

Fighting misinformation with hope

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

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

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

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

Happy reading!



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

CHENNAI • TUESDAY • JUNE 23, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

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

12 Indians killed in Qatar natural gas unit explosion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AS many as 12 Indians were killed in a massive explosion at Qatar's Ras Laffan liquefied natural gas (LNG) complex on Sunday night as workers tried to resume operations there, months after it was bombed during the recent West Asia war. In all, there were 13 casualties, which included a Pakistani national.

The Indian embassy in Qatar said: "Qatari authorities have confirmed that 12 Indian nationals have unfortunately passed away in the Ras Laffan incident yesterday night. We extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the departed."

Over 60 others were reported injured in the blast. The injured were from several countries, including India, Qatar, Tanzania, Pakistan, Guinea, Nepal, Bangladesh, Kenya and Nigeria, local media reported. However, all the injured Indians were stable and receiving treatment, the embassy's statement said.

QatarEnergy said the blast occurred during the start-up of operations at the Barzan local gas supply facility. "I would like to emphasize that this was an accident and not sabotage or hostile in nature," Energy Minister Saad Sherida al-Kaabi told the media on Monday in Doha. The cause of the explosion is under probe.

Suspected AC defect leads to blaze in commercial building



Students among 15 dead in UP fire

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

AT least 15 people, mostly students between 22 and 27 years, were charred to death after a fire broke out in a three-storey commercial building in a posh Lucknow neighbourhood on a busy Monday afternoon. The list of the deceased includes four women.

Late in the night, police arrested three persons—Ramakrishna Upadhyay, Virendra Prasad Shukla, and T K Jaiswal after filing an FIR. Four officials were suspended.

Most of the victims were trapped on the second floor of the building located on Usha Mehta Marg in Aliganj in north Lucknow, where students were attending classes at an animation centre. The ill-fated building housed a pet shop and a

clinic in the basement, ground, and first floors. The second floor had a library-cum-coaching centre called 'Learning Space', and also housed 'Head Hopper Studio', a 3D Art production and game asset outsourcing centre.

Most of those killed were students who had come for internship/work at the gaming studio. Around 35 students were present when the fire broke out. While some managed to escape, several of them had to jump off from the second floor, while many

locked themselves inside bathrooms in a bid to save themselves. As per fire department sources, the blaze originated in the pet shop in the basement due to a short circuit in an air conditioner around 2.30 pm, and spread rapidly before engulfing the building.

The fire broke out suddenly. It seems that the children ran towards the backside but couldn't survive

Brajesh Pathak, UP deputy CM



Rescue efforts (L) in progress at the site of the fire in Lucknow; and videograb of students sliding down a cable (above) to save themselves | PTI/EXPRESS

UP sets up SIT to probe cause of fire

The Uttar Pradesh government has set up a Special Investigation Team under Additional Director General Praveen Kumar to ascertain the cause of the fire. The SIT has been tasked with submitting its findings within seven days

Adityanath promises strict action for lapses

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath on Monday evening said every person responsible will face strict action. He announced ex gratia of ₹5 lakh for the kin of each deceased, while PM Narendra Modi offered ₹2 lakh each



Lionel Messi (L) celebrates after scoring against Austria on Monday | PH | P15

Messi's one, scores two: Record 18 for Leo

Lionel Messi became the leading scorer in World Cup history when he netted twice in Argentina's 2-0 win over Austria, taking his total to 18 goals. The 38-year-old had missed a penalty in the ninth minute

TODAY'S MATCHES

Group K: Portugal vs Uzbekistan (10.30 PM), Colombia vs DR Congo (7.30 AM*). Group L: England vs Ghana (1.30 AM*), Panama vs Croatia (4.30 AM*) *IST Wednesday • Live on United8 Sports & ZEE5

Meta ropes in CRED founder Kunal Shah as WhatsApp boss

PADMINI DHURVARAJ @ Bengaluru

META has appointed CRED founder Kunal Shah as the global CEO of WhatsApp. Shah replaces Will Cathcart, who has stepped down after running the messaging platform for seven years. As part of the deal, the US tech giant will invest about ₹8,550 crore, or \$900 million, in the Bengaluru-based fintech company. The investment values CRED at ₹43,239 crore or \$4.5 billion.

Meta will be a minority investor in CRED and will not receive access to customer information, the company said.

Shah will step away from his operating role at CRED while retaining his personal shareholding. Miten Sampat, who has led strategy and finance at the company since 2020, will become CRED's interim CEO.

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said: "Kunal Shah will join Meta as WhatsApp's next leader. Kunal built CRED into one of India's most important technology companies, and he brings the kind of builder mentality and global

perspective that will serve him well in running the world's biggest messaging app."

Shah said: "While it's come very far, the delta between WhatsApp today and its full potential is massive."

Shah's appointment marks a significant addition to the growing list of Indian-origin executives steering the world's most influential technology companies such as Google (Sundar Pichai) and Microsoft (Satya Nadella).



KUNAL SHAH

EXPRESS READ

₹3.3L cr projects lost due to DMK, says min

Chennai: Industries Minister S Keerthana on Monday alleged that corruption and delays in approvals during the previous DMK regime led to 25 industrial projects worth ₹3.3 lakh crore moving out of TN to other states, resulting in the loss of an estimated 2.03 lakh jobs | P5

Tribunal won't affect state's rights: Aadhav

Chennai: Minister Aadhav Arjuna on Monday assured the House that constitution of a new tribunal in Mekedatu dispute will not affect TN's stance in the Cauvery row. There will be no change in Karnataka's obligation to release 177 tmcft of water to TN, he said | P4

Toll up to 8 in ammonia leak, 6 more die in hosp

RAJALAKSHMI SAMPATH @ Chennai

THE death toll in Sunday's ammonia gas leak at St Peter & Paul Sea Foods Exports in Kannigaipair, Tiruvallur district, rose to eight after six more, including a 15-year-old girl, died in hospital on Monday. Seven of the victims — R Shibani, Phulomani Juang, Geetha Juang, Purnima Juang, Champabati Juang, J Parvathi Juang and the minor girl — belonged to a Scheduled Tribe community from Odisha's Kendujhar district. The eighth victim, G Sita Hasda, was from Assam.

Development Minister J Mohamed Parvas told the Assembly on Monday that the gas leak occurred due to an unexpected fault in a valve connected to a pipeline leading to an ice flake generator machine.

Sunday's incident was not the first at the facility. Police sources said an ammonia leak was reported at the same unit in 2014. An affected worker, hospitalised on October 23 that year, died of complications on January 15, 2015. A case registered in connection with that death is being heard by a Tiruvallur court. P7

EMERGENCY ALARM FAILED: P2

MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

WHEN THE TEMPERATURE SOARS WE GO HIGHER.

EFFECTIVE PRICE OF **11.89 LAKH***



JIMNY

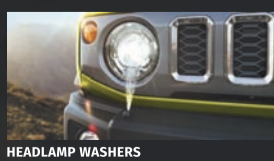
NEVER TURN BACK



ALLGRIP 4x4



ROBUST LADDER FRAME CHASSIS



HEADLAMP WASHERS



WIRELESS ANDROID AUTO AND APPLE CARPLAY CONNECTIVITY

3 years **100 000 km** WARRANTY*
EXTENDABLE UPTO 6 YEARS



NEXA SAFETY SHIELD



SCAN TO CONNECT TO A SHOWROOM NEAR YOU!

Applicable T&C available at your nearest dealership. *Effective Price of 11.89 lakh calculated basis deduction of Consumer Offer (~) 50,000 from Ex. showroom Price of 12.39 lakh. The actual effective price mentioned may vary based on the customer's eligibility, profile, and applicable offers at the time of purchase. Offer valid on Jimny Zeta Variant only. Creative visualization. Images used are for illustration purposes only. Features and accessories shown may not be part of standard fitment. Finance options available by selected finance partners. Finance is at the sole discretion of the financier. Above offers are valid until stocks last. Black glass shade on the vehicle is due to the lighting effect. Car color may vary due to printing on paper. For details in functioning of safety features including airbags, kindly refer to the Owner's Manual. NEXA dealers exclusively provide all offers, which vary by model and variant. Offers are subject to availability of stock and valid till limited period only. Maruti Suzuki India Limited reserves the right to discontinue any offers without notice. *3 years or 100 000 km, whichever is earlier. Apple CarPlay™ and Android Auto™ are registered trademarks of Apple Inc. and Google Inc. respectively. Vehicle image displayed is of NEXA JIMNY, variant specific features may vary.

Mettur delay leaves Veeranam with 29% storage

180 MLD can be drawn till July 18; Krishna water helping city meet its needs; five major lakes have over 50% storage as on June 22

RUDHRAN BARAASU @ Chennai

WITH the government deferring the opening of the Mettur dam (customary opening date June 12), the Veeranam lake, one of the water sources for Chennai, is drying up fast, as it has just 29% of storage now. However, Krishna river water from Andhra Pradesh is helping the city maintain water level in other lakes that provide drinking water.

A Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Metro Water) official said a water treatment facility near Veeranam lake has designed capacity to send 180 MLD (million litres per day) to Chennai. "Presently, 180 MLD is being drawn from the lake for supplying to the city. With the present water storage situation, we can maintain 180 MLD supply till July 18. If the government opens Mettur dam or catchment areas of Veeranam lake (parts of Ariyalur, Perambalur and Cuddalore districts) receive summer rains, storage level will improve," the official added.

As per data, the Chola era lake had 421 mcf (million cubic feet) of water, which is only 28.79% of total storage capacity of 1,465 mcf. The official explained water

supply to the city will not be stopped after July 18 but a reduced quantity will be sent until the lake is filled up again.

Meanwhile, Poondi lake in Chennai has received more than 500 mcf of water from Krishna river since May 25. Krishna water from Kandaluru reservoir continues to flow into Poondi lake, which has helped the 'water manager' maintain sufficient storage despite supplying more than 1,200 MLD to the city.

As on May 25, before the Krishna water reached the city, the five lakes - Poondi, Cholavaram, Redhills, Kannakottai Thervoykandigai, and Chembarambakkam had 57% storage of their combined capacity. On June 22, the lakes had almost a same storage with 51.25%.

Poondi lake had 1,087 mcf and Cholavaram had 84 mcf. Redhills and Kannakottai Thervoykandigai lakes had 1,649 mcf and 306 mcf respectively. Chembarambakkam lake had 2,900 mcf.

A Water Resources Department official said the lake will receive water from Kandaluru Reservoir until the Northeast monsoon starts in the city as the Andhra Pradesh Water Resources department has assured continuous supply.

Presently, 180 MLD of water is being drawn from Veeranam lake for supplying to the city. With the present water storage situation, we can maintain 180 MLD supply till July 18

Metro Water official

Metro plans laying 200m track a day on Red Line

C SHIVAKUMAR @ Chennai

DESPITE REELING under labour shortage, Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) is planning to lay 200-metre track a day on the 27 km Koyambedu-Chennai Trade Centre Red Line.

"Nearly 45% of track-laying work has now been completed on this stretch that helps cut the commute times across one of Chennai's most congested arteries," a CMRL official told TNIE.

Work on the section slowed for nearly 75 days since the recent election period as labourers left the city, leaving a workforce shortage of around 10% even now. "We currently have nearly 2,200 workers on site and expect another 300 to join within a week," a CMRL official said while highlighting the dependency on the availability of migrant labour has on engineering capacity.

The 47 km Red Line, once complete, will run through 45 stations from Madhavaram in the north to Sholinganallur in the south - a corridor that touches some of the city's dense residential and commercial belts.

Officials are exploring extending operations as far as Alandur and starting the service before the end of this year. "It is an ambitious target, but discussions are under way," the official said. "No decision as of now has been taken to extend the line to Alandur," the official added.

The track laying work is expected to be finished by the end of July. Station construction along the corridor stands at 40-50% completion. But track and stations are only part of the picture that determines when a passenger can actually board a train: signalling, officials caution, could take another four months - a dependency that will



Chennai Metro Rail has completed nearly 45% of track-laying work on the section between Koyambedu and Chennai Trade Centre | MARTIN LOUIS

likely shape any realistic opening date more than track-laying itself.

The Butt Road section, long a sticking point, has largely been resolved as labour availability

by foundation work at the site of a relocated mosque is also nearing completion.

Similarly, in the underground stretch under Corridor - 4 (Yellow Line) the tunnelling between Power House and Panagal Park is complete. Track-laying and the architectural fit-out of Panagal Park station, however, have not begun yet, and that underground stretch is not scheduled for completion until March 2027 - a timeline that underscores how unevenly different parts of the corridor are advancing.

Between Porur and Vadapalani under the Yellow Line, civil works at six intermediate stations and at Power House station are expected to wrap up within two-and-a-half months. At Vadapalani, passengers will likely be funnelled through the skywalk connecting to the existing metro station as entry and exit works there continue.



A fisherman removing damaged fishing net from a boat propeller at Kasimedu fishing harbour | MARTIN LOUIS

Tangedco asst accepts bribe from tainted official, held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A Tangedco assistant attached to the Disciplinary Proceedings Section at the utility's headquarters on Anna Salai was arrested by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) on Monday for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹50,000.

DVAC officials identified the suspect as Balaji. According to investigators, he allegedly demanded ₹1.5 lakh from Balasubramanian, an assistant engineer of Tangedco's Besant Nagar division, to facilitate the issuance of a posting order. The amount was later re-

duced to ₹1.3 lakh, and Balaji allegedly sought ₹50,000 as advance.

The police said Balasubramanian had been trapped in a bribery case involving ₹10,000 in September 2023 and was under suspension. Though his suspension was revoked by the superintendent engineer, Adyar, on June 12, 2026, his posting order was yet to be issued by the chief engineer (Personnel).

Acting on a complaint, DVAC officials laid a trap at the Tangedco headquarters on Monday and arrested Balaji after he allegedly received the advance bribe amount.

Biker thrown off flyover after hitting median, dies Minor fire breaks out at BPCL scrap storage yard

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai



Mohanasunder

A 23-year-old job aspirant from Tirunelveli died after being thrown off a flyover when the motorcycle that he was riding crashed into the median on the Kottivakkam flyover near Manali on

Monday. His friend, who was riding pillion, suffered serious injuries and is undergoing treatment.

The deceased has been identified as Mohanasunder (23), a diploma graduate, and the injured person is Sriharan (24) of Korattur. According to the Red Hills Traf-

fic Investigation Wing (TIW), the duo was heading to Kathivakkam after attending an interview for internship at a heavy vehicle manufacturing company in Egmore when the accident occurred. Sriharan has been undergoing treatment at Government Stanley Medical College Hospital.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A minor fire that broke out at the scrap storage yard of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) lube plant in Tondiarpet around 2.30 pm on Monday was brought under

control within a few minutes. No injury or casualty was reported.

A preliminary assessment indicated the fire may have been triggered by an electrical spark in an old material storage area. The exact cause is yet to be ascertained. A police officer told

TNIE no case has been registered as BPCL did not lodge an official complaint.

According to a BPCL press release, smoke emanating from the scrap storage area was first noticed by a housekeeping contractor, who immediately alerted the officer in charge. The

workers at the plant rushed to the spot and initiated firefighting operations using available fire extinguishers. As a precautionary measure, four fire tenders were also deployed and standard firefighting protocols were followed to prevent the blaze from spreading.

Car ploughs into group of cops on roadside, one dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A 32-year-old Armed Reserve constable died on the spot and two policemen were injured after a speeding car ploughed into them on the Chennai-Bengaluru National Highway near Poonamallee late on Sunday. The accident happened around 11 pm when the three were standing on the roadside. The car driver Murgan has been arrested.

According to the Poonamallee Traffic Investigation Wing (TIW), the deceased, Tamilselvan, was attached to the Armed Reserve division of the Greater Chennai Police (GCP). The injured - Arunkumar (25) and Saravanakumar (26) - were admitted to hospital. The police said the three were among a group of policemen who were on their way back after attending a colleague's marriage in Ranipet. While the three were standing on the road, a luxury car allegedly veered off course and crashed into them. Arunkumar sustained a severe head injury and was admitted to a private hospital near Sriperumbudur, while Saravanakumar suffered a fractured leg.

1.85 lakh benefited via GCC WhatsApp services

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

MORE than 1.86 lakh citizens have benefited from civic services offered through the Greater Chennai Corporation's WhatsApp platform since its launch on August 25, 2025. A release said the integrated property tax and water bill payment, among other options through the platform, has helped the corporation generate revenue of ₹43.76 crore.

The platform offers 44 services in more than 12 languages. These include, payment of property tax, professional tax, trade licence fees, commercial complex rent, water and sewerage charges, and apply for trade licences and advertisement permits. The platform also facilitates bookings for the Mudhalvar padaipagam, Marina Swimming Pool, community halls, heritage walks at Ripon Building, collection of unwanted household furniture and mattresses, and construction and demolition waste disposal services.

Citizen can access the services through GCC's official WhatsApp number - 94450 61913

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the property being all that piece and parcel of vacant land situated at Emangkuppam Village, Uthukottai Taluk, Tiruvallur District comprised in Old Survey No.1160/3 (Part) as per sub division patta Survey No.1160/3B measuring an extent of 5 Acres and 15 Cents from its owner R.Rajasekar. Whereas the said owner has represented that he is the absolute owner of the aforesaid property and is in exclusive and uninterrupted possession and enjoyment of the same. The owner aforesaid has further represented that there is no mortgage, lease, charge, lien, attachment, encumbrance or his pendens of any kind whatsoever on the aforesaid property and he has absolute right and authority to sell the aforesaid property. The owner has further represented that the original Sale deed dated 22.01.1966 registered as Document No.73 of 1966 in the Sub registrar's office of Arani pertaining to the aforesaid property is lost and the same is not traceable in spite of diligent search.

Any person(s) or entity(ies) asserting any right, title or interest by way of charge, claim or interest by any means, agreement, sale, exchange, lease, license, mortgage, inheritance, gift, lien, main tenance, easement, trust, possession or otherwise of any nature whatsoever over the aforesaid property or portion thereof or having any other objection of any manner whatsoever in sale of the aforesaid property is hereby called upon to raise and notify their objection in writing with documentary evidence to the undersigned within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be deemed and construed that the title is clear and my client shall proceed with purchase on the basis that there is no claim/objection of any nature. Any claims or objection received thereafter shall be deemed to be forfeited/ waived and shall not be entertained in any manner whatsoever.

M/S.360 LEGAL, ADVOCATES
9840269696/9444467187
Old No.877, New No.196, Poonamallee High Road, Behind Nehru Park Metro Station Chennai-600084.

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE FAMILY COURT ETTUMANOOR OP:1296/2025

Petitioner
Nebu N. Babu,
D/o Humayun Kabair, Alackaparampil House, Karukachal P.O., Karukachal Village, Changanassery Taluk, Kottayam - 686540
Represented by her power of attorney holder Humayun Kabir A.H @ Humayun Kabair, Alackaparampil House, Karukachal P.O., Karukachal Village, Changanassery Taluk, Kottayam - 686540

1st Respondent
Nizarali S,
S/o Shefulah, 21/40, Kaveri Street, Saigaram, Chennai, Pin:600093, Tamil Nadu, Presently at No 71 B, Aastha Building, 13th Street, Astalakshmi nagar, Alapakkam, Chennai - 600087

Notice to the 1st respondent
Take notice that a petition for Return of money and gold filed against you by your wife is posted on 02/07/26. If you have any objection appear before the court on 02/07/26, at 11 am personally or through your advocate failure of which you shall be proceeded exparte.

By order
Advocate Jaya P Nair

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE FAMILY COURT ETTUMANOOR MC:169/2025

Petitioner
Natarasa Nizar,
D/o Nizarali S, Alackaparampil House, Karukachal P.O., Karukachal Village, Changanassery Taluk, Kottayam District Pin-686540 represented by her mother and natural guardian

Respondent
Nizarali S, S/o Shefulah, 21/40, Kaveri Street, Saigaram, Chennai, Pin:600093, Tamil Nadu, presently at No 71 B, Aastha Building, 13th Street, Astalakshmi nagar, Alapakkam, Chennai - 600087

Notice to the respondent
Take notice that a petition for maintenance for your minor daughter filed against you is posted on 02/07/2026. If you have any objection appear before the court on 02/07/2026, at 11 am personally or through your advocate failure of which you shall be proceeded exparte.

By order
Advocate Jaya P Nair

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH, KILPAUK, CHENNAI-10

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following posts on a contract basis for a period of one year only. Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) 2025-26 Project on Behavioral Intervention for Technology Addiction (BITA).

Post required	
Clinical Psychologist-4	Statistician-1
Psychiatry support worker- 4	Accountant cum data entry operator-1
Counseling Psychologist-8	Office Assistant-1
Psychiatry social worker-8	

Details about the qualification and other details check in the link https://tnhealth.tn.gov.in/online_notification/notification/N26064663.pdf

DIPR/556/DIS/2026 DIRECTOR -IMH

Now available

EduConnect

TNIE'S GUIDE TO HIGHER EDUCATION TAKES YOU THROUGH TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

Composite guide to future of education

AI, deep tech, machine learning in Indian univs

Options on offer in science, arts, commerce streams

GRAB YOUR COPY Today!

Govt defends demand for tribunal in Mekedatu issue

Ruling TVK, oppn DMK join hands to counter Left, AIADMK's charges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

Despite stiff opposition from the AIADMK, Left parties and a few farmers' organisations, the TVK government on Monday stoutly defended its demand for establishing a separate tribunal for adjudicating the Mekedatu dispute, contending it is a "well-considered approach" based on the views of the legal experts, and in tune with the shift in Karnataka government's approach to the issue after 2018.

Interestingly, the Mekedatu issue brought together the TVK and its arch-rival and principal opposition party in the Assembly, the DMK, while distancing the TVK's Left allies — CPM and CPI — whose support is crucial for the survival of the government.

During the discussion on the motion of thanks to the governor for his address, leaders of AIADMK, CPI, CPM and PMK raised the Mekedatu issue. In their response, Water Resources Minister N Anand and PWD Minister Aadhav Arjuna sought to dispel the "misconceptions" being spread about the demand for a separate tribunal.

Pointing out that there is no provision for reopening an issue that has already been adjudicated (by establishing a new tribunal), Anand said the allocation of 740 tmcft of water to Tamil Nadu with 50% dependability, as guaranteed by the Supreme Court judgment of 2018, cannot be altered by any new tribunal. "Therefore, there will be no change in Karnataka's obligation to release 177.25 tmcft of water to TN," he added.

The minister said the 2018 judgment did not clearly define "surplus water", which Karnata



CM Vijay addressing the Assembly while moving a resolution against the Karnataka government's Mekedatu Dam project on June 19 | EXPRESS

taka had exploited by filing an original suit in the Supreme Court. TN has argued under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, any fresh river water dispute can be adjudicated only by a tribunal.

The water resources minister said it was incorrect to claim that the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) had rejected Karnataka's DPR. Instead, the authority returned it to the Central Water Commission (CWC) without offering any opinion, and therefore, the threat had not receded. The minister said at a time when the centre and Karnataka are attempting to pursue the Mekedatu project indirectly under new guidelines, TN cannot remain a passive spectator.

The TN government filed a petition before the National Green Tribunal in New Delhi on May 27 opposing the Mekedatu project. The minister also informed the House that the CM, on June 19 itself, forwarded the resolution to the PM through a personal communication.

Minister Arjuna said after 2018, Karnataka changed its legal strategy, arguing the Mekedatu project is required to meet the drinking water needs of Bengaluru city and submitted a DPR to the CWC for the dam project. "The very same legal team which worked for the 2018 verdict from SC has suggested the demand for a separate tribunal," he said. Following this, the speaker ruled that the resolution, as amended and adopted on June 19, would be final.

Earlier, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami objected to the amendment to the CM's resolution, alleging a breach of Assembly privilege as copies were given only to the CM and not to members. Dissatisfied after the speaker deferred his response, Palaniswami led an AIADMK walkout. However, four AIADMK MLAs — S P Velumani, Natham R Viswanathan, R Rakesh and Ravi Manoharan — remained in the House, highlighting continuing differences within the party.

IUML, CPI MLAs thank Stalin, son

Two days after the IUML formally announced its exit from the DMK-led alliance, IUML MLA S S B Syed Farooq Basha thanked former chief minister and DMK president M K Stalin, Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin and other leaders and cadre of the Secular Progressive Alliance for helping secure his victory in the Assembly election.

Similarly, CPI MLA K Marimuthu also expressed gratitude to M K Stalin and other alliance leaders for campaigning and mobilising votes in his constituency.

DMK MLAs walk out as min keeps talking

A brief moment of confusion prevailed in the Assembly after the speaker announced the conclusion of the day's proceedings soon after Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin completed his speech. However, School Education Minister A Rajmohan then began responding to issues raised by the opposition. DMK members immediately rose from their seats and urged the speaker to stop the minister's speech, arguing that the House had already been adjourned for the day. As the speaker allowed the minister to continue, DMK members staged a walkout, saying the day's proceedings had already come to an end.

DMK gov't prioritised commercialisation of temple assets: Ramesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

CHARGING the previous DMK regime with prioritising the commercialisation of temple assets for generating revenue over providing basic amenities to devotees, HR&CE Minister S Ramesh told the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday that the TVK government had recently cancelled several marriage hall and commercial complex projects initiated during the previous regime. He said many of these projects were also facing legal challenges and were subject to stay orders.

The minister said this in response to the remark of Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin that the governor's address dated that the income derived from the movable and immovable properties of the HR&CE department shall be utilised only for its sacred purposes.

"On reading this, we are left wondering whether the TVK government is echoing the BJP's view that the HR&CE department itself should not exist. This is precisely the stand taken by the

BJP and right-wing organisations," Udhayanidhi said. The opposition leader added that they have been insisting that the department should not run schools and colleges. He also wondered whether this condition applies only to marriage halls and commercial complexes, or whether it will also apply to educational institutions.

In response, the minister said the government had not blocked any project that benefited the public and did not need to function as a "B team" for anyone. He asserted that the TVK government had neither the necessity nor the intention to use temple funds for commercial purposes at any time.

CPM floor leader R Chellaswamy urged the state to protect the interests of people living and cultivating on temple lands while taking steps to improve the administration of temples under the HR&CE department. He sought clarification on the statement that movable and immovable properties of the temples would be used only for their sacred purposes, even as he welcomed the announcement.



OPS' COUNTER

Water bottle pitch sparks banter on Assembly floor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

DMDK leader Premallatha Vijayakant's proposal to replace steel tumblers with PET water bottles in the Tamil Nadu Assembly drew laughter on Monday. During her address, she suggested that members be supplied bottled water instead of the customary stainless steel glasses. "Assembly staff go around to every seat distributing steel water bottles and serving water. We have become advanced now, but this increases the workload of the staff.

"I request the CM to consider placing PET bottles or glass bottles at every seat so that members can drink water whenever they need it.



Premallatha Vijayakant

"A bottle can be kept at each seat," she said. In response, DMK MLA O Panneerselvam quipped, questioning what would happen if bottles were thrown at others. At this point, another DMK MLA and former finance minister Thangam Thennarasu intervened, asking if Panneerselvam's remark was prompted in personal experience, prompting further laughter in the House.

Retorting, Premallatha pointed out that steel tumblers could just as easily be hurled.

"It is not only water bottles that can be thrown, even a tumbler can be thrown. Water itself seems to be a problem these days — be it Cauvery water or Tasmac liquor," Premallatha said.

Nirmalkumar, Balaji cross swords over power cut; min assures white paper in 2 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

ELECTRICITY Minister C T R Nirmalkumar on Monday assured the Tamil Nadu Assembly that the state government would release a white paper on the performance and current condition of Tangedco in two days.

His assurance came following a heated debate in the Assembly on the frequent power cuts across Tamil Nadu during the discussion on the motion of

thanks to the governor for his address to the House.

Raising the issue, Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin criticised the government over the recurring power cuts. Taking a swipe at the chief minister, he said Perambur, the CM's Assembly constituency, had become the "number one constituency" in the state for power outages. Responding to it, Nirmalkumar said the government had been publish-



C T R Nirmalkumar

ing daily data on power inter-ruptions through an online dashboard, along with the rea-

sons for each outage. He said the Tangedco was burdened with debts of around ₹2.5 lakh crore and claimed that there had been no major infrastructure development in the sector during the previous regime. The minister said the forthcoming white paper would contain details about the department's financial position, infrastructure status and staff strength.

According to Nirmalkumar,

around 70,000 posts are lying vacant in the electricity department. To tackle unexpected power outages, the government has formed 125 special teams and engaged around 500 contract workers to carry out repair work. He said officials were monitoring outages and restoring supply as quickly as possible. Action had also been taken against those involved in stealing fuse carriers and damaging power infrastructure.

However, former electricity minister and DMK MLA V Senthil Balaji rejected the government's claims. He said power supply remained stable during the previous five years and that steps were taken every year to meet the rising electricity demand.

Senthil Balaji added that nearly 90,000 transformers were purchased during the DMK regime, and several new power projects were launched.

He further recalled Minister Nirmalkumar's earlier statement that construction of more than 100 sub-stations was also taken up at a cost of around ₹10,000 crore, and added that this was initiated by the previous DMK government.

He urged the government to hold regular review meetings with senior officials and focus on improving power distribution instead of blaming the previous administration.

'Govt framing SOP to expedite cases of crimes against women, minors'

R SIVAKUMAR @ Chennai

THE Tamil Nadu government on Monday informed the Madras High Court that it has been working on framing a standard operating procedure (SOP) for expediting the investigations into cases filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act and crimes against women.

The submission was made by Advocate General (AG) Vijay Narayan before the first division bench of Chief Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and Justice G Arul Murugan when a petition filed by a rape survivor seeking the court to issue directions for completing trial in cases of crimes against women and children within the stipulated time frame.

"We are in the process of framing the SOP for expediting probe into Pocso Act cases and for crimes against women," the AG said. He noted it requires fairly substantial upgradation of the infrastructure. "We are planning to have DNA and forensic labs in 5-6 regions," he said while responding to a query by the bench.

The petitioner is a rape survivor hailing from Andhra Pradesh. She was subjected to the heinous crime on Septem-

ber 29, 2025, in Tiruvannamalai when two policemen — Suresh Raj and Sundar — intercepted the vehicle she was travelling in with her foster mother and uncle before taking her away to a secluded place and perpetrating the crime.

Pointing out that Section 346 (1) of BNSS provides for two-month time for completion of trial from the date of filing of the charge sheet, the petitioner noted the Tiruvannamalai Mahila Court has not commenced the trial despite the fact that the final report was filed on November 4, 2025.

She sought the court to issue directions to the trial courts not only in her case but in general to conduct trial on a day-to-day basis. The AG responded the charges were framed on June 17, 2026, and the trial is posted to June 24.

He added that several trial court judges are not taking the time frame, set in BNSS, seriously, and he wanted the high court to issue more comprehensive guidelines in this regard.

The bench directed the Registry of HC to submit a detailed report, within two weeks, listing the number of existing special courts for trial of Pocso cases and crimes against women and the requirements for strengthening them.



OMINOUS SIGNS

Owing to a severe decline in inflow, the Sathaiyar Dam bed was almost completely dry on Monday in Madurai district | K K SUNDAR

PM, Stalin & others wish CM on b'day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

CHIEF Minister C Joseph Vijay marked his first birthday in office on Monday, with greetings pouring in from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi to former CMs — DMK president M K Stalin and AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami.

Vijay, who led the party to power in the recently held Assembly elections, turned 52 on Monday. In the Assembly, Speaker J C D Prabhakar, Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin,



A baker had brought a customised cake to the secretariat to present it to CM C Joseph Vijay on Monday | P JAWAHAR

PMK MLA Sowmiya Anbumani and Minister Vanni Arasu, among others, extended wishes. The CM acknowledged their greetings, responding with folded hands and thanking them from his seat, drawing smiles

from members in the House.

A baker had brought a customised cake to the secretariat to present it to the CM. However, official sources said that the CM was not in a mood to celebrate as he was grieving the deaths caused due to the ammonia gas leak in Tiruvallur.

