chartist journal *The Red Republican*.

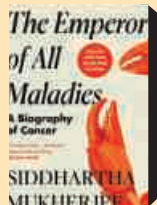
Progress is slower, less visible. She says, "Everything you do, from creating products to building trust with parents, takes time." The adjustment has reshaped her temperament. "Becoming an entrepreneur has made me value consistency and patience more than ever. You focus on the little choices that matter and trust that if you stay true to your vision and values it will all come together," concludes Alija.

BOOK

NOOK



Woman Down
by Colleen Hoover
When Saint starts taking his role in her career a little too seriously, Petra's forced to confront the chaos she created. But doing so could cost her more than the reputation she's been trying to salvage.



The Emperor of All Maladies
by Siddhartha Mukherjee
In this updated edition of Siddhartha Mukherjee's instant classic, four new chapters reveal what has changed in the universe of cancer in the years since the book was first published.



Theo of Golden
by Allen Levi
A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, the book is about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the invisible threads of kindness that bind us to one another.



Unfolding
by Rahul Singh
A debut novel that follows an affluent homosexual couple in Kolkata and a working-class Muslim mother in the city's slums. It confronts the wayward ways of the heart; it articulates the true price of love; and it tells us what it means to find the road back home.



STRONG MESSAGE

Students of M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women and Chennai City Traffic Police conducted a road safety awareness campaign in the city. | PRAVIKUMAR

QUICKFIX

MASALA SWEET CORN CHAAT

INGREDIENTS

- Boiled sweet corn: 1 cup
- Finely chopped onion: 1 tbsp
- Finely chopped tomato: 1 tbsp
- Chaat masala: ½ tsp
- Red chilli powder: ¼ tsp
- Finely chopped onion: 1 tbsp
- Salt
- Lemon juice
- Coriander

METHOD

- Mix corn, onion, tomato, spices, lemon juice, and salt. Mix, garnish, and serve.



Contributed by Darshan, Hyderabad

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Seasonal collections

Get Sunita Shanker's latest Spring Summer collections, featuring dresses, pants, camisoles, and more

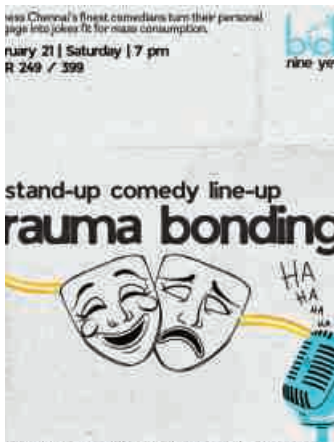
- 📅 **WHEN:** Today
- 📍 **WHERE:** Amethyst



Royal and Thai

Hyatt Regency Chennai invites gourmands and culture seekers to a Royal Thai Culinary Journey, an exclusive gastronomic event at the restaurant, Stix. Enjoy signature dishes, expert mixology and an interaction with the chef.

- 📅 **WHEN:** Tomorrow
- 📞 **CALL:** 9884369333



Laughter therapy

Backyard, Adyar, hosts an evening of comedy, titled, Trauma Bonding. Featuring Syama, Nikhil, Kaushik, Soda and Praveshika, in the line-up, their humour and thoughtful observations will promise a laughter-filled experience. Priced at ₹249

- 📅 **WHEN:** Today

Tracing history

Dr Chithra Madhavan, historian, is delivering an illustrated lecture on "Navarasa in Indian Art" for the S Kannan Memorial Talk in association with Madhuradhwani. The session is open to all.

- 📅 **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 6.30 pm
- 📍 **WHERE:** Arkay Convention Center, Mylapore



Corporate buffet

Redefining corporate dining in the city, Svar at Turvaa Chennai presents its specially curated buffet, a lavish multi-cuisine spread crafted for professionals who value both productivity and premium experiences. For reservations: 7358099335

- 📅 **WHEN:** Till February 28

Share your meals

Cappella, The Palomar by Crossway, invites diners to savour the joy of shared meals with Signature Plates, a limited-time dining experience. It brings together five indulgent dishes crafted for sharing, conversation, and lingering long after the last bite.

- 📅 **WHEN:** Till February 28, lunch and dinner



One for her father

Common Threads Studio presents 'Tribute to my Father', a personal and evocative body of work by textile artist Kalyani Pramod, paying homage to her father, the celebrated photojournalist TS Nagarajan.

