

Fighting misinformation with hope

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

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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A drone clip of escapees huddled in a forest near the Thekkampatti jail | FILE PIC



DISABLED INMATE BEHIND PLAN THAT LED TO ESCAPE OF 17 TN PRISONERS

Linga Prasath, a disabled prisoner, is suspected to have hatched the plan that led to the escape of 17 prisoners from Thaniyankudi jail on Monday night

PLOTTED AT 6.30 PM, EXECUTED AT 10 PM

The inmates began discussing the plan around 6.30 pm after some of them learnt that their bail pleas had been rejected, and executed it between 9.30 pm and 10 pm, IG Vijayendra Bidari told TNIE. Police teams swung into action by 10.30 pm and sealed all the routes leading out of the area, forcing the fugitives to hide in the forest and hilly areas

TORE SHIRTS AND USED THEM AS BANDAGES

■ Several escapees sustained injuries while moving through the rugged hilly terrain after fleeing from the prison without footwear
■ The escapees tore their shirts and tied the pieces around their injured feet before continuing through the hills. Three specialised drones were deployed to scan the forest and locate the escapees | P7

26 cases

FACED BY LINGA PRASATH, THE SUSPECTED MASTERMIND

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VILVAMPUR • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KAZHAKKOT • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMA PURI • KOTAVAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALIGUDAM • MAGAPATTINAM • THIRUSSUR • KALABURGI

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bankofmaharashtra.bank.in

MEIRA AT HELM

INDIA bloc to conduct public 'impeachment' of CEC today

PREETHA NAIR @New Delhi

THE INDIA bloc will hold a three-hour "public impeachment" of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's official residence on Friday, with former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar presiding. Kharge, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, will move the motion to impeach Kumar, while LoP in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, will conclude the discussion before the 'motion' is passed by voting, sources said.

The contours of the proceedings were finalised at a meeting of INDIA leaders at Kharge's residence here on Thursday. At least 30 speakers, including representatives of 21 political parties, are expected to participate in Friday's proceedings. Sources said an invitation has been extended to the BJP, but the party is yet to confirm its participation. Civil society representatives and persons affected by the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls will share their accounts. The symbolic gesture comes ahead of the Opposition's November 1 rally here against the SIR exercise.

Meira Kumar

Bid to alter system via violence? No job in UP

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

THE Uttar Pradesh government has tightened character verification norms for candidates selected through direct recruitment, stating that individuals associated with organisations seeking to alter the existing social or political system through violence would not be eligible for government jobs.

The order, issued by the appointments department, will apply to recruitments across departments and comes amid recent calls for "regime change."

The state government, however, clarified that political ideology alone cannot be grounds for denying employment. It said mere registration of an FIR or a pending investigation would not automatically disqualify a candidate as authorities have to assess circumstances of each case rather than rely solely on criminal complaints or ongoing probes.

WITH THIS ISSUE
Chennai's Best Weekend Guide
102 PAGES, INCLUDING 88 OF ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

TN to commence social justice survey next year

State to file review plea in SC over quota for Muslim converts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE Tamil Nadu cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, on Thursday decided to constitute a commission headed by a retired high court judge to conduct the Social Justice Survey (SJS). The cabinet also decided to file a review petition in the Supreme Court against the court's verdict regarding quashing of a GO providing reservation benefits to converted Muslims in the next few days.

The commission to assess the socio-economic status of the people will be formed in February-March next year, after the conclusion of the Census operations. The TVK government had announced its plan to hold the SJS in the first customary address delivered by Governor Rajendra Arlekar in the Assembly. Law Minister CTR Nirmal Kumar, who briefed reporters on the decisions taken at the cabinet meeting, said the proposed commission would also include IAS officers, and

KEY DECISIONS OF TN CABINET

Anadheenam land regularisation

550 acres in Thalambur village to be regularised
2,000 residential properties likely to benefit; modalities yet to be worked out

Registration freeze on 450 acres, valued at ₹4,000 cr, to be reviewed

Incentives for eight companies across multiple sectors

- Sectors include defence, aviation and textiles, among others
- Three proposals cleared for expansion of existing operations

QUOTA FOR CONVERTS

- SC dismissed TN's appeal against HC verdict on Oct 15
- HC had struck down a 2024 GO on reservation eligibility for Muslim converts

The anadheenam land issue has been embroiled in a legal dispute for over 30 years and affects around 3,000 residents and more than 15 educational institutions

CTR Nirmal Kumar

its exact structure would be finalised soon.

Nirmal Kumar said the CM instructed ministers to ensure the delivery of essential services, review the implementation of government schemes in their respective districts and examine public grievances to ensure appropriate redressal. The CM also directed the ministers to expedite precautionary measures for the monsoon season, the minister added. P7

Pak envoy joins SCO's luncheon ahead of Civilisational Dialogue

JAYANTH JACOB @New Delhi

PAKISTAN'S Chargé d'Affaires to India, Saad Ahmad Warraich, attended a luncheon reception hosted by the Secretary (West) in the External Affairs Ministry, Sibi George, for resident envoys of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states and partner countries, as India prepares to host the grouping's first Civilisational Dialogue Forum next month.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the discussions focused on strengthening cooperation within the SCO framework, particularly cultural and civilisational exchanges, and preparations for the upcoming dialogue forum scheduled for November 20.

"The interaction underscored In-

MODI'S INITIATIVE

The forum will bring together representatives from more than 25 countries at Purana Qila, a 16th-century fort in Delhi. The initiative was proposed by Modi at the SCO leaders' summit in Tianjin in 2025 and subsequently adopted by the grouping

dia's commitment to strengthening longstanding civilisational connections and people-to-people ties with the SCO region," Jaiswal said.

India will host the SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum in New Delhi from November 20 to 22, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expected to inaugurate the event. Pakistan has yet to confirm its rep-

resentation at the forum. Pakistan's Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, is among those invited.

If Khichi attends, it would mark the first visit by a Pakistani minister since then foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attended the SCO foreign ministers' meeting in Goa in May 2023.

The luncheon comes amid continued diplomatic strains between New Delhi and Islamabad. However, both countries remain engaged through multilateral platforms such as the SCO.

In September last, India sent its SCO National Coordinator, Alok Dimri, to Islamabad for a meeting ahead of Pakistan's presidency of the grouping and its planned SCO leaders' summit in August 2027.

RAMRAJ COTTON NOW AT CHENNAI ADAMBAKKAM

SHOWROOM INAUGURATION

We cordially invite you to join us for the inauguration of our showroom.

Date: Friday, 30.10.2026, Time: 09:30 AM

Venue: 46/143, Karuneeagar Street, Opp. Government Middle School, Adambakkam, Chennai - 600 086. Ph: 63830 61147

Showroom Inaugurated by
Mr. K.S. Soma Sundaram
Founder - Jupiter School of Vedic Astrology

Lighting of the Lamp by
Mr. M. Panneer Selvam
Mrs. P. Shanthi
Proprietor - Om Exnora

First Sale by
Mr. S.J. Suresh Kumar
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Dissolve GCC council if you want to ignore elected reps: Mayor

Resolutions passed for Infrastructure development, road works, extension of smart bike contracts; demand to widen scope of ward funds under consideration

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

“Ungaluku ellam oru prachanai na indha MLA kita varringa, enake oru prachanai na naan yaar kita poven?” A popular Tamil film comedy dialogue that roughly translates to “When you have a problem, you come to this MLA, when I have a problem, who do I go to?” found an unlikely parallel in the Chennai Corporation council meeting on Thursday when Mayor R Priya said she, too, was being left out of the loop by government officials.

The exchange began with councillors complaining that officials were failing to invite them to inaugurations and inspections, many of which were attended by TVK MLAs or ministers. Priya said she was facing the same problem, citing the lack of communication about Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay’s visit timings. “You’re all saying officials aren’t calling you for inaugurations or other events, but the truth is I’m in the same situation,” she said.

Deputy Mayor M Magesh Kumar said that the Mayor went to meet PM as the timings were informed but was not the case with CM. Priya said, “If the CM is coming, will I just sit in Ripon Buildings from morning to night? They have to tell me the CM’s arrival time for me to be present, which has not been communicated at all. It is not me ignoring the government, but the government ignoring the mayor.” Shr questioned why councillors were being ignored. The discussion also touched on the format prescribed by the directorate of information and public relations for plaques at inaugurated projects, with councillors objecting to it, reiterating the sidelining of elected representatives.

She also said that the state could dissolve the council if it wants to sideline elected representatives.

The GCC commissioner, G S Sameeran, agreed that elected representatives should be invited to such events, except during surprise inspections.



Greater Chennai Corporation Mayor R Priya chairing the monthly council meeting at Ripon Building on Thursday. Corporation Commissioner GS Sameeran is also seen seated beside her | P RAVIKUMAR

‘Allow limited tenders for WDF works’

PRAVEENA SA @ Chennai

CHENNAI councillors on Thursday urged Commissioner GS Sameeran to allow limited tenders for works under the Ward Development Fund (WDF), a move which could restrict bidding to a select set of contractors.

With only 100 to 120 days left in their tenure, Valasaravakkam ward committee chairman V Rajan said during the council meeting that the open

tender process is ‘time-consuming’ and could delay the completion of works. He alleged that bids quoting 25% to 30% below the estimated cost often end up with a single contractor taking up 10 building works, which leads to delays.

Open tenders let any eligible contractor bid, whereas limited tenders go to a shortlisted set of contractors, which means fewer bids and less competition on price. Supporting this, Deputy Mayor M Magesh

Kumaar said any irregularities found in such tenders could be monitored, and pointed out that the government order allows limited tenders for works costing up to ₹50 lakh.

The demand came after the councillors’ request to widen the scope of the WDF which now permits only monsoon-related works. Sameeran said the proposal would be reconsidered but he did not respond to the demand for limited tenders.

Amma canteen staff’s daily wage finally hiked to ₹400

PRAVEENA SA @ Chennai

IT has taken nearly 13 years for the civic body to increase the daily wage of Amma Unavagam workers by ₹100. They started with ₹300 a day in 2013, which was increased to ₹325 in 2024. On Thursday, the GCC passed a resolution during the council meeting, seeking the state’s approval to raise their daily wages to ₹400.

The civic body established 407 Amma Unavagams in the 15 zones and seven government hospitals in Chennai. However, due to various reasons, it has come down to 382 now, where 2,848 women workers employed through self-help groups are working in two shifts of eight hours each. They have been tasked with preparing and distributing food, apart from other kitchen-related and cleaning work. “To maintain pay parity with the ₹300 they received then, workers should ideally be paid ₹650 a day now. The government must consider a further hike,” CITU Chennai district general secretary R Loganathan said.

Once the government approves the proposal, the workers, who have been receiving



Currently, workers at the canteens earn ₹325 per day | EXPRESS

₹9,750 per month so far, will get ₹12,000. The workers are not entitled to paid leave, and their wages are deducted for any days they take off. The resolution cited the civic body’s current financial situation as the reason for the minimal increase.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Shakila (name changed), an Amma Unavagam worker from Thiruvottiyur zone, said, “It is extremely difficult for us to run the family with just ₹400 per day.”

In a separate circular issued on October 15, GCC commissioner G S Sameeran permitted Amma Unavagam workers to display and sell homemade products such as pickles and mixture at the centres to supplement their income.

Despite fall in users, Smart Bike contract extended

PRAVEENA SA @ Chennai

THE distance covered by users of Chennai’s Smart Bike initiative has plunged from 3.53 lakh km in 2021 to just 908 km in 2026, according to data shared by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC).

Usage stood at 44,461 km in 2019 and dipped to 10,021 km in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic before rising to 3.53 lakh km in 2021 and 2.13 lakh km in 2022. It then fell to 74,367 km in 2023, 48,994 km in 2024 and 28,067 km in 2025. Despite the fall in patronage, GCC passed a resolution on Thursday to extend the seven-year contract for the initiative by a further two years, pointing to the impact of the pandemic on operations and revenue generation. Advertising will be allowed during this time, but only on designated rear boards and triangular pillars, subject to licence and fees.

The contract was awarded to Smart Bike Mobility Private Limited in 2019 under a PPP and design-build-finance-operate model, with 250 bicycles across 50 stations. Under the revised proposal, the operator will maintain 60 stations of at least 10 bicycles each, or 600 bicycles in all, and the locations will be finalised in consultation with the corporation and relevant agencies to promote non-motorised transport and improve last-mile connectivity.

The extension comes with stricter conditions and a new subcontract that provides for real-time monitoring, periodic reports, financial transparency and compliance with performance standards.

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
e - Procurement Tender Notice
TGTRANSCO invites bids online for the following work: Spec.No.e-TGTU-15/26-27, Name of work: Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of (i)Stringing of 132kV DC line from existing 132/33 kV SS Kolanpaka to existing 132kV RTSS Alair(Conversion from 2-ph to 3-ph system) (ii)2Nos,132kV Feeder Bay Extensions at existing 132/33 kV SS Kolanpaka (iii)2Nos,132kV Metering Bay extensions at existing 132/33 kV RTSS Alair in Yadadri-Bhongir District on turnkey basis. **Tender Availability on website from:** 30.10.2026. **Note:** Further details can be seen in website: <http://tender.telangana.gov.in> Fax No. 040-23323565, Phone No.040-23396000 Extn.3552/3424/3644/3415.
DIPR R.O.No.706-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt:29.10.2026 Sd/-CHIEF ENGINEER/LIS

VANI VILAS HOSPITAL
(Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute)
Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone & Fax: 080-26707174
E-mail: vanivilasbmcri@gmail.com Website: vanivilashospital.org

No: VVH/MEQ/04/2026-27 Dated: 28-10-2026
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 for the following Subjects.

Sl. No.	Institute	Description	Tender Approx Amount	Last Date
1	Vani Vilas Hospital	Injections & IV Fluid	4,00,00,000/-	30-11-2026
2	Hospital	Tablets, Syrup, Ointment & Gel	1,50,00,000/-	
3	Victoria Hospital	Sutures	1,50,00,000/-	
4	Campus	Chemicals	1,00,00,000/-	

The tender documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Those tenders which are not submitted with EMD will be rejected. For further details contact Medical Superintendent, Vani Vilas Hospital, Bengaluru.

Sd/- Medical Superintendent
Vani Vilas Hospital, Bengaluru.

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Office: Stores & Purchase Department, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027
No: BMTC/CO/COSP/TENDER/14/2026-27 Date: 29.10.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
B.M.T.C. invites tender for procurement of the following Goods through KPP Portal:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Tender Value Rs. in Crores (approx)	Last Date for Bid Submission in KPP
Short-Term Tender				
1	BMTC/2026-27/IND0352	Procurement of Air, Oil and Fuel Filters.	5.80	09.11.2026 at 17.00hrs
Regular Tender				
2	BMTC/2026-27/IND0353	Supply, Installation and commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System at different locations of BMTC.	0.45	16.11.2026 at 17.00 hrs.
3	BMTC/2026-27/IND0354	Procurement of Expandable Vinyl Coated Fabric.	1.50	16.11.2026 at 17.00 hrs.
4	BMTC/2026-27/IND0355	Procurement of Synthetic Adhesive SR 998 or Equivalent Adhesive.	0.13	16.11.2026 at 17.00 hrs.
5	BMTC/2026-27/IND0356	Procurement of Conductor Leather Cash Bag	0.21	16.11.2026 at 17.00 hrs.
6	BMTC/2026-27/IND0357	Procurement of Aluminium Sockets	0.25	16.11.2026 at 17.00 hrs.

Addendum: Tender Nos: BMTC/2026-27/IND0331 and BMTC/2026-27/IND0332 invited in “Goods” Category are cancelled. These bids are invited vide: BMTC/2026-27/SE1464 and BMTC/2026-27/SE1462 in “Service” Category. Bidders are requested to note the above changes and participate in the tenders.

The above mentioned tender details can be obtained from <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Further, any addendum/corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, other tender terms and conditions etc. will be uploaded/published through KPP Portal only.

Note: Interested Bidders need to register in the KPP Portal. For further information visit BMTC Central Office or Log on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>
Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES
(Tender Inviting Authority)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction)
1st Floor, Crew Booking Office, Kozhikode-673001. Fax: 0495-2700460. e-mail: dycecan@gmail.com
Tender Notice No.DCE-CN-CLT-OT-01-2026 DATED: 28/10/2026
Name of the work: Re-development of Kozhikode Railway station - Cleaning and keeping in hygienic conditions - Deputy Chief Engineers/Construction Office or premises at Kozhikode for a period of two years.
Tender Value: Rs. 5.616 lakhs
Completion Period: 24 months
Date of Opening: 23/11/2026 at 11.30 hrs
Complete details & tender document will be available at <https://www.ireps.gov.in>
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction, Southern Railway, Ernakulam Jn

QuoteExpress
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— SAM LEVENSON —

Indian Overseas Bank
NESAPAKKAM BRANCH: No.7, Ramasamy Salai, K K Nagar West, Chennai-600078 Tel: No 044 - 2366 4523 E-Mail: iob1312@iob.bank.in

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWERS / MORTGAGORS / GUARANTORS
UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

1. Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Overseas Bank under SARFAESI Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3, issued Demand Notice dated 28.10.2026 calling upon the following Borrowers / Mortgages / Guarantors to repay the amounts mentioned in the Notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of Notice, as per details given below:

2. The said Notices have been returned undelivered by the postal authorities / have not been duly acknowledged by the borrower / guarantor. Hence the Bank by way of abundant caution is effecting this publication of the demand notice. Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned and the said Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgages, may, if they so desire, collect the said copies from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

3. Against the above background, Notice is hereby given, once again, to said Borrower / guarantor / mortgagor to pay to Indian Overseas Bank, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated / payable as given below under the loan & other documents. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to Indian Overseas Bank by the respective parties as below:

Name of the Borrower: Purushothaman G, Permanent Address: D 202, BLUEBELL D Block, Adinath Apartments, Mannivakkam, Chengalpattu District-600048. Business Address: M/s. GJ Transport Pvt Ltd., Prop. Mr. G. Purushothaman, No.14, Devi Nagar, Thiruninravur, Chennai - 600224; Nature of Facility: Housing Loan under RSUBH Scheme - 13120346400020; Limit: ₹ 45,60,000/-; Rate of Interest (including overdue interest) & rests: 10.65%; Last Interest Debit Date: 20.10.2026; Total dues* as on 27.10.2026: ₹ 44,02,506.09; NPA Date: 20.10.2026

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET: Nature of Security: Mortgage: All that piece and parcel of Residential Flat comprised in Survey Nos. 233/1, 233/2B Part, 263/1, 233/2A Part, 234/1A, situated at Mannivakkam Village, Vandalar Taluk, Chengalpattu District. An undivided share of Land 538 sq.ft., Apartment No.D-202, in the Second Floor, in Bluebell Block, in the Adinath Shantiniketan Apartment measuring a Super built up area of 1048 sq.ft inclusive of share in common areas, and an exclusive right to park a vehicle in One Covered Car Parking Space No.668 and common amenities, lying within the Sub Registration District of Guduvancherry and Registration District of Guduvancherry and Registration District of Chennai South. Bounded on the North by: Property comprised in Survey No.227 (Part), 284, South By: Property comprised in Survey No.234/1B, 283/2, East By: Road Widening Area comprised in Survey No.283/1(part) and the existing Panchayat Road, West By: Property comprised in Survey No.227.

Owner of the Property : Mr.G.Purushothaman S/o Mr. Govindaraj.

* payable with further interest at contractual rates/rests/other charges as agreed from the date mentioned above till date of payment.

4. If the said borrower / guarantor / mortgagor fail to make payment to Indian Overseas Bank as aforesaid, then Indian Overseas Bank shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act and Rule entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the said borrowers/guarantor.

5. Further, the attention of borrower / guarantor / mortgagor is invited to provisions of Sub-section(8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets.

6. The said Borrower / guarantor / mortgagor are prohibited under the SARFAESI Act from transferring the secured assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of Indian Overseas Bank. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules shall be liable for imprisonment and/or fine as given under Section 29 of the Act.

Date: 28.10.2026, Place: Chennai Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

राष्ट्रीय न्यायालयिक विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय
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School of Law, Forensic Justice & Policy Studies
ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT
School of Law, Forensic Justice & Policy Studies, National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), admits students to the following programmes exclusively through UG CLAT 2027 and PG CLAT 2027 scores. Therefore, candidates interested in seeking admission to NFSU are advised to register for CLAT 2027 and complete their application before the prescribed deadline.
Admission is open for the following:
1) B.Sc. LL.B.(Hons.) (Data Science & Law) – Gandhinagar Campus
2) B.B.A. LL.B.(Hons.) – Delhi Campus
3) LL.M. (Cyber Law and Cyber Crime Investigation) – Gandhinagar Campus, Bhubaneswar Campus
4) LL.M. (Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Administration) – Gandhinagar & Delhi Campus
For details, visit our website www.nfsu.ac.in.
Online Admission applications will be available from **07/01/2027**.
Executive Registrar

SUNDARAM HOME
— Sundaram Finance Group —
Regd Office: No. 21, Palullos Road, Chennai - 600002.
Corporate Office: Sundaram Towers, No. 46, Whites Road, Chennai-600014
Branch Office: No. 17, Second Floor Alagesan Road, Vedachalam Nagar, Chengalpatt-603001.
POSSESSION NOTICE
Issued Under Sec 13(4) read with Appendix IV and Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Whereas the authorized officer of SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice U/s. 13(2) dated 09-07-2026 calling upon the Borrower Mr. Sirdipharan S. Co-Borrowers Mr. Sankaran Vellai, Mrs. Chandhira Sankaran to repay the amount mentioned in the Demand notice being Rs. 4,05,088/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Five Thousand Eighty Eight Only) being the amount due and payable under the Loan Account number SCH20250024 as on 09-07-2026 along with further interest, cost and other charges etc., if any till actual date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice.
The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount as mentioned above, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of Sarfaesi Act on this 29-10-2026.
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.
The Borrower(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the Secured property shall be subject to the charge of SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED for an amount Rs. 4,39,042/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Forty Two Only) as on 29-10-2026 along with further Interest, Cost and Other charges etc., if any till actual date of payment.
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: All that Piece and Parcel of land and building situated at Kancheepuram District, Walajabad Taluk, Palayaseevaram B Village, in Gramanatham Old S.No.539/3-Part, as per Pattno No.167, New S.No.627/24, an extent of 840 Sq. Ft. or 00078 Sq. Mtr. of land and in which tiled house of an extent of 736 Sq. Ft. with its E.B. Service Connection No.08-635-001-146 and the same assessed to property tax with assessment No.998, with its deposit amounts bearing Pattno No.167 within the jurisdiction of SRO, Walajabad and registration district of Kancheepuram. **Boundaries:** North by: House of Kasi, South by: Common 6 Ft. Passage, East by: House of Gopal, Rangarao and West by: Vacant site of Subramani. **Measurement:** Measuring an total extent of 840 Sq. Ft. (00078 Sq. Mtr.) of land in which tiled house of 736 Sq. Ft. with its E.B. connection, its deposit amounts, and assessed to property tax. Admeasuring on the North & South by 36 Ft. East by 23.5 Ft. & on the West by 23 Ft.
Date: 29-10-2026
FOR SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.,
AUTHORISED OFFICER

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT
Metro Bhavan, 04th Floor, D. I. Metro Station, Nyaymurti
Ranade Path, Shivaji Nagar, Pune-411005. Tel.: 020-26051072/74
E-mail: ptdtender.pnmp@mahametro.org | www.punemetrorail.org
Tender Notice No: P1PD-62/2026 **Date: 30/10/2026**
Name of Work: Licensing of State-of-the-Art Digital Advertisement Rights at Select Locations inside District Court, Shivaji Nagar and Mandal Metro Stations of the Pune Metro Rail Project for a Period of 07 (seven) Years.
Interested bidders may visit Pune Metro Rail website www.punemetrorail.org to view this tender notice (NIT) and can download the tender documents and obtain further details regarding the Tender from e-tender portal of Govt. of Maharashtra <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from 17:00 Hrs. on 30/10/2026 to 16:00 Hrs. of 30/11/2026.
General Manager (TP & Procurement - PD)
Maha-Metro Rail Corporation Limited
Pune Metro : City's Transport Solution

FORM G - INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR POSITIVE HOUSINGS PRIVATE LIMITED ENGAGED IN REAL ESTATE BUSINESS
(Under Regulation 36A(1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016.
RELEVANT PARTICULARS

1.	Name of the corporate debtor and CIN	POSITIVE HOUSINGS PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70101TN2005PTC131430)
2.	Address of the registered office	New No 63, GN Chetty Road, T Nagar, Chennai - 600017, Tamil Nadu
3.	URL of website	NA
4.	Details of place where majority of fixed assets are located	Mylapore, Chennai.
5.	The installed capacity of main products (Annual Production Capacity in Metric Ton)	NA
6.	Qty. & value of main products/ services sold in last financial year	NA
7.	Number of employees/ workmen	NA
8.	Further details including the last available financial statements, lists of creditors, and relevant dates for subsequent events of the process are available at:	Can be sought by sending a request to Resolution Professional at cirp.positivehousing@gmail.com
9.	Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	Can be sought by sending a request to RP at: cirp.positivehousing@gmail.com
10.	Last date for receipt of expression of interest	13.11.2026
11.	Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	23.11.2026
12.	Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	28.11.2026
13.	Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	08.12.2026
14.	Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	09.12.2026
15.	Last date for submission of resolution plans	08.01.2027
16.	Process email id to submit EOI	cirp.positivehousing@gmail.com
17.	Details of the corporate debtor's registration status as MSME	NA

Sd/- Ranjana Singh -representing
Beleyur Resolutions Private Limited (IPE)
Resolution Professional of
Positive Housing Private Limited
Address: 'Shreevathsa', 428, 19th B Cross,
3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 011
Tele: 080 4132 4113; Phone: +91 90358 81624
Email: cirp.positivehousing@gmail.com
Date: 29th October 2026
Place: Bengaluru

DVAC searches 25 places linked to Nehru in MAWS recruitment scam

Raid comes 2 days after HC bins plea against filing of FIR; ex-min calls it diversionary tactic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai/Tiruchy/Coimbatore

THE Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) on Thursday launched searches at 25 locations linked to former DMK minister K N Nehru across Chennai, Tiruchy, Coimbatore, Namakkal and Tirunelveli, among other places.

The searches were conducted two days after the Madras High Court dismissed Nehru's review petition against the investigation into the alleged cash-for-jobs scam in the Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MAWS) Department, during his tenure as minister.

A total of 170 incriminating documents and 13 electronic gadgets connected to the investigation were seized in the raids conducted in the case registered in June following a complaint from the Enforcement Directorate.

According to the DVAC, the case was registered against Nehru and seven others over allegations of corruption and malpractices in the recruitment of 2,538 candidates. Money was allegedly collected from ineligible candidates for their appointment as assistant engineers, junior engineers, sanitary inspectors, draughtsmen and to other categories in the MAWS Department.

The money was allegedly routed through hawala channels during 2024-25.

In Tiruchy, Nehru's residence in Thillai Nagar was searched from 7 am to 3 pm, resulting in the seizure of four documents and a tablet, according to official sources. Manachanallur MLAS Kathiravan and Tiruchy Mayor Mu Anbalagan were present. Other teams searched locations in Srirangam, Thiruvanaikoil, Lalgudi and Thuraiyur in Tiruchy district.

After the operation, Nehru told reporters that the officials had not questioned him and had only searched his residence.



DVAC officials conducted a search at former DMK minister K N Nehru's residence at Thillai Nagar in Tiruchy, on Thursday | MK ASHOK KUMAR

He said the searches covered more locations this time than during the previous round, but the officials found nothing except his brother Manivannan's business tablet.

He said that he did not think the searches were linked to the Tiruchy East bye-election and the people would decide whether the DMK should win. "The DMK does not depend on me alone. We have lakhs of party workers. Even if I am not there, our cadre will continue to work for the party's victory in the election," he said.

Nehru alleged that the searches might have been conducted to divert public attention from law and order issues,

including the escape of prisoners from Theni prison. He added that after the high court dismissed his review petition, they had challenged the order in the Supreme Court.

In Coimbatore, searches were conducted at the office and house of Nehru's brother, K N Manivannan, located in an apartment complex near Singanallur and GV Residency till evening. Manivannan was not present during the search. Officials also questioned people present on the premises. A search was also reported at a residential complex near Vadavalli, though officials did not confirm the location.

DVAC seizes three appointment letters from ex-MLA's house

Vellore: As part of the raids linked to KN Nehru, raids were conducted at the residences of former Anaicut MLA AP Nandakumar and businessman Sekhar Reddy in Katpadi on Thursday. A team of seven DVAC officials reached Nandakumar's house in Gandhi Nagar around 8.45 am. "Three appointment letters were seized from his house. The documents will be sent to the Chennai office to ascertain their relevance to the case," said a DVAC official in Vellore district. Meanwhile, a team of eight DVAC officials conducted the raid at Sekhar Reddy's house. An official told TNIE that after a theft incident last month, all property-related documents had been shifted elsewhere. The theft case was registered by the Viruthampatt police on September 19, following a complaint by Reddy stating gold jewellery and ₹25 lakh in cash had been missing from his house. Five people were arrested in connection with the case. ENS

After Theni jailbreak, Shankar replaces Rathore as prison chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE recent escape of prisoners from the Theni district jail and Puzhal prison has triggered a reshuffle in the higher ranks of the prisons department with DGP (Prisons) Sandeep Rai Rathore transferred as DGP and Chief Vigilance Officer, Tangedco, Chennai, on Thursday. K Shankar, ADGP, Enforcement Bureau-CID, has been appointed the new head of Prisons and Correctional Services. He had previously served as the head of prisons from January 2, 2026, before being transferred to another post.

The reshuffle comes even as the department had initiated suspension of nine prison personnel following the escape of 17 remand prisoners from Theni district jail on Monday night and seven prison personnel over the escape of two prisoners from Puzhal Central Prison last week. The incidents raised questions over security arrangements in TN prisons.

Law and Prison Minister CTR Nirmal Kumar on Thursday told reporters that the state govern-



K Shankar, Sandeep Rai Rathore

ment was overhauling the prison department by introducing new security systems, online visitor registration and staff redeployment to address long-standing deficiencies. "The system has been deteriorating for 20 to 30 years, and we are working to transform it," he said.

The government has approved additional CCTV cameras and scanning machines and mandated body cameras for prison guards during inspections. AI-enabled surveillance systems are also being procured to monitor prison perimeter walls. The department has closed 16 sub jails and redeployed personnel to central prisons to address staff shortages.

Recruitment through the

TNPSC and promotions are also being pursued. New central prisons are being constructed in Coimbatore and Madurai, while a high-security prison integrated with a court complex is coming up in Tiruchy. Video-conferencing facilities are expected to be introduced across prisons within two months.

IPS officers transferred

The state government has also ordered the transfer of five other IPS officers. It appointed Sanjay Mathur as DGP, State Crime Records Bureau, upgrading the post from the IG rank. Sonal Chandra, who held the post, has been transferred as IG of Police, Headquarters, in the office of the DGP and HoPE. B Ragupathy, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Pallikarai, has been posted as Karur SP replacing D N Hari Kiran Prasad. Dr R Stalin, SP, Economic Offences Wing, North Zone, has been posted as Tenkasi SP replacing S Ashok Kumar. Ashok Kumar has been posted as SP, Anti-Terrorism Squad, Madurai, against an existing vacancy.

Stalin calls raids against former DMK ministers 'Vetri Vendetta Politics'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

DMK president M K Stalin on Thursday accused the TVK government of using raids against former DMK ministers to divert public attention from law and order issues, rising prices and alleged administrative failures. Reacting to the DVAC raids at KN Nehru's place, he said, "Having turned

TN into a state where nobody - women, children or the elderly - is safe, the chief minister (C Joseph Vijay) is thinking about whether to conduct a roadshow or a raid show to divert the attention of the people and the media's breaking news," Stalin said in a statement.

Targeting the TVK

over the induction of leaders facing corruption allegations, he described the party as a "TN Branch Washing Machine" and accused it of pursuing "Vetri Vendetta Politics" by targeting former DMK ministers. He accused the government of using the raids to make social media reels for the Tiruchy East bypoll.



CELEBRATION OF LOVE

A section of north Indian women in Chennai celebrates Karwa Chauth, a traditional Hindu festival where married women observe a strict day-long fast from sunrise to moonrise praying for the long life of their husbands, at Pattalam on Thursday | P JAWAHAR

CM likely to attend Davos meet; Keerthana to visit Switzerland for spadework

C SHIVAKUMAR @ Chennai

CHIEF Minister C Joseph Vijay is likely to attend the World Economic Forum's (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, from January 18 to 22, 2027, as the TVK government seeks to strengthen the state's position as an investment destination, according to industry department sources. Industries Minister Keerthana is expected to travel to Switzerland after a visit to Germany to prepare for the CM's proposed participation in the forum, sources told TNIE.

The proposed visit to the 57th edition of the WEF would provide the state an opportunity to engage with global business leaders, policymakers and investors at a time when the Tamil Nadu government is seeking to attract fresh investments to support its ambition of building a \$1.5 trillion economy.

The state is also likely to organise its second investment conclave

in the second half of November, with the dates yet to be finalised. The proposed conclave is expected to mark six months of the TVK government and showcase the investments attracted during its first six months in office.

The TVK government marked its first 100 days in office on August 13 by unveiling investment commitments worth ₹1.02 lakh crore. It had signed 104 MoUs, which cover 106 projects across 15 sectors, with total projected employment of 1,21,788 - direct and indirect - across 19 districts.

Meanwhile, the state Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, on Thursday offered incentives to eight companies in multiple sectors, including defence, aviation, textiles and other sectors. Three of the proposals pertain to expansion, which were cleared by the Cabinet, industries department sources said, but refused to share details about the companies or the nature of the incentives.



CM works as a govt staff from 9 to 6: EPS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Madurai

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami has described the TVK government as the worst in the country, and it was once again evident in the cancellation of bids to procure power at the cost of ₹41.5/unit.

Speaking to media at the airport, Palaniswami alleged that the electricity department was not managed properly by minister CTR Nirmal Kumar. "Power was purchased between ₹4.75



Edappadi K Palaniswami at Madurai Meenakshi Temple | K K SUNDAR

and ₹6.35 per unit during the ten-year AIADMK regime and between ₹11.50 and ₹20 during the DMK regime. The TVK gov-

ernment first tried to buy power at ₹35/unit and later at ₹41.50/unit, tender for which was cancelled."

Citing the recent jailbreaks, he alleged that law and order has deteriorated. "This happens only in a government where a CM acts like a government employee who works from 9 am to 6 pm, that too only on working days. I don't want to blame the government purposefully, but it has done nothing in the last six months," he said.

Ex-MLA surrenders in school fraud case, remanded till Nov 12

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A day after the Supreme Court rejected his anticipatory bail plea, former MLA Muthukumar, a co-accused in the case related to the alleged ₹100 crore private school approval fraud, surrendered before the special court for Prevention of Corruption Act cases in Chennai on Thursday. The former DMK MLA (2011-16), who later joined DMK in 2017, was remanded to judicial custody till November 12.

The case surfaced in July 2026 following a complaint by Elangovan, secretary of the Federation of Associations of Private Schools in Tamil Nadu. He alleged that private school managements were cheated af-



Former MLA Muthukumar surrendered before the special court for Prevention of Corruption Act cases in Chennai on Thursday | EXPRESS

ter paying money to secure permanent recognition, school upgradation, DTCP approval and other government clearances.

On September 26, the police conducted searches at four

premises linked to Muthukumar's relatives in Kallakurichi and seized 30 documents, including bank-related records. The searches were conducted after a probe revealed that one

of Muthukumar's relatives had allegedly assisted him in collecting money from private school managements by promising to secure government approvals through Muthukumar's T Nagar-based firm, Global 360 Degree. So far, the Central Crime Branch of the Greater Chennai Police has arrested four people, including ex-minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, BT Arasakumar, president of the TN Private Schools Association, and two others - Suresh and Raja.

Meanwhile, Opposition Leader Udhayanidhi Stalin met Anbil Mahesh at Puzhal jail for the second time, accompanied by ex-minister PK Sekarbabu, on Thursday.

Anbil Mahesh arrested based on proof: Min

Chennai: Law and Prison Minister CTR Nirmal Kumar on Thursday denied allegations of a political vendetta in the arrest of former minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, asserting that action was being taken on the basis of complaints and evidence of wrongdoing. Responding to reporters at the secretariat, he said that hundreds of educational institutions had complained of being threatened and forced to pay money towards the DMK party fund. The government could not remain silent when institutions lodged complaints, he said, adding that several schools were still afraid to come forward. Asked if the government would publish the list of schools that had paid money, he said the probe-related material would be available through court proceedings. On searches at locations linked to ex-minister KN Nehru, he denied that former DMK ministers were being targeted and said the government would act without discrimination against anyone found to have committed wrongdoing. ENS

Mahesh asks HC to quash FIR against him; plea adjourned

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Madras High Court on Thursday adjourned the hearing of a petition filed by former minister for school education Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, seeking to quash the FIR registered against him by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) of Greater Chennai Police. The FIR is in connection with the alleged ₹100 crore scam in issuing recognition and other stat-

utory clearances to private schools during the previous DMK regime.

Following submissions of state public prosecutor R John Sathyan that one of the main accused in the case, Muthukumar, surrendered before the special court for Prevention of Corruption Act cases, and the police intended to file an application for taking him into cus-

tody, Justice V Lakshminarayanan adjourned the hearing to November 10.

Senior counsel P Wilson, representing Anbil Mahesh, told the judge that a contingent of 40 policemen surrounded his office and blocked the entry before 'barging' into the office and arresting the ex-minister. "The police arrested Anbil Mahesh from my office in the midst of

a discussion on further legal action," he said, and asked the court to frame guidelines to deal with such situations.

Justice Lakshminarayanan questioned the prosecution as to why the ex-minister was arrested at the office of the senior counsel. John Sathyan submitted that the police were made to wait for a long time and later asked to come into the office. "Police have done only their duty," he said.



EXPRESS READ

Parties, JACTO-GEO oppose outsourcing of govt jobs

Chennai: CPM state secretary P Shannugam, PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss, AMMK general secretary TTV Dhinakaran and the JACTO-GEO have condemned the state government's decision to appoint the Overseas Manpower Corporation Limited (OMCL) as the agency to supply outsourced staff to all government departments and PSUs in the state. Stating that the move would replace permanent employees with outsourced workers, Anbumani said the system would also bypass reservation in recruitment. JACTO-GEO coordinator Venkatesan said the decision was against the state's 69% reservation policy and would affect basic-level government jobs. CPM state secretary P Shannugam urged the government to cancel OMCL's appointment, and expedite steps to fill government posts through permanent appointments. AMMK general secretary TTV Dhinakaran said the government had failed to fulfil its promise to regularise contract workers. ENS

TNPDL to recruit 8,000 field assistants in 2 phases

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu government has issued an order permitting the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDL) to fill 8,000 permanent field assistant posts through direct recruitment in two phases in 2027 and 2028. According to the order, 5,000 posts will be filled in 2027 and the remaining 3,000 in 2028 through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC). Candidates who have completed the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) course will be eligible. The additional expenditure for filling the posts is estimated at ₹213.28 crore in 2027 and an additional ₹127.97 crore in 2028, taking the total to ₹341.25 crore a year when 8,000 personnel join the force. The government has taken up the recruitment process to fill vacancies that have remained unfilled for many years, and strengthen the workforce involved in electricity distribution. Candidates have been advised to follow the TNPSC official announcements for further details. ENS

CBC 19101/13/0033/2627

Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India**SHARE A SELFIE WITH
THE HEROES
WHO HELPED INDIA
BECOME NAXAL-FREE****SALUTING INTERNAL
SECURITY FORCES****NATIONAL UNITY DAY**
31st October, 2026
EKTA NAGAR, GUJARAT**SEE THE MANY COLOURS
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1st to 15th November, 2026
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Or visit rashtriyaektaadiwas.comShri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Relief for 2,000 homes as state govt to regularise anadheenam land along OMR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE state cabinet, headed by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, on Thursday has given its nod to regularise 550 acres of anadheenam land in Thazhambur village along Old Mahabali-puram Road (OMR) in Chengalpattu district, which has been embroiled in a legal dispute for more than 40 years. The move is expected to benefit around 2,000 residential properties and 16 educational institutions built on these land parcels in Thazhambur.

The government is also expected to review the freeze on registrations involving 450 acres of land classified as anadheenam in Thazhambur village under Tirupurur taluk, whose current market value is estimated at ₹4,000 crore. Although the modalities for regularising the land parcels are yet to be finalised, minister C T R Nirmal

Kumar told reporters that the government was exploring the possibility of implementing the recommendations of a high-level committee, which suggested leasing the land to educational institutions for periods ranging from 30 to 60 years.

"The anadheenam land issue has been embroiled in a legal dispute for more than 30 years. Around 3,000 residents live in the area, and more than 15 educational institutions are located there. The previous government did not act on the issue. However, following a Supreme Court order, the Cabinet discussed whether the land parcels could be leased to educational institutions for 30 or 60 years," Nirmal Kumar said.

The case relates to an application seeking electricity connections for a residential complex developed by an ex-servicemen's

association, which comprises more than 850 houses. The land on which the houses were built allegedly fell under the anadheenam classification and had not been assigned to anyone. As the land parcels lacked valid title deeds, the residential areas were denied basic amenities, including electricity connections and stormwater drainage facilities. Several other residential projects developed by prominent real estate firms are also awaiting basic amenities, as pattas for the land parcels have remained suspended since 2019.

In 2019, a revenue department inquiry followed by a Madras High Court order found that pattas were allegedly issued illegally for more than 105 acres of anadheenam land to several individuals between 2008 and 2018 by revenue officials. The Kancheepuram Crime Branch

police also registered a case against three revenue officials.

Subsequently, the Chengalpattu district administration suspended the pattas of around 2,000 houses and froze registrations involving 450 acres of land in Thazhambur, also classified as anadheenam. The move effectively stalled property transactions involving assets with an estimated market value of ₹4,000 crore. After a series of petitions before various courts, the Supreme Court, this April, directed the state government to lift the status quo and take steps to provide basic amenities to the houses.

Anadheenam lands are distinct from conventional government lands such as poramboke lands. However, land classified as anadheenam that has no recognised private owner may vest with the government, subject to applicable legal provisions.

100% charge waiver for battery energy storage systems under new TN policy

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN @Chennai

AFTER detailed discussions, the state cabinet approved the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Policy 2026 on Thursday. The policy targeting 1 MW and above projects aims to speed up the installation of BESS across power generation and transmission networks, improve the utilisation of renewable energy and reduce the wastage of power (curtailment) generated from renewable sources.

The policy, accessed by TNIE, covers two categories of battery storage systems - standalone

BESS and co-located BESS.

Standalone BESS refers to independent battery storage systems with a capacity of more than 1 MW. These systems can be connected to transmission or distribution networks or private consumer networks. They will be eligible for a 100% waiver of applicable transmission and wheeling charges. These standalone BESS can be used to meet peak-hour demand, support grid operations and provide other approved services.

Co-located BESS refers to battery storage systems integrated with solar, solar-hybrid or other renewable energy

projects with a capacity of more than 1 MW. These systems store electricity generated by the associated renewable energy plants and supply it during peak-demand hours or when required.

Co-located BESS projects in existing or new solar, wind or hybrid projects will be eligible for a 100% waiver of applicable transmission and wheeling charges.

The policy will apply to all BESS projects for which applications are submitted on or after the date of notification, as well as projects commissioned on or after April 1, 2027.

Delays plague Arakkonam AC local, commuters livid

DHEEPTHI OJ @Chennai

PASSENGERS have expressed frustration over delays in the recently introduced AC fast local train operating between Chennai Central and Arakkonam on a trial basis from October 23 to December 24.

"The AC local train was introduced with the aim of reaching Chennai Central by 9.30 am, making it convenient for hundreds of people travelling to the city for work. Those who need to travel to Tambaram for work can also catch the 9.50 am AC train from Park station if this train arrives on time," Tiruvallur Railway Passengers Association secretary K Baskar said.

He said the train got delayed by 50 minutes on Thursday and 30 minutes on Wednesday. Indian Railways' official National Train Enquiry System (NTES)

app also recorded this delay.

He alleged that the train was operated on the slow line up to Vyasarpadi on Thursday. On Monday, he claimed, it was operated on the slow line up to Tiruvallur before being shifted to the fast line.

A Southern Railway official acknowledged that the train had been delayed on Wednesday and Thursday due to operational constraints, adding that it would be given priority in the coming days. However, the official denied that the train was operated on the slow line.

Mubarak Sharif, treasurer of the association, said passengers had pointed out that they could instead travel on the Yelagiri Express for just ₹35 and reach Chennai Central by 9.10 am.

Railway officials had earlier said that the issue of the high fare had been taken up with their headquarters.

Location, rev share changed for registration pilot hubs

C SHIVAKUMAR @Chennai

THE registration department has revised its plan to set up premium registration hubs, by changing the locations of the proposed pilot centres, introducing a three-tier infrastructure model and altering the revenue-sharing arrangement between the registration department and private operators. The commissioning deadline has been extended to 180 days from the award of the contract.

According to a government order passed on October 28, the

five model registration hubs will be located in Chennai North, Chennai Central, Chennai South, Chengalpattu and Coimbatore North.