In a message on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his birthday wishes to Chief Minister Vijay. M K Stalin and Edappadi K Palaniswami wished the CM a long life and good health in his service to the people. Vice President C P Radhakrishnan and Governor R V Arlekar also extended their wishes to the CM.

TVK, DMK engage in war of words over law and order track record

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A heated exchange broke out in the Assembly on Monday between Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin and Public Works Minister Aadhav Arjuna over crimes against women and children and the number of Pocso cases registered during the previous DMK regime and the present government.

Udhayanidhi alleged that the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu had deteriorated. He claimed that more than 200 sexual offences were reported in the state in the last month and that over 100 of them involved minor girls. Referring to recent incidents in Coimbatore and Gummidi-pondi, Udhayanidhi alleged that the government had failed to ensure the safety of women and children. He also criticised the government's Singaperumal Special Task Force, claiming that it had not met public expectations.

The DMK leader further accused some ruling party functionaries of being involved in crimes against women and questioned the action taken against them. He said the gov-

ernment could not afford to wait for six months to restore law and order and urged it to give top priority to the safety of women and children.

Responding to the allegations, Aadhav Arjuna cited NCRB data and said crimes against children in Tamil Nadu had increased by more than 40% in 2024. According to him, 10,046 cases were registered in 2024 compared to 6,968 cases in 2023, when the DMK was in power.

The minister alleged that the rise in such cases during the previous regime was linked to the spread of drugs. He questioned what measures the DMK government had taken to address the issue when the number of Pocso cases increased sharply. Aadhav said the present government had initiated several police reforms within its first 40 days in office and maintained that strict action was being taken against offenders irrespective of their political affiliation.

He expressed confidence that the government's measures would make TN a model state for the safety of women and children within six months.



Udhayanidhi Stalin



Aadhav Arjuna

DMK's corruption drove away 25 projects worth ₹3.3L cr, says min

'Firms associated with Tata Electronics, Micron Technology, Suzuki Motors among those lost'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

INDUSTRIES Minister S Keerthana on Monday alleged corruption and delay in approvals have driven 25 industrial investment projects from Tamil Nadu to seven other states during the previous DMK regime. As a result, the state has lost investments worth ₹3.3 lakh crore, which were estimated to generate 2.03 lakh jobs. Rejecting allegations that the state had recently lost investments to neighbouring states, she maintained no new investment project has moved out of TN in the past 40 days.

Speaking to reporters, Keerthana said in 2024, Tata Electronics' semiconductor fabrication (fab) project, Micron

Technology's ATMP project and Suzuki Motor's automobile projects moved to Gujarat. "Similarly, the JSW Group's electric vehicle battery and smelting project shifted to Odisha and Toyota Motor's project went to Maharashtra. These five projects shifted between 2024 and 2025 alone during DMK regime due to corruption."

She said the TVK government had taken steps to revive the investment plans of Hyundai Motors, which had been on the verge of shelving its earlier proposal. "The government is also in talks with two companies - Motilink and

Yusane - to sign MoUs for fresh investments," she added.

Keerthana also responded to allegations that three companies — Apollo Tyres, Royal Enfield, and Adani Green Energy — were shifting their investments to other states.

Addressing concerns over Apollo Tyres, she said the company is currently planning two new projects in India, one of which is proposed near Sri City in Andhra Pradesh on land already owned by the company. "The state government was informed about this project in February this year, and it

is not a new development," Keerthana said.

On Royal Enfield, Keerthana noted the company operates four manufacturing plants and a research and development facility in Tamil Nadu. "The decision to establish a manufacturing unit outside Tamil Nadu is part of the company's risk diversification strategy," she said. Regarding Adani Green Energy, she said the hydro-storage project for which an investment agreement was signed during the Global Investors Meet 2024 remains firmly committed to Tamil Nadu.



Five projects shifted (to other states) between 2024 and 2025 alone in DMK regime due to corruption

S Keerthana, Industries Minister



Lounge room work for conservancy workers under way in Manali | EXPRESS

GCC moots steps to give relief to staff hit by afternoon heat

PREAVEENA S A @Chennai

IN a bid to protect the conservancy workers from being exposed to heatwave-like conditions, the Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner GS Sameeran has issued a circular to the zonal officials urging them to relax their working hours during the midday shift.

Speaking on the measures taken, Sameeran said the GCC has distributed head caps and has been supplying buttermilk to the workers. Field-level supervisors have also been instructed to ensure adequate rest breaks, encourage frequent hydration, and minimise workers' exposure to peak afternoon temperatures wherever operationally feasible, he said.

The commissioner also directed to expedite the completion of toilet cum dress changing facilities being established for conservancy workers across all 200 wards in 15 zones of the city and ensure the pending works are completed within the next two weeks. According to an inspection report, the construction status of a total 425 toilet-

cum-dress changing room facilities are at various stages - 299 facilities have been completed, while work is in progress at 100 locations. Construction is yet to commence at 26 locations. Speaking to *TNIE*, Sameeran said, "Apart from common toilets, gender-wise toilet facilities have been completed at 284 locations so far. I have instructed zonal officers to complete the ongoing works at 82 locations within two weeks and identify suitable sites for the remaining projects that have not yet begun."

Zone-wise data revealed uneven progress across the city. Ambattur zone recorded the lowest number of completed facilities, with only two toilets (one for men and one for women) completed so far. No ongoing or pending projects were reported in the zone. Manali zone has 14 toilet facilities under construction, but none have been completed yet.

The circular also directed immediate arrangements for mobile toilets wherever permanent facilities are currently not available.

Last-minute booking facility extended to 17 VB trains

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

SOUTHERN Railway has extended its new current booking facility to all 17 Vande Bharat (VB) trains originating in its zone, allowing passengers to book vacant seats up to 15 minutes before a train's departure from both originating and en route stations. The decision follows the success of a pilot project implemented in eight Vande Bharat services in July 2025. According to Southern Railway, the initiative led to a significant rise in last-minute bookings and revenue.

The average number of passengers booking tickets through the facility increased from 16,729 per month during April-June 2025 to 30,267 during August-October 2025 (after implementation of the new current booking system), a growth of 80.93%. Monthly revenue from current bookings rose from ₹124.80 lakh to ₹222.17 lakh, an increase of 78.02%, as per an official release. The railway zone's Vande Bharat services have also recorded strong growth in ridership and earnings. During 2025-26, Southern Railway's 24 Vande Bharat trains carried 77.38 lakh passengers and generated ₹803.86 crore in revenue, compared to 54.12 lakh passengers and ₹540.65 crore in 2024-25.

In April and May 2026 alone, the trains carried 15.21 lakh passengers and earned ₹162.96 crore.



EXPRESS READ

Father arrested for sexually assaulting minor girl for 3 years

Chennai: A 49-year-old man was arrested on Sunday by the Poonamallee All Women Police for allegedly sexually assaulting his daughter, who is 17 years now, over the past three years. Following an inquiry, he was sent in remand. According to the police, the girl was a college student and was staying with her parents. On Saturday, the girl told her mother about her ordeal. The mother then lodged a police complaint based on which a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act was registered.

Man arrested for killing brother

Chennai: A 47-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing his younger brother following a quarrel at a Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board tenement in Ambattur on Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Velankanni alias Vela (40), a daily wage worker. Investigators said Vela, after getting drunk, went to his elder brother Yesudas's house and got into an argument with their mother. When the quarrel heated up, Yesudas allegedly assaulted Vela, causing him to collapse on the ground. He was rushed to the Avadi GH where doctors declared him dead. Police booked Yesudas for murder and held him. ENS

77 held in narcotics cases across Chennai

Chennai: In a week-long special drive against narcotics, the Greater Chennai police registered 38 cases and arrested 77 people between June 14 and June 20. Police seized 22 kg ganja, 831 g methamphetamine, 6 mg opium, 2 mg cocaine, 1,222 tablets, and cash to the tune of ₹1.04 lakh. Four two-wheelers, an auto-rickshaw, a car and five mobile phones allegedly used for drug trafficking were also seized, the police said. The special drive was carried out across the city with dedicated teams conducting surveillance and vehicle checks. The police warned of stringent action against those involved in drug trafficking. ENS

2k motorists booked for traffic violations

Chennai: The Greater Chennai Traffic police booked 2,825 motorists for various traffic violations during a special enforcement drive conducted across the city between June 19 and June 21 night. The violations included 443 cases of drunk driving, 110 cases of over-speeding and rash driving, and 2,272 cases of riding without helmets. The drive was carried out on the directions of the Chennai police commissioner. ENS

Fine and superfine paddy prices hit an all-time high in Madurai as harvest ends

M S THANARAJ @Madurai

THE prices of major paddy varieties, including RNR, have gone up as the Samba and late Samba cultivation seasons draw to a close. Akshaya Ponni paddy, one of the most sought-after varieties in the market, has touched an all-time high of ₹37-42 per kilogram, while RNR and Sree varieties are being sold at around ₹37-38 per kg.

Paddy sales in the open market have entered the final phase with transactions being carried out in a staggered manner. Market sources say the prices of fine and superfine rice varieties have gone beyond ₹60-70 per kilogram in the retail market due to sup-



Workers winnowing paddy to separate husk and other impurities during the drying and cleaning process in Madurai | K K SUNDAR

ply-demand mismatch. The increase in prices coincides with lower arrivals in the market. Akshaya and Sree have witnessed a sharp increase due to rising

P Kishore, rice mill owner and former president of the Madurai Rice Mill Owners Association, said the shortage of paddy availability is the primary reason behind the price escalation.

HC seeks report from centre, state on controlling stray dogs on campuses

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

The Madras High Court has ordered notice to the Centre, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry directing them to file a status report on the steps taken for addressing the stray

dog menace as per the judgments of the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and Justice G Arul Murugan on Monday took a suo motu case on the matter as per the directions of the Supreme Court to ensure compli-

ance of its orders on the issue.

It granted four week time for the respondent authorities to file the status report which shall cover all aspects on implementation of the apex court's order to address the dog menace particularly in institutional premises

including educational institutions.

The Supreme Court, in its orders dated August 22, 2025, November 7, 2025, and May 29, 2026, directed the states and union territories to forthwith take decisive, coordinated and time-

bound steps for enhancing and augmenting the infrastructure necessary for effective implementation of the animal birth control framework, including expansion of sterilisation and vaccination capacity, strengthening of existing facilities and

creation of additional institutional mechanisms commensurate with the scale and urgency of the issue. It also directed all high courts to register suo motu writ petitions as a continuing mandamus for monitoring compliances with the orders.

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE FAMILY COURT ETTUMANOOR OP:1785/2025

Petitioner
Nebu N. Babu, D/o Humayun Kabair, Alackaparampil House, Karukachal P.O., Karukachal Village, Changanassery Taluk, Kottayam -686540

Respondent
Nizarali S, S/o Shefiullah, 21/40, Kaveri Street, Saligramam, Chennai, Pin:600093, Tamil Nadu,

presently at No 71 B, Aastha Building, 13th Street, Astalakshmi nagar, Alapakkam, Chennai - 600087

Notice to the respondent
Take notice that a petition for Guardianship and custody of the minor filed against you by your wife is posted on 02/07/2026. If you have any objection appear before the court on 02/07/2026 at 11 am personally or through your advocate failure of which you shall be proceeded ex parte.

By order
Advocate Jaya P Nair

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE FAMILY COURT ETTUMANOOR OP:1469/2025

Petitioner
Nebu N. Babu, D/o Humayun Kabair, Alackaparampil House, Karukachal P.O., Karukachal Village, Changanassery Taluk, Kottayam -686540

Respondent
Nizarali S, S/o Shefiullah, 21/40, Kaveri Street, Saligramam, Chennai, Pin:600093, Tamil Nadu,

presently at No 71 B, Aastha Building, 13th Street, Astalakshmi nagar, Alapakkam, Chennai - 600087

Notice to the respondent
Take notice that a petition for divorce filed against you by your wife is posted on 02/07/2026. If you have any objection appear before the court on 02/07/2026 at 11 am personally or through your advocate failure of which you shall be proceeded ex parte.

By order
Advocate Jaya P Nair

Canara Bank
No 9 & 10, Sir Thyagaraya Road, Thyagaraya Nagar, Chennai - 17
Mobile: 9740145622
Email: cb7901@canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)] (For Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") 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 11.03.2026 calling upon the borrower Mr. KUPPAN E. S/o. Ethiraja Gounder, Kayyapakkam Village, Cheyyur Taluk, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu-603301, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being Rs. 37,26,297.11 (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Seven and Paise Eleven only) as on 10/03/2026, plus interest there on 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 / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this 20th June of the year 2026.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of Rs. 33,44,411.80 (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Forty Four Thousand Four Hundred Eleven and Paise Eighty Only) as on 31.05.2026 and interest from thereon.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Name of The Holder: KUPPAN E. All that piece and parcel of Land and building comprising in Old S.No.222/2A, New S.No. 222/2A1A3 and S.No.222/14, Patta No.654 an extent of Acres.1.98, i.e., 86248 Sq.ft., situated at Kayyapakkam Village, Cheyyur Taluk, Kancheepuram District bounded on the: East: Kathavarayan Bagapulam, West - Rangasamy Pulam, North: Odadi, South: Thathankulam. Situated within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and Sub Registration District of Acharapakkam. Property in the name of Mr. KUPPAN E.

Date: 20.06.2026, Place: Chennai Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

KARNATAKA STATE NATURAL DISASTER MONITORING CENTRE (KSNDMC)
(A Regd. Society of Govt. of Karnataka)
Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Near Attur Layout, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064. Ph.: 080-67355000

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), Government of Karnataka, invites applications from eligible and experienced professionals for appointment to the post of Technical Director under the Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Programme (KWSRP), a World Bank-supported programme.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The post was previously advertised on 16.12.2025, 03.01.2026 and 03.03.2026. Based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee constituted by the Government, the eligibility criteria have been revised and the post is hereby re-advertised to attract a larger pool of qualified candidates. Candidates who have already applied and appeared for the interview conducted on 15.04.2026 need not apply again. Their applications will be considered along with the applications received pursuant to this notification.

Eligibility (Essential):

1. Post-Graduation in Earth Sciences / Atmospheric Sciences/ Climate Sciences/Hydrology/Meteorology / Geological Sciences / Geo-Informatics / Water Resources Engineering/ Agriculture Sciences / Geotechnical Engineering / Disaster Management / Environmental Sciences / Remote Sensing & GIS or related disciplines.
2. Minimum 15 years of relevant professional experience.
3. Ph.D. is desirable but not mandatory.

Remuneration:

Consolidated monthly remuneration will be decided at the time of interview based on the performance, experience and suitability for external candidates. Pay protection will be considered for deputation candidates as per Government rules for the eligible candidates.

Tenure:

Initially for Two (02) Years, extendable up to Three (03) additional years on a yearly basis subject to satisfactory performance.

For detailed Terms of Reference (ToR), application format and eligibility conditions, visit the KSNDMC website: www.ksndmc.org

Last Date for Submission of Applications: 1st July, 2026, 5.00 PM

Sd/- DIRECTOR, KSNDMC

QuoteExpress
ONE BOOK, ONE PEN, ONE CHILD, AND ONE TEACHER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD > MALALA YOUSAFZAI

TUNE IN TO

expressions

FOR ALL THINGS LIFE AND LIFESTYLE!

THEATRE DIRECTOR, FILMMAKER, ACTOR, AND RESTAURATEUR

ARJUN SAJNANI

REFLECTS ON PASSION, AMBITION, LEGACY, AND THE TRUE MEANING OF SUCCESS

IN A CONVERSATION WITH

Neera

Available on: YouTube and Spotify

Scan to listen

EVENT XPRESS

IDBI BANK **IDBI BANK LIMITED, RETAIL RECOVERY No.115, Anna Salai, Saidapet.**
Post Bag No.805, Chennai-600015. Ph:044-22202261 / 22202092, Website: www.idbibank.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (APPENDIX IV-A)
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 and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of IDBI BANK LIMITED, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 29.07.2026 for recovery of loan outstanding amount due to the IDBI Bank Ltd, the Secured Creditor from the Borrowers & Guarantors. The reserve price and other details are given at table below:

Borrower Name's and Address: Shri.S.Arungakani; Date of Demand Notice - 27.02.2026; Symbolic Possession of below mentioned property taken on 27.05.2026, Outstanding Amount: Rs.4,65,79,096.21/- as on 31.05.2026

(Details of the immovable secured assets) : 1.All that piece and parcel of the Land measuring an extent of 7 Cent comprised in Survey No.602/7B and 4 Cent comprised in Survey No.602/2C2, situated at G.N.T Road, Sholavaram Village, Ponneri Taluk and Tiruvallur District and land bounded as follows:- On the North By: Land in Survey No.602/2C1, On the South By: Land in Survey No.602/7B, On the East By: Remaining Portion of Land in Survey No.602/2C1, On the West By: Survey No.602/1B, 2.All that piece and parcel of the Land measuring an extent of 1 Acre 37 Cent comprised in Survey No.602/1, 46 Cent comprised in Survey No.601/1, 1.5 Cent comprised in Survey No.602/7, 1.5 Cent comprised in Survey No.602/2A1, 0.5 Cent comprised in Survey No.602/2B, 3.5 Cent comprised in Survey No.602/2C all totalling Acre 1.94 1/2 Cent situated at No.178, G.N.T Road, Sholavaram Village, Ponneri Taluk and Tiruvallur District and land bounded as follows:- On the North: Vacant Land; On the South: Land of Kothandapani; On the East: Land of S. Arungakani; On the West: Land of Kothandapani, 3. All that piece and parcel of the Land measuring an extent of 9 1/2 Cent comprised in Old Survey No.604/2B, Old Plot No.145, New Survey No.604/2B3 Part, situated at G.N.T Road, Sholavaram Village, Ponneri Taluk and Tiruvallur District and land bounded as follows:- On the North by: Remaining Portion of Land in Survey No.604/2B3, On the South by: Land belongs to Mr. Sekar; On the East by: Canal; On the West by: Remaining Portion of Land in Survey No.604/2B2; This Property lies within the Sub Registration District of Red Hills and Registration District of Tiruvallur. Together with all structure and building thereon existing and future. Property owned and mortgaged by Shri.S.Arungakani.

RESERVE PRICE : ₹ 12,10,00,000/- EMD : ₹ 1,21,00,000/-

DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION: 17.07.2026 (Friday) between 11am to 12.30pm **LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD & BIDS: 27.07.2026 (Monday) upto 5.00 p.m**

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: 29.07.2026 [Wednesday] by 10.45 am to 11.45 am (Unlimited extension of 5 minutes each)

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the bid document, which can be obtained from our Branch at No.115, Anna Salai, Saidapet, Post Bag No.805, Chennai - 600015 on all working days or downloaded from the link provided in IDBI Bank's website www.idbibank.in and https://baanknet.com available from June 24, 2026. Sale shall be strictly subject to the terms and conditions given in this advertisement and in the "Bid Document". Interested bidders may contact Shri. Gangadhar N on (M) 9581909191 (E-mail: n.gangadhar@idbi.co.in) and Shri.S. Vivekanandhan on (M) 9840427159 (E-mail: s.vivekanandhan@idbi.co.in).

Date : 23.06.2026
Place: Chennai
Sd/- Authorised Officer, IDBI Bank Ltd.

Indian Bank **MANALI NEW TOWN BRANCH**
No.5, Bank Street, Manali New Town, Chennai - 600 103.
Telephone : 044-2593 1243, email : manalinewtown@indianbank.bank.in

APPENDIX IV-A [See Proviso to rule 8(6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Manali New Town Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 08.07.2026, for recovery of Rs.19,93,083/- (Rupees Nineteen lakhs ninety three thousand and eighty three only) (as on 19.06.2026) with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon from 20.06.2026, due to the Indian Bank, Manali New Town Branch, Secured Creditor from:

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWERS (1) The Estate of the deceased Mr. A. Raja, (Borrower/Mortgagor), S/o Mr. Arumugam, Represented by his Legal Heir: Mrs. R. Indira, No.12G, 4/1, 4th Block, Camp 1, Ennore, Chennai - 600 057. (2) Mrs. R. Indira, (Co-borrower/Legal Heir of Late Mr. A. Raja), W/o Mr. A. Raja, No.12G, 4/1, 4th Block, Camp 1, Ennore, Chennai - 600 057.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:
All that piece and parcel of land measuring 1292 Sq. ft. in Plot No.18 Northern side and Plot No.19 in Southern side, in the approved layout known as "Srinivasa Nagar" vide, P.P.D. No.57/94, dated 06.06.1994, comprised in Old Survey No.431/2A as per Patta No.4476, bearing Survey No.431/2A1A1, and present Patta No.7367, New S. No.431/27, situated at No.135, Minjur Village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District. Situated within the Sub Registration District of Ponneri and Registration District of Chennai North. Owner of the property: Mr. A. Raja, S/o Mr. Arumugam. Prior Encumbrances on property: Nil. PROPERTY ID No.: IDIB8685813180

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.38.70 Lakhs Bid increment : Rs.10,000/- EMD : Rs.3.87 Lakhs

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

Date and Time of Inspection of the Properties & related documents :
02.07.2026 to 03.07.2026 between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION : 08.07.2026 FROM 10.00 A.M. TO 4.00 P.M.

Last Date for submission of Tender form/EMD : 08.07.2026

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

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

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

Date : 20.06.2026
Place : Chennai
AUTHORISED OFFICER,
INDIAN BANK

Bank of Baroda **ADYAR BRANCH**
"Anu Arcade" No.1, 15th Cross Street, Sastri Nagar, Adayar, Chennai 600 020.
Phone : 044-23454 379
Email: adayar@bankofbaroda.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 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), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and "Whatever Recourse" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned amount. The details of Borrower/s/ Mortgagor/Guarantor/Secured Assets/Dues/Reserve Price/Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below :-

Name & address of Borrower's / Guarantor's / Mortgagor's	Symbolic possession
1. Name & address of Borrower's / Guarantor's / Mortgagor's : (1) Mr. S. Prakash, S/o. Selvaganapathi residing at No.130 Sannadhi Street, Thiruvallur, Thiruvallur - 600 077 and also residing at Flat No.C9, in Third Floor, Sree Bhoomi Neela Enclave Apartment, Sevantihamman Koil Street, Siruseri Village, Vandalar Taluk, Chengalpattu Dist. and also residing at No.42, 4th Cross Street, Anandam Nagar, Thiruvallur, Chennai - 600 077.	Symbolic possession

Total Dues : Rs. 36,62,267.00/- as on 14.06.2026 together with further interest thereon from 15.06.2026 at the contractual rate plus incidental expenses, cost, charges incurred/ to be incurred till date of payment.

Detailed description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any: **SCHEDULE "A" : WHOLE PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel of vacant land situated at S.No.190/1 Sevantihamman Koil Street, Siruseri Village, Vandalar Taluk, Chengalpattu District as per Patta No.783 bounded on North By: Survey No.261/25 Gramanatham /Sevantihamman Koil Street, South By: Survey No.190/2 - Canal, East By: Survey No.264 - Pond, West By: Survey No.191 - Pidari/Sevantihamman Amman Kol. And in all totalling 52 cents or thereabouts (22135 sq.ft.) situated within the jurisdiction of Sub-Registration, Tirupurur. **SCHEDULE "B" :** An Undivided share of land measuring 416Sq.Ft in the Schedule - A mentioned property. Plan for the building has been approved by DTPC vide sanction number 89/2016. **SCHEDULE "C" :** Flat in apartment bearing, Flat No.C9 having super built up area of 847 sq.ft. on the 3rd Floor in the residential apartment known as "SHREE BHOOMI NEELA ENCLAVE". CERSAI: 400062946350 Property ID : BARBADAYARPRAKKI

Reserve Price : Rs. 42,92,000/- EMD Amount : Rs. 4,29,200/- Bid Increase Amount : Rs. 10,00,000/-

2. Mrs. Vetriniyappan Mahalakshmi W/o. Muniyappan, 35/80, Gandhi Nagar Anna Nagar, Thiruvallur, Thiruvallur, Chennai - 600 040, and also residing at DR.No.44/47, S.V. Flat, Rettaikozhi Lane, Tondiarpet, Chennai-600081 and also Business Address: Vetrini, No.3,200, Perumal Koil Street, Sadayakuppam, Village, Andarkuppam, Madhavaram, Chennai - 600103.	Symbolic possession
--	---------------------

Total Dues : Rs.81,73,187.79 as on 14.06.2026 together with further interest thereon from 15.06.2026 at the contractual rate plus incidental expenses, cost, charges incurred/ to be incurred till date of payment.

Detailed description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any: **SCHEDULE "A" :** All that Piece and Parcel of the Sub-Division vacant house site bearing Plot No. A (bearing No.59 Part and 60 Part) measuring an extent of about 2249 sq. ft., or 208.9 sq.mtrs. comprised in Old Survey No. 15 Part, Patta No.1995, as per Patta Survey No. 15/1A, Present (Online) Patta New Sub Division Survey No. 15/1A1, situated at Madhuram Nagar, II Street, Kolathuvanchery village, Kancheepuram District. (Sub-division approval 1938/07, D.Dis. No.7409/06 dated 31.12.2007 & Planning Permit vide PP No.1647/2019, D.Dis.No.5098/19/A3, dated 18.11.2019, issued by the CMDA and the Kundrathur Panchayat District), situated at Kolathuvanchery Village, Kundrathur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, bounded on the As per sale deed: North by : 30' Feet wide existing road, South by : Subdivision Plot No. C. East by : 12 Feet Private Passage for Subdivision Plot No.C Only, West by : Subdivision Plot No.B. As per Physical: North by : 30' Feet wide existing road, South by : Land in Survey No.14 Park, C Block, East by : Plot No.61, in Survey No.15/1B. West by : Land in Survey No.16, East to West on the Northern Side 30 ft. East to West on the Southern Side 30 ft. North to South on the Eastern Side 75 ft. North to South on the Western Side 75 ft. Situated within the Sub-Registration of Joint I Sub Registrar, Saidapet and Registration District of South Chennai

Schedule-B : 325 sq.ft, undivided share of land in Schedule 'A' mentioned property, Residential Flat No. S-2, Second Floor, Flat Measuring 1040 sq.ft (including common area, common lift) and allotted one car park area with three phase electricity service. CERSAI ID: SECURITY INTEREST ID: 400078823276. Property ID : BARBADAYARVETRO1

Reserve Price : Rs. 74,91,000/- EMD Amount : Rs. 7,49,100/- Bid Increase Amount : Rs. 10,00,000/-

Property Inspection Date & Time : S.No.1 : 09.07.2026; S.No.2 : 10.07.2026
Date & Time of E-auction : 28.07.2026 02:00 PM TO 06:00 PM
11:00 AM to 01:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm and online auction portal https://baanknet.in. Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Tel No. 81423 38633, 91339 04397; Authorised officer on Tel No. 81423 38633, 91339 04397; Place : Chennai; Date : 22.06.2026
AUTHORISED OFFICER BANK OF BARODA

ICICI Bank Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodra - 390007
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra - Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI BANK LTD. Service Centre 24, South Phase, Ambattur Industrial Estate Ambattur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600058

PUBLIC NOTICE
A notice is hereby given that the following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the bank by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be enforced	Date of Notice sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	LACHE00043627652/ Rajathi R/ No 4, Thiruvallur Nagar, 1st Cross Street, Tondiarpet, Chennai-600081	2WD AT GL DIESEL/TUCSON/T N03AD1212	11-10-2023 Rs. 20,55,946.00/-	08-June-2023
2.	LACHE00046405183/ Rajathi R/ No 4, Thiruvallur Nagar, 1st Cross Street, Tondiarpet, Chennai-600081	1.5 SX(O)/ Creta/TN03A/J0123	11-10-2023 Rs. 18,55,651.00/-	08-June-2023
3.	LACHE00044683948/ Rajathi R/ No 4, Thiruvallur Nagar, 1st Cross Street, Tondiarpet, Chennai-600081	LXD MT 4WD 4S/TH/Thar/TN03A/J1212	11-10-2023 Rs. 11,23,877.00/-	08-June-2023
4.	LACHE00048103689/ Jayapal D/ No C2, 3rd Floor 5/3, Avvai Shanmugam Salai, 1st Lane, Royapettah, Chennai, Chennai- 600014	A3/A3/TN06Y6141	22-04-2024 Rs. 50,49,102.50/-	31-July-2021
5.	LACHE00046541957/ Arunraj C/ No 7 Akr Villa Olive Beach, Injambakkam, Kancheepuram, Chennai- 600115	HYBRID/VELLFIRE/ TN14AC5369	04-12-2025 Rs. 79,57,102.00/-	06-Mar-2025
6.	SPCHE00049606830/ Arunraj C/ No 7 Akr Villa Olive Beach, Injambakkam, Kancheepuram, Chennai- 600115	HYBRID/VELLFIRE/ TN14AC5369	04-12-2025 Rs. 34,33,129.00/-	06-Mar-2025
7.	LACHE00048546039/ Mumthaj Begam M/ No.11 1st Floor, Pidiaroyi Kool Street, 2nd Lane Mannady, Chennai- 600001	1.0L TSI Style AT 65 (Petrol)/Skoda Slavia/PY05P9571	04-12-2025 Rs. 14,44,196.00/-	03-Nov-2024

The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice Us. 13 (2), failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice Us. 13 (2) as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Date: June 23, 2026
Place: Chennai
Sincerely, Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

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

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 15.07.2026 (Time: 10.30 am to 11.30 am) (with auto extension of 5 minutes each till sale is completed) for recovery of bank's dues from the following Borrowers / Guarantors.

Padappal Branch: Since has been transferred ARMB I, Chennai Branch / Borrower Name & Address: M/s. Ganapathy Hardwares represented by its proprietor, Mr. Arun Kumar, G. 135 A Athanayya Salanganam Koot Road, Padappal Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu 601301. Mr. Arun Kumar, G. S/o. Ganapathy Pattu, Door No. E. 3, Third Floor David Nagar, Padappal Kom, Tamil Nadu - 601301. Mrs. Kumutha S (Guarantor), W/o. Selvam, 3 4 Arunachalam Street, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar Nesapakkam, Chennai - 600078. Mrs. Jannathkubra I (Guarantor/Mortgagor), W/o. Mohammed Iqbal Sherif, 14 B, 2nd Street, Santhipuram, Thirumullaivoyal, Ponnammale, Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu - 600062.

Outstanding Amount : Rs.55,73,017.43 due as on 31.05.2026 with further interest and other incidental charges thereto incurred by the Bank.

DETAILS OF PROPERTY: Property standing in the name of Mrs. Jannath Kubra: **SCHEDULE A:** All that Piece and Parcel of the vacant land comprised in S.No.678/1A, new measuring as extent of 1950 Sq.ft vide approved by Avadi Municipality and CMDA, Chennai B A No.796/06/F2 dated 01.08.2006 & P.P.No. 1215/06/F2, dated 08.12.2006, situated at Shanthipuram Second Main Road at No.58, Thirumullaivoyal Village, Ambattur Taluk presently Avadi Taluk, Tiruvallur District within the Registration District of North Chennai and Sub Registration District of Ambattur. Bounded on the North by Common Passage given by Sheik Yusuf, South by Shamsheed Bagum Plot, East by 3.5 Feet pathway given by Mr. Sheik, West by 3.5 Feet pathway given by Mr. Sheik, Measuring: Northern side: 30 Feet, Southern side: 30 Feet, Eastern side: 65 Feet, Western side: 65 Feet, in all measuring an extent of 1950 Sq.Ft within the Registration District of Chennai North and Sub Registration District of Ambattur. **SCHEDULE B:** 354 Sq.ft of Undivided Share of aforesaid Schedule A mentioned property, and residential flat, "Rasool Residency" and situated at Shanthipuram Second Main Road bearing Flat No. B, in the Ground Floor, Block 1 of the building and having a super built up area of 712 sq.ft (including common area) together with all amenities connections, fittings and fixtures, common enjoyment rights over the open space, stair case, open terrace, water over head tank, compound wall and all the easementary and appurtenant rights.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 20,00,000/- EMD ₹ 2,00,000/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 50,000/-

Inspection of Property Date & Time : 13.07.2026 between 11.00 A.M. & 4.00 P.M.