- 📅 **WHEN:** Till February 26
- 📍 **WHERE:** Lalit Kala Akademi



NOWSTREAMING FITBIT

REGIONAL



RAAKSHASA (Kannada)

SI Hanmappa investigates a trail of crocodile attacks on the banks of the Malaprabha. While villagers blame them on ancient myths, the discovery of bloodied remains changes the course of the case.

Cast: Vijay Raghavendra, Avinash, Mayuri Kyatari

- **Watch on:** ZEE5

TU MERI MAIN TERA MAIN TERA TU MERI (Hindi)

A carefree wedding planner and a rule breaking author meet on a week-long trip in Croatia and fall in love. But Ray and Rumi's dreams and responsibilities pull them in different directions, forcing tough choices about love, family, and where they truly belong.



Cast: Karthik Aaryan, Ananya Panday, Neena Gupta

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

FOREIGN

56 DAYS (English, series)

After a chance supermarket encounter, Oliver and Ciara embark on an intense relationship; when a savagely murdered corpse surfaces 56 days later, the investigation delves into their turbulent love story, revealing grim secrets.

Cast: Dove Cameron; Avan Jogia

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video



Netflix :	₹ 199/month
Prime Video:	₹ 299/month
Jio Cinema:	₹ 999/year
Disney+ Hotstar:	₹ 899/year
Zee5 :	₹ 699/year
Zee5 :	₹ 299/month
Aha:	₹ 699/year
SonyLIV:	₹ 299/month

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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PREGNANCY EXERCISES AT HOME: SAFE WAYS TO STAY ACTIVE

Staying physically active during pregnancy supports both maternal health and fetal well-being when done safely and under medical guidance. For many women, structured home exercises can improve strength, reduce discomfort, and prepare the body for delivery. The key is to choose movements that suit each trimester, stay well hydrated, listen to the body's signals, and avoid activities that carry a higher risk of falls or strain.

The benefits of prenatal exercise are well documented. Gentle, regular activity helps manage healthy weight gain and lowers the risk of gestational diabetes and pregnancy-related hypertension. It also improves posture, which can ease common back and hip pain, and supports better circulation, helping to reduce swelling in the legs and feet. Just as importantly, movement plays a role in mood stability, stress reduction, and building stamina, all of which can make recovery after delivery smoother.

SAFE HOME EXERCISES BY TRIMESTER:

First Trimester

Focus on gentle strength and mobility:

- Light resistance exercises
- Bird-dog movements for core stability
- Light dumbbell curls or rows

These help maintain muscle tone while avoiding excessive strain

Second Trimester

Emphasise posture and upper-body strength:

- Bent-over fly or light shoulder presses
- Kneeling push-ups
- Side-lying leg lifts
- Gentle stretching for flexibility. Maintaining alignment reduces back and hip discomfort

Third Trimester

Prioritise mobility and circulation:

- Side lunges or supported squats
- Squats and modified lunges
- Tabletop hip lifts
- Modified side plank variations
- Low-impact walking or indoor cycling

Avoid prolonged lying on the back and sudden high-intensity movements. Ultimately, the goal of exercising during pregnancy is not performance or intensity, but confidence, comfort, and continuity. A simple, well-chosen routine can help women stay connected to their bodies as they change, maintain a sense of control over their physical well-being and enter childbirth feeling more prepared rather than fatigued.



By Indira CH, fitness expert, cult — a fitness and wellness platform

ARTCORNER



SERENE LANDSCAPE

Artist Anjali Shekhar's art imagines a stress-free life amid green and blue.

Hale & Hearty

Every year, in February, India observes National Deworming Day. Here is an expert breaking down how parents and teachers can help combat worm infections

WORMING THEIR WAY TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH

DR APARNA G

WORM infestation, medically referred to as helminthic infestation, remains one of the most common yet under-recognised health problems affecting children in India. Helminths are parasitic worms that can infect humans, and they broadly fall into three main groups: roundworms, tapeworms, and fluke-worms. While most intestinal worms primarily affect the gut, certain species can also involve vital organs such as the liver, lungs, and even the brain.