Under the revised formula, the government will receive 80% of collections from standard and tatkal standard services, while the operator will retain 20%. Revenue from premium services will be split equally. For Tatkal premium services, the government's share will be 65% and the operator's 35%. There is no change in the facilitation charges.



An MTC small bus that broke down near Padi Bridge is pushed to the roadside by the conductor and motorists who stopped to help on Thursday | PRAVINKUMAR

TENDER NOTICE
SAINIK SCHOOL
AMARAVATHINAGAR - 642 102
UDUMALPET TALUK, TIRUPUR DISTRICT
Invites sealed tenders before 19-11-2026 to supply Fresh Ration, Dry Ration and Chicken and Egg as enlisted in our School Website www.sainikschoolamaravathinagar.edu.in.
PRINCIPAL

SUNDARAM HOME
— Sundaram Finance Group —
Regd Office: No. 21, Pattulos Road, Chennai - 600002.
Corporate Office: Sundaram Towers, No. 46, Whites Road, Chennai-600014
Branch Office: A R R Complex, 47/8, Third Floor, Venkatesan Street, West Tambaram, Chennai - 600045.
POSSESSION NOTICE
Issued Under Sec 13(4) read with Appendix IV and Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Whereas the authorized officer of SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice U/s. 13(2) dated 09-07-2026 calling upon the Borrower Mr. Velmurugan, Co-Borrower Mrs. B Jamuna to repay the amount mentioned in the Demand notice being Rs. 13,68,813/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Thirteen Only) being the amount due and payable under the Loan Account number EBT20260068 as on 09-07-2026 along with further interest, cost and other charges etc., if any till actual date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice.
The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount as mentioned above, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of Sarfaesi Act on 29-10-2026.
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.
The Borrower(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the Secured property shall be subject to the charge of SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED for an amount Rs. 14,21,844/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Twenty One Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Four Only) as on 29-10-2026 along with further interest, Cost and other charges etc., if any till actual date of payment.
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of Land bearing Plot No.45 measuring 600 Sq.Ft., Plot No.46 measuring 600 Sq.Ft. and Plot No.47 measuring 600 Sq.Ft., totally measuring 1800 Square Feet of land and any constructed portion thereon, situated at Village No.16, Atrambakkam Village, Poonchi Panchayat Union, Uthukottai Taluk, Tiruvallur District, "MANI NAGAR" (Layout Approval No. SWP/DTPC/TVLR/LAYOUT No.153/2023), comprised in S.No.3/2, 4/1B1, 11/2A and bounded on the: Plot No.45 with an area of 600 sq.ft; Old S.No.3/2. New S.No.3/2A1A1A1A and bounded on the North: Plot No.55 and Linear measurement 20 Feet, South: 24 Feet Road and Linear measurement 20 Feet, East: Plot No.46 and Linear measurement 30 Feet and West: Vacant Land and Linear measurement 30 Feet. PLOT No.46 with an area of 600 sq.ft; Old S.No.3/2, New S.No.3/2A1A1A1A and bounded on the North: Plot No.55 and 54 and Linear measurement 20 Feet, South: 24 Feet Road and Linear measurement 20 Feet, East: Plot No.47 and Linear measurement 30 Feet and West: Plot No.45 and Linear measurement 30 Feet. PLOT No.47 with an area of 600 sq.ft; Old S.No.3/2, New S.No.3/2A1A1A1A and bounded on the North: Plot No.54 and 53 and Linear measurement 20 Feet, South: 24 Feet Road and Linear measurement 20 Feet, East: Plot No.48 and Linear measurement 30 Feet and West: Plot No.46 and Linear measurement 30 Feet. Totally measuring an extent of 1800 Square Feet. Situated within the Sub Registration District of Uthukottai and Registration District of Tiruvallur.
Date: 29-10-2026
for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.,
AUTHORISED OFFICER

Reform ARC LIMITED
(Formerly known as Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited)
2nd floor ICC Chambers, Saki Vihar Road, Near MTNL Telephone Exchange, Powai Mumbai 400072. Ph: +91 22 6895 9000
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE OF SECURED ASSETS
REFORM ARC LIMITED (Formerly known as Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited) called as "RARC", acting in its capacity as Trustee of "RARC 068 Trust" is an assignee and a secured creditor of below mentioned borrowers by virtue of Assignment Agreement dated 30.03.2022 executed with Indian Overseas Bank.
The undersigned in exercise of powers conferred under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 hereby give notice to public in general that the below mentioned property shall be sold by way of "online e-auction" for recovery of dues. The properties shall be sold strictly on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "NO RECOURSE" basis apart from other terms mentioned below.
NAME OF BORROWER/GUARANTORS
1. Sri Sai Nath And Company Prop. Ramadevi, Add: No.847, Vijayakshmi Nagar, Alambathi, Tiruvallur - 600052.
2. S.Ramadevi Wo Late P.Siva Kumar, Add: No.847, Vijayakshmi Nagar, Alambathi, Tiruvallur - 600052.
3. Suresh Kumar, No.847, Vijayakshmi Nagar, Alambathi, Tiruvallur - 600052.
Outstanding dues as on 27.10.2026 Rs.46,91,563.73/- (Rupees Forty Six Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Three and Paise Seventy Three Only) with future interest thereon till the date of entire payment.
Date of Possession: - 19.08.2025
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: Survey No.205/5 (New S.No.205/5 & 206/2), Plot No.71 Sri Vijayakshmi Nagar, Alambathi Village, Ponner taluk, Tiruvallur District an extent of 1800 sq.ft, Boundaries: North by Plot Nos 53 & 54, South by 23 feet wide Road, East by Plot No 70 and West by Plot No 72.
RESERVE PRICE: Rs.10,71,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Only)
EMD AMOUNT Rs.1,07,100/- (Rupees One Lakhs Seven Thousand One Hundred Only)
Details of Auction Events:-
Inspection of Property: 18-11-2026 from 11.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.
Last date for bid submission: 19-11-2026
Date of e-auction: 20-11-2026 between 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. (with extension of 5 minutes each)
TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE
1. The property shall not be sold below the reserve price and sale shall be subject to confirmation by REFORM ARC LIMITED (Formerly known as Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited) as secured creditor. The properties shall be sold strictly on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "NO RECOURSE".
2. The E-Auction shall be conducted through REFORM ARC LIMITED (Formerly known as Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited) approved service provider M/s ARCA EMART PRIVATE LIMITED through the website: <https://www.auctionbazaar.com>. Detailed terms and conditions of the E-Auction, Bid Form, and Tender Documents are available on: www.rarc.co.in and <https://www.auctionbazaar.com>
3. Intending bidders must possess a valid e-mail ID. The Participation ID and Password will be communicated only through e-mail by the E-Auction service provider.
4. Interested bidders shall submit the duly filled Bid Form along with proof of EMD deposit and self-attested KYC documents (PAN Card, Aadhaar Card, etc.) to the Authorized Officer at: REFORM ARC LIMITED (Formerly known as Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited) 6th Floor, Khiraji Complex II, No.477-482, Anna Salai, Nandambam, Chennai - 600035 and by email to Sathesh.p.kumar@rarc.co.in. Last date of submission of Bid Form is 19-11-2026. Bid Forms received late or without EMD shall be summarily rejected.
5. All bidders shall comply with the provisions of Section 29A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
6. Neither REFORM ARC LIMITED nor the service provider shall be responsible for any failure on the part of the bidder due to internet/network issues, power failure, or technical lapses. Bidders are advised to make adequate alternative arrangements.
7. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT fund transfer to Current Account No: 040211010000004, Name of the Bank: Union Bank of India, Branch: Mumbai, Name of the Beneficiary: "REFORM ARC Limited", IFSC Code: UBIN0590070. Please note that the Cheque/Demand Draft shall not be accepted towards EMD.
8. The balance sale consideration amount will be remitted in Current Account No: 02470200003168, Name of the Bank & Branch: Indian Overseas Bank & Santacruz West Name of the Beneficiary: RARC 068 TRUST IFSC Code: IOBA0000247
9. Please note that the Cheque/Demand Draft shall not be accepted towards EMD.
10. Bids below the Reserve Price and/or without EMD shall not be accepted. Bid increment amount shall be in multiples of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) for property. In case of a sole bidder, at least one incremental bid shall be mandatory.
11. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale consideration (inclusive of EMD) immediately upon being declared successful bidder and the balance 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.
12. In default of payment within the prescribed period, the amount already deposited including EMD shall stand forfeited without further notice. However, extension of time may be granted at the sole discretion of the Authorized Officer.
13. EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded without interest after completion of the auction process.
14. The particulars specified herein are stated to the best of the knowledge and belief of the Authorized Officer. However, the Authorized Officer shall not be responsible for any error, misstatement, or omission.
15. The undersigned Authorized Officer reserves the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or to adjourn/postpone/cancel the auction without assigning any reason whatsoever.
16. Prospective bidders are advised to conduct independent due diligence regarding encumbrances, title, measurement, liabilities, and condition of the property before submitting bids. No claim shall be entertained thereafter.
17. All statutory dues, taxes, charges, stamp duty, registration charges, transfer charges, and any other incidental expenses relating to the sale shall be borne solely by the successful purchaser.
18. For further details, contact Mr. Sathesh Kumar P, Assistant Vice President - Legal, Mobile No- 8939677550 and Mr. Justin Sam Prakash, Deputy Manager - Legal, Mobile No- 8525526393.
19. The Sale Certificate shall be issued solely in the name of the successful bidder. No request for addition, deletion, substitution, or change of name(s) shall be entertained under any circumstances. The Sale Certificate shall be issued only upon receipt of the full sale consideration and confirmation of the sale by the Secured Creditor.
THIS NOTICE WILL ALSO SERVE AS STATUTORY 15 DAYS NOTICE TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTORS/MORTGAGOR UNDER SARFAESI ACT AND RULES MADE THEREUNDER.
Date: 30-10-2026
Place: Tiruvallur
Sd/- Authorized Officer
Reform ARC Limited (Formerly known as Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited)

Reform ARC LIMITED
(Formerly known as Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited)
2nd floor ICC Chambers, Saki Vihar Road, Near MTNL Telephone Exchange, Powai Mumbai 400072. Ph: +91 22 6895 9000
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE OF SECURED ASSETS
REFORM ARC LIMITED (Formerly known as Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited) called as "RARC", acting in its capacity as Trustee of "RELIANCE ARC CUB HL & SWE 2014 1 TRUST" is an assignee and a secured creditor of below mentioned borrower by virtue of Assignment Agreement dated 30.06.2014 executed with City Union Bank.
The undersigned in exercise of powers conferred under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 hereby give notice to public in general that the below mentioned property shall be sold by way of "online e-auction" for recovery of dues. The properties shall be sold strictly on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "NO RECOURSE" basis apart from other terms mentioned below.
NAME OF BORROWER/GUARANTORS
1. M/s/ Maruthi Enterprises, Represented by its Proprietor R.Vasantha, Add: No.115/90 B, 1st Floor, Perambur High Road, Perambur, Chennai - 600011. Thirumachisai, Chennai - 600124.
2. M/s/ Maruthi Industrial Catering Services Represented by its Proprietor R.Vasantha, Add: No.169, Sidco Industrial Estate, Thirumachisai, Chennai - 600124.
3. M/s/ Maruthi Industrial Catering Services Represented by its Proprietor R.Vasantha, Add: No.115/90B, 1st Floor, Perambur High Road, Perambur, Chennai - 600011.
4. Mr. P. Rajasekaran, Add: No.16/14, Gopala Reddy Colony, 2nd Cross Street, Perambur, Chennai - 600011.
5. Mrs. R. Vasantha M. P. Rajasekaran Add: No.16/14, Gopala Reddy Colony, 2nd Cross Street, Perambur, Chennai - 600011.
Also At: No.1, Mandavel Street, Thirumachisai, Chennai - 600124.
6. Mr. K. Kabilan, Add: No.8/80F, Jaganathan Street, Cantt. Palayamkottai, Chennai - 600043.
Outstanding dues as on dt. 27-10-2026 Rs.12,78,17,800.38/- (Rupees Twelve Crore Seventy Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Eight Paise Only)
DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PROPERTIES: The site and Superstructure now existing and to be put up in there on in future. All that piece and parcel of Land measuring 2450 sq.ft along with a building standing there on bearing Door No.8/80F, Jaganathan Street, Cantt. Palayamkottai, Chennai - 600043, comprised in R.S.No.388/66B in Tambaram Taluk, Kancheepuram District, bounded on the following with all the easementary rights :- North By: Cantt. Palayam, South by: BD, Ramakrishnan House, East By: Jaganatha Bakers, West By: Sarangapatti House Comprised with the Registration District of Chennai South and Sub Registration District of Palayamkottai.
RESERVE PRICE: - Rs.4,05,00,000/- (Rupees Four Crore Five Lakhs Only)
EMD AMOUNT: - Rs.40,50,000/- (Rupees Forty Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only)
The property is in the physical possession of REFORM ARC Limited.
Details of Auction Events:-
Inspection of Property: 18-11-2026 from 11.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.
Last date for bid submission: 19-11-2026
Date of e-auction: 20-11-2026 between 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. (with extension of 5 minutes each)
TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE
1. The property shall not be sold below the reserve price and sale shall be subject to confirmation by REFORM ARC LIMITED (Formerly known as Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited) as secured creditor. The properties shall be sold strictly on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "NO RECOURSE".
2. The E-Auction shall be conducted through REFORM ARC LIMITED (Formerly known as Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited) approved service provider M/s ARCA EMART PRIVATE LIMITED through the website: <https://www.auctionbazaar.com>. Detailed terms and conditions of the E-Auction, Bid Form, and Tender Documents are available on: www.rarc.co.in and <https://www.auctionbazaar.com>
3. Intending bidders must possess a valid e-mail ID. The Participation ID and Password will be communicated only through e-mail by the E-Auction service provider.
4. Interested bidders shall submit the duly filled Bid Form along with proof of EMD deposit and self-attested KYC documents (PAN Card, Aadhaar Card, etc.) to the Authorized Officer at: REFORM ARC LIMITED (Formerly known as Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited) 6th Floor, Khiraji Complex II, No.477-482, Anna Salai, Nandambam, Chennai - 600035 and by email to Sathesh.p.kumar@rarc.co.in. Last date of submission of Bid Form is 19-11-2026. Bid Forms received late or without EMD shall be summarily rejected.
5. All bidders shall comply with the provisions of Section 29A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
6. Neither REFORM ARC LIMITED nor the service provider shall be responsible for any failure on the part of the bidder due to internet/network issues, power failure, or technical lapses. Bidders are advised to make adequate alternative arrangements.
7. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT fund transfer to Current Account No: 040211010000004, Name of the Bank: Union Bank of India, Branch: Mumbai, Name of the Beneficiary: "REFORM ARC Limited", IFSC Code: UBIN0590070. Please note that the Cheque/Demand Draft shall not be accepted towards EMD.
8. The balance sale consideration amount will be remitted in Current Account No: 02020109403316, Name of the Bank: HDFC Bank, Branch: Kandivoli (East), Name of the Beneficiary: RELIANCE ARC CUB HL & SWE 2014 1 TRUST, IFSC Code: HDFC0001265. Please note that the Cheque/Demand Draft shall not be accepted towards EMD.
9. Bids below the Reserve Price and/or without EMD shall not be accepted. Bid increment amount shall be in multiples of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only) for property. In case of a sole bidder, at least one incremental bid shall be mandatory.
10. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale consideration (inclusive of EMD) immediately upon being declared successful bidder and the balance 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.
11. In default of payment within the prescribed period, the amount already deposited including EMD shall stand forfeited without further notice. However, extension of time may be granted at the sole discretion of the Authorized Officer.
12. EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded without interest after completion of the auction process.
13. The particulars specified herein are stated to the best of the knowledge and belief of the Authorized Officer. However, the Authorized Officer shall not be responsible for any error, misstatement, or omission.
14. The undersigned Authorized Officer reserves the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or to adjourn/postpone/cancel the auction without assigning any reason whatsoever.
15. Prospective bidders are advised to conduct independent due diligence regarding encumbrances, title, measurement, liabilities, and condition of the property before submitting bids. No claim shall be entertained thereafter.
16. All statutory dues, taxes, charges, stamp duty, registration charges, transfer charges, and any other incidental expenses relating to the sale shall be borne solely by the successful purchaser.
17. For further details, contact Mr. Sathesh Kumar P, Associate Vice President - Legal, Mobile No- 8939677550 and Mr. Justin Sam Prakash, Deputy Manager - Legal, Mobile No- 8525526393.
18. The Sale Certificate shall be issued solely in the name of the successful bidder. No request for addition, deletion, substitution, or change of name(s) shall be entertained under any circumstances. The Sale Certificate shall be issued only upon receipt of the full sale consideration and confirmation of the sale by the Secured Creditor.
THIS NOTICE WILL ALSO SERVE AS STATUTORY 15 DAYS NOTICE TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTORS/MORTGAGOR UNDER SARFAESI ACT AND RULES MADE THEREUNDER.
Date: 30-10-2026
Place: Chennai
Sd/- Authorized Officer
Reform ARC Limited (Formerly known as Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited)

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
REGIONAL OFFICE BROADWAY CHENNAI - NORTH

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
Union Bank Bhavan 2nd Floor, 139, Prakasham Salai, Broadway, Chennai - 600108. Ph: +91 8780015850
Mail: crld.rochennainorth@unionbankofindia.bank.in

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India, (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s).

The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

Anna Nagar Branch (Sol ID : 02271): Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: 1. Mrs.M.Vasanthini Devi (Main Applicant) D.No. 835, CSI Koi Street, Kannigaipar, Kannigaipar-601102, Dist Thiruvallur, Tamilnadu, INDIA. 2. Mr.A.Sekar (Co-Applicant) D.No. 835, CSI Koi Street, Kannigaipar, Kannigaipar-601102, Dist Thiruvallur, Tamilnadu, INDIA.

Amount due: Rs. 20,52,555.91 as on 30-06-2026 and interest thereon.

Description of Immovable Property : All that piece and parcel of land & building situated at New Door No 90, Kulathumettu Street, Old No 835 CSI Church Lane Off Karandadi- Periyapalayam Road, Kannigaipar Village, Uthukottai Taluk, Thiruvallur District in Survey No 171/4C, Total extent 1744 Sq Ft Land and 450 Sq Ft Building thereon E.B. No 414 with deposit Situated within the registration sub District of Arani and Registration District of Thiruvallur. **Bounded on the - North by :** House belonging to Mr Raju, **South by :** Land in survey No 171/2, **East by :** Land in Survey No 171/4A, **West by :** Land in Survey No 171/8. **Dimension -** on the East to west both side - 50 Ling's & on the North to South Both side- 80 ling's

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 13,60,000/- EMD ₹ 1,36,000/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 20,000/- POSSESSION Symbolic

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 13.11.2026 between 12 Noon to 05.00 PM (with unlimited auto extensions)

Encumbrances known to the Secured Creditor : Nil
(However indenting bidders are advised to verify the EC and satisfy themselves before submitting bid)

Interested bidders for Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit: <https://baanknet.com> & For queries contact Number: 8291220220 & Email ID: support.baanknet@psbaliance.com. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://baanknet.com> and <https://www.unionbankofindia.bank.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx>. For auction related queries Union Bank of India, Anna Nagar Branch (Sol ID : 02271) Address at Door No.231, Y Block, 6th Main Road, Opp. to Tower Park, Annanagar, Chennai, Tamilnadu-600040 Mob No: 9324502271 Email : ubid0802271@unionbankofindia.bank.in. Authorised Officer : Mr. Punya Nand Mishra Mob No 8780015850

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.
This may also be treated as notice u/r 8 & 9 of security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-auction Sale on the above-mentioned date.

Date: 28.10.2026
Place: CHENNAI

Authorised Officer,
Union Bank of India

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

Authorised Officer's Details Name: Mr. Kailash Chandra Meena, Mobile No: 8699009584 - Ph : 044-24338112

City Case Officer details: Name: Shri.S.Mathiayzhagan - Mobile - 6381445907

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

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on below mentioned date for the recovery of the dues to the State Bank of India, SARB-II, Chennai, from the borrowers as mentioned below:

SI.No.1) BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : M/s.Sri Duraiappa Enterprises, Registered Office Address: No.255, B.M.K.N.Road, Alandur, Chennai-600016. Branch Address: No. 9-A, Velachery Main Road Pallikarai, City: Pallikarai, Dist: Chennai, State: Tamil Nadu, India. Pin: 600100. Partner (1): Mr. Prabhuramasamy, Kanagaraj 65, 3rd Extension, Kubera Nagar, Masuthi street, Madipakkam, Chennai - 600091. Partner (2): Mr. Murugan, S/o. Sh. P. Sivasubramanian, Door No. 24/35 Karpaga Vinayagar Koi Street, Alandur, Chennai-600016. Property Address: Mr. Murugan, S/o. Sh. P. Sivasubramanian, Door No. 38, Flat No. T1, Third Floor, Ward No. 4, Block No. 6, Old Survey No. 54/6, Town Survey No. 29, Sri Durappa Complex, Karpaga Vinayagar Koi Street, Alandur, Chennai-600016.

Outstanding Amount : Rs.18,61,57,562.00 (Rupees Eighteen Crores Sixty One Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand and Five Hundred and Sixty Two Only) as on 22.10.2026 with future interest and costs, etc.,

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Name of the Title Deed Holder: Mr. S.Murugan (Covered under Sale Deed Doc. No. 791 of 2013 dated 25.02.2013) Property: (Item No.II) All the piece and parcel of the Land bearing Door No. 38, New Door No. 20, Karpaga Vinayagar Koi Street, Alandur, Chennai-600016, comprised in Old Survey No. 54/6 Ward No.4, Block No. 6, Town Survey No. 29, measuring an extent of 2380 Square Feet land on the eastern side out of total extent of 4060 Square feet, as per the T.S. Register Extract to an extent of 4460 Sq.ft., situated at Alandur Village, Alandur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Chennai South Registration District within the limit of Alandur Municipality (Now Chennai Corporation Zone XII) North By: Kannaappa Chettiar House, South By: Jagannathan Chettiar House, East By: Item No. 1 Schedule of Property, West By: Nara Sandhu, Residential Flat No.T1 in Third Floor, measuring super Plinth area of 3200 Sq.ft.inclusive of common areas and common shares together with Two Cars Parking in Ground Floor together with land measuring an extent of 920 Square Feet UDS out of 'A' Schedule Property and Situated within the Registration District of Chennai South and Sub Registration District of Alandur as per Sale Deed No. 791/2013 CERSAI ASSET ID: 200022499845 SECURITY ID : 400022548999

Status of Possession : Physical

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 1,60,00,000/- EMD ₹ 16,00,000/- BID INCREMENT AMOUNT ₹ 1,00,000/-

SI.No.2) BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Applicant : Mr. Murugan S. S/o Sh. P. Sivasubramanian, Door No.38, Flat No. S1, Second Floor, Sri Durappa Complex, Karpaga Vinayagar Koi Street, Alandur, Chennai-600016. Also at: Door No. 24/35 Karpaga Vinayagar Koi Street, Alandur, Chennai-600016. Office Address: M/s Sri Durappa & Co Stores, No. 255, MKN Road, Alandur, Chennai-600016. Co-Applicant : Mr. Ganesh, S/o Sh. P. Sivasubramanian No.46, Pandiyar Street, Blue Jacker, Tambaram West, Chennai-600045. Office Address: Sri Durappa Agencies No. 94, Ayyasamy Mudali Street Tambaram West, Chennai-600045. Property Address : Mr. Murugan S. S/o, Sh. P. Sivasubramanian Door No.38, Flat No. S1, Second Floor, Sri Durappa Complex, Karpaga Vinayagar Koi Street, Alandur, Chennai-600016.

Outstanding Amount : Rs. 16,35,29,978.00 (Rupees Sixteen Crores Thirty Five Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand and Nine Hundred Seventy Eight Only) as on 22.10.2026 with future interest and costs, etc.,

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Property belonging to S. Murugan (Covered under Sale Deed Doc. No 1931/2015 dated 18/05/2015) All the piece and parcel of the Land bearing Door No. 38, New Door No. 20, Karpaga Vinayagar Koi Street, Alandur, Chennai-600016, comprised in Old Survey No. 54/6 Ward No.4, Block No. 6, Town Survey No. 29, measuring an extent of 2380 Square Feet land on the eastern side out of total extent of 4060 Square feet, as per the T.S. Register Extract to an extent of 4460 Sq.ft., situated at Alandur Village, Alandur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Chennai South Registration District within the limit of Alandur Municipality (Now Chennai Corporation Zone XII) North By: Kannaappa Chettiar House, South By: Jagannathan Chettiar House, East By: Item No. 1 Schedule of Property, West By: Nara Sandhu Residential Flat No.S1 in Second Floor, measuring super Plinth area of 4050 Sq.ft.inclusive of common areas and common shares together with Two Cars Parking in Ground Floor together with land measuring an extent of 1710 Square Feet UDS out of 'A' Schedule Property and Situated within the Registration District of Chennai South and Sub Registration District of Alandur as per Sale Deed No. 1931/2015. CERSAI ASSET ID: 200016239791 SECURITY ID 400016276280

Status of Possession : Physical

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 2,56,00,000/- EMD ₹ 25,60,000/- BID INCREMENT AMOUNT ₹ 1,00,000/-

SI.No.3) BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Mr. Aashish Surana, S/o Mr. Sudhir Kumar Surana, Residential Address: No. 42, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, Nehru, Nagar, Chromepet, Chennai - 600044. Office Address: EOP Infrastructures Private Limited, No. 42, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, Nehru Nagar, Chromepet, Chennai - 600044 Property Address : Amar Prakash Palm Riviera, Flat No: 711, Block No. M, 6th Floor, Thirumudiyavakkam, Chennai - 600044.

Outstanding Amount : Rs. 5,86,71,096.00 (Rupees Five Crores Eighty Six Lakh Seventy One Thousand and Ninety Six Only) as on 28.10.2026 with future interest, costs, etc.,

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY
Name of the Title Deed Holder: Mr. Aashish Surana (Covered under the Deed of Sale Doc No. 2413 of 2016 dated 11.04.2016) SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY Schedule: A All that Piece and Parcel of the land comprised in Survey Numbers, extent and patia Nos. (which is more particularly described below) is situated at Thirumudiyavakkam Village, Thirumudiyavakkam Village Panchayat, Sriperumbudur Taluk and Kancheepuram District.

Item No	Survey Number	Extent in Cents	Patia No.	North by Survey No(s)	South by Survey No(s)	East by Survey No(s)	West by Survey No(s)
I.	124/2	131	1654	124/1	228/1, 228/2 and 232/B	124/1 & 232/B	125/2
II.	233/B	76.50	1541	232/2 and 233/1A	230.243/1, 243/2A and 243/2B	233/2B and 233/A	231/1 and 232/2
III.	230	126	1086	229/3, 231/1 and 233/1B	244 and 243/1	243/1	229/3 and 245
IV.	243/1	174	1086	233/1B	247/1 and 248/1A1	243/2A	230 and 244
V.	243/2A	22	1086	233/1B	248/1A1	243/2B	243/1
VI.	243/2B	150	1086	233/1B and 233/2B	242/1A, 248/1A1, 248/1A2	242/1A and 234/1B	243/2A and 242/1A
VII.	242/1A Part	90.92	1086	243/2B and 234/1B	248/1A3, 248/1A4 and 248/2A1	243/2B, 234/1B	243/2B
VIII.	228/2	44	1520	124/2	229/3 and 231/2	232/1B and 232/2	228/1
IX.	229/3	111	1521	228/1, 228/2 and 231/1	245 and 230	230 and 231/1, 231/2	229/1, 229/2 and 245
X.	231/1	11	1559	232/2, 228/2	231/1, 229/3	232/2	229/3
XI.	231/2	75	1559	231/2	230	232/2 and 233/1B	229/3
XII.	232/1B	53.50	1559	124/2 and 232/1A	232/2	232/1A	124/2, 228/2 and 232/2
XIII.	232/2	49.50	1559	232/1B	231/2 and 233/1B	232/1B and 233/1B	228/2, 231/1 and 231/2
XIV.	233/2B	21	1558	233/2A	243/2B	233/2A	233/1B
XV.	244	196	1535	230	246/1 and 247/1	243/1	245

Item No. 10 to Item No. XV, Admeasuring to an extent of 13 Acres and 31.42 Cents Within the Registration District of South Chennai and Sub-Registrar Office of Padappai. SCHEDULE - B An Undivided Share of Land measuring to an extent of 1801 (One Thousand Eight Hundred and One) Square feet of land right, title and interest in the Schedule - A. SCHEDULE - C APARTMENT NO.M-711 in the Floor No SIXTH(6), Block No M of the residential project "PALM RIVIERA" with Super Built Up Area 614 Square Feet(including proportionate undivided Share in the Common Constructed Area) and Private Terrace Area Nil sq.ft. with features detailed in the annexure to the agreement. ASSET ID: 200014031825, Security Interest ID 400014061524

Status of Possession : Physical

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 2,08,55,000/- EMD ₹ 20,85,500/- BID INCREMENT AMOUNT ₹ 1,00,000/-

DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES: 13.11.2026, between 11.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 20.11.2026 Time: 11.00 AM To 04.00 PM With auto time extension of 10 minutes each till sale is completed

Encumbrances known to the Bank, if any : NIL
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor's website <https://baanknet.com>

Date : SI.No.1 & 2 : 26.10.2026, SI.No.3 : 28.10.2026
Place : Chennai

Authorised Officer,
State Bank of India, SARB-II, Chennai

SI.No.1) BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Mrs. Vidyha D (Sister and Legal Heir of Late. Shri Manikandan D) W/o. Aruldas James, 24/92, Antony's Church Street, Puliyaikulam, Coimbatore - 641 045.

Outstanding Amount : Rs. 2,64,05,904/- (Rupees Two Crores Sixty Four Lakhs Five Thousand Nine Hundred and Four only) as on 23.10.2026 with future interest and costs. Status of Possession: Physical

Description of the Residential Flat: Located at - (i) Flat No. 202, Second Floor, North Facing "Gardena /Tower 2" "THE VILLAGE PHASE - I" OMR, Kalavakkam, Tirupurur, Chennai - 603110. Bank Property ID - i Item 1 - SBN400055585877

PROPERTY 1: All that land total measuring Acres. 35.7483 Cents comprised in Survey Nos. 225/38, 226/1C, 227, 229/1A, 241/2B38, 247/6A, 247/7B, 247/8, 247/10, 248/1, 248/2, 248/3, 248/4, 248/5, 248/6, 248/7, 248/8, old Survey No. 8 new 8/8 and old Survey No. 8 new 8/9 (part), old survey no. 8 new Survey No. 8/10 (Part) and new Survey No. 258/4 (Part) and 199/2 (part) new Survey No. 258/3, new Survey No. 258/13, old Survey No. 199/2 new Survey 258/14 of Kalavakkam Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu and bounded as follows: North By: Survey No.s 223/241(P), 231 (P) South By: Survey No.s 229/2,241(P), 228,229/1 B East By: Survey No.242 West By: Road Within the Registration District of Chengalpattu and Sub Registration District of Thirupurur. SCHEDULE - B Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land in Schedule "A" Property, which comes to 572.22 Sq. Feet of undivided share in the land in Schedule "A" Property. SCHEDULE - C Residential Flat bearing No. 202 in second floor, Tower 2, in the project with 1734 Sq Ft. and One car parking area space in the basement / still level. Latitude 12.740236, Longitude: 80.202754

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 54,00,000/- EMD ₹ 5,40,000/- BID INCREMENT AMOUNT ₹ 25,000/-

SI.No.2) BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Mr. Shaju. A. C. S/o. Mr. Cherian A. Residential Address: No.173, Main Road, Kamaraj Nagar (Opp to Jai Hathi Chennai - 600 071. Office Address: Emp No 9741 Machinist S, Heavy Vehicles Factory Ministry of Defence Avadi, Chennai - 600 054. Property Address: Flat No.3, First Floor, Lakeview Apartment, Flat No.330, Jawahar Ayya Nagar, Adnanur, Guduvanchery, Chennai - 603203.

Outstanding Amount : Rs. 78,27,463/- (Rupees Seventy Eight Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Three only) as on 23.10.2026 with future interest together with all other costs, incidental expenses and charges. Status of Possession: Physical

Description of the Residential Flat: Located at - Flat No. F3, 1st Floor, Facing South, LAKE VIEW APARTMENT", Plot No. 330, Door No. 193(as per site) Jawahararaya Nagar, Adnanur Main Road, Adnanur, Guduvanchery, Chennai - 603202. SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY SCHEDULE - A All that piece and parcel of vacant house site bearing Plot No. 330, measuring an extent of 2317 square feet, in the layout named as "JAWAHAR ATYA NAGAR" (Layout approved vide DTPC No. 128/86, 140/86/4 LP No. 103) comprised in survey No.362, as per Patia No. 9799, new Survey No. 362/69, situated in No. 193, ADANUR VILLAGE, Kundrathur Taluk, Kancheepuram District lying within the limits of Kundrathur Panchayat Union and Adnanur Panchayat, bounded on the North By: 20 feet Road, South By: Plot Nos. 3284, 329, East By: Plot No. 331, West By: Adnanur Village Road. Measuring East to West on the Northern side: 27 feet 10 inches, on the Southern side: 51 feet 6 inches, North to South on the Eastern side: 56 feet, on the Western side: 60 feet 10 inches. In all measuring 2317 sq.ft., or thereabouts within the Registration District of South Chennai and Sub Registration District of Guduvanchery. SCHEDULE - B 463 sq.ft undivided share of land out of total extent of 2317 sq.ft. forming part of Schedule - "A", property. SCHEDULE - C Flat No. F3, First floor, measuring 1380 sq.ft., (including common area) of the apartment named as "LAKEVIEW APARTMENT" constructed in the Schedule "A" property, together with 463 sq.ft. undivided share of land out of total extent of 2317 sq.ft., of the Schedule "A" property. Bank Property ID - SBN200051455358, Latitude 12.860377, Longitude: 80.052129

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 51,30,000/- EMD ₹ 5,13,000/- BID INCREMENT AMOUNT ₹ 25,000/-

SI.No.3) BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Mrs. Sweta Das, W/o. Mr. Prem Anand, Address No.1: Old No 5, New No 36, Vellar St, First Floor, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 24. Address No.2: No 315, 16th Street, Sasithri Nagar, Perambur Barracks, Chennai-12. Address No.3: Flat No S1, 2nd Floor, Plot No 1 & 2, Church Street, Manavalan Nagar, Perungulathur, Chennai-63. Address No.4: SRM Facility Arts & Science, MG Road, Potheri SRM Nagar, Kattankulathur, Chennai-603 203. Address No.5: No.19/7, Bhajanal Koi Street, 2nd Street, Choolaimedu, Chennai-94.

Outstanding Amount : Rs. 68,76,262/- (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakhs Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty Two Only) as on 23.10.2026 with future interest and costs. Status of Possession: Physical

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY : Flat No. S1, 2nd Floor, Plot No 1 & 2, Church Street, Manavalan Nagar, Perungulathur, Chennai 600 063. BANK PROPERTY ID : SBN400029492591 SCHEDULE "A" All that piece and parcel of the vacant Plot bearing Plot No. 1 & 2, Church Street, Manavalan Nagar, measuring an extent of 3625 Sq. Ft., Comprised in Old Survey No. 338, as per Patia No. 315, Sub-Division Survey No. 338/2, situated at Old No. 167, New No. 28, Perungulathur Village, Tambaram Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Plan approved from CMDA/Perungulathur Planning Permit No. PPD-28712/13-14 Letter No PPA No 609/2013 and Sub Division No 128/13-14 Date 27.09.2013 BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY - Schedule G Item 2 vacant Land, South By: Survey No. 338, East By: Survey No. 287, West By: 20 Feet Road, Admanur, Chennai. North Side: 72 Feet, Southern Side: 73 Feet, Eastern Side: 50 Feet, Western Side: 50 Feet, and the property situated within the Registration District of South-Chennai, Sub-Registration District of Padappai. SCHEDULE "B" 479 Square feet of Undivided share of land, right title and interest in all that piece and parcel of the above mentioned schedule A Property together with common rights and privileges with other owners of UDS in schedule A property SCHEDULE "C" Residential flat having Flat No. S1, in the SECOND FLOOR, having a total area measuring 887 sq. ft. thereabouts of super built up area (inclusive of common area). Latitude & Longitude : 12.922329, 80.085558

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 40,00,000/- EMD ₹ 4,00,000/- BID INCREMENT AMOUNT ₹ 25,000/-

DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES: SI.No.2 : Date: 06.11.2026 - Time: 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM, SI.No.3 : Date: 18.11.2026 - Time: 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM

Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditor : Nil.

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 18.11.2026 Time: 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM With auto time extension of 10 minutes each till sale is completed

Interested bidder may deposit pre-bid EMD with <https://BAANKNET.COM> before the closing of E-Auction

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

Date: 26.10.2026
Place: Chennai

Authorised Officer,
State Bank of India, SARB, Chennai

SI.No.1) BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Mr. Srinivasan Schedule Of Property: Schedule "A" (Entire Property): All the Piece and parcel of vacant bearing the Plot No.9, Measuring to an extent of 2400 Sq. Ft. Comprised in Old S.No.376/1C, Joint Patia No 613, New S.No.376/228, in the Layout named Thirumugan Nagar Part-I, Approved by C.R.D./T.C/84-157/131, Situated in No.193 Adnanur Village, Sri Perambathur Taluk, Kanchipuram District, Bounded on the North by: Plot No.18, South by: 40 Feet Road; East by: Plot No.8; West by: Plot No.10, MEASURING: North to South on the Eastern Side: 60 feet, North to South on the Western Side: 60 feet East to West on the Northern Side: 40 feet, East to West on the Southern Side: 40 feet In all measuring to an extent of 2400 square feet within the Registration District of Chennai South and Sub-Registration District of Guduvancheri. Schedule "B" Mentioned Property (Property Hereby Conveyed): All that piece and parcel of the rights, title and interest in 210 Sq. Ft. Undivided Share of land out of Schedule "A" Land together with Flat Measuring 524 Square feet (i.e., Plinth Area is 400 Sq. Ft., and common area is 124 Sq. Ft.) in the First Floor called as Flat No.F3, in the Apartment known as "VIBGYAR ENCLAVE" with one car parking, including common areas, common passages, common usages etc., together with Electrical Fittings, fixtures, electrical connection, water connection etc.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 24,58,878.96 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Fifty Eight thousand Eight hundred Seventy Eight and Paise Ninety Six Only)

DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES: SI.No.2 : Date: 06.11.2026 - Time: 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM, SI.No.3 : Date: 18.11.2026 - Time: 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM

Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditor : Nil.

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 18.11.2026 Time: 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM With auto time extension of 10 minutes each till sale is completed

Interested bidder may deposit pre-bid EMD with <https://BAANKNET.COM> before the closing of E-Auction

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

Date: 26.10.2026
Place: Chennai

Authorised Officer,
State Bank of India, SARB, Chennai

SI.No.2) BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Mr. Srinivasan Schedule Of Property: Schedule "A" (Entire Property): All the Piece and parcel of vacant bearing the Plot No.9, Measuring to an extent of 2400 Sq. Ft. Comprised in Old S.No.376/1C, Joint Patia No 613, New S.No.376/228, in the Layout named Thirumugan Nagar Part-I, Approved by C.R.D./T.C/84-157/131, Situated in No.193 Adnanur Village, Sri Perambathur Taluk, Kanchipuram District, Bounded on the North by: Plot No.18, South by: 40 Feet Road; East by: Plot No.8; West by: Plot No.10, MEASURING: North to South on the Eastern Side: 60 feet, North to South on the Western Side: 60 feet East to West on the Northern Side: 40 feet, East to West on the Southern Side: 40 feet In all measuring to an extent of 2400 square feet within the Registration District of Chennai South and Sub-Registration District of Guduvancheri. Schedule "B" Mentioned Property (Property Hereby Conveyed): All that piece and parcel of the rights, title and interest in 210 Sq. Ft. Undivided Share of land out of Schedule "A" Land together with Flat Measuring 524 Square feet (i.e., Plinth Area is 400 Sq. Ft., and common area is 124 Sq. Ft.) in the First Floor called as Flat No.F3, in the Apartment known as "VIBGYAR ENCLAVE" with one car parking, including common areas, common passages, common usages etc., together with Electrical Fittings, fixtures, electrical connection, water connection etc.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 24,58,878.96 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Fifty Eight thousand Eight hundred Seventy Eight and Paise Ninety Six Only)

DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES: SI.No.2 : Date: 06.11.2026 - Time: 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM, SI.No.3 : Date: 18.11.2026 - Time: 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM

Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditor : Nil.

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 18.11.2026 Time: 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM With auto time extension of 10 minutes each till sale is completed

Interested bidder may deposit pre-bid EMD with <https://BAANKNET.COM> before the closing of E-Auction

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

Date: 26.10.2026
Place: Chennai

Authorised Officer,
State Bank of India, SARB, Chennai

SI.No.3) BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Mr. Srinivasan Schedule Of Property: Schedule "A" (Entire Property): All the Piece and parcel of vacant bearing the Plot No.9, Measuring to an extent of 2400 Sq. Ft. Comprised in Old S.No.376/1C, Joint Patia No 613, New S.No.376/228, in the Layout named Thirumugan Nagar Part-I, Approved by C.R.D./T.C/84-157/131, Situated in No.193 Adnanur Village, Sri Perambathur Taluk, Kanchipuram District, Bounded on the North by: Plot No.18, South by: 40 Feet Road; East by: Plot No.8; West by: Plot No.10, MEASURING: North to South on the Eastern Side: 60 feet, North to South on the Western Side: 60 feet East to West on the Northern Side: 40 feet, East to West on the Southern Side: 40 feet In all measuring to an extent of 2400 square feet within the Registration District of Chennai South and Sub-Registration District of Guduvancheri. Schedule "B" Mentioned Property (Property Hereby Conveyed): All that piece and parcel of the rights, title and interest in 210 Sq. Ft. Undivided Share of land out of Schedule "A" Land together with Flat Measuring 524 Square feet (i.e., Plinth Area is 400 Sq. Ft., and common area is 124 Sq. Ft.) in the First Floor called as Flat No.F3, in the Apartment known as "VIBGYAR ENCLAVE" with one car parking, including common areas, common passages, common usages etc., together with Electrical Fittings, fixtures, electrical connection, water connection etc.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 24,58,878.96 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Fifty Eight thousand Eight hundred Seventy Eight and Paise Ninety Six Only)

DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES: SI.No.2 : Date: 06.11.2026 - Time: 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM, SI.No.3 : Date: 18.11.2026 - Time: 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM

Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditor : Nil.

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 18.11.2026 Time: 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM With auto time extension of 10 minutes each till sale is completed

Interested bidder may deposit pre-bid EMD with <https://BAANKNET.COM> before the closing of E-Auction

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

Date: 26.10.2026
Place: Chennai

Authorised Officer,
State Bank of India, SARB, Chennai

SI.No.1) BORROWER'S NAME & ADDRESS : Mr. Srinivasan Schedule Of Property: Schedule "A" (Entire Property): All the Piece and parcel of vacant bearing the Plot No.9, Measuring to an extent of 2400 Sq. Ft. Comprised in Old S.No.376/1C, Joint Patia No 613, New S.No.376/228, in the Layout named Thirumugan Nagar Part-I, Approved by C.R.D./T.C/84-157/131, Situated in No.193 Adnanur Village, Sri Perambathur Taluk, Kanchipuram District, Bounded on the North by: Plot No.18, South

Disabled inmate orchestrated the escape of 17 from Theni district jail

Undertrial suspected to have initiated plan after learning about rejection of his bail plea: IG

JEYALAKSHMI RAMANUJAM
@Madurai

A partially disabled prisoner, Linga Prasath, is suspected to have initiated the plan that led to the escape of the 17 remand prisoners from the Thekkampatti sub-jail in Theni on Monday night, after his chances of securing bail diminished, police said.

The inmates began discussing the plan around 6.30 pm after some of them learnt that their bail pleas had been rejected, and executed it between 9.30 pm and 10 pm, Southern Zone Inspector General Vijayendra Bidari said.

Speaking to **TNIE**, Bidari said Linga Prasath had suggested that the inmates break out of jail, board a train, and flee to northern states to settle down. "Three prisoners, including Meenakshi Sundaram and Linga Prasath, were upset after their bail pleas were rejected," he said. After 10.30 pm, the routes leading out of the area were sealed and the fugitives



Linga Prasath

Escapee's mother demands prison CCTV footage

Madurai: The mother of two prisoners who broke out from the Thekkampatti prison in Theni said all the 17 inmates could not have escaped easily without the gates being opened, and demanded the release of CCTV camera footage. Speaking to reporters at the collectorate on Thursday, Aarunugatham, mother of Meenakshi Sundaram and Thirupathi, denied reports that her sons were associated with the VKG and Vella Kali gangs. "None of the prisoners escaped by climbing the prison wall. The doors were opened, and they all walked out," she said. **ENS**

were forced to hide in the surrounding forest and hilly terrain. Police also kept watch on the inmates' relatives and parents to prevent the escapees from seeking refuge with their families. Special teams, assisted by drones and the Special Task Force (STF), launched an intensive search under the supervision of The SP Praveen Gautham and Dindigul SP R Jayakumar.

As the daylight set in, three specialised drones were deployed to scan the forest and locate the escapees. The aerial footage helped the teams cover extensive stretches of difficult

terrain and apprehend the fugitives one by one, Bidari said. Dismissing reports that the escapees had planned a revenge murder, the IG said the information was false. He ruled out the possibility of inmates having contacted people outside the prison using phones borrowed from the public.