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION 15.07.2026 Between 10.30 AM & 11.30 AM with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each.

EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (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 14.07.2026 till 5.00 PM.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may Contact Canara Bank Asset Recovery Management Branch-I, Chennai (Ph. No. 044 - 2849 6339 / 2849 6900) E-mail: cb2361@canarabank.com during office hours on any working day. (9892219848 / 8160205051, Email:support.baanknet@psballiance.com/support.baanknet@procure247.com).

For the properties which are in symbolic possession of the bank, the Auction purchaser has to comply with the following terms and conditions in addition to the standard terms and condition of the sale.

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

Date : 20.06.2026
Place : Chennai
AUTHORISED OFFICER,
CANARA BANK

AXIS BANK LTD Legal & Support Team, 2nd Floor,
Door No.31, Old No.14, South Mada Street,
Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004.

POSSESSION NOTICE
Under Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Properties)
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE REGARDING POSSESSION OF PROPERTY U/S 13(4) OF SARFAESI ACT 2002.

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

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

The Borrower's/Mortgagors/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Axis Bank Ltd., for an amount and interest thereon.

The Borrower's/Mortgagors/Guarantors 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.

Name of Account / Borrower / Co-Borrower and Address	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
SI.No.1: Ref No. HL / 6661 1. Mr. Ramalingam, S/o, Mr. Rajendran, 2. Mrs. Saranya, W/o, Mr. Ramalingam, Both residing at: No. B7, Bakkerly Street, Block 12, Neyveli, Kurinjipadi Taluk, Neyveli Cuddalore, Neyveli - 607 803. Property Address:- Flat No. E2, Second Floor, Block No. D, Annanya Apartment Surya Gandhi Street, BT Nagar Annexure, Gerugambakkam, Chennai - 600 028.	29.06.2024	17.06.2026	As on 15.06.2024 Rs. 21,93,986/- (This amount includes interest applied till 15.06.2024)
Description of Property belongs to Mr. Ramalingam S/o, Mr. Rajendran, - Schedule-A : All that piece and parcel of Property is situated in Chennai-South Registration District, Pammal Sub-Registration District, No.80, Gerugambakkam Village, Sripurambudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District comprised in R.S.No. 18/3B(part), 18/1A(part), 19/1B & 19/2A bearing Plot No.A-6 and measuring to an extent of 2300 Sq. ft., Plot No.B-1 and measuring to an extent of 2320 Sq. ft., Plot No.B-2 and measuring to an extent of 2370 Sq. ft., Plot No.B-3 and measuring to an extent of 2360 Sq. ft., Plot No.B-4 and measuring to an extent of 2370 Sq. ft., and Plot No.B-5 and measuring to an extent of 2286 Sq. ft., CMDA approved layout No. 0273 of 2009 and 0264 of 2009 in B. T. Nagar Annexure in all measuring a total extent of 13976 Sq. ft., and bounded as follows: East by : 24 feet Road, West by: Survey No. 18/3A, North by: Plot No. A-5, South by: 33 feet Road.			
SCHEDULE-B: All that piece and parcel of Property is situated in Chennai-South Registration District, Pammal Sub-Registration District, No.80, Gerugambakkam Village, Sripurambudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District comprised in R.S.No. 18/3B(part), 18/1A(part), 19/1B & 19/2A bearing Plot No.A-6 and measuring to an extent of 2300 Sq. ft., Plot No.B-1 and measuring to an extent of 2320 Sq. ft., vide CMDA approved layout No. 0273 of 2009 and 0264 of 2009 in B. T. Nagar Annexure in all measuring a total extent of 4620 Sq. ft., out of Schedule-A mentioned above and bounded as follows: East by : 24 feet Road, West by: Survey No. 18/3A, North by: Plot No. A-5, South by: Plot No. B-2.			
SI.No.2: Ref No. HL / 128 1. Mr. Charles Francis Maria Susai, S/o, Maria Susai, 12 A, Thirumuru Street, SRVS Colony, Keelkatalai, Chennai-600117. Old Also at: Heritage Foods India Limited, Old No.43, New No.23, I Main Road, Nanganallur, Chennai 600061. 2. Mrs. Mary Christina, W/o Maria Susai, 12 A, Thirumuru Street, SRVS Colony, Keelkatalai, Chennai-600117. Property Address, Flat No.F2, I Floor, Plot No.13, Easwari Nagar, Poonamalle, Chennai.	19.08.2016	17.06.2026	As on 04.11.2016 Rs.23,11,329/- (This amount includes interest applied till 04.11.2016)
Description of the property: Flat bearing No. F2 in the First floor measuring 584 Sq. ft. with an UDS of 298 sq. ft. Share in the land measuring 2215 sq. ft. comprised in S.No.357 as per Patta extract in S.No. 357/1A/2, Poonamallee Village, bearing Plot No. 13, Easwari Nagar, Poonamallee, Poonamallee Taluk, Thiruvallur District, and the land is bounded on the North by 24 feet Road, South by S.No.357 part, East by Plot No. 12, West by Plot No. 14, Measuring on the Northern and Southern side by 40 ft. on the Eastern side by 56 ft 3 inches and on the Western side by 54 ft 6 inches within the Registration District of South Chennai and Sub Registration District of Poonamallee.			

Date: 17.06.2026
Place: Chennai
Authorized Officer
Axis Bank Limited.

QuoteExpress TRY TO LEAVE THE EARTH A BETTER PLACE THAN WHEN YOU ARRIVED SIDNEY SHELDON

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work: Name of work: Zonal Contract for upkeep of elevated, overhead & underground structures, stations and allied service buildings/structures etc. at both Up & DN line from Kavi Subhash Station (KKS0) (CH: Km 0.97) to IT Centre (KITC) (CH: Km 15.22) of Metro Railway, Kolkata. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 76,72,350/- Earnest Money : Rs. 1,53,500/- Completion Period: Twenty Four (24) Months. Date and Time of Closing: 17.07.2026 at 12:00 Hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website www.ireps.gov.in/Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.
Abridged Tender Notice No. : CIVIL-2584-2026 (Open)
Follow us at: @metrorailwaykol / metrorailkolkata

MALABAR CANCER CENTRE
(POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY SCIENCES & RESEARCH)
NABH& NABL Accredited (an autonomous Institution under Government of Kerala)
Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala - 670 103. Phone : +91 490 2399244/257, 2355881
Fax: +91 490 2355880. Email: mcccty@gmail.com. Web: www.mcc.kerala.gov.in

MCC12/2025/SUP-CL E-TENDER NOTICE 17/06/2026
Competitive e-Tenders/Re-Tenders (Two cover systems) are invited from established manufacturers/ authorized suppliers/agencies for the supply of the following items to MCC/PGIOSR through e tender site www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Sl. No	Item Details	EMD	Bidder ID
1	Biomedical Waste Incinerator and all associated works in MCC (PGIOSR)	2025_MCC_819119_4	
2	Anticancer Drugs	2026_MCC_852074_2	

For details visit: www.mcc.kerala.gov.in or contact Purchase Division. Sd/- Director

EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Programme for the Month of July 2026
No. S.4/S/DAP/2026-27 Dated : 18.06.2026. E-Auction is invited by Chief Materials Manager/Sales, Eastern Railway, 2nd Floor, Fairlie Place, 17, Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata-700001 for the following details :

Sl. No.	Depot/ Division	Jurisdiction	Dates
1.	BESY Depot	BESY Depot, LLH WKSP	03/07/2026 14/07/2026 31/07/2026
2.	HLR Depot	HLR Depot, KPA WKSP	07/07/2026 21/07/2026 28/07/2026
3.	JMP Depot	JMP Depot, JMP WKSP	06/07/2026 22/07/2026 30/07/2026
4.	HHW Division	HHW Division	10/07/2026 20/07/2026 30/07/2026
5.	ASN Division	ASN Division.	07/07/2026 15/07/2026 24/07/2026
6.	SDAH Division	SDAH Division.	08/07/2026 17/07/2026 27/07/2026
7.	MLDT Division	MLDT Division.	09/07/2026 23/07/2026 31/07/2026

STORES-19/2026-27
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.e.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Canara Bank **THIRUPURUR BRANCH,**
#1, Police Quarters Road, Near Roundana,
Thirupurur - 603110.
Phone : 044-2445955 / 9445028359
Email : cb6450@canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE
Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial

Centre drops dam panel member, Kerala cries foul

State suspects conspiracy as union govt replaces T K Sivarajan with a UP expert in five-member Mullaperiyar safety panel

M S VIDYANANDAN @TTPuram

THE Centre's decision to drop Kerala's representative from a five-member committee formed to inspect the safety of the Mullaperiyar dam has not gone down well with the state government, which suspects a conspiracy behind the move.

The Union government in a recent communication informed the state about the exclusion of T K Sivarajan, Kerala's representative in the Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation Committee (CDSEC), saying he was "not available." This happened while Sivarajan was on a foreign trip. Though Sivarajan had informed



REPRESENTATIONAL PIC

both the state government and the CDSEC that he would be abroad for a family wedding, the prior intimation was used as a pretext to drop him. Neither Sivarajan nor the Kerala govern-

ment had received any query on his availability during the period.

The timing of the move and the conscious sidelining of the government have forced the state

to suspect conspiracy. Water Resources Minister Mons Joseph said the Centre's action was unacceptable and the removal violated every legal and ethical norm.

"When the five-member committee was constituted, its structure provided for one representative each from Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Now, Kerala's representative has been mysteriously dropped while Tamil Nadu's has been retained. There is some foul play at work," Mons told TNIE. He said the decision to drop Kerala's representative should have been taken after consultation with the state government.

"Instead, they unilaterally took the decision to drop him and informed the state later. The expert who replaced him is a native of Uttar Pradesh. We cannot expect him to safeguard our interests," Mons said.

Immediately upon receiving the letter, the state water resources secretary took up the matter with his counterpart in the Jal Shakti Ministry. Mons said he will send a formal representation to the ministry on Tuesday. "Kerala cannot accept this decision. Sivarajan should be reinstated. If they want a replacement for a convincing reason, it should be a person nominated by Kerala," Mons said.

14 IPS OFFICERS SHIFTED

Mageshwari named IG of key DVAC cell

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

A total of 14 senior IPS officers have been transferred across the state on Monday. Ayush Mani Tiwari, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TAN-GECCO), Chennai has been appointed as ADGP, Headquarters, in the office of the DGP/HoPF, Chennai, in the existing vacancy. A T Durai Kumar, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Special Investigation Cell-I, Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Chennai, has been posted as IGP/Establishment, DGP/HoPF office, Chennai. C Mageshwari has been appointed as Duraikumar's successor.

In Chennai, Kapil Kumar C Saratkar has been posted as IGP/Additional Commissioner of Police (Addl CoP), Law and Order,

North, Greater Chennai Police (GCP), Chennai. Pravesh Kumar has been posted as IGP, Coastal Security Group, Chennai, by downgrading the ADGP post. Dr B Shamundeswari has been posted as IGP/Addl CoP, Traffic GCP, Chennai. P C Thenmozhi has been posted as IGP/Addl CoP, Central Crime Branch, GCP, Chennai. A G Babu has been posted as IGP/Addl CoP, Headquarters, GCP, Chennai. Radhika has been posted as IGP, Administration, DGP/HoPF office, Chennai.

S Rajendiran has been posted as IGP/Commissioner of Police (CoP), Madurai City. S Rajeswari has been posted as IGP/CoP, Tiruppur City. K Joshi Nirmal Kumar has been posted as IGP/CoP, Salem City. Anil Kumar Giri has been posted as IGP, Idol Wing CID, Chennai. G Karthikeyan has been posted as IGP, Social Justice and Human Rights, Chennai.



8 victims from Odisha worked for ₹7K/month

KEONJHAR: The eight women who died in a gas leak incident in Tamil Nadu were among 18 workers from Keonjhar who had gone to Tiruvallur to work in a seafood processing unit. Hailing from the Juang tribe, one of the 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in Odisha, they had left for TN three months ago to support their impoverished families.

Gumani Juang (18), Shivani Juang (19), Geeta Juang (19), Phulmani Juang (18) and Champavati Juang (19), all hailing from villages under Telkoi and Keonjhar Sadar police limits, were resting in the house provided by the company after finishing work on Saturday. They died after inhaling toxic ammonia gas due to a leak in a nearby tank. Gumani's father Bira Juang said the firm was paying her daughter and other workers ₹7,000-₹8,000 per month. Gumani used to send ₹2,000-₹3,000 per month to her family. Sanatan Juang, who recently returned to his village after working in the seafood processing plant at Tiruvallur, said many Juang tribals from Keonjhar were working in the company for the past seven to eight months.

NHRC asks chief secy to submit report in 2 weeks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ACCORDING to a health department bulletin on Monday, the leak affected 77 workers, including 70 women, of whom 68 remain under treatment in Vels Hospital (28), Venkateswara Hospital (18), Rajiv Gandhi Govt GH (12) and Government Stanley MCH (10). Workers from Odisha (29) accounted for the highest number of affected persons, followed by Assam (20), Jharkhand (8), TN (5), Kerala (3), WB (1). The home state of two persons is yet to be ascertained.

The bodies of those who died at government hospitals would be kept in the mortuary of the respective hospitals for post-mortem, while those who died at private hospitals were shifted to the Tiruvallur GH mortuary. Odisha officials have arrived in Tiruvallur and are coordinating with local authorities over treatment of the survivors and arrangements to carry the bodies to their native villages.

Since the deceased includes a child labourer, the Periyapalayam police have added Section 3(a) (14) of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, in addition to the case they had earli-

er registered under Sections 105 and 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Three persons — owners M Joseph Jegan (49) of Royapuram and M Mohan (59) of Tondiarpet; and manager R Daniel (70) of Perungudi — were arrested, and remand proceedings are under way.

Doctors at Government Stanley MCH said several of the affected workers were brought in with cardiac arrest, altered sensorium, coma and nasal bleeding, indicating exposure to high concentrations of the gas.

"The patients were placed on ventilator support as they were unable to breathe. Treatment was administered based on the organs affected," the doctors said. Taking suo motu cognisance of reports on the leak, the NHRC has issued notices to the TN Chief Secretary and the DGP, seeking a detailed report within two weeks. The TN government has formed a three-member panel to probe the incident. CPM state secretary P Shanmugam termed the state's ex gratia of ₹2 lakh for each deceased worker's family inadequate and urged the govt to enhance it while ensuring substantial compensation from the factory management.

(Inputs from Sinduja Jane)



GIRLS AGAINST DRUGS
Students of Siddharth Mahila Kalasala took part in a rally organised by NTR district EAGLE officials on the eve of International Day Against Drug Abuse in Vijayawada on Monday | PRASANT MADUGULA

Selvaperunthagai wants to step down from TNCC prez post

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

TAMIL NADU Congress Committee (TNCC) president K Selvaperunthagai has requested the party high command to relieve him of his responsibilities as the State unit chief, saying he had decided to step down even before the Assembly elec-

tions. Speaking to TNIE, Selvaperunthagai said he had conveyed his decision to the party leadership and was awaiting its response.

"I had made it clear even before the elections that I would not continue as the state president afterwards. I have now formally communicated my decision to the party high com-

EXPRESS READ

K'taka HC nod to uterus removal of disabled woman

BENGALURU: In a rare case, the Karnataka HC allowed the parents of a 23-year-old woman to get her uterus removed, as she suffers from severe disabilities which impair her ability to understand, manage and perform even basic activities of daily living. "Having regard to the findings recorded by the Medical Board, the nature and extent of the patient's intellectual and developmental disabilities, her inability to independently manage menstrual hygiene, the recurring complications highlighted by the petitioners, the absence of any medical contra-indication, this court is satisfied that the proposed procedure is intended to advance health, dignity and best interests of the patient," the court said. Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order on a plea filed by the parents, who are from a village in Yelahanka taluk.



On the occasion of International Day of Yoga, themed "Yoga for Healthy Ageing", Bank of Baroda, one of India's leading public sector banks, reaffirmed its commitment to employee well-being and holistic wellness by organising in-person yoga sessions across its corporate office and zonal offices nationwide, guided by certified Yoga instructors | EXPRESS



Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences and Healthcare Sector Skill Council and the union government have signed an MoU in the presence of Dr N M Veeraiyan, chancellor, SIMATS and Ashish Jain, CEO, Healthcare Sector Skill Council, GOI, to strengthen healthcare education through industry-integrated, skill-based education | EXPRESS

J Palanisamy appointed as pvt secretary to CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

JAGADISH Palanisamy, a long-time manager and close confidant of TVK president and Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, has been appointed as the private secretary to the CM. Jagadish Palanisamy himself revealed this in his social media handles on Monday. Palanisamy's X and Instagram handles have this description: The Private Secretary to the CM of TN. "18 years ago, I stood in line as a die-hard fan, hoping for a photo with you. Now, standing beside you as "The Private Secretary to the Hon'ble CM" of the state. Life has come full circle. I owe you everything for who I am today," Palanisamy said in his X post. Palanisamy said Vijay's impeccable aura just change things for him with only a smile. "The energy you gave me to run faster during my hard days is something I can't put into words. Happy Birthday to my God - Thalapaty Vijay Anna. Wishing you greater heights and a glorious journey ahead with the people of TN," he added.

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER
For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/ (Co)/Kharapur-721 301 invites e-tender for the following works and will be opened at 12:00 hrs.: e-tender Notice No.: ST-OT-DC-TRACK-HITACHI-26
Dtd: 19.06.2026; Description of works: Provision of DC Track circuit for dual detection (Hitachi make EI) in various station yards of Kharapur division;
Tender value : ₹ 9,78,55,589.24; EMD: 19,57,100.00; Cost of tender document : NIL; Date of Opening: 14/07/2026; Completion Period: 15 Months; Date of Submission: up to 12 hrs. of 14/07/2026; Interested Tenders may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details description specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. (PR-368)

PUBLIC NOTICE
M/s. A BOND STRANDS PVT. LTD., is the owner of the property situated at Plot No.87, Developed Plots Estate, Perungudi, Chennai 600 096, comprised in old S. No. 7, new S.No.7/3 of Neelankarai Village, Sholinganallur Taluk, Chennai measuring 0.314 acres in Neelankarai Village, Sholinganallur Taluk, Chennai District.
It has been reported to us that the following documents with regard to the aforementioned property have been lost/ misplaced and not traceable:
a) Letter from AO Dr. Vikram Sarabai Industrial Estate dated 25/03/2007
b) No Due Certificate issued by the aforementioned Industries & Commerce dated 03/05/2002
c) Letter from Department of Industries & Commerce dated 17/05/2002
d) Affidavit Sworn by M/s. A-Bond strands (P) Ltd., dated 06/06/2002
Any person/institution having any claim or charge over the aforementioned property or the aforementioned lost original documents shall lodge their claim or objection together with documentary proof for their claim to the undersigned within "TEN DAYS" from the date of this Notice, failing which, it would be deemed and concluded that there is no claim, charge or encumbrance whatsoever on the above mentioned property and any subsequent claim or objection shall be deemed to have been waived and the same shall not bind our client.
For and on behalf of
M/s. A Bond Strands Pvt.Ltd.
ASWATH R K
ADVOCATE
Bar Council Enrolment No.: 7241/2025
No.2, Saranganpatti Street,
T.Nagar,
Chennai - 600 017
22/06/2026

Government of India
Ministry of Minority Affairs
HAJ COMMITTEE OF INDIA
ANNOUNCEMENT FOR HAJ - 2027 G (1448 H)
The Haj Committee of India invites applications from eligible intending pilgrims for Haj-2027 through the online Haj Application Form available at <https://www.hajcommittee.gov.in> or HAJ SUVIDHA mobile app.
1. The application window shall remain open from 22.06.2026 to 20.07.2026 (up to 11:59 PM). After Quraah (Digital Random Selection) process to be conducted in the last week of July, each provisionally selected pilgrim shall be required to deposit an advance amount of ₹1,52,300/- on or before 10.08.2026. No relaxation or extension in these timelines shall be feasible.
2. Applicants must carefully read the Guidelines and Undertakings to ensure their eligibility and upload scanned copies (not photographs) of required documents as specified in the Guidelines.
3. Cancellation of a Haj seat is strongly discouraged, as it causes operational difficulties. Accordingly, cancellation shall attract substantial penalties in accordance with the Guidelines for Haj 2027. Intending pilgrims are advised to apply only after careful consideration of their preparedness and firm commitment to undertake the pilgrimage.
Shanavas C, IAS
Chief Executive Officer

Government of Tamil Nadu
National Health Mission - Tamil Nadu
No.359, Anna Salai, 5th Floor,
DMS Annex Building,
Teynampet, Chennai - 600 006.
RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION (SHSRC)
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engagement on a contractual basis in the following positions under the National Health Mission, Tamil Nadu:

S. No.	Post	No. of Posts
1	Chief Advisor	1
2	Advisor	4
3	Consultant	10
4	Interns	12

Application Receiving Date from
23.06.2026 (10.00 AM) to 23.07.2026 (5.00 PM)
Detailed eligibility criteria, qualifications, experience, remuneration, Terms of Reference and online application link are available at: www.nhm.tn.gov.in
Applications received after the due date and time will not be considered.
MISSION DIRECTOR
National Health Mission -
Tamil Nadu
DIPR/557/Display/2026

CLASSIFIED
PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME
CHANGE OF NAME
I, SAKINA MOIZ BADRUDDIN, wife of Thiru Moiz Anjarwala, born on 29th November 1974, (District of Birth : Siddhpur - Gujarat), residing at Voora Ocean 27, T1 Flat, A17 Floor, Suryanarayana Chetty Street, Tondiarpet, Chennai-600 081, shall henceforth be known as SAKINA MOIZ ANJARWALA Sakina Moiz Badruddin Chennai, 5th June 2026.
QuoteExpress
NEVER COMPLAIN AND NEVER EXPLAIN
BENJAMIN DISRAELI

International Institute for Population Sciences
(Deemed to be University)
An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India
Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai - 400088.
Contact Details: Tel: 91-22-42372468
Email: admission@iipsindia.ac.in Website: www.iipsindia.ac.in
ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT - ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027
The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), an autonomous organization established in 1956 under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, invites applications for admission to the following programmes for the Academic Year 2026-2027.
• M.A/M.Sc. in Population Studies [Monthly Fellowship ₹ 5,000/-]*
• M.Sc. in Bio-statistics and Demography [Monthly Fellowship ₹ 5,000/-]*
• M.Sc. in Survey Research & Data Analytics [Monthly Fellowship ₹ 5,000/-]*
• Ph.D. in Population Studies [GoI-IIPS, UGC-JRF fellowship etc.]
• Part-time Ph.D. in Population Studies
• Post-Doctoral Fellowship (PDF) Programme [Monthly Fellowship ₹ 50,000/- + HRA] [*Hostel facility available.]
Last date to submit application online: 30-06-2026 (11.00 AM).
Candidates appearing for final semester exams can also apply.
For more details, please visit: www.iipsindia.ac.in
Director & Senior Professor [Additional Charge]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Applications are invited for filling up the following post in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology;

Name of the Post	No. of Vacancy	Mode of Recruitment
Deputy Director (Official Language) [Level-11 of the Pay Matrix (Rs.67,700 - 2,08,700)]	01	On deputation

Eligibility Criteria
Officers from the Central Government or State Governments or Union territory Administration or Public Sector Undertakings or Autonomous bodies:-
(a) (i) holding analogous posts on regular basis in parent cadre or Department; OR
(ii) with five years regular service in Level - 10 in the pay matrix (Rs. 56,100 - 1,77,500); AND
(b) possessing the educational qualifications and experience prescribed for direct recruits as mentioned in the detailed advertisement placed on Ministry's website www.meity.gov.in and DoP&T's website www.dopt.gov.in.
Age Limit: 56 years as on the closing date of receipt of applications
Note: For application format, eligibility conditions, requisite qualifications and other details, visit website www.meity.gov.in and www.dopt.gov.in
Application(s) duly prepared in the prescribed proforma should reach Deputy Secretary (Personnel), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Electronics Niketan, 6, CGO Complex, New Delhi - 110003, within 60 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.
CBC 06101/11/0011/2627



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

— Rammath Goenka

INDIAN PHARMA NEEDS PRECISION SURGERY AND STRONG RECOVERY PILL

THE government's recent notification barring over-the-counter sale of cough syrups is a prescription too mild, issued too late. It has come eight months after the death of 24 children in Madhya Pradesh within weeks of consuming a cough syrup. This was not even the first such case to be reported—Indian cough syrups laced with a toxic industrial solvent have led to deaths in other states and abroad, too.

On June 15, the Union ministry of health and family welfare amended the Drugs Rules, 1945, removing the word 'syrup' from Schedule K of the rules to prohibit their OTC sales, mandating prescriptions from registered medical practitioners to buy and allowing only licensed pharmacies to sell them. This means that the syrups that were earlier easily available from non-pharma stores, too, will now be out of bounds in villages that lack medical stores.

These restrictions are inadequate when coupled with weak enforcement of drug rules and manufacturing quality control. Wide gaps in the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's staffing, structure and capability have been noted for long. There are loopholes in the distribution system, too. Apart from unethical practices like medical practitioners selling company samples shared with them, medicines are now sold on the internet, too—not always by registered, compliant firms. The task of monitoring and enforcing such a massive system is Herculean. The urgent need is to ensure a better-staffed and better-equipped CDSCO coordinating much more efficiently with state drug control organisations. Manufacturing processes need to be regularly audited, with their reports reviewed by central auditors. Politics needs to be kept out of this effort.

India's pharma industry is valued at about \$60 billion, the third largest in the world by volume. Its aspiration to grow to \$130 billion by 2030 is already being thwarted by supply chain dependence on other countries, which has been exacerbated by geopolitical upheavals and global price fluctuations. In such a challenging situation, if we really want to be the 'pharmacy of the world', we cannot afford to let quality control remain so inadequate. The WHO has flagged Indian cough syrups as the reason for the deaths of more than 120 children in Africa and Central Asia. Changing the global image into something positive will require overhauling the industry to put in place a stricter, more capable regulatory regime that enforces without fear or favour.

STARMER'S FALL REFLECTS FRACTURING BRITISH POLITY

KEIR Starmer's resignation is more than the downfall of a Prime Minister. It is the latest symptom of a political system in the midst of a historic realignment. Less than two years after delivering Labour's biggest victory since Tony Blair's 1997 landslide, Starmer exited on Monday as Britain's sixth prime minister in a decade—an extraordinary churn for a country once synonymous with political stability. His fall is even more striking because it was not triggered by a recession, a military defeat, or a major scandal. Rather, Starmer squandered a historic mandate through a combination of political misjudgements, policy reversals and the inability to define a compelling national project. Measures such as cuts to winter fuel support and welfare reforms alienated Labour's traditional base, while subsequent U-turns projected weakness rather than pragmatism. Voters who had backed Labour in 2024 for stability increasingly saw a government drifting between competing priorities.

The deeper problem, however, extends well beyond 10 Downing Street. The resignation comes at a time Britain's centuries-old two-party system is unravelling. For the past century, Labour and the Conservatives commanded the overwhelming majority of votes. Today, both parties are losing support to challengers on the left and the right, producing an unprecedented five-way political landscape in which Labour, Conservatives, Reform UK, Liberal Democrats and Greens are competing for substantial shares of the electorate.

The most significant beneficiary of this fragmentation has been Reform. Nigel Farage's party is no longer a mere protest vehicle. It has become a repository for voters who feel economically insecure, culturally alienated and politically ignored. Reform's rise reflects a broader transformation in British society marked by declining trust in institutions, growing frustration with stagnant living standards and renewed anxiety over immigration. What makes Reform's advance particularly consequential is that it cuts across traditional class loyalties to attract working-class voters who once formed Labour's backbone and middle-class Conservatives disillusioned with their own party.

The result is an unprecedented level of volatility. The parade of prime ministers marks the political instability. Starmer's departure confirms that even commanding parliamentary majorities are no longer guarantees of authority. The challenge facing his successor, in all likelihood Andy Burnham, will not just be rebuilding Labour. It will be governing a country whose political loyalties, social identities and expectations are changing faster than its institutions can adapt.

QUICK TAKE

UTTERLY ORACULAR

THREE years before Alan Greenspan was born, John Maynard Keynes published his most-quoted line: "In the long run we are all dead." It's not just by touching the grand age of 100 before departing on Monday that Greenspan lived up to the quote's promise. Keynes wanted economists to comment reliably on the present, not bloat *post facto*. Greenspan, who chaired the US Fed for 18 years, was a master at that. His gnomic utterings were so eagerly anticipated that Wall Street devised a 'Briefcase Indicator'—the thicker Greenspan's leather briefcase going into a rate-setting meeting, the higher the chance of a hike. His most astute advice to central bankers came in what he said to a US Senate Committee: "If I seem unduly clear to you, you must have misunderstood what I said."

CONGRESS candidate Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination for a Rajya Sabha seat from Madhya Pradesh was rejected by the returning officer (RO). Consequently, all the three seats from the state that were up for grabs were declared as won by BJP candidates. Thus, one seat that was otherwise legitimately due to the Congress was grabbed by the ruling alliance.

Can an RO invalidate a candidature to Rajya Sabha on the ground of non-disclosure of a case of which no court has taken cognisance? And if an officer does so, perhaps under pressure or temptation, is it that even the Supreme Court cannot promptly set it right because of the bar for interference in electoral matters? These pivotal questions arose when a Bench consisting of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Atul S Chandurkar dismissed the petition moved by Natarajan.

She had been issued a notice by a Telangana court under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). The allegation against her was not of any overt act. A woman had alleged that, as the All-India Congress Committee's officer in charge, Natarajan had failed to take organisational action against a person accused of attempting to molest her. The Telangana court that issued the notice, however, did not take cognisance of the case, whose non-disclosure led to the rejection of Natarajan's candidature. It was recently reported that the Telangana court has returned the complaint.

The disclosure of cases during nomination is mandated by Section 33A of the Representation of the People Act (RP Act), 1951, read with Form 26 of the affidavit in support of candidature. The Act says that when a charge is framed for an offence punishable for two years or more, one needs to state it. At any rate, in Natarajan's case, even cognisance was not taken.

In the *Public Interest Foundation* (2018) case, the Supreme Court had said that candidates should fully fill the form and state all the pending criminal cases. Form 26 and its supporting rule were changed to what they are now based on this judgement. Item 5 on the form is for "pending criminal cases". The form repeats the phrase throughout.

Thus, because of the judgement—and not because of any statute—the modified form asks about all pending criminal cases. And because of this, some scholars think that Natarajan's case was weak, though the rule and the form, ob-

viously, go against the stipulations in the parent statute, that's the RP Act of 1951. This dichotomy could be problematic and might warrant a judicial decision.

A JUST WAY TO HANDLE A REJECTION

KALEESWARAM RAJ

Lawyer, Supreme Court of India



SOURAV ROY

viously, go against the stipulations in the parent statute, that's the RP Act of 1951. This dichotomy could be problematic and might warrant a judicial decision.

Yet, legally, the additional requirement to disclose all pending cases should not have been used to fence out Natarajan. The reason is simple: the judgement in *Public Interest Foundation* came before the promulgation of BNSS in 2023, which replaced the Criminal Procedure Code. Unlike the CrPC, the BNSS's Section 223 contemplates a hearing on the question of taking or not taking cognisance. Under Sections 200 and 204 of the erstwhile CrPC, no such hearing was contemplated.

As such, the *Public Interest Foundation* judgement did not consider the fundamental change in the basic law, affected by way of the BNSS. When Public Inter-

est Foundation was decided in 2018, mere issuance of summons or notice by a trial court would directly make it a pending criminal case. Post BNSS, even if a notice is issued, the court can return the complaint, as happened in Natarajan's case, or dismiss it. Once it is returned without taking cognisance, the case vanishes right from the inception.

Thus, the very foundation of the additional requirements in Form 26 is now shattered as far as Natarajan's case is concerned. The Supreme Court was duty-bound to consider this issue, particularly when the deceptive form has its genesis in the *Public Interest Foundation* decision.