They are more commonly seen in regions with inadequate sanitation and unsafe water sources. Studies and field observations show that prevalence remains significantly higher in rural areas at about 91%, while urban areas report lower rates around 33%, largely due to better hygiene practices, improved sanitation, and access to clean drinking water. Despite progress, worm infections continue to affect a large number of schoolchildren across both rural and peri-urban locations.

Worms commonly enter the body through two major routes: by ingestion of worm eggs through contaminated food, water, soil, or unwashed hands and the other is due to direct skin penetration by larvae, particularly when children walk or play barefoot on contaminated soil.

In some worm species, the larvae travel through the bloodstream to reach the lungs or brain, which explains why symptoms are not always limited to the digestive system.

Symptoms: Often silent, sometimes severe

The clinical presentation varies

depending on the type of worm and the number of worms present in the body. Many children remain asymptomatic, especially when the worm load is low. While others may experience abdominal pain, crampy abdomen, diarrhoea, bloating, excessive gas, nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite. This may lead to reduced food intake, which can lead to fatigue, weight loss, and poor growth. Some children present with perianal itching, particularly at night during sleep. This symptom is commonly seen in pinworm infections, but can also be reported with other intestinal parasites.

One of the most serious consequences of chronic worm infestation is anaemia. Iron-deficiency anaemia is commonly caused by hookworm and whipworm infestations, as these worms lead to chronic blood loss from the intestine. The affected children may appear pale, irritable, with reduced attention span, increased hair fall, poor academic performance, and be easily tired. Some children have PICA, a condition where they crave non-nutritive substances such as chalk, paper, paint chips, or raw rice, further worsening nutritional deficiencies.

Another form of anaemia, vitamin B12 deficiency, can be associated with Diphylllobothrium latum (fish tapeworm) infection. These children may present with weakness, tiredness, breathlessness, swelling of hands and feet, and poor concentration. In severe cases, untreated anaemia may progress to the extent that some may need a blood transfusion.

Ascariis lumbricoides (roundworm) can migrate to the lungs, causing Loeffler's pneumonitis, which may present as fever, nocturnal cough, breathing dif-



Over time, these factors result in poor physical growth, reduced cognitive ability, low attention span, and decreased productivity, effects that can extend into adulthood if not addressed early

Dr Aparna G

health interventions play a critical role.

When it comes to treatment after infestation, some may not respond adequately to initial treatment. In such cases, further evaluation, including stool examination or perianal swab tests, is done to identify the specific parasite, followed by targeted therapy. Importantly, deworming is recommended for the entire family, as household members may unknowingly act as carriers, leading to repeated reinfection.

Prevention: Simple steps, big impact

Preventing worm infections is possible through basic hygiene and sanitation measures:

- Avoid open defecation; always use toilets
- Wash hands thoroughly after using the toilet and before eating
- Keep nails trimmed and clean
- Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly
- Consume only properly cooked and covered food
- Drink boiled and cooled water or use RO-filtered water
- Wear slippers or footwear while walking outdoors
- Follow bi-annual deworming as per age guidelines

Worm infections may be silent, but their impact on a child's growth and development is profound. Regular deworming, good hygiene practices, proper nutrition, and community awareness are essential to break the cycle of infection. Parents, schools, and caregivers are urged to ensure that no child is left behind in the fight against worm-related anemia and poor growth.

(The writer is a consultant paediatrician, Rainbow Children's Hospital, Chennai.)

When an injury becomes a chronic disease

DR MANOJ KUMAR

ARTHRITIS is not always a result of ageing. While many people believe that joint problems develop only due to wear and tear over time, fractures and significant joint injuries can also trigger a slow, long-term degenerative process known as post-traumatic arthritis (PTA). This condition develops when an injury disrupts the smooth mechanics of a joint. Over time, the cartilage wears down, pain increases, and normal daily activities become limited.

Most Indian public health data focusses on primary osteoarthritis, as the overall burden of joint degeneration is rising rapidly. However, post-traumatic arthritis represents a clinically important subset of arthritis. The estimated number of Indians living with osteoarthritis has increased from 23.5 million in 1990 to over 62 million in 2019, nearly a threefold rise, with knee osteoarthritis being the most common form.

How does a fracture lead to arthritis?

Joints are designed for smooth movement between bones. This is made possible by cartilage, a firm, slippery tissue that cushions and protects joint surfaces. When a fracture involves a joint, the cartilage may be damaged. Even the slightest irregularity in the joint surface can change how forces are distributed. Over time, abnormal stress and altered joint mechanics accelerate cartilage breakdown, eventually leading to arthritis.