Speaking to reporters in Theni, Andipatti DSP Vishnu Priya said preliminary investigations indicated that Linga Prasath had initiated the escape plan. Though his detention under the Goondas Act had been revoked, he allegedly feared that he would continue to remain in prison because of the cases pending against him.

Linga Prasath faces 26 cases,

including three under the Goondas Act. Karuppasamy, Rajkumar, Tharun Kumar and Silambarasan face one case each under the preventive detention Act. The remaining 12 inmates face various cases, including theft, she said.

Several escapees sustained injuries while moving through the rugged terrain after fleeing without footwear. They allegedly tore their shirts and tied the pieces around their injured feet before continuing through the hills, Vishnu Priya said.

Two brothers, Meenakshi Sundaram and Thirupathi, were arrested near the Gudalur bypass while allegedly attempting to flee to Kerala. The cooperation of local residents also proved crucial. Police received timely information when some of the escapees allegedly attempted to contact people outside the prison, she added.

Vishnu Priya said preliminary findings suggested that most of the 17 inmates had no links with one another, barring a few. Reports that they had escaped after receiving money to carry out a murder were rumours, she said.

Arnab: Cargo ship runs aground in AP; 20 saved

USHA PERI @Visakhapatnam

THE Indian Coast Guard (ICG) rescued 20 crew members of a bulk carrier that ran aground off Bendamurulanka in Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema district following Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Arnab, in a high-risk operation amid rough sea conditions.

The Coast Guard deployed its ship Sujay and a helicopter to evacuate the crew members from M/V Sigma Pearl, which ran aground about 1.7 km from the nearest shoreline. The successful rescue ensured that 20 crew members were brought to safety, with no loss of life reported in the incident.

In an official post, the ICG said, "In a challenging rescue operation at sea off Antarvedi in Andhra Pradesh, in the aftermath of Very Severe Cyclone Arnab, ICGS Sujay along with ICG Helicopter safely rescued all 20 crew members on-board aground vessel MV Sigma Pearl amidst rough seas. ICG's preemptive measures, coastal monitoring, and DRT deployment along the Andhra coast ensured ZERO loss of life at sea."

The Marshall Islands-flagged vessel, which was transporting rock phosphate, reportedly lost



ICG personnel during a rescue operation to save crew members of Sigma Pearl near Bendamurulanka | EXPRESS

Murugan calls rumours about his resignation libel, baseless

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

FORMER union minister of state L Murugan on Thursday dismissed reports that speculated on reasons for his resignation from the union government and the Rajya Sabha, calling them baseless and politically motivated. He also threatened legal action against



L Murugan

those spreading "defamatory content".

In a statement, Murugan said he resigned from both positions with the approval of the prime minister.

He rejected the rumours, saying his decision was driven by his desire to work closely with party workers at the grassroots level. Accusing a few individuals of attempting to damage his reputation, Murugan urged media organisations and content creators to remove the alleged defamatory content and issue public apologies. He warned that those who failed to comply would face civil and criminal proceedings.

power and dragged its anchor before drifting towards the coast. The vessel had experienced repeated failures of its auxiliary engines and generators during its stay at Visakhapatnam Port, affecting cargo operations.

According to reports, Sigma Pearl's power-generation problems left it without sufficient power to maintain its position, leading to the anchor being dragged and the vessel drifting towards the shore.

EXPRESS READ

Tasmac extends bar contracts till December 31

Chennai: Tasmac has extended the existing contracts of bars attached to its retail vending outlets by two months, from November 1 to December 31, or until commencement of contracts awarded through the fresh e-tender process, whichever is earlier. In a circular on Thursday, Tasmac MD K Nanthakumar said the extension was approved through a resolution to ensure uninterrupted operation of the bars. **ENS**

Kauvery docs treat 63-year-old with leaky heart valve

Chennai: Doctors at Kauvery Hospital in Alwarpet recently treated a 63-year-old man for severe aortic valve leakage using a specialised valve through a transcatheter aortic valve replacement procedure. The patient had pure native aortic regurgitation. The special valve combines a balloon-expandable frame with an anchoring element made of nitinol. The patient was discharged three days after the procedure. **ENS**

Six Nipah deaths linked to expired meds? KL to probe

T'puram: Keralam state government has decided to investigate whether the death of six Nipah patients between 2023 and 2025 were due to the administration of expired medicine. Health Minister K Muraliedharan informed the assembly that the state will constitute a medical board to conduct a detailed investigation to check if the use of expired batches of Remdesivir had contributed to these deaths. **ENS**

Appoint ex-judge committed to social justice: PMK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: Welcoming the cabinet's decision to constitute the commission, PMK leader Anbumani Ramadoss said it indicated that the government's efforts to safeguard TN's 69% reservation system were proceeding in the right direction. He urged the state to appoint a retired HC judge committed to social justice to head the panel and complete the preparations at the earliest.

Newborn sold for ₹4.5 lakh in Panruti

CUDDALORE: Four persons, including the mother of a newborn baby, were booked for allegedly selling the baby for ₹4.5 lakh in Panruti. One person was arrested on Thursday, and a search is under way to trace others.

According to the police, Abdullah is married to Manju alias Fathima (26). When she was pregnant and working at a footwear store, she met B Jafarkhan (44), an autorickshaw driver supplying water to the shop. Fathima reportedly told him about her worries of raising another child while she already had a daughter. The duo allegedly decided to sell the baby to Jafarkhan's landlady, Renukadevi, who has been married to Arun of Tiruchy and childless for 11 years. Fathima delivered a boy at the Panruti GH and on October 22 handed over the infant to Renukadevi. On Tuesday, when Fathima asked for her child to be returned, Renukadevi allegedly refused, prompting Fathima file a complaint. **ENS**

LoP seeks central probe into alleged links between fraud suspect and CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

LEADER of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin on Thursday demanded a probe by central agencies into the alleged links between B L M Premkumar, who was arrested by the Kerala Police in a ₹5,000-crore financial fraud case, and the chief minister and other senior TVK functionaries.

In a post on X, Udhayanidhi asked, "What is the connection between BLM Premkumar, who allegedly looted ₹5,000 crore of public money, and the 'pure' Chief Minister [Vijay]?" He alleged that Premkumar, ac-

cused of diverting money invested in a private financial institution into his personal account, met Vijay in July and took photographs with him. He also claimed that buses belonging to Premkumar were used for various TVK events. "Most importantly, after the Assembly election and before the trust vote, all ruling party MLAs were brought in buses belonging to Premkumar," he alleged.

Udhayanidhi further questioned why photographs of Vijay with the arrested individual had

What is the connection between BLM Premkumar, who allegedly looted ₹5,000 crore of public money, and the 'pure' Chief Minister [Vijay]?

Udhayanidhi Stalin

CENTRAL RAILWAY FOR PROCUREMENT MATERIAL

Advt. Tender Notice No. e-10/2026 dt. 28.10.2026 E-Tender is invited by dt. CMM (C) CSMT Details are as under: Tender No.: 03265059 Description: SMPs Based IPS Qty.: 27 Nos T. O. D.: 19.11.2026 Details to be seen on website www.ireps.gov.in

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: EPD/WCON/5400/TFP/01/26-27, Dated: 27.10.26. Open e-Tender is invited by Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (P&D), Eastern Railway, Kancharapara Workshop, Kancharapara, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, PIN-743145 from proven experienced contractor for the following work: Tender No.: EPD/WCON/5400/TFP/01/26-27. Name of work and its location: Rehabilitation of 5400 KVA transformer (copper coil) of electric locomotives, Quantity: 32 nos. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 6.67,05,945. Cost of Tender Form: Nil. As per Clause No. 3 of Part 1 under GCC April/2022, e-tender forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. Address of the office from e-tender initiated: Office of the Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/Planning & Development/ Eastern Railway/ Kancharapara Workshop, PIN-743145. Bid security amounts is to be deposited through e-payment gateway or bank guarantee bond: ₹ 13.34,200/- As per Railway Board's L.No. 2022/CE-1/CTC/GCC-2022/Policy dated 27.04.2022 (advance collection Slip No. 5 dtd. 20.10.2023) tenderers can submit bid security of said amount as bank guarantee bond also. The original Bank Guarantee should be delivered to Dy. CEE/P&D/Kancharapara before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bid). The format of BG bond has mentioned in GCC-April/2022. Bidders are requested to follow the GCC April/2022 (with amendments) for details information regarding this. Completion Period of the work: 24 (twenty four) months. Bid submission start date: From 04.11.2026. Bid submission end date: Up to 14.45 hrs. on 18.11.2026. Date and time of Opening of tender: Tender will be opened on 18.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Website particulars and Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen: <http://www.ireps.gov.in> MISC-247/2026-27

Tender Notice is also available at websites: www.e-railways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

SUNDARAM HOME

Regd Office: No. 21, Pattilios Road, Chennai - 600002. Corporate Office: Sundaram Towers, No. 46, Whites Road, Chennai-600014 Branch Office: A R R Complex, 47/8, Third Floor, Venkatesan Street, West Tambaram, Chennai - 600045.

POSSESSION NOTICE

Issued Under Sec 13(4) read with Appendix IV and Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Whereas the authorized officer of SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice U/s. 13(2) dated 08-08-2026 calling upon the Borrower Mr. S Kandhan, Co-Borrower Mrs. Varalakshmi to repay the amount mentioned in the Demand notice being Rs. 41,07,973/- (Rupees Forty One Lakhs Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Three Only) being the amount due and payable under the Loan Account number EBT20260111 as on 08-08-2026 along with further interest, cost and Other charges etc., if any till actual date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice.

The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount as mentioned above, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of Sarfaesi Act on this 29-10-2026.

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.

The Borrower(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the Secured property shall be subject to the charge of SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED for an amount Rs. 42,30,515/- (Rupees Forty Two Lakhs Thirty Thousand Five Hundred Fifteen Only) as on 29-10-2026 along with further interest, Cost and Other charges etc., if any till actual date of payment.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: All that Piece and parcel of land and building, comprising in Old S.No.3/2, New S.No.3/2A1A1A1A1, bearing Plot No.197, measuring with an extent of 1129 Sq.ft., bearing Plot No.198, measuring with an extent of 820 Sq.ft., bearing Plot No.199, measuring with an extent of 823 Sq.ft., bearing Plot No.200, measuring with an extent of 838 Sq.ft., and bearing Plot No.201, measuring with an extent of 845 Sq.ft., admeasuring an extent of 4455 Sq.ft., Situated at "Mani Nagar", Approved by SWP/DTCP/TVLRL/Layout No.153/2023, Abimbakkam Village, Uthukottai Taluk, Thiruvallur District and bounded on the Plot No.197 - 1129 Sq.ft., North by: Vacant Land, South by: Plot No.198, East by: Vacant Land, West by: 30 Feet Road. Measuring East to West on the Northern Side: 41.6 Feet, East to West on the Southern Side: 41 Feet, North to South on the Eastern Side: 24.3 Feet, North to South on the Western Side: 30.6 Feet. Plot No.198 - 820 Sq.ft., North by: Plot No.197, South by: Plot No.199, East by: Vacant Land, West by: 30 Feet Road. Measuring East to West on the Northern Side: 41 Feet, East to West on the Southern Side: 41 Feet, North to South on the Eastern Side: 20 Feet, North to South on the Western Side: 20 Feet. Plot No.199 - 823 Sq.ft., North by: Plot No.198, South by: Vacant Land, West by: 30 Feet Road. Measuring East to West on the Northern Side: 41 Feet, East to West on the Southern Side: 41.3 Feet, North to South on the Eastern Side: 42.6 Feet, North to South on the Western Side: 20 Feet. Plot No.200 - 838 Sq.ft., North by: Plot No.199, South by: Plot No.201, East by: Vacant Land, West by: 30 Feet Road. Measuring East to West on the Northern Side: 41.3 Feet, East to West on the Southern Side: 42.6 Feet, North to South on the Eastern Side: 20 Feet, North to South on the Western Side: 20 Feet. Plot No.201 - 845 Sq.ft., North by: Plot No.200, South by: Plot No.202, East by: Vacant Land, West by: 30 Feet Road. Measuring East to West on the Northern Side: 42.6 Feet, East to West on the Southern Side: 42 Feet, North to South on the Eastern Side: 20 Feet, North to South on the Western Side: 20 Feet. Situated within the Sub Registration District of Uthukottai and in the Registration District of Thiruvallur.

Date: 29-10-2026

for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.,

AUTHORISED OFFICER

QuoteExpress

YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR INSPIRATION.

YOU HAVE TO GO AFTER IT WITH A CLUB

JACK LONDON

DEPARTMENT OF IT, ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATIONS

GOVERNMENT OF GOA
2ND FLOOR, IT HUB, ALTHINHO, PANJIM-GO-403001, INDIA
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Electronics Mode Only)

Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications, Government of Goa, Panaji-Goa invites tender to select a vendor to "Design, Build, Operate for 5 years and Transfer (DBOT) Security Operation Center (SOC)" for the State of Goa.

All the interested bidders are requested to register on the e-tendering portal, if not registered. For details please login on to <https://eprocure.goa.gov.in>.

Sd/- Director (ITE&C)

DI/ADVT/1831/2026

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Office of the Superintending Engineer, DS Circle, PSPCL, Patiala, 66 KV Grid Sub Station Colony, DCW Road, Patiala-147001 (Punjab), 96461-01201, 96461-10963 E-mail: circlepatiala1@gmail.com

Reg. Office: PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala (Punjab)

Tender Enquiry No. 39/SE/DS Circle, Patiala/2026-27 Dated: 28.10.2026

Superintending Engineer / DS Circle, PSPCL Patiala invites e-tender for Outsourcing of Labour Part for Erection, Testing & Commissioning of New 11KVLT / HT Lines on Rail / PCC Poles, Distribution T/Fs, Augmentation / Sagging of ACSSR of HT/LT Lines, Cables laying, Guarding, Stay Set for Various Works such as Relaying of T/Wall Connections, GSC/ISO Connections, Deloading of Overloaded T/Fs, Shifting of Meters Outside Consumer Premises, Preventive maintenance of HT/LT lines not involving conductor replacement or insertion of extra poles Earthing of Dis/Lines or any Development Works under DS West Division Patiala under DS Circle Patiala.

For detailed NT and Tender Specifications please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 28.10.2026, 06:00 PM onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

C-1027/26/29/10/2026

1079/12/026-27/16629

WESTERN RAILWAY

Material Management Department

VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/65/2026 Date 26.10.2026

S.N.	Tender No.	Short Description of Items	Quantity	T.O.D.
513	06262048A	Low maintenance lead acid	458 Nos	31-Dec-26
514	06262104	VRLA cells of 6V mono block 120 AH	505 Set	28-Dec-26
515	10265071	Thin walled Electron beam irradiated flexible elastomeric cable with copper conductor single core. Size: 2.5 Sq.mm.	484000 Metre	16-Dec-26
516	23264601	22.22 mm Dia. Lock Bolt & collar	215118 Nos	07-Dec-26
517	23264004	Two part sliding door arrangement	394 Nos	30-Nov-26
518	11265016	Supply, installation, trial run & commissioning of Bogie Turn Table, cap. 10 Ton	9 Nos	27-Nov-26
519	09261577	Holding magnet valve type EV 208 - 3VT	365 Nos	23-Nov-26
520	15265018	Bogie Frame assembly for Coili spring	74 Nos	23-Nov-26
521	09265023	Supply of Passenger Emergency Talk Back System for ladies coaches of EMU rakes.	18 Nos	23-Nov-26

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.westernrailways.gov.in.

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NORTH EASTERN INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA & HOMOEOPATHY

(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India)
Mawdlangdiang, Shillong, Meghalaya-793018

Advt. No. EST-13017/1/2024-Administrative Division/H-2999 date: 28/10/2026

रिक्ति सूचना / VACANCY NOTICE

पूर्वातर आयुर्वेद एवं होम्योपैथी संस्थान (पू.अ.हो.सं.), शिल्लोंग द्वारा पूर्णतः सविधा के अधार पर अक-माहिकीकृत (आयोर्होमिडिस्टिकन), आवासीय रिक्तिस्तः अधिकांसी (आयुर्वेद) तथा पारमर्शकतः (होम्योपैथी) के पद हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जा रहे हैं।

North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Homoeopathy (NEIAH), Shillong is inviting applications for the post of Biostatistician, Residential Medical Officer (Ayurveda) and Consultant (Pharmacy) purely on Contract Basis.

अधिक जानकारी हेतु इच्छुक उम्मीदवार संस्थान की वेबसाइट www.nelah.nic.in/ www.nelahshillong.in देख सकते हैं।

For details, interested candidates may visit the Institute website namely www.nelah.nic.in/ / www.nelahshillong.in

Sd/- Director
NEIAH, Shillong

CBC 17217/11/0009/2627

VELTECH ENGINEERING COLLEGE BRANCH

No.60, Avadi Veltech Road, Vellanoor, Avadi, Chennai-600062. Phone : 9500419949 Mail Id : vijel@bankofbaroda.com

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 14.05.2026, calling upon the Borrower Mr. K.Saravanan, S/o Kadarkarai Thangam to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.22,50,448.90/- (Rupees twenty two lacs fifty thousands four hundred forty eight & paise ninety only) as on 09.05.2026 together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 23rd day of October of the year 2026.

The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for an amount of Rs.23,76,559.48/- (Rupees twenty three lacs seventy six thousands five hundred fifty nine & paise forty eight only) as on 18.10.2026 and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.

Description of the Immoveable Property
All that piece and parcel of land and incomplete building measuring 600 Sq.ft (North west portion) out of 2400 Sq.ft with incomplete building in Plot No.8 in Dr.Ramasamy Nagar, Morai Madura Puliukuthi, comprised in Survey No.59 Part, Patta No.146, situated at Morai Madura Puliukuthi, Avadi Taluk (Formerly Ambattur Taluk), Tiruvallur District, situated within the Registration District of Tiruvallur and Sub Registration district of Avadi belonged to Mr.K.Saravanan son of Mr.Kadarkarai Thangam and bounded on the North by: Land in S.No.59, South by: Plot No.8 Remaining portion, East by: Plot No.8 North east portion owned by Mrs.Saranya, West by: Road. Measuring: North to South on the Eastern side: 20 Feet, North to South on the Western Side: 20 Feet, East to West on the Northern Side: 30 feet, East to West on the Southern Side: 30 feet. And situated within the Registration District of Tiruvallur and Sub Registration district of Avadi.

Place: Avadi, Chennai

Date: 23.10.2026

AUTHORIZED OFFICER
BANK OF BARODA

If in a democracy, you create rival loyalties or a system in which any individual or group cares nought for larger interests, then democracy is doomed

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

— Rammath Goenka

STATE UPPER HOUSE POLLS CARRY CAUTION FOR BOTH CONG & BJP

LEGISLATIVE Council elections in four states—out of the six states that have bicameral legislatures—have thrown up a mixed picture overall. It was a rude reality check for the Congress, which won only one of the 28 seats up for grabs. While the BJP performed well, winning 13 seats, and its NDA allies won three more, warnings were delivered in some of the coalition's pocket boroughs. This round of elections was for teachers' and graduates' seats, which together account for a sixth of the Legislative Councils' seats.

The Congress drew a blank in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Bihar. The victory of its renominated candidate in the Nagpur graduates' seat—one of the three it contested in Maharashtra—was a saving grace in an election conducted by ballot, which the party demands for all polls. Its biggest setback was in its stronghold Karnataka, where the BJP-JD(S) combine swept all four seats. This jolt, delivered in D K Shivakumar's first major electoral test, cost the Congress its narrow majority in the Karnataka Legislative Council, despite extensive campaigning by its leaders. The ruling party now has 37 members in the state's 75-member Upper House. Among the three seats the BJP retained was the Karnataka State Northeast teachers' constituency, which covers Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's home turf, Kalaburagi. JD(S)'s victory in Bengaluru teachers' constituency over a five-time Congress MLC was an inflection point. NDA partners successfully transferred their votes, which senior Congress leaders admit will have to be considered while formulating the party's strategy for 2028. Congress's poor showing in Uttar Pradesh ahead of next year's Assembly polls will likely affect its seat-sharing talks with the Samajwadi Party.

The polls were not without caveats for the BJP, too. It lost to the SP in Varanasi, represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha. The BJP also lost in Nagpur, the RSS bastion and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's hometown, where it faced defeat in the hands of the Congress for the first time in 2020. In Bihar, Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj debuted in the Council by defeating the Congress MLC from Darbhanga teachers' constituency.

Educated voters in four politically significant states, which together command more than a third of the Lok Sabha seats, have issued an alert to all major parties. Course corrections should be in order.

STELLAR JIO DEBUT CAN'T MASK INDIA'S AI GAPS

ON a day when the broader market was in retreat, Jio Platforms delivered the kind of debut not many investors would have expected. The stock listed at ₹1,358, 21 percent above its issue price and closed its first day 27 percent higher. That valued the company at more than ₹13 lakh crore (\$131 billion), making it India's second-most valuable listed firm, behind its parent Reliance Industries. The ₹30,213-crore issue, India's largest, was oversubscribed 22 times.

The IPO's success under broader downward pressure partly shows the market's faith in telecom operators being an essential part in India's next investment phase spanning AI services, cloud computing and data centres. Jio is positioning itself as a technology platform that happens to own a telecom network, and investors appear to have bought into that narrative.

But even as the euphoria surrounding Jio's IPO continues, global investors are looking past it to the much bigger offering of Anthropic, expected later this year or early next. The comparison is sobering. The San Francisco-headquartered maker of Claude AI models filed on October 26 to list on Nasdaq. Its prospectus shows revenue of \$16.3 billion in the first half of 2026, nearly 13 times the year-earlier level. Analysts expect the company to command a valuation of \$1.2-2 trillion, several times Jio's. OpenAI, valued at a similar level to Anthropic's, is also expected to list by 2027.

The contrast highlights where global capital is flowing. Investors are backing companies building AI software and hardware, particularly in the US, Taiwan and South Korea. India has few listed companies operating at the core of this ecosystem, leaving its equity market vulnerable to foreign investors selling local holdings to fund bets elsewhere. Despite the growing concern over an AI financing bubble, foreign portfolio investors withdrew a record ₹3.08 lakh crore from Indian equities in the first nine months of 2026, nearly twice the outflow recorded in all of 2025.

Jio's listing proves the depth of domestic investor appetite for a credible growth story. But India needs to offer global investors more than connectivity and affordable data. Until Indian companies secure a meaningful share of the AI value chain, from computing infrastructure and models to chips, investors may only get to celebrate successes at home that are dwarfed by listings abroad.

QUICK TAKE

FREEZE THE THOUGHT

RIED freezers have emerged as the latest worry of Western cyber-defenders. After the mysterious heating-up of supermarket freezers across France earlier this month created havoc, the Pentagon has revealed it is investigating similar refrigerator malfunctions across US military bases that were first reported in August. Cyberattacks that can override something as basic as temperature controls warn of outcomes worse than spoiled food. It should make us wonder whether we really need the ease of having too many gadgets hooked up to the internet. The unprompted closing or opening of curtains on a wifi-enabled remote system may not give you anything more than momentary chills. But do we really need our house heating or car on such a system without their vulnerability checked and safety assurance updated?

LEFT to Mulayam Singh Yadav, the late founder and patriarch of the Samajwadi Party, he would never have dreamed of embracing the Congress as an electoral ally. He was, however, not averse to transacting business with the Grand Old Party for self-preservation.

He accepted the Congress's support for his minority government in Uttar Pradesh in 1991, after the downfall of the V P Singh government and a split in the Janata Dal leading to the emergence of the JD (Socialist) headed by former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar. Yadav went along with Chandra Shekhar. But unlike the stalwart from Ballia, who did not last after the Congress withdrew support in March 1991, the pugilist from Etawah outsmarted Rajiv Gandhi, then the Congress president. Yadav dissolved his Assembly at midnight and offered resignation as Chief Minister to the Governor at the crack of dawn. All because he had learnt through a Congress mole that Gandhi was planning to topple his government and facilitate the imposition of President's rule in UP before the Lok Sabha polls. The Congress had readied its communiqué for withdrawing support, but was clueless about Yadav's manoeuvre.

In 2008, Yadav ended his relationship with the Left Front and helped the Congress survive a trust vote in Parliament on the Indo-US civil nuclear pact which the communists opposed tooth and nail. Yadav filled in the numbers on the House floor after the Left pulled its support for the UPA government. Subsequently, the Congress did not give Yadav and Amar Singh, his factotum, the agency they badly sought in Delhi. Yadav paid the Congress back by spurning an alliance it asked for in the 2009 Lok Sabha election. But by putting up a blockbuster showing in UP—its best ever since the 1989 downfall—the Congress was better off by not going with the SP.

Yadav's son and political heir Akhilesh Yadav, who now heads the SP, jettisoned the Socialists' deep-seated antipathy towards the Congress and twice sealed electoral pacts with the GOP that yielded mixed outcomes in the 2017 Assembly elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Akhilesh, the CM in 2017, was caught in a bitter family feud to establish his leadership over the SP.

The punline signifying the Rahul-Akhilesh 'camaraderie' said, "UP ko yeh saath pasand hai" (UP likes this duo). But the seat-sharing negotiations were bedevilled by contestations over

The Akhilesh Yadav-Rahul Gandhi combo's electoral results have been mixed. Neither can let go of the rope in the ongoing tug of seat allocation for 2027

TRICKY TANGO OF COMPETING ASPIRATIONS

RADHIKA RAMASESHAN

Columnist and political commentator



SOURAV ROY

each party's ground strength. Mulayam rejected the alliance in 2017 and refused to campaign for his own party. Eventually, of the 403 Assembly seats, the Congress got to contest 105 and the SP 298. Peeved over their shares, the allies put up 'friendly' fights against each other that were anything but congenial. By then, the BJP juggernaut was on the road, crushing its opponents. It walked away with 312 seats. The SP and the Congress were estranged thereafter.

By the time the Lok Sabha elections descended in 2024, better sense apparently prevailed on both the Congress and the SP. The Congress had stagnated in UP for a decade, posting a tally of one or two seats. Another such disaster would have spelt near-oblivion in a state that was once its ticket to power at the Centre. For Akhilesh, another

reversal might have accentuated the SP's internal rivalry and thrown up fresh challenges to his leadership.

Both sides initially played hardball before clinching an electoral arrangement. It entailed allocating 17 of the state's 80 Lok Sabha seats to the Congress, including Rae Bareilly and Amethi, and 63 to the SP. The BJP was shell-shocked when the alliance—treated as non-starter by political observers—won 43 seats and reduced the saffron party's tally to 33. An analysis by Assembly constituencies showed the SP-Congress led in 220 boroughs.

However, one successful showing does not prove that the alliance is out to sail smooth in the 2027 Assembly polls. On its part, the Congress, despite being bruised and beaten, still fancies UP as its bastion by virtue of holding on to Amethi and

INTO NEXT PHASE OF GLOBALISATION

CHANDRAJIT BANERJEE

Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry

manufacturing, better logistics, quality standards and deeper integration of smaller enterprises. Trade agreements can open markets, but sustained competitiveness depends on productivity, innovation and reliable delivery. Stronger commercial engagement across Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia can further diversify India's economic partnerships.

Economic value is shifting toward high-tech frontiers, driven by breakthroughs in AI, semiconductors, biotechnology, quantum technologies and advanced manufacturing. India's digital public infrastructure, startup ecosystem and engineering talent provide a strong foundation. Its ambition must now extend from technology adoption to research, commercialisation and indigenous innovation.



Value is shifting faster towards high-tech frontiers that require collaboration. Trust to sustain partnerships is central to this effort—a plank on which India can contribute in a hyper-connected global economy. After recent joits, resilience must be built into future trading systems

This requires greater research and development investment, stronger industry-academia collaboration and international partnerships that deliver knowledge transfer, skills and joint innovation. No country can develop every critical technology independently. India can strengthen its global position by combining domestic capabilities with international expertise, while ensuring that tech-

nological progress expands opportunity and productivity across industries.

In an uncertain world, trust has become an economic asset. Investors need predictable policies, transparent regulations and reliable institutions; businesses need secure digital systems, consistent standards and dependable partners. For India, continued reforms, robust quality infrastructure and credible sustainability practices are essential to strengthening confidence.

Trust also requires international dialogue. Economic security and open markets need not be competing objectives. Diversified supply chains, transparent rules and proportionate risk management can protect legitimate interests while preserving the benefits of global cooperation. Building such confidence is essential to attracting long-term investment and enabling partnerships that endure beyond immediate commercial considerations.

Such a moment brings greater responsibility to address shared challenges, from energy security and climate resilience to food systems and workforce transformation. This requires collaboration across governments, industry, academia and international institutions to mobilise investment, develop skills and scale solutions.

These imperatives make the 31st CII Partnership Summit particularly relevant. Convened in Visakhapatnam during November 12-13 under the theme 'Navigating the New World Order: Trade, Technology, Trust, Thought Leadership', it intends to bring together a variety of stakeholders to advance opportunities in investment, technology collaboration, market access and skills development. The summit's four reinforce one another: trade expands opportunities; technology drives innovation; trust sustains partnerships; and thought leadership guides collective action.

With globalisation increasingly demanding strategic agility alongside economic scale, India has an opportunity to shape a more collaborative and resilient global economy. The upcoming summit seeks to advance this vision by translating strategic alignment into actionable and lasting partnerships for shared prosperity.

(Views are personal)
(cb@cii.tn)

MAIL BAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Hurricane help

Ref: *Brace for big cyclones* (Oct 29). It would be most appropriate for the Telangana government to reallocate funds earmarked for places of worship and religious activities towards drought relief. Under the dire circumstances, this would be appreciated by distressed people and the Creator alike.
S Lakshminarayana, Hyderabad

Angry undercurrent

Ref: *They didn't start the fire* (Oct 29). The article excellently encapsulates the boiling undercurrent of youth disillusionment. Gen Z are agitating not because they want to disrupt, but because the basic socioeconomic contract that hard work guarantees a stable future has been broken. It's time policymakers address structural inequalities before the simmering frustration becomes an uncontrollable blaze.
N Rama Rao, email

DPDP redo

Ref: *Open to amend law* (Oct 29). Laws designed to protect privacy must not inadvertently shield misconduct from public scrutiny. A government committed to transparency must ensure that the law protects citizens' data without protecting those who misuse their authority.
Nandana Raveendran, Kannur

Overcharged rides

Ref: *Drivers disappointed* (Oct 29). Drivers always charge fancy amounts, whether it is day or night, rain or shine. The meter is just an ornamental piece. Successive governments have done little to rein in the overbearing drivers. For the hapless passengers, it has been nothing but abject surrender to the unruly lot.
P G Menon, Chennai

Police glory

Ref: *4 more caught* (Oct 29). In the 1960s, Tamil Nadu Police were considered at par with the Scotland Yard for their efficiency. After some time they were forced to work within institutional constraints. Securing all 17 escapes within two days marks the precious glory as restored.
G Purushothaman, Tirunelveli

Spanish lesson

Ref: *Spanish train crash* (Oct 29). Spain has now witnessed over 100 deaths within the past 10 months in high-speed train collisions. Top priorities for Indian regulators should be to test communication loss, sensor failure, power or track circuit disturbance. There's no tearing hurry to wave green flags.
Bal Govind, Noida

Banks should take responsibility if they want profit, says top court ● Bench calls for phasing out deputation model

SC calls for compensation to digital fraud victims

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

EXPRESSING concern over the increasing digital arrest scam cases, UPI frauds and phishing cases, the Supreme Court on Thursday said banks must be made accountable to indemnify losses suffered by digital fraud victims, who should receive compensation of at least the amount lost, if probe establishes that the offence resulted from failure of due diligence by financial institutions.

"Banks cannot continue to profit from digital transactions without taking responsibility for securing them. Banks must be made accountable if investigation finds failure of due diligence," said the SC.

Observing that despite the fact that cyber crimes fell by 50%, yet victims lost ₹800 crore so far this year, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joydip Bagchi and V Mohana said the proposed Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulatory framework must incorporate enforceable provisions for compensation, preventive intervention and institutional accountability.

The CJI said the bench would first examine the proposed RBI Know Your Customer (KYC) Amendment Directions, 2026, before permitting the regulatory process to proceed. The direc-

'C'garh can move HC against officer's bail'

The Supreme Court on Thursday granted liberty to the Chhattisgarh government to move the HC for cancelling bail granted to retired senior IAS officer Anil Tuteja in corruption cases if there are "instances of misuse of concession of bail". A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joydip Bagchi and V Mohana granted the liberty.

SC rejects actor's 'luxury litigation'

Terming it "luxury litigation", the Supreme Court on Thursday rejected former actor Anita Advani's plea challenging an order dismissing her petition seeking recognition of her alleged relationship with the late Rajesh Khanna as a marriage. Advani had challenged an April 1 order of the Bombay High Court.

tions are proposed to be notified by November 30 and operationalised by December 31.

Holding that banks cannot wash hands off after digital frauds, the bench said that the victims of digital frauds should receive compensation of at least the amount lost.

The SC said banks must act as a "protective umbrella" for customers vulnerable to digital arrest scams. It clarified that the compensation must be swift and not after years.

The court said due diligence failure includes failure to detect suspicious pattern, verifying beneficiary, putting hold on

suspicious accounts flagged in the central fraud registry.

The bench said the RBI has already created a Central Fraud Registry and that banks must check before allowing transactions. The bench made these observations after hearing a suo motu case regarding massive financial fraud involving digital arrest scams.

The SC said many victims are senior citizens duped in digital arrest frauds and that banks fail to stop the transfer of huge amounts in a very short time without any alert system. It said such cases show lack of due diligence.

TRIBUNAL AUTONOMY IMPINGED: SC SAYS GOVT HIJACKED NCLT

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

I know how contractors play their hands. They don't care about judicial/technical members. Complete autonomy must be with presidents. They can take the UPSC or the SSC

Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India

Corporate law and Insolvency

The NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) and the NCLAT (National Company Law Appellate Tribunal) are specialised quasi-judicial bodies under Companies Act, 2013 and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, handling corporate law and insolvency disputes.

THE Supreme Court on Thursday observed that the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has completely 'hijacked' National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and its appellate body National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

While calling for autonomy for presidents over appointments, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justices Joydip Bagchi and V Mohana suggested deputation as an interim measure and phased regular recruitment through the UPSC or SSC.

The CJI said, "I know how contractors play their hands. They don't care about judicial/technical members. Complete autonomy must be with presidents. They can take UPSC/SSC. Tribunal has been completely hijacked by Ministry of Corporate Affairs. That is impinging on autonomy of institution. That's the problem. Ministry wants to have complete grip; that's most unfortunate."

From the functioning of courtrooms to clerks, the Supreme Court on Thursday sought a full list of as to how company law tribunals need to function efficiently, directed presidents of NCLT and NCLAT to submit their detailed respective comprehensive proposals on infrastructure, buildings and staffing needed to strengthen tribunals' day-to-day functioning.

The SC asked the presidents to submit their proposals within four weeks. "The proposals may also include the requirements of land/building as well as requisite staff. NCLT will also consider desirability of the officer in the rank of Deputy/Jt. Registrar for every bench for upkeep of judicial record," the bench said.

5 compulsory subjects, optional skill paper as safety net in CBSE exam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

STUDENTS taking up the Class 10 CBSE board exams in 2028 will have five compulsory subjects with the option of an additional skill paper, which will help them clear the examination even if they fail in subjects like mathematics, science or social science, said the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Thursday, while clarifying its Scheme of Studies.

The clarification applies specifically to students studying in Class 9 in 2026-27, who will appear for their Class 10 board examinations in 2028. It does not affect the current batch. The board also said that interdisciplinary area and CT and AI modules will not be included in its Scheme of Studies.

"To align the introduction of this curricular area with the implementation schedule, the subject 'Individuals in Society' and the 'Modules of CT and AI' in Class 9 (2026-27) and the subject 'Environmental Education' in Class 10 (2027-28) shall not be part of the curriculum for these batches," Pragya M Singh, Director (Academics), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), said in a communique to school principals.

"Vocational education shall continue to be a compulsory curricular area for students of Class 10 (2028 batch). To fulfil



Class X skill subject exam

Students opting for any of the 22 skill subjects shall have to appear in the board examination in the respective skill subject in Class 10. The grades for that subject will be reflected in the marksheets issued by the Board, as per existing practice. Those opting for 'Koushal Vikas' will undergo school-based internal assessment.

this requirement, students may opt for either the subject 'Koushal Vikas' or any one of the 22 skill subjects notified by the board," she said.

"Our foremost priority is to safeguard students' interests by clearly communicating the academic and examination-related provisions well in advance. The emphasis is on encouraging students to focus on meaningful learning rather than solely on examinations," a source said.

Under the scheme, the five compulsory board-exam subjects will be two languages, mathematics, science and social science.

Rahul asks student groups to join INDIA bloc march

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday urged student groups, regardless of political affiliation, to join the INDIA bloc's November 1 'Chalo Dilli' march at Ramlika Maidan. Asking them not to fear police or their "lathis", he said the march is to save democracy, put an end to "vote theft" and protect the Constitution.

"This is not a march for any single political party; it is a march for India's very soul. It is a singular protest for the nation," Gandhi said in a video on X.

"To all those who are fed up with Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and Gyanesh Kumar, and everyone who wishes to save democracy and defend the Constitution, I invite you all to join," Gandhi said.

"Don't worry about the police, don't worry about lathis—the BJP will not have the guts to try any of their antics. Come march with us—we will walk together to protect the Constitution, to protect the Indian nation," he said. "It will be a fantastic march, and it's a march for the soul of this country," Gandhi said.

While the Congress leader received support from INDIA bloc allies, several party leaders, including K C Venugopal, Shashi Tharoor and Pawan Khera, took to social media platforms and urged people to join the campaign to save democracy.

Khera said, "Whether it is refusing to provide trains in Telangana or using Delhi's traders as a political tool, the BJP's attempts to sabotage the Chalo Dilli Ramlika Maidan march on November 1 will not succeed. The march will go ahead."



The 'Chalo Dilli' Ramlika March is a march to save democracy, to put an end to the theft of votes, and to protect the Constitution

Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader

'March for the nation'

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the Ramlika Maidan event is not a march for any political party; it is a march for India's very soul. "It is a singular protest for the nation... Don't worry about police," Gandhi said.

Nabin chalks out strategy to counter Oppn attacks

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

BJP president Nitin Nabin on Thursday chaired two meetings with the party's national general secretaries and some union ministers to discuss strategies and organisational matters ahead of assembly polls in seven states, including UP and Punjab.

Nabin, according to sources, stressed the need to prepare action plans to counter what the BJP describes as the Opposition's attempts to spread 'fake narratives' on various issues, particularly the SIR exercise. Tarun Chugh, Vinod Tawde, Smriti Irani, Sunil Bansal and BL Santhosh attended the first meeting.

According to sources, discussions focused on expanding people-centric initiatives and strengthening the party's electoral preparations. Organisational issues also featured, with discussions on allocation of responsibilities and appointment of office-bearers.

In the second, Nabin held discussions with Union ministers, including Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Piyush Goyal and Kiren Rijiju, on electoral strat-



egies and opposition's protests. Sources said the meeting discussed ways to counter the INDIA bloc's rally scheduled for November 1 and communicate to the public what the BJP believes to be the Opposition's underlying objectives.

Sources said the discussions centred on the BJP's allegation that the Opposition was seeking 'regime change' under the guise of protests against SIR. The alleged disruption caused by protests in Delhi ahead of festivals such as Diwali and Chhath reportedly came up for discussion. The party is understood to have decided to intensify its outreach activities across states to take the issues directly to the public.

Timelines extended for SIR claims, final rolls in 6 states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Election Commission (EC) on Thursday extended the timelines for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in six states and Union Territories: Nagaland, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra and Delhi.

In Delhi, the window for filing claims and objections has been extended by 26 days, from October 30 to November 25. The notice phase and disposal of claims and objections will now continue till December 15, against the earlier deadline of November 30. The final roll will be published on December 22.

The decision comes after a request from the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), invoking the proviso to Rule 12 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. The draft roll was published on August 31, and the exercise in the capital is being conducted with October 1, 2026 as the qualifying date.

In Andhra Pradesh and Haryana, the notice phase and disposal of claims and objections will now run from July 31 to November 20, 2026. The final rolls in both states will be published on November 30. The re-



Move after request from Delhi Chief Electoral Officer

The decision to extend deadlines comes after a request from the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Delhi, invoking the proviso to Rule 12 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. The draft roll was published on August 31, and the exercise in the capital is being conducted with October 1, 2026 as the qualifying date.

vision there is based on July 1, 2026 as the qualifying date.

A letter to the Andhra Pradesh CEO in Amaravati refers to the Commission's earlier orders dated May 14, July 14, September 1, September 30 and October 14, 2026, which set out and later modified the SIR schedule. It also cites the state CEO's request made through a letter dated October 29, 2026.

The communication to the Haryana CEO in Chandigarh refers to the Commission's orders dated May 14, July 14 and

August 29, 2026. It cites the Haryana CEO's request of October 29, 2026.

The Commission has directed that all officials concerned be informed of its decision and that wide publicity be given to the modified schedule. Political parties are also to be informed of the revised schedule in writing. The revisions come on the same day the Commission extended the period for filing claims and objections in the National Capital Territory of Delhi till November 25.

'Change through elections': Former V-P hits out at 'govt change' chorus

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

FORMER Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday criticised calls for regime change in the country, saying such utterances ran contrary to the spirit of the 'Idea of India' and the constitutional framework, which provides citizens with democratic means to bring about political change.

Delivering the keynote address at an event in the capital on 'Duties of a Citizen for a Vikshit Bharat', organised by 'Bharat ki Soch', Naidu said citizens must exercise patience, be engaged in public life and use polls as the constitutional means to change governments.

"The Indian system allows citizens an opportunity to bring change through elections. They should observe public life carefully, meet people, discuss issues, educate others and participate constructively in the democratic process," he said.



Naidu emphasised that patience should not be mistaken for inaction, but should instead translate into sustained efforts and a willingness to wait for constitutional opportunities to effect change.

Taking an apparent swipe at opposition leaders, he said merely carrying a copy of the Constitution was not enough and that its principles must be reflected in conduct. Citizens, particularly young people, should understand the functioning of institutions and contribute constructively to demo-

Call for greater youth participation

"A developed nation must be built by responsible citizens who combine personal ambition with social commitment," Naidu said, calling for greater youth participation, stronger national unity, social justice and sustained efforts to secure prosperity.

cratic processes, he said.

He also underlined the importance of parliamentary debate, saying elected representatives must allow democratic institutions to function effectively. "The government should be able to propose, the opposition should be able to oppose and the House should be able to dispose (decide)," he said.

Without naming Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Naidu also took exception to the description of India as a "dead economy", saying the remark saddened him.

India ready to share anti-terror expertise: Singh

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

HOLDING up Operation Sindoor as proof of a doctrine tempered in combat and "not classrooms", defence minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday offered to share India's counter-terror expertise with Asean and its dialogue partners. "India's extensive expertise in counter-terrorism is not theoretical classroom knowledge, it is an experience hard-earned through decades of directly confronting complex cross-border security challenges," Singh told the 13th Asean Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Cebu.

Every Indian strategy, he said, had been tested and refined in actual operations. This was demonstrated during Op Sindoor, when India dismantled terror infrastructure and enforced a non-negotiable red line against state-sponsored terrorism. India was ready to share this experience through joint exercises, capacity-building programmes and intelli-



Rajnath Singh at the 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Philippines | pn

gence-sharing, the defence ministry quoted him as saying.

The operation also marked the first combat use of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, with Sukhoi-30MKI fighters armed with it striking Pakistani airbases. Defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh has cited its use in Op Sindoor as a demonstration of the missile's operational capability.

The same supersonic cruise missile, in turn, has emerged as India's flagship defence export in Southeast Asia. The Philippines led the way with a

\$375 million deal for three shore-based anti-ship missile batteries in January 2022 and has already received systems worth around \$330 million.

Vietnam followed, with the defence secretary confirming the deal at the Shangri-La Dialogue in May. Earlier this month, said that India now has contracts or agreements with the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia, which together could push BrahMos exports beyond \$600 million.

Incidentally, all three nations have stakes in the South China

Sea, with the Philippines locked in one of the region's most active territorial disputes with an increasingly assertive China.

Steering clear of naming China, Singh also pressed for adherence to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and freedom of navigation and overflight. He said the push was "not directed against any country" but aimed at safeguarding the collective interests of all nations dependent on open sea lanes.

Notably, Chinese defence minister Dong Jun, who had attended the last two ADMM-Plus meetings, stayed away from Cebu this time, with Beijing deputing its Manila-based defence attaché instead.

Singh, on his part, held bilateral talks with his Philippine, US, Japanese, South Korean and Australian counterparts on the sidelines on Wednesday. His meeting with Philippine national defence secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr focused on maritime security and joint defence production.

Shinde's party emboldened by Nagpur loss • Lalan Singh loses edge after Anant Singh feud • Akhlesh makes gains in Modi's constituency

Sena seeks Maha leadership rejig

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

AFTER the BJP lost two of the three seats it contested in the recently concluded MLC elections in Maharashtra, its MahaYuti ally Shiv Sena has revived the demand for a leadership change in the government. The fact the BJP lost the prestigious Nagpur graduate constituency, which is home to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis as well as the RSS, has emboldened the Shiv Sena further. The MahaYuti could win only two of the five seats which went to polls. In Nagpur, Congress candidate Abhijeet Wanjarli defeated BJP's Sudhakar Kohale by 3,217 votes for the graduate constituency seat.