The dismissal of the writ petition has facilitated a clear act of injustice and unfairly deprived Natarajan of her legitimate right. This happened because the court did

WHERE MIND IS NOT WITHOUT FEAR

EVERY year, more than 8.4 lakh people die globally from health conditions linked to toxic workplaces. According to the International Labour Organization, psychosocial risks at work—long hours, job insecurity, bullying and harassment—cause these deaths through cardiovascular disease and mental illness. The ILO also found that 35 percent of workers worldwide work more than 48 hours a week and 23 percent have faced some form of violence or harassment at work. These statistics appear to concern factories, offices and corporations. However, they are also increasingly visible in academia, which should instead embody precisely the opposite values.

Earlier this year, the death by suicide of an assistant professor at AIIMS Bhopal attracted national attention after allegations of workplace harassment, professional humiliation and administrative pressure surfaced. Family and colleagues cited severe mental distress, raising questions about whether authorities had acted on earlier concerns. The National Human Rights Commission's intervention reframed the tragedy as a governance failure, underscoring that faculty burnout, workplace bullying and mental health crises are institutional, not individual, problems.

If the AIIMS episode exposed the human costs of toxic institutional environments, developments across universities show how such environments are created. During a recent visit to a prestigious university, I learned that faculty members were required to record every exit from campus in a register: time out, destination, purpose and time back. It is not an isolated example. Across many Indian universities, biometric attendance, excessive documentation, CCTV monitoring and digital tracking are increasingly shaping everyday work life. These measures are usually justified in the language of accountability and professionalism. In practice, they often function as instruments of control.

A controversy at Visva-Bharati University illustrates this clearly. Faculty members strongly opposed an administrative directive requiring permission before leaving campus during working hours. Critics argued that the measure treated academics like factory workers and reflected an administration more concerned with monitoring presence than evaluating academic output.

The episode quickly became symbolic of a wider debate on whether universities

were moving away from academic self-governance towards bureaucratic command-and-control systems. This raises a question: what assumptions about faculty underpin such forms of management? The answer is straightforward. They assume that academics cannot be trusted. Scholarship, which is a vocation built on reflection, independent judgement and intellectual risk, is treated as an activity that must be constantly monitored.

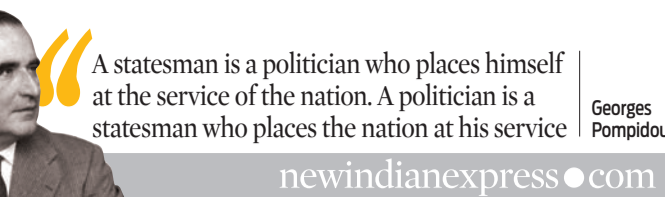
Michel Foucault argued that power in modern institutions often operates not through direct coercion but through continuous visibility; the awareness that one is always being watched. The result is self-regulation: individuals begin policing themselves. Surveillance does not need to catch wrongdoing. Its purpose is to ensure that no one feels entirely free. The problem

of academic life valued intellectual judgement, originality and scholarly independence. Increasingly, universities are rewarding visibility, measurable compliance and administrative manageability. Performance-driven environments often reward surface conformity while eroding the deeper commitments that meaningful work requires.

What is emerging in many institutions is a broader culture of fear. Faculty members increasingly report reluctance to criticise administrative decisions, to participate in governance or to speak openly about contentious issues. Fear cultures typically develop when decision-making becomes centralised, transparency declines, dissent is viewed as disloyalty and performance metrics replace collegial relationships. Recent faculty surveys at Yale University revealed growing concerns about self-censorship and academic freedom. Some respondents reported moderating their views because of perceived professional consequences. When academics begin calculating risks before expressing ideas, intellectual inquiry inevitably narrows. The long-term consequences are serious. Younger academics quickly learn that conformity is rewarded while independence carries costs.

The purpose of universities is to protect free inquiry, to create spaces where ideas can be tested, authority questioned and knowledge produced without interference. Democratic societies depend on this function because they need citizens capable of critical thinking. Institutions reproduce internally the values they transmit externally. A university governed through surveillance cannot meaningfully teach freedom. Students who observe faculty navigating bureaucratic control, seeking permission for routine decisions and demonstrating productivity through paperwork learn a crucial lesson: authority is to be obeyed rather than questioned. And that is a dangerous lesson for any democracy.

The ILO has called on governments to address psychosocial risks in the workplace. Universities must be part of that conversation. What is at stake is the purpose of the university itself.



A statesman is a politician who places himself at the service of the nation. A politician is a statesman who places the nation at his service

Georges Pompidou

not go into a foundational question about the RO's power to reject a candidature, even if there was an omission as alleged.

By not disclosing a pre-cognisance notice, the candidate does not get any advantage; by disclosing about it, she is not put to any disadvantage. There is no indication in the parent Act that the RO can conduct a roaming enquiry into the assertions and omissions pertaining to cases. The Election Commission, by way of FAQs, has on many occasions categorically said that the RO cannot reject the candidature for such a reason.

The Supreme Court lost sight of this vital aspect. If at all there is wrongful acceptance of a nomination and, consequently, an erroneous election result, that should have been the matter requiring a subsequent challenge by way of an election petition. Such a situation would not have led to an apparent injustice of depriving a candidate's right to contest and to reap the benefit of the votes due to her. Asking such a candidate to move the high court with an election petition practically subverts the balance of justice.

Given the situation, the top court should have noted the apparent arbitrariness and illegality in the RO's decision. For such an intervention, there is no bar under Article 329 of the Constitution, since the court would not be preventing an election but ensuring a fair one. That the bar under Article 329 is not absolute and does not preclude the court from dealing with electoral process was well settled in *MS Gill vs Chief Election Commissioner* (1977). In that case, the court, while stating the general bar on judicial interference after commencement of an election, was cautious enough to carve out exceptions with a great sense of judicial pragmatism.

Giving an example of a situation of the Election Commission prompting ROs for selective acceptance of nomination, the court had said that such arbitrary actions cannot claim immunity. It said that in such a situation, "the commissioner is preventing an election, not promoting it", adding, "Election, wide or narrow be its connotation, means choice from a possible plurality, monolithic politics not being our genius or reality, and if that concept is crippled with by the commissioner's act, he holds no election at all."

These were prophetic words indeed from Justice V R Krishna Iyer, as one learns from the Madhya Pradesh incident. Sadly, prophets on the Bench cannot always claim followers.

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

MAIL BAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

War's price

Ref: *Iron will needed to convert covenant into lasting peace* (Jun 22). The common man suffers daily from the rising prices and unavailability of essential goods prompted by the West Asia war. By the dilemma thoughts and unsteady behaviour of the US President, human life is in question. Who will untie this knot?
A Kaja Nazimudeen, Tirunelveli

Education mockery

Ref: *Odisha textbook fiasco* (Jun 22). The Himalayan blunders make one wonder if the people entrusted with the task were in their proper senses. The aim of curriculum reform is to upgrade and improve the quality of education. When the process itself is vitiated with callousness, the objectives get negated. Those responsible for this mockery, however mighty, must be brought to book.
Biju C Mathew, Thiruvananthapuram

Collision course

Ref: *Orbit Overload* (Jun 22). The eye-opener piece is a timely red flag. The plans clearly risk a Kessler cascade in an already choking space. Approving orbital AI data centres without binding global laws and debris rules is reckless. Stakeholders must cap launches, mandate cleanup tech and treat orbit as a global commons before we trigger a catastrophe that grounds humanity.
Vaithianathan Subramanian, Madurai

Tempering temper

Ref: *The discipline of decorum* (Jun 22). 'Temper' as a noun and a verb can mean sharply different things. I remember reading, 'Temper is a valuable possession; do not lose it'. In these days of the politics of hatred and provocation, people need to remain calm.
P Prema, Thanjavur

Criminal negligence

Ref: *27 patients with normal heart function implanted with pacemakers* (Jun 22). The action is irrefutably unjustifiable and hence needs to be probed for imperative reasons. The doctor is, apparently corrupt, working only to promote the sales of pacemakers, solely disregarding the genuine interest of the poor and violating the universal medical ethos.
Thomas K M, Ernakulam

Leak liability

Ref: *Ammonia leak* (Jun 22). Why can't the concerned officials be booked for murder in regard to the late response? They are paid handsome salaries with all comforts and perks, yet yearn for illegal gratification and overlook safety in the process.
Govardhana Myneedu, Vijayawada



K C Venugopal @kcvenugopalmp
The alarming frequency of fire accidents points to negligence on part of authorities to safeguard innocent lives. Accountability must be fixed for such incidents



Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
A government formed through the loot of votes has now stooped to paper tampering, all the way to stealing offerings, donations, and contributions



Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
This budget is a marked improvement over the TMC regime and a significant step towards building prosperous, confident and aspirational Bengal

'Rebels may have their compulsions'

MPs have to face voters in a world of competitive politics, says Shiv Sena MP Milind Deora

WITH six Uddhav Thackeray MPs joining the Eknath Shinde camp, Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP and former Union MoS **Milind Deora** says elected representatives have to face voters and partymen in their constituencies, and if they are still taking such difficult decisions, there must be compelling reasons behind them. He tells **Sudhir Suryawanshi** most Opposition parties are family-run entities that ignore their structural and democratic shortcomings, leaving them ill-equipped for increasingly competitive political landscape. **Excerpts:**

Look at the difference between Shiv Sena and Shiv Sena (UBT); the level of political drive is different because of the generation gap, accessibility, working style, approach and other factors. Politics is becoming more competitive, and governance also has to become more efficient. There is only one communist party in the Opposition that has not been captured by any particular family. In Maharashtra, there are mainly six political parties, three in power and three in the Opposition. If smaller parties are considered, the number rises to seven or eight. When you have so many parties, every person, whether in the opposition or in government, has to become far more agile. If parties fail to do that, voters and elected representatives become impatient, and that often forces many of them to join the ruling side.



ways support the Opposition. The Opposition also has a fixed vote base, but it has to evolve with changing times. Take West Bengal, for example. I don't know what will happen with those MPs who broke away from TMC. Tomorrow, they may not directly join BJP and may instead remain in the Opposition. I do not know. The Opposition must attack the government, criticise it and score political points. That is part of its job. But it must also play a constructive role. However, the problem with many opposition parties is that they are now run by second-, third- and fourth-generation political families. The present leadership of family-held parties is very different from their fathers, grandfathers, grandmothers or ancestors. If they don't buckle up and become more active, others will occupy that space.

Why's everyone in a hurry to join ruling parties in states and the Centre?

People are willing to be in the Opposition as well. But we have to accept that the dynamics of politics have changed a lot. Different states have different political realities. If you go to Europe or America, you don't have parties that have been captured by individuals and families. But in India, a large number of parties have become family-controlled from generation to generation. The first generation can capture the imagination of people, but it is not necessary the second and third generations will do the same. That is where the crisis lies.



What is your view on Operation Tiger?

The people rebelling against their leadership have been disgruntled for quite some time. It is not something that happened suddenly. In such a scenario, it is natural for opponents to take advantage. This can happen in any profession. The source of this disgruntlement lies within Shiv Sena (UBT) itself. Ultimately, elected representatives

have to return to their constituencies and face voters. They also have to face local party workers. If they are taking such difficult decisions, there must be significant reasons behind them. A party must introspect and identify the underlying malaise rather than dismissing the situation as if it has done nothing wrong, only to face the same problem repeatedly. Politics is a competitive world. Parties must respond more quickly.

In a healthy democracy, the role of the Opposition is important. If everyone joins those in power, then who will play the role of the Opposition? I don't think people are averse to being in the Opposition. There are voters who will al-

5 Bihar med students among 28 held for impersonation in NEET re-test

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

EVEN as the NEET UG 2026 re-examination was conducted amid unprecedented security arrangements on Sunday, Bihar Police unearthed an impersonation racket in Lakhisarai district. A total of 28 individuals, including five medical students from Bihar, were held.

Additional Director General Sudhanshu Kumar confirmed that 18 staff members had been arrested for allegedly colluding with dummy candidates and middlemen by compromising the verification process at an exam centre in Lakhisarai.

In addition, nine candidates were detained at the exam centre after authorities suspected them of appearing in the exam on behalf of registered candidates. Mayank Kashyap, a fourth-year student at PMCH, was arrested after entering the Hasanpur examination centre in collusion with biometric staff member Ankit Kumar.

Based on Kashyap's disclosures, police arrested Ravi Shankar, a student of Pavapuri Medical College in Rajgir, Nalanda, and Arpit Raj, a student of ANMMCH, Gaya. Arpit Raj is believed to be the mastermind behind the racket. The CBI had earlier questioned him in connection with the 2024 NEET paper leak case.

Those arrested include Saunabh Jha of AIIMS Rae Bareilly; Aman Agarwal, an MBBS intern at the University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi;



Mantosh Kumar of New Jalpaiguri Medical College; Vivek Kumar of ANMMCH; Himanshu Kumar of Government Medical College, Satna; Roshan Kumar, a B.Pharm student at NMCH, Patna; Chanchal Kumari, a BAMS student at Government Ayurvedic College, Odisha; Jitendra Kumar, an MBBS student at NMCH, Patna; and Poonam Kumari, a B.Sc. Nursing student at BHU.

According to police sources, Ravi Shankar and Arpit Raj allegedly recruited students from medical colleges as solvers to appear on behalf of registered candidates. Police said each candidate was to be charged ₹10-12 lakh for impersonation. The gang had allegedly collected ₹1-2 lakh in advance.

"We are probing bank accounts, mobile call records and digital transactions linked to the suspects," a senior police officer monitoring the investigation said. The officer said more arrests were likely and didn't rule out involvement of white-collar individuals.

Decision to ban Telegram now vindicated: NTA

S LALITHA @NewDelhi

A viral video doing the rounds on Sunday—the day the NEET-UG 2026 re-exam was held—alleging that the examination paper had leaked on Telegram has been found to be fake both by the Fact Checking Unit of the Press Information Bureau and the National Testing Agency (NTA). NTA director general Abhishek Singh said the agency stands vindicated for its stand that Telegram needed to be banned.

Singh said that according to initial estimates, over 20 lakh candidates took the exam, however the exact number will be known later. He added, "There has been absolutely no leak during the June 21 exam. However, people kept sharing fake news countless times. Hence, in hindsight, we did take a correct decision with regard to Telegram."

Singh also told this newspaper that the result of the Common University Entrance Test will be made public on Tuesday. A total of 15,69,867 candidates took the exam over a period of 19 days beginning May 11 and stretching till June 7. At least 3,765 candidates could not take up their exam due to glitches.

'Gradual normalisation': Doval, Wang review India-China ties

JAYANTH JACOB @NewDelhi

INDIA and China on Monday reviewed recent developments in bilateral relations and noted progress towards the gradual normalisation of ties as National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the BRICS National Security Advisers' meeting in New Delhi.

The meeting comes amid a cautious thaw in relations between the two neighbours following the tensions triggered by the 2020 military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Officials described the latest engagement as "constructive and forward-looking," reflecting continued efforts by both sides to stabilise ties after a series of political, diplomatic and military interactions over the past two years.

"NSA Ajit Doval met member of the CPC Political Bureau and Foreign Minister of China, Wang Yi, on June 22 on the sidelines of the BRICS NSAs' meeting in New Delhi. The two sides reviewed recent developments



NSA Ajit Doval with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in New Delhi on Monday | PTI

NSA highlights India's position on bilateral relations

Highlighting India's position, Jaiswal said Doval "underlined that stable, predictable and constructive bilateral relations contribute to building of trust and better understanding between the two sides."

in bilateral relations and noted progress towards gradual normalisation," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a statement. Highlighting India's position, Jaiswal said Doval "underlined that stable, predictable and constructive bilateral relations contribute to building of trust and better understanding between the two sides."

"The discussions were constructive and forward-looking,"

he added. The Indian delegation included Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Indian ambassador to China Vikram Doraiswami and Deputy National Security Adviser Pavan Kapoor.

The Doval-Wang meeting assumes significance as the two countries seek to rebuild confidence after relations hit their lowest point in decades following the 2020 border clashes. Since late 2024, both sides have taken steps to ease tensions.

Tharoor upsets Congress with Kashmir remark

PREETHA NAIR @NewDelhi

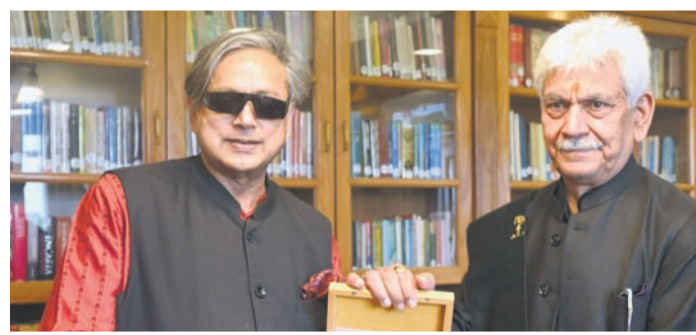
TWO days after triggering a political storm with his praise for Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue of safety of Indian sailors, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor is at loggerheads with his party leadership again over remarks on Jammu and Kashmir. Tharoor's remarks that there was "encouraging progress towards normalcy" in Jammu and Kashmir, made after meeting Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday, drew criticism from the Congress. Party spokesperson Pawan Khara said that comments on such a sensitive issue should take into account the views of all stakeholders.

Seeking to defuse the situation, Tharoor clarified on Monday that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, which he heads, was not in Jammu and Kashmir to assess conditions in the valley. He said the committee's mandate was limited to foreign affairs, including India-Pakistan and India-China relations, and passport services.

Addressing reporters in Delhi, Khara, however, said that Tharoor should have consulted more people before drawing

MP gets defensive: 'Not had a chance to see other things'

Defending his remarks, the Congress MP said that he had met only the lieutenant governor and not interacted with a wider section of society. "I have not had a chance to see other things or hear other voices. This is not a visit to evaluate conditions in the Kashmir valley," he said.



Congress MP Shashi Tharoor with L-G Manoj Sinha in Srinagar on Sunday | EXPRESS

conclusions. "Manoj Sinha will naturally say the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is good. Dr Tharoor should speak to ordinary people, unemployed youth, traders, Kashmiri Pandits and others. They will tell him the reality on the ground. Have Kashmiri Pandits returned? Has their rehabilitation been completed? These questions remain. I am confident that after meeting everyone, Dr Tharoor will review his views," Khara said.

Tharoor, who is leading a 10-member parliamentary

panel, reached Jammu on Sunday evening. Defending his remarks, the Congress MP said that he had met only the lieutenant governor and not interacted with a wider section of society. "I have not had a chance to see other things or hear other voices. This is not a visit to evaluate conditions in the Kashmir valley," he said.

On Saturday, Tharoor had said that the PM had conveyed that commercial seafarers should not be treated as combatants, which drew criticism from the Congress.

Cong takes on govt over rural wage figures

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @NewDelhi

THE Congress on Monday alleged that the government is "doctoring a rural wages boom" and claimed that it has been manufactured by a methodological change.

Party general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that in 2024, the Congress had flagged that the Modi government, through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), had changed the definition of employment to show a boom in job creation, claiming the addition of 168 million jobs since 2017-18. The leadership of the RBI was later rewarded for its efforts with plum postings in the government, Ramesh alleged.

"We have consistently flagged that the root cause of India's economic slowdown is the stagnation in real wages. Unable to fix this original sin, the Modi Government is now 'doctoring' a rural wages boom," Ramesh alleged.

Policy for pvt CBSE students in Gulf: Govt to SC

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @NewDelhi

THE Centre on Monday informed the Supreme Court that the CBSE has come up with a new policy for evaluation of private students whose Class XII board examinations in Gulf countries were cancelled due to the recent Iran-US war.

"A fresh all-India policy has been framed to address the concerns of similarly situated students affected by the cancellation of examinations in the Gulf countries," Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), told the court. Mehta further added, "The new policy ensures no student suffers academic loss and can apply for higher studies without delay."

He submitted and asserted to the SC that it was all done to facilitate and ensure that the students in the Gulf would be given fair treatment.

The submissions of the Centre carry much significance to those affected students abroad seeking an alternative assessment mechanism after exams

ALSO IN TOP COURT

SIT probe sought for Ayodhya funds row

A petition was filed in the Supreme Court on Monday seeking registration of an FIR and a fair and time-bound probe into the alleged embezzlement of funds in the Ram Temple at Ayodhya. The petition said a CBI-led multi-disciplinary special investigation team (SIT) should investigate the alleged financial irregularities.

Bihar encounter: Plea for CBI probe

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking the constitution of independent expert committee under the chairmanship of a former SC judge to inquire into the alleged "extra-judicial killing" of Bharat Bhushan Tiwari in a police encounter in Bihar. The petition has also sought a probe by the CBI.

were called off in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and Bahrain amid security concerns. The Centre on Monday submitted the crucial information before a two-judge bench of Justices SVN Bhatti and Vipul M Pancholi.

Mehta also highlighted that under the new policy, which was notified on June 21, a distinct formula for evaluating the private students appearing for the board exam was also developed. The bench posted the mat-

ter for further hearing after two weeks for a compliance report. The court noted the submissions and asked CBSE to issue detailed guidelines and a timeline for result declaration. It also directed that students dissatisfied with the evaluation can opt to appear for the compartment exams when CBSE conducts them later this year.

Advocate Vineet Jindal, appearing for a group of students, said that the policy, however, remained incomplete.

'Can't direct HC collegium': SC turns down plea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @NewDelhi

OBSERVING that it did not want to open a Pandora's box with regard to the proceedings of the collegium and related issues, the Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a petition filed by a judicial officer from Himachal Pradesh.

"...Sorry, we are not going to pass any order. We are not inclined to interfere. The functioning of collegium has its own confidentiality and institutional integrity. We don't want to open a Pandora's box with regard to proceedings of the collegium," observed a two-judge bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Jyotsnana Bagchi.

The petitioner, a judicial officer, had moved the SC alleging that names of officers junior to him were recommended for appointment as judges of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

CISF plans to set up data fusion centre in Delhi to ramp up aviation security

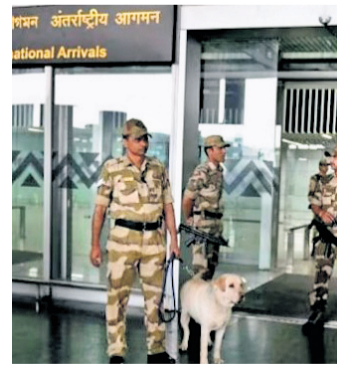
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @NewDelhi

IN a significant move aimed at bolstering aviation security and streamlining passenger movement, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has proposed setting up a Data Fusion Centre in Delhi that will integrate surveillance systems, including facial recognition technology, across major airports in the country.

Announcing the initiative on Monday, CISF Director General Praveer Ranjan said the proposed centre would function as a centralised hub for real-time monitoring, analysis and coordination of security data generated from airports and other critical installations under CISF protection.

"Under this initiative, the process of integrating facial recognition systems across all major airports in the country is under consideration with the concerned ministries," Ranjan said during the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the CISF's new headquarters building in the national capital.

The DG said the force is work-



ing towards integrating nearly 1.5 lakh surveillance cameras deployed across installations secured by the CISF into a unified network. The initiative is expected to complement existing biometric-based systems such as Digi Yatra.

Security experts say such a system could transform the country's security architecture by enabling predictive analysis and early threat detection.

Officials, however, stressed that the deployment of advanced surveillance technologies would be accompanied by appropriate safeguards to en-

I4C's 'Boss Scam' alert

The cyber wing of the MHA has warned of a sophisticated fraud campaign dubbed "Boss Scam", in which online fraudsters target senior corporate executives and compromise their devices. According to the I4C, attackers initially contact senior officials impersonating RBI officials, then deploy malware through compressed ZIP files containing an executable programme and a Dynamic Link Library (DLL) file.

The announcements were made during a ceremony in which infrastructure projects worth ₹136 crore were dedicated to the CISF. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar laid the foundation stone of the CISF's new headquarters building, which will be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹76 crore.

The CBI has arrested two fugitives facing Interpol Red Notice and wanted for over two decades in connection with siphoning of over ₹1.25 crore from an SBI branch in Dhanbad, officials said Monday.

KILLED BY LIGHTNING STRIKES IN J&K HAND IN 24 HRS

INDIA	Max	Min	Mumbai	Max	Min
Ahmedabad	38	29	Mumbai	33	27
Bhopal	34	25	Panaji	31	25
Jaipur	39	29	Patna	34	28
Amritsar	37	28	Lucknow	38	29
Chennai	37	28	Port Blair	31	26
Kolkata	34	28	Imphal	28	22
Srinagar	33	20	Chandigarh	37	28

The first Budget of the first BJP govt in the state allocates ₹36K cr for Annapurna Yojana

20% DA hike, 1L govt jobs promised

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

WITH proposals to raise the much-demanded dearness allowance (DA) for state government employees by 20 percentage points, allocate ₹36,000 crore for the Annapurna Yojana, recruit personnel for one lakh vacant government posts, and continue all existing social welfare schemes, Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta on Monday presented the first budget of West Bengal's first BJP government in the Assembly.

"People expect transparency about the state's finances. We have to maintain a balance while creating opportunities for employment, industrial growth and a modern, progressive Bengal," Dasgupta said.

He said the government had inherited a debt burden of ₹15 lakh crore from the previous regime and promised to prioritise restoring fiscal discipline and public confidence in governance. Dasgupta announced that 33% of new state government jobs would be reserved for women. Of the one lakh posts to be filled, half would be in the education sector, with the remaining 20,000 in the police force.

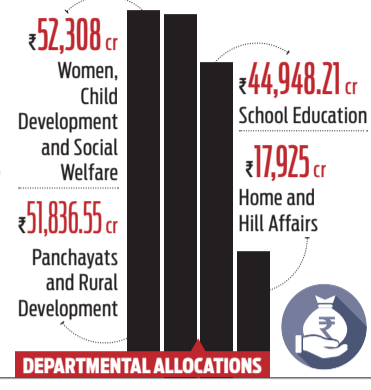
The DA for state government employees and dearness relief (DR) for pensioners will be increased by 20 percentage points from October 1, taking the rate to 38%. The announcement is politically significant as a high-

₹4.38 L crore Total size of the budget for the current FY

₹4.06 L crore Size of the vote-on-account budget presented by TMC govt in February

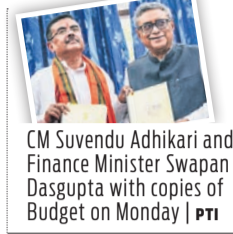
20,000 posts to be created in the police dept

50,000 teaching and non-teaching jobs in schools



₹8.15 L crore: the debt burden the state has, according to finance minister

₹50,000: One-time financial assistance to unmarried female students for higher edu



₹36,000 crore allocation for the Annapurna Yojana for benefit of women

₹3,000 the amount over 1.3 crore women will get per month under Annapurna Yojana

er DA had been a long-standing demand of state government employees during the previous TMC rule, which had fought several legal battles over the issue. The increase narrows the gap between DA received by state government employees and their central government counterparts to 22 percentage points.

The budget allocated ₹36,000 crore for the Annapurna Yojana, previously called Lakshmi Bhandar scheme. Around 30 lakh beneficiaries have reportedly been removed from the scheme following verification. The budget also earmarked ₹550 crore for free government

bus travel for women. A new unemployment assistance programme, 'Bharosa', was announced. The state government increased the MLA Local Area Development Fund from ₹70 lakh to ₹1 crore. A proposal has also been made to provide a monthly pension of ₹5,000 to retired journalists.

The budget proposed an elevated corridor between Chingrighata and New Town in Kolkata, a deep-sea port at Dadanpatrabar, a four-lane bridge over the Mayurakshi river in Birbhum, and feasibility studies for metro rail projects in Durgapur, Asansol and Siliguri.

A Tribal University and two Kendriya Vidyalayas in Jhargram, women's universities in Contai, Kaliachak and Falta, and a one-time grant of ₹25,000 for students of government and government-aided colleges preparing for competitive examinations were also proposed. The government also announced plans to establish an IIT and an IIM in north Bengal.

The government will identify 1,000 acres in Kalyani for a greenfield airport. Airports have also been proposed in Purulia and Malda.

The government has also proposed creating five new districts, one subdivision, and seven municipalities.

₹97.7K cr supplementary Budget, ₹20K cr for Maha farm loan waiver tabled

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE Mahayuti government tabled a demand for ₹97,706 crore supplementary grant on the first day of the monsoon session of the Maharashtra Assembly on Monday. It includes ₹20,552 crore for the farm loan waiver scheme, which was recently announced.

According to the supplementary demands note, out of the total ₹97,706 crore, ₹13,825 crore was earmarked for optional expenditure, ₹66,559 crore for budget programme expenditure and ₹17,321 crore for the Centre government-sponsored welfare schemes. The state government clarified in the note that while it tabled a supplementary demand for ₹97,706 crore, the actual burden on the state would only be ₹74,817 crore.

Apart from the support for the farm loan waiver scheme, the supplementary demand will also cover ₹10,007 crore for Centre's capital investment schemes and interest free loan and ₹8,000 crore for Maharashtra state electric electricity board as a loan and interest amount.

The Maharashtra government has also allocated ₹7,367 crore for the G-Ram-G scheme, which is the state's contribution to the employment guarantee scheme of the Centre, which

BJP bloc sweeps MLC polls

The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance won 16 seats out of 17 in the biennial MLC elections, while an independent candidate won the Nashik seat. The BJP won 11 seats and its allies Shiv Sena three and the NCP two. The independent candidate later joined the Eknath Shinde-led party.

was earlier known as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The supplementary demand document revealed that the state government has allocated ₹3,076 crore as its contribution for the Amrut 2.0 scheme. Besides, it has allocated ₹3,000 crore for the Kumbha Mela planning and implementation in Nashik.

In the supplementary demand, the state government has also made a provision of ₹2,360 crore for its various scholarship and school fee waiver programmes and other student-centric schemes. It has also made a provision of ₹2,000 crore for Shrawan Bal scheme.

The government tabled 29 supplementary demands, distributed among 18 departments. The document shows the cooperative, federation and textile department have been given the highest at ₹22,015 crore.



GUWAHATI DIARY

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR

Our correspondent in Guwahati

prasantamazumdar@newindianexpress.com

Plantation drive ahead of Japan PM's visit

Guwahati is being decked up ahead of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's visit to the city, but the manner in which saplings were planted by the side of some arterial roads, as part of the beautification drive, raised many eyebrows. A paved surface was drilled, allegedly only a few inches, to plant saplings, sparking questions about their survival. Takaichi would arrive in Guwahati along with PM Narendra Modi on July 1 to attend a Japan-India summit. A similar summit between Takaichi's predecessor Shinzo Abe and Modi was planned in Guwahati in December 2019. However, it was cancelled in the wake of violent anti-CAA protests.



Lok Bhavan celebrates West Bengal Day

Lok Bhavan, Assam, celebrated the West Bengal Statehood Day, commemorating the formation of the state on June 20, 1947, and showcasing the spirit of India's socio-cultural unity. Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya highlighted West Bengal's rich cultural heritage and its immense contributions to India's history, literature, education, science, spirituality and freedom movement. He said the state plays a pivotal role in shaping the nation's consciousness and continues to contribute significantly to its socio-cultural, academic, intellectual and economic progress. The governor further said that Bengal had been the cradle of the Indian renaissance.

Youth gain from scientific beekeeping

A promising new chapter in sustainable livelihood development is taking shape around the Manas National Park & Tiger Reserve, where local farmers and rural youth are embracing scientific beekeeping as a biodiversity-friendly source of income. As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen conservation-linked livelihoods, biodiversity conservation organisation Aaranyak recently organised a three-day hands-on technical training on scientific beekeeping practices and market linkages. The initiative has begun yielding tangible results, with seven trained farmers successfully establishing bee colonies in three project villages in the state.

3-KID NORM No free services for pregnant women in Assam

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

AN Assam government hospital has decided not to extend diagnostic services to pregnant women expecting fourth child or have more than three children free of charge.

After the installation of an ultrasound machine at the First Referral Unit (FRU) in Barpeta of lower Assam, local MLA Ranjeet Kumar Dass, who is the hospital's managing committee president and Speaker of the Assembly, told media persons that extending free health facilities to pregnant women with three or more than three children would defeat the purpose of the state's population policy.