Factors that increase the risk of post-traumatic arthritis

- **Type of fracture:** Intra-articular fractures (those extending into the joint) carry the highest risk.
- **Quality of treatment:** If the fracture is not anatomically realigned and stabilised, it may heal with residual deformity, increasing joint stress.
- **Inflammation:** Persistent inflammation after injury contributes to ongoing cartilage degeneration and pain.

Symptoms to watch for

Post-traumatic arthritis may develop months or years after the original injury. Warning signs include:

- Recurrent joint pain during daily activities
- Warmth and swelling around the joint
- Stiffness, especially after rest
- Reduced range of movement
- A grating or clicking sensation in the joint

After injury, inflammation is part of the natural healing process. However, if the cartilage is damaged or joint alignment is imperfect, inflammation may persist. Over the years, joint spaces narrow, bone spurs form, and pain becomes chronic. This process is similar to primary osteoarthritis but has a clear history of trauma.

In India, post-traumatic arthritis accounts for approximately 10-12% of all symptomatic arthritis cases, indicating that a significant proportion of degenerative joint disease is related to previous fractures or ligament injuries.

The rising incidence of osteoarthritis in India is also linked to ageing, obesity, and occupational strain. These factors, when combined with earlier joint injuries, further increase the risk of developing post-traumatic arthritis.

Prevention and long-term care

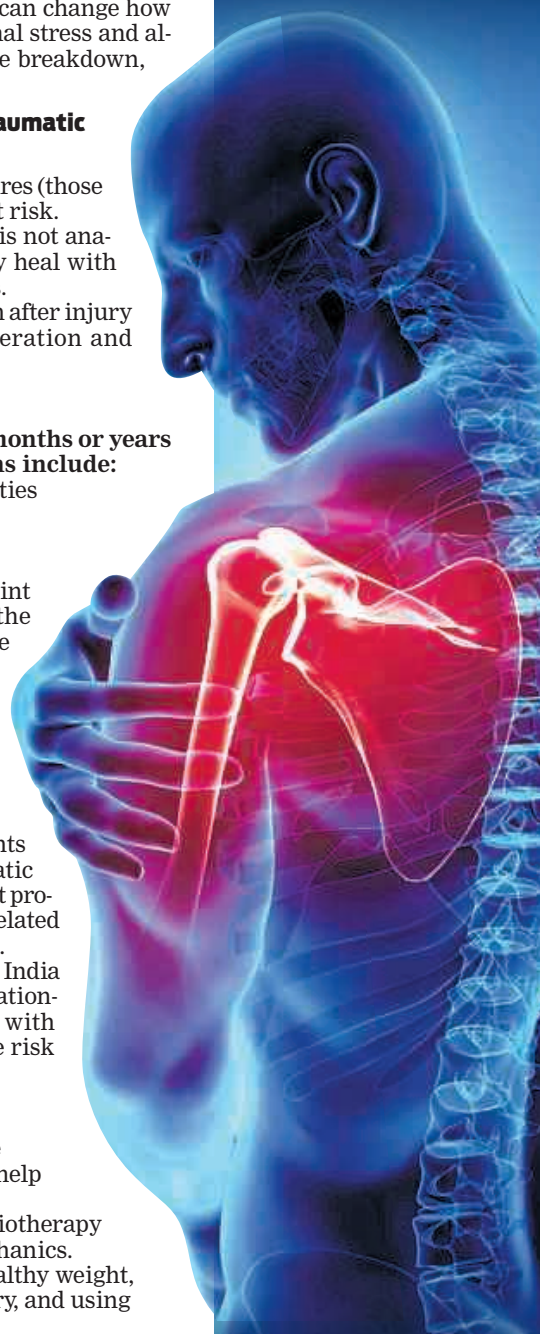
- **Accurate fracture treatment:** Precise anatomical reduction and stable fixation help minimise future joint degeneration.
- **Rehabilitation:** Early and guided physiotherapy restores movement and normal joint mechanics.
- **Lifestyle measures:** Maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding high-impact activities after injury, and using braces when advised.
- **Regular follow-up:** Periodic evaluation by an orthopaedic surgeon helps detect early degenerative changes before irreversible damage occurs.