Shiv Sena leader Ravindra Dhanekar said on Thursday that the result of MLC elections shows that graduate students and job aspirants, especially those who compete in exams, have turned against the government because of paper leaks and frauds in job recruitment. "We, as the ruling party and people in power, must learn from this debacle. The youth is against the government."

He said that Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had a much better record in the MLC elections during his term as the Maharashtra chief minister. "Eknath Shinde, who is a grounded leader and stays in touch with common people, can be the best option to lead the state. When Shinde was the CM, MahaYuti won a majority of the seats. It is the right time for a change of guard in the state," Dhanekar said.

Shiv Sena leader and former minister Abdul Sattar said that Shinde's leadership has been appreciated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah from time to time. He said that the MahaYuti came to power in Maharashtra under Shinde's leadership. "Whenever Shinde goes to Delhi and meets Modi and Shah, our hopes rise that he becomes the chief minister again," Sattar claimed.

BJP leader Pravin Darekar, however, slammed the Shiv Sena leaders for demanding a change of leadership, saying Fadnis is doing good work. He said that the Sena leaders have an anti-Fadnis agenda and their words have no value.



Cracks in JD(U) after MLC results

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

THE rift in Janata Dal (United) has widened following senior party leader Neeraj Kumar's victory in the MLC polls. Kumar, who emerged victorious in the Patna Graduates' constituency, said during a media interaction that he would not call Union minister and senior party leader Rajiv Ranjan Singh, alias Lalan Singh, to seek his wishes on the victory.

Neeraj Kumar's criticism of Lalan Singh, coupled with his praise for party national working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, has brought the party's internal differences into a sharper focus. Lalan Singh stayed away from Neeraj Kumar's campaign and was reportedly omitted from the official list of star campaigners. Lalan Singh claimed that the list of campaigners was prepared by the party office, and he played no role in it. Lalan Singh, a close aide of former Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has held the post of the party's national president in the past.

Neeraj Kumar said that there should be an explanation for why he had to face difficulties during the electoral process. He said he had received overwhelming affection from party workers, which was what mattered most to him.

Lalan Singh had tried to broker peace between Neeraj Kumar and Mokama MLA and strongman Anant Singh during the MLC poll, as the latter publicly attacked Neeraj Kumar and campaigned for Jan Suraj Party candidate Anuj Singh. Anant Singh had said in the past that Neeraj Kumar worked against him when contested from Mokama.

Lalan Singh defended Anant Singh while talking to reporters. He said, "When a campaign was being run against Anant Singh, the party should have taken action [against Neeraj Kumar]. The state unit of the party made a mistake by failing to intervene then."

Meanwhile, Jha said that Anant Singh was expelled from party's primary membership for six years with Nitish Kumar's consent. He ruled out the possibility of Anant Singh's return. "The question of his return to JD(U) does not arise," he said.



SP wins 5 seats, gains UP ground

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

THE biennial elections for the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council ended in a closely contested 6-5 split in favour of the BJP, but the Samajwadi Party has made notable gains ahead of the assembly elections. While the BJP managed to defend much of its 2020 turf, the Samajwadi party improved its position by expanding its footprint. Out of the two seats which were yet to be decided till late Wednesday, Lucknow Graduates' seats went to Samajwadi Party's Kanti Singh. She wrested the seat from BJP's Avneesh Kumar Singh. In Varanasi Graduates' constituency, Samajwadi Party's Ashutosh Sinha received 50,462 votes against BJP candidate Kedar Nath Singh's 33,478 after the ninth round of counting of first-preference votes, data showed. Kedar Nath Singh conceded defeat in a social media post. He thanked voters for their support and said he accepted the mandate with humility and in accordance with democratic norms.

The BJP retained key constituencies, including Agra and Meerut Graduates' seats and the Lucknow, Meerut and Bareilly-Moradabad Teachers' constituencies. It also benefited from the victory of Dhruv Tripathi in Gorakhpur-Faizabad Teachers' constituency, a seat earlier held by him as an independent. The biggest take-away for the SP was its success in converting organisational gains into electoral victories. The party retained Allahabad-Jhansi Graduates' and Varanasi Teachers' seats, while wresting the Lucknow Graduates' seat from the BJP and Agra-Aligarh Teachers' constituencies by fielding the past Independent winner. It was also set to win the Varanasi Graduates' seat.

The outcome broadly mirrors the political balance visible in recent by-polls and local body contests. While the BJP continues to dominate state politics, the MLC elections suggest that the Samajwadi Party remains a formidable challenger among educated voters and teachers, constituencies often viewed as politically aware and influential opinion makers. Coming just a few months ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, the MLC election results offer encouragement to both camps.



RAJASTHAN

Action against IAS officer for buying 40 villas

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

SENIOR IAS officer Shikhar Agrawal, who earlier served as additional chief secretary to Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, was placed on awaiting posting orders (APO) late on Wednesday night amid controversy over his family's reported massive property purchase and leaseback of 40 villas and cottages.

The personnel department cited "administrative grounds", without linking the decision to the bizarre transactions that suggest dubious means being used. Agrawal held key industry and investment responsibilities, including the chairmanship of RIICO, the apex institution for industrial development in the desert state.

The Congress demanded answers from the government and the BJP hit back. Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jolly demanded an impartial investigation if any irregularity had occurred, saying merely placing the officer on APO was insufficient and hardly a penalty.

BJP state president Madan Rathore countered that Datasara should "first look within", pointing to alleged corruption during the previous Congress government.

Brij Bhushan makes a comeback in UP BJP, figures in state executive

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

IN a significant organisational reshuffle ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, the BJP has inducted former Kaiserganj MP and ex-WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh into its newly constituted state executive committee, marking his return to the party's core decision-making structure.

The revamped state executive, announced by UP BJP president Pankaj Chaudhary, will meet in Lucknow on Friday in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to chart the party's strategy for the 2027 polls. The inclusion of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh is being viewed as politically significant as it comes nearly three months after his acquittal in a sexual harassment case filed by women wrestlers. According to party sources, this is the first time the six-time MP has been included in the BJP's state executive committee.

Despite a political career spanning more than four decades and six terms in Parliament, Singh had never held a position previously either in the BJP's national leadership structure or the state executive, party leaders said.



The BJP had denied him a ticket in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections amid the controversy surrounding the allegations against him and fielded his son, Karan Bhushan Singh, from Kaiserganj instead. With his induction into the state executive, party observers see Singh regaining a formal organisational role at a time when the BJP is gearing up for the crucial 2027 assembly battle.

The newly-expanded state executive has grown substantially in size, from 184 members in the previous committee to 712 members, including special and permanent invitees.

The new committee has 548 regular members; 134 special invitees and 30 permanent members. The highest representation is from Gorakhpur region at 120; 108 from Kashi region; 104 from Awadh region; 79 from Kanpur region; 70 from West region and 67 from Braj region.

Oppn seeks to corner Mann over drug menace in Punjab

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

WITH assembly elections due in Punjab early next year, drug-related deaths pose a political challenge to the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government. Opposition parties seek to corner the Mann government on its handling of drug menace, with families and activists refusing to cremate the bodies to press for justice, accountability and compensation.

Mansa town is on the boil with two bodies are yet to be cremated. Anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota was shot dead by a medicine shop owner two weeks back. Another man, Daljit Singh, allegedly died of drug overdose. The protests over the deaths have given the Congress, SAD and the BJP ammunition to launch an attack on the Mann government. "Withholding cremation to press for demands was not new, but such cases pose a challenge as they are linked to suspected drug deaths," a police officer said. The Action Committee demanding justice for Jhota has announced 24-hour protest outside the residences of ministers and MLAs on October 31.

On October 27, marginal farmer Daljit Singh died in the same district. The family alleged that he died of a drug



Bhagwant Mann



Parvinder Singh Jhota

Two bodies yet to be cremated in Mansa

Mansa town is on the boil with two bodies are yet to be cremated. Anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota was shot dead by a medicine shop owner two weeks back. Another man, Daljit Singh, allegedly died of drug overdose. The protests over the deaths have given the Congress, SAD and the BJP ammunition to launch an attack on the government.

overdose, while the police said the cause of death was under investigation. The family demanded action against those supplying drugs. Singh's relatives blocked the Sarsa-Mansa road and attempted to take his body to the site of protest seeking justice for Jhota.

Earlier in Sangrur, the death of 47-year-old Gulzar Singh took a sudden twist when a video emerged in which his family alleged that the AAP government forced them to cremate the body without their consent. The family had announced that

no rituals would be conducted until action was taken against those responsible for the death. Gulzar's son Lakhwinder demanded the arrest of Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema for the alleged abetment of suicide. During Cheema's visit, the victim had questioned the circulation of heroin.

In the latest suspected drug overdose case, 17-year-old Abhijot Singh was found dead on a bed in an abandoned house in Fazilka district, where drug users allegedly gathered to consume drugs.



PM to hold 'Khatla Sabha' to focus on farmers

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @Ahmedabad

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will address a traditional 'Khatla Sabha' in Bhildi, Banaskantha, on October 30, with farmers seated on 'khatlas' (a traditional woven rope cot) instead of conventional chairs.

The national-level PM Kisan Utsav Divas will see the transfer of over ₹18,680 crore to more than 9.34 crore farmer families nationwide, alongside the launch of major Banas Dairy projects. In a departure from conventional political rallies, PM Narendra Modi is set to hold what is being described as the country's first 'Khatla Sabha', with traditional cots replacing chairs for farmers attending a major agricultural event in Bhildi, in Banaskantha's Deesa taluka on Friday.

The rural-style seating arrangement has added a distinctive political dimension to the national-level PM Kisan Utsav Divas, which will combine di-



rect financial assistance to farmers with the inauguration of dairy infrastructure projects in north Gujarat.

At the centre of the event is the release of the 24th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. More than 9.34 crore farmer families across the country are expected to receive over ₹18,680 crore directly into their bank accounts.

In Gujarat, more than 52.33 lakh farmer families will receive assistance exceeding ₹1,000 crore, providing the event with a significant agri-

cultural outreach component.

The financial transfer comes against the backdrop of substantial cumulative disbursements under the scheme. Across the first 23 installments, more than ₹4.47 lakh crore has been transferred to over 11 crore farmer families nationwide. In Gujarat, more than 69.26 lakh beneficiary farmers have received over ₹24,137 crore so far. However, the event will extend beyond direct benefit transfers, with Banas Dairy's ambitious expansion plans forming another major component of the Prime

Minister's visit.

Modi will inaugurate the Bharat Bovine Breeding and Research Centre (BBBRC), established across 127 acres in Bhildi at a cost of ₹325 crore. The facility aims to strengthen scientific livestock breeding and improve the quality of cattle, supporting productivity in the dairy sector.

The centre is expected to promote scientific methods in animal husbandry, an important source of livelihood across rural Gujarat. Its premises have been illuminated ahead of the inauguration.

Additionally, the Prime Minister will virtually inaugurate Banas Dairy's Potato Expansion project and its Ultra-High Temperature (UHT) Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS) facility. He will also lay the foundation stones for two compressed biogas plants at Tharad and Radhanpur, signalling a push towards waste-to-energy initiatives alongside dairy development.

Chinese presence in Arunachal acts of transgression, not intrusion: CM

PARVEZ SULTAN @Tawang

AMID the ongoing controversy over face-offs between Indian and Chinese troops in Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Thursday sought to play down the issue, saying that such incidents are "transgression and not intrusion" and that the situation is now normal.

"China doesn't consider the McMahon Line...Arunachal Pradesh shares a very long border with Tibet and China, stretching 1,200 km. Patrolling parties sometimes cross over to our side. It is transgression, not intrusion. Transgression has taken place, no doubt. Keeps happening. This is not new," he said adding that border in the area is not "defined".

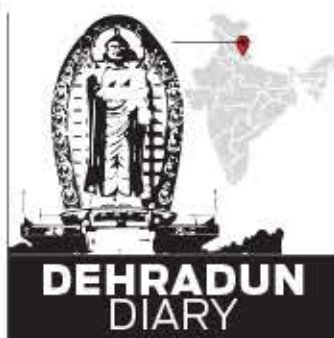
Khandu was interacting with the media ahead of the inauguration of the 14th edition of the International Tourism Mart in



China does not consider McMahon Line: Khandu

"China doesn't consider the McMahon Line...Arunachal Pradesh shares a very long border with Tibet and China, stretching 1,200 km. Patrolling parties sometimes cross over to our side. It is transgression, not intrusion," said CM Pema Khandu.

Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh. He, however, said that situation is normal at present. "Our armed forces are guarding the border very well. At present, it is not a matter of concern," Khandu added.

DEHRADUN
DIARY

NARENDRA SETHI

Our correspondent in Uttarakhand

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Dhami has his own 'chal pe charcha' moment

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami traded the formalities of office for a roadside tea stop on Monday, winning smiles from locals. Travelling by road to Dehradun from the GVK helipad, Dhami paused at Mangal Singh's tea stall near Srinagar Chungi. He joined residents for a cup and served tea himself to young girls, citizens and officials. The CM also chatted with the shopkeeper and customers. The unscripted halt carried a "Vocal for Local" message, spotlighting neighbourhood businesses. It was also a reminder that supporting small traders—and strengthening local economy—need not begin with an announcement. Sometimes, it starts with a chal.



No fasting for long life for two legislators

In Hindu tradition, many married women observe Karva Chauth, fasting for their husbands' long life. This year, two women prominent in Uttarakhand's political conversation reportedly chose not to observe it. Cabinet minister Rekha Arya is said to have skipped the fast amid an ongoing family dispute with her husband, Girdhari Lal Sahu. When journalists sought her comment, she left without responding. Actress Urmila Sanawar, currently lodged in Haridwar jail amid controversy surrounding the Ankita Bhandari case, also reportedly did not fast. Reports say she began shouting the name of former MLA Suresh Rathore, when asked about it.

Four pillars of a new party ahead of polls

As parties gear up for the 2027 Uttarakhand Assembly election, the Sarwan Sanatan Party says it will contest every seat. Its national president is former CBI director M Nageswar Rao. The party's agenda pairs Sanatan cultural preservation with free education, healthcare, livelihoods and cultural identity. "Education, health, livelihood and identity are society's four foundations," Rao said, using the cow to symbolise them. He pledged to seek "State Mother" status for the cow if the party comes to power, and work towards "Mother of the Nation" status nationally. Rao accused the BJP of using Sanatan culture for political gain.

10 killed
as oxygen cylinder explodes
in Pakistan's Sindh

COUNTRY		Max	Min	SNY
Australia (Canberra)	18	4	SNY	
Indonesia (Bali)	27	21	LC	
Italy (Rome)	22	9	LC	
Japan (Tokyo)	23	16	LC	
Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)	29	24	SNY	
Maldives (Male)	29	29	LC	
Mauritius (Port Louis)	29	22	SNY	

COUNTRY		Max	Min	SNY
Singapore	30	27	SNY	
South Korea (Seoul)	17	7	LR	
Switzerland (Bern)	17	4	SNY	
Thailand (Bangkok)	33	25	LR	
Turkey (Ankara)	16	11	LC	
UAE (Dubai)	33	28	SNY	
Vietnam (Hanoi)	32	23	LR	

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

Bibi seeks to sideline Arab parties after poll deadlock

Funding allegations raise stakes as Arabs become kingmakers in the formation of government in Israel

JERUSALEM

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc on Thursday piled pressure on Arab-Israeli leaders over unproven accusations of foreign funding, in a push to neuter parties that could hold the key to forming a government after an inconclusive election.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who holds a largely ceremonial role, called for an investigation into allegations but cautioned against stigmatising the entire Arab-Israeli community, who voted at unprecedented rates. Israel was nearing the completion of ballot counting from Tuesday's election, the first since Hamas's October 7, 2023 attacks, with neither Netanyahu nor the opposition bloc led by former military chief Gadi Eisenkot appearing able to secure a majority.

The Netanyahu camp's accusations, denied by both Arab-majority lists, could bring new uncertainty into the electoral process at a time when the threat of a new Israeli and US attack on Iran looms over the

region. Eisenkot said the official probe into the claims should run its course without interference, but also accused Netanyahu of seeking to "deligitimise" the election results.



Israeli left-wing activists hold placards and chant slogans during a demonstration calling for forming a new government with Arab parties as allies in Tel Aviv [AFP]

The vote saw soaring participation by Arab-Israelis, descendants of Palestinians who stayed after the country's creation in 1948, as outrage boiled at calls by officials such as National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir to treat their community much as Israel has dealt with Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

Ben Gvir went so far as to encourage Israel to "immediately" order the arrests of Arab party leaders. The Arab parties together have enough votes to take the opposition bloc over the finish line, but Eisenkot has balked after relentless attacks by Netanyahu, who warned his right-wing Jewish base that voting for the opposition would put Arabs in power. AFP

Spain declares mourning for 3 days; French nat'l's missing

URDA

SPAIN began three days of mourning on Thursday after its second high-speed rail collision this year killed 69 people and injured scores, with relatives desperately seeking news about their loved ones.

French officials are still trying to trace "several" citizens following the train accident, France's Foreign Ministry said Thursday. "At this stage, we are still attempting to establish contact with several of our nationals and are in touch with their families." Meanwhile, news outlet BFM reported that two French citizens were missing.

One of Europe's deadliest train disasters this century has raised fresh questions about safety on Spain's rail network after the transport minister reported an "error" and "inexplicable circumstances" that led to the crash. During a visit to the crash site, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez pledged to establish the cause of the crash. "We are working day and night not only to support the victims' families, but also to establish every last detail of this tragedy and strengthen safety measures to ensure it never happens again," he said.

The collision happened in the central region of Castilla-La Mancha on Wednesday morning when a service by state operator Renfe ploughed into the back of a stationary train belonging to private Spanish company Iryo. Emergency services combed through the twisted wreckage at night to find further victims on the key line linking Madrid with the southern city of Seville. AFP

Vance makes last-ditch bid to revive talks with letter to Iran

TEHRAN

US Vice President JD Vance has made a fresh bid to avert further US strikes on Iran by sending a letter seeking to revive negotiations, Iranian media reported on Thursday, adding that Tehran had yet to respond. *Tasnim news agency* reported that "Iran has received the letter but has not yet responded", while Fars news agency carried a similar account, citing "a source familiar with the matter".

The *Wall Street Journal* reported on Wednesday that Vance had sent the letter to Iranian security chief Mohsen Rezaei at the direction of US President Donald Trump, in a bid to revive negotiations and avert new US strikes. The letter and subsequent contact between US and

Iranian officials focused on a possible framework for negotiations rather than specific terms for a peace deal, the newspaper reported.

'4 tankers ablaze in Hormuz'

At least four tankers have caught fire after hitting mines while attempting to navigate the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's armed forces said Thursday, a day after the US military said it had cleared key routes through the waterway.

"Over the past 24 hours, three violating oil tankers exploded and caught fire after striking mines while attempting to pass through the unauthorised southern route of the Strait of Hormuz," Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards

Corps said in a statement.

The vessels had switched off radar and navigation systems and ignored IRGC navy warnings, Iran said. The tankers' flags and incident timings remained unclear. Iran later said another tanker struck naval mines east of Hormuz and caught fire.

US denies Iran captured drone

The US military is denying Iran's claim that it seized control of an American surveillance drone and captured it intact near the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian state TV said the Revolutionary Guard seized an MQM-170 Outlaw drone through electronic warfare and landed it in Iranian territory, without specifying when it was seized. AFP/AP



INDONESIA

21 FOREIGNERS ARRESTED IN GAMBLING RAID

Authorities detained 21 foreign nationals in Bali over alleged involvement in an international online gambling syndicate. The suspects comprise 12 Myanmar nationals, eight Vietnamese and one Chinese citizen. Immigration officers raided two houses on Thursday, seizing 36 personal smartphones, 29 operational phones, 18 laptops, six desktop computers and three tablets. Investigators said the group allegedly operated an illegal gambling website, processing transactions through Chinese payment platforms Alipay and WeChat Pay.

ASIA MATTERS



750 PERMANENT MEDICAL JOBS OFFERED

The Health Ministry will recruit 750 permanent medical officers for Sabah and Sarawak, with applications open November 9-15. Eligible contract officers must have completed housemanship and secured full medical registration. Successful candidates report on February 15, 2027, to help address staffing shortages in Sabah and Sarawak.

THAILAND

RABBI LOSES CITIZENSHIP OVER PASSPORT

Authorities revoked prominent Rabbi Yosef Chaim Kantor's citizenship after he repeatedly used his US passport following naturalisation in 2013, the Interior ministry said on Thursday. Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul signed the order under the 1965 Nationality Act, which prohibits naturalised citizens from retaining their former nationality. Kantor, who has lived in the country since 1993, used his US passport up to 16 times to travel to Australia, officials said. The move followed raids on three Jewish organisations in Bangkok earlier this month over alleged violations.

WESTERN RAILWAY
Station Upgradation & Improvement Work

Divisional Railway Manager, Western Railway, Mumbai Central invites Sr. No. II Tender No.: BCT/26-27/199 Dt. 23.10.2026. Name of the work: Nandurbar - Anant Bharat station major upgradation & development of station entry PF surfacing work and extension of COP (PHASE II) under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Nandurbar of Western Railway. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 10,89,43,645.41/- EMD: Rs. 21,78,900.00/- Sr. No. II Tender No.: BCT/26-27/200 Dt. 23.10.2026. Name of the work: Khandbara - Improvement of station building with 2nd entry, prevent encroachment, restricted unauthorised activity. 2) Navapur - Provision of 2nd entry, waiting hall at north side & improvement of road 300 mtr, 100 Sgn PF3 Covered. 3) Nandurbar - Improvement to goods shed with 400 x 10 M covered, repair to approach road & allied lighting, telecom works. 4) Nandurbar & Dondalcha High level platform extension with Divyanjan compliance & allied facilities. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 14,35,66,063/- EMD: Rs. 28,71,400.00/- Date and time of submission of both the tenders: Till 20.11.2026, 15:00 hrs. Date and time of opening of both the tenders: On 20.11.2026 at 15:30 hrs. For further details, please visit www.reps.gov.in

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The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, e-mail: md@kmmil.com, URL: www.kmmil.com

TENDER NOTICE

Sl No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2026_KMMIL_870461_1	Process Design Consultancy for Vent Gas Scrubbing Systems in IBP
2	2026_KMMIL_881631_1	Area cleaning & formation of ETP temporary storage pond

Chavara 29.10.2026 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

कार्यालय अधिवासी अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. निर्माण खण्ड, जयपुर

क्रमांक :- 1403 ई-निविदा संख्या दिनांक :- 27.10.2026

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1171 दिनांक 05.10.2026 के द्वारा जारी निविदा संख्या 36/2026-27 में अंकित कार्य में तकनीकी कार्यों में निम्न संशोधन पत्रा जारी:-

विवरण	पूर्व में अंकित विवरण	संशोधित विवरण
निविदा आवेदन प्रामाणिक करने की तारीख	07.10.2026 से 27.10.2026 तक रात 6.00 बजे तक	07.10.2026 से 03.11.2026 तक रात 6.00 बजे तक
निविदा जमा करने की तारीख	07.10.2026 से 27.10.2026 तक रात 6.00 बजे तक	07.10.2026 से 03.11.2026 तक रात 6.00 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने की तारीख	28.10.2026 को दोपहर 02.00 बजे से	04.11.2026 को दोपहर 02.00 बजे से

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

(मोहन कुमार गुप्ता)
अधीनस्थ अभियन्ता
सहनिवि निर्माण खण्ड जयपुर

DIPR/C/18079/2026

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking

(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)

TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders is invited for the supply of following item.

(1) 82267 - 11kV, Tapex Straight & Transition Jointing kit for 11kV cables, (2) 82269 - Supply and Installation of 1.1 kV Cold applied Roll-on-tube straight jointing kit for 4CX300 sq.mm., Al, XLPE cable.

Note: For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

PRO/AAM(M)/83/2026 GENERAL MANAGER

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MAHE DIVISION, MAHE

No.1-7/PW/DBMD/126-27

PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender

The Executive Engineer, Mahe Division, PWD, Mahe invites on behalf of the President of India, online bids for the following work:
Tender No.11/EE/MD-26/27/145(25-26). Name of Work : Construction of three storied building with five class rooms and toilet block for 1. K.Kumar Government Higher Secondary School, Pandakkal, Mahe. Estimate Cost : Rs.2,87,39,324/- (inclusive of GST). Earnest Money : Rs.5,74,786/- Period of Completion : 10 (Ten) Months (Including Monsoon period). Last time & date of submission of tender : 16.11.2026 @ 9.30 A.M. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website: www.pudutenders.gov.in. For clarification regarding tender contact Department No. - 0490 2333280, email id : pwdmahe@gmail.com

No.250/DI/AD(Press)/ADVT/2026-27 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

QuoteExpress

THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED

MARK TWAIN

Government of Tamil Nadu

Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department

Sivakasi City Municipal Corporation

Bids for Selection of Service Provider for Collection & Transportation of Solid Waste through various activities to the Designated Processing Facility/ Dump Site/ Depositing Centres and Operation and Maintenance of Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) in Sivakasi City Municipal Corporation for 18 months

(Roc.5956/2026/H1, Dated:28.10.2026)

1. Bids are invited from eligible and reputed agencies for the Selection of Service Provider for Collection & Transportation of Solid Waste through various activities to the Designated Processing Facility/ Dump Site/ Depositing Centres and Operation and Maintenance of Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) in Sivakasi City Municipal Corporation.

2. The details of the bid shall be obtained from web portal: www.tntenders.gov.in and Corporation website: comm.sivakasi@tn.gov.in

3. The tender document shall be downloaded from 30.10.2026 from the portal www.tntenders.gov.in

4. Pre-bid meeting will be on 12.11.2026 at 11:00 AM at Sivakasi City Municipal Corporation.

5. The last date for downloading the tender document and the last date for uploading/ submission of filled up tender document is up to 3.00 P.M. on 30.11.2026.

6. The received bids will be opened at 3.30 P.M. on 30.11.2026 at the office of Sivakasi City Municipal Corporation.

7. The value of each project, Bid Security - (RTGS/e-BG), and the eligibility criteria for the bidder etc., are given in the bid document.

Commissioner
Sivakasi City Municipal Corporation.

DIPR/3307/Tender/2026

TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD

CHENNAI CIRCLE-II

Errata

In the tender notification published on 25.10.2026 in the Indian Express newspaper regarding the engagement of an architectural consultant for the construction of 76 rental residential units under the TNGRHS scheme at the Omandur Government Estate in Chennai (R.S. No. 3171/8, Part IV A)- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount was published incorrectly. It is informed that the Earnest Money Deposit has been revised to Rs. 48,500/-.

Superintending Engineer
Chennai Circle-II

DIPR/3315/TENDER/2026

SBI State Bank of India

Centralised Retail Asset Management Cell (CRAMC)

No. 157, 3rd Floor, SB Annex Building, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002.

Phone: 044-28540015, 044-28540017. Email: rcramc.ihc@sbi.co.in

CANCELLATION OF E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

To the kind attention of our Sale Notice Dated 14.10.2026, We have published E-Auction on 24.11.2026 Sale Notice for Borrower: Mr. Rajendran, E. S/o. Mr. Elumalai, published in Daily News Papers The New Indian Express and Dinamani - Chennai Edition on 16.10.2026. Due to Administrative issues the said sale has been Deferred. This is for kind information to all prospective buyers.

Date : 29.10.2026, Place : Chennai

Authorized Officer,
SBI CRAMC, Chennai

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION

Bus Route Roads Department

e-Open Tender Notice

e-Open Tenders are invited for the following work in Two Cover System are invited by the Superintending Engineer / Bus Route Roads Department under two cover system for the following work as per details furnished below:

Name of the work : Relaying of a total of 8 Nos. of Bus Route BT Roads under Chief Minister's Integrated Urban Development Mission (CMIUDM) in Zone-3, 4 & 5 (2 Packages).

Approx. work value per package: Min. Rs. 303.93 Lakhs, Max. Rs.418.51 Lakhs.

E.M.D: 1% of Tender Value

Due Date and Time for Submission of tender 03.12.2026 upto 3.00 pm

Tender opening date and time: 03.12.2026 @ 3.30 pm.

For more information see www.tntenders.gov.in and www.chennai corporation.gov.in

DIPR/3312/Tender/2026 Superintending Engineer, (Bus Route Roads Department)

KALLAKURICHI-II COOPERATIVE SUGAR MILLS LTD., C.S.11

Kachiriyalayam - 606 207 - Chinnasaalem Taluk - Kallakurichi District - Tamil Nadu

Re.No. 3300/26-27/P1/M.A. Date: 22.10.2026

E-TENDER (ON-LINE) NOTICE FOR DESIGN MANUFACTURE, SUPPLY, ERECTION AND COMMISSIONING OF 250 SQ.M HEATING SURFACE AREA DYNAMIC JUICE HEATER IN THE QUINTABLE EVAPORATOR (As per our attached technical specification)

Online bids are invited through e-tender portal <https://tntenders.gov.in> from the manufacturers / suppliers of DESIGN MANUFACTURE, SUPPLY, ERECTION AND COMMISSIONING OF 250 SQ.M HEATING SURFACE AREA DYNAMIC JUICE HEATER IN THE QUINTABLE EVAPORATOR (As per our attached technical specification) to Kallakurichi-II Co-op. Sugar Mills Ltd., Kachiriyalayam - 606 207.

1. Last date and time for submission of Part-I and Part-II in the above portal

2. Part-I (Technical bid) opening : 27.11.2026 at 1.00 PM.

3. EMD : Rs.50,000/-

4. Part-II Price Bid received through e-tender will be opened after evaluation of Part-I tender.

5. Bids in physical form will not be accepted.

DIPR / 3283 / Tender / 2026

P. MANIRAJ, B.E., District Revenue Officer / Administrator (FAC)

HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT

ARULMIGU SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY TEMPLE, TIRUCHENDUR

E-AUCTION NOTICE

An public auction vide electronic mode (E-Auction) is scheduled to be conducted through MSTC to grant licenses for a period of two years for various categories of selling items belonging to the Arulmigu Subramaniam Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur, as per the details given below

Details of Sale License Items	Date of E-Auction	E-Auction Reference Details
License for collecting the coconut (known for breaking as an offering) (Vizhal) Thangal at Arulmigu, Theerthapada Vinayagar Temple and Vileswaram Temple	17.11.2026	MSTC / SRD / Arulmigu Subramaniam Swamy Temple / S1 / Thangal / 26-27 / 48088, Date: 17.11.2026
License for collecting the coconut (known for breaking as an offering) (Vizhal) Thangal at Arulmigu Subramaniam Swamy Temple	17.11.2026	MSTC / SRD / Arulmigu Subramaniam Swamy Temple / S1 / Thangal / 26-27 / 48108, Date: 17.11.2026
License to run coconut and fruit selling stalls at 5 locations within the Arulmigu Subramaniam Swamy Temple premises	18.11.2026	MSTC / SRD / Arulmigu Subramaniam Swamy Temple / S1 / Thangal / 26-27 / 48100, Date: 18.11.2026
License for selling sandalwood packets at two locations in the temple hall (Moolakalasa Mandapam) of Arulmigu Subramaniam Swamy Temple	18.11.2026	MSTC / SRD / Arulmigu Subramaniam Swamy Temple / S1 / Thangal / 26-27 / 48101, Date: 18.11.2026

For details regarding the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) required to participate in the E-Auction, terms and conditions of the license, and other relevant information, interested persons may contact the Temple Office in person during office hours or visit the MSTC website: <https://www.mstconline.com> and <https://www.mstc.com>. They may also contact the MSTC Helpline at the following numbers: 0490554101, 0490554102, 0490554103, 0490554104, 0490554105

DIPR / 3259 / TENDER / 2026

A. Anantharam, M.A., B.L. Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer

R. Vinitha, C. Selvaraj, Dr. Aristo Loganathan, P. Prabhakaran, Trustees

R. Anantharam, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Government of Tamil Nadu

Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department

Cuddalore City Municipal Corporation

Bids for Selection of Service Provider for Collection & Transportation of Solid Waste through various activities to the Designated Processing Facility/ Dump Site/ Depositing Centres and Operation and Maintenance of Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) in Cuddalore City Municipal Corporation for 18 months

(Roc.5826/2026/H1, Dated:28.10.2026)

1. Bids are invited from eligible and reputed agencies for the Selection of Service Provider for Collection & Transportation of Solid Waste through various activities to the Designated Processing Facility/ Dump Site/ Depositing Centres and Operation and Maintenance of Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) in Cuddalore City Municipal Corporation.

2. The details of the bid shall be obtained from web portal: www.tntenders.gov.in and Corporation website: comm.cuddalore@tn.gov.in

3. The tender document shall be downloaded from 30.10.2026 from the portal www.tntenders.gov.in

4. Pre-bid meeting will be on 12.11.2026 at 11:30 AM at Cuddalore City Municipal Corporation.

5. The last date for downloading the tender document and the last date for uploading / submission of filled up tender document is up to 3.00 P.M. on 30.11.2026.

6. The received bids will be opened at 3.30 P.M. on 30.11.2026 at the office of Cuddalore City Municipal Corporation.

7. The value of each project, Bid Security - (RTGS/e-BG), and the eligibility criteria for the bidder etc., are given in the bid document.

Commissioner
Cuddalore City Municipal Corporation.

DIPR/3314/Tender/2026

'US BTA to protect sensitive sectors'

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

UNION Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said the proposed India-US trade deal had been negotiated to safeguard the interests of Indian farmers and other stakeholders while giving India a "very strong comparative advantage".

Addressing the ISID-IDRA Fourth National Conference, Goyal said the agreement would not compromise the interests of farmers and expressed confidence that it would be welcomed by the public. "US free trade deal, once details are out, the people of India will celebrate that not a single sensitive interest of our

farmers or any stakeholder has been compromised. On the contrary, India will stand at a strong comparative advantage," Goyal said. Defending the government's trade pact against opposition criticism, Goyal said he had not come across any flaws in the eight free trade agreements (FTAs) concluded by India so far that could adversely affect domestic industry.

"I don't know what they criticise, but I have the courage of conviction to announce that once details of the US trade deal are out, the people of India will celebrate that not a single sensitive interest of our farmers or any stakeholder has been compromised," he said.



I have yet to come across anybody who could find a single flaw in any of the eight FTAs which are concluded, and details are out in the market

— Piyush Goyal, commerce minister



India and the US announced on February 7 that they would pursue a bilateral trade agreement (BTA). Negotiations have focused on securing better market access for Indian exporters and a competitive advantage over rival suppliers to the US. However, a subsequent US Su-

preme Court ruling invalidating the Trump admin's reciprocal tariffs reshaped the US tariff landscape. India has also raised concerns with Washington over threat of sanctions linked to its purchases of Russian oil and an additional 10% Section 301 tariff on Indian exports.

India is seeking a deal that would improve its export competitiveness against countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia and Cambodia in the US market. Defending the other trade pacts concluded by India, Goyal said, "I have yet to come across anybody who could find a single flaw in any of the eight FTAs which are concluded, and details are out in the market."

FINMIN PEGS GDP GROWTH AT 7.35% IN Q2 OF FY27

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

FINANCE ministry has estimated the country's real GDP growth at 7.35% in the July-September quarter of FY27, which is 15 basis points higher than the Reserve Bank's Q2 projection of 7.2%. However, the ministry cautioned about 'considerable' uncertainties arising due to high oil prices, rising food inflation and an uncertain outlook for kharif crop. "Building on growth of 7.8% in Q1, the Department's nowcasting model estimates real GDP growth at 7.35% in Q2FY27," the ministry said in its October monthly economic review (MER).

Now casting is the prediction of the very recent past, the present, and the very near future state of an economic indicator. The nowcasting model, first adopted in the Economic Survey for FY26, estimates FY27 GDP growth at 7.3%, higher than the upper band of 7.2%, which was suggested in the Economic Survey earlier this year.

As highlighted by the Ministry of Finance, domestic demand, sustained investment activity and structural reforms are expected to support growth through the remainder of the financial year. With the recent GST process reforms likely to ease compliance requirements and working capital



Ministry cautions about 'considerable' risks

The ministry cautioned about 'considerable' uncertainties arising due to high oil prices, food inflation and an uncertain outlook for kharif crop. Now casting is the prediction of very recent past, present, and near future state of economic indicator

constraints for businesses. Additionally, healthy credit growth and trade pacts are likely to provide additional support to consumption, investment and exports. While the Ministry is confident of sustained domestic growth, it flagged the risks posed by global price shocks, noting that their impact on growth figures varies depending on the importance of affected commodities in a country's production, export and import baskets. "Overall, robust domestic demand, sustained investment activity, a resilient financial sector, and proactive supply-side management have underpinned India's growth resilience so far. Uncertainties remain considerable," stated the ministry.

IDBI Bank sale followed due process, says government

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Centre on Thursday defended the process followed for IDBI Bank sale, saying the second round of bidding was conducted under powers delegated to the Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment (CGD) and that the reserve price was neither increased nor reduced.

Finance ministry clarified the initial round of bidding was conducted in 2025-26 under the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management's (DIPAM) indicative guidelines, which allow flexibility in strategic transactions. First round became functus officio — ceased to have effect — after initial bids were not approved, it said. The clarification comes amid questions over process adopted for the sale, in which the Centre and LIC are divesting a majority stake.

The ministry said there was no pre-determined benchmark for bids and that bidders valued the bank before submitting confidential offers. Independent valuation agencies were appointed to assess enterprise's fair value, which was then compared with the bids to determine whether the offers were reasonable. The bid-discovered price and valuation could be higher or lower than each other, it said. The Centre cited a provision in request for proposal (RFP) stating if the highest bid fell below reserve price, the government would decide further course of action, and qualified bidders could not subsequently question that decision.

EXPRESS READ

Cognizant revenue increases 4.6% in Q3

NEW DELHI: Cognizant reported revenue of \$5.6 bn for Q3 of 2026, up 4.6% from a year ago, as growth in financial services, communications, media and tech supported its performance. The IT firm expects full-year 2026 revenue growth of 4% to 4.4% in constant currency terms. ENS



H1 pharma exports up 5% at \$16.13 bn

NEW DELHI: India's pharma exports grew 5% to \$16.13 billion in the first half of the current fiscal year, driven by strong demand from Europe, ASEAN, and Latin America, as per Pharmexcil data released on Thursday. Shipments stood at \$15.38 billion in the same period last fiscal year. ENS

ECB filings rise 5.6% to ₹8.13 bn in August

NEW DELHI: Total external commercial borrowing (ECB) filings by corporates increased by 5.6 per cent month-on-month to USD 8.13 billion in August, supported by the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) special USD-INR Forex Swap facility, according to the central bank's data. ENS

Diesel crisis boosts RIL as exports hit 18-mnth high

Exports surge comes as global diesel supplies fall after W Asia crisis

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

RELIANCE Industries emerged as the biggest beneficiary of a global diesel supply crunch, exporting an estimated 541 kbd (thousand barrels per day) in October 2026, the highest level in the 18-month period, according to data from maritime intelligence firm Kpler.

Private refiner Nayara Energy was the second-largest exporter, shipping about 39 kbd in October. The supply shortage boosted India's diesel exports, which rose to 700,000 barrels per day (bd) in October 2026, highest level since September 2025. "India's diesel exports hit 700 kbd in Oct'26, the highest since September 2025."

Record refinery runs, max distillate yield and strong cracks are driving exports. With runs about 5.6-5.7 mbd, exports should stay strong, though robust demand will limit upside," said Sumit Ritolia, lead research analyst, refining & modeling at Kpler, in a post on X.

The export surge comes as global diesel supplies have contracted sharply following the West Asia conflict. As per the International Energy Agency's (IEA) Oil Market Report 2026, global gasoline output averaged 26.4 mbd in Q2, down 1.5 mbd YoY. Output in Q3 was estimated at 27.2 mbd, a decline of 1.7 mbd.

SUPPLY CRUNCH PUSHES DIESEL PRICES TO \$220 BL

Supply crunch has pushed diesel prices to \$220 a barrel in Europe and US. The situation has prompted discussions between Trump and Putin on supplying diesel to global markets

Prolonged conflicts in oil-producing regions have disrupted crude supplies and reduced the availability of diesel, a key fuel for transport, industry and the movement of goods. The Russia-Ukraine war and Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian refineries have damaged Russia's refining capacity and reduced its ability to export fuel.

The supply crunch has pushed diesel prices to about \$220 a barrel in Europe and the US. The situation has prompted discussions between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin on supplying diesel to global markets to help lower fuel prices. Trump has also waived certain sanctions, restrictions and duties under the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, citing US na-



tional interests.

Reliance, which operates the Jamnagar refining complex in Gujarat, is India's largest exporter of petroleum products. Its diesel and gasoil exports increased from nearly 483 kbd in September and 463 kbd in July, following a sharp recovery from an estimated 322 kbd in June 2026. Shipments had previously peaked at around 495 kbd in September 2025.

Mkt up 1% as Fed keeps status quo

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

DOMESTIC equity markets ended their losing streak on Thursday, with sentiment buoyed by the US Federal Reserve's decision to keep interest rates unchanged, despite crude oil prices remaining elevated at about \$115 a barrel. NSE Nifty rose 1.05% to close at 22,936.75, while BSE Sensex gained 1.24% to settle at 74,151.

"Positive reaction of Fed's policy meet outcome was seen in the rate-sensitive sectors as strength in FMCG, BFSI and Re-

ality names contributed meaningfully to the day's gains. Market participants largely looked past elevated crude oil prices which continue to hover above US\$110/bbl and remain a key macro risk for import-dependent economies such as India," said Sunny Agrawal, Head - Fundamental Research at SBI Securities.

He added that crude oil prices, geopolitical developments and the evolving interest rate out-

look across major economies will continue to influence investor sentiment. While these factors may keep markets volatile in the short run, domestic fundamentals remain relatively resilient and should provide support to equities over a longer time horizon, said Agrawal.

Following the September 2026 rate hike, the US Fed decided to hold the rates steady and signalled a calibrated, data-dependent approach.

Equitas CEO quits amid allegations of conflict of interest, stock falls 20%

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

CHENNAI-based Equitas Small Finance Bank has said its MD and CEO PN Vasudevan has decided to resign with immediate effect, citing a "persistent perception of conflict of interest linked to his daughter's association with a non-banking finance firm." The sudden development led to its shares plunging 20% on Thursday.

The NBFC in question is the Chennai-based Unico Housing Finance, promoted by Varshini Vasudevan Pathangi, daughter of Vasudevan. It was incorporated in March 2023 when Varshini was about 19 with a paid-up equity capital of ₹240 crore.

Sources said the sudden resignation and the board acceptance of the same followed a series of queries from the Reserve Bank.

Banking regulations mandate that a CEO of a bank can't be an owner of a NBFC or be related to a promoter of one. Unico is headed by Babu Vellingiri as the chief executive and earlier worked with Cholamandalam Investment & Finance, a company from where Vasudevan also began his career. The board while accepting his resignation, asked him to continue until a suc-



cessor takes over.

As per Unico's website, most of its top leadership is either former employees of Cholamandalam or Equitas SFB, including its chairman N Rangachary, who was chairman of Equitas SFB, which began as a microfinance lender and converted itself into a small finance bank in 2016.

Following surprise development, the bank's shares fell 20% to ₹52.11. "Sometimes perceptions are stronger than reality," Vasudevan said in his resignation letter, as per an exchange filing by the bank on Thursday. He claimed his position as the bank's MD and his daughter's role as co-promoter of the NBFC are within the regulatory framework. In the filing, the bank said it got a letter from Vasudevan conveying his intention to step down immediately, and he wanted to pursue social initiatives.

IT cos maintain margins as AI gains offset cost pressures

PADMINI DHURVARAJ @ Bengaluru

COUNTRY'S major IT services companies largely maintained or improved operating margins in the July-September quarter, as AI-led productivity measures and tighter cost controls helped offset subdued client spending, pricing pressure and economic risks in key overseas markets.

TCS reported an operating margin of 24%, unchanged from the previous quarter, while Infosys held its margin at 21%. HCLTech's margin rose 131 basis points sequentially to 18.2%, Tech Mahindra's increased 40 basis points to 14.8%, and Wipro's up 30 basis points at 16.5% in Q2.



Revenue growth remained modest at some of the largest firms. TCS reported YoY constant-currency growth of 2.8%, while Infosys grew 1.5%. Wipro's IT services revenue was flat sequentially in constant currency and rose 0.6% YoY. HCLTech reported 2.6% YoY constant-currency growth, while Tech Mahi-

ndra recorded 7.2%. Companies pointed to automation, operating discipline and improved delivery efficiency as ways to manage costs while investing in new services. HCLTech said its internal AI initiatives helped improve margins, alongside a stronger contribution from advanced AI services. The

business generated \$219 million in the quarter, up 78% year on year in constant currency.

During earnings call, HCLTech said it could "offset AI-related deflation" while expanding its core services and advanced AI business. Tech Mahindra highlighted role of AI in delivery. Its management said it was "intensifying use of AI to improve productivity, optimise delivery effort, and strengthen execution economics" across fixed-price and outcome-based programmes. TCS said operating leverage and currency gains partly mitigated headwinds, even as it invested in strategic partnerships, hiring and future capacity.