"From July 1, pregnant women, who already have three or more than three children, will not get these facilities free of charge at the Barpeta FRU," Dass said.

"They will be required to pay the hospital registration fee as well as charges for X-rays, ultrasounds and other laboratory tests," he added.

He further stated that extending these facilities free of charge to pregnant women, who already have three or more than three children, would run contrary to the government's family planning policy and encourage such families to have more children.

After Kota and Bikaner, 8 post-caesarean mothers taken ill in Jodhpur now

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

AFTER similar incidents in Kota and Bikaner, a fresh case has surfaced in Jodhpur where several women developed serious health complications after undergoing caesarean deliveries, raising concerns within the Health Department.

On June 20, eight women who underwent caesarean sections at Pawta District Hospital fell ill. While six are suspected to have developed septicaemia, two others suffered kidney-related complications. All eight were referred to Mathura Das Mathur (MDM) Hospital and are undergoing treatment. Two of them are in the ICU due to their critical condition, while six others are being treated at Pawta District Hospital.

As a precautionary measure, the operation theatre where the surgeries were performed has been sealed. Medicines and equipment used during the procedures are also being examined as part of the probe.

Dr BS Jodha, Principal of Dr SN Medical College, said all the caesarean deliveries were performed on June 20. "One of the women suffered excessive bleeding following surgery. Another patient was diabetic and also

Deaths after kidney issues

The incident comes in the wake of similar cases reported in Kota and Bikaner recently. In Kota, five women died due to kidney failure after caesarean deliveries at New Medical College Hospital and JK Lon Hospital in May. Similarly in Bikaner's PBM Hospital, six women reportedly developed kidney failure following C-sections, resulting in 2 deaths.

had low blood pressure and anaemia, conditions that can affect kidney function. Blood samples from all the affected women have been collected and sent for testing. The reports are expected within three to four days," he said, adding that the matter is under investigation.

The hospital administration says that the exact cause will become clear once the test reports are received. According to Dr Kulveer Singh Chopra, PMO of Pawta Hospital, the condition of all six women admitted for delivery is currently stable and being continuously monitored.

The development has also raised questions as it coincided with Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khinvsar's visit to Jodhpur on June 20 to inaugurate five medical facilities.

Rebel MLAs remove Didi as TMC chief, suspend nephew

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

WEST Bengal politics took a dramatic turn on Monday as the rebel "real Trinamool" camp led by Leader of Opposition Ritabrata Banerjee removed former chief minister Mamata Banerjee as party chairperson and stripped MP Abhishek Banerjee of his post as national general secretary.

The move deepened a split within the Trinamool Congress and effectively created three camps. One remains loyal to Mamata Banerjee. Another is the Ritabrata-led "real Trinamool," now functioning as the opposition in the state Assembly. A third group, consisting of around two dozen Lok Sabha MPs, has joined the National Citizens Party and is expected to support the BJP-led NDA in Parliament.

The action came days after Ritabrata Banerjee, MLA, and Sandipan Saha, MLA, were expelled by the party for alleged anti-party activities. Both legislators had complained to Assembly Speaker Rathindra Bose, claiming that signatures of several Trinamool MLAs were forged in a resolution electing Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay as Leader of Opposition.

Later on Monday, Ritabrata held a meeting at a luxury hotel in New Town. Rebel sources said about 60 MLAs and 70



Ritabrata Banerjee

Kolkata Municipal Corporation councillors attended and backed his leadership.

The meeting formed a new party committee and removed Mamata and Abhishek from their positions. Arup Roy, MLA, was appointed chairperson. A 30-member state committee was also created. Firhad Hakim, Rathin Ghosh and Aroop Biswas were named vice-presidents. Soon after the meeting, the Mamata-led Trinamool Congress issued show-cause notices to participating MLAs.

The rebels said they acted to resolve a constitutional crisis, arguing that the party's national working committee had not been renewed after its 2022 term ended. When asked about Abhishek by reporters later this evening Ritabrata reacted, "Who is Abhishek? The man, who was heckled by people? Nothing was discussed about him in today's meeting."

6 dissident MPs of Uddhav Sena join Shinde camp

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE six rebel Shiv Sena (UBT) Lok Sabha MPs joined the Maharashtra Deputy Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena in his presence on Monday in Mumbai. Welcoming the rebel MPs, the Shiv Sena leaders said that Operation Tiger is accomplished.

Eknath Shinde said that the joining of these six MPs is proof of the victory of Balasaheb Thackeray's ideas and the growing strength of Shiv Sena. "This is the second phase of the fight that started on June 22, 2022, to save the ideology of Shiv Sena, the symbol—bow and arrow—and Balasaheb Thackeray. Initially, 40 MLAs were with us, while today six MPs have joined Shiv Sena and given new strength to that fight. Now not one but six tigers are with us," he said.

He added that the Shiv Sainiks who believe in Balasaheb's thoughts and ideology ultimately unite in Shiv Sena. "Wherever Shiv Sena's thoughts are, Shiv Sainiks are there," Shinde said.

India-US trade deal: Apple growers seek protection and write to Modi

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

AHEAD of India-US negotiations on trade, apple growers from Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand have written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him not to accept any provision that could compromise the interests of growers of apples, almonds, walnuts and other horticultural crops.

Writing under the banner of the Hill State Horticulture Forum, the farmers expressed concern that their interests could be undermined under the proposed deal. "Over the past several months, representatives of the United States government have repeatedly expressed their desire for greater access to India's agricultural market. These developments have caused deep anxiety among farmers and horticultural



tourists across the country, who fear that their interests may be compromised in the proposed trade agreement, thereby threatening their livelihoods," the letter stated.

The farmers said that they fear India may reduce tariffs on several agricultural products, including apples, almonds, walnuts and processed fruits imported from the US. "In the ab-

sence of adequate tariff protection, Indian farmers engaged in the cultivation of these crops will find it extremely difficult to compete with heavily subsidised imports from the United States," they argued in the letter.

The farmers wrote in the letter that the US has repeatedly expressed desire to secure greater access to the Indian agricultural market, which has caused anxiety among them. "Given the unique agro-climatic conditions of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand, growers of apples, almonds and walnuts have limited opportunities to shift to alternative crops," they wrote, adding that any significant increase in imports resulting from tariff reductions would, therefore, have severe consequences for their livelihoods.

C'garh village loses 'donkey' tag, pride restored

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

SHAKESPEARE famously asked, "What's in a name?" suggesting that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. But for the residents of a small village in Chhattisgarh's Kawardha district, a name meant the difference between daily embarrassment and generational dignity. For decades, the village carried the hapless name of "Gadhabhata" (historically a place associated with donkeys). While it was just a dot on the map to outsiders, for the locals, it was a source of persistent social discomfort—a name they hesitated to utter when asked where they came from.

All of that changed when Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister and Kawardha MLA, Vijay Sharma, arrived in the village. He didn't just come with political promises; he came bearing a freshly minted copy of the official government gazette. With that single piece



Di CM & Kawardha MLA Vijay Sharma with a copy of official Government Gazette

What's in a name? Chandalpur becomes Chandanpur

Sonpur isn't alone in this cultural renaissance either; the Deputy CM revealed that another local village, 'Chandalpur', has similarly shed its caste-disparaging name to be reborn as 'Chandanpur' (the land of sandalwood). The Deputy CM also announced funds worth ₹7.5 lakh.

of paper, Gadhabhata was officially erased, and "Sonpur" (the Golden Town) was born. "Names are never just random collections of letters; they are vessels of history, culture, and self-esteem. When a village

bears a name that invites ridicule, it chips away at the collective pride of its people," the local villagers narrated. Recognising this long-standing grievance, Sharma spearheaded the effort to align offi-

cial records with local sentiment. The transition from a derogatory title to an auspicious one required navigating bureaucratic channels—moving from a grassroots proposal to cabinet discussions, securing the governor's assent, and finally, formal publication in the Gazette.

"A village's name is intimately tied to its history, culture, and the self-respect of its people," the Kawardha MLA addressed the jubilant gathering. "The transition to 'Sonpur' is a vital step toward restoring the regional identity and self-esteem of every single resident here," he added.

To ensure the new identity sticks, Sharma urged the villagers to completely adopt "Sonpur" in their daily conversations, ensuring that future generations grow up with a name they can whisper—and shout—with pride. The Deputy CM also announced development funds worth ₹7.5 lakh.

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank

SIRUSERI IT PARK BRANCH
F-13, 1st Main Road, SIPCOT IT Park, Siruseri,
OMR Road, Chengalpattu - 603 103. Telephone : 044-27476500.
email : siruseri@indianbank.bank.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of power conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 17.04.2026 calling upon the Borrower: (1) Mrs. Deivalkshmi Jothishankar, (Borrower/Mortgagor), W/o. Jothishankar, 13, Hebron, V P Colony Extension, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600 023, (2) Mr. Jothishankar N, (Co-Borrower), S/o Nagappan, 13, Hebron, V P Colony Extension, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600 023, with our Siruseri IT Park to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.2,24,25,873/- (Rupees Two crores twenty four lakhs twenty five thousand eight hundred and seventy three only)** along with interest and incidental charges w.e.f. 17.04.2026 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 symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules, on this **17th day of June 2026**.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount of **Rs.2,24,25,873/- (Rupees Two crores twenty four lakhs twenty five thousand eight hundred and seventy three only)** along with interest and incidental charges.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

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

Mortgaged Asset : All that part and parcel of house property situated at Plot No.135, 5th Street, Sri Kamakoti Nagar, Pallikaranai Village, Sholinganallur Taluk with S.No.637/2 and Patta No.33033, total area 3670 Sq. ft. Bounded on the - North by : Plot No.136, South by : Plot No.134, East by : Plot No.144, West by : 40 ft Road.

Date : 17.06.2026
Place : Chennai

Authorised Officer,
Indian Bank.

Regional Stressed Asset Recovery Branch (ROSARB)
1st floor, No.10, C.P Ramasamy Road,
Alwarpet, Chennai-600 018.
Phone : 044-2345 4221

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized 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 19/02/2026 and demand notice paper publication dated 09/03/2026 calling upon the Borrower/s (1) **Mr Arulraj Rathinam S/o Mr Rathinam**, No 7, Block 1, First floor, Door No FA, Jains Nakshatra Apartment, Nalambur, Chennai 600 095 and also at **Mr Arulraj Rathinam S/o Mr Rathinam**, Old No 55, new No 66, Poonamallee High Road, Madhavoyal, Chennai 600 095 2 **Mrs Mary Kalpana A/Wo Mr Arulraj Rathinam**, No 7, Block 1, First floor, Door No FA, Jains Nakshatra Apartment, Nalambur, Chennai 600 095 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 51,32,398.06 (Rupees Fifty One Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand and Three Hundred and Ninety Eight and paise Six Only)** as on 14.02.2026 together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus cost, 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/Guarantor 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 **22nd day of June 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 property will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for an amount of **Rs. 53,18,123.20 (Rupees Fifty Three Lakhs Eighteen Thousand One Hundred and Twenty Three and paise twenty Only)** as on 22.06.2026 and further interest thereon from 23.06.2026 at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:

Schedule A: All that part and parcel of Vacant land measuring 333098.87 Sq.ft (138.79 Ground) comprised in Survey Nos 156/1, 156/2, 157, 158/1A, 158/1B/1 158/2A, 158/2B/1, 163/1A and 167/1 of Nalambur Village, North Chennai Registration District, Konnur Sub Registration district, Tiruvallur district, Ambattur Taluk, formerly Ambattur Municipality now Chennai Corporation (Zone-7) bounded on the North by: Survey Nos 154, 155 and 159, South by: Road, East by: Survey No 159, 163/1B and 158/2B2, West by: Survey Nos 153 and 167/3

Schedule B: 737.66 Sq.ft of undivided share in the entire Schedule A property

Schedule C: Flat No FA in the first floor of 1st block with built up area of 1180 Sq.ft and 168 Sq.ft of Common area with 44 Sq.ft of Open terrace with the said flat named as Jain Nakshatra Apartments with covered Car parking slot bearing No 28, EB connection, Water supply connection etc. . More particularly mentioned in the Sale agreement dated 07/10/2015, Sale deed vide document No 5530/2015 dated 24/11/2015 and Memorandum of Deposit of title deeds vide document No 5531/2015 dated 24/11/2015.

Place : Chennai
Date : 22.06.2026

AUTHORIZED OFFICER
BANK OF BARODA

Debts Recovery Tribunal II, Chennai
6th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastri Bhavan,
Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006
TRC No. 1319/2022 (DRC No.104/2018 DRT-I CHENNAI)

OA No.29/2016 (DRT-I CHENNAI)

In the matter of
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd,
The Ruby, 10th Floor, No.29, Senapathi Bapat Marg, Dadar West, Mumbai-400 078.

...Certificate Holder

Vs.

M/s. Anandaram Developers Pvt. Ltd., & 5 others. ...Certificate Debtors

NOTICE OF SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION

(See Sections 25 to 29 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 r/w Rule 53 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961)

Whereas in execution of Debt Recovery Certificate No. 104/2018 dated 23.06.2018 drawn up by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal - I, Chennai under the Provision of Sub-Section (22) of Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 (Act 51 of 1993), and a Notice of Demand in DRC No.104/2018 dated 29.06.2018 subsequently issued by the Recovery Officer of Debts Recovery Tribunal - I for recovery of Rs. 82,83,63,418.53 (Rupees Eighty Two Crores Sixty Three Lakhs Sixty Three Thousand Four Hundred and Eighteen and Paise Fifty Three Only) and further interest from the Certificate Debtors, and the said DRC 104/2018 has been transferred to this Hon'ble Debts Recovery Tribunal - II, Chennai on jurisdictional grounds in pursuance of Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services Gazette Notification No. S.O. 4717 (E) dated 04-10-2022, and the said Recovery Certificate has been renumbered as TRC No. 1319/2022 on the file of this Tribunal, the undersigned has proposed to sell the under mentioned immovable EM properties, standing in the name of Certificate Debtor/Defendant.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

5641 square yards = 4715.87 square meters in T.S.No.3 belongs to house No. 26-4-5 in the 24th ward, Jampeta Area within the municipal area of Rajahmundry Town, East Godavari District in the state of Andhra Pradesh together with all the buildings and structures thereon, fixtures, fittings and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, both present and future bounded on the, East by: House bearing D. No. 47-1-2, 47-1-3 and 47-1-4, South by: Remaining site of the vendor and others, West by: Main Road, North by: Site of Sattiraju Krishna Rao and others

You are hereby informed that the **10.07.2026 at 11.30 A.M** has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said property or any portion thereof.

This Rule 53 Notice is now published in this newspaper since the Rule 53 Notice dated 20.05.2026 sent to Certificate Debtors are unreturned.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 22nd day of June, 2026.

Sd/-
(SUDHARSHAN.S)
RECOVERY OFFICER

To:
1. The Authorised signatory
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd,
The Ruby, 10th Floor, No.29, Senapathi Bapat Marg, Dadar West, Mumbai-400 078

2. **M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, New No.45 and 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093. Also at, M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Flat No.1-A, Block No.6, Rani Meyyammal Towers, R.A Puram, Chennai-600 028.

3. **M/S. Bharani Properties & Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. K. Tarun Kumar, New No.45 & 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093.

4. **Sri. K. Bappaiah**, S/o. Sri Prakash Rao, No. 15, 3rd Main Road, Seethammal Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai-600 018.

5. **M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Corporate Office, Gemini Tower, No.601, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 006 Also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Registered Office at No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017. And also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, "Anand Regency", D.No. 26-45, Jampet, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh-533 103.

6. **Sri. Mukund Vijayan**, S/o. Sri. K.G. Vijayan, No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017.

7. **Sri. Tarun Kumar**, S/o. Sivaramakrishnaiah, 12/14, Taylors Estate, 1st Street, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600 024.

Sd/-
(SUDHARSHAN.S)
RECOVERY OFFICER

To:
1. The Authorised signatory
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd,
The Ruby, 10th Floor, No.29, Senapathi Bapat Marg, Dadar West, Mumbai-400 078

2. **M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, New No.45 and 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093. Also at, M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Flat No.1-A, Block No.6, Rani Meyyammal Towers, R.A Puram, Chennai-600 028.

3. **M/S. Bharani Properties & Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. K. Tarun Kumar, New No.45 & 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093.

4. **Sri. K. Bappaiah**, S/o. Sri Prakash Rao, No. 15, 3rd Main Road, Seethammal Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai-600 018.

5. **M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Corporate Office, Gemini Tower, No.601, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 006 Also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Registered Office at No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017. And also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, "Anand Regency", D.No. 26-45, Jampet, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh-533 103.

6. **Sri. Mukund Vijayan**, S/o. Sri. K.G. Vijayan, No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017.

7. **Sri. Tarun Kumar**, S/o. Sivaramakrishnaiah, 12/14, Taylors Estate, 1st Street, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600 024.

Sd/-
(SUDHARSHAN.S)
RECOVERY OFFICER

To:
1. The Authorised signatory
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd,
The Ruby, 10th Floor, No.29, Senapathi Bapat Marg, Dadar West, Mumbai-400 078

2. **M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, New No.45 and 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093. Also at, M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Flat No.1-A, Block No.6, Rani Meyyammal Towers, R.A Puram, Chennai-600 028.

3. **M/S. Bharani Properties & Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. K. Tarun Kumar, New No.45 & 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093.

4. **Sri. K. Bappaiah**, S/o. Sri Prakash Rao, No. 15, 3rd Main Road, Seethammal Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai-600 018.

5. **M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Corporate Office, Gemini Tower, No.601, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 006 Also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Registered Office at No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017. And also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, "Anand Regency", D.No. 26-45, Jampet, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh-533 103.

6. **Sri. Mukund Vijayan**, S/o. Sri. K.G. Vijayan, No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017.

7. **Sri. Tarun Kumar**, S/o. Sivaramakrishnaiah, 12/14, Taylors Estate, 1st Street, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600 024.

Sd/-
(SUDHARSHAN.S)
RECOVERY OFFICER

To:
1. The Authorised signatory
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd,
The Ruby, 10th Floor, No.29, Senapathi Bapat Marg, Dadar West, Mumbai-400 078

2. **M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, New No.45 and 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093. Also at, M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Flat No.1-A, Block No.6, Rani Meyyammal Towers, R.A Puram, Chennai-600 028.

3. **M/S. Bharani Properties & Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. K. Tarun Kumar, New No.45 & 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093.

4. **Sri. K. Bappaiah**, S/o. Sri Prakash Rao, No. 15, 3rd Main Road, Seethammal Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai-600 018.

5. **M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Corporate Office, Gemini Tower, No.601, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 006 Also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Registered Office at No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017. And also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, "Anand Regency", D.No. 26-45, Jampet, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh-533 103.

6. **Sri. Mukund Vijayan**, S/o. Sri. K.G. Vijayan, No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017.

7. **Sri. Tarun Kumar**, S/o. Sivaramakrishnaiah, 12/14, Taylors Estate, 1st Street, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600 024.

Sd/-
(SUDHARSHAN.S)
RECOVERY OFFICER

To:
1. The Authorised signatory
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd,
The Ruby, 10th Floor, No.29, Senapathi Bapat Marg, Dadar West, Mumbai-400 078

2. **M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, New No.45 and 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093. Also at, M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Flat No.1-A, Block No.6, Rani Meyyammal Towers, R.A Puram, Chennai-600 028.

3. **M/S. Bharani Properties & Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. K. Tarun Kumar, New No.45 & 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093.

4. **Sri. K. Bappaiah**, S/o. Sri Prakash Rao, No. 15, 3rd Main Road, Seethammal Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai-600 018.

5. **M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Corporate Office, Gemini Tower, No.601, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 006 Also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Registered Office at No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017. And also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, "Anand Regency", D.No. 26-45, Jampet, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh-533 103.

6. **Sri. Mukund Vijayan**, S/o. Sri. K.G. Vijayan, No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017.

7. **Sri. Tarun Kumar**, S/o. Sivaramakrishnaiah, 12/14, Taylors Estate, 1st Street, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600 024.

Sd/-
(SUDHARSHAN.S)
RECOVERY OFFICER

To:
1. The Authorised signatory
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd,
The Ruby, 10th Floor, No.29, Senapathi Bapat Marg, Dadar West, Mumbai-400 078

2. **M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, New No.45 and 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093. Also at, M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Flat No.1-A, Block No.6, Rani Meyyammal Towers, R.A Puram, Chennai-600 028.

3. **M/S. Bharani Properties & Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. K. Tarun Kumar, New No.45 & 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093.

4. **Sri. K. Bappaiah**, S/o. Sri Prakash Rao, No. 15, 3rd Main Road, Seethammal Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai-600 018.

5. **M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Corporate Office, Gemini Tower, No.601, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 006 Also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Registered Office at No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017. And also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, "Anand Regency", D.No. 26-45, Jampet, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh-533 103.

6. **Sri. Mukund Vijayan**, S/o. Sri. K.G. Vijayan, No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017.

7. **Sri. Tarun Kumar**, S/o. Sivaramakrishnaiah, 12/14, Taylors Estate, 1st Street, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600 024.

Sd/-
(SUDHARSHAN.S)
RECOVERY OFFICER

To:
1. The Authorised signatory
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd,
The Ruby, 10th Floor, No.29, Senapathi Bapat Marg, Dadar West, Mumbai-400 078

2. **M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, New No.45 and 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093. Also at, M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Flat No.1-A, Block No.6, Rani Meyyammal Towers, R.A Puram, Chennai-600 028.

3. **M/S. Bharani Properties & Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. K. Tarun Kumar, New No.45 & 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093.

4. **Sri. K. Bappaiah**, S/o. Sri Prakash Rao, No. 15, 3rd Main Road, Seethammal Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai-600 018.

5. **M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Corporate Office, Gemini Tower, No.601, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 006 Also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Registered Office at No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017. And also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, "Anand Regency", D.No. 26-45, Jampet, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh-533 103.

6. **Sri. Mukund Vijayan**, S/o. Sri. K.G. Vijayan, No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017.

7. **Sri. Tarun Kumar**, S/o. Sivaramakrishnaiah, 12/14, Taylors Estate, 1st Street, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600 024.

Sd/-
(SUDHARSHAN.S)
RECOVERY OFFICER

To:
1. The Authorised signatory
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd,
The Ruby, 10th Floor, No.29, Senapathi Bapat Marg, Dadar West, Mumbai-400 078

2. **M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, New No.45 and 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093. Also at, M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Flat No.1-A, Block No.6, Rani Meyyammal Towers, R.A Puram, Chennai-600 028.

3. **M/S. Bharani Properties & Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. K. Tarun Kumar, New No.45 & 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093.

4. **Sri. K. Bappaiah**, S/o. Sri Prakash Rao, No. 15, 3rd Main Road, Seethammal Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai-600 018.

5. **M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Corporate Office, Gemini Tower, No.601, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 006 Also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Registered Office at No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017. And also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, "Anand Regency", D.No. 26-45, Jampet, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh-533 103.

6. **Sri. Mukund Vijayan**, S/o. Sri. K.G. Vijayan, No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017.

7. **Sri. Tarun Kumar**, S/o. Sivaramakrishnaiah, 12/14, Taylors Estate, 1st Street, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600 024.

Sd/-
(SUDHARSHAN.S)
RECOVERY OFFICER

To:
1. The Authorised signatory
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd,
The Ruby, 10th Floor, No.29, Senapathi Bapat Marg, Dadar West, Mumbai-400 078

2. **M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, New No.45 and 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093. Also at, M/S. Anandaram Developers Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Flat No.1-A, Block No.6, Rani Meyyammal Towers, R.A Puram, Chennai-600 028.

3. **M/S. Bharani Properties & Developers Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. K. Tarun Kumar, New No.45 & 47, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-600 093.

4. **Sri. K. Bappaiah**, S/o. Sri Prakash Rao, No. 15, 3rd Main Road, Seethammal Colony, Alwarpet, Chennai-600 018.

5. **M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd**, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Corporate Office, Gemini Tower, No.601, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 006 Also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, Rep. by its Director Shri. Mukund Vijayan, Registered Office at No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017. And also at, M/s. Manoharamma Hotel Investments Pvt Ltd, "Anand Regency", D.No. 26-45, Jampet, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh-533 103.

6. **Sri. Mukund Vijayan**, S/o. Sri. K.G. Vijayan, No.2, Saranganpatti Street, T.Nagar, Chennai-600 017.

7. **Sri. Tarun Kumar**, S/o. Sivaramakrishnaiah, 12/14, Taylors Estate, 1st Street, Kodambakkam, Chennai-600 024.

Sd/-
(SUDHARSHAN.S)
RECOVERY OFFICER

To:
1. The Authorised signatory
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd,
The Ruby, 10th Floor, No.29, Senapathi Bapat Marg, Dadar West, Mumbai-400 078

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd. Gandhiji Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005 (Raj.) Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064, Website: http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD INVITATION OF BIDS-TWO COVER-ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM (E-Submission)

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III AT CHENNAI O.A.No. 1103 of 2025

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED e-TENDER NOTICE

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY YELAHANKA, BENGALURU - 560 064. Website: www.rf.indianrailways.gov.in

IFB No. 01 /F.WSS to SIPCOT- Jeyankondam /SDO/CE-TNJ/2026/ Dt.17.06.2026

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III, AT CHENNAI O.A.No.619 of 2025

QuoteExpress BE KIND WHENEVER POSSIBLE. IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE

MP POORV KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD. BLOCK NO.7, SHAKTI BHAWAN, RAMPUR, JABALPUR (M.P.)

GVK POWER (GOINDWAL SAHIB) LIMITED Regd. Office: Plot No.10, Palgha Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad - 500003.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III, AT CHENNAI O.A.No.619 of 2025

YES BANK Yes Bank Limited First floor, Brindavan Building, Raja Ram Mohan Rao Road, Sampangi Ram nagar, Bangalore-560025

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal) BESCOM invites tenders through KPP Portal from eligible bidders

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

ଓଡିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍ ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

TAMILNADU MERCANTILE BANK LTD (Regd. office at 57, V.E.Road, Thoothukudi) CHENNAI TAMBARAM BRANCH

POSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) The borrower and Guarantor having failed to repay the entire amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on the undersigned, Authorised Officer of the secured creditor

State Bank of India No.44, 1st Floor, Eldams Road, Teynampet, Chennai - 600018. Stressed Assets Recovery Branch - II

State Bank of India THIRUNINRAVAR BRANCH (10666) CTH Road, Natchiyar Chatram, Nadukuthagali, Thiruninavar, Thiruvallur - 602024.

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



100-year-old
Alan Greenspan, the jazz-playing former US Fed chief blamed for the financial crisis, died on Monday



Beijing	29	20	SNY	Los Angeles	27	18	SNY
Colombo	29	27	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	32	28	SNY	Moscow	28	16	SNY
Dubai	34	31	SNY	New York	30	22	SNY
Houston	33	27	TDS	Singapore	31	28	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	26	19	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	31	21	SNY

Starmer quits after months of pressure, Burnham tipped to succeed

LONDON

UK leader Keir Starmer announced he was quitting Monday following months of pressure, with veteran Labour politician Andy Burnham the frontrunner to become the country's seventh prime minister in a decade.

Burnham could be installed in 10 Downing Street in just over three weeks after would-be rival Wes Streeting said he was

backing the ex-Manchester mayor for the premiership.

Starmer's voice cracked during an emotional speech outside his official residence, as he conceded he had lost the support of his Labour party MPs after just two years in office.

He said he had informed head of state King Charles III of his decision to resign so that a new Labour leader, and therefore prime minister, could be elected. "I will remain in post

Starmer leaves India ties on firm footing

LONDON: British Indian leaders said outgoing Prime Minister Keir Starmer leaves UK-India ties on a strong footing after overseeing the signing of the bilateral free trade agreement. They said likely successor Andy Burnham would keep India a priority and push ahead with cooperation in trade, technology, AI, clean energy and security.



Keir Starmer

as prime minister until the contest is complete, and I will do everything I can to ensure an orderly handover of power," Starmer said, choking back tears when he thanked his wife Victoria and two children.

Starmer said he had asked Labour's National Executive Committee to set out a timetable for his replacement, with nominations due to open on July 9 before closing on July 16. If Burnham is unchallenged,

then he is likely to become prime minister on either July 17 or 18, UK media said, just days before a crunch summit UK-European Union summit in Brussels on July 22.

Starmer — well-respected abroad for his involvement in supporting Ukraine, NATO, opposing the United States on Iran and pushing closer ties with Brussels — returned Labour to power after 14 years in opposition with a landslide

general election victory over the Conservatives in July 2024.

His premiership was soon marked by policy U-turns, plunging popularity, ministerial resignations and a scandal over appointing a known associate of late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein as Britain's ambassador to Washington. His authority waned after Labour suffered heavy losses in May local elections, fuelling calls for Burnham to replace him. *AFP*

US, Iran agree on Hormuz hotline, 60-day roadmap

New Lebanon de-confliction cell set up to prevent renewed fighting

BURGENSTOCK

IRAN and the United States agreed on Monday to set up communications lines to keep the vital Strait of Hormuz open and end fighting in Lebanon, mediators said, after their first round of talks in Switzerland toward ending the war in the West Asia. The teams led by US Vice President JD Vance and Iran's Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf opened talks Sunday, as part of a two-month negotiating period set out under a preliminary deal agreed last week.

Mediators Pakistan and Qatar said the negotiators reached agreement on a "roadmap towards reaching a final deal within 60 days", with technical talks to continue for the rest of the week at the Swiss resort of Burgenstock. "Encouraging progress has been made including the creation of a mechanism for further technical talks," they said, detailing a contact channel set up to "avoid incidents and miscommunication" at the Strait of Hormuz.

A "de-confliction cell", between the parties and the Lebanese authorities has also been agreed to prevent fighting from erupting again, they said.

Tehran had effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz in retaliation against the joint attacks by Israel and the United States on February 28 that touched off the war in the West Asia.

Lebanon was pitched into the

conflict as Iran-allied Hezbollah attacked Israel over the war on Tehran, prompting the Israeli's bombardment of their neighbouring country.

After a series of false starts, Washington and Tehran finally signed last week a memorandum of understanding towards ending the conflict that included a provision to end fighting in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah. But there have been repeated clashes in Lebanon since, which prompted Iran to say it would again shutter Hormuz through which oil and gas shipments transit, having opened it as part of the deal.

"Tireless Pakistani and Qatari mediation has delivered major progress to end Lebanon War," Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote on X after the high-level talks in Switzerland.

"Oil and petrochem exports are waived, blockade lifted, some frozen assets released, and major reconstruction & development plan launched for Iran. 1st real test: Lebanon deconfliction cell," he wrote. There was no immediate reaction from US negotiators, but crude prices slipped while stocks mostly gained in Asia as the progress reported by mediators fuelled optimism.

The development came after a shaky start to the negotiations, with the Islamic Republic's delegation walking out in response to Donald Trump's threats to strike Iran over its support for Hezbollah Sunday. *AFP*



Vance says talks with Iran build 'good foundation'



OBBERG: US Vice President JD Vance said talks with senior Iranian officials in Switzerland had laid a "good foundation" for a final agreement, though technical negotiations would continue over the next 60 days. The US Treasury issued a temporary waiver on sanctions on Iranian oil until August 21, citing productive talks. Vance said Washington could consider unfreezing Iranian assets for purchases of US agricultural products under Qatari oversight. He dismissed fears that Trump's threats derailed talks, saying negotiations continued despite Iranian walkout threats.

Hormuz maritime traffic holds steady

PARIS: Maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz remained steady on Monday despite Iran's announcement of a renewed closure. Tracking firm Kpler recorded 15 commodity ship transits by 1100 GMT, in recent days. Tehran announced the closure after Israeli attacks, but subsequent talks with Washington led to mechanisms to secure the waterway. Kpler said Strait remained working despite uncertainty, with some ships sailing with transponders switched off.

Russian drone strike kills family of three in Sumy as Ukraine hits industrial plant

KYIV

A Russian drone strike on the city of Sumy in northeastern Ukraine killed three members of the same family, including a 13-year-old boy, while a Ukrainian strike on a Russian industrial plant killed five people, officials said on Monday.