A fracture can indeed lead to arthritis later in life. Post-traumatic arthritis is an important and growing cause of joint disability in India. Awareness of this link and timely, appropriate care can help preserve joint function, mobility, and quality of life in the years ahead.



The rising incidence of osteoarthritis in India is also linked to ageing, obesity, and occupational strain. These factors, when combined with earlier joint injuries, further increase the risk of developing post-traumatic arthritis.

Dr Manoj Kumar



(The writer is an associate consultant, SIMS Hospital, Chennai.)

CHENNAI DIGEST



Scholarships for students through CSR

SUMANGALA Steel offers scholarships for students from economically disadvantaged families through 'Ungal Kuzhandayum Aagalaam Engineer'. In the third edition, 19 students benefitted. The scholarship will continue to be awarded to these students for the entire duration of their course (3/4 years), subject to them fulfilling essential benchmarks on grades, discipline, and attendance.

Kauvery Hospital makes new strides

KAUVERY Hospital, Alwarpet, has introduced robotic-assisted, beating heart coronary artery bypass surgery (CABG) using the 4th generation da Vinci Robotic Surgical System. With this development, Kauvery Hospital now offers this advanced minimally invasive cardiac surgery service as part of its comprehensive heart care programme. The integration of robotic technology into coronary bypass surgery enables surgeons to perform complex procedures through small keyhole incisions. The robotic cardiac surgery programme at Kauvery Hospital is led by Dr Arunkumar Krishnasamy, robotic cardiac surgeon and senior consultant, Cardiothoracic Surgery, supported by a multidisciplinary team. This new system provides high-definition, 3-D magnified vision, enhanced instrument dexterity, and tremor filtration for superior stability. These features support precise suturing, controlled tissue handling, and improved access to deep and narrow areas of the chest.

DARSHITA JAIN

IF you have been scrolling through social media lately, chances are you have come across the word 'otrovert'. It is being described as someone who stands somewhere between an introvert and an extrovert, yet feels slightly outside both worlds. Is this really a new personality trait, or simply a new name for something we already understand?

Dr Pragya Rashmi, consultant psychologist at Yashoda Hospitals, says the term is more of a pop-psychology label than a clinical category. "Otrovert" describes individuals who feel like perpetual outsiders or emotionally detached from groups, even while comfortable alone or in social settings; they prioritise independence over belonging. This differs from an ambivert, a well-recognised type in psychology, who balances introversion and extroversion by adapting energy levels to situations without a core sense of 'otherness'. 'Otrovert' is not a formally new personality type but a pop-psychology label emphasising outsider identity, not just energy balance," she says.



Decoding 'Otrovert' trend

Dr Manjula Rao, consultant clinical psychologist at Apollo Hospitals, concurs. She says, personality has always been understood as fluid. "Most people are not purely introverted or extroverted. They show a mix of traits depending on

brain activity differences (eg., frontal lobe flow in introverts), with ambiverts as spectrum midpoints — not a separate 'otrovert' category."

Some people who relate to the term describe patterns such as avoiding group rituals, preferring deep one-on-one bonds, sticking strongly to personal routines, or making rational decisions over joining collective fun.

Dr Pragya points out, "Otroverts" show patterns like avoiding group rituals, rigidity in personal routines, selective deep friendships without reciprocity needs, and rational decision-making over fun in collectives. Unlike situational adaptability (common in ambiverts, who shift comfortably), 'otroverts' maintain persistent detachment regardless of context, feeling neutral rather than energised or drained."

So, should we label ourselves at all? Dr Manjula advises

viewing personality as a guide, not a restriction. "Instead of focusing on labels, it is more helpful to observe how you feel after a social interaction. Do you feel energised, drained, or balanced? Self-awareness grows by noticing patterns.

Some people enjoy company but still need quiet recovery time. Others prefer solitude but appreciate meaningful conversations. There is no correct formula. Understanding your energy is about listening to your body and emotions rather than fitting into a category," she says.

Perhaps the real takeaway is instead of chasing trending terms, it may be wiser to observe how we feel. Do social interactions energise or drain you?

Do you need quiet time to recharge? Personality awareness should lead to self-acceptance, not pressure to fit into a category that sounds fashionable online.