Revenue growth modest at some of largest cos

Revenue growth remained modest at some of the largest firms. TCS reported YoY constant-currency growth of 2.8%, while Infosys grew 1.5%. Wipro's IT services revenue was flat sequentially in constant currency and rose 0.6% YoY

AI Initiatives helped improve margins: HCL

HCLTech said its internal AI initiatives helped improve margins, alongside a stronger contribution from advanced AI services. The business generated \$219 mn in Q2, up 78% YoY in cc.

Q2 FY27 RESULTS

IndiGo net loss at ₹1,879 cr, signals more fare hikes to offset high jet fuel prices

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIGO has no choice but to consider increasing airfares to offset elevated aviation turbine fuel (ATF), or jet fuel, prices, CEO Willie Walsh said on Thursday after the country's largest airline reported a consolidated net loss of ₹1,879 crore for the July-September quarter of this fiscal (Q2FY27).

The loss is primarily attributed to aircraft fuel expenses, which rose 67% to ₹9,967 crore in Q2FY27 from ₹5,962 crore in Q2FY26. "We have no choice but to look to hike fares in an effort to offset some of very significant increase that we've seen in the fuel bill," Walsh said, adding

that jet fuel prices will be high in the December quarter as well. He estimated IndiGo has recovered only around 60% of the increase in fuel costs through fare hikes and other measures.

"We haven't been able to offset the very significant increase in the fuel bill. We estimate, similar to many airlines around the world, we've probably recovered about 60%," Walsh said.

Following a re-escalation in the West Asia crisis, all major airlines in India revised and re-introduced fuel surcharges. Earlier this month IndiGo, which controls nearly two-thirds of India's domestic air traffic, re-introduced fuel surcharges



FUEL COST

1. Loss is primarily attributed to the airline's fuel expenses
2. Expenses surge 67% to ₹9,967 cr in Q2FY27 YoY
3. Revenue from ops rises 26% YoY to ₹23,364 cr in Q2

ranging from ₹375 to ₹10,000, depending on the route and sector. Revenue from operations rose 26% YoY to ₹23,364 crore in Q2FY27.

Asian Paints profit up 7.5%; inflation squeezes margins

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ASIAN Paints on Thursday reported a 7.5% year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit at ₹1,067.6 crore for the September quarter, as strong sales growth across domestic coatings and international markets was partly offset by rising raw material costs and pressure on operating margins.

Consolidated net sales rose 16.9% to ₹9,953.9 crore in the quarter ended September 30, while profit before depreciation, interest, tax and other income (PBDIT) rose 3.6% to ₹1,557.1 crore, country's largest paintmaker said in a statement.

The PBDIT margin contract-



ed to 15.6% from 17.7% a year ago, reflecting the impact of sharp raw material inflation and supply constraints linked to geopolitical disruptions. The company said it absorbed part of the cost increases to protect consumer demand while implementing calibrated price hikes. The board declared an interim dividend of ₹5.75 per share, equivalent to 575% of the face value.

RESIGNATION COMES AFTER QUERIES FROM RBI

Sources said the sudden resignation and the board acceptance of the same followed a series of queries from the Reserve Bank. Banking regulations mandate that a CEO of a bank can't be an owner of a NBFC or be related to a promoter of one

After missing out at auction, Tanisha helps Delhi make world record

GOMESH S @Chennai

WHEN Tanisha Singh went to bed on Wednesday, she was disappointed. The Delhi all-rounder's name did not come at the Women's Premier League auction and was understandably upset. In her own words, her mood was "off" but she knew that in a few hours, she would be walking out to open the batting for Delhi in the senior women's T20 match against Hyderabad.

Whatever disappointment she felt — Tanisha had gotten out for a first-ball duck while

batting in the middle-order during the previous match and then did not get a team at the auction — was put on the back burner when she arrived at the MCA Ground 2, Gahunje, Pune and had pre-match hits. Over the next few hours, she led the charge for Delhi with a 47-ball 119 as the team posted a world record total of 262/6 before beating Hyderabad by 108 runs. Priya Punia (28-ball 59) and Shweta Sehrawat (8-ball 26) played their part as Delhi broke the record held by Goa (257/2 vs Arunachal Pradesh in 2019-20) for the highest total in a domestic T20

match. Delhi's 262/6 is also 11th highest in all women's T20s with all ten before coming in international cricket.

While batting in the middle, little did they know about the record. All Tanisha and the rest of the Delhi players had in mind was to put on a big total and wrap things up soon against Hyderabad. It was only after the match they got to know about the world record total. "It feels really good. More than my century, the fact that our team won is what matters most. We let the other teams know that we are scoring such massive totals,



Delhi all-rounder Tanisha Singh | FILE PIC

which is a great thing," Tanisha told this daily after the match. "Regarding the WPL, obviously, there was disappointment. But life is such that you have to keep

moving forward. I didn't carry that feeling into the next day. I batted well in the pre-match session, and then translated that feeling into the match. It felt incredible to know we achieved that record," she added.

Posting big totals and playing the aggressive brand of cricket is something Delhi women have been consciously trying to apply. Head coach Deepti Dhyani had spoken about it in the team meetings and Tanisha knew the target was to get at least 50 runs. When she got a no ball up front and pulled it for a boundary, the

23-year-old went into a zone and did not look back. "Over the last three years, Delhi has been performing exceptionally well in batting. That performance stems from players getting used to playing a certain way on a good wicket where the ball doesn't move much, it's flat, and the outfield is fast, where singles are replaced by fours and sixes, resulting in fewer dot balls," Deepti said.

DPL influence

Both the coach and the all-rounder credited the Delhi District Cricket Association's state

women's league — Delhi Premier League — for the exposure and chance to play in televised matches. Tanisha called it a "fantastic platform" for cricketers to learn on and off the field. Coach Deepti credited the tournament for the confidence it gave the players. "The platform we got from DPL changed our approach. DPL provides us proper wickets and day-night matches, which are very rare in women's domestic cricket," Deepti said. **Brief scores:** Delhi 262/6 in 20 ovs (Tanisha 119, Priya 59) bt Hyderabad 154/8 in 20 ovs (Tisha 80, Sumrit 3/28).

Full story: [newindianexpress.com](#)

WITH EYE ON BIG PICTURE, INDIA SEEK MOMENTUM

ODI stars join team as visitors look to build towards T20I clean sweep

GOMESH S @Chennai

THE T20I series is already in the bag. There are two more matches to go, including the fourth one against New Zealand in Auckland on Friday, but the Indian camp has their eye on the big picture with the ODI regulars including captain Shubman Gill joining the nets.

Gill and KL Rahul, who was already in New Zealand with the India A team, have arrived in Auckland where the first ODI is set to be played next week and hit the strides with the T20I team in the nets. Rahul had a disappointing outing with the India A team while Gill is coming on the back of a Ranji Trophy fixture with Punjab in the second round. And it seemed like head coach Gautam Gambhir worked closely along with Rahul and Gill.

After all, they know what is at stake. The T20I series though important at the international level, in terms of context, the ODIs and Tests that follow hold more significance. And both Rahul and Gill will have a significant role to play there. So much so that there are plans in place for the two multi-format players to leave the ODI squad after the third game and prepare for the two Test matches.

Though that is at least a couple of weeks away, one of the beneficiaries of the planning in place is T20I vice-captain Tilak Varma. The Hyderabad batter has grown leaps and bounds in the last few months especially since he got the leadership role within the set up. And Tilak has repaid the faith of the coach and selectors too by stepping up big time in the role of a finisher. Now, he would be a part of the ODI set up too when the Test regulars leave the squad to prepare for the red-ball matches. After all, the messaging from the coach has been clear about the planning and standards that need to be met. "Gautam sir (head coach Gautam Gambhir) made it clear in team meetings that this is a



Head coach Gautam Gambhir with ODI captain Shubman Gill in Auckland | BCCI

CAN NZ BOUNCE BACK?

After the hammering in the third T20I, hosts will be keen to get their first win...

Changes in combination

Having already secured the series, India could make some changes and experiment especially with the bowling attack. It will be interesting to see if Varun Chakravarty comes back in.

Home advantage

One of the biggest challenges at Eden Park, Auckland is the shape of the venue. With tiny straight boundaries and large square, visiting teams tend to struggle. New Zealand would want to make the most of it.

New Zealand vs India, Auckland | Live on Sony Sports Network, 12.30PM

long tour and the standard we set as a T20 side will provide momentum for the ODI and Test squads," Tilak said ahead of the fourth T20I.

While there was no doubts on

Tilak's ability and range as a batter, what seems to have pleased the team management is how he has taken to pressure down the order especially after batting in top three most of his career. And the move came with a mindset change for Tilak.

"I already had the power game; I have scored runs at number three as well. Now, batting at number five or six, I think about going for a boundary off the very first ball only if it's there to be hit," he explained. "Otherwise, I focus on taking the game deep. I take a bit more time. Initially, I focus on singles and doubles, finding gaps for fours or two runs," he added.

The vice-captain has his eyes on a clean sweep even as India would look to experiment in their bowling department. "We are thinking this is a great opportunity to achieve a clean sweep. The next goal is to win the upcoming match and give the Indian crowd a great chance to witness a 5-0 series win."

The first stop would be to beat New Zealand in Auckland and take a 4-0 lead.

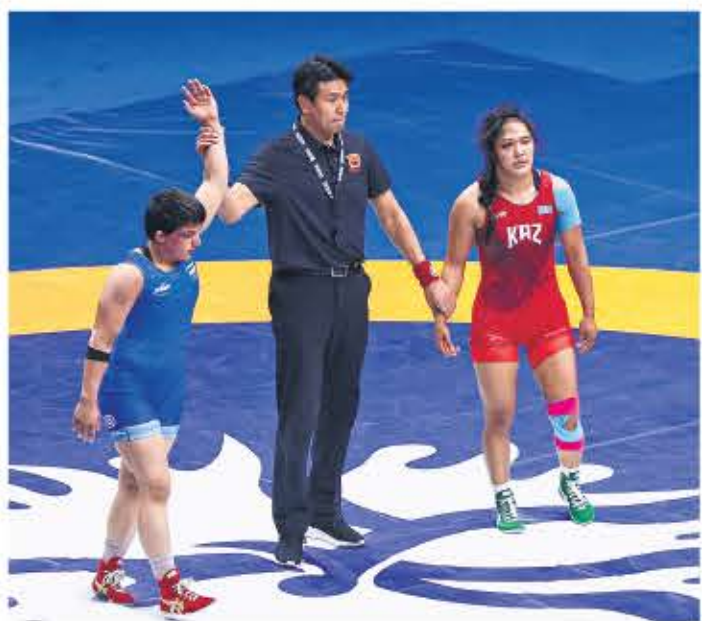
History beckons for wrestler Manisha

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

IT was her father, Suresh, who motivated her to take up wrestling around 14 years ago. Unfortunately when Manisha Bhanwala started gaining a reputation as a wrestler, her father passed away after suffering a heart attack. Hours after she left her home at Siwaha village in Jind district of Haryana to board a flight for Mongolia to take part in the 2022 Asian Championships, Suresh left for heavenly abode.

It's been more than four years but the 29-year-old wrestler believes her father is still with her and guides her in case of need. And Thursday was no different. On a day when she made the 59kg final at the ongoing World Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan, Manisha and is only a bout away to script history. Manisha said she never missed her father as he is with her all the time. "He (father) is always with me. I still talk to him when I feel the need and he guides me in whatever way he can," Manisha told this daily from Astana. Manisha began her campaign with a dominating win by fall against Laurence Beauregard of Canada in the pre-quarterfinals before getting the better of Mongolian Bolortuya Khurelkhuu in the next round. She was up against local favourite Alkyn Shagayeva in the semifinal but the Indian defeated her by fall to storm into the final, where she will face Abigail Elizabeth Nette of USA on Friday.

But before Thursday, she has suffered heartbreaks thrice at the Worlds. Despite competing in three straight World Championships starting from 2023, she could never finish on the podium. One of the reasons was her weight category. Before switching to the 57kg weight category,



Manish Bhanwala (L) after her semifinal triumph on Thursday | WWW

she competed in quite a few divisions from 65kg to 62kg to 59kg. "When I started, I didn't know which weight category to choose. In 62kg I was doing good but my short frame (5-feet 2-inch) was proving to be a deterrent as most of the European wrestlers are tall and that made it difficult for me to compete against them. I had already competed in three Worlds without a positive result and the 2023 LA Games were also approaching, so I decided to move down to 57kg," she added.

Manisha competed in the 57kg division at the 2026 Asian Games but lost to Japanese ace Akari Fujinami in the quarterfinal. Fujinami was then shocked by North Korean wrestler Sim Son in the semifinal depriving Manisha a shot at the medal via repechage round. "That loss in Japan broke me as it was my maiden Asian and I toiled for more than a year to

finish on the podium in the event. I didn't visit my home in the last one year to prepare for the Asian Games. I also started doubting myself after it but the good thing was I managed to come out of it."

Manisha was desperately waiting for the Worlds to make up for the loss and even decided to compete in the 59kg fearing the small gap between the two events might cause issues. "My father always used to say 'you have to finish a job if you have started it'. And now I have a job in hand. I will give my best in the final," Manisha said. If she finishes on top of the podium, she will become the first woman wrestler from the country to clinch a gold medal at the World Championships. "The stakes are high as no Indian woman wrestler has won a gold in the Worlds so far. So I want to win gold now," signed off Manisha.

Full story: [newindianexpress.com](#)

Bronze for Tanu in her first Sr Worlds

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

IT was Tanu Sharma's maiden senior World Championships and she was up against experienced Wiktoria Cholut of Poland in the qualification round. The 26-year-old Polish wrestler used her experience to overpower the 20-year-old Indian 12-2 to make it to the next round of the 72kg weight category.

The loss on Wednesday served as a wake-up call to Tanu, who recently won a silver medal at the U20 World Championships. The Haryana wrestler gathered herself to win two back-to-back bouts a day later to finish on the podium. She first edged past 5-4 Zaineb Sghaier of Tunisia in the repechage round before defeating Precious Rosanna Bell of the USA 9-5 to pocket a bronze medal.

Daughter of a Sanskrit teacher, Tanu is the lone athlete in the family. It was her uncle Narendra Fauji, who initiated Tanu into wrestling and on Thursday he was a delighted man.

Heartbreak for Sujet

Meanwhile, India's Sujet Kalkal suffered a heartbreak as he lost against Tajikistan's Abdulmazzhid Kudiev in the men's 65kg quarterfinals (3-3 on criteria). It was Kudiev, whom Sujet defeated in the Asian Games final, to clinch gold but he couldn't repeat the feat in Astana.



Tanu Sharma

Lifter Mirabai withdraws from World C'ships

ENS @Chennai

ACE weightlifter Mirabai Chanu's first competition in the new weight category ended prematurely as she was forced to withdraw from the ongoing IWF World Championships in Ningbo, China due to a back issue on Thursday. The Manipuri lifter was scheduled to compete in the 53kg weight category in Group B. Before Thursday, she had competed in 48kg and 49kg throughout her career. With the international body (IWF) revising the Olympic weight categories for the 2028 Games, Mirabai moved up to 53kg. Meanwhile, her compatriot Gyaneshwari Yadav finished eighth in the 53kg. Competing in Group C, she heaved a total of 198kg (88kg+110kg) to top the group.

Karnataka secure first win of season

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Mysuru

KARNATAKA picked up their first win of the Ranji Trophy season as they beat Tripura just after lunch on the fourth and final day at the SDNRW ground inside the University of Mysore campus. Coming into the match with just two points in as many games, they were under pressure not just to win, but to win big to kickstart their campaign. In the end, they achieved that objective as they picked up even the bonus point by enjoying an innings victory in unusually hot conditions for this time of year.

The win lifted them to fourth place, but they continue to trail Hyderabad, Saurashtra and Punjab in Group B. With just one game remaining before the break for the white-ball formats in the winter, Vinay Kumar and his charges know they have to use this as a platform to go on a winning run.

On a still largely good wicket for defensive batting on Thursday, the overnight Tripura batters had safely negotiated the first 30 minutes to raise visions of a famous draw against a fancied opponent. That's when V Vyshak, who was warming up with a medicine ball next to the dugout after play had commenced, produced the breakthrough. It prompted an outpouring of relief through the home team. Manvanth Kumar got in on the act as well to nip the fightback. The pacers drew first blood for them before Shreyas Gopal picked up another fiver at this level to signal the end of the game. In the record



Karnataka Ranji team captain Shreyas Gopal in action | FILE PIC

Veteran Vihari out for the season

Hanuma Vihari, who joined Tripura last year, will continue to remain unavailable for them for the remainder of the season. Vihari has informed us that he will not play this season because of personal reasons," coach Satrajit Lahiri told reports after the game. "I don't know what the personal reasons are. It's a big blow because last season also he scored a lot of runs." Still only 33, Vihari, capped 16 times by India, featured in their first match of the season but had missed the last two games.

books, it will say that Karnataka beat their opponents by an innings and 116 runs, dominating by any metric. But Kumar saw plenty of scope for improvement. While the coach was happy with the win — "my first win also as a coach" — he was cognizant of the fact that they did struggle at times. "We could have done much better as a team," he said after the match. "The kind of standard we have as a Karnataka team, I think much better performance is expected from the players." He was also slightly critical of the batting unit. "Felt like the batting was a bit defensive. We could have been a bit more attacking and put more pressure. They could have definitely played a bit more freely." However, he did qualify those com-

ments by citing that the surface was hard for stroke-making. "But when I spoke to the batters, they said the pitch was not that easy. It was keeping low. With smaller teams like this (Tripura), they know their business and stick to the basics. That is why the batters felt it was not that easy to score runs," Vinay said. "However, we can't give that kind of excuse. We could have been a bit more aggressive, especially because we hadn't won our previous two games."

The one big positive, according to the coach, was the way the youngsters stepped up when the occasion demanded them to.

Brief scores: Tripura 194 and 180 in 78.1 ovs (Paul 50, Manvanth 2/42, Vyshak 2/31, Gopal 5/36) lost to Karnataka 490/9 decl in 144 ovs.

Full story: [newindianexpress.com](#)

Hockey: Indian Railways seal semifinal berth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

INDIAN Railways (RSPB) booked their place in the semifinals after dominating the tournament with three wins and one draw, the latest being a thrilling 4-4 draw against Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Day 8 of the 97th All-India MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup hockey tournament held here on Thursday.

Naveen Antil scored hat-trick goals in the last four minutes to help Punjab National Bank

(PNB) hold Indian Railways (RSPB) to a thrilling 4-4 draw in the first match. In the last league match, Indian Navy beat Malaysia Hockey Confederation - Juniors 4-2 to secure a place in the semi-finals.

Rupam-Subhankrita pair stuns top seeds

Rupam Sardar and Subhankrita Datta stunned top seeds Aaron Farias and Suhana Saini to make the mixed doubles main draw on the second day of the

WTT Feeder Chennai 2026, of Tamil Nadu, at the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University here on Thursday. The 14th seeds won their final qualifying round match 3-2 (4-11, 11-6, 11-2, 8-11, 11-8) and will meet Manav Thakkar and Taneesha Kotecha in the Round of 16.

Racing: 130 entries for 2W Challenge Round 3

After a six-week break, the MRF Indian National Racing

Challenge 2W 2026 will resume at the Madras International Circuit here this weekend (Oct 30-Nov 1) with 130 entries and a schedule of 18 races organised by the Madras Motor Sports Club. With stakes being high, the competitors will have their hands full in striking a fine balance in prioritising scoring points and pushing for a win in the third round. The situation makes for some intriguing contests as was the case in the previous two rounds.

Rising smartphone prices push consumers towards

REFURBISHED
PREMIUM PHONES

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

AS rising smartphone prices make new devices more expensive, consumers are increasingly turning to refurbished phones and exchange offers to own premium models. Smartphones priced above ₹50,000 are seeing the fastest growth in both trade-ins and refurbished sales, according to data from Cashify, a platform for buying, selling and repairing electronic devices. Trade-ins of smartphones priced above ₹50,000 have more than quadrupled, while refurbished sales in the segment have more than doubled. This indicates that consumers continue to aspire to own premium devices but are exploring cheaper ways to buy them.

New smartphone sales under pressure

The shift comes as India's new smartphone market faces pressure on sales volumes. Smartphone shipments fell 26% year-on-year in the July-September quarter of 2026, according to Omdia. Counterpoint Research has also projected a 12% annual decline in smartphone volumes during the festive season.

According to Counterpoint Research's latest report, iPhone 18 Pro series is seeing uneven demand across major markets, with a 29% jump in sales in China masking declines in the US and Japan. Global sales of the iPhone 18 Pro and Pro Max rose 3.1% year-on-year in the first three weeks after their September launch, surpassing sales of the iPhone 17 Pro series during the corresponding period last year.

However, the growth was largely driven by China, where better product availability and price increases by rival Chinese smartphone

makers helped Apple gain ground. Excluding China, global sales growth would have been significantly weaker, Counterpoint said, highlighting the dependence of Apple's latest flagship phones on a few markets.

Nakul Kumar, co-founder and chief marketing officer of Cashify, said rising prices were changing how consumers bought premium smartphones. Refurbished smartphones offer significant savings. Prices are 26% lower for devices in the 'superb' grade and 36% lower for those in the 'best value' grade.

Refurbished iPhones in the superb grade are about 25% cheaper than new models, while refurbished Android devices are around 31% cheaper than their new counterparts.

Smartphone exchanges rise 25% during festive season

Cashify recorded a 25% increase in smartphone exchange volumes during the festive season, while the total value of exchanged devices rose 40%.

The average trade-in value reached ₹15,105. Motorola and Google recorded growth of 79% and 74%, respectively, in festive upgrade and trade-in activity. Samsung registered the largest increase in volume.

September and October account for 21% of Cashify's annual trade-ins, while the October-December period contributes 32% highlighting the importance of the festive season for consumers looking to upgrade their smartphones through exchange offers.

Demand shifts to newer iPhones

The iPhone 13 remains the most traded-in iPhone, accounting for 23% of all iPhones exchanged, although activity for the model has

remained flat. Trade-ins are increasingly shifting towards the iPhone 14, 15 and 16.

In the refurbished market, the iPhone 13 continues to lead in sales, but demand is moving towards newer generations. Refurbished iPhones priced above ₹50,000 have recorded nearly double the unit sales and are the only

3.1%
Sales of iPhone 18 Pro and Pro Max were 3.1% higher than that of previous model 3 wks after launch29%
iPhone 18 Pro series is seeing uneven demand across major markets, with a 29% jump in sales in China masking declines in the US and Japan30%
Delhi, Bengaluru together account for 30% of refurbished smartphone sales

Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune and Gurugram are performing 4-7% above their normal levels, while sales in Trivandrum, Nashik and Rajkot have nearly doubled

In the refurbished market, the iPhone 13 continues to lead in sales

GOOGLE LAUNCHES

Gemini 4 Carbon
with focus on coding and cybersecurity

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

GOOGLE has announced Gemini 4 Carbon, its latest artificial intelligence (AI) model, with improved coding capabilities, advanced cybersecurity features and the ability to handle complex tasks that may take several days to complete.

The company said the model ranked first on the Artificial Analysis Intelligence Index, with a score of 59.

It also recorded improvements in software development, reasoning and tasks that require AI agents to work through multiple steps with limited human intervention.

Gemini 4 Carbon builds on Gemini 4 Argon, which Google launched two weeks ago. The company said its teams had tested Carbon on complex engineering problems, including identifying the root causes of bugs and fixing them across large software systems.

Focus on cybersecurity

A key feature of the new model is its ability to identify software vulnerabilities, assess whether they can be exploited by attackers and develop fixes.

Gemini 4 Carbon scored 88.2% on SEC-bench Pro, a benchmark that tests the ability to find security flaws in real-world software.

It scored 54.8% on ExploitGym, which evaluates vulnerability exploitation, and 71% on CWE-bench, which tests the ability to fix software weaknesses.

Google said the model achieved more than twice the success rate of Gemini 4 Argon in generating secure code in internal tests. Its Chrome team also reported significantly better performance in generating software patches compared with another advanced AI model.

WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Coal Estate, Civil Line, Nagpur-440001, Maharashtra, India. Website - www.westerncoal.in

NOTICE

All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in, respective subsidiary company (Western Coalfields Limited) <https://westerncoal.in>, CIL e-Procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://leprocure.gov.in>. Procurement of goods and services (if available on GeM Portal) are done through GeM portal only <https://gem.gov.in>.

VEER SURENDRA SAI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, BURLA
P.O: Engineering College Burla (Siddhi Vihar),
Dist: Sambalpur, Odisha-768018, India
Website: www.vssut.ac.in, E-mail: registrar@vssut.ac.in,
Ph: (0663) 2430573, Fax: 2430592

No.: VSSUT/ETC/2161/2026 Date: 28.10.2026

TENDER CALL NOTICE

44001/69/2627: Sealed bids, in two separate covers (Technical bid and Financial bid) are invited from original manufacturers / authorized suppliers / authorized dealers for the supply, installation, commissioning, maintenance and demonstration of various equipment software licenses and development tools (EDA Tool License, Crop Monitoring Drone with Thermal Camera Setup, GPU and Data Server) under the sanctioned AICTE-RPS non-recurring grant for the Project "ASIC Solution for AI-Based Precision Agriculture" for the Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering, VSSUT, Burla, Sambalpur, Odisha. The tenders shall reach the office of the undersigned through Speed / Registered Post / Courier services only on or before 17/11/2026 up to 4.30 PM.

For more details, please visit our university website www.vssut.ac.in. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

OIPR-44001/44006/1/26-27/0024 Sd/- REGISTRAR

L&T Finance Limited
Registered Office: L&T Finance Limited, Brindavan Building
Plot No. 177, Kalina, CST Road, Near Mercedes Showroom
Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 098
CIN No.: L77120MH2008PLC181833
Branch office: Chennai

POSSESSION NOTICE
(Rule-8(1))

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of L&T Finance Limited (erstwhile, L&T Finance Holdings Ltd), under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred by Section 13(12) of the said Act read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower/Co-borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the demand notice appended below within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization. The Borrower/Co-borrowers/ Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-borrowers/ Guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein under in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on this notice.

Loan Account Number	Borrower/s/ Co-borrowers/ Guarantors Name	Description of the Mortgaged Properties	Demand Notice		Date and Type of Possession Taken
			Date	Outstanding Amount (₹)	
CHNHL1900 0141, CHNHL1900 0168	(1)Thulasidas S As Borrower And (2) Maruthi Bloss Fast Through its Proprietor S. Thulasidas, (3) Vijaya T As Co-borrower/s As	All That Piece And Parcel Of Land, Bearing Door No.5/3, Comprised Old Survey No. 298 Part, T.S. No. 176, Ward No. D, Block No. 22 As Per Tambaram Town Survey Field Register Extract In No.1653/2014 Dated 08.12.2014, New T.S. No. 176/3, Measuring An Extent Of 2400 Sq.ft. Land With 750 Sq.ft., Building, Situated At Tambaram Village, Govindarao Street, Tambaram Taluk, Kancheepuram District.	17.07.2026	Rs. 7790676.29/- as on date 14/07/2026	27.10.2026 as Symbolic Possession
		Boundaries East By Plot Belongs To Mr. M. Vadivelu West By Plot Belongs To Mr. M. Vadivelu North By Property Belongs Mrs. J. Poongodi And Govindarao Street South By Plot Belongs To Mr. Yuvaraj			

The Borrower/Co-borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing in the property would be subject to the charge of L&T Finance Limited for an amount mentioned in the demand notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization.

Date: 30.10.2026
Place: Chennai

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For L&T FINANCE LIMITED

Indian Overseas Bank
Thamarapakkam Branch (3272): No.15A/3A1, ASD Complex, Thamarapakkam X Road, Annamalai Nagar, Thiruvallur District - 601103. Mob: 80259 53272 & Email: eb3272@ioib.bank.in
(APPENDIX IV) **POSSESSION NOTICE** (For Immovable Property) [Rule 8(1)]

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank 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 09.02.2016 calling upon the Borrower: 1.Ms Kan Vin Wiring Solutions Pvt. Ltd. [Rep. by its Managing Director] No.2, S.No.2701, Galaxy Control Road, Ponniamman Nagar, Asyanampakkam, Chennai-600 062, Director/Mortgagor/Guarantor: 2.Mr.R.Satya Gananathan, S/o.K.Rajagopalan, No.101, O Block, Ganapathy Colony, Annanagar East, Chennai-600 102, Director/Guarantor: 3.Mr.S.Venugopal, S/o.Srinivasan, Plot No.75, Sampath Street, Narasimman Nagar, Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram Dist - 603 203, Director 4.Mrs.Premalatha Rajagopalan, No.101, O Block, Ganapathy Colony, Annanagar East, Chennai - 600 102 (hereinafter referred to as Borrowers / Mortgagor / Guarantor) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice bearing ₹98,62,499/- (Rupees Ninety-Eight Lakh Sixty-Two Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety-Nine only) total dues as on 31.01.2016 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc. till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 28th day of October of the year 2026.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of ₹ 98,62,499/- (Rupees Ninety-Eight Lakh Sixty-Two Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety-Nine only) with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc. from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable on the date of taking possession is ₹ 82,74,162.35 (Rupees Eighty-Two Lakhs Seventy-Four Thousand One Hundred and Sixty-Two paise Thirty-Five only) payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Nature of Security: Mortgage: Land located at Plot No.1A, Varadharajapuram Main Road, Bharathi Nagar, Lakshminagar, Adhanoor Village, Kundrathur Taluk, Kanchipuram District Owned by Mr.R.Satya Gananathan, Gramanathal Old Survey No. 3611/A Part, New Survey No. 3611/A Subpart, S. Adhanoor Village, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Extent: 245.00 Sq. Mts. or 2637 Sq. Ft. (Vacant Site) Boundaries: North by: Site in Survey No.361/15 belongs to Mr. Nandakishore, South by: Site in Survey No.361/13 belongs to Mrs. Srisankari, East by: Road, West by: Survey No.361/6.

Date: 28.10.2026, Authorised Officer,
Place: Thamarapakkam Indian Overseas Bank
Further we inform you that the earlier possession notice dt. 29.08.2016 issued to you stands withdrawn / cancelled due to administrative reasons

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III, AT CHENNAI
6th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastris Bhavan, Chennai-600006

O.A. No. 106 of 2026
State Bank of India (IFSC: SBIN0017938)
R.A.C.P.C., No.50, R.A. Plaza, Mount Poonamallee High Road, Ayyappanthangal, Chennai-600056.
Rep. by its Chief Manager (Maintenance) ... Applicant
-Versus-
Mr. Selvaraj, S/o. Subbaya, No. 361, Mansion Site Police Quarters, Greens Road, Chennai-600006.
Also At: Mr. Selvaraj, S/o. Subbaya, Flat No.SQ2/5, 1st Floor, TN Police Housing Corporation Limited, Melakottaiyur, Chennai-600127.
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT THROUGH SUBSTITUTED SERVICE
Whereas the above named applicant bank has filed the above referred O.A.No.106/2026 in this Tribunal for recovery of sum of Rs.22,97,940/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Ninety Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Only) from the defendant.
Whereas the service of summons/notice could not be effected in the ordinary manner and whereas substituted service has been ordered by this Hon'ble Tribunal, and hence this notice through Paper Publication.
You are therefore requested to appear before the Hon'ble DRT-III, Chennai in person or through a duly instructed counsel and file written statement on or before 18.11.2026 at 10.30 a.m. and show cause as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.
Take Notice that in case of default, the O.A. shall be heard and decided in your absence, in accordance to law.
B. Jawahar, Advocate, Counsel for the Applicant

CSB Bank PUBLIC NOTICE ON AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrowers in specific and interested bidders in general, are hereby informed that on account of non-payment of the Banks due by the borrowers as under despite the payment notice and reallocation notice issued by the Bank, the gold ornaments pledged with the bank security by the respective borrowers for the loan availed by them will be sold in public auction on "as is where is" and "non-recourse" at branch premises on 25th November 2026 at 10.30 AM. The auction may be adjourned to any other later date at the discretion of the bank upon publication of the same in the Bank's notice board. The borrowers are hereby further inform that the gold ornaments will be disposed of by public auction, if the auction is not successful, and if there is a further balance to be recovered thereafter, legal action will be initiated against the borrowers for recovery of the balance amounts due to the bank. "In case of deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs."

S. No.	Auction Center	Account Name	Client ID	No. of Ac.	Bal. Outstanding as on 25.10.2026	Weight (grams)
1	Myapore	D Jagannakar	04767343	002	4,85,194.55	43.10
2	Myapore	Komala James	0284949	001	7,65,570.91	70.70
3	Myapore	Ravikumar Sampath Rao	02777733	003	19,58,304.78	175.90
4	Myapore	S Balachandrasekar	07835230	005	86,51,735.63	898.60
5	Myapore	Swaminathan M	08189376	008	58,30,013.80	596.80
6	Madipakkam	Sankala	13072957	002	34,54,833.37	302.00
7	Madipakkam	L Karthik	10153692	001	1,70,457.05	14.90
8	Madipakkam	Maria Justin A	08245037	002	12,62,194.29	115.30
9	Madipakkam	N Lakshmanan	10072360	002	7,13,492.77	74.10
10	Madipakkam	Revaathi	07860822	002	74,11,309.08	656.30
11	Madipakkam	Sankala	13037251	001	2,56,096.58	24.80
12	Madipakkam	Sathish	10281531	001	2,57,085.19	22.40
13	Madipakkam	Senthil Pandian L	10277119	001	12,64,931.76	112.90
14	Madipakkam	V Menaka	07478692	001	5,32,584.81	71.60
15	Chitlapakkam	Karthik Pandyan	07326600	001	7,03,978.00	68.40
16	Chitlapakkam	Lakshminan Chelladurai	07823545	002	30,25,240.75	297.00
17	Chitlapakkam	M Priya	08189953	003	16,90,742.70	154.90
18	Chitlapakkam	Peter Jacob	07745421	005	10,34,228.89	127.20
19	Chitlapakkam	V Jayaprakashnarayanasamy	10275817	001	13,21,097.67	125.00
20	Chitlapakkam	Venkaatesan Venugopal	10188309	002	11,91,634.74	104.20
21	Velachery	Bismicha M	10307771	001	9,17,040.07	88.80
22	Velachery	Jayakumar M	08320794	002	20,50,918.14	197.70
23	Velachery	Jesthwanth C	10224221	004	26,85,716.84	231.70
24	Velachery	Monisha	10129726	002	7,44,178.82	65.70
25	Velachery	Rajasekaran K	10167197	003	17,54,795.94	158.20
26	Velachery	S P Hemalatha	08334806	003	79,15,244.62	697.90
27	Velachery	Sangeetha Mohan	08206223	003	38,93,230.55	352.10
28	Velachery	Vanitha Veenaval	07915643	001	3,55,865.64	31.70
29	Kelambakkam	Kavandhakar K	10056369	001	2,94,836.57	25.90
30	Kelambakkam	Gomathi	10279327	001	1,38,669.67	12.50
31	Kelambakkam	Januna M	10132271	001	7,82,857.14	72.70
32	Kelambakkam	Jeyavarathan M	10052965	003	10,85,745.28	99.20
33	Kelambakkam	K Madhavi	10069727	003	18,77,674.00	167.70
34	Kelambakkam	Madhesh K	10148220	003	14,96,584.63	136.20
35	Kelambakkam	Pannoorasavam G	10102840	001	3,34,097.11	28.80
36	Kelambakkam	Porseelan S	10284459	001	5,46,129.64	47.80
37	Kelambakkam	Rajesh Elti	04899868	002	2,68,544.54	23.50
38	Kelambakkam	S Deva	08243898	001	9,43,708.74	84.00
39	Kelambakkam	Sangeetha	10281673	001	6,86,376.63	63.90
40	Kelambakkam	Tamizhharathi	10285913	001	3,67,260.01	32.60
41	Kelambakkam	Belasubramanyam	10204918	005	37,71,513.59	378.50
42	Kelambakkam	Vignesh K	10172254	001	1,80,963.48	16.00
43	West Mambalam	Gowindarajan N	02775521	004	97,93,286.73	881.30
44	West Mambalam	Kowsalya	10178160	006	51,06,835.52	497.20

45	West Mambalam	Pavithra	10169327	001	21,43,741.24	195.60
46	West Mambalam	Punitha J	10122461	001	1,65,714.78	14.70
47	West Mambalam	Sulochana K	08265615	002	27,10,951.45	227.80
48	West Mambalam	V Elango	08262567	006	75,56,152.17	681.50
49	West Mambalam	V Kishor	10305780	002	74,94,935.54	686.60
50	West Mambalam	Valarmathi A	08351687	001	1,01,185.70	94.30
51	Koyambedu	B Gnanam	10103195	002	4,43,769.91	39.80
52	Koyambedu	Bharath T	10273658	001	4,36,691.79	39.30
53	Koyambedu	Emal Dona	10284015	002	31,40,297.15	310.40
54	Koyambedu	F Nohraji	10272523	003	7,24,158.79	67.10
55	Koyambedu	G D Sathish Kumar	08345810	002	9,26,656.71	84.90
56	Koyambedu	K Kishore	08323026	002	8,73,030.49	78.70
57	Koyambedu	Manimekalai Sankar	08244910	002	3,96,564.58	36.80
58	Koyambedu	Monisha D	10275512	001	22,25,286.42	197.50
59	Koyambedu	Nagarajan J	10273359	001	1,85,766.15	16.40
60	Koyambedu	Saleem J	10115100	001	7,86,863.25	77.30
61	Koyambedu	Suresh D	08249341	001	1,02,76,422.29	1,007.90
62	Amnikarai	Bhuvaneshwar G	07546005	002	8,49,902.96	86.90
63	Amnikarai	Mohammed Mashood Ansari	10048083	001	8,03,512.30	77.60
64	Amnikarai	Natasha Nasim	10276990	003	29,32,325.74	269.40
65	Amnikarai	Rajkumar	10172208	001	27,77,438.96	243.30
66	Amnikarai	Singara Kondalu Bodi	10240674	001	1,29,163.90	30.88
67	Amnikarai	Sujatha Bodi	10240722	001	2,54,410.07	30.40
68	Amnikarai	Sultanabegum J	07899560	001	7,66,654.33	91.40
69	Amnikarai	V Priyadarshini	08323135	002	14,97,675.71	132.10
70	Amnikarai	Vignesh Sivakumar	10106999	001	8,16,867.37	73.30
71	Jawahar Nagar-Chennai	Baskar Nellikuppam	08334577	001	14,82,946.82	151.90



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INDULGE

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Chennai
Rocks ^{19th} Anniversary



**RAHMAN,
A NEW
CHAPTER**

INDULGE

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear reader,

NINETEEN YEARS, COUNTLESS stories and an enduring love affair with Chennai! As *Indulge* turns 19, we raise a toast to

the city that has been our muse, shaping our journey, inspiring our stories and keeping us on our toes. From cyclones and torrential downpours to COVID, recessions, technological upheavals and more last-minute edits than we care to count, we have weathered many a storm. Through thick and thin, we have been at the forefront, bringing you story after story, week after week, always keeping our ears to the ground and our eyes on the next big thing. And through it all, our passion for storytelling has stood the test of time.

And, what better way to mark this milestone than with the Mozart of Madras himself, A R Rahman, on our anniversary cover? In an intimate conversation, we discover what keeps the maestro ticking, where he finds inspiration and why, after decades at the top of his game, he remains hungry for what lies ahead, ahead of his acting debut with *Moonwalk*.

This anniversary edition also celebrates Chennai's remarkable knack for having the best of both worlds—embracing the old while making room for the new. The *Kanjeevaram sari*, with its lustrous silks, gleaming *zari* and memories woven into every fold, is finding a new lease of life among younger wearers through lighter weaves, playful colours and contemporary silhouettes. Meanwhile, Madras Checks are stepping out of their comfort zone, travelling far beyond the familiar cotton shirt and *lungi* to make their mark on global runways and modern interiors.

Of course, no love letter to Chennai would be worth its salt without a generous helping of food. We tuck into the city's rich culinary heritage, from iconic messes to much-loved vegetarian tiffin rooms, meeting the people who keep time-honoured recipes and traditions alive. But we're not stopping at the tried and tested. We also follow filter coffee beyond the humble tumbler, as chefs, bakers and bartenders give this beloved brew a fresh twist in gelato, macarons, tiramisu, and cocktails.

And there's plenty more cooking in Chennai beyond its kitchens. The city's creative spirit is coming into its own, with artists, designers, galleries and cultural communities adding fresh colours to its ever-evolving canvas. We discover how beaches are transforming into buzzing event spaces and how the Metro is bringing performances and cultural experiences right into our daily commutes. From heritage buffs and urban sketchers to watch collectors and film aficionados, we shine a spotlight on the communities that bring people together, turn shared interests into lasting friendships and remind us that the best things in life are even better when shared. After all, it takes all sorts to make a city.

Thank you for being part of our journey for 19 wonderful years. Here's to more stories, traditions worth preserving and discoveries waiting around the corner. Until then, keep turning the pages and do indulge us!

Cheers!



Edison Thomas
Editor, Indulge

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1st SUNDAY
2nd MONDAY
3rd TUESDAY
4th WEDNESDAY
5th THURSDAY

Quiz night

October 30 | Besant Nagar

Ubasti Cat Café & Lounge presents a special Halloween *Harry Potter*-themed quiz night led by quiz master Abhishek Bharathkumar. The evening combines themed trivia questions with a costume party welcoming guests dressed as their favourite characters, creatures, witches, or wizards alongside the resident café cats. ₹599 onwards. 6.30 pm onwards. At Ubasti Cat Café.



Festive pop-up

October 31 | Royapettah

Get your shopping carts ready for *The Diwali Edit*. Presented by Dreamcatcher Events, this single-day festive shopping showcase brings together over 35 homegrown brands from across India, featuring festive apparels, silver and fashion jewellery, artisanal gifting, home décor, skincare, gourmet treats, and live tarot card readings. Free entry. 11 am to 8 pm. At The Folly, Amethyst.



Halloween brunch

November 1 | Velachery

Seasonal Tastes extends the Halloween celebrations into November with a themed Sunday brunch. The special dining experience pairs leisurely afternoon dining with imaginative presentations, seasonal flavours, and playful culinary touches. ₹2,799++ onwards. 12.30 pm to 4 pm. At Seasonal Tastes, The Westin Chennai.



Contemporary art show

November 2 | Thousand Lights

Curated by Nivetha Mailasini, *The Madras Warp* brings together 16 contemporary artists in a multi-medium exhibition. The week-long showcase features diverse personal perspectives through painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, ceramics, mixed media, and installations across modern artistic practices. On till November 7. At Lalit Kala Akademi.



Weekday lunch

November 3 | Nungambakkam

Lunch Club offers a curated four-course set menu inspired by diverse regional Indian flavours. Designed for business meetings and leisurely weekday catch-ups, the experience features a signature Bombay Plate, two small plates, a choice of big plate, and dessert. ₹1,061 onwards. 12 pm to 3 pm. At Bombay Brasserie.



Tea masterclass

November 4 | Aminjikarai

Hayakawa Japanese Language School & Cultural Center conducts an authentic beginner-level *Cha-No-Yu* (Japanese Tea Ceremony) masterclass. The workshop series introduces participants to the foundational practices of the Omotesenke school, covering traditional whisking techniques, guest etiquette, and the philosophical principles of *Wabi-Sabi*. On till November 5. ₹2,999 onwards (AI). 11 am. At Hayakawa Japanese Language School & Cultural Center.



Curated canvas

November 5 | Mylapore

Modern Art Exhibition: Modern: A Way of Looking explores Indian modern art through its foundational works, ideas, histories, and conversations. Rather than presenting a conventional collection, the exhibition pairs significant modern artworks with a living library of artist monographs, rare art books, catalogues, and archival material to encourage a slower, more informed engagement with Indian modernism. On till December 19. 4 pm to 7 pm. At Ashvita's.



Cover pic: Ashik Mohammed

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JASON SANJAY



Madras, my way



Paloma

Staying active

Running groups, Pilates studios, padel courts, pole dancing, cycling communities, and people heading out for early morning workouts. I love that fitness is becoming such a big part of the city's lifestyle, with so many ways to find your tribe.

Notes of Madras

From Carnatic concerts and the legendary December music season to live gigs and contemporary performances, Chennai has music in its DNA. Few things are as lovely as a city that continues to make room for both tradition and new sounds.

Coffee moments

Probably one of the most exciting pointers for me. Filter coffee in a traditional *davara* tumbler or a flat white at a neighbourhood café — I love that we have room for both.

Cricket fever

Cricket isn't just a sport here; it's a conversation starter, a reason to gather, and occasionally a

reason for an entire household to become emotionally invested in a match. The city's love for the game is infectious.

Movie mania

Tamil cinema is so much more than entertainment. It's part of our identity, our language, our conversations, and our collective memory. From legendary stars to freshtalent, there's a deep emotional connection between Chennai and its cinema.

City bites

Where do I even begin? From a crisp *dosa* and excellent *sambar* to

biryani, and the city's growing restaurant scene, Chennai has something for every appetite. The best part is discovering places that become your favourites for years.

Madras chic

I love the way traditional weaves coexist with contemporary silhouettes, independent designers, and experimental labels. Chennai has its own fashion identity, and it's exciting to see homegrown talent bringing fresh ideas to the table.

Local lingo

The expressions, the humour, the effortless comebacks, and the way a simple sentence can say so much. Madras slang has personality. It's cheeky and unmistakably local.

Retail therapy

From the wonderfully chaotic streets of T Nagar to curated boutiques, designer stores, and pop-ups, Chennai offers every kind of shopping experience.