Russia has pounded civilian areas of Ukraine with drones and missiles since its all-out invasion more than four years ago. Ukraine increasingly has struck back against oil facilities and military factories deep inside Russia.

A United Nations tally says more than 16,000 civilians have died in the war. US-led peace efforts have failed to stop the fighting. The Sumy attack hit a home and killed a 36-year-old man, his son and the 73-year-old mother of his partner, according to Oleh Hryhorov, the head of the regional military administration. The man's partner and 10-year-old son were wounded, he said.

"An ordinary home — not a



People buy food at an improvised outdoor market, burnt cars in the foreground, surrounded by damaged buildings covered with street artists paintings close to a big city marketplace that was ruined recently by Russian missiles in Kyiv | AP

military target whatsoever," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on X.

The Ukrainian missile attack on the industrial plant in Voronezh in southwestern Russia killed five people and injured dozens, Gov Alexander Gusev said. He did not name the plant. Ukraine's General Staff said it hit a Voronezh factory that produces electronic

parts for Russian missile and air defense systems. The number of civilian casualties in Russian attacks has jumped recently, according to the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, as Moscow's forces struggle to gain momentum on the battlefield.

At least 274 civilians were killed and 1,763 injured in Ukraine in May, the highest

European leaders to meet for Ukraine talks in Berlin

BERLIN: Leaders of Europe's top military powers will meet in Berlin on Wednesday to discuss Ukraine and preparations for the NATO summit in Ankara next month, the German government said. Chancellor Friedrich Merz will host leaders of France, Britain, Italy and Poland, with NATO chief Mark Rutte joining by video link. The meeting will also address the Middle East situation. Britain's political turmoil following Prime Minister Keir Starmer's resignation will not affect the talks, Berlin said.

monthly total of civilian casualties since April 2022, the mission said earlier this month. Most casualties are in cities far from the front line, it said.

A Russian nighttime drone strike killed a woman and wounded three people, including an 11-year-old boy, in the southeastern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, regional head Ivan Fedorov said. *AP*

China retaliates after US blacklist, sanctions 10 military-related firms

BEIJING

CHINA on Monday announced sanctions on 10 American military-related companies in response to a recent US move that bars some leading Chinese tech companies from defense contracts. The Commerce Ministry said that Chinese companies would be blocked from exporting "dual-use" items to the 10 companies, which include military drone makers and some involved in rare earth mining. Dual use refers to goods that can have military as well as non-military applications.

The ministry said the export ban was both to safeguard China's national security and in response to what it called the U.S. government's "wrongful expansion of its so-called List of Chinese Military Companies." George Chen, partner for Greater China at the advisory

firm The Asia Group, said the ban was an unsurprising and proportionate response to the U.S. restrictions.

"Most of them are U.S. defense industry players or they have close connections with the US government for contracts and other reasons," he said. "Those companies are not going to do business in China, so the impact will be quite symbolic." Separately, the Finance Ministry said that government entities would be prohibited from buying products from 46 American companies including multiple units of Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and General Dynamics. A brief statement did not give any reason for the prohibition.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Defense Department added several tech companies including

Alibaba and Baidu to its list of firms that it says have links to the Chinese military. Baidu said the suggestion that it is a military company is "totally baseless." The designation prevents them from getting US military contracts.

The Commerce Ministry said at the time that the American sanctions run counter to the consensus that Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Donald Trump reached during Trump's visit to China in May.

In Monday's announcement, the ministry said that companies or individuals in third countries are prohibited from transferring dual-use items from China to the sanctioned American firms.

It also said that Chinese companies could apply for export approval for goods that are "genuinely necessary." *AP*

Singapore workers among world's least engaged at 14%

SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE's workforce is among the most disengaged globally, with only 14 per cent of employees saying they feel motivated and committed to their work, raising concerns about the city-state's future competitiveness, according to a report released on Monday.

The inaugural Singapore Workplace Report 2026, published by the Singapore Institute of Directors (SID) and US analytics firm Gallup, found that employee engagement in Singapore lagged behind the global average of 20 per cent and the Southeast Asian average of 25 per cent in 2025.

SID is the national association of company directors. It works closely with the authorities to uphold and enhance the highest standards of corporate governance. Workplace engagement in Singapore has remained largely unchanged since falling in 2019, the report stated. By comparison, employee engagement stood at 9 per cent in Vietnam, 25 per cent in Malaysia, 27 per cent in Indonesia and 34 per cent in Thailand in 2025.

The report warned that Singapore's low engagement could hurt competitiveness, while Minister Dinesh Vasu Dash said many firms still overlook human capital. *PTI*

INDONESIA

INDUSTRY TIES DEEPEN WITH EURASIA

Industrial cooperation with Russia and Eurasian nations is set to deepen through INNOPROM 2026, where Indonesia will be the official partner country. A delegation of 50 companies will attend the July 6-9 exhibition in Yekaterinburg, Russia, showcasing priority sectors and seeking investment and manufacturing partnerships. Bilateral trade with Russia reached \$1.876 billion in 2025, while Russian investment stood at \$262.8 million. Recent agreements and the Indonesia-EAEU CEPA have expanded trade and industrial cooperation across Eurasia.

ASIA MATTERS

MALAYSIA

NEW CYBERCRIME BILL TABLED

A new Cybercrime Bill was tabled in Parliament to replace the 1997 computer crimes law and tackle emerging threats, including AI misuse. The proposed legislation contains 61 clauses covering identity theft, fraud, false communications and intimate images, with enhanced penalties for serious offences. It also aligns with global cybercrime norms.

THAILAND

GOVERNMENT SETS 12-YEAR GROWTH PLAN

Government has set a 12-year target to achieve high-income status and escape the middle-income trap through closer public-private cooperation. Authorities aim to rank among the world's top 20 economies in competitiveness by 2030 and raise growth potential above 3%. Plans focus on investment, tourism, innovation and regulatory reforms, while boosting AI skills and infrastructure. Investment is targeted to rise to 30% of GDP, with trade deals and legal reforms expected to support growth and create broader opportunities for businesses and communities.

Two teenagers open fire at Philippines school, kill three

MANILA

TWO students armed with hand guns opened fire in a high school in the central Philippines on Monday, killing three fellow students and wounding another seven, police said.

The suspects, aged 14 and 15, were arrested. The suspects and the victims were students of the San Jose National High School in Tacloban city, where the mid-morning shooting happened, regional police chief Brig. Gen. Jason Capoy said.

An investigation was underway to determine the cause of the shooting in the government-run school, which has more than 1,500 students. Capoy said that the suspects, who were close friends, said in initial questioning that they were bullied in school. He did not elaborate. They have no criminal records. One of the suspects got the 9 mm pistol he used in the attack from an aunt, a police officer, who was now being investigated. The other suspect used a cal. 38 revolver. *AP*

DEA tracked fentanyl shipments but let pills reach streets

ALBUQUERQUE

EVEN as it battled the deadliest drug epidemic in American history, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration permitted hundreds of thousands of fentanyl pills to hit the streets of New Mexico between 2023 and 2025, according to three current and former DEA agents and government records reviewed by The Associated Press.

DEA agents repeatedly monitored shipments of fentanyl

pills — but did not seize them — as federal prosecutors sought to bring bigger criminal cases against traffickers of a synthetic opioid that the White House last year designated a "weapon of mass destruction."

Agents and experts, however, said the tactic amounted to a gamble with public safety that potentially imperiled communities in and around Albuquerque and may have violated U.S. Justice Department rules intended to safeguard the pub-



File: Pills containing fentanyl which were seized by the DEA in New Mexico | AP

lic. "We poisoned our community to make cases," DEA Special Agent David Howell told AP in a series of interviews in New Mexico. "Through our own willful blindness, we get to say, 'We don't really know what happened to the drugs.' But we 100% got people killed."

The DEA has long contended it would not be plausible to seize every shipment of every drug. But the strategy of allowing staggering amounts of counterfeit painkillers to hit the streets

shocked several veteran agents who spoke with AP.

Ridding the streets of illicit fentanyl, manufactured mostly in Mexican labs, became the DEA's top priority over the past decade as overdose deaths surged. At the same time, its lethality — a few milligrams can kill the average adult — upended time-tested tactics that had been used to combat drugs like cocaine and heroin. Agents allowed drug deals to trace supply chains. *AP*

LETTING POISON FLOW

Indian logistics cos see no respite from high freight rates for months

Representatives of these cos to meet top shipping ministry officials this week in this regard

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

DESPITE the ceasefire announced between the US and Iran and the partial easing of tensions following the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, Indian freight and logistics companies see little immediate relief in freight rates.

Industry representatives are scheduled to meet officials from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways this week to gain a better understanding of the evolving situation and discuss alternative shipping routes that could help reduce cargo transportation costs, a person aware of the matter said.

"Freight rates are unlikely to soften immediately. Any meaningful reduction will depend on sustainability of the ceasefire and the pace at which airlines restore normal schedules and add capacity," said Vipin Vohra, Chairman of Continental Carriers Group of Companies and a Managing Committee member of PHDCCL.

However, Vohra noted that the ceasefire has already improved supply chain predictability, boosting confidence



among airlines, shippers and freight forwarders, with pricing relief expected to follow as market conditions gradually normalise.

According to industry executives, it could take several weeks for both air and sea cargo routes to return to normal operations, while freight rates may remain elevated for at least a couple of months.

"Everything will depend on how quickly ships are able to navigate through the Strait of Hormuz and reach destinations such as India and China. Another important factor is how soon production facilities af-

ected by the conflict resume normal operations," said Vijay Kumar, CEO of the Express Industry Council of India (EICI).

Industry players said shipping lines, insurers and vessel operators are likely to wait for sustained geopolitical stability, safe passage through key shipping lanes, progress in mine-clearance operations and greater clarity on war-risk premiums, tolls and other surcharges before rolling back emergency charges or lowering freight rates.

"Meaningful freight cost relief may take around six to eight weeks, provided the

Many weeks to restore normalcy in routes

According to industry representatives, it will take a few more weeks to restore the normalcy in terms of both the air and sea routes and more than a couple of months or longer for the freight rates to come down.

ceasefire holds, the Strait of Hormuz remains safely navigable and direct sailings resume to key transshipment hubs such as Jebel Ali. Full normalisation could take three to five months as cargo backlogs, port congestion, vessel schedule disruptions, transshipment delays, feeder-network constraints and container imbalances will take time to clear," said Krishnakumar Nair, Founder and CMD of Kenshine Group.

Industry executives added that any relief in freight costs is likely to be reflected first in fresh bookings and new invoices, while cargo already in transit under contingency pricing is expected to continue bearing the higher transportation costs.

AUTOMOBILES

Renault India exports 750 vehicles to South Africa

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

FRENCH carmaker Renault Group's India unit has begun export of its new Duster, manufactured in its Chennai plant, with a first shipment of 750 vehicles, to South Africa.

The shipment, from Ennore port, marks the beginning of Renault India's export programme for new Duster, with additional international markets planned in the coming months. It also reflects the company's future strategy to strengthen India's position as a key hub for manufacturing, engineering, and exports.

The new Duster was launched in January and at a starting price of Rs 10.49 lakh. Under its 'futureReady India' strategy, Renault aims to make India one of its top three global markets by 2030 and is targeting an annual revenue of ₹2 billion from exports, R&D, and components over the next five years.

Stephane Deblaise, CEO of Renault India, said, "The start of exports of the all-new Duster is an important moment for Renault India and a strong validation of the quality, capabilities, and competitiveness of our operations in Chennai. It reflects the progress we have made in building India into an integral part of Renault's global industrial footprint."

"India possesses all the fundamentals required to emerge as a leading automotive export hub: world-class manufacturing capabilities, engineering talent, scale, and a rapidly evolving logistics ecosystem. As Renault continues to expand its international footprint, India will play an increasingly strategic role in our future plans. We remain committed to contributing to the country's manufacturing ambitions and are working towards our objective of generating ₹2 billion in annual exports from India by 2030." The new Duster is the first Renault vehicle in India to be built on the Renault Group Modular Platform (RGMP), a flexible architecture designed to support multiple powertrain technologies.



'Poor monsoons may affect growth, inflation outlook'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

WITH the El Nino looking more or less certain, central bank analysts fear the weather impact may upset the South-west monsoons, posing headwinds for growth and inflation outlook, according to the Reserve Bank Bulletin for June.

An adverse southwest monsoon could weigh on growth and inflation outlook even as the economy remains resilient amid a fragile global environment, said an article in bulletin published on Monday.

Geopolitical tension and trade disruptions have persisted despite recent interim peace deal in West Asia, said the article. Global economic landscape remains fragile despite some respite gained through the interim US-Iran peace agreement, the article added.

"Any breakdown of the agreement may reignite material risks in terms of inflationary expectations, disrupted critical energy infrastructure, delayed investment spending, food security concerns, ad-



verse financial stability outlook and structurally lower growth," the article notes.

Amid the challenging global environment, the economy grew at 7.8% in Q4 of FY26, supported by private consumption and fixed investment. High-frequency indicators during the first two months of FY27 suggest sustained economic momentum, it added. Despite a pick-up in May, the consumer price index remained anchored and the external sector remains resilient, supported by FDI inflows and adequate foreign exchange reserves.

"The economy entered this turbulence with much better fundamentals relative to many other countries to sustain the shock," it said.

RBI REMAINS NET \$ SELLER FOR 2ND MONTH

MUMBAI: For the second consecutive month, the Reserve Bank remained a net seller of dollars in the spot market as the rupee continued to remain under pressure. According to the latest RBI bulletin, the central bank net sold \$8.94 billion in the spot market in the reporting month of April. The Reserve Bank net sold \$8.944 billion in the spot currency market in April, the monthly bulletin for June released on Monday said. ENS

RBI's gold reserves remain at 880.52 tonnes

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

THE Reserve Bank's latest data has once again established that the recent report by foreign news agency Bloomberg that the central bank had sold gold worth \$12 billion to shore up the forex reserves to prop the rupee, is factually incorrect and baseless as the gold reserves stood at 880.52 tonnes as of June 6, 2026.

After the news report based on sources, the RBI had on June 3 denied any substance to the report saying The RBI said in a statement its physical stock of the precious metal remains unchanged at 880.52 tonne. The report had claimed that the RBI had sold gold from the reserves worth \$12 billion in the two weeks through May 22 while buying \$7.5 billion of foreign-currency assets. "The RBI has come across reports in certain sections of the media about sale of gold. The RBI emphasizes that these reports are not correct," the central bank had said.

As per the latest RBI bulletin, the country's gold reserves stood unchanged at 880.52 tonnes for the latest tabulation week of June 6, which in value terms stood at \$11.26 billion, down nearly \$10 billion from the previous week.

BROKERAGES BET ON RIL, VALUE JIO AT \$130 BILLION

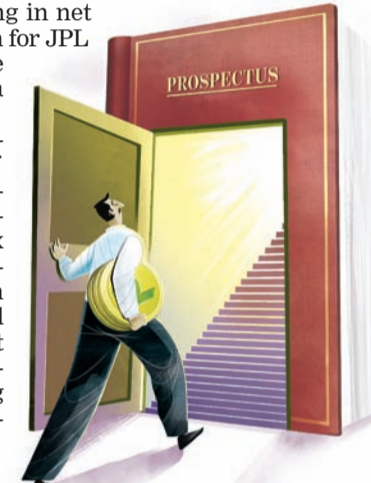
ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

BROKERAGES gave a big thumbs up to Reliance Industries (RIL) following the 49th annual general meeting on Friday, wherein the conglomerate announced launching India's largest initial public offering (IPO) by taking Jio Platform Ltd (JPL) public, expanding manufacturing capabilities, investing in the AI ecosystem and new energy commissioning milestones. Brokerages have pegged Jio Platform's valuation between \$115-130 billion.

Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFS) expects Reliance Jio (RJio) to remain the biggest growth driver for RIL (digital services likely to contribute 80% of RIL's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) over FY26-28), with an 18% reported EBITDA compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) over FY26-28.

"We value RJio on a discounted cash flow (DCF) implied 11.5x Mar'28E EV/EBITDA to arrive at our enterprise valuation of ₹11.3 lakh crore (\$120 bn) for RJio (Wireless + Home broadband). We assign ₹74,000 (\$8 bn) valuation to other non-mobility offerings under JPL to arrive at ₹12 lakh crore (or \$128 bn) enterprise valuation. Factoring in net debt, our equity valuation for JPL stands at ₹10.7 lakh crore (\$114 bn)," said MOSF in a report.

RJio standalone accounted for 88%/95%/94% of JPL's consolidated revenue/reported EBITDA/attributionable profit after tax (PAT) in FY26. MOSF reiterated its BUY rating on RIL with an unchanged target price of ₹1,655. It added that value unlocking through the impending JPL IPO, ramp-up of quick-commerce offerings.



Remains Upbeat

- Jio to remain biggest growth driver for RIL
- Digital services to make up 80% of RIL's EBITDA
- MOSF reiterates its BUY rating on RIL



Core sector growth slows to 7-mnth low of 0.5% in May

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA'S core infrastructure sector growth touched seven-month low to 0.5% year-on-year in May, due to fall in the growth in energy sector such as coal, natural gas, refinery products, as per the provisional data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Monday.

The Index of Eight Core Industries, which tracks coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity, accounts for 40.27% of the weight of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and serves as an important indicator of industrial activity.

The slowdown was largely driven by a contraction in energy-producing sectors with the output of coal, crude oil, natural gas and refinery products declining during the month, dragging down overall growth. Coal output contracted 9.3% YoY, while crude oil and natural gas production fell 4.6% and 4.9%, respectively.

Petroleum refinery products, which carry the highest weight in the core sector basket, declined 8.7%, reflecting weak energy demand and output. Fertiliser production also slipped 0.9%, adding to the broad-based slowdown across key infrastructure industries. Sectors like steel, cement and electricity production continued to register positive growth.

The cement output touched a three-month high at 8.4% in May, rose from 8.2% in April, while steel output is up by 5%. Electricity production witnessed the highest growth at 8.7% due to surge in demand amid the rising temperature in summer. The core sector growth stood at 1.8% in April and it stood at 1.2% in May last year.

EXPRESS READ

VIL raises ₹1,182 cr from promoter AB Group

NEW DELHI: Debt-ridden Vodafone Idea has raised ₹1,182 crore from promoter Aditya Birla group via an issue of warrants, as per exchange filing. VIL targets to triple cashflow, tax refunds and fresh capital infusion from promoters in next three years. ENS

Sensex rebounds on softening oil prices

NEW DELHI: Stock markets rebounded on Monday with the benchmark Sensex gaining 291 points following a decline in crude oil prices amid hopes of diplomatic progress in US-Iran talks. The BSE Sensex climbed 0.38% to settle at 77,094.07. ENS

Margins of OMCs likely to improve

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

PROFITABILITY of state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) is likely to improve as falling crude oil prices strengthen fuel marketing margins, though rising debt levels and uncertainty over future fuel taxation could limit the sector's long-term earnings outlook, as per a report by JP Morgan.

The brokerage said composite margins — which combine profits from refining and fuel marketing operations on petrol and diesel — have risen above levels seen before recent West Asia conflict. The improvement has been driven by lower crude prices and reduced central excise duties on petrol and diesel.

Among the three state-run OMCs — Bharat Petroleum



Corporation Limited (BPCL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) — BPCL and IOC are expected to benefit the most if crude oil prices continue to soften.

The outbreak of the West Asia conflict had triggered a sharp rise in global crude prices. However, retail fuel prices in India remained largely unchanged for an extended period and rose only partially despite higher input costs. Even after

the ₹7.5/litre hike in petrol and diesel prices in May, retail prices remained below cost levels.

"Our estimates for OMCs' composite margins on petrol and diesel are now higher than pre-war levels. Losses on LPG are still elevated, but should start to track oil down soon," JP Morgan said. The report added that earnings during the April-June quarter are likely to be impacted by major inventory losses due to the recent decline in crude oil prices.

Data projects may cover 15% of IT cos' revenue

PADMINI DHURVARAJ @ Bengaluru

AI deployments are driving demand for data modernisation projects, which analysts estimate could contribute 10-15% of revenue for large IT services companies as clients move beyond pilot programmes.

Enterprises are increasing spending on data foundations as AI moves from experimentation to wider deployments, as per analysts. "As far as data is concerned, AI can work if the quality of your data is good," Hexaware Technologies' CFO Vikash Kumar Jain said. "So a lot of projects are coming in with respect to the data front so we are seeing tailwinds in terms of the demands on the data side."

The executive said customers were shifting from experiments to larger deployments. "We are



seeing that the clients are pivoting from experimentation to real enterprise grade transformations," Jain said. Analysts said data engineering, governance and modernisation work could become a growing source of revenue for IT services firms as companies seek to prepare fragmented and legacy systems for AI applications.

"In previous technology cy-

cles, infrastructure work preceded application spending, and AI appears no different.

Based on structure of the emerging AI services market and enterprise spending priorities, we estimate data modernisation and governance may account for a quarter of the AI services opportunity by 2030. For large IT services firms, data-related work may rise from 10%

Enterprises raise spends on data foundations

Enterprises are increasing spending on data foundations as artificial intelligence moves from experimentation to wider deployments, according to analysts

of revenues today to 15-25% over the next few years," a veteran sector analyst said. Consultancy firm McKinsey said in April that data is the foundation of agentic AI and that enterprises seeking to scale such systems need modern data architectures and stronger data quality controls. Research firm Forrester said this month that three-quarters of enterprises were adopting agentic AI, but only a small minority had deployed it in production environments due to challenges related to orchestration and governance.

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THE average revenue earned by telecom service providers like Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea improved 0.76% to ₹196.04 in the quarter ended March 2026 from ₹194.57 in the preceding quarter. According to a report by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, wireless (Average Revenue Per User) ARPU rose 7.15% on a year-on-year basis. The report showed prepaid users generated slightly higher revenue than postpaid users during the quarter. Monthly ARPU for prepaid customers stood at ₹196.22, while postpaid subscribers contributed ₹194.31 per month.

Telecom sector's financial performance also improved during the quarter. Gross rev-

enue (GR) of the sector stood at ₹1.05 lakh crore during the January-March period, while applicable gross revenue (ApGR) was ₹98,638 crore and adjusted gross revenue (AGR) was at ₹86,716 crore.

Compared with the previous quarter, gross revenue rose 2.58%, ApGR rose 2.26% and AGR increased 2.90%.

On an annual basis, the sector saw healthy growth across key revenue parameters. Gross Revenue rose 6.99% YoY, while ApGR and AGR registered growth of 6.50 per cent and 9.45 per cent, respectively. The report also noted that licence fee collections from telecom operators rose to ₹6,936 crore during the quarter, as against ₹6,733 crore in the December quarter.





From car-washing to top of world, Beiranvand's story

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN

On a bus during the 40-hour journey from Tehran to Antalya in March, Iran's Alireza Beiranvand found it difficult to sit in his seat. His 6'5" frame meant he had to stretch his limbs from time to time.

So, the custodian decided to lie down on the floor while the bus transported members of the Iranian team for one of their training camps after the war broke out in the last week of February.

"They snaked their way from Tehran on a 40-hour bus journey over the Turkish border," The Athletic had reported before the World Cup. "During that difficult journey, Beiranvand lay in the aisle on the floor to stretch out his long limbs."

Beiranvand, in his 88th game for the country, was lying on the ground. He had gone down trying to intercept a Kevin de Bruyne cut-back from close range but couldn't get his hands to it. The goal was gaping and the loose ball was bobbling towards the onrushing Nicolas de Cuyper. A capacity crowd at the SoFi Stadium expected the goalkeeper was on the floor; face-first and in no position to react. Yet, the 33-year-old reacted just in time as strong his left arm repelled De Cuyper's goal-



Alireza Beiranvand denies Maxime De Cuyper during the match in Los Angeles | AP

bound effort. The save itself had to be seen to be believed.

This has probably been a tournament for the world's best forwards, but this has also been a tournament for the lesser-known goalkeepers making heroic saves. After Vozinha (Cape Verde) and Eloy Room (Curaçao), it's now Beiranvand.

For a goalkeeper, being spreadeagled on the floor comes with the territory. It's an occupational hazard. But Beiranvand learned to be prone on the floor long before he had become a storied custodian for Team Melli. Born to a nomadic family in western Iran, he ran away from home because his ambitions in football were being curtailed by his own father.

"My father didn't like football at all and he asked me to work," he had once told The Guardian in an interview. "He even tore my clothes and gloves and I played with bare hands several times." In Tehran, a city where football is very much part of the cultural fabric, he started taking baby steps. Along the way, he had to make do. First, on the streets next to Azadi Tower. Next, by the door of the first club that took him in. At a pizza place he used to work in. Or at the car wash facility. He used to work in all of these places by day. In the afternoon, he would work on his goalkeeping. When it was time to sleep, he used to return to his place of employment.

Full story: [newindianexpress.com](#)

UZBEKISTAN: Yusupov (1); Ashurmatov (5), Khusanov (2), Abdullaev (18), Karimov (24); Mozgovoy (6), Shukurov (7); Nasrullaev (13); Fayzullaev (22), Shomurodov (14), Urunov (11).

PORTUGAL: D Costa (1); Cancelo (20), Dias (3), R Veiga (13), Mendes (25); Vitorino (15), J Neves (23), B Silva (10), Fernandes (8), Leao (17); Ronaldo (7).

SPOTLIGHT ON PORTUGAL

AFTER AN INSIPID SHOW AGAINST DR CONGO, PORTUGAL WILL BE HOPING TO BRING THEIR A-GAME WHEN THEY FACE UZBEKISTAN IN HOUSTON TODAY. A LOOK...

EYES ON RONALDO

Cristiano Ronaldo had a stinker against DR Congo and critics have questioned whether his lack of mobility is having a negative effect on his team's chances. The 41-year-old star forward will be determined to change the narrative with a good outing. Portugal need a win to get their campaign up and running.

ELECTRIC FAYZULLAEV

Making their debut, Uzbekistan put up a spirited fight in their loss against Colombia and the players will be eager to show their talent while rubbing shoulders with high-profile names from Portugal. Abdosbek Fayzullaev, who scored Uzbekistan's maiden WC goal, has plenty of pace to burn and the 22-year-old will be hoping to test the Portugal defence.

Today's match

Group K: Portugal vs Uzbekistan | 10:30 PM

OTHER MATCHES

Group L: Panama vs Croatia (4:30 AM*)

Group K: Colombia vs DR Congo (7:30 AM*)

*IST Wednesday

LIVE on Unite8 Sports & Zee5

WORLD CLASS

LIONEL MESSI'S GOALS AT THE MARQUEE EVENT

A LOOK AT ALL OF MESSI'S GOALS IN THE FIFA WORLD CUP



SIX IN A ROW FOR LEO

The record goal for a 1-0 lead vs Austria came in the 38th minute, two days before Messi's 39th birthday. He scored again in the 95th minute before final whistle. It was the sixth consecutive WC game in which Messi has scored — joining France's Just Fontaine & Brazil's Jairzinho as only players to do so.



GOALS BREAKDOWN

Right foot: 4
Left foot: 14 (including 4 penalties, 1 freekick)

- vs Serbia and Montenegro | 2006
- vs Bosnia and Herzegovina | 2014
- vs Iran | 2014
- vs Nigeria | 2014
- vs Nigeria | 2014
- vs Nigeria | 2018
- vs Saudi Arabia | 2022
- vs Mexico | 2022
- vs Australia | 2022
- vs Netherlands | 2022
- vs Croatia | 2022
- vs France | 2022
- vs France | 2022
- vs Algeria | 2026
- vs Algeria | 2026
- vs Algeria | 2026
- vs Austria | 2026
- vs Austria | 2026

MESSI — ANTIDOTE TO EVERYDAY HUMAN LIFE

The Argentine takes record WC goal tally to 18 as holders advance

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN

THE world increasingly feels dystopian. Wars, new and old, playing out on news channels every other day. Conflicts everywhere. Babies as young as three days old pawns in a geopolitical game. You worry if the next Ebola outbreak could be ground zero for another pandemic. Temperature, the basic tenet of human existence, uncontrollable. The spread of AI may lead to a loss of jobs all over the world. Through it all, one man has continued to spread joy to millions worldwide — Lionel Messi.

On Monday morning, as thousands of Arlington residents began a new work week, the Argentine genius scored a 17th World Cup goal to go to a place where no man has gone before in the history of 96-year tournament. Sport will never be a satisfaction guarantee, but millions still watch it in the hope of an escape, to feel something. To lose themselves for a moment or two.

Messi has been that escape for millions for almost two decades. An antidote to everyday life. For the bank teller, for the bus conductor, for the school principal, for the 16-year-old schoolkid... years down the line, these are the days that you will remember.

The former Ajax team manager, David Endt, had once described that the seconds of the greats last longer. Messi's genius — his greatness — has lasted for over 20 years. He didn't need the 17th goal and Miroslav Klose's long-standing record to re-emphasise his place at the apex of men's football. In 2026, nobody really remembers Pele or Diego Maradona for the records they broke. They are, first and foremost, in the minds of scores because they genuinely made people smile a bit longer. It's the same thing with the Argentine. In 2022, around the start of the World Cup in Qatar, a senior government official in

Argentina was asked for a way around rising inflation. The gist of the answer was it could wait; winning the World Cup assumed greater importance. In a country where approximately 40 per cent live below the poverty line, this victory should have meant nothing. Yet, it acted as temporary balm for over 45 million (that's before you count the millions all over the world who worship at the altar of Messi). Xavi Hernandez, Barcelona legend and one of the greatest midfielders of all time, is one of those. "I messaged Leo after the Algeria game," he wrote in The Athletic. "I told him that he was a joke, that I could only laugh when I saw what he had done. For me, he's incomparable. Incomparable. Almost inhuman."

It's very clear that these are the last days of Messi on a football ground. Savour these moments. Drink it in. And bottle these memories for there will never be another like him.

Full story: [newindianexpress.com](#)

Three Lions eye three more points

UPBEAT ENGLAND FACE GHANA IN A GROUP L CLASH IN WHAT PROMISES TO BE AN INTERESTING BATTLE. TALKING POINTS...

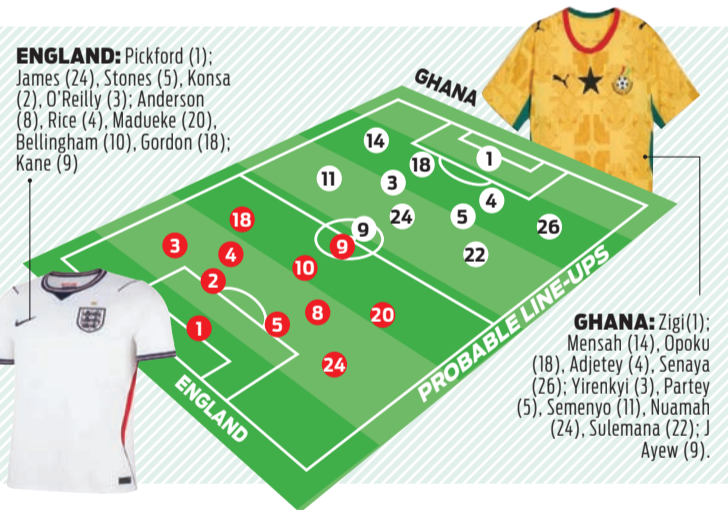
KANE, LEADER OF PRIDE

Captain Harry Kane scored twice as England defeated Croatia 4-2. The English are bidding to end a 60-year wait for a major title and Kane will be determined to keep them in the hunt. England can mathematically enter the knockout stage with a win.

PARTEY BOOST FOR GHANA

Thomas Partey, who missed the opener due to visa issues, is likely to make a return. While Partey's presence could spur the Black Cats, Antoine Semenyo is expected to be the game-changer. A win for Ghana can help them advance to the KOs

Live Action England vs Ghana (1:30 AM*) *IST Wednesday
LIVE on Unite8 Sports and Zee5



QUICK PASSES

Schlotterbeck out of event

NORTH CAROLINA: Germany defender Nico Schlotterbeck has been ruled out of the rest of the World Cup with a left ankle injury sustained during their 2-1 win over Ivory Coast. As per the German football federation, Tests back at the team camp in North Carolina on Sunday revealed he sustained an injury to the medial ligament in his ankle and will be out for months.