'Otrovert' differs from an ambivert, a well-recognised type in psychology, who balances introversion and extroversion by adapting energy levels to situations without a core sense of 'otherness'

Dr Pragya Rashmi

No time for restraint in this scathing social drama



BH HARSH

T'S not like Anubhav Sinha is making a social drama for the first time. In the last nine years, the persevering filmmaker has rebuilt his career on these grounds, with films like *Mulk*, *Thappad*, and *Article 15*. However, while the audience (and the market) for the genre has only shrunk in the last few years, it seems the barriers have only made the filmmaker more determined in his intent to make a dent, and that sense of urgency runs throughout *Assi* as an undercurrent.

Assi has no respite. It jumps right into an emotion instead of easing us into it. The film doesn't seem to have the luxury of waiting to build an atmosphere. Even as it goes back to trace the footsteps to its triggering incident, there is a discordant energy to the montage. As we are introduced to each of those characters in the first act, there is a deliberate jumpiness to the edit — we are never allowed to settle. The use of bold red text cards is urgent and strangely poetic. *Assi* is screaming at us and has no qualms when caught in the act. And while it may want to grab us by our collars, *Assi* is always confident in its craft and use of style. There is a very consciously sparse use of background score, where you are compelled to dwell on the dialogue, which is a choice that only makes you more uncomfortable because you are now listening to every question that stems from these introspective conversations.

Screenwriters Gaurav Solanki and



Director: Anubhav Sinha

Cast: Taapsee Pannu, Kani Kusruti, Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub, Kumud Mishra, Manoj Pahwa, Revathy

RATING
4/5

Anubhav are attempting to reinvent the art form, where a script is subtle, bludgeoning, poetic and verbose, all at once. Take, for instance, the visual of a funeral-like setting as Parima's (Kani Kusruti) distant relatives pay her a visit. There are so many small touches that stay with you: the '*Fevicol Se*' song played at a family function, the fleeting visual of boys bathing openly as Raavi walks by, Vinay's son sitting beside a man with a shockingly suggestive text on his T-shirt. All of these huge swings could have easily gone wrong, if not for the astute craftsmanship at display. Things are said without the narrative becoming entirely about its barrage of statements. Even as *Assi* comes dangerously close to being too 'messagey,' it's the self-assured screenplay that helps the narrative walk the fine line between sermon and conversation. *Assi* is as political



ASSI

NELSON-ANIRUDH CONFIRMED FOR KHxRK

THE much-awaited Rajinikanth-Kamal Haasan reunion now has a director and composer. Confirming the speculations, the film, tentatively titled *KHxRK* is being helmed by Nelson, with music by Anirudh. The upcoming film will be the first time the actors are starring in a film, after K Balachandar's *Ninaitthale Inikkum* (1979). Kamal also made a cameo appearance in Rajinikanth's 1981 film, *Thillu Mullu*.

While Nelson and Anirudh have collaborated on *Kolamaavu Kokila* (2018) and *Doctor* (2021), the duo

earlier worked in Rajinikanth's *Jailer* (2023) and are also reuniting in *Jailer 2*. Anirudh last composed for Kamal Haasan in *Vikram* (2022).

Inban Udhayanidhi will be producing the upcoming film under the Red Giant Movies banner, in their 17th production venture. Apart from the upcoming film, Kamal Haasan is backing Rajinikanth's 173rd film, under the Raaj Kamal Films International banner. Tentatively titled *Thalaivar 173*, the film will be directed by Cibi Chakravarthy and features music by Anirudh.



ASHWIN S

DOES conformity restrict you or give you structure? Humans have a love-hate relationship with conformity. But when something has stood beyond its time, evolution is necessary. Tyree Dillihay's *Goat* ponders the implications of this theme with the hip, sass, and swagger of the internet era. While the setting can remind you of other animated films like *Zootopia*, *Goat* stands apart with optimism, technical brilliance and a simple but entertaining story.

In the world of *Goat*, the sport that dominates the airwaves is Roarball, a version of basketball that imbibes the dangers of the environment of the host team has to offer, like lava, falling stalactites, or ice sheets above deep waters. The makers use the 3D style of animation to show this extensive world building in its full scale. Rookie Will Harris (Caleb McLaughlin) is recruited to play for his dream team, the Thorns, which is led by the aging legend Jett Fillmore (Gabrielle Union). Magma, the main rivals of The Thorns, are led by the horse, Mane Attraction (Aaron Pierre). While trying to prove himself to Jett, Will has to dodge every single opponent, which includes bears, crocodiles, gorillas, and the raging fire that shoots out from the ground of the Magmas' home ground. After passing through all these obstacles he still has to score points. The film uses fast paced tracking shots without sacrificing their showcase of scale, and have used animation to show perspectives that will be impossible to capture on camera.