Creative circles

Artists, designers, musicians, performers, photographers, and entrepreneurs are constantly making things happen. I love that there are people creating spaces, starting conversations, and building communities.

People of Chennai

The warmth, the wit, the opinions, and the ability to turn an ordinary interaction into a memorable conversation. There's a familiarity to Chennai that I love. It might take a moment to find your people, but once you do, there's a lovely sense of belonging.

Love for literature

From old-school bookshops and literary festivals to poetry readings and book launches, Chennai has a lovely relationship with the written word. And in a world of reels and 15-second attention spans, that's pretty special.

The go-getters

There is something exciting about watching people build their own brands, launch businesses, and pursue ideas they've believed in.

Built to bounce back

Chennai has weathered challenges, difficult monsoons, and unexpected setbacks, yet it always finds a way to move forward. There's a quiet strength to this city and its people that deserves more appreciation.

Madras memories

The heritage buildings, familiar neighbourhoods, traditional homes and little reminders of another era. I love that even as Chennai grows and changes, there are pieces of old Madras that remain.

up to engage with their work.

Tamil pride

The pride, the passion, and the way people fiercely love their language. From iconic film dialogues to everyday conversations, Tamil isn't just a language here; it's an emotion.

WRITING THIS COLUMN all these years, has been such a joy — a chance to step out, soak up the city, meet interesting people, and share the things that make Chennai what it is. So here are my top 'faves'!

By the sea

Sunrise walks, sunset strolls, surfing sessions, unsolicited life reflections, and the occasional existential crisis with a sea view. Whether you're catching waves, getting your steps in or just sitting by the water pretending you're in a music video, Chennai's coastline has something for everyone.

On stage

I love that Chennai has such a vibrant theatre culture. From laugh-out-loud comedies to thought-provoking plays, there's an audience for live performance.

Canvas craze

From established galleries to independent exhibitions and experimental art spaces, there's always something happening. I love seeing artistes push boundaries and audiences show



Trends and trendsetters



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Opulent baskets

Luxurious celebrations call for truly exceptional gifting, and *Khushiyan* delivers sheer opulence with its range of magnificent hampers. Whether you choose the thoughtfully structured Opulence Box, the generous Festive Blessings, or the lavish Deepavali Royale Hamper, each exquisite parcel brims with premium dry fruits, truffle-popped chips, artisanal chocolates, handcrafted *diyas*, and traditional sweets. These bespoke assortments are designed to delight family members and corporate associates alike, filling every home with warmth, radiance, and festive cheer. **₹3,999 onwards.** At Hilton Chennai, Guindy.



Seasonal treasures

Celebrating the spirit of giving with a fine selection of traditional favourites and festive sweets, three distinctively curated hampers are designed to make your seasonal celebrations memorable. From The Traditional Hamper featuring regional snacks like Chettinadu *thattai murukku* and Tirunelveli *halwa* to The Festive Hamper collections brimming with artisanal chocolates, organic honey, gourmet coffee, and aromatic jar candles, these bespoke assortments bring warmth and joy to every home. **₹2,200 onwards.** At The Raintree, St Mary's Road.



Festive expressions

Celebrate Deepavali with these festive hampers, featuring traditional Indian delicacies, gourmet treats, and premium indulgences. Inspired by India's artistic heritage, the packaging showcases motifs drawn from *kalamkari*, *banarasi*, *kasuti*, *kasavu* and *pichwai* traditions. From *mithai* boxes to thoughtfully assembled premium hampers, the collection offers elegant gifting options for loved ones, festive gatherings and corporate celebrations. **₹499 ++ onwards.** At Hyatt Regency Chennai, Teynampet.



Crafted for Deepavali

A city-wide edit of Deepavali hampers that puts Chennai's craft, flavour and creative spirit in the spotlight

This festive season, we present a curated hamper collection that draws inspiration from across Chennai. Assembled in collaboration with the city's independent makers, artisanal studios, and heritage establishments, each hamper reflects the diversity, craftsmanship, and cultural richness that define the city.



Cacao and confections

Uniting the timeless richness of Indian traditions with the avant-garde artistry of contemporary confectionery, this exquisite festive collection brings together traditional flavours and contemporary creations. The Ritvah selection offers signature *mithai* boxes, festive tea cakes, fudge brownies, and curated hampers like the Grand Curation and Majestic Collection, featuring innovative delicacies such as hazelnut *besan laddoo* and pista pumpkin seed *burfi*. Complementing these heritage sweets, Fabelle contributes luxury chocolate gifting options, including the Prisma Bouquet, Elements Reimagined pralines, and dessert-inspired truffles that reimagine global favourites like *tiramisu* and banoffee pie. Prices for Ritvah hampers start at ₹3,299 (Mithai box at ₹2,399); Prices for Fabelle bouquets and collections start at ₹795. At ITC Grand Chola, Chennai.

Mythic chronicles

Transform your seasonal celebrations into a unique experience by combining the artisan charm of the Box of Light hampers and the Ramayana Chocolate Set, both crafted by Chef Mansi Sanghi at The Ground Floor. The curated Box of Light selections bring together comforting favourites like curry leaf *khari*, almond biscuits, coconut *barfi* brookies, and *kachori babka*. Meanwhile, the Ramayana Chocolate Set elevates gifting into an epic tale, featuring five uniquely moulded artisanal bars inspired by legends, such as the arrow-shaped milk chocolate with roasted almonds and the sea-salt-infused dark chocolate of Lanka. Box of Light ranges from ₹1,550 to ₹1,950; Ramayana Chocolate Set is ₹2,100 for a set of five bars. Available online.



Modern celebrations

Bringing a chic and contemporary flair to traditional festivities, here is an inspiring selection of gift hampers and artisanal sweet boxes designed to spread joy and sweetness. From the celebratory Utsav and heartwarming Sneh to the luxurious Vaibhav and the sparkling-wine-inclusive Anmol hamper, each collection overflows with gourmet snacks, Flurys coffee, scented candles, and handcrafted *diyas*. For those seeking dedicated confectionery boxes, the Desi Treats and Cacao Overload collections provide rich traditional *mithai* and inventive chocolate truffles to elevate every festive gathering. **₹1,199 to ₹9,499.** At The Park Chennai, Anna Salai.



Continued on page 14



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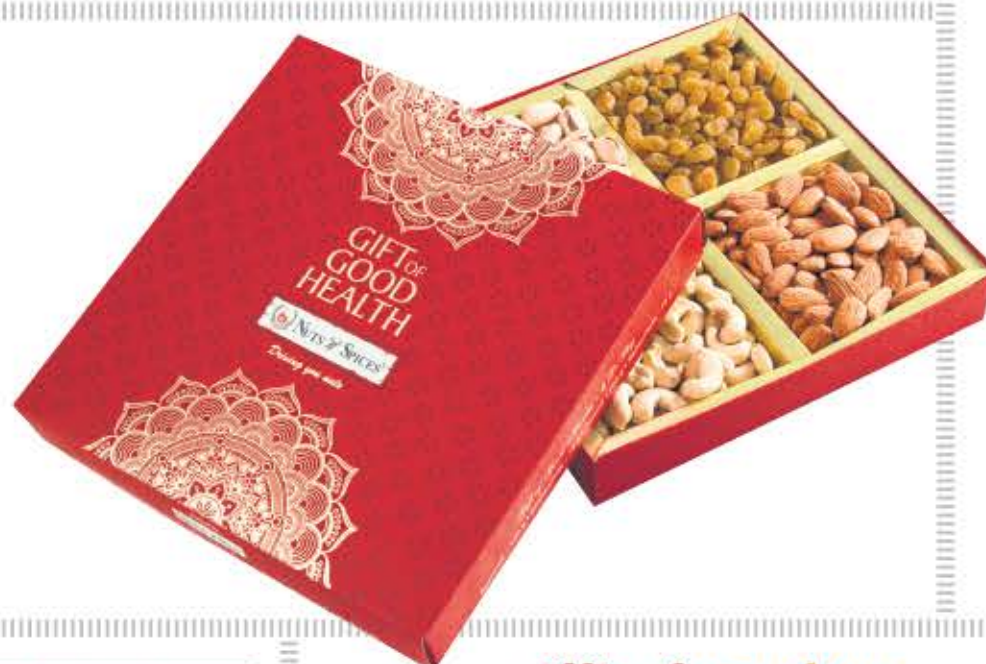


Festive assortments

Embrace the rich spirit of togetherness and celebration with *The Diwali Collection* of curated hampers designed to elevate your seasonal gifting. At your perusal are the charming Delight Box and the snack-filled Joy Box to the elaborate Happiness Box, Bliss Box, and the luxurious Euphoria Box. These collections feature an impressive selection of handcrafted chocolates, artisanal barks, traditional sweets like *kaju katli*, and speciality items like custom candles and festive torans. ₹1,200 onwards. At Park Hyatt Chennai, Guindy.

Nutty hampers

Bringing health, elegance, and artisanal excellence to your festive celebrations, Nuts 'n' Spices presents an extensive array of curated gift collections designed to delight every recipient. From the wholesome Gift of Good Health and vibrant Celebration Collection to the regal Nutri-Luxe Collection, the sophisticated Golden Mesh Collection, the traditional Heritage Collection, the majestic Imperial Collection, and the lavish Gourmet-Luxe Collection, these hampers feature premium selections of finest dry fruits, roasted nuts, exotic spices, and healthy treats. Available in stores across Chennai and online.



Gifts of grandeur

Bring home a touch of Indian traditional art this Deepavali with *Signatures by The Leela*. Featuring special-edition *Pichwai* artwork by Nathdwara artist Rajaram Sharma, the festive hampers pair artisanal *mithai*, chocolates, and gourmet treats with signature fragrances, herbal infusions, and keepsakes. With hampers starting at ₹2,500++ and a Make Your Own Hamper option, there's room to personalise the festive gesture. At The Leela Palace Chennai, MRC Nagar.



Radiant offering

Rooted in the timeless grace of classic Indian hospitality, the festive collection from Taj Coromandel Chennai brings together an exceptional array of handcrafted delicacies and luxury keepsakes. Discover a thoughtful spectrum of offerings, from the holistic Wellness Hamper and vibrant Umang box to the regal Divyam and ultra-exclusive Coromandel baskets. Packed with artisanal chocolates, organic green teas, gourmet *baklava*, and handcrafted brass idols, each creation radiates refinement and warmth. ₹1,650 onwards. At Taj Coromandel, Nungambakkam.

Timeless by tradition

Blending modern elegance with cherished seasonal customs, the *Timeless Traditions* collection presents a splendid array of thoughtfully curated hampers designed to make your festive gifting truly meaningful. From the charming Signature Edit and Gilded Collection to the exquisite Festive Atelier, Box of Brilliance, and the lavish Grand Gesture, these collections bring together fine dry fruits, artisanal *baklava*, organic honey, gourmet dips, and festive *diyas*. ₹2,000 onwards. At Pullman Chennai, Anna Salai.



Cocoa magic

Indulge in a comforting slice of homemade luxury with the delectable Chocolate mud cake and Coconut pudding from Bon Bon's Tiffin Tales, lovingly crafted to sweeten your seasonal celebrations. Packed with rich, decadent flavours straight from a cosy home kitchen, this treat makes a delightful gift to share with someone special this Deepavali. Pre-orders close on November 2. ₹650 onwards. Available for takeaway at Anna Nagar and online delivery.



Tea time treats

Make Deepavali gifting thoughtful with Vahdam India's tea hampers. The Blush Assorted Teas Gift Set features three teas, Weekend in Taj Mahal offers eight tea tins, and Glow includes six teas. This festive season explore new flavours and share a leisurely brew with loved ones. These curated collections make thoughtful gifts for tea enthusiasts. ₹1,199 onwards. Available online.

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No Indian festival is complete without the legendary Baklavas from Sree Gupta Bhavan!

FESTIVALS IN INDIA are synonymous with celebration, togetherness and, of course, sweets. From traditional *mithai* shared with family to festive hampers exchanged between friends and business associates, sweetness has always been an expression of love, gratitude, and prosperity. But for those looking to add a touch of royal indulgence to their celebrations this festive season, there is one irresistible delicacy that deserves centre stage, the iconic Baklavas from Sree Gupta Bhavan (SGB). With their delicate layers of pastry, rich fillings made with nuts, and signature syrupy sweetness, baklavas are far more than just another festive treat. They are an experience of luxury, craftsmanship, and indulgence that has travelled across centuries and cultures to earn its place at celebrations fit for royalty.

Baklavas – King of sweets

Baklava traces its roots to the culinary traditions of the former Ottoman Empire and the wider Middle Eastern and Mediterranean regions, where layered pastries enriched with nuts and sweetened with syrup or honey became treasured delicacies. Over generations, different regions developed their own distinctive interpretations, using ingredients such as pistachios, walnuts, and other nuts, along

with delicately layered pastry.

Historically associated with elaborate feasts, hospitality and celebratory occasions, baklava became a symbol of indulgence and culinary artistry. Its appeal lies in the beautiful contrast of textures – crisp, delicate layers giving way to a rich, nutty centre, finished with a luscious sweetness that lingers on the palate.

The SGB baklava experience: One bite, and a world of indulgence

For close to 40 years Sree Gupta Bhavan is a name synonymous with quality and sweet-making tradition since its beginnings in Chennai, the celebration of sweets extends beyond the familiar. SGB's wide range of baklava brings an international favourite into the Indian festive experience, offering sweet lovers an opportunity to discover a different dimension of indulgence.

Every piece promises the distinctive appeal that makes baklava so special: delicate pastry, the richness of nuts, and a satisfying balance of sweetness and texture. Whether enjoyed as a personal treat, served to

guests at home or presented as an elegant festive gift, baklava brings a sense of occasion to even the simplest gathering. For those who believe that festivals deserve something extraordinary, SGB's baklavas offer a delightful experience that feels indulgent, looks exquisite and is made for sharing.

This festive season, gift royalty

Gone are the days when *kaju katli* or *ladoo* were the SoP of corporate gifting, businesses are increasingly looking beyond conventional gift boxes to find thoughtful, distinctive ways to express appreciation to employees, clients and business partners. An elegant selection of baklavas offers just that: A premium gesture that feels personal, memorable and different.

Alongside its baklava range, SGB offers traditional sweets, contemporary creations, dry-fruit hampers, customised packaging and corporate branding options to suit festive bulk gifting requirements.

This festive season, let your celebrations rise above the ordinary. Discover the legendary varieties of baklavas of Sree Gupta Bhavan and experience a royal sweet tradition. Because no Indian festival is complete without the legendary SGB baklavas.

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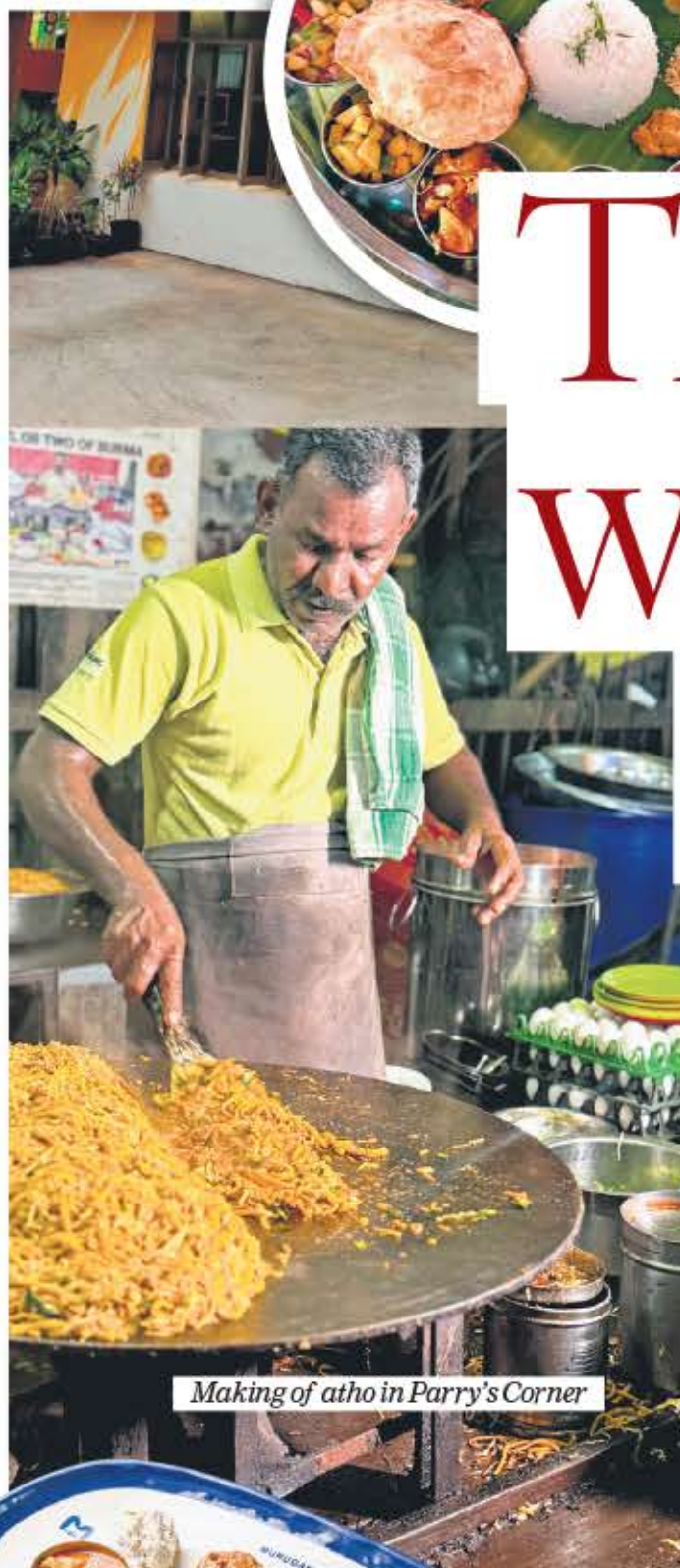
People coming together over a meal at Kaylir Canteen



Chicken kothu sandhavi from Erode Amman Mess



A display of puffs at an Anglo-Indian bakery



Making of atho in Parry's Corner

The ones who feed the city

We speak with the people in the city's culinary scene, tracing the communities and traditions that shape its everyday food



Nattu kozhi biriyani from Madurai Pandian mess

original flavour."

For Prabhu, the reward is seeing customers recognise something of home in the food. "A single bite can take you back years, to a place you miss or to someone you love. For many of our customers, our food brings back memories of their mother's cooking, their grandmother's recipes or the meals they grew up eating in their hometowns."

A city shaped by many kitchens

Chennai's food culture cannot be reduced to a single cuisine or a handful of signature dishes. "Chennai has a rich and diverse culinary identity, shaped by Tamil cuisine, Udupi food traditions, Malabar cuisine, and the distinct culinary practices of North Indian communities," says Chef Seetharam Prasad, corporate executive chef and culinary direc-

tor at GRT Hotels and Resorts. He also points to the influence of Indo-Burmese cuisine and the growing popularity of spicy Andhra food. "What makes Chennai special is the way these diverse culinary traditions coexist and influence one another while retaining their individual identities."

The variety is visible in the city's vegetarian tiffin houses, regional non-vegetarian messes and eateries shaped by trading communities. Pradyumna Acharya, who now co-runs Bhavyam Veg, also points to the longstanding presence of Gujarati and Rajasthani food, including establishments such as Aggarwal Bhojanalay and Rajasthani Dhaba.

"Jains and Marwadis have been major contributors to Chennai's food scene," he says. "They have brought their own culinary traditions with them and also embraced local food as their own." *Dhokla*, *kachori*, and *khakhra* are now available across the city, while Jain-friendly options have become an important consideration for vegetarian restaurants. For Pradyumna, these diners are also among the city's most discerning, often willing to travel across neighbourhoods for a particular *dosa*, meal or chutney.

The city's food map extends well beyond its vegetarian kitchens. Chef Gokul Kumar Mohit AKA Chef Goku, a culinary researcher and storyteller documenting Tamil food traditions, approaches Chennai through the communities behind its food. The Burmese-Tamil food heritage survives in *atho*, *atho kothu*, *bejo*, and *vazhathandu* soup, particularly in North Chennai. In Triplicane, Tamil Muslim food traditions include *idiyappam* with *paya*, *biryani*, and mutton-based gravies. Mylapore's vegetarian eateries draw on temple food traditions, with dishes such as *puliyodharai*, *sundal*, and *milagu kuzhambu*.

Other influences are equally embedded in everyday eating. Saidapet's *vada curry*, often served with *set dosa* or *idli* instead of chutney or *sambar*, has become closely associated with Chennai's tiffin culture. The trading neighbourhoods of George Town and Sowcarpet have helped popularise *chaat* and *kachori*, while Dashamakan's kebabs and the

Continued on page 22

A FAMILIAR MESS does not need an elaborate menu or a carefully designed dining room to bring people back. Sometimes, it is enough for the *sambar* to taste as it did on the last visit, for a favourite dish to arrive just as expected, or for a meal to recall a place far removed from the city. Chennai's messes, tiffin rooms and neighbourhood restaurants have built their place in everyday life on these small, repeated assurances.

For Prabhu M, founder and owner of Erode Amman Mess, that connection begins with the food he grew up eating. The family-run eatery first opened in Erode in 1980, serving Kongu-style food from a humble thatched-roofed establishment near the Amman Temple. The brand expanded to Chennai in March 2019, bringing these regional flavours to the city. Building a following meant introducing diners to Erode-style cooking while preserving its character. "We focus on fresh ingredients, the right balance of spices and masalas prepared in-house," Prabhu says. "We strongly believe you don't need too many spices to make a dish special. It's about getting the basics right and staying true to the

Breakfast dishes from Murugan Idli Kadai

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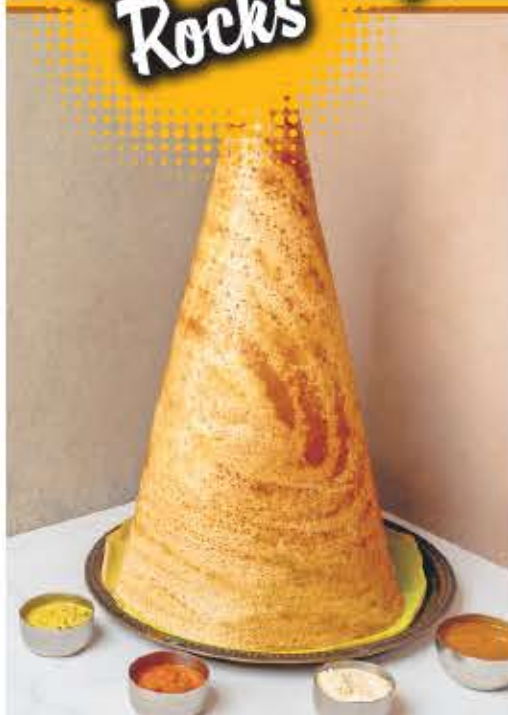
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city's Anglo-Indian legacy, seen in Railway mutton curry, cutlets, puffs and cakes, add to its diverse food culture.

Along the coast, fishing communities preserve a food vocabulary that goes beyond familiar fish varieties, with preparations such as *thirukkai kari*, *nethili*, *meen mutta podimas*, and *kanava karuvadu*.

"Many traditional messes continue to preserve this approach to cooking," Goku says, referring to nose-to-tail cooking, a practice rooted in the belief that an animal should be used respectfully and as fully as possible for its sacrifice. "Their knowledge is rarely documented in formal cookbooks, it survives because cooks continue to prepare these dishes for generations of customers who have grown up eating them."

He sees a similar depth of knowledge in eateries run by fishing communities, where cooking depends on seasonal catches, local tastes and familiarity with ingredients that may be less common on restaurant menus. Dishes such as *sangu kari* and *illi poochi varuval* are part of this wider culinary repertoire. They may remain unfamiliar to diners outside the communities that eat them, but they reveal how much of Chennai's food culture exists beyond its best-known dishes.

"For me, it is ultimately the people. Ingredients and techniques matter, but a dish becomes representative of a place when a community adopts it, adapts it and makes it part of everyday life," Goku says. "There is a difference between drawing inspiration from a tradition and presenting its knowledge as though it originated in a contemporary restaurant kitchen."

Keeping these traditions alive, then, means recognising the communities behind the food and the generations of knowledge that have shaped it.

The taste of coming back

The familiarity Prabhu speaks of is central to Chennai's everyday dining culture, but it also takes work. Seetharam sees consistency as the foundation of the relationship between an establishment and its customers.

"Customers return to the same messes and tiffin rooms because they expect the same familiar flavour, aroma, and taste every time they visit," he says.



Interiors of Bhavyam Veg



Dining area of Sashwatha



CHEF GOKU'S GUIDE TO NEIGHBOURHOOD EATS

What if Chennai's food map were drawn through its community kitchens rather than its famous restaurants? Chef Goku takes us across neighbourhoods where diverse food traditions have shaped the city's everyday appetite.



1 Burma Nagar: Start with *athokothu* and *vazhathandu* soup at Sahul's Atho Shop, where Burmese influences meet Chennai's street-food culture

2 Kasimedu: Stop for *Atlappam*, a Sunday breakfast tradition

3 George Town and Sowcarpet: Follow the *chaat* and *kachori* trail. As Goku notes, "Gujarati and Marwari communities influenced the food landscape of trading neighbourhoods such as George Town and Sowcarpet."

4 Periamet: Make time for old bakery favourites, including puffs, cakes and cutlets

5 Triplicane: Explore the non-vegetarian breakfast traditions of Chennai's Muslim community

6 TNagar: Seek out the Chettinad messes

7 Saidapet: Look for *vada* curry with *appam* or *set dosa*, a favourite rooted in the city's tiffin culture

8 Mylapore: Head to its small vegetarian eateries and food traditions shaped by the temples

9 Velachery: Find the everyday fare of *kaiyendhibhavans* and the newer food-truck scene

10 Pattinampakkam: End along the coast, exploring local seafood and lesser-known preparations such as *illi poochi varuval* (sand crab fry)



Mangalore buns



Rajasthani thali from Sree Agarwal Bhojanaalay

cleanliness of the dining room and the convenience of parking.

"The restaurant business has moved beyond just food and service, it's about hospitality now," Pradyumna says. Younger customers, he adds, are more willing to try unfamiliar names instead of remaining loyal to a restaurant simply because it has been around for years.

Established businesses, meanwhile, must keep their menus and spaces relevant while rising ingredient costs and delivery commissions put pressure on margins.

A newer wave of eateries is also rethinking everyday food without losing sight of its familiarity. Sashwatham and Kaylir Canteen offer examples of how the everyday meal can be presented in an upscale setting, bringing a fresh perspective to the way Chennai eats.

Keeping the tradition alive

The establishments that sustain these food traditions are not necessarily the ones with the biggest menus or the most elaborate dining rooms. From Bharathi Mess and National

Andhra Mess to Murugan Idli Kadai and Karthick Tiffin Centre, Chennai's neighbourhood eateries continue to serve food shaped by generations of local tastes and habits.

Seetharam says, "The objective should be to serve good-quality food at a fair price while preserving the authenticity and consistency that have earned the trust of generations of customers."

Keeping these traditions alive will depend on whether the establishments, and the people behind them, can continue to make a living from them.

—Shivani Illakiya

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Rava idli

Erode Amman Mess's Chicken pallipalayam



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brewed

The many notes of kaapi

From the traditional tumbler-and-davara to *tiramisu*, gelato and cocktails, Chennai's filter coffee is finding new avatars

AS SOON AS Vimala Coffee Works came into view, we parked our bike with a sigh of relief. We had finally found the place. In the brief gap between taking the keys out of the ignition and stepping into the shop, a customer walked in, picked up his coffee powder and left almost as quickly as he had arrived. We were still making our way inside when it struck us how little time the transaction had taken.

At Vimala, which began in 1964, the staff know their regulars so well that they can have their orders ready with barely a word exchanged. Shiva, who works at the shop, says, "Ninety per cent of the people prefer medium roast and 10 per cent prefer dark roast."

For many of us, the preference begins at home. In our case, it was our grandfather who made the first coffee of the day. No matter how late the previous night had stretched for the family, the smell of freshly

brewed coffee would gently wake the household in the wee hours, more reliably than any alarm. God bless his insomniac soul, not a meeting was missed or a school bus caught too late on his watch.

The care and importance given to coffee has even found its way into our literature, too. In *My Dateless Diary*, RKNarayan writes about his coffee-loving mother, who carefully selected her beans, roasted them over a charcoal fire, and judged their readiness by the colour and fragrance of the smoke. As he puts it, "everything has to be right in this business".

Chennai is no less devoted to its coffee than the households that raised us, no matter where we came from. Its ardent love for filter coffee actually made it easy for us to call this city our home. For almost everyone here, the first appointment of the day is with a coffee, and the loyalty here runs deep. When the Saravana Bhavan outlet on Radhakrishnan Salai shut down, regulars followed Ravi Master, who had made coffee there for years, to his new spot at First Cup at Maris on Cathedral Road.

Over the years, our coffee runs have offered glimpses of the conversations that reveal why filter coffee might be so closely tied to Chennai. This isn't a laid-back city. There's traffic to beat, meetings to get to, and deals to close. Between harrowing news headlines, the pressures of work ahead and

The Stubborn Baker's Filter kaapi spiked tiramisu jar

personal anxieties, a cup of filter coffee offers a much-needed pause. At familiar stalls and neighbourhood counters, people catch up with friends and exchange opinions on politics, cinema, sport, and whatever else has been occupying the city. It's a familiar and fiercely guarded taste, but also a ritual that gives the city's hurried mornings a little room to breathe and collect its thoughts.

The right cup, the right way

And for a city that takes its coffee seriously, how it's brewed matters just as much as who makes it. Sidhant Nichani, coffee consultant and director of KWS Brew Works, believes the method is central to filter coffee's identity. He describes South Indian filter coffee as a slow-drip extraction, cut with steaming hot milk and traditionally served in a tumbler-and-davara set. For him, the brewing method is central to its identity. "If the method of extraction is no longer a slow drip metal filter device, it stops being a South Indian filter kaapi," he says.

That distinction matters to Alvin Chris Daniel, owner of Eventide Coffee, where speciality filter coffee is part of

Continued on page 26



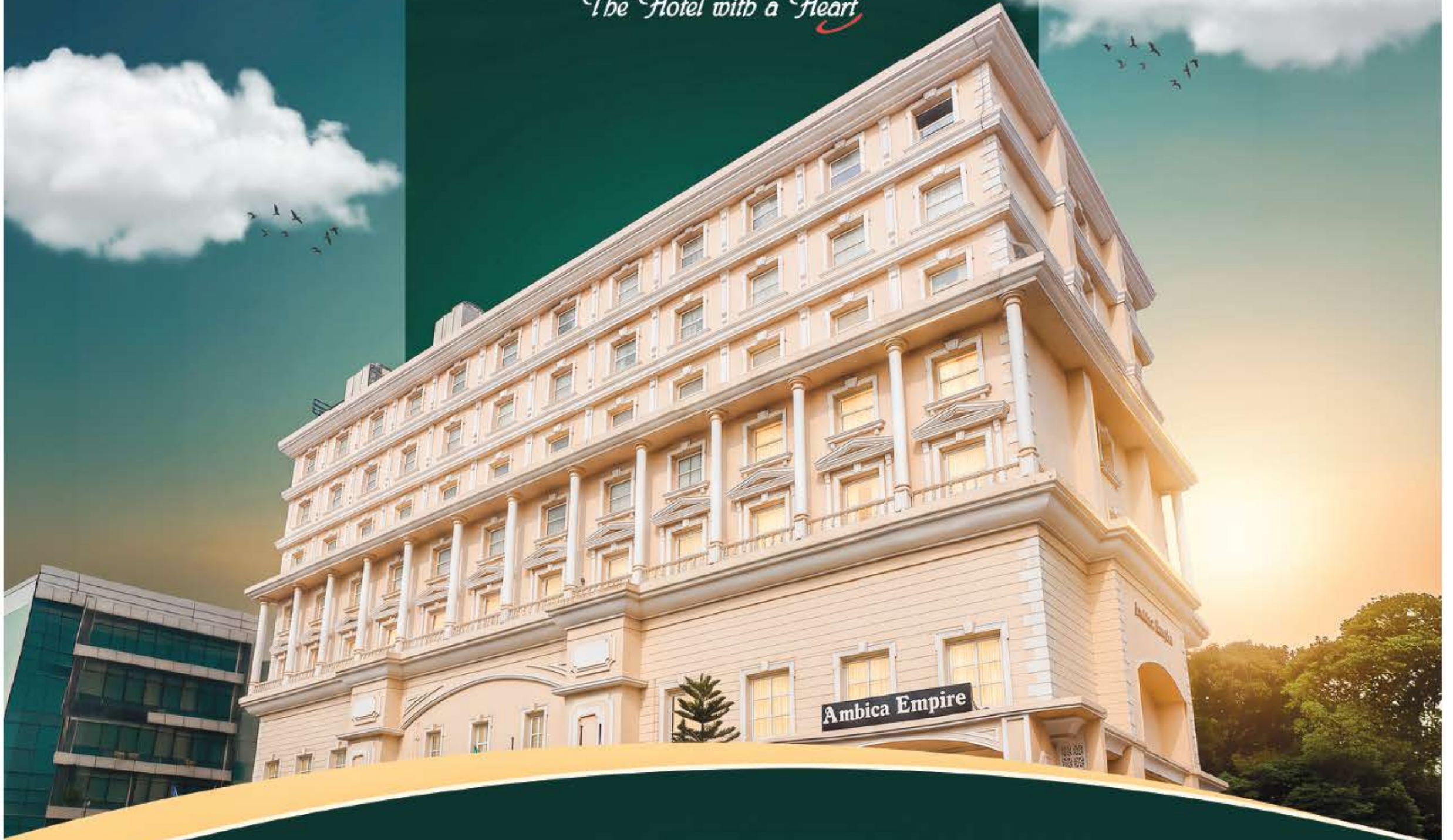
Inside Vimala Coffee Works: From bean to blend





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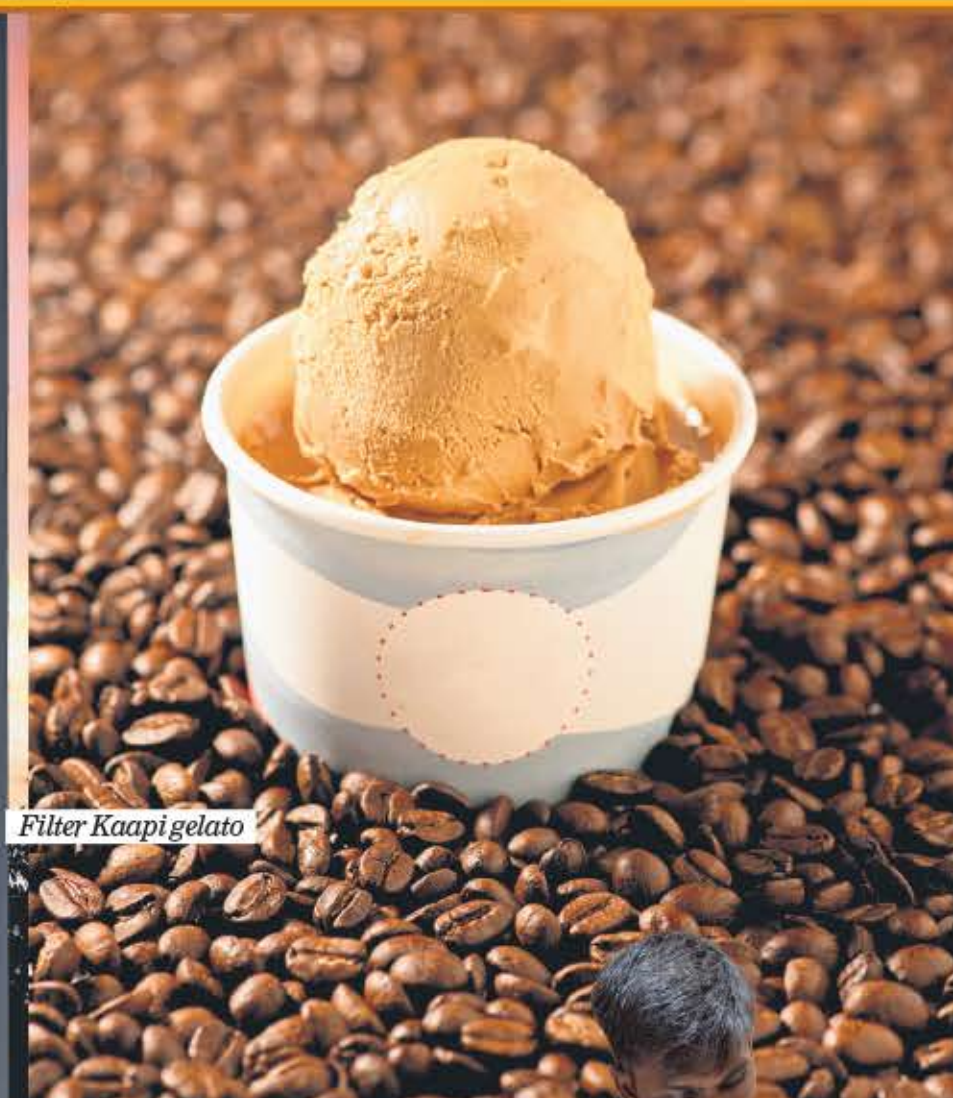
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FREE



The exterior facade of Eventide Coffee



Filter Kaapi gelato



Making of filter coffee macarons



R-A-C espresso martini



Horchata de masula

Alvin prepares his speciality filter coffee at Eventide Coffee

the café's offering. A dark roast, Alvin argues, is not necessarily stronger: strength comes from concentration and extraction. Chicory can be part of the taste people grew up with, but it is not essential to a good cup. "For them, it tastes like home," he says of its nostalgic pull. His ideal brew is rich and full-bodied, yet sweet, balanced and clean.

He wants the brew method taken more seriously by the speciality coffee world. "I don't see filter coffee as the 'traditional' opposite of speciality. I see it as a brew method that hasn't yet been given the same care and attention by many," he says and points to people such as Vignesh V of Yettu Craft Coffee, who recently served South Indian filter coffee in Japan, as well as Raghunath Rajaram of

Aramse Coffee, who has developed a filter brewer to improve consistency. "The more we have people curious and open minded to try out a coffee this way, we will be able to take filter coffee to the global stage and make it a standard item in any menu in India or the world!" he says, passionately.

Out of the davara

For generations, filter coffee has largely stayed within the tumbler-and-davara set. Now, Chennai's familiar flavour is turning up in forms that would once have seemed unlikely, thanks to culinary experimenters and coffee innovators.

At Yura, ITC Grand Chola's Japanese restaurant, Executive Chef Nikhil Nagpal has taken filter *kaapi* into gelato. The aim, he says, was to start with a flavour that people instantly recognise and give it a different form. The challenge was to preserve its roasted notes and characteristic bitterness while balancing them with the creaminess and sweetness of gelato.

"I see it as both," Nikhil says of whether the dessert is a nod to familiarity or evidence of filter coffee's versatility. "Filter coffee has a distinctive flavour profile that lends itself to much more than a traditional cup."

At Stubborn Baker, the same flavour finds its way into macarons and *tiramisu*. Tanvi Bokaria uses freshly ground

filter coffee to make a pure decoction for both. In the macarons, the concentrated flavour is infused into a German buttercream, where the fat helps carry it through the filling without compromising its texture. For her, the choice is also personal. "Being born and raised in Chennai, filter coffee has always felt like the soul of Madras to me," they say.

Tiramisu, meanwhile, already has a long-standing relationship with coffee. Chef Siddharth Ray, executive chef at The Park Chennai, traces the hotel's version to 2005, when Italian chef Antonio Carluccio introduced his recipe and suggested incorporating South Indian filter coffee. The result became The Park Style *Tiramisu*, a dessert that has remained on the menu for 21 years.

"For us, the filter coffee is more than a substitute for espresso; it is the detail that makes this *tiramisu* unmistakably ours," Siddharth says. The coffee's roasted aroma and rounded intensity work with the mascarpone, while its bitterness balances

the sweetness.

Behind the bar, filter coffee takes on a different role. At The Leather Bar, Maami's Martini combines fresh Mylapore filter coffee decoction with Irish whiskey and coffee liqueur. Tarun Devrani, director of food and beverage, describes it as a playful interpretation of the modern Mylapore *maami*. The idea was to bring together these contrasting worlds without one overpowering the other. "The key is to let the coffee complement the whiskey rather than overpower it," he says. The concept also challenges the familiar image of the Mylapore *maami*. "She embraces her roots but has a personality that goes well beyond tradition. By day, she might be known for her filter coffee; after hours, she's at The Leather Bar, sipping on a Maami's Martini and owning her spirited, unconventional side," he explains.

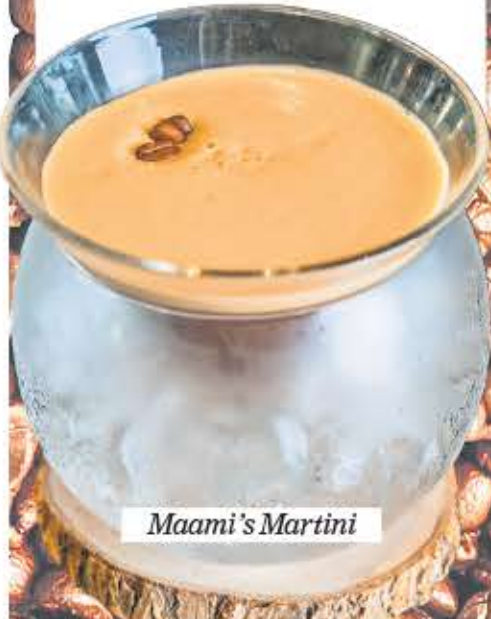
Karl Fernandes, operations head and beverage consultant at

Roc-a-Coe, has also explored filter coffee in cocktails. In the R-A-C espresso martini, dates bring caramel-like sweetness, while pandan adds an aromatic, almost vanilla-like note. His *Horchata de masula* takes a creamier approach, combining filter coffee with a Goan *horchata* made with almond and cashew nut milk, finished with cardamom. The nuts lend a mellow richness, softening the coffee's roasted bitterness, while the cardamom adds a gentle warmth.

"There's something interesting about taking a flavour people grew up with and presenting it in a cocktail," Fernandes says. "It creates an instant connection, but also gives us room to explore it in a completely different way." For Sidhant, these experiments need not displace the traditional cup. "It will be a peaceful and happy coexistence. Each has their own place in this world as long as the brackets do not emphasise filter coffee as a flavour profile and more of a brewing method."

—Shivani Illakiya

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Maami's Martini



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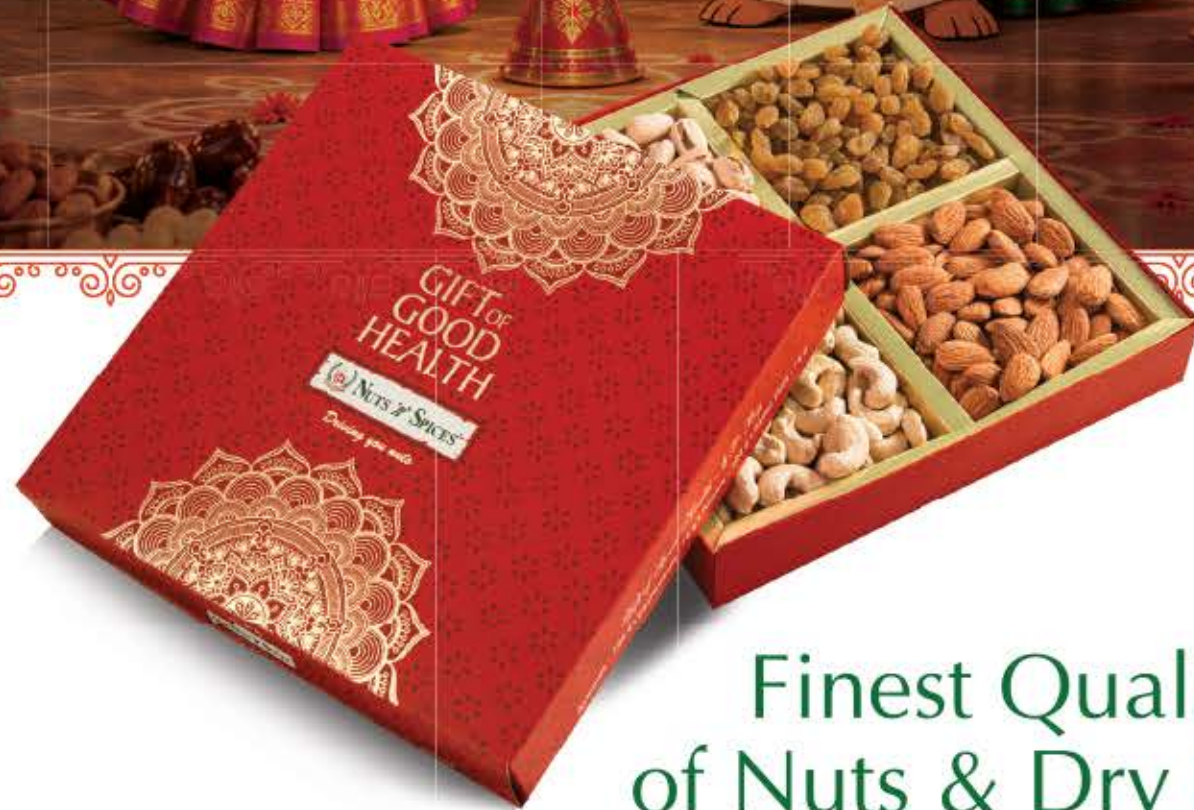
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revival

Checkmate!