SALAH ADDS TO LIST OF ACCOLADES IN WC



Mo Salah (L) celebrates a goal against New Zealand in Vancouver on Sunday | AP

AGENCIES @ Vancouver

WHILE Mohamed Salah's club career is still undecided, he's building his legacy with Egypt. Salah scored his 68th goal in international play, a total now just one goal shy of current Egypt coach Hossam Hassan's career record for the Pharaohs, in a 3-1 World Cup victory on Sunday over New Zealand.

It was his third World Cup goal after he netted two at the 2018 tournament in Russia.

Three goals at the World Cup gives the 34-year-old Salah the most ever for an Egyptian player. "What happened today is history for us as Egyptians," Salah said. "We see a lot of teams win games, but for us as Egyptian, it doesn't happen often, first time in history." **Results: Group G:** New Zealand 1 (Surman 15') lost to Egypt 3 (Ziko 58', Salah 67', Trezeguet 82'); **Group H:** Uruguay 2 (Araujo 44', Canobbio 45+6'); **Group I:** Belgium 0 drew with Iran 0. **Group J:** Argentina 2 (Messi 38', 90+5') bt Austria 0.

England boss Tuchel's tryst with a Kerala Ayurveda retreat

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN

BEFORE embarking on the mission to help England win the World Cup for the first time since 1966, Thomas Tuchel took a detour. His destination? The Nambikadavu Road in Thalikulam, Thrissur, to the Sitaram Beach Retreat in Kerala by the sea.

The German is somebody who follows Ayurveda. In fact, he spent a few weeks there in 2022 after he was let go by English giants Chelsea. He had visited the centre a few months after one of the most extraordi-

nary endings to a match in Premier League history.

In one of the earliest weekends of the 2022-23 season, Tuchel (then coach of Chelsea) and Antonio Conte (then Tottenham coach) squared off against each other following a handshake. Weeks later, Tuchel was shown the door. In 2021, he had given the London side one of their greatest nights by helping them win the Champions League.

The 52-year-old decided he needed to rejuvenate after a fairly tumultuous period in his professional life. "He wanted to



England manager Thomas Tuchel at Retreat centre in Thrissur | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

come for a reset in 2022," Vignesh Devraj, the founder of Retreat, tells this daily. When he was there the first time, he underwent a "panchakarma treatment" according to the Retreat's Insta handle. "Over time, I felt healthier, lighter, more self-aware, and genuinely at peace," was Tuchel's takeaway in his testimonial. He had been told of the facility by one of his assistant coaches. "For a very long time, I had become attached to meditation, the lifestyle and the philosophy and I always had a good feeling about it..."

Full story: [newindianexpress.com](#)

CWG 2030 to feature 17 sports

ENS/AGENCIES @ Chennai

SEVENTEEN sporting events will feature at the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad, which is set to be staged at around 60 per cent lower cost than previous editions as part of the Commonwealth Sport's revamped hosting model and in an effort to deliver a more cost-effective event, CEO Katie Sadleir said on Monday. "We will be going back up to a programme of 17 sports in Ahmedabad," Sadleir said in a virtual media briefing.

Another loss could cost India the WC

GOMESH S @ Chennai

AS an emotional Marizanne Kapp let out a roar at the Old Trafford, Manchester on Sunday evening, India had suffered at the hands of South Africa in the Women's T20 World Cup. And once again, it all felt like a familiar story playing out over and over again.

The Women in Blue, having beaten the two easier opponents early on, had fallen short at the first real challenge

in the ICC event. And as a result, now they are in a position where the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side had to beat Bangladesh and Australia in their next two games to qualify comfortably. It is not an impossible way forward, but considering the real possibility of an early elimination — in consecutive T20 World Cups — the loss against Proteas would sting harder.

Even more so considering the familiarity of the opponents and what is at stake. Head coach

Amol Muzumdar remained positive, reiterating that there is no need for panic and adverse reactions after what was their first loss. While he has a point, the disappointing aspect about the result, or the lack thereof, is the predictability of it all.

While India were handed a hefty blow with the injury of Shreyanka Patil, the mistakes and tactical errors made on Sunday calls for a quick introspection. **Today's matches:** NZ vs SCO, Bristol, 7PM; IRE vs SL, Bristol, 11PM
Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar
Full story: [newindianexpress.com](#)

EXPRESS READ

Serena to play singles at Wimbledon as wildcard

LONDON: Tennis great Serena Williams, who retired in 2022, has been awarded a wildcard for the Wimbledon grass court championships starting in a week. Organisers released their initial list of wildcards on Sunday, with Williams, a seven-time champion at the All England Club, one of eight players awarded a place in the ladies singles event. A social media post by the official Wimbledon Championships said: "This is not a drill" with a picture of Williams standing on a grass court captioned "Serena returns".

Tickets for World Badminton C'ships on sale

NEW DELHI: Tickets priced between Rs 499 and Rs 5,500 will be available for fans across 6,000 seats when the BWF World Championships returns to India after 17 years at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium from August 17 to 23. The Badminton Association of India (BAI) on Monday announced BookMyShow as the official ticketing partner for the prestigious event as ticket sales opened.

Shooter Pritam bags junior world title

SUHL (GERMANY): Teenager Pritam Kendre struck gold in the men's 10m air rifle competition at the ISSF Junior World Championship. India also bagged a bronze in the women's 25m pistol team event, taking their medal tally to 11, including five gold.

India's Suthar sizzles in County C'ship

TAUNTON: India's newest spin bowling star Manav Suthar got his maiden five-wicket haul for Warwickshire in an English County Championship game against Somerset. Suthar, who was contracted to play two red ball games for the 'Bears', had a match-haul of seven wickets.



People who smoke have the greatest risk of lung cancer. The risk of lung cancer increases with the length of time and number of cigarettes smoked. Quitting smoking, even after smoking for many years, significantly lowers the chances of developing lung cancer

POSSIBLE PATH TO PREVENTION

Reanalysing a major cardiovascular drug trial, researchers analysed a 14-protein blood signature in patients who took an IL-1B-blocking drug and found that their lung cancer risk had fallen by nearly half

WHAT'S NEXT

Experts agree this isn't a clinical tool yet. Large-scale trials, regulatory approval, and protocols for 'at-risk but tumour-free' patients are still years away, says Dr Arun R Warriar (Aster Medcity, Kochi)

From fighting CANCER to predicting it

UNNIKRISHNAN S @TPuram

FOR decades, cancer treatment has followed one rule: wait until a tumour is big enough to find, then cut, burn or poison it. According to experts, the new 14-protein lung cancer test is part of a bigger shift already under way in cancer care — from fighting cancer after it appears to catching, or even stopping, it before it does.

An earlier example is Galleri, a blood test that checks for traces of cancer DNA in the blood, scanning for over 50 cancer types at once. A major UK trial this year offered a reality check — it missed its main goal, but still caught fewer cancers at the most dangerous, late stage — not perfect, but real progress. Direct comparisons to the new test, though, may be premature. "It cannot be compared in terms of price or accuracy. Even the Galleri tests are still very premature," says Dr Aju Mathew, consultant oncologist, MOSC Medical College, Kolenchery.

Genetic tests are moving the same way. Some clinics already flag women at higher lifetime risk of breast cancer through their genes alone, so screening can start before any lump appears.

What makes the lung cancer test different is what it looks for — not cancer cells or their DNA, but inflammation — the slow damage in the lungs that builds up years before any tumour forms. Paired with early signs that an anti-inflammatory drug can cut that risk in half, it hints at something bigger than detection — stopping cancer before it starts.

None of these tools can replace a doctor yet, and each carries a real risk of false alarms. But together, they show cancer medicine quietly rewriting its oldest rule — from fighting cancer to preventing it. For India, where cancer is still mostly caught late and screening remains rare outside big cities, this shift matters even more.

80% DIAGNOSED AT ADVANCED STAGE

8 GLOBAL DATASETS

Published in the journal 'Cell', led by the Francis Crick Institute and UCL, the team analysed blood from **over 48,000** UK Biobank participants

The 14-protein signature predicted lung cancer risk up to five years before diagnosis, validated across eight global datasets, including non-smokers

THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

Nearly **70-80%** of patients are diagnosed only at an advanced stage, when treatment options narrow sharply

Lung cancer kills more people worldwide than breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer combined

The disease can quietly establish itself in the body for three to five years before any symptom appears

WHO'S SCREENED TODAY — AND WHO'S LEFT OUT

Annual low-dose CT remains the only recommended screening test for these groups

Current guidelines target current or former heavy smokers aged **50-80**, plus passive smokers and those exposed to radon, asbestos, or chest radiation, says Dr PS Shajahan (Government Medical College, Kollam)

Roughly **1 in 4** LUNG CANCER patients has never smoked, and falls outside every existing screening criterion

HOW POLLUTION QUIETLY SETS THE STAGE

This pushes cells toward a pre-cancerous state, what researchers call 'KAC cells,' a shared vulnerability across different lung cell types

The new 14-protein blood signature reflects this inflammation, not a tumour, which is why it can appear years before any scan would catch something

Air pollution triggers lung cells to release interleukin-1 beta (IL-1B), an inflammatory signal that wakes dormant, mutation-carrying cells



Figuring out who is at risk of developing cancer is the holy grail of cancer prevention medicine ... these findings bring us closer to a future where early intervention is possible, even before the cancer has a chance to develop

— Dr Clare Weeden, who co-led the study

WRITTEN IN BLOOD

A new way to catch lung cancer early

UNNIKRISHNAN S @TPuram

SUMA Prakash had never smoked a day in her life. A 54-year-old school-teacher from Kochi, she had breathed the city's traffic-clogged air for three decades. When a persistent cough began in the winter of 2022, her doctor reassured her — non-smokers rarely get lung cancer. By the time a scan found the tumour, it had already spread to her lymph nodes. Stage IIIB. The window for a cure had quietly closed.

Her story is heartbreakingly common. Roughly a quarter of lung cancer patients have never smoked, yet screening programmes remain built almost entirely around smokers aged 50-70, leaving people like Suma outside the net entirely.

The scale of the problem is stark. "Almost 80% of patients are diagnosed with stage IV cancers," says Dr Arun R Warriar, senior consultant — medical oncology, Aster Medcity, Kochi. Early tumours rarely cause symptoms, he explains, and are usually caught only by chance, during an unrelated scan or X-ray. "We see patients who come with 8-10 cm tumours that developed over weeks to months," he says — by which point only palliative, not curative, treatment remains possible.

This silence in the early, treatable years is what has made lung cancer the world's deadliest cancer for decades: doctors fighting fires they can only see once they're already blazing.

Now a study in the journal 'Cell' offers a way to spot the fire before the smoke. Researchers at the Francis Crick Institute and UCL, co-led by Dr Clare Weeden, analysed blood plasma from more than 48,000 UK Biobank participants and identified a 14-protein signature that can flag lung cancer risk more than five years before diagnosis. The signal doesn't come from a tumour itself. It reflects chronic inflammation in the lungs, driven partly by air pollution, that wakes up dormant mutated cells and creates fertile ground for cancer to take hold.

The team validated the signature across eight global datasets, including non-smokers, finding it elevated in every group that later

Spot the fire before the smoke

A study in the journal 'Cell' offers a way to spot the fire before the smoke. Researchers at the Francis Crick Institute and UCL, co-led by Dr Clare Weeden, analysed blood plasma from more than 48,000 UK Biobank participants and identified a 14-protein signature that can flag lung cancer risk more than five years before diagnosis. The signal doesn't come from a tumour itself. It reflects chronic inflammation in the lungs, driven partly by air pollution, that wakes up dormant mutated cells and creates fertile ground for cancer to take hold.



developed the disease.

The finding lends weight to ideas long suspected but not proven. "It's definitely an early signal — and it does prove an underlying assumption," says Dr Aju Mathew, consultant oncologist at MOSC Medical College, Kolenchery, noting that it strengthens the case that curbing interleukin-1-related inflammation lowers lung cancer risk, and that pollution itself drives the disease.

That link may already be actionable. Blocking interleukin-1 beta reduced early tumour growth in animal models, and in a reanalysis of a major cardiovascular trial of 4,651 patients, those with a high baseline signature who received the IL-1B blocker canakinumab saw their lung cancer risk nearly halved — hinting the test could eventually guide prevention, not just detection.

But clinicians caution against confusing this with screening. "It is not equivalent to screening. Standard screening involves an

nual low-dose CT," says Dr P S Shajahan, professor and head of pulmonary medicine, Government Medical College, Kollam. That screening remains reserved for defined high-risk groups, chiefly current or former heavy smokers aged 50-80. The new test, he stresses, "is neither diagnostic nor predictive of lung cancer" on its own, though it may help flag people at risk for genetic reasons that current criteria miss.

The path from lab to clinic is still long. "These tests are still in an early, experimental stage, but we do hope they become recommended in the near future. For this, further validation studies are needed," Dr Warriar says.

Until then, the Sumas of the world must rely on vigilance and whatever screening tools exist. But somewhere in a laboratory, the blueprint for their protection already exists — written in 14 proteins, waiting in blood.

Test can give false alarm or sense of assurance

PROMINENT oncologist Dr Aju Mathew, consultant oncologist, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church Medical College, Kolenchery, breaks down the implications of a new inflammation-focused lung cancer blood test and explains its clinical challenges, limitations and future outlook to Unnikrishnan S. Edited excerpts:

Q Since this new blood test detects an 'invisible' warning sign of inflammation rather than an actual physical tumour; how will doctors handle a patient who tests positive but has a completely clear, normal lung scan?

The hypothesis of the study is that a drug that can reduce interleukin-1 beta can be used in such patients to prevent lung cancer. The idea is that instead of using the drug for everyone, we can focus it specifically on patients who exhibit these warning signs of inflammation.

Q Can this blood test tell the difference between lung inflammation caused by smoking versus inflammation caused by severe city air pollution or breathing in kitchen smoke?

A. It cannot differentiate.

Q The study suggests that treating high-risk patients with strong anti-inflammatory drugs might stop lung cancer before it starts. What are the long-term side effects or health risks of putting an otherwise healthy, symptom-free person on these powerful drugs for five years?

What is understood from the original study is that there are no major side effects. The problem has been that we do not know whom to give the medicine

to. However, this study provides a hypothesis that you can use it specifically for those patients who test positive on this 14-marker test.

Q How do you see this test actually being used in hospitals in the future—will it be a cheap, yearly health check for everyone over 40, or will it only be given to specific high-risk groups?

I do not see it being used at all in the foreseeable future for various reasons. One is that it has to be validated in a prospective study. Additionally, the drug has to be widely available, affordable, and free of significant side effects for it to be used in a preventive setting.

Q In the past, blood tests like PSA for prostate cancer caused widespread panic because they frequently gave 'false alarms,' leading to unnecessary surgeries and biopsies. What steps are being taken to ensure this new lung cancer test doesn't cause the same panic?

These tests can cause false alarms.

Q If a patient's blood test comes back completely clear, but they are actually harbouring a very early, hidden lung cancer that simply isn't showing up in the blood yet, how do doctors catch it?

A. They could still be harbouring cancer cells, so the test could create a false sense of reassurance.

Q If a patient takes a broad blood test that says they have a high risk for cancer, but regular hospital scans cannot find any tumour, what is the next step for that patient? Should they just live in a state of waiting and watching?

Yes. That is why I still do not recommend this for clinical use now or in the near future.



INTERVIEW
DR AJU MATHEW



Myth: Only smokers get lung cancer

Fact: While smoking is the main cause, many cases occur in non-smokers or former smokers. Lung cancer can be triggered by exposure to secondhand smoke, radon, asbestos, air pollution, and toxic occupational environments. Genetic factors and the long-term effects of previous lung infections, such as tuberculosis or viral diseases, also increase the risk.

Myth: Lung cancer is a death sentence, there is no hope after a diagnosis

Fact: Survival rates are improving due to advancements in medical science. If lung cancer is detected early, it can often be treated effectively with surgery, radiation, or chemotherapy. Furthermore, modern advancements like targeted therapies and immunotherapy have significantly extended and improved the quality of life for patients even with advanced-stage lung cancer.

Myth: If you have smoked for decades, stopping now won't reduce your risk

Fact: It is never too late to quit smoking. Your lungs begin to heal almost immediately after your last cigarette. Within a few years of quitting, your risk of developing lung cancer drops by half compared to if you had continued smoking, and the risk continues to decrease over time.]

MYTH BUSTERS



Dr PS Shajahan
on Lung Cancer

Professor and head of pulmonary medicine at Government Medical College, Kollam

Myth: Lung cancer only affects older adults

Fact: Although the risk increases as people age and the majority of diagnoses occur in people over 65, lung cancer can affect anyone at any age. Certain types of lung cancer, particularly those caused by genetic mutations, are frequently diagnosed in younger adults and individuals who have never smoked.

Myth: Living in a polluted city is just as bad as smoking a pack of cigarettes a day

Fact: While an urban environment is indeed risky for lung health, the risk level is lower than that of active smoking. Air pollution does increase the chance of developing lung cancer, but smoking a pack of cigarettes a day introduces thousands of concentrated toxic chemicals directly into the lungs, making it vastly more hazardous.

Myth: Lung cancer cannot be detected until symptoms appear, and by then it's too late

Fact: Lung cancer can be detected early, well before any symptoms develop, through annual screenings using a low-dose CT scan (LDCT). This screening is highly recommended for high-risk individuals, such as long-term smokers aged 50-80. Finding lung cancer in its earliest, asymptomatic stages significantly increases the chances of successful treatment and long-term survival.



DAY'S DIARY

Reddit founded

Reddit, an online social media forum where users share news stories and other content, was launched on this day in 2005

FRONT PAGE OF INTERNET

The idea was for users to submit the best articles from major news outlets, journals, and other sites so they would not have to visit each individual publication



FOUNDING

Steve Huffman and Alexis Ohanian established Reddit in Medford, Massachusetts. The duo started to create Reddit just for fun during their university



THE BIG WIN

Reddit's success was built on giving users the freedom to create and moderate their own communities through subreddits

Patio makes a stylish presence

PG 3



STRIKING MEMORIES

Former India striker-turned-coach Raman Vijayan speaks on football's pull, politics, and the Maradona summer that changed his life

DIYA MARIA GEORGE

RAMAN Vijayan was in Class 9 when he first watched a football World Cup on TV — the 1986 tournament held in Mexico. He was excited to watch Diego Maradona play. “Our coach (in the sports hostel) would take us to his friend’s house at night to watch TV. We would be ready by 10.30 pm, travel for 4-5 km, and watch on a black and white TV. But we watched the finals in colour,” he reminisces as he recalls some of his fond memories of football, a sport that became his bread and butter. Alongside this memory, etched is the 1994 World Cup, in which Brazil won. Four decades later, with the United States hosting matches that kick off at odd hours for Indian viewers and no Tamil commentary on air this time, the former India striker, who won 30 international caps and played for prominent clubs before turning Gokulam Kerala FC women’s coach, speaks about the game this FIFA season.

Excerpts follow:

Q Why do states like Kerala and West Bengal have such deep football cultures, while Tamil Nadu’s support stays limited to pockets such as North Chennai?
In Bengal and Kerala, the football culture developed at scale and shaped society itself. In the 70s itself, there were professional clubs in Bengal. So the culture grew in a family-oriented, community-driven way. Mohun Bagan Super Giant, East Bengal FC, and Mohammedan Sporting Club, the top three clubs, were called the Mecca of Indian football. Kolkata’s fields have hosted some of the world’s greatest players, from Pelé and Maradona to Messi. I played 12 years as a footballer in Bengal, so I know how they celebrate football-

ers. In Kerala, every village knows about football, and they follow the World Cup very deeply. There are a lot of Brazil and Argentina fans.

In Tamil Nadu, football once thrived in North Madras, Madurai, Kanniyakumari, and Ramanathapuram, but cricket overtook it as the dominant sport. Football fever here now peaks mainly during the World Cup, and people ask when India will finally play in one. The truth is that cricket’s dominance pushed other sports into the background. We are not short of talent. The sport has to be treated as something as important as community or religion.

Q With matches starting late at night for Indian viewers, do you think the time difference lowers engagement?

It makes following the tournament difficult, but fans manage. There are also choices to watch different matches. This generation has already watched European club football closely, and they carry that habit into competitions such as The UEFA Champions League and Copa América, most of which also run late at night or early morning. A person might catch two or three matches rather than every game, but I do not think interest in the World Cup itself will fall.

Q As a former Tamil commentator, do you think it is a missed opportunity that there is no Tamil broadcast this time?

It is a huge disappointment. I commented in Tamil during the last World Cup and saw firsthand how deeply Tamil audiences connect with the game. Commentary in one’s own language builds a connection with the game. Many fans have called me personally or written on social media about its absence this time. I hope Tamil commentary returns for the next World Cup.



Raman Vijayan coaching kids | INSTAGRAM

my list.

Q Can football remain separate from politics?

No, it is not possible. Football is the world’s biggest sport, and a sport of that scale cannot exist without touching politics. In many countries, political backing has taken football to greater heights. The same applies here. If governments and state-level administrators take real responsibility, the next generation can genuinely believe India will play in a World Cup one day.

Q What would you say to young fans across India staying up through the night for this tournament?

Football’s popularity here has grown over the past 10 or 15 years, much of it down to Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi. My message to young fans is not to stop at admiring a player. Learn their journey, their discipline, the effort behind their success. Do not be satisfied with wearing a jersey. Indian football now offers more opportunities than it once did. Seek them out, and try to find the path that could make you a footballer yourself.

Q Has any player, coach, or legend left an influence on you?

Diego Maradona, certainly. In 1986 he was the best player in the world, and for the 10 years that followed, until around 1996, he remained a driving force in my life. Before that, our ambitions went no further than playing for a club or a state team. Maradona showed us a player could achieve global recognition while representing his country, and that was when I decided I wanted to play for India. I did, a decade later, and was able to inspire younger players the same way. Romário was another player whose style left a lasting impression on me.

Bhavika, all-rounder Nidhi deliver for India U19

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AS the road towards the next ICC U19 Women’s T20 World Cup begins, India beat Sri Lanka in the first of the three unofficial U19 T20 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Monday.

Bhavika Ahire — who was part of the U19 WC-winning team last year — and an all-round effort from Delhi’s Nidhi Mahto sealed the deal for the Nooshin Al Khadeer-coached side as they won by 93 runs. Bhavika scored 47-ball 73 while Nidhi hit 59 from 44 balls before taking 3/5 with her leg-break. “Our thoughts were clear about batting. We were trying to just build partnership and focussing on what the situation is demanding,” Bhavika told reporters after the match, acknowledging that she is still getting used to captaincy.

For Nidhi, who was the leading wicket-taker in the Delhi Premier League last year, it was a dream debut with India U19 as she stole the limelight with a player of the match performance. “It feels very good,” she said, adding, “I had a good debut, hopefully will continue like this.”

Both Bhavika and Nidhi acknowledged that the state T20 leagues have provided the platform for them to share dressing rooms with India stars and showcase their talent with the Women’s Premier League franchise scouts watching. “It showcases our talent. We get to play good cricket. It is a good opportunity to play at a higher level. We get to learn from big players like Smriti (Mandanna) and Gautami Naik. The

more we learn, the better it is for us,” Bhavika said. “In the WDPL, we get a lot of calls for trials. We get to see a lot of names. People get to know about us. It promotes us,” Nidhi added.

BRIEF SCORES: India U19 170/6 in 20 ovs (Nidhi Mahto 59, Bhavika Ahire 73; Chamodi Herath 2/20, Pramudi Methsara 2/23) bt Sri Lanka U19 77 in 18.3 ovs (Manudi Nanayakkara 28, Nidhi Mahto 3/5, Kumari Palak 2/7, Anaadi Tagde 2/12).

Abhinandh enters final

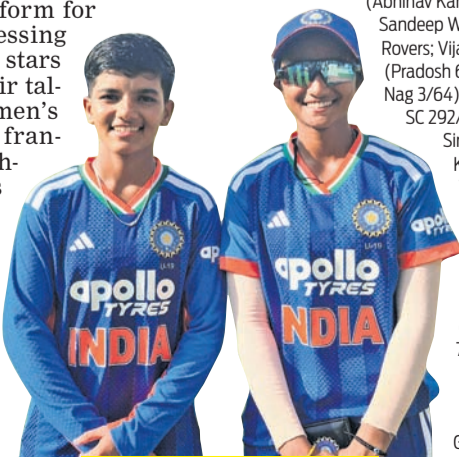
PB Abhinandh of Chennai Achievers beat K Umesh of RTTHPC 11-3, 11-3, 11-7, 11-9 in the men’s semifinals of the TNTTA-UTT 2nd State Ranking table tennis tournament at ICF Indoor Stadium. **RESULTS:** (all semifinals): Men: MR Balamurugan (Chennai) bt S Tharun (RTTHPC) 8-11, 12-10, 11-9, 4-11, 8-11, 11-9, 11-9; PB Abhinandh (Chennai Achievers) bt K Umesh (RTTHPC) 11-3, 11-3, 11-7, 11-9.

Women: S Yashini (SK Academy) bt A Shriya (SK Academy) 9-11, 11-6, 11-8, 11-6, 11-8; Nithyashree Mani (State Bank of India) bt Selena Deepti (RTTHPC) 11-6, 8-11, 11-6, 11-8, 11-8.

Aparajith slams ton

On a day where multiple matches had delayed starts, B Aparajith (122) scored a century for Vijay CC against Sea Hawks in TNCA I Division league. Vijay CC were 309/8 at stumps.

BRIEF SCORES: Grand Slam 115/4 in 37.4 ovs (Abhinav Kannan 61 batting, Sandeep Warrier 2/23) vs Jolly Rovers; Vijay CC 309/8 in 90 ovs (Pradosh 65, Aparajith 122, Trilok Nag 3/64) vs Sea Hawks; Nelson SC 292/4 in 90 ovs (Shivam Singh 135 batting, Swagnil K Singh 55; Wilkins Victor 2/37); Svaraj CC 268/6 in 90 ovs (T Vijaya Abimanyu 68, Siddarth Prakash 71; N.S. Harish 2/66); Singam Pulli 247/3 in 88 ovs (Aashiq 91, Mukulesh 76; Rajalingam 2/35) vs SKM CC; MRC ‘A’ 218/4 in 61 ovs (Chaturved 79; Lokesh Raj 2/38) vs Globe Trotters.



Bhavika Ahire (L) and Nidhi Mahto



Dakshayani’s home in Virugambakkam

SONU M KOTHARI

A large canvas on a white wall catches a ray of light streaming through the window. Across the room, a cluster of smaller works converse with the human eyes. The frames, on the first floor of a 50-year-old house stand out against the textures of a lived-in home. Here, art has found a new address.

This is the Art Cube Gallery LLP in Virugambakkam, a new art space in Chennai where paintings share walls with lived memories. Co-founded in 2021 by artists B Dakshayani and AV Ilango, Art Cube Gallery began as a digital platform before evolving into a physical gallery space.

On June 10, the gallery concluded its inaugural exhibition, First Impressions, featuring works by 18 established and emerging artists. For Dakshayani, the exhibition was the first step towards a larger vision to bring art closer to everyday life and make it accessible to audiences beyond artistic circles.

“Art should not belong only to the elite,” she says. That belief made her decide to transform her home, a heritage property, into a gallery stemmed from a desire to create a cultural space within a rapidly urbanising neighbourhood.

Surrounded by thousands of homes, including an IAS officer quarters, Dakshayani saw an opportunity to create a space where people could engage with art in the vi-

A HOME FOR ART

city. She notes, “If there are nearby spaces where people can attend workshops, engage with art, and spend meaningful time, that becomes more productive.”

Hence, the chosen location makes art more approachable. Residents who may never have stepped into a gallery suddenly find one in their neighbourhood. Young professionals can visit over weekends, homemakers can participate in workshops, and curious first-time visitors can encounter original artworks, and interact with the artists to understand the inspiration behind each art work.

Alongside the indoor exhibition space, the property includes a large outdoor area that Dakshayani hopes will become a site for artistic engagement. “The artists get the light on their canvas. They get the wind on their face. They get the power to paint in a quiet residential area. It’s very homely,” she adds.

In the coming months, Art Cube plans to host workshops, demonstrations, and hands-on art sessions that encourage participation rather than viewing. The co-founder believes

that when people create art themselves, they gain a deeper appreciation of the artist’s process. “Engagement and participation will make them understand from the artist’s point of view. If people understand that perspective, they will appreciate art more,” she says.

This could nurture a stronger culture of collecting as well. As Indian businesses and collectors increasingly view art as an investment, Dakshayani wants audiences to be prepared to engage with the art market from a place of knowledge rather than trend.

The inaugural exhibition reflected this philosophy. The title emerged from multiple layers of meaning. It was Dakshayani’s first impression of what a physical gallery in the neighbourhood could achieve. It was also the first opportunity for many local visitors to encounter original works by reputed artists in



person. She notes, “Many people had only seen these artworks in magazines or on websites. Seeing them face-to-face made an impression on them.”

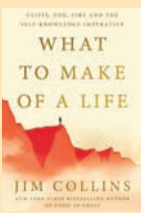
Among the highlights of the exhibition was a collection wall that brought together large and small works by senior artists, creating visual conversations across styles and scales. More importantly, the exhibition sought to highlight the realities of artistic practice. “The artists are not just doing art as a hobby or passion. It is a livelihood,” she says.

For many artists today, the challenge extends beyond creating artwork. Social media may offer visibility, but that does not always translate into sales, and artists need to market their own artwork.

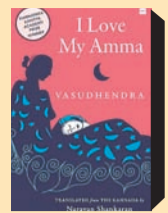
On the contrary, the roles within the art ecosystem have also evolved. Where galleries, curators, and collectors once occupied distinct spaces, artists today are expected to navigate multiple responsibilities. “Artists need to be their own galleries, curators. They need to understand what kind of work they should present and how to position themselves,” she points out. Supporting artists through that process is another goal for Art Cube.

The gallery hopes to offer guidance, mentorship, and opportunities for emerging artists to learn from established professionals while bringing in newer audiences to engage with art in meaningful ways.

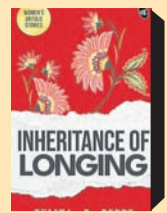
BOOK NOOK



What to Make of a Life
 by Jim Collins
 Surprising, story-driven, deeply researched, and uplifting. What to Make of a Life is a book like no other and convincingly shows how a richly fulfilled life is within reach for us all.



I Love My Amma
 by Vasudhendra
 (Translated by Narayan Shankaran)
 First published in Kannada, this collection of essays traces a son's journey from childhood reverence to adult understanding, when he finally sees his mother for who she truly is.



Inheritance of Longing
 by Tuljha B. Reddy
 Set against the shifting moralities of time, the stories in this book look unflinchingly at the stains left behind by life's choices. It looks between what is forgiven, what is forgotten, and what refuses to fade.



The Vaidyar's School of Medicine and Magic
 by Gayathri Ponnannan
 When a sacred relic vanishes and a student disappears, Kathir, and his friends Atreya and Nakulan, are pulled into a perilous journey across ancient India to mend what has been broken.



PACKED FOR SCHOOL

During the rush hour, schoolchildren were seen squeezed in an autorickshaw, balancing their bags, conversation, and friendship. | P JAWAHAR

QUICKFIX

KERALA-STYLE EGG ROAST TOAST

INGREDIENTS

- Eggs: 2, boiled
- Tomato: 1, chopped
- Chilli powder: 1 tsp
- Oil: 1 tbsp
- Onion: 1, sliced
- Turmeric: ½ tsp
- Garam masala: ½ tsp
- Bread slices

METHOD

- Heat oil and sauté onions until golden. Add tomatoes and spices; cook into a thick masala.
- Halve the eggs and coat them in the masala. Toast the bread. Serve the egg roast on or alongside the toast.