While the animation for animals can be exaggerated, *Goat* never con-

RATING
3.5/5



A fun-filled slam dunk

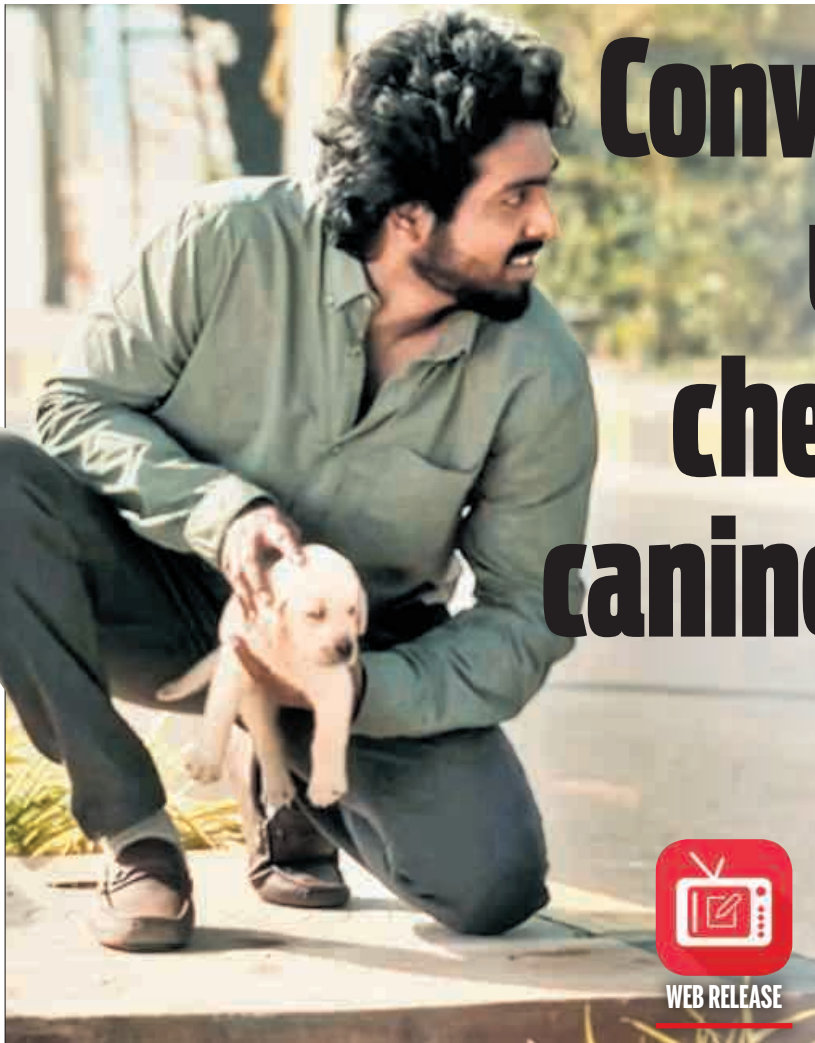
fuses the audience in how the animals behave in that world. Jett, a black panther, is fluidic with her movement and has the swagger and confidence of Michael Jordan. But there is also comedic moments involving her stalking her prey. The levity also extends to Will, the titular goat, who bleats in a manner that is a call back to Marlon Wayans' infamous 'Whaz-zaaa' phone call in *Scary Movie*.

With NBA being the inspiration, the makers have also played around with the hip-hop elements that are involved with the sport. The addition of Stephen Curry's own pre-game

rituals and ties add to the uniquely intriguing world building. This balance between the quirks and the dramatics makes sure that the world building doesn't distract the audience from the viewing experience.