Madras checks are back in the spotlight, with designers giving Chennai's iconic textile a fresh spin across fashion and accessories

ON ANY GIVEN day in Mylapore, Chennai's love affair with Madras checks is in plain sight. A woman in a vibrant checked cotton sari stops to buy *malli poo*, an uncle strolls past in a *lungi* patterned with intersecting shades of blue and green, and a shopkeeper sports a shirt whose squares are a kaleidoscope of red, yellow and green. The combinations vary, the colours compete for attention and the effect is effortlessly stylish. Madras checks are practically part of the city's dress code.

Yet the textile bearing the city's name has traversed far beyond it. Exported along historic maritime trade routes, Madras checks found new meanings in West African and Caribbean dress before becoming a fixture of American preppy style in the mid-20th century.

For *Indulge's* 19th anniversary, as we celebrate 19 things we love about Chennai, Madras checks are one textile worth looking at afresh. They embody the city's chromatic exuberance and its ability to make the familiar feel fashionable across generations. We speak to contemporary designers and textile researchers to explore how this iconic pattern is being reinterpreted for clothing, accessories, interiors and more.

'Kattam' culture

"Today, when we say Madras checks, we broadly refer to any large, multicoloured checks in cotton. But this is a relatively recent usage," says Sreemathy Mohan, textile researcher and founder of Sthree Creatives. "Checks, or '*kattam*' as we call them in Tamil, have been part of our textile tradition for centuries. They were woven using coloured yarns in the warp and weft, and were used in handkerchiefs, *lungis*, ritual textiles and other fabrics," she explains.

As Madras became a major centre for the export of cotton textiles, its checked fabrics travelled to markets across the world. One form that gained prominence was the Real Madras Handkerchief (RMHK), a handwoven cotton cloth exported in lengths that could be cut into square kerchiefs or worn as wraps. The name reflected the fabric's association with Madras, while the prefix 'Real' helped distinguish the original Indian handwoven cloth from imitations manufactured for overseas markets. Over time, Madras checks became the broader name for the colourful checked textile.

"The Real Madras Handkerchief was traditionally woven in plain weave, using 60s cotton in the warp and 40s in the weft. These numbers refer to the yarn count, which indicates the fineness of the cotton yarn. A higher

count, such as 60s, denotes a finer yarn than 40s. The fabric was woven in eight-yard lengths, divided into squares of approximately 36 inches," Sreemathy explains.

The textile's evolution was shaped by the people who wore it. As Sreemathy observes, "The colours, checks and borders changed according to customer preferences." Weavers introduced more elaborate variations, including jacquard borders, additional motifs and embroidery.

In West Africa, the imported cloth was incorporated into local sartorial practices and acquired new cultural meanings. Among the Kalabari, it became known as *injiri*, while the Igbo called it George cloth. In the Caribbean, Madras cloth also became associated with traditional dress. The fabric's journey is therefore as much about the people who gave it new meanings as it is about the merchants who transported it.

Prasan Shah, founder of Original Madras Trading Company, has a family connection to this international trade. His family's business

The beauty of Madras checks is that the design possibilities begin at the loom and continue through pattern cutting, draping and construction. There is so much creative freedom within what appears to be a simple grid
 —Vino Supraja, designer



RmKV reinterprets Madras checks through contemporary colour palettes, demonstrating how the traditional textile continues to shape Tamil Nadu's design vocabulary

Continued on page 30

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began producing Madras check shirts for the American market in the 1970s, when the fabric already had a foothold in overseas wardrobes.

"In the past, what happened was Madras checks became a very western fabric. It became this very 'Ivy' and preppy fabric. So there was a complete disconnect between the designers in the West that were designing it and the weavers here in India that were weaving it," he explains.

The irony is difficult to ignore, a textile bearing the city's name became an internationally recognisable fashion reference, while the handloom ecosystem associated with its production dwindled. Prasan recalls that when his family's business began more than 50 years ago, hundreds of families in Madras were weaving handloom Madras. Today, he says, finding weavers who continue the practice is far harder.

"We started with two weavers. And today we are supporting more than 50 weavers consistently through the success of the brand," he smiles, describing the work of rebuilding a production network.

Fresh possibilities

A renewed interest in checks has created fresh possibilities for the textile. S Shankar Kumaraswamy, director of Chennai textile house RmKV, sees the pattern as an enduring part of the region's design vocabulary. "For us at RmKV, I think the Madras check is an intrinsic part of Tamil Nadu culture and design language. So we try to feature it as much as possible in our designs," he says. "Our Deepavali collection from this year incorporates Madras checks with a nice pop of colour," he reveals. "We play with a light blue colour palette and the lighter shade makes it more contemporary," he tells us.

For designer Vivek Karunakaran, the check's simplicity is what makes it so open to reinterpretation. "For me, the beauty of the Madras check lies in its simplicity. It's essentially just lines and intersections, but the way those lines and the distinctive colours come together creates rhythm, movement and character," he enthuses.

His experiments move beyond the conventional checked surface. "I've always been fascinated about the idea of taking something familiar and making you look at it differently. Working with Madras checks, I didn't want the check to simply sit on the surface of the garment as a printed or woven pattern. I wanted to explore what happens when the idea of the check becomes part of the construction of the garment," he says.

Vivek also plays with proportion and placement. "I have also enjoyed juxtaposing it with quieter, solid colours and luxurious fabrics like silk, raw silk or textured cottons," he shares. A small panel, pocket, sleeve or inset can give the eye a glimpse of the pattern without overwhelming the sil-

houette. "I think for today's wearer, it is all about giving the eye something familiar but presenting it in an unexpected proportion, scale or context," he notes.

Designer Vino Supraja similarly sees the loom as the beginning of a larger creative vocabulary. "As a designer, the construction of Madras checks fascinates me. I often wonder how the weavers visualised the colour combinations, decided on stripe widths and anticipated the patterns that would emerge when the warp and weft intersected, long before computers existed," she muses.

She believes that the design possibilities begin well before a garment reaches the cutting table. "The beauty of Madras checks is that the design possibilities begin at the loom and continue through pattern cutting, draping and construction. There is so much creative freedom within what appears to be a simple grid," she tells us.

A more recent reinterpretation arrived with Rahul Mishra's AFEW Spring/Summer 2026 collection, *Fresh*. Madras checks appeared in corset tops, hoodies with corset seams and balloon skirts, with embroidered dragonflies and other embellishments adding further detail. The collection recast a familiar cotton textile in silhouettes associated with contemporary ready-to-wear, demonstrating how its checked grid can be integral to a garment's construction and character rather than simply a surface pattern.

Lungi logic

For Purushu Arie, the possibilities of Madras checks extend beyond the familiar grid. The Chennai-based designer has built his eponymous label around Tamil street style, reworking everyday garments such as the *lungi* and *veshti* through ungendered silhouettes, functional detailing and a street-wear sensibility.

"Initially, when I was wearing Madras checks in the form of *lungis*, I realised that they didn't have pockets for me to keep my phone, wallet, keys and so on. They were also constantly prone to

Designer Vivek Karunakaran explores the possibilities of Madras checks through unexpected proportions, garment construction and contrasts with solid colours and luxurious fabrics



Continued on page 32

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slipping. So, from 2014, I was innovating different kinds of waistband *veshtis* and *lungis*. One of my first innovations was the elastic-waistband *lungi* that I made in my college days at NIFT Delhi," he recalls.

While travelling to Tiruppur for work, a sign in its corridor changed how he thought about the garment he had been reinterpreting. "The hotel had a signboard which said, 'Do not wear *lungis* to avoid indecency to the guests.' So that was a big trigger for me," he tells us.

Purushu's work makes the politics of the checked textile tangible. Madras checks had travelled internationally as a desirable fabric, acquiring associations with leisure and luxury, while garments made from the same visual vocabulary could be devalued at home because of their association with working-class life. His response has been to put those everyday forms at the centre of his design practice.

"I think Madras checks were exported extensively as a luxury textile. They were supposed to be a symbol of luxury because they were lightweight, comfortable and had their own character. But they were never really given the same due or credit within our own culture because they were adopted by the masses," he explains.

He sees a shift in the growing acceptance of styles that originate outside elite fashion circles. "Today, we are accepting trends that come from the people, from the masses. That is how hip-hop was. It did not come from elite society. It was born among the masses and then reached upwards. That is how I see Madras textiles. They are everywhere on Chennai's streets. It is the OG identity of Chennai. It is a very important identity within the city's sartorial culture, and finally, very slowly and steadily, people have started acknowledging it," he smiles.

Beyond the wardrobe

The fabric's contemporary life is also expanding beyond clothing. Woodpecker Furniture's *Madras Unfolded* collection brings checks into upholstered furniture. Keerthana Swaminathan, the company's head of marketing, says the collection pairs the familiar textile with contemporary furniture forms. "The checks add colour, character and a sense of familiarity, creating a warm, homely feel while giving the pattern a new context in interior design," she says. The move into interiors gives Madras checks a different presence in daily life.

Chennai wears it best

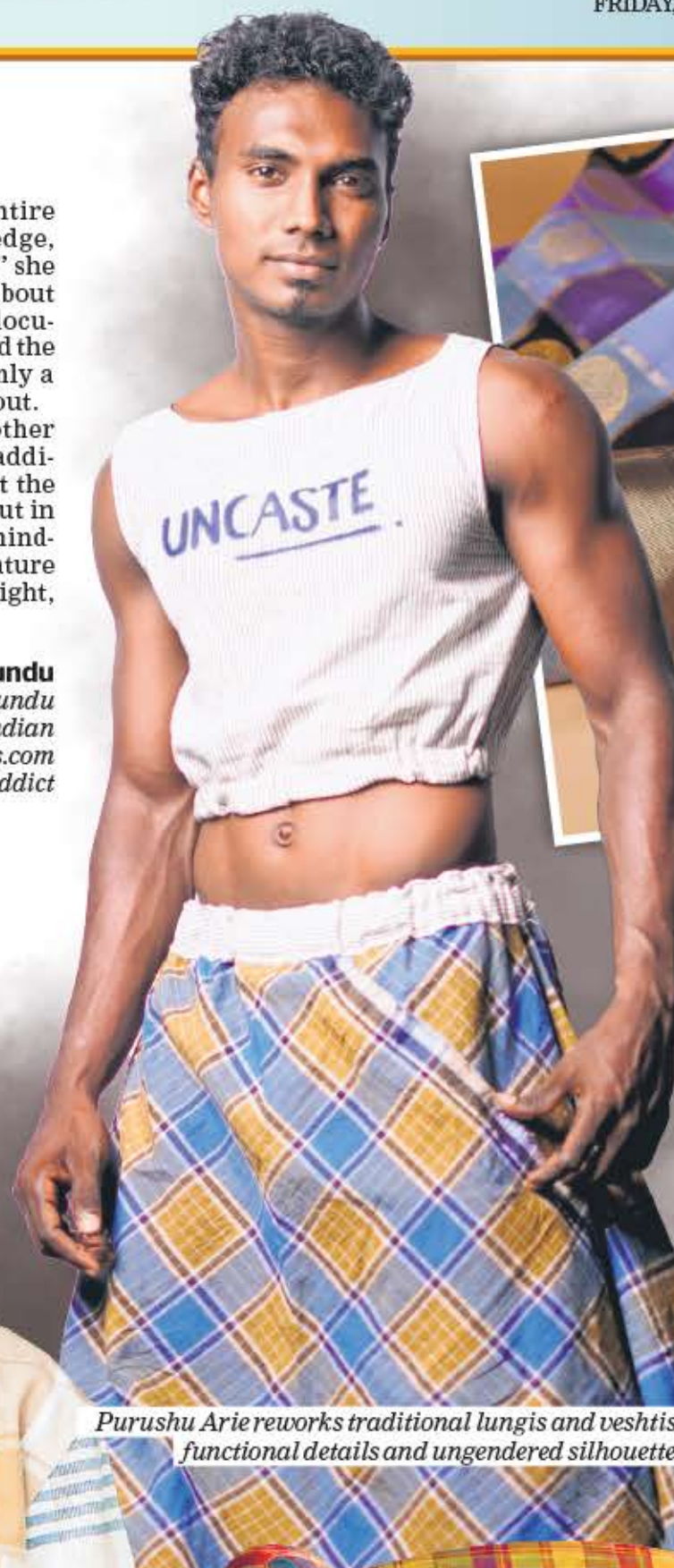
For all the ways Madras checks have been adapted internationally, their strongest claim to Chennai remains their everyday presence. Shankar sees the pattern as part of Tamil Nadu's design language, appearing in different forms across clothing and objects. Even the *koodai* bags carried through markets and neighbourhoods can feature the familiar interplay of colours, he notes.

For Sreemathy, documentation and collaboration are equally important. She points to the knowledge held by master weavers, dyers and people who worked in the export trade, much of which was never

formally recorded. "There was an entire system of design, technical knowledge, skilled labour and trade behind them," she says of older textiles. "We often speak about reviving old designs, but unless we document and understand the processes and the people involved, we are preserving only a small part of that history," she points out.

As *Indulge* Chennai celebrates another year, Madras checks make a fitting addition to the list of things we love about the city. The grid may have travelled far, but in Chennai, people have never needed reminding of its appeal. If Chennai had a signature pattern, it would be Madras checks: bright, breathable, irrepressibly versatile!

—Anoushka Kundu
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Purushu Arie reworks traditional *lungis* and *veshtis* through functional details and ungendered silhouettes



A sari from *Sthree Creatives*

Plaids vs. Madras Checks

All Madras checks are plaids, but not all plaids are Madras checks.

Not every checked fabric is Madras checks. The terms check and plaid describe patterns formed by intersecting horizontal and vertical lines. Gingham, for instance, typically features evenly spaced stripes in two colours, often with white, creating a regular grid. Traditional Madras checks, by contrast, are known for their colourful, often irregular arrangements, woven in lightweight cotton. Their identity is defined by the yarn-dyeing, weaving methods and history of production along the Coromandel Coast.



Original Madras Trading Company has adopted the Madras Checks in relaxed western silhouettes



Woodpecker's *Madras Unfolded* collection brings checks to upholstered furniture

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Made in Kanchipuram and cherished across the world, this silk sari is a treasured heirloom that a new generation is learning to wear on its own terms

IN CHENNAI, A *Kanjeevaram* finds its way into some of life's most memorable moments. It is the *sari* a bride saves for her *muhurtham*, the one a mother brings out for a family wedding, or the first silk *sari* you buy her with your first salary. You may not remember every outfit you wore growing up, but chances are you remember the *Kanjeevarams* in your family, their colours, the glint of *zari* and the way they looked draped over someone you love. A short journey away, in Kanchipuram, generations of weavers have been bringing these *saris* to life on their looms. The bond between the weaving town and Chennai runs through our weddings, family traditions and the small, personal gestures through which we show affection. It is one of the reasons the *Kanjeevaram* will always have a place in our city's story. For *Indulge's* 19th anniversary, we speak to designers, silk retailers and a textile researcher about how the cherished *sari* is finding a place in the wardrobes of a new generation.

A silky heritage

Named after Kanchipuram, the temple town in Tamil Nadu where its weaving tradition flourished, the *Kanjeevaram* is prized for its lustrous mulberry silk, contrasting borders and richly woven *pallu*. The skill lies as much in the making as in the finished drape. The body and border are interlocked using the traditional *korvai* technique, while the contrasting *pallu* is joined through a separate weaving process known as *petni*. The *zari*, responsible for the *sari's* golden shimmer, traditionally uses fine silver wire coated with gold and wound around a silk core. However, not every *sari* sold today contains real gold or silver *zari*, so the material composition can vary. Although the silk is traditionally sourced from Karnataka and the *zari* from Surat, the *Kanjeevaram* silk *sari* holds a Geographical Indication tag recognising its association with Kanchipuram and the generations of weavers who have carried its techniques forward.

Bessie Cecil, professor at the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design (IICD), says the identity of the textile has never been fixed. "Two hundred years ago, Kanchipuram was a cotton-weaving centre, not a silk-weaving centre," she says, referring to records she has studied. "It is only around the turn of the 20th century, or a little earlier, that we begin to see silk weaving here," she tells us.

"What is unique about *Kanjeevaram* is the weight, and today you can't even claim that," Bessie says. "At one point, the silk was very, very light. Earlier, it was the lightness and the beauty that set it apart, not the weight," she points out. Bessie believes the *sari's* identity can be shaped by several elements, including "the material, technique, pattern, colour, the region where it is woven and, again, the weight of the *sari*". As she puts it, "We cannot put *Kanjeevaram* tradition into a single box and define it, because it is ever-evolving."

Old roots, new routes

Nalli, a longstanding name in Chennai's silk retail sto-

ry, is exploring how the heirloom can appeal to younger customers. Founded in Chennai in 1928 by Kanchipuram-born weaver Nalli Chinnasami Chetty, the family business has become one of the city's best-known names in silk *saris*. Today, the brand is looking at how an heirloom can find a place in a younger woman's wardrobe through their new festive collection, *Nava*.

"The *Kanjeevaram* has long been something a woman inherits. *Nava* makes it something she picks for herself," says Niranth Nalli, vice chairman of the Nalli Group. The collection retains traditional silk, *zari* borders, temple motifs and *buttas*, while introducing bolder colours, sharper contrasts and contemporary styling. Vivid corals, deep magentas and rich wines sit alongside borders in black, silver and copper-gold, while contrast blouses, embroidered sleeves and high necklines offer new ways to style the *sari* for festive dinners and celebrations beyond the *muhurtham*. For Niranth, the idea is to bring the *sari* out of the cupboard and into more of the occasions that shape everyday life.

The idea of making silk more appealing to younger women also runs through the Nalli family. Jeyasree Ravi, daughter of Nalli Kuppuswamy Chetty, founded Palam Silks in 2003 with a vision of taking silk *saris* beyond their conventional associations. While *Nava* experiments with colour and styling, Palam Silks has explored lighter finishes, unconventional motifs and *saris* designed for the workplace. Together, the two brands offer different interpretations of a shared inheritance, showing how the *Kanjeevaram* can retain its traditional character while finding new ways into contemporary wardrobes. Jeyasree noticed younger customers reserving *Kanjeevaram* for the *muhurtham* while choosing chiffon and georgette for other wedding events. "The youngsters were not preferring to wear *Kanjeevarams* for other occasions because they were too grand, too heavy," she explains. "That's how *Kanjeevarams* have been right from the beginning. It is starched; it is difficult to drape. So we removed the starch and gave it a very soft finish," she tells us.

Palam Silks began experimenting with colour and design, retaining the quality of the *sari* while softening its overall look. "We worked on the designs and colours without compromising on quality. We wanted the *zari* to look classy, without being too gaudy," says Jeyasree. In 2009, the brand began hosting *Kanjeevaram* fashion shows to challenge conventional ideas of what the *sari* could look like. "We wanted to break the idea that a *Kanjeevaram* had to have a thick border," she recalls.

Palam Silks has also explored how a design can work across the *sari's* full length. In one collection, floral motifs evolved across the *sari's* full length. "The entire five-and-a-half metres was covered in floral patterns, showing the flowers from one stage to the blooming stage and from every different angle," says Jeyasree. The idea was to create a design that came alive when draped, rather than one that looked impressive only when laid out.

Palam Silks also challenged the bridal imagery traditionally associated with *Kanjeevaram* advertising. Rather

At one point, the silk was very, very light. Earlier, it was the lightness and the beauty that set it apart, not the weight. We cannot put *Kanjeevaram* tradition into a single box and define it, because it is ever-evolving.
— Bessie Cecil, professor, IICD

Ashwin Thiagarajan reimagines the corset in Indian silk, pairing it with two vintage *Kanjeevaram* saris from his grandmother's collection



Continued on page 36

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Nalli's Nava gives the Kanjeevaram heirloom a fresh festive spin

than presenting every *sari* as part of a wedding look, the brand wanted to show how it could fit into a younger woman's wardrobe. "I want the model to look more like the girl next door," says Jeyashree. Palam Silks has developed more than 75 concepts for *pattu saris*, driven by its aim of making them part of more occasions in a woman's life. "The mission of Palam Silks has always been to have more youngsters wear *pattu saris* on more occasions," she says.

The idea extends to working women as well. Palam Silks's *Corporate Pattu* collection, for instance, explores lightweight *saris* with geometric patterns and minimal ornamentation suited to the boardroom. The larger ambition is to take the *Kanjeevaram* beyond weddings and traditional celebrations, giving younger women more reasons to wear it.

Everyday heirloom

Shankar Raman, managing director of Sundari Silks, sees two kinds of demand. "Younger customers are drawn to lighter *saris* with minimal designs and bright, fresh colours. Pieces they can wear more often and not just once a year. For weddings, the preference remains the same. Brides still choose the bold, heavy *Kanjeevaram* in traditional colours," he says.

"Our focus is on making *Kanjeevaram saris* lighter and more comfortable, while preserving the richness and strength that make them so special," Shankar says. "We are also experimenting with colour, bringing in interesting tones and dual-tone combinations that catch the light differently as the sari moves."

For designer Anu Vardhan, inheritance and personal expression go hand in hand. "To me, *Kanjeevaram* means familiarity. Many of us grew up watching our mothers, grandmothers and aunts wear it, so its colours, its texture and the feel of the silk are part of our earliest memories," she says. She believes younger customers are recognising the labour behind a handwoven textile. "Perhaps that makes something created slowly, with so much human skill and effort, feel even more special. I feel they



Many of us grew up watching our mothers, grandmothers and aunts wear it, so its colours, its texture and the feel of the silk are part of our earliest memories

—Anu Vardhan, designer



Sundari Silks x Naushad Ali collab reimagines South Indian silk saris

Continued on page 38



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recognise the luxury in that, the time and craftsmanship behind a handwoven *Kanjeevaram*," she says.

Anu's styling philosophy is to let the *sari* take centre stage without making it feel reserved for grand occasions. "I like to let the *sari* lead, with a simple blouse, less jewellery and a drape that feels comfortable. Its colour and texture already have such a strong presence; you don't always need to add much," she says.

She is also exploring how motifs can travel across textile traditions. "You might see a motif woven into a *Kanjeevaram*, interpreted in a *Venkatagiri*, and then explored through block printing. The inspiration stays the same, but each technique and fabric brings something different to it," she adds.

Draped differently

Designer Ashwin Thiyagarajan is testing what a *Kanjeevaram* can become when the *sari* is no longer the only format. "Many modern women find it cumbersome to drape six yards of fabric and stay in it all day. I wanted to make *Kanjeevaram* accessible for them in modern silhouettes that they can wear not just for their wedding but also for other occasions," he says. His experiments include *lehengas* and corsets. "I'm not trying to modernise the fabric. I'm only trying to innovate the uses of the weave. Retaining the traditional techniques of its weaving, I'm modernising the silhouettes in which it can be worn. So the identity of the weave, the richness of the yarns and the intricacies of the motifs stay intact. Only the garment changes to suit the modern woman," he explains.

A month ago, Canadian-Tamil actor Maitreyi Ramakrishnan wore a custom-corseted short dress by Ashwin on *The Drew Barrymore Show*. Crafted from a traditional *Kanjeevaram* silk *Paalum Pazhamum*



Palam Silks rethinks *Kanjeevaram* with contemporary motifs



Anu Vardhan brings a modern spin to the traditional silk *sari*



Kattam sari supplied by RmKV Silks, the look brought the *Kanjeevaram* to an international audience in a contemporary silhouette.

Ashwin is emphatic about protecting the craft beneath the new form. "The dominance of the powerloom has taken away the beautiful inconsistencies and the richness of the handloom weaves. Designers of today should, in my opinion, work with only handloom silk, thereby ensuring the non-erasure of the craft that is the livelihood of an entire community of weavers," he says. His mantra is simple: "Keep the handloom, innovate the silhouettes."

Chennai's love for *Kanjeevaram* lies in the lustre of its silk, the skill of its weavers and the generations of wearers who have made it part of the city's story. Now, designers are giving a new generation more ways to make the *sari* their own, through fresher colours, unexpected motifs and contemporary silhouettes that take it beyond weddings and grand occasions. As Bessie reminds us, "Change is constant, and that has happened in *Kanjeevaram* as well." Rooted in the bond between Chennai and Kanchipuram, the *sari* continues to evolve with the people who wear it.

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The dominance of the powerloom has taken away the beautiful inconsistencies and the richness of the handloom weaves. Designers of today should, in my opinion, work with only handloom silk, thereby ensuring the non-erasure of the craft that is the livelihood of an entire community of weavers — Ashwin Thiyagarajan, designer

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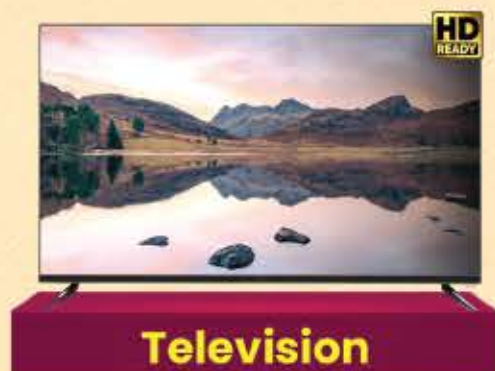
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Being born again creatively is empowering

AR Rahman

Beyond the accolades and the legacy, composer AR Rahman remains driven by the thrill of the unknown and the possibility of beginning again | By P Sangeetha

ONE MIGHT THINK that after decades of composing some of Indian cinema's most timeless melodies, AR Rahman might fancy putting his feet up for a bit. Not quite. The man, who redefined the Indian music scene, is very much in his element, pushing the envelope and proving that creativity has no full stop. Never one to play it safe, the Academy Award-winning composer is now ready to face the arclights in a brand new avatar as an actor in the dance-musical comedy *Moonwalk*, helmed by Manoj NS and headlined by Prabhu Deva. With the film gearing up for release, the air is thick with curiosity. Word on the street is that Rahman will play a film director on screen, but the composer is keeping his cards close to his chest. Looks like we'll have to wait for the curtain to rise!

And that's not the only big-ticket project keeping him on his toes. Rahman is also part of *Ramayana*, Nitesh Tiwari's ambitious cinematic spectacle that brings him together with Hollywood heavyweight Hans Zimmer, a collaboration that has set the bar high and, naturally, expectations soaring through the roof.

With *The Wonderment Tour*, a film set against the backdrop of the Maha Kumbh, and several other projects in the pipeline, Rahman certainly has more than a few irons in the fire. Though his calendar is packed to the rafters, he shows no signs of taking his foot off the pedal. Clearly, for this composer, the show must go on—and the next act is always just around the corner.

For our anniversary edition celebrating all things Chennai, who better to catch up with than one of the city's most celebrated homegrown talents? From the streets of Chennai that shaped Rahman's early years to stages across the globe that have reverberated with his music, Rahman's journey is one for the books. He may have conquered the world with his sound, but his roots remain firmly planted in the city that watched him find his feet and spread his wings.

In this conversation, we look beyond the accolades to discover what keeps one of India's most revered composers inspired, grounded and forever looking ahead. For Rahman, reaching the top is hardly the end of the story; there are always new paths to explore, fresh ideas to follow and another mountain waiting to be climbed. Excerpts...

You've been in front of the camera since the '90s, but *Moonwalk* marks your first real acting role. After decades of being watched as Rahman, the musician, what was it like to be observed as a character?

I didn't have to do anything different. I just feel that sometimes, as a creative leader, you have to be everything you can. You have to be kind, you have to be firm sometimes, and sometimes you take all that comes your way, good or bad. So, for me, it was quite natural to be in front of the camera this time. We handled everything with a bit of humour, and Manoj was enjoying the process and giving constant feedback.

Also, as a director, having worked on *Le Musk*, my first directorial venture as an immersive filmmaker, I learnt a lot of things that I got to bring to the table because I was directing actors myself. So, when I was told, "Can we do this or that?" I understood what was needed.

Was there anything about acting that surprised you, perhaps something you discovered about



yourself that you wouldn't have found through music?

Actually, even when doing interviews and music videos, you kind of get a sense of what the lens is looking at. You're checking what lens they're using, what the angle is, and where the light is. Because I'm also an amateur photographer, you understand how to behave when they're rolling and what they're looking at. The experience of working with other filmmakers on music videos, interviews and everything else made the process simple. The main thing is to see whether you are tolerable (*laughs*). Because sometimes you do certain things that are not so favourable to the eye. Sometimes you just have to do less to make it look more natural. Less is more.

You're also working on the magnum opus, *Ramayana*. When you returned to the epic decades later through music, did it feel like coming home to a story you already knew, or like discovering a completely different story as an adult?

I think, from childhood, from school annual functions where *Ramayana* was performed as a play, to watching musical theatre in Tamil Nadu, RS Manohar's dramas on stage, TV series and movies, you question yourself: what else can I bring to the table? So, when I saw the vision of Nitesh Tiwari and Namit Malhotra, I was blown away by the ambition and the relentless work they've been putting in. It was pretty inspiring to see the whole team. Even seeing it in 3D was dazzling and quite breathtaking for me. I was very inspired to do more and keep working on it.

You're creating the music for the film alongside Hans Zimmer, two composers with unmistakably different musical worlds. When you're building the sound of the same universe, how do you decide where Rahman's musical voice should speak and where Zimmer's should take over?

Hans developed a couple of themes, and I developed a couple of themes, and they all have their place in the movie. There is a lot of respect among all the teams, and this makes the collaboration more special. Then I had the task of doing the songs and working with Kumar Vishwas. It's exciting because he has so much information and such ease with the vocabulary of that era. I keep telling him that every cell of his is filled with these words. It was a great honour to work with Kumar Vishwas as a lyricist because I've worked with many lyricists in India, and this was very different.

You once said that if you don't do something new every few years, you feel like you're 'rotting'. What are you doing right now that genuinely scares you because you don't yet know if you can pull it off?

I think the most ambitious project I'm working on, other than scoring *Ramayana*, is the virtual band called Secret Mountain that we're building. We've been working on it for almost three to four years now. The idea is to use all the technological developments, put our heart into it, and bring in the wisdom of these characters from the places they belong to, like Africa, India, China, Ireland, America and Latin America. There's so much work to do, but I think we're still waiting for the

launch. We're still working on the music videos, the teaser and the music. So, very soon, you'll find out and see the launch of this amazing virtual band.

What is it about uncertainty that attracts you creatively? Do you need to feel slightly uncomfortable to know you're growing?

I think uncertainty is a part of life. Nothing is certain. Life is like the weather. Sometimes you feel there'll be sunshine, but it rains. Sometimes people predict that it's going to rain, but there's sunshine. That actually humbles you and makes you feel less stressed, because there are certain things within your control and certain things beyond it. I think if you can handle the things within your control, the things beyond your control will also help you grow and achieve.

What is the strangest place or moment in which a melody has arrived in your head?

I think sometimes, when I'm travelling on a flight, I get an idea, and then I take my phone, use the voice recorder and record it. Sometimes, I do the same in the car. One example was during the song *Bharat Humko*, when I got inspired and came up with the brass motifs for the *antara* while I was in my car. The other instance is probably on a flight, when I sometimes wake up, set up my keyboards and compose something.

What do you do when inspiration refuses to arrive?

I think when there is a block, going out of the space, driving or travelling helps. Sometimes I fast. Fasting kind of clears your mind and lets you see the truth behind every screen—the mind screen.

You've embraced almost every major technological shift, from synthesisers and digital production to AI. What is something you would never let a machine do for you, no matter how good the technology becomes?

I think what's important is that a machine, a synthesiser, a computer or anything else should work towards your vision and inspire it, not the other way around. I think we are all connected through the soul, and there is a commonality between us. There is a collective consciousness that connects us all. It's unexplainable, but it's the truth. And that actually works well when you can feel something. It's like cooking, right? When you cook something you like and serve it, people really like it. It's not as though they like it and you don't. It doesn't work that way. In the same way, technology is very much like that, too. You take something, tame it to suit your needs and use what is needed.

You've spent nearly your entire adult life being called AR Rahman. Is there a version of yourself from before the fame that you sometimes miss?

I think we can't question the graph of life. You can't go back and change things that were meant to be a certain way. So, I would say I'll accept whatever has happened in my life, the good and the bad, rather than thinking, "Oh, I didn't have this, I didn't have that." Because every negative thing led to something positive. Every void led to something fulfilling later. My main thing is to be grateful, generous, kind, and useful, and to share what I have with the world.

What has fame changed about you that you wish it hadn't, and what has it changed that you're grateful for?

I think fame is both true and false. It's true

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Upcoming Projects

- Moonwalk-Rahman's acting debut
- Ramayana (Part 1 & 2)
- Mani Ratnam's next with Vijay Sethupathi and Sai Pallavi
- Dilkashi, Lijo Jose Pellissery's Hindi debut
- Mira Nair's next
- Mahasangam (Title to be changed) based on the Maha Kumbh
- Bharat Bala's next

because you feel all the love. You feel a sense of power, empowerment and responsibility. But everything can also go in a second, and we've seen that happen to many people. So, you can't take it too seriously or let it go to your head. You have to be detached from it to live a life.

There are some obvious things, like not having privacy in public places. That's both a good and a bad thing, because a lot of people crave that kind of attention but don't get it. In my case, it's been there for decades, so I am grateful. We always have to find a way around the negatives and see the best in every situation.

Has spirituality made you less attached to the outcome?

Yeah, I think spirituality makes you go deeper into the universal theory of life. Not just my life, but also how humanity has evolved. In a way, I think the whole purpose of life is to understand who you are, what you're made of and where you're heading. These answers are very personal, and for each person, they're different. My answer and my personal experience with the sublime are very different from what other people experience. They might even have better experiences, and I respect all those experiences. As long as we use these extraordinary influences to become the best versions of ourselves, nothing else matters.

If you could sit across a table from your younger self on the day everything was about to change, what would you tell him?

In a very strange way, fame wasn't new to me, as I had been performing on TV from the age of 13. Also, being an introvert, I found it really fun to be in the studio, doing things, learning and experimenting with music. So, maybe I would tell him that when you're passionate about your work and your art, nothing feels like a burden or a source of stress because you love what you're doing.

If you removed the Oscars, the Grammys, the films, the fame and the music, who would AR Rahman be?

Actually, I don't have any of my awards or titles on social media because I think it makes you stagnant. The idea of being born again and again and again creatively is fascinating and empowering. I try to free myself from the burden of adulation or flattery. Of course, it's a great blessing and extraordinary to receive this kind of adulation, but it can also become a burden when you start owning it, as it can hold you back from future progress.

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I think fame is both true and false. It's true because you feel all the love. You feel a sense of power, empowerment and responsibility. But everything can also go in a second, and we've seen that happen to many people. So, you can't take it too seriously or let it go to your head. You have to be detached from it to live a life



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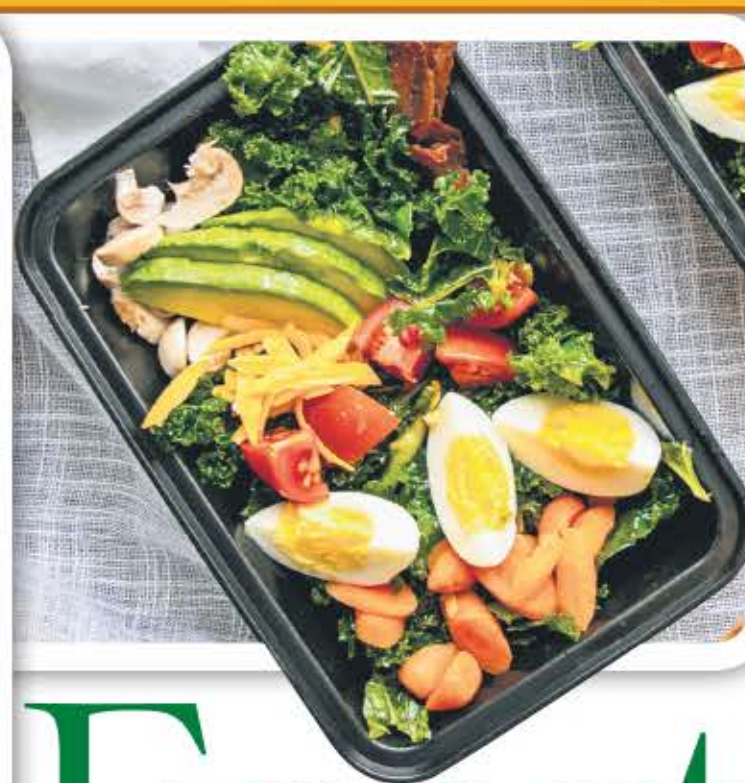
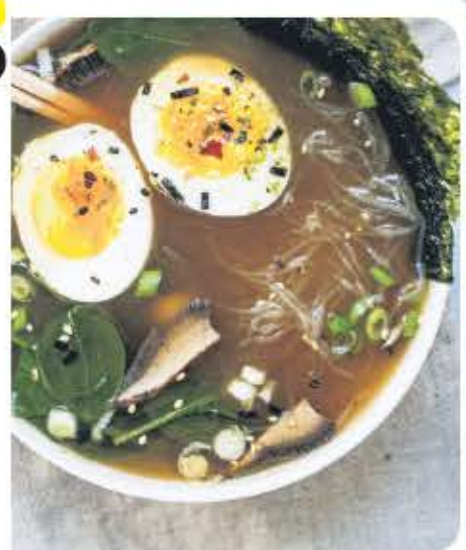
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for the next morning. They may increase urine output or create a temporary lighter feeling. They do not meaningfully change how the body has processed the previous day's food. Relying on them can delay more useful habits such as a short walk, adequate water and a balanced next meal.

There are many such trends that may be fascinating, but you do not have to follow any of these trends to stay well. The most useful approach is usually the simplest one, where we focus on the foundations of lifestyle. The body recovers best when we support it consistently rather than punishing it. That means keeping some structure even during the festive weeks. You do not have to skip every celebration or sit out every meal. You can still enjoy the food and the company. The difference comes from a few steady habits that protect your energy and digestion.

Start by protecting your protein and vegetables at most meals. When the plate has something nourishing alongside the festive items, blood sugar stays more stable and you feel satisfied sooner. Chew slowly. This single habit reduces how much you need to eat to feel full and makes digestion easier. Keep walking or doing some gentle movement in the day, even if it is just 20 minutes after a meal. It helps the body process the richer food without leaving you feeling stuck.

Stay ahead of acidity and bloating by choosing simpler combinations when possible and by not eating late into the night every single day. A short break from heavy sweets a few times a week gives the system a chance to reset. Hydration matters more than people realise during this season. Warm water, herbal teas, and light broths support digestion quietly in the background.

After the main festive stretch, resist the urge to jump into an extreme cleanse. Instead, return to regular meals built around whole foods, good protein, fibre, and movement. Your body will respond better to consistency than to shock. If you notice ongoing bloating, fatigue, or skin changes, we can look at gentle support for the gut and liver rather than a dramatic overhaul.

The goal is not perfection. It is to move through the season feeling present and well enough to enjoy it, then to come out the other side without weeks of recovery. Festivals are meant to add life, not to leave us depleted.

receives no solid food, but if you keep doing it for more days, then the body shows side effects. A better approach is to keep meals simple and add extra vegetables rather than removing food completely.

Aggressive intermittent fasting after celebration: Some people jump into very long fasting windows immediately after festive eating. The intention is to compensate quickly. When the body is already processing richer food and possibly less sleep, long fasts can increase stress hormones and disrupt recovery. Gentler meal timing, an ideal 10-12 hour fasting window including sleeping hours, and consistent movement support the system more effectively than sudden long gaps.

Festive must-haves: Bottles and powders appear with claims that they speed metabolism or protect against festive weight gain. Most lack strong evidence for these specific promises. A well-nourished body already has the tools it needs. Spending money and hope on unproven products distracts from the basics that actually matter: protein, sleep, movement and portion awareness.

Special teas that undo overeating overnight: These teas are marketed as a quick fix

clearly makes it easier to choose what supports your body instead of working against it. Let's discuss a few trends here:

Guilt-free festive season promises: These messages suggest you can eat everything without consequence if you buy certain products or follow special rules. The idea feels relieving in the moment. In reality, the body still has to digest rich food. No product fully cancels the effect of repeated heavy meals. Enjoy the celebrations, but keep some simple balances so you feel well afterwards rather than relying on a promise that rarely delivers.

Extreme detoxes: These usually involve strict liquid diets, supplements, or severe restriction for several days without

customisation or close monitoring. They create a sense of cleansing and control. For most people, they stress the system further after already eating richly. Energy drops, hunger rises, and the rebound often undoes any short-term change. Steady, nourishing meals work better for recovery than sudden deprivation.

Juice-only days: A quick fix. Drinking only juices for a day or more is presented as a quick reset. It can leave you feeling light at first. Without protein and fibre, blood sugar swings and fatigue often follow. Digestion also slows when the gut



THE FESTIVE SEASON is almost here. From September right through to December and into January, our calendars fill up with celebrations, gatherings, sweets, and long evenings with family and friends. It is a beautiful time of year, and I want us to talk about it honestly so you can enjoy it fully without feeling unwell afterwards. But as the festive season approaches, you will see many wellness ideas flooding your feed and conversations. Some sound comforting. Others feel intense. I want to walk you through the common ones so you can decide what actually helps and what simply adds pressure. Understanding them

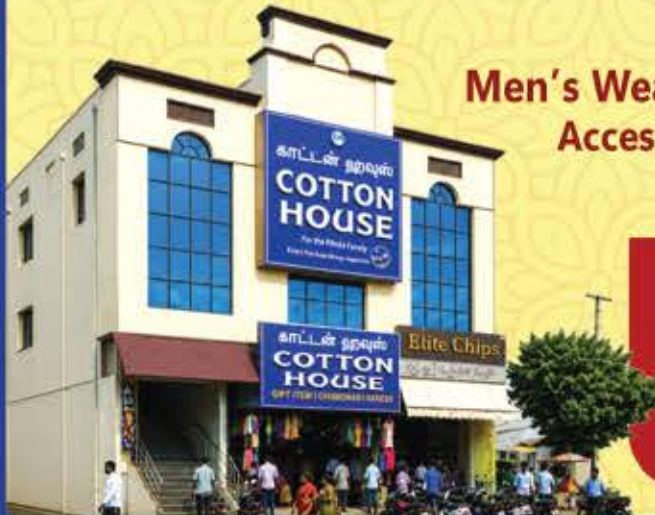
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Chief Nutrition Officer, Luke Coutinho Holistic Healing Systems. The writer is a clinical nutritionist with a focus on healthy lifestyle choices.



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Beyond occupancy: The equation of hospitality

HOSPITALITY IS OFTEN understood as the art of making people feel welcome. Behind that experience lies a complex interplay of market intelligence, commercial judgement, operational precision, and human connection. For me, effective hospitality leadership means bringing these dimensions together to build businesses that remain relevant, resilient and responsive to changing expectations.

The ultimate measure of success

Occupancy remains an important indicator, but it offers a partial view of a hotel's performance. Equally important is understanding why people travel, what they value during their stay and what encourages them to return. Sustainable performance emerges when commercial strategy and guest experience reinforce each other.

What can a destination teach us?

Madurai's cultural and spiritual significance intersects with weddings, leisure travel, and business demand, creating a market with varied needs and seasonal dynamics. Understanding a destination requires anticipating evolving visitor expectations while remaining authentic to its character. The local culture should not simply surround the guest experience; it should help give that experience meaning.

When do results become meaningful?

At Courtyard by Marriott Madurai, total revenue has seen growth by 19.9 per cent, with room revenue by 17.1 per cent, food and beverage by 21.5 per cent, and banqueting by 23.9 per cent. These results reflect contributions from different business segments. However, data becomes valuable when it informs judgement. Metrics reveal outcomes; leadership involves understanding the factors behind them and translating those insights into considered decisions.

Can sustainability enhance the guest experience?

Sustainability is increasingly integral to responsible hospitality, but its value extends beyond environmental performance. Guests should be able to enjoy comfort and quality while the hotel makes more thoughtful choices in how it operates.

At Courtyard by Marriott Madurai, initiatives include reducing energy intensity, using responsibly sourced ingredients and reducing reliance on single-use packaging through glass-bottle systems. Locally inspired touches can also connect responsible practices with a destination's identity.

The opportunity lies in making sustainability part of the experience rather than an interruption to it. When responsible choices are practical, consistent and thoughtfully integrated, they can strengthen guest trust while contributing to the long-term resilience of the business.

Where does effective leadership make a difference?

Strategy finds its expression through people. Consistent execution depends on collaboration, clarity of purpose and a shared understanding of service standards. Leadership goes beyond operational oversight; it involves developing capability, fostering accountability and enabling teams to deliver with consistency and intent.

What will shape hospitality's future?

The future will demand a balance between commercial rigour, environmental responsibility and a deeper understanding of people and place. Enduring success rests on the value a business creates, the trust it earns through beloved guests and its ability to evolve responsibly without losing sight of what matters to its guests.