Contributed by Pushpita S, Kochi

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Fashion sale

Amethyst presents its Annual Sale, offering an exciting collection of dresses, co-ords, tops, kurtas, pants, dupattas, saris, blouses, jewellery, and more. The exhibition features creations from leading designers and labels including Vaayu, Surrmaye, Ofrida, Medha, Capisvirleo, Yavi, Yam, Anavila, and many more.

WHEN: Till June 28

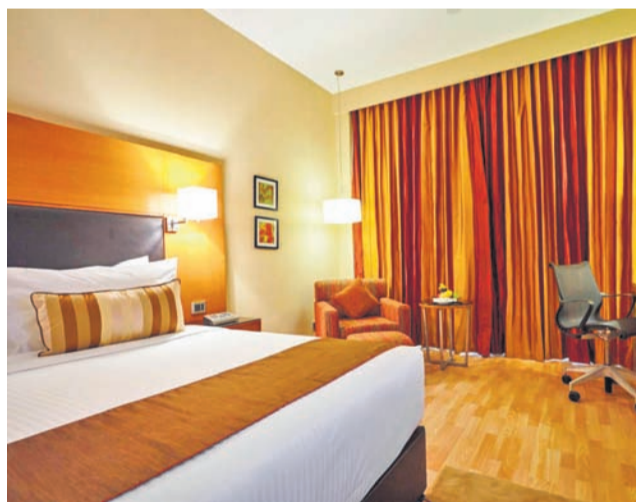


Dance recital

Aalaap presents the first edition of Quietly Dancing — a performance series, featuring Nitya Sriram, student of Leela Samson. Tickets are available on KYN, priced at ₹300.

WHEN: June 27

WHERE: Narada Gana Sabha Mini Hall



Staycation

Turyaa Chennai invites guests to experience an unforgettable luxury staycation with its specially curated 5-Star Stay Package, designed for couples seeking relaxation, comfort, and exceptional hospitality in the heart of OMR. Priced at ₹7,499++ for two. For reservations: 7358032277/ 7358099335

WHEN: Till June 30



Fold and feast

Dim Sum Festival — The art of folding & structure is ready to takes over Mr. ONG, Park Hyatt Chennai. This celebrates the centuries-old culinary tradition rooted in Chinese cuisine

WHEN: Till July 4

Comfort dining

Golden Dragon, the Cantonese and Sichuan cuisine restaurant at Taj Coromandel, Chennai, invites guests to discover Dragon Bowls, a thoughtfully curated weekday dining experience that brings together the comforting flavours of Asia in a contemporary, convenient format.

WHEN: Till June 30, lunch and dinner



In the night

Little Soi invites diners on a culinary journey across Asia with The Asian Night Market, a limited-time street food pop-up that draws inspiration from six distinct culinary traditions — Thai, Korean, Filipino, Malay, Burmese, and Vietnamese.

WHEN: Till June 30

Film screening

Auto Queens, a 30-minute Tamil documentary that follows two women auto drivers will be screened and discussed at Backyard, Adyar. Tickets are priced at ₹118.

WHEN: June 27, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm



Dialogues on canvas

Artiform presents The Collectors Room: 'Spatial Dialogues' by Shreyans Bohra. The contemporary exhibition is curated by Isaiaras Annamalai and features acclaimed artists Bhagwan Chavan, Dilipkumar Kesavan, Jacob Jebaraj, and Pravin Kannanur.

WHEN: Till July 20



NOWSTREAMING FITBIT

REGIONAL



SAVE THE TIGERS 3 (Telugu, series)

What happens when three frustrated husbands loudly rant about their marital woes in a bar? They become news.

Cast: Priyadarshi, Jordaa Sujatha, Chaitanya Krishna, Deviyani Sharma,
 ● Watch on: JioHotstar

FOREIGN

VOICEMAILS FOR ISABELLE (English)

Jill leaves voice messages for her deceased sister about life in San Francisco. A real estate agent in Austin receives the recordings.

Cast: Zoey Deutch, Nick Robinson, Nick Offerman
 ● Watch on: Netflix



SUGAR (English, series)

Season two ushers in the return of Los Angeles' iconic private detective and film connoisseur John Sugar who takes on a new missing persons case — searching for the older brother of an up-and-coming local boxer — all while continuing the search for his beloved missing sister.

Cast: Colin Farrell, Laura Donnelly, Jin Ha, Raymond Lee
 ● Watch on: Apple TV+



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

EXPRESS CONNECT

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

✉ @xpresstn
 ✉ cityexpresschn@gmail.com
 ✉ @newindianexpress

FIVE YOGA PRACTICES TO BUILD STRENGTH SAFELY

Strength does not always need heavy weights or fast workouts. A safe starting point is learning to control your own body weight with good alignment and steady breathing. Yoga can help build strength when the effort is gradual, the joints are not forced, and the breath is not held. These five practices work the legs, hips, upper body, back, and core.

1. UTKATASANA VARIATION (SUPPORTED CHAIR POSE)

Stand with feet hip-width apart and hold a chair or wall for support. Bend the knees slightly and move the hips back, as if sitting on a chair. Keep the chest lifted and the knees pointing in the same direction as the toes. Do not go too low. Repeat 5 to 8 times.

2. BIRD DOG

Come on your hands and knees, with hands under shoulders and knees under hips. Extend one leg back. If steady, extend the opposite arm forward. Keep the hips level, neck long, and belly gently active. Hold for 2 to 3 breaths and change sides.

3. INCLINE PHALAKASANA (INCLINE PLANK)

Place both hands on a wall or a stable chair placed against a wall. Step the feet back until the body forms a straight line. Keep the shoulders away from the ears. Do not let the hips sag. Hold for 10 to 20 seconds.

4. SALABHASANA VARIATION (LOCUST POSE VARIATION)

Lie on the stomach with arms beside the body. Keep the feet on the floor. Gently lift the chest and arms slightly. Keep the neck long and avoid pushing into the lower back. Repeat 5 to 8 times.

5. SETU BANDHASANA (BRIDGE POSE)

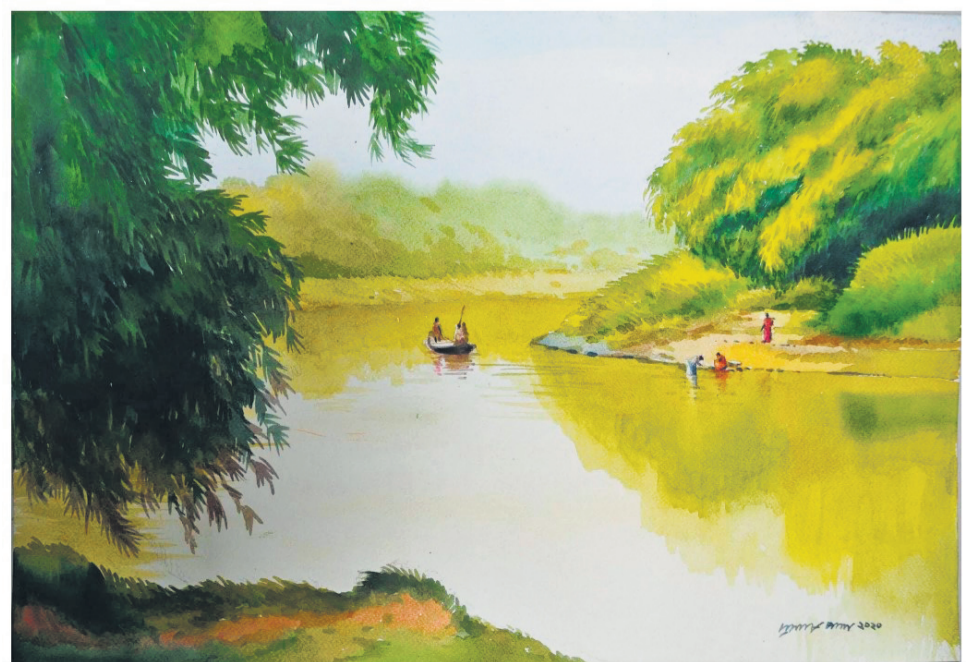
Lie on the back with knees bent and feet hip-width apart. Press the feet down, gently engage the buttocks, and slowly lift the hips. Do not overarch the lower back. Lower with control. Repeat 5 to 8 times.

Move slowly and breathe normally. Stop if there is sharp pain, dizziness, numbness, or discomfort that increases. Strength builds best with consistency, not strain.



By Naveen Sharma, Yoga Expert at Yoga Circle by Cult — a fitness and wellness platform

ARTCORNER



LUSH LANDSCAPE

Artist Pradosh Paul's work explores form, colour, and texture, with a particular emphasis on form and colour as more important constituent aspects of the visual field.

Spaces

THE GREEN MANUAL

Right plants for the right climate

ONE of the most common reasons gardens fail is: the wrong plant is placed in the wrong environment. A beautiful plant seen in a nursery or on social media may not necessarily thrive in every city or landscape. Climate — temperature, humidity, rainfall, and sunlight — plays a crucial role in determining whether a plant grows comfortably or struggles to survive.

Across India, climatic conditions vary dramatically. Understanding the differences helps gardeners and landscapers choose plants that naturally belong in their environment.

Understanding climate zones

Cities like Mumbai, Chennai, and Kochi experience warm and humid conditions throughout the year due to their proximity to the sea. These environments favour tropical plants that enjoy moisture and warmth.

Cities like Bengaluru, Pune, and Hyderabad fall within the tropical plateau climate. Temperatures here remain relatively moderate, making them suitable for a wide variety of ornamental plants.

Northern cities like Delhi, Jaipur, and Chandigarh experience very hot summers and cold winters. Plants here must tolerate extreme seasonal variations.

Plants for coastal cities

One of the most adaptable coastal trees is Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), which thrives in sandy soils and humid conditions. Another reliable plant for coastal environments is Plumeria (*Champa*). Known for its fragrant flowers and sculptural branches, Plumeria tolerates strong sunlight and performs well in coastal climates.

Shrubs such as *Ixora coccinea* also flourish in humid regions. *Ixora* produces clusters of vibrant red, orange, or yellow flowers and is common in Mumbai and Goa.

Groundcovers like *Wedelia trilobata* spread quickly and tolerate heavy rainfall, making them useful for stabilising soil during monsoon.

Plants for moderate climates

Flowering plants like Bou-

gainvillea, Hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*), and Roses (*Rosa* spp.) can thrive in these conditions.

Foliage plants such as *Areca Palm* (*Dypsis lutescens*), *Philodendron*, and *Dracaena marginata* are widely used in both indoor and outdoor landscapes because they tolerate moderate light conditions.

Trees such as *Tabebuia rosea* (Pink Trumpet Tree) and *Jacaranda mimosifolia* are also commonly planted because they adapt well while producing spectacular seasonal flowers.

Plants for extreme seasons

Landscapes in such cities require hardy plants capable of tolerating wide temperature fluctuations.

Trees such as *Neem* (*Azadirachta indica*) and *Amaltas* (*Cassia fistula*) are excellent choices because they are drought-tolerant and thrive in strong sunlight. Shrubs like *Duranta erecta* and *Tecomans* (*Yellow Bells*) also perform well and produce bright flowers during the warmer months. During the winter season, many gardeners in Delhi grow seasonal flowering plants such as *Petunia*, *Calendula*, and *Pansy*.

Native plants: Nature's best choice

Using native plants in landscapes not only improve local biodiversity by attracting birds, bees, and butterflies. Trees such as *Peepal* (*Ficus religiosa*), *Banyan* (*Ficus benghalensis*), and *Jamun* (*Syzygium cumini*) have adapted to India's diverse climate over centuries. These trees require minimal care once established and provide excellent shade. Shrubs such as *Hibiscus*, *Jasmine* (*Jasminum sambac*), and *Clerodendrum inerme* also perform reliably across many regions.

The monsoon season supports root establishment. In northern India, winter months are ideal for planting. In tropical southern regions, planting can take place for most of the year, though extreme summer heat may require additional watering.



Dr Ekta Chaudhary
 Dr Ekta Chaudhary is the founder of Garden Up and a leading expert in urban landscaping and plant ecology
www.gardenup.in



Seasonal planting matters



Homeowners are moving away from elevated and roofed balconies and porches to airy patios

OPENING UP

KEY ELEMENTS OF A WELL-DESIGNED PATIO

Orientation

The patio should be positioned to maximise daylight and natural ventilation while minimising heat gain.

Proportion

The ratio between length, width, and height determines spatial comfort and usability.

Drainage planning

Proper floor slopes and water management systems are essential, particularly in high-rainfall regions.

Visual connectivity

The patio should maintain clear sightlines with adjoining spaces to enhance spatial continuity.

Level difference

Subtle changes in floor level help define the patio as a distinct zone without isolating it.

Material performance

Materials must withstand moisture, sunlight, and temperature fluctuations while requiring minimal maintenance.

Privacy control

Screens, *jaalis*, landscaping, and pergolas should provide privacy without restricting airflow.

Light and shadow

A successful patio is animated by changing patterns of sunlight and shade throughout the day.

Structural integration

The patio should be conceived as part of the overall architectural design rather than added as an afterthought.

Architect **Rishikesh Pulickal**, **Notiondesk Design Studio**, Kochi



LAKSHMI SUKUMARAN

INDIAN architecture has long revolved around open spaces. The verandah, where grandparents leafed through the morning newspaper, the open-to-sky courtyard that filled the house with light, air, and the scent of rain, and the sit-out where stories, laughter, and neighbourhood gossip crossed fences, was the social heart of the home.

As cities expanded and land prices soared, those spaces gradually disappeared. Homes grew taller, plots became smaller, and air-conditioners replaced cross-ventilation. The open courtyard spaces that once connected people to nature were sealed away behind walls and glass.

In response, architects are reinventing the idea of the courtyard and verandah through the patio. Compact, adaptable, and suited to modern urban plots, patios are becoming a sought-after feature in contemporary Indian homes. They offer a slice of the outdoors without demanding the space of a traditional courtyard.

The word "patio" entered English from Spanish in the 19th century, but its origins go further back. Derived from the Latin *pater*, meaning "to lie open", the patio has long been associated with spaces exposed to the sky. Across cultures, it evolved from communal gathering grounds into private retreats. Moorish architecture, in particular, transformed patios into intimate sanctuaries with fountains, greenery, and shaded spaces, designed to cool both the home and the mind.

Today, architects view patios as a practical response to the demands of modern living. "People no longer want homes that are just places to sleep," says Ajai Krishnan, architect at Void Ventures.

Usually attached to the living or dining area, patios serve multiple purposes. They can function as reading corners, family gathering spaces, mini gardens, or simply a place to enjoy the weather.

For homeowners, the appeal often goes beyond aesthetics. "It's like our staycation corner," says Rumi Mathews, a tech professional. "The pandemic made us realise how important open spaces are. We couldn't always go out, so we wanted a corner where we could feel connected to nature. And also, it reminds me of my childhood veranda."

By creating an opening within the built form, they improve natural ventilation and daylight. "Patios help



break internal volumes and encourage stack-effect cooling. When air enters through the openings, hot air rises and escapes more efficiently. In a humid climate, that can significantly reduce dependence on air-conditioning during the day," Ajai explains.

Since adding a patio to their home last monsoon, Meera Nair, a home-maker, says it has quickly become everyone's favourite space. "For years, dinner conversations competed with television screens. Now, the 5.30 pm tea is almost sacred. There are no phones, just the sound of rain drumming on the glass, my children's animated stories from school, a book in my hand, and my mother's memories finding their way into the conversation," she smiles.

Space and style

Perhaps the biggest advantage of patios is that they do not require large plots. "A patio does not need to be grand. Even an area measuring around eight feet by seven feet can comfortably accommodate seating and greenery," says Safwan MM of Scaffs Design Studio.

The design possibilities are equally flexible. Depending on the style of the home, materials can range from laterite stone and exposed concrete to wood, glass and steel. Modern patios often use pergolas, grills, polycarbonate sheets, or toughened glass to create spaces that remain open to light while offering protection from rain. "The idea is not to frame the space with four solid walls. We create an environment that feels connected to nature while remaining practical for everyday use," Safwan adds.

Affordability is part of the patio's



If you love open spaces that celebrate distressed details, warmth in textures, and polished accents, this style is for you. Since the 1970s, artists and creatives have been repurposing abandoned warehouses to loft apartments and studios. Industrial interiors is known for combining two styles effortlessly, rustic structures with chic furnishings. It prioritises flow, natural light, and eye-catching accessories to achieve a utilitarian elegance.

Raw and natural materials

The juxtaposition of materials like wood, vintage leather, metal, and brick with plush and soft furnishings add visual character to these spaces. Rustic materials are softened by linens, cottons, and velvet and knit-in cushions, throws, and window treatments. High sheen metals can also be paired with aged patina on trunks or accessories to add elegance through high contrast.

Industrial design highly relies on raw and natural material. These are used in various forms to age well alongside adding durability to the space. Metal is used through lighting, furniture accents, and railings, sometimes even partition walls with glass. Reclaimed wood is almost a favourite in this genre used for floors, shelving units, and furniture. Concrete and exposed brick make most floors while adding warmth and texture to the space.

Exposed architectural features

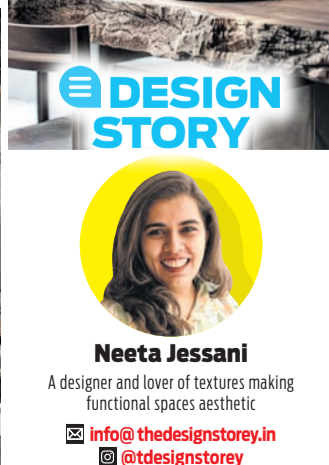
While other styles conceal pipes, beams, and ducts, industrial interiors embrace these as design elements. One of the most defining aspects of this style is exposed structural components. These elements add character, texture, and authenticity to a space making it raw and unpolished.

Neutral colour palette

The industrial style usually features a muted colour palette. Whites, greys, browns, and blacks are the dominant colours used making these spaces sophisticated. Shades of rust, burnt orange, deep ochre, and greens work really well in contrast to the other-



INSIDE INDUSTRIAL HOMES



DESIGN STORY



Neeta Jessani
 A designer and lover of textures making functional spaces aesthetic
 ■ info@thedesigntory.in
 ■ [@thedesigntory](https://www.instagram.com/thedesigntory)

High ceilings and open spaces

Large, open layouts with high ceilings create an airy and spacious feel indicative to old warehouses and lofts. Excessive partitioning is avoided in this style while furniture is used to define spaces. Large windows and natural light is given utmost importance, making these characteristics suited for modern day apartments and homes with open layouts.

Lighting

This is a crucial aspect of industrial design; a combination of accent, ambient and task lighting is used to illuminate the high ceilings and rustic corners. Metal-framed chandeliers with rings and exposed chains are the most opted for as they illuminate a larger area making it ideal for passages, dining, and living spaces. Timber and iron wall lamps and scones can be used for accent lighting while under cabinet lights and track lights for task lighting. Metal-framed lights with exposed bulbs accentuate the industrial style while being absolutely functional too. Metal finishes can be of blackened iron, brushed copper or brass.

Lastly, greenery. Large fiddle and rubber plants in well-aged planters along with accessories that tell stories can add character and texture, making it a sensory style apart from being aesthetically pleasing!



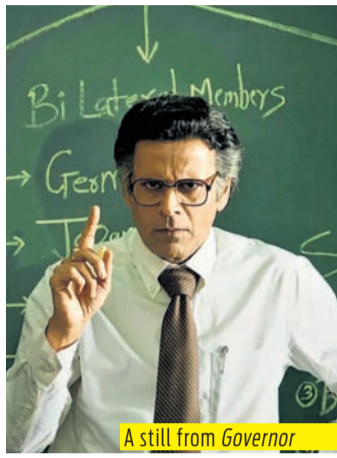
'WE HAVE BECOME ROBOTIC IN OUR ON-SET RELATIONSHIPS'

BH HARSH

There is one actor known for bringing a fair share of realism into mainstream cinema, it's Manoj Bajpayee. The past decade, in particular, has been splendid for the actor, earning him both critical acclaim and commercial success with works like *Aligarh* (2016), *Sonchiriya* (2019), and *The Family Man* (2019-2025). For such an actor, the challenge of headlining *Governor*, based on the life of former RBI Governor S Venkataramanan, comes with extra pressures of research, authenticity, and sincerity. About his role in the *Governor*, Manoj says, "Research is crucial here because you are trying to get the essence of a character rather than imitating him. I also had to familiarise myself with the financial jargon, and sound convinced about it. I knew I had to read those lines as many times as possible, and know the context, the depth of our national crisis back then."

Elaborating on why he found it essential to make *Governor*, director Chinmay Mandlekar says, "Those born after 1991 may not know, but December 1990 to July 1991 was a major transitional period for India. If not for the economic decisions taken at that time, our country would be in a bad place now. So, I felt the need to show respect and gratitude to those people, and the decisions they took." Reflecting on how biopics have taken off in a major way in the past decade, Chinmay states, "The audience has evolved. Now, people are changing their perspective on what happened in the past, and want to know more. Secondly, certain kinds of stories have already been told. Like love stories, comedies will always thrive, but I am happy that people are now willing to watch different series or films, based on real-life events."

Incidentally, Manoj too began his film career with an unofficial biopic, Shekhar Kapur's *Bandit Queen* (1994). Plenty has changed in the past three decades, Manoj says, while also pointing out those he finds unsettling. He explains, "When things are too organised, a disadvantage arises: we become too robotic in our relationships on the set. Earlier, we ate to-



A still from Governor

gether, tried to get to know each other, and learned from their journey. There was warmth. Even apart from shooting, we would meet at each other's houses, dance, and talk a lot. Those relationships are still alive. Now, however, nobody stays back after the wrap. Everyone goes to their own space. However, as a senior unit member, I try to create the old days' vibe on my sets." On a light note, Manoj adds that Ram Gopal Varma is one filmmaker who hasn't changed at all. The two, who delivered some memorable works like *Satya* (1998), *Kaun* (1999), and *Road* (2002), are collaborating after nearly a decade on *Police Station Mein Bhoot*, which is expected to release later this year. "RGV is still the same. He still works the same way, and that is why he surprises us first and then the audience with his final product," he says.

Recalling the working atmosphere on the sets of *Governor*, Chinmay says, "On our set, we have a rule that the entire direction team will be there for lunch. We cook food, and we eat together. It keeps that camaraderie going." Manoj adds, "There is a warmth on the set. I've been lucky that Chinmay is an actor and comes from a theatre background. Whether we collaborate on the next film or not, this relationship goes beyond the set, and it's important. We are spending a lot of time together, more than with our own families, so it has to give me

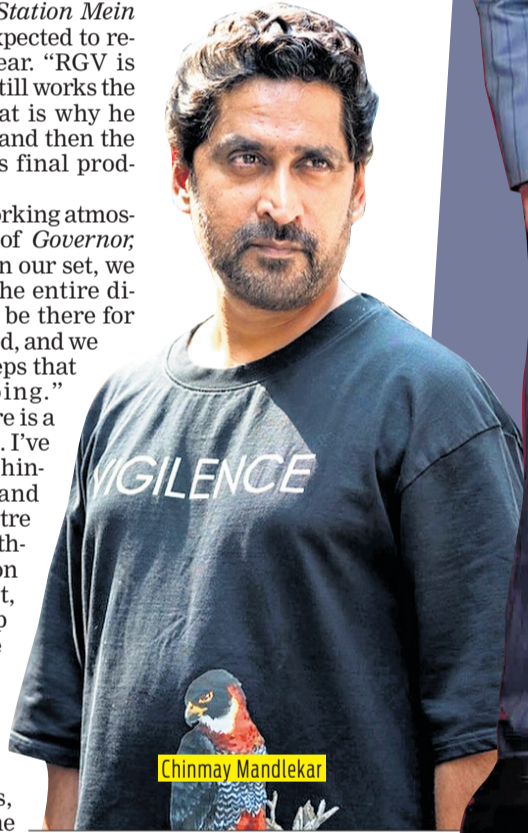
that sense of comfort. For that, my co-actors become very important to me."

Speaking of camaraderie, Manoj recalls his long association with Vipul Amrutlal Shah, who is the producer for *Governor*. In the past few years, Vipul has come under a lot of scrutiny for backing *The Kerala Story* franchise, which generated a lot of controversy for its politically charged narrative. Does the controversy surrounding these films bother Manoj or play a part in his decision-making? "I have known Vipul for many years. He has made many successful films. We tried to work in *Holiday* (2014), but that couldn't happen. As a producer, Vipul can choose to make whatever he wants. It doesn't matter to me, nor should it to anyone. One should focus only on the project at hand, which has Manoj Bajpayee as the lead, Chinmay Mandlekar as the director, and people like Amit Trivedi and Javed Akhtar working on the music. These people are more interested in telling a story of an unsung hero."

Manoj Bajpayee and director Chinmay Mandlekar talk about their latest film *Governor*, the overdrive in the biopic genre, the unpleasant changes in filmmaking in past three decades, and more



Manoj Bajpayee



Chinmay Mandlekar

Demonte Colony 3 to hit theatres in September

DEMONTE *Colony 3* is all set to hit the theatres on September 11. The upcoming horror film, written and directed by Ajay R Gnanamuthu, will see the return of Arulnithi and Priya Bhavani Shankar in the lead. The film began production in July 2025 and was completed in April this year. The cast of *Demonte Colony 3* also includes Guru Somasundaram, Antti Jaaskelainen, GM Kumar, Muthukumar, Sree Kumar, Meenakshi Govindarajan, Kathir, Ashiq Hussain, Sarjano Khalid, and Archana Ravichandran.

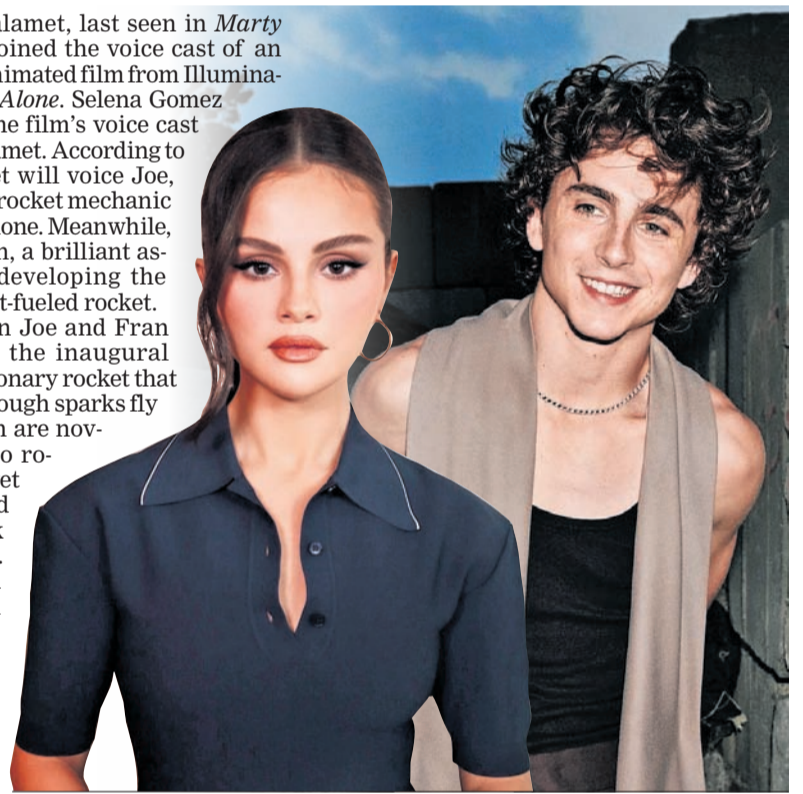
Sam CS is composing music for *Demonte Colony 3*, returning to the franchise after *Demonte Colony 2* (2024). The crew of the film also includes director of photography Sivakumar Vijayan, editor Kumaresh D, production designer PE Krishnamoorthi, and action director Pradeep Dinesh. Venkatesh and Arun Haiku Sakthi have served as writers on the film, which features dialogues by Pattukkottai Prabakar.



Timothee Chalamet, Selena Gomez lend voice for *Not Alone*

TIMOTHEE Chalamet, last seen in *Marty Supreme*, has joined the voice cast of an alien-themed animated film from Illumination, titled *Not Alone*. Selena Gomez will also lead the film's voice cast alongside Chalamet. According to the makers, Chalamet will voice Joe, who is an introverted rocket mechanic who lives a quiet life alone. Meanwhile, Gomez will voice Fran, a brilliant astro-botanist who is developing the world's first-ever plant-fueled rocket.

The film centers on Joe and Fran coming together for the inaugural launch of the revolutionary rocket that runs on plant fuel. Though sparks fly between the two, both are novices when it comes to romance. Things only get more complicated when three aliens seek refuge in Joe's home. *Not Alone* is directed by Eric Guillon (*Despicable Me 3*) and Jonathan Del Val (*Minions: The Rise of Gru*). *Not Alone* is set for a theatrical release on April 16, 2027.



Dee Bradley Baker

Bad Fairies adds new cast members

THE upcoming animated musical film *Bad Fairies*, led by Cynthia Erivo and Neuti Gatwa, has expanded its voice cast to include Dee Bradley Baker, Serrana Su-Ling Bliss, and James Acaster.

The announcement was made at the Anney International Animation Film Festival by director Megan Nicole Dong and co-director Olivier Staphylas. Baker is popular for voicing the clone troopers in the *Star Wars* animated universe. He has also voiced various characters in *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and *The Legend of Korra*. Su-Ling Bliss, best known for her performance in *Enola Holmes 2*, will voice Fei. Comedian-actor Acaster's feature appearances include *Taskmaster* and *Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire*. *Bad Fairies* is scheduled for a theatrical release on May 21, 2027.

WE reported early this month that actor Pavish, who made his debut in *Nilavuku En Mel Ennadi Kobam* (NEEK), will next star in a volleyball-based film, titled *Attacker*, directed by debutant Dhano Nagapooshnam. Avantika Sundar, daughter of Sundar C and Khushbu, is also leading the film. The latest update is that the film has entered production. Director Pa Ranjith was on set to launch the shoot.

Attacker will also be seen in *Love Oh Love*, which was announced last year. Avantika, meanwhile, is making her acting debut with the Malayalam film *Aarambham*. The upcoming film, produced by Dinesh Raj under the Zinema Media and Entertainment Limited banner, also stars Varun, Arjun Prabhakaran, and Goutham. Cinematographer Sai Munish, editor Arul Moses, and art director Ramu Thangaraj are a part of *Attacker*'s technical team.

Pavish's Attacker goes on floors



Quentin Tarantino, Kylie Minogue to star in a new film



FILMMAKER Quentin Tarantino is all set to step in front of the camera in Welsh director Jamie Adams' next. In the upcoming film, Tarantino will be sharing screen space with Kylie Minogue.

With the plot details under wraps, reports suggest that the production is already underway in the Welsh town of Porthcawl. The yet-to-be-titled film also stars Karen Paullada, Siwan Morris, Craig Russell, and Julian Lewis Jones. Primarily a pop star, Minogue has also acted in feature films like *The Delinquents* (1989), *Street Fighter* (1994), *White Diamond* (2007), and *San Andreas* (2015). A two-time Academy Award winner, Tarantino has made cameo appearances in films he helmed, like *Reservoir Dogs* (1992), *Pulp Fiction* (1994), *Death Proof* (2007), and *Django Unchained* (2012). His non-directorial appearances include *From Dusk Till Dawn* (1996) and *Little Nicky* (2000).

The Sheep Detectives gets OTT release date

THE Hugh Jackman starrer, *The Sheep Detectives*, is set to premiere on Prime Video on Wednesday. Directed by Kyle Balda, the mystery comedy hit the theatres on May 8.

Craig Mazin, who is the creator of *Chernobyl* and *The Last of Us*, has written the script for *The Sheep Detectives*, which is an adaptation of *Three Bags Full* by Leonie Swann. In the film, a

group of sheep set out to uncover the mystery behind their shepherd's (Hugh Jackman) murder in the small and folksy town of Denbrook. The cast of the film includes Nicholas Braun, Nicholas Galitzine, Molly Gordon, Hong Chau, Emma Thompson, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Bryan Cranston, Chris O'Dowd, Regina Hall, Patrick Stewart, Bella Ramsey, and Brett Goldstein, among others.