The story of an underdog's rise in a sports drama is a story as old as time. But *Goat* also adds another age-old element of storytelling into the mix: what if animals can talk? Even with two age-old elements of storytelling, *Goat* offers viewers a unique story. While Will has to break out of his self-doubt and channel his earnestness to reach glory, Jett has to

Conveniences undercut cheer in this canine fantasy



EXPRESS VIEWS

AKSHAY KUMAR

HERE'S a scene in *Lucky The Superstar* where a councillor (Namo Narayana), on giving a lift to Thengai Srinivasan (Subbu Arunachalam), and later knowing that he has been searching for him, says, "*Kumbida Pona Dheivam Kurukka Vandha Maadhri Irukku*." But it is such far-fetched coincidences, which, unfortunately, result in artificial conflict-building. Interestingly, the film also has its fair share of elements to be a complete laugh riot. However, the film gets caught between convenience and comedy, and ends up being an average fare.

Lucky The Superstar begins with a dog, Sarala (Kovai Sarala as the voice), giving birth to four puppies on the banks of a lake. Unfortunately, three of them drown due to flooding, and the surviving puppy is named 'Lucky'. In the following scenes, the puppy gets separated from her mother and ends up with another 'Lucky' / Lakshmanan (GV Prakash), who decides to gift her to his autistic niece. Throw in a political powerplay, and the belief that the dog has special powers, both 'Luckys' find themselves in trouble. With Kovai Sarala, 'Naan Kadavul' Rajendran and Thambi Ramaiah bringing their unique voices to three dogs in the film, we expect the film to move from their point of



Director: Uday Mahesh

Cast: GV Prakash Kumar, Kovai Sarala, Thambi Ramaiah, Rajendran, Anaswara Rajan, Meghna Sumesh

Streamer: JioHotstar

view, which would have been a riot. The film does move from their viewpoint occasionally, but the abrupt human takeover of the plot doesn't sit well. The *Toy Story*-like non-human focalisation would have made the film much better than it is now. But the balance is struck with the one-note characterisations, which work in favour of the film because the film doesn't focus too much on any individual. *Lucky* is favoured by its plot coherence and linear narration. The writing remains simple; it barely meanders and doesn't require much of a course

correction.

Lucky slumps in its simplistic plot device of building conflict. Right from the unveiling of Lucky's 'superpower' to how she switches from one politician after another for their electoral success is repetitive and plastic. Bumping into a councillor may happen, but stray dog shelter activist Keerthy (Anaswara) and a not-so-important Lakshmanan don't break a sweat to have an audience with the CM. It is when the stakes get this high that we are forced into unnecessary heroics, and it ends up as a film that is completely different from what was promised. The nonchalance with which one scene moves to another makes us wonder if we should even panic for the safety of Lucky. Full points to the makers for not having subplots, despite the temptation to set Lakshmanan and Keerthy as a romantic couple. All the actors have convincingly portrayed their characters. Even though the jokes land sporadically, it is admirable how there is no attempt to oversell the jokes. Lakshmanan, though, is forced to resort to usual heroism in the final act, and that takes away the focus from the enterprising dogs. Had the three dogs been tasked with the rescue operation of Lucky or at least teamed with Lakshmanan and deputed to places difficult for humans to infiltrate, things would have been more interesting. Instead, the film paints them as dogs in distress, and it takes away some sheen.

Towards the end of *Lucky*, we are introduced to a neck collar with a device, which, on wearing, allows dogs' language to be understood by humans. This wacky choice adds to the missed opportunities of the film. This should have been employed right at the beginning and generated some much-needed chaos and humour. *Lucky* doesn't go all in on its wackiness. With the writing trying to build a house with bricks, a few walls end up being built with cards, and the film ends up as a mildly engaging watch, when it could have been much more.

LUCKY THE SUPERSTAR



Director: Tyree Dillihay

Cast: Caleb McLaughlin, Gabrielle Union, Aaron Pierre, Stephen Curry, David Harbour

evolve into someone who is not self-absorbed and untrustworthy. The film shows both characters breaking out of conforming to some expectations and self-actualizing without having to sacrifice the unending optimism.

While this can prove to be a tough aspect to hold throughout an animated movie, *Goat*'s writing is able to cross that hurdle. Jett has a lot of experience that can help Jett shake off the feeling of inadequacy. While this premise can be simple, the holistic experience that *Goat* offers is compelling.

Sony Pictures Animation has never maintained a particular animation style for its films. Films like *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* or the Spider-Verse films have only broken away from convention, and with *Goat*, they have not just served something that is non-conforming, but game-changing.

GOAT