Mahesh Padala, General Manager
at Courtyard by Marriott Madurai



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THE YEAR AHEAD

New year, new plans and plenty to look forward to — here's your guide to what 2027 has in store



**AALIYAA
H JARRIWALA**

Chaldean numerologist,
angel oracle guide & healer

**ARIES**

(Mar 21 - Apr 19)

The year begins with a note of caution. Avoid illegal alliances and do not walk down darker paths. Be clear and transparent in your financial dealings. Stay away from people who misguide you. Life will soon begin to look more positive. Stay determined and march ahead towards your goals. Release yourself from whatever is holding you back. Do not focus on what you do not have, as that will only deplete your self-confidence. Instead, focus on what is still left. It is enough, and you can multiply your fortune by staying grounded. The universe is going to shake you out of your comfort zone. You will undertake new projects and challenges that will stretch you, allowing the process of growth to begin again. You may feel a little concerned about your relationship with your loved one. It is up to you to decide how you make the most of the opportunities.

**TAURUS**

(Apr 20 - May 20)

The year begins with a struggle for power and control, either at work or in your personal life. Do not waste time on petty people; instead, strengthen your financial position. You will enter a period when your intuition is going to be accurate. You will be able to exercise discipline, restraint and spiritual dignity. Use this time to understand what the world feels and looks like from this position. While you are waiting, stay calm and believe that change will come. If you are feeling a Zen-like calm, you are approaching the situation in the best possible way. The second half of the year is full of excitement and adventure. These are the fruits of your hard work. Your material needs will be fulfilled in the magical ways. An act of kindness will amplify your blessings. Business expansion, and promotion involving relocation, will work in your favour.

**GEMINI**

(May 21 - June 20)

The year begins with a feeling of a breakup, either in a relationship or at work. Shake off those feelings of disappointment and distance yourself from the toxic environment. You need a fresh outlook in order to overcome these hurdles. Spend only on essentials and avoid unnecessary splurging on luxury. Your hard work and intelligence will be noticed by the management. It is time to move on to the next project. Awards, relocation and promotion are foreseen. Scholarships and grants may also come your way if you wish to pursue further studies. An additional source of income, such as a start-up opportunity, may be offered to you. Opt for it only if you and your potential partner are on the same wavelength. If you are in love, feel free to be open about your relationship status. It is a progressive year, filled with a generous amount of abundance and challenges.

**CANCER**

(June 21 - July 22)

Nostalgia may have you firmly in its grip. It is one thing to dwell on the past, but you may have some reassessment to do. Look back and work on what you need to resolve. Claim your personal power. You may be receiving quite a lot of positive attention at the moment. Smell the coffee and stay grounded. Believe in your own worth and remain true to your dreams. The quest for balance and harmony will challenge you during this period. There is a way to transform your life. The second half of the year looks promising. Hope, inspiration and success are foreseen. You will be awash with inspiration. Things will go very well, and you will experience true growth. This is a destiny ride you were meant to take, and, while it had a bumpy start, this venture could end up being a winner. Good karma will be rewarded. A wonderful year full of love and important events.

**LEO**

(July 23 - Aug 22)

The year begins with hope and new plans. Delays are not denials, so continue your quest for new beginnings. There is light at the end of the tunnel. Relocation or overseas travel plans will bring promising opportunities for the future. Monitor your expenses. Dare to be different, but do not overdo it. Your ascended masters and ancestors are watching over you. If you are getting into business, a partnership could prove fruitful. Ensure that everything is documented and that you and your partner share the same vision. Trust your judgement and intuitive insights. This is the time to address the elephant in the room rather than continuing to ignore it. Work on your fears and shortcomings. The universe has blessed you with a special gift, the ability to make anything look classy. Financial success is guaranteed, provided you use your resources wisely.

**VIRGO**

(Aug 23 - Sep 22)

Trust yourself and take the leap of faith this year. If you are planning to get into films, acting, OTT or even modelling, this is the time for you. Keep yourself grounded and your plans guarded. Release yourself from whatever is holding you back. Detox your body, mind, and soul. Seek spiritual and physical guidance. It is time to work on your physical and spiritual well-being. Your worries about the future are unnecessary and stem from a lack of self-confidence. You are completely motivated, and that determination will bring great results. Have patience with yourself and those around you. Seek relief from stress and focus on your sleeping patterns. Meditation will guide you a great deal. Your dreams are back on track and will soon manifest. If you are in love, make choices from your heart. A trip to an exotic location will end the year with fun and celebrations.

**LIBRA**

(Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Do what you love! This is a time of great personal growth in your career. There may be extremes in how you save or spend money. Remain neutral and make your investments wisely. New opportunities for happiness will follow. Be very sure of your choice; once you make it, do not look back. Your dreams will be fulfilled because of the hard work you have put in previously. Face your innermost fears and do not listen too closely to advice offered by friends or well-wishers. Once you are sure about a situation or person, enjoy the celebrations. A happy announcement regarding a relationship or children could be a reason to celebrate. You are blessed with the gifts of passion, opportunity and inspiration. This is your chance to do something amazing. The year is full of hope, new beginnings and the release of energies that no longer serve you.

**SCORPIO**

(Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Peace and bliss at last! It is time to celebrate your hard work. The universe will bless you with rewards and financial support. Let everyone fight their own battles. Have patience with yourself and those around you. Moving into a bigger city or a larger house is on the cards. It is time to cut your cords with toxic people or situations that no longer serve you. Do not be harsh on yourself, as letting go of the situation is the best thing you can do. You have invested wisely in relationships and finances, so have patience and wait for the harvest. Love, peace, harmony and family are the highlights of this period. Respect and compatibility among family members will lift your mood. I see a happily-ever-after for many. Those who are planning to conceive may receive good news within two months. Make a wish and your dream can become a reality.

**SAGITTARIUS**

(Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Starting a new life is always a mixed bag of excitement and emotions. You have finally found your life purpose. Your power may intimidate many around you. Your strength and grace lie in your kindness, self-confidence and ability to forgive. Even if it ruffles a few feathers, do not look back. Look for the magic in life and be aware of your emotions. Trust the divine timing. A great deal of activity is lined up. A major heartbreak may be on the cards. Whatever is happening is happening for your good. Work on your budget and make your investments wisely. Be clear about what you want and take action accordingly. If you choose love, live in the moment and enjoy the rewards of your hard work. Moving into a new house will be auspicious and may open the pathway to new beginnings, both financially and spiritually. Your spiritual journey begins.

**CAPRICORN**

(Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Be persistent and gentle, and approach the dangers that surround you with clear eyes and an open heart, without fear. Stop clinging to the idea that things will change within a timeframe that is comfortable for you. You may have to change your plans and readjust your expectations, but watch what you achieve when you finally surrender to the process. Your good times and good fortune begin now! Include your true friends and loved ones in this good fortune. Financial abundance and an elevation in social status will be the highlights of this period. This is a destiny ride you were meant to take, and the venture could end up being a winner. Happy announcements regarding relationships or children will keep you in high spirits. The Wheel of Fortune favours you now. A change in direction will bring happiness and prosperity. Travel will be beneficial.

**AQUARIUS**

(Jan 20 - Feb 18)

You are an inspiration to many, and your success story will be discussed. This year, your karmic cycles are coming full circle. A happy ending and a new beginning are being manifested. Invest in spirituality, as that is your path towards nirvana. You have done a wonderful job, and now it is time to explore other ventures. Awards, rewards and promotions are in the pipeline. Celebrations and emotional bonding are on the cards. Abundant rewards for your hard work are coming your way. With deeply emotional commitments, life is looking wonderful ahead. On the work front, it is important to do your homework beforehand. An excellent opportunity will be offered to you. Scholarships, further education or social media ventures may prove fruitful. It is time to get to work. If you have been contemplating travel plans, this is the right time.

**PISCES**

(Feb 19 - Mar 20)

The universe is aligned with you this year. You can manifest the life you want, and what you need will magically appear. Successful new beginnings and a major breakthrough are on the cards. When you give, you also receive. Life will be better if you simply make a decision. It is time for celebrations and moving into your new dream home with your loved one. Abundant rewards for your hard work are coming this month. You are on a high, and that can intimidate others. People may try to drag you into their problems, so it is better to avoid these tricky situations. Release the past and let go of anything that no longer serves your highest good. A more enriching future is coming for you. Consider taking a more uplifting approach towards life. If you are becoming emotionally withdrawn, seek out other possibilities. Look for the magic in life.



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column

Sikkil
Gurucharan
on MargazhiBeyond the
Ragam

FOR ME, MARGAZHI is more than just a month of concerts. It is a time when one year draws to a close and a new one begins. Throughout the year, we travel far and wide, performing concerts in different places. But like migratory birds, we flock to a familiar place for a particular season before moving on to other destinations. As musicians, I think all of us converge in this beautiful ecosystem called Chennai's music *sabhas*. The season usually begins in late November and extends all the way to the end of January, when the *Thyagaraja Aradhana* takes place.

The *rasikas*, too, are an important part of this experience. I would say that perhaps 50 per cent of the audience consists of familiar faces, while the remaining 50 per cent are people who are either listening to us or experiencing Carnatic music for the first time. To challenge ourselves every day in front of such an audience gives us a clear understanding of where we stand at that particular point in our musical journey.

The magic of surrender

I may sound a little idealistic when I say this, but I feel that there is a force far greater than ourselves that carries us forward during the *Margazhi* season. Otherwise, I sometimes wonder whether it would be possible to sustain ourselves for so many years, singing at *Margazhi* concerts with such frequency and intensity. I believe it is the grace of God that makes this possible. Personally, for me, it also comes from a sense of surrender that takes over just before the season begins.

Of course, we learn new compositions, revisit our repertoire, and draw upon the best song lists and presentation techniques we have experimented with throughout the year. We bring together what we feel are the strongest elements of our musical journey and offer them during the *Margazhi* season. And then, at some point, I simply leave it all to God.

The art of improvisation

I have been attending season concerts since I was an eight-year-old boy, accompanying my grandmothers to their concerts during *Margazhi*. For a long time, I didn't realise that Carnatic music involved so much improvisation on stage. Even when it came to a simple *raga alapana*, I assumed that everything had been rehearsed beforehand. Whenever the *mridangam* artiste finished a rhythmic passage and the *ghatam* or *kanjira* artiste took their turn, I imagined that they were simply reproducing what had been played before them. I wondered how these musicians had such extraordinary memories and how they could reproduce everything so impeccably. It took me a while to understand that this was, in fact, improvisation. The artistes weren't reproducing the same ideas note for note; they were responding to what had come before and creating their own interpretations in the moment. That was when I began to understand the magic of the concert platform. It is a space where ideas are exchanged

freely, where artistes inspire one another, and where each musician is given the freedom to nurture and express their own musical ideas.

A live concert is an opportunity for musicians to set aside their egos and come together as a cohesive unit. The Chennai audience can immediately sense when there is a spirit of oneness on stage, and that can put them off. They want to see the artistes enjoying one another's music, smiling at each other and responding to one another with warmth.

Margazhi is for everyone

Margazhi is no longer just about concerts or music. It encompasses dance, musical workshops, lectures, experimental genres, and new spaces where artistes can explore and present ideas for the first time. And then, of course, there is food, food trails and so much more. The entire city comes alive, and I think that is what makes *Margazhi* so special. Its cultural significance has also received international recognition, with Chennai's December music and dance season being recognised by UNESCO.

From reels to the stage

We are seeing a new generation of listeners discovering Carnatic music through entirely different routes. Someone might discover a *raga* through a film song or a pop melody or come across an artiste on a digital platform before deciding to experience their music live. I think there is a wonderful sense of awe in that transition: going from a brief digital encounter to experiencing the full depth, spontaneity and immersive quality of a live performance.

So, for me, *Margazhi* is for everyone who loves music. You could plan a whole day around music, attend concerts, participate in listening sessions, explore food trails, or sit in on insightful discussions that help you understand what Carnatic music is trying to communicate.



Sikkil Gurucharan talks about Chennai's enduring love for music and the inclusive spirit that makes *Margazhi* special

Celebrating diversity

The city provides a home for so many different forms of music. You have the pure experience of listening to classical Carnatic music, or South Indian classical music, alongside North Indian classical concerts. You also have collaborations between North and South Indian classical musicians through *jugalbandis*. Beyond that, there are Western classical performances, jazz concerts and folk traditions rooted in the original sounds of Tamil Nadu, including *nattupura isai* and *koothu*. All these forms of music coexist in Chennai. The city is one of those rare places where you could walk into a major auditorium and find it presenting an evening dedicated to film songs for one week. The following week, the very same auditorium might host a Carnatic classical concert. A fortnight later, it could be a Western classical or jazz performance, followed by a stand-up comedy show a few weeks later.

Taking music beyond hubs

One area where I believe we can do better is in taking concerts beyond the established cultural hubs. There may be people in other parts of the city who want to listen to Carnatic music but find it difficult to travel to the central areas where most concerts take place. I think it would be worthwhile for artistes, *sabhas* and cultural organisations to explore more venues across the city, bringing concerts closer to these audiences.

There is also another small but meaningful gesture that musicians and cultural organisations could consider: taking music to people who may no longer have the opportunity to experience it for themselves. This could include visiting orphanages, homes for destitute women and children, and facilities that care for burn survivors. Taking music to them could be a wonderful act of kindness. After all, music should not be limited by geography, circumstance or access.

—As told to P Sangeetha

Sikkil Gurucharan



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TRACKS OF CHANGE

The daily commute has found a new soundtrack with Chennai Metro making room for live music, public performances, and a more communal city life

A METRO IS designed around movement, its stations serving as points of passage in a city that rarely has the luxury of standing still. Yet in Chennai, the network is beginning to accommodate a different relationship with public space, as commuters find themselves drawn into live performances along their daily routes. There is a certain whimsy in the idea of bringing music into a commute more often associated with packed carriages, missed trains and the daily scramble for a seat. With Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) actively facilitating these musical encounters, the network is acquiring a cultural life that extends beyond the journey itself.

Platforms and performances

For Keerthivasan Raghuraman of Office Gaana, the metro has long offered possibilities beyond commuting. "When I am stressed out, my girlfriend and I sometimes go on metro dates. We just take the metro from the airport to Wimco Nagar and then come back. Chennai is so beautiful from the metro," he smiles.

His relationship with the network extends to performing on it, too. "Even before I was a part of Office Gaana, we used to do a lot of live music performances in public spaces, and CMRL was one of the partners we worked with. Initially, I used to take my guitar, go around metro stations and busk there. We had permissions, and people would come and enjoy different kinds of art," he recalls.

For Senthil Raj of On the Streets of Chennai, which organises performances in public spaces, the appeal lies in watching a commuter's hurried trajectory give way to an unexpected encounter with music. Unlike a conventional concert, where audiences arrive with the intention of listening, a station performance catches people in the middle of their everyday routines. "Suddenly, people look at us, smile and show a sense of surprise. They walk towards us and just stand there. They were walking in such a hurry, but they decided to stay back for half an hour, an hour or even an hour and a half. That is something very fascinating to see," he shares.

Performing at floor level, with audiences gathering around rather than watching from rows of seats, changes the relationship between musician and listener. "You connect to the audience very well. You know what works and what doesn't work as a performer. If somebody is walking by, they may spend two minutes watching your show. If you are able to make them stay longer, that is something we subconsciously pick up as performers, and you



Office Gaana performance inside the train for Metro-vil Madras Day

see the smiles on their faces. That itself feels very fulfilling," he adds.

All aboard

The idea has travelled beyond station platforms, too. For *Metro-vil Madras Day* in August this year, Super Chennai collaborated with CMRL to turn a moving train into a concert venue, with Office Gaana performing aboard a special service that travelled from Koyambedu towards Chennai airport and back. Registrations reportedly closed within 30 minutes of opening, with thousands applying for a place on the ride.

For Keerthivasan, performing aboard the train was unlike a conventional concert. "It was very intimate. You get to meet random strangers who don't pay you anything. You don't owe them anything, but you owe them love. You owe them the celebration of how people from different backgrounds in the city come together to celebrate something, which is Madras," he says.

For Ranjeeth Rathod, managing director of Super Chennai, the initiative grew from a larger question about how the city could create more opportunities for people to gather. "How do we bring that fellowship together? That was the question we had in mind," he says, pointing to the limited availability of public entertainment spaces in the city. The metro offered a way to bring people together through an experience woven into everyday urban life. "Is the metro just for commuting? Yes. But if we can add layers of fun and frolic, why not?" Ranjeeth questions.

Commuting remains the network's central purpose, but a train that doubles as a concert venue or a station that invites people to pause for a song adds a vibrant facet to the daily journey. In a city whose cultural life spills out of auditoriums into streets and neighbourhoods, the metro is becoming another place to gather, listen and encounter Chennai anew.

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Tamil hip-hop, jazz, metal, post-punk, experimental pop and more — meet the musicians and communities bringing Chennai's independent music scene alive



THE NEW SOUNDS OF CHENNAI

CHENNAI'S MUSICAL IDENTITY has never been confined to one tradition. Carnatic music and film soundtracks remain part of the city's cultural vocabulary, but a growing community of independent artistes is exploring Tamil hip-hop, *gaana*, metal, jazz, post-punk and experimental pop. What makes the scene encouraging is not only the range of music being made, but also the willingness of audiences to step outside their usual listening habits. Musicians, organisers, curators and venue owners are creating opportunities for that exchange, even as questions around venues, funding and the sustainability of live music remain.

Music without boundaries

Artiste RANJ moves between Tamil songwriting, R&B, hip-hop and experimental production. Her music also addresses women's desire, gender expectations and the freedom to define herself. "I'm also grateful for the fact that I didn't need to choose one thing. And I feel like everyone in my generation also understands that feeling of really being several things at the same time," she says. RANJ believes audiences are welcoming different sounds, but adds that Chennai needs more women artistes.

Producer OfRo brings Tamil hip-hop, *gaana* and electronic production into conversation with influences from around the world. "It's not just different genres coming together, it's different cultures, experiences and each one's story and how they bring their story into the music," he says.

Singer Siennor moves between

hip-hop, rock, electronic music and classical influences, following an emotional response to music rather than allegiance to a style. "At the end of the day, whatever the genre, either the song touches me or not," he says. Singer-songwriter Stevie, whose influences include gospel, indie pop, alternative rock and R&B, is similarly encouraged by the talent emerging from the city. "As a community, we are small, but in terms of talent, I feel we've grown leaps and bounds," he says.

The Dipshit Ladies combine music and comedy, bringing vocals, guitar, keyboard and percussion to the stage. Radha Sunder, Neerja Ramnath and Nyma Singh Merchant began as friends who sang karaoke together before a friend invited them to perform at Angular Festival, a music festival in Chennai.

"New music, old soul," says Neerja, describing the trio. "It's an exciting time to be looking for gigs to catch in Chennai. You are likely

to find new talent, sound and energy every other week," she adds, while hoping to see more all-women bands.

The Madras Guild of Performing Arts is broadening ideas about what a choir can perform. Led by director of music Atul Jacob Isaac, the choral ensemble explores music beyond

It's an exciting time to be looking for gigs to catch in Chennai. You are likely to find new talent, sound and energy every other week
—Neerja Ramnath of The Dipshit Ladies



the sacred repertoire traditionally associated with choirs. "When we say choir, generally the attribution goes to church choir, but there is so much music outside of just the sacred nature," he says.

Metal matters

Drumtoid, a solo metalcore project, draws on J-pop, K-pop and anime music. "I tend to absorb many minor intricacies while listening to music, and that can ruminate in the back of my mind and become a melodic or rhythmic idea," Drumtoid says.

Incendarius explores progressive metal through shifting rhythms and polyrhythms, with influences that include King Crimson and jazz musician John Coltrane. "To someone who is unfamiliar with my band and the kind of music I make, I would say that this is controlled chaotic groovy noise," says band member Boja R.

Rooted jazz

Tamil Jazz Collective began by translating jazz standards into Tamil before moving towards original compositions. "We started off translating jazz standards into Tamil, which is why we are called Tamil Jazz Collective, but then now we've moved on towards our original music," says vocalist and composer Harini Iyer. Harini points to the range of performances taking place across the city. On one day alone, she says, audiences could choose between Agam, whose music draws on Carnatic rock, Tamil Jazz Collective and indie-pop-folk band, Easy Wanderlings. For her, the fact that such contrasting performances can take place simultaneously reflects the growing willingness of listeners to explore different sounds.

Continued on page 60



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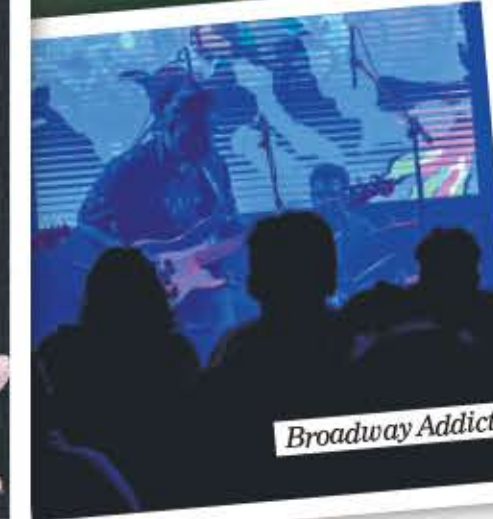


RANJ



Vidyuth Subramanian

shame



Broadway Addicts

Guitars and grit

Alternative rock band Spotlight brings together its members' varied influences, including progressive rock, punk and pop funk. "A lot of efforts go behind defining the sound of a song or an album, to try and bring together all our influences," says Laxman. He wants more venues where bands can perform regularly and test new material.

Broadway Addicts, formed in college around 12 years ago, draws on post-punk, with Television and Talking Heads among its influences. The band also writes about the city around it. "We are also talking about urban Chennai problems," says Vidyuth Subramanian, who plays in the group. A shortage of venues and dwindling motivation contributed to a hiatus of three to four years. The band resumed playing last year and is preparing new music.

Making space

The scene depends on people willing to organise gigs, introduce listeners to unfamiliar sounds and create places where musicians can perform. In Chennai, many of those people are musicians themselves.

Drummer, mridangam player and Carnatic vocalist Manu Krishnan has performed with bands including Jatayu and Chaos, and collaborated with The F16s and The Casteless Collective. Through *Metal Chennai*, he has helped build a heavy-music community, with *Brutal Carnage* running for more than 15 editions over eight years. He now also works on

Atul Jacob Isaac



It's not just different genres coming together, it's different cultures, experiences and each one's story and how they bring their story into the music

—OfRo

Permanent Vacation, a platform for independent artistes, and curates live music at The Spotted Deer at Palomar by Crossway. "We want to build something for the indie and original music crowd. A consistent, reliable platform they can count on," Manu says. He believes a supportive venue partner is essential to making such initiatives sustainable.

Armaan RM, an organiser with *Metal Chennai*, sees the scene as a collective effort. "Audience members, promoters, and musicians, everyone has to work together to keep the scene alive," he says.

Vidyuth Subramanian, who also plays in Broadway Addicts, runs

Continued on page 62



VISIT MODEL & FINISHED APARTMENTS



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Nyma Singh Merchant



Spotlight

Focus Group Radio, a music and art discovery community built around listening sessions and events. The project began with online listening parties during the pandemic and later expanded into clubs, bars, DJ sets and festival appearances. Asked about audiences, Vidyuth points to the response to Focus Group Radio's *Angular Festival*, where listeners encountered unfamiliar sounds and musical experiments. "I can definitely say this is one of the most open-minded crowds that I've ever seen. People want to go out and try new things," he says.

The Nook offers another way to encounter live music, bringing



Azan Sherif

audiences close to the performers. Owned by Chennai-based bassist and music producer Azan Sherif, who also founded and plays with its resident band, The Room Service, the venue is designed around an intimate experience. "You'll experience great sound, a thoughtfully curated environment, and top notch performance in a space that's basically Disneyland for creatives," Azan says.

OfRo's Atti Culture, co-founded with filmmaker Ken Royson, works with artistes to develop their sound. "It's more about helping them discover what their sound is and sort of building the necessary resources around each artiste so that they can become self-sustaining," he says. The challenge, he adds, is ensuring that artistes have support beyond individual releases. "Otherwise, every time they release a song, it's a fresh struggle, and you have to keep getting people to listen, and you have to find the next opportunity, and you have to start from scratch every time," he says.

The next set

Chennai has the talent and an audience willing to explore it. The challenge is building a live-music ecosystem that can sustain both. Siennor points to the financial burden of putting on shows, with musicians often paying out of pocket and taking responsibility for promotion. "The live music scene is still thriving, but at the cost of live musicians putting in their money mostly and having to carry the weight of promotions and everything else on their shoulders, and not just music," he says.

What also stands out is the willingness of people within the scene to point towards one another's work. In conversations about their own music, interviewees recommended other artistes to hear and people to speak to. The attention was not treated as something to be guarded; the hope was that more of the scene would be heard. That generosity, alongside the music itself, is a reason to be optimistic.

—Anoushka Kundu

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A tribe of one's own

Chennai's passion-driven communities are bringing people together over shared interests, creating spaces where strangers connect, ideas are exchanged and a sense of belonging takes shape

"HAPPINESS ONLY REAL when shared." The line, written by Chris McCandless in the margin of the novel *Doctor Zhivago*, became familiar through the film *Into the Wild*. In Chennai, shared happiness takes less dramatic forms: a Saturday morning run, a film screening, or a gathering of enthusiasts comparing watches. These communities offer people a reason to come together, even when friendship is not what brings them there. While some do find close friends through these groups; others pick up a new skill, sharpen an old one, or simply find a reason to show up. So, here are a few of the groups giving the city a reason to show up.

The city, seen anew

At Urban Sketchers Chennai, an ordinary street can easily become an impromptu studio. A vegetable seller, an ironing man or a tangle of electric wires might make the day's subject. Namita Ravichandran, an artist and illustrator who helps administer the group, says the chapter began with just three or four people in 2022, after filmmaker Mohan Krishnan first started it in 2020. Today, around 45 people turn up for a typical meet.

"We see beauty in the mundane," she says. The group sketches on location rather than from photographs, choosing markets, parks and streets as readily as heritage buildings. At the end, everyone lays out their work for a "throwdown", revealing how many different ways one place can be seen. "It is a very non-judgemental space," Namita says. The group has also become a way for people new to Chennai to discover the city, and for lifelong residents to look at familiar streets differently. After a sketch meet, some members head off for coffee or breakfast together. The drawing brings them into the same place; what follows is up to them.

Madras Inherited invites people to look more closely, too, though its route is through history. Ashmitha Athreya, the initiative's trustee, head of operations, and lead storyteller, says it began in late 2017 with walks around historic houses in Mylapore, inspired by Vincent d'Souza of Mylapore Times. It later expanded across Chennai, with walks held every weekend.

"I believe walking allows you to observe significant, often overlooked details, even on familiar paths," she says. "It encourages a connection with your surroundings." For Ashmitha, the point is not simply to admire old buildings, but to notice whose histories have been preserved and which voices remain unheard. "We constantly and consciously ensure that we address varied outlooks and perspectives of the historical narrative," she says. The walks, she adds, can change how participants see their own neighbourhoods.

Neither group requires specialist knowledge. A sketchbook or a willingness to walk is enough to begin seeing the city anew.

Making room for the things we love

For Sulai Sha, founder of Madras Watch Club, collect-

ing began with his father's old Titan. His club, which meets once every two months, grew from wanting to talk watches in person after years of seeing enthusiasts gather online.

"I strongly believe personal value any day tops monetary value," he says. For Sulai, the appeal of watches lies as much in the stories and history behind them as in the fascination with how they work.

The club offers enthusiasts a chance to share these stories in person, learn from one another and connect over a common interest. With each meeting, more collectors are finding their way into a community built around a shared passion.

At Kannadi Cupboard, self-publishing artist and founder Prassana Venkatesh brings people together around handmade publications. He opened the everyday gallery in December 2024, inspired by zine clubs abroad and the simple pleasure of making something with others.

"The fact that you are able to make a tangible object with your own thoughts that you can share around is fun and exciting to most individuals," he says. Zine



A table set for an evening of conversation at Ladies Supper



Urban Sketchers Chennai members lay out their work at the end of a sketching session



We often ask women, 'What do you bring to the table?' without stopping to ask, 'Is there a table in the room at all?'

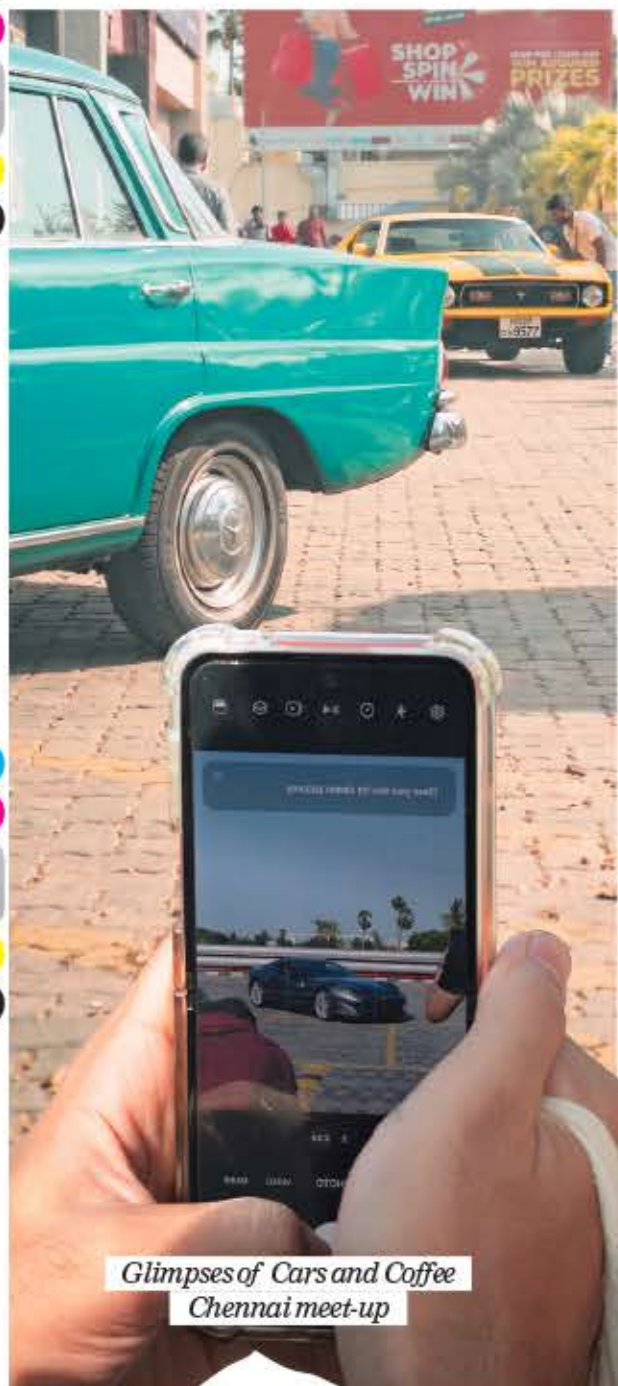
— Ayisha Roshan

themes have explored subjects such as living alone, meeting protein goals, and casteism and food. The format welcomes anyone curious about making a zine, not just people with an art background.

Prassana has noticed more people exploring independent publishing, including at the gallery's self-published book fair. Yet circulation remains difficult in a city where publishing houses dominate.

Cars and Coffee Chennai offers a different kind of show-and-tell. Mukundan TCA, one of the organisers, says the idea was to give motoring enthusiasts a relaxed place to meet without the agenda of a rally or the formalities of a club. The first gathering, in June 2023, drew around 25 cars. Since then, the events have included vintage vehicles, supercars, motorcycles and miniature models. "We never wanted this to be a contest," Mukundan says. "The moment there's a prize, people start wondering whose car is better." Without trophies or judges, a humble Maruti SS80 can attract as much attention as a Lamborghini. Owners exchange restoration tips, recommend mechanics,

Continued on page 66



Glimpses of Cars and Coffee Chennai meet-up



A TARS robot prop from Sequel's screening of Interstellar

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Madras Watch Club members pore over one another's collections



Tickets and Ratatouille-inspired props from Sequel screenings



A moment from a session of Lectures On The Rocks

and discuss hard-to-find parts.

People may arrive to look at cars, but they often leave with new contacts and conversations that have strayed into work, family or travel.

Across these communities, an interest is a starting point rather than a test of status. What only matters is having something to share.

You can come on your own

Cloka founder David Karun started his running club after discovering how deeply running affected him. When friends could not join him, he put an invitation on social media. The first run took place in January 2025. The club now has thousands of registered members, with weekly runs and additional activities such as lifting and boxing.

"Running felt profoundly therapeutic and spiritual to me," he says. "That inspired me to share that experience with others." People arrive alone or in groups, and experienced runners encourage beginners to keep going. Organisers make introductions and try to speak to newcomers rather than remaining within their own circles.

"Running with Cloka means being with people who care about mutual progress and overcoming limits together," Karun says. Some friendships have developed into groups such as the "Slurp Gang"; members also use the group chat to seek emergency help and organise blood donations. "Sweating together creates unbreakable bonds," he says.

Chennai's hip-hop scene offers another

route into community. Karan of Bfab crew began freestyle battles in 2016, encouraged by senior dancers who helped build the city's scene. Today, college culturals and social media help newcomers find classes, events and fellow dancers. Shaped by African American culture, hip-hop spans dance, rap, graffiti, and DJing, with Chennai adding its own flavour through Tamil music and *kuthu*. Artists such as Yogi B, Dr Burn and MC Jeez helped establish this local identity, while Karan's crew has produced artists including Paal Dabba and Vengayo. "Hip-hop is a culture," he says. "Through the years, Chennai laid a strong foundation using our roots." While greater visibility has opened up opportunities, he worries that short-form videos can distract young dancers from developing their craft.

At Sequel, a film club founded by Rhea Kannan, the gathering continues after the screening. She began it because she wanted somewhere to discover films, watch them with others and discuss what they had seen. Its first proper screening was *Kottukkaali*, after early discussions in cafés. "Honestly, I started it for a fairly selfish reason," she says. "I built the thing I wanted to be part of, and it turned out a lot of other people wanted it too."

Sequel now screens films roughly once a month, primarily Tamil titles, with some Malayalam and English selections. The club is invite-only because discussion is central to the experience. Rhea wants people to participate, not simply watch and leave.

"Staying back is the whole point," she says. "Many friendships have come out of them. People have started working together and even making films together."

For Rhea, watching together makes room for interpretations that might never occur to a viewer alone. "You hear how someone else lived through a scene and how they read a moment you thought was obvious," she says. Its audience includes film workers, students, doctors, engineers and parents, many of whom arrive without knowing everyone in the room.

Curiosity is a good enough reason

Damodharan K, Jino J Ampakkadu, and Manju Bhashini created Lectures On The Rocks to give adults a place to learn outside formal education.

Its talks, held twice a month, have ranged from the neuroscience of musicians and astrophysics to probability, poker, and the history of chillies. "There is no real outlet where you can learn as an adult outside of a few hobbies or sports," Damodharan says.

The organisers connect experts

with people curious about their fields, often in bars rather than lecture halls.

The audience questions are often a highlight, with discussions taking unexpected turns. People return for subjects that interest them, or bring friends who might discover a new fascination. "There is more to this city and to its nightlife than just food and drink," he says. "There can be excitement, learning, engagement, and the sharing of knowledge."

Ladies Supper, founded by researcher Ayisha Roshan, takes a more intimate approach to bringing people together. Inspired by the French salon tradition and academic dinners, the gatherings bring women together over a meal to discuss subjects ranging from misogyny in artificial intelligence to bodily autonomy and the politics of domestic space.

Each supper accommodates around six to eight people, allowing conversations to unfold without the pressure of a formal debate or the expectation of reaching a conclusion. "We often ask women, 'What do you bring to the table?' without stopping to ask, 'Is there a table in the room at all?'" Ayisha says. For her, the idea is to create a space where women can question accepted assumptions, share their experiences and disagree without having to prove their intellectual credentials. There are no cameras or expectations of turning conversations into online content.

These communities differ in how they meet and who can join. Some gather weekly, while others meet every few months, and not everyone comes looking for friendship. People show up to sketch, run, discuss cinema or explore an interest that matters to them. In the process, they find spaces where meeting others does not have to begin with small talk. There is already something to do, learn or share, and sometimes that is enough to bring them back.

—Shivani Illakiya

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A moment from A Silent Reading Club



Members of Cloka Club hit the road for a run



A gathering at Kannadi Cupboard



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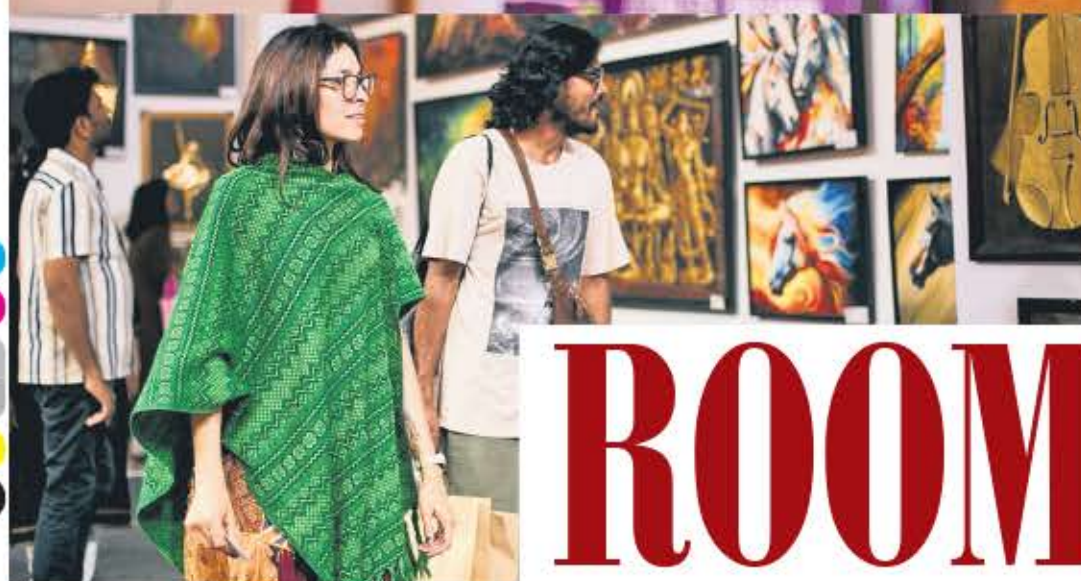
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MAKING ROOM FOR ART

MORNING WALKERS IN a Chennai park aren't usually greeted by contemporary photography, but when the *Chennai Photo Biennale* (CPB) first filled Nageshwar Rao park in Mylapore with images back in 2016, it offered a glimpse of a changing city. For a long time, Chennai's creative life ran on parallel tracks that rarely crossed. Dance, classical music, painting and gallery shows each had their own audience and their own etiquette. As art curator Jonathan Faust puts it, "It was more a 'if you know, you know' sort of space."

Today, that rigid infrastructure is loosening up. Across parks, malls, heritage spaces, and independent venues, a new generation of artists, designers, and creative collectives are refusing to wait for traditional permission. They are building their own stages, sparking cross-disciplinary conversations, and shaping the cultural pulse of tomorrow's Chennai.

Reflecting on the creative evolution, Chennai-based artist Shiva Ravishankar notes, "When we started out as artists, we couldn't

The city is acquiring new layers—in its galleries, streets, and living rooms. We speak to the people shaping the Chennai of tomorrow



Sumi Gupta



A glimpse of Madras Art Guild at VR Chennai

find a space like the Madras Art Movement, something so vibrant. That's what has made us get into the space of creating our own communities, because that infrastructure is basically non-existent."

That circle has got advanced today. Over the past five or six years, open mics, independent venues and informal exhibitions have multiplied, and conversations about art have moved beyond technique into ideas. Jonathan, who runs The Sunshine House with Purple, shares how their

collective now stages close to 10 shows a year, and it began in a city that was far less curious. Their explanation is straightforward. After the pandemic, people searching for meaning turned to art and therapy, and social media amplified that habit.

Growing beyond the gallery

The most visible change is where art now lives. It has spilled out of white-walled rooms and into

shopping centres, parks, beaches, and heritage buildings.

Shreyans Bohra, founder of Artiform and The Collectors Room, a contemporary cultural gallery, sees the same widening from the design side. Chennai's scene, he says, has grown more diverse and experimental, with art, design, and architecture talking to one another far more than they used to. Sumi Gupta, curator of *Madras Art Guild*, puts it in terms of connection. "Five years ago, visual art, architecture, music, technology and craft sat in separate circles. Today, people across these fields seek each other out, and together they are creating work that none of them would have made alone." For her, the real sign of growth is not a bigger headcount of artists but a new confidence to take Chennai's talent beyond familiar boundaries.

For Varun Gupta, co-founder of the *Chennai Photo Biennale*, this was a response to scarcity. When the *Biennale* began, almost no Chennai gallery was willing to show photography. Bengaluru, Delhi, and Mumbai each have about 30 to 40 spaces where an exhibition can happen, he points out, whereas in Chennai "you can still count on one hand the number of spaces that are large, free, and open to the public, and that's the big key."

So CPB went to where people already were. Its first edition, in 2016, filled Nageshwar Rao Park in Mylapore with images for morning walkers and families who had come for a stroll. A decade on, Varun still meets people who date their interest in photography to that park. A later exhibition at Anna Nagar's VR Chennai mall introduced photography to

Continued on page 70

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Shreyans Bohra

Inside Artiform

From one of
The Sunshine House events

From Chennai Photo Biennale



Varun Gupta

Today, she notes, many arrive looking for the work, ready to discuss it and bring their own readings.

Varun credits a wider push for shifting tastes toward installation and interactive work. Shiva observes that the older patrons are equally encouraging. "When they see a young person coming and doing art and engaging, the older crowd is happy to see people reviving it and promoting interest in art," Shiva says.

Ashvin Rajagopalan, director of Ashvita's gallery, offers a sharper diagnosis of why the move is happening. Footfall at traditional cultural venues, he suggests, has become hard to sustain, so programmes migrate to hotels and malls. His reasoning is that "the truth is people are looking for an experience, and the existing places of cultural engagement lack experience, which is why the music seasons need the sabhas, art galleries need cocktails, and so on and so forth."

But not all of the shift is happening outdoors. A parallel movement brings art into domestic and design settings, says Shreyans. He shares that showing work in a lived-in or designed environment "makes art more accessible and part of everyday life." Shreyans sees a growing dialogue between contemporary design and Chennai's cultural identity, with natural materials and regional influences being rein-

around 140,000 people. "Even if you see a Lalit Kala Akademi, it's a white cube gallery. Not everybody will enter, not everybody feels like they want to go, and not everybody goes. But if you put an exhibition in a train station, they have a chance to discover a new art form," Varun says.

Sumi Gupta's organisation works on the same principle at a far larger scale. MAG, launched in Chennai in 2019, is part of a public art festival network that spans Bengaluru, Chennai, Amritsar, Nagpur, and Surat. Across 33 editions it reports more than 11 million visitors, over 20,000 participating artists and more than 15,000 students. "A public space meets people where they are," she says. Earlier, visitors paused, asked questions, and took photographs.

Sumi takes the middle path. The energy, she argues, comes from the place where both worlds meet. Art schools, museums and long-standing cultural bodies give artists history and credibility, while independents bring freedom to experiment and question.

Ashvita's position itself as one that is both institutional and forward-looking. The gallery's stated mission is to grow the Madras Art Movement, and it has been exhibiting extensively at Lalit Kala Akademi for this, which Ashvin calls a truly democratic space. It also runs *Contemporary Now*, a curator-led show that brings selected galleries and their artists to cities such as Chennai and Hyderabad, with Bengaluru, Kochi and other southern cities earmarked for the future. Both Chennai editions, he says, were very successful.

The infrastructure crunch

For all the momentum, the speakers return to the same obstacles: space, funding, and structure. Ashvin says, "In Chennai, the infrastructure for art has always been very minimal. If you look at public spaces where art can actually be shown, where a gallery or an artist can rent a space or be invited to a space, we are limited to the Lalit Kala Akademi in Chennai and places like the Madras Museum and other government institutions. These are still very difficult to navigate for this purpose."

Sunshine House describes a scattering of information that is hard to use. Someone who says "I want to be an artist" has no clear route to follow. Colleges, they argue, nurture ideas and technique but stop short of teaching execution, such as career planning, financial goals and programmes to join. That, they believe, is why so many people enrol in art college while far fewer end up with art in their jobs. For Purple, who comes from a family without an art background, building a platform for artists was her own first step.

Funding and career sustainability remain heavy walls. Shiva points out a major hurdle. "Making it (art) into a full-time career is still a big hurdle for us. The way it's structured seems still fragmented, and awareness about making a good livelihood out of freelance creative work is missing." Furthermore, Shiva emphasises the need for state backing. "We have to get the state to support artists. Look at Ireland, where they gave a monthly salary to a few artists and the economic contribution turned out to be very positively impacting the town—that infrastructure is hugely missing from a city like Chennai."

The next phase, however, is already being planned, led by initiatives like the CPB's upcoming December 2027 edition and the tireless efforts of local independents and studios. What the city needs now, as these voices highlight, are accessible rooms to hold them all, institutional and state backing to keep them going, and a clear map to help newcomers find their way in.

There is a growing
dialogue between
contemporary design
and Chennai's
cultural identity
—Shreyans Bohra

terpreted in modern ways.

Building a stage

Ask who is powering this energy and the answers might get divided. Sunshine House has no doubt. "Independent collective efforts, definitely," the pairs say. Institutions, in their view, have mostly offered constancy rather than evolution. They point to groups such as Urban Sketchers Chennai, Artist. Chennai, Studio Erimin, Kannadi Cupboard, Pagir, and Backyard as the places where new work now finds its footing, along with talked formats such as Charpoi Chatter and SustainabilATTI, a show on slow fashion.

—Apurva P

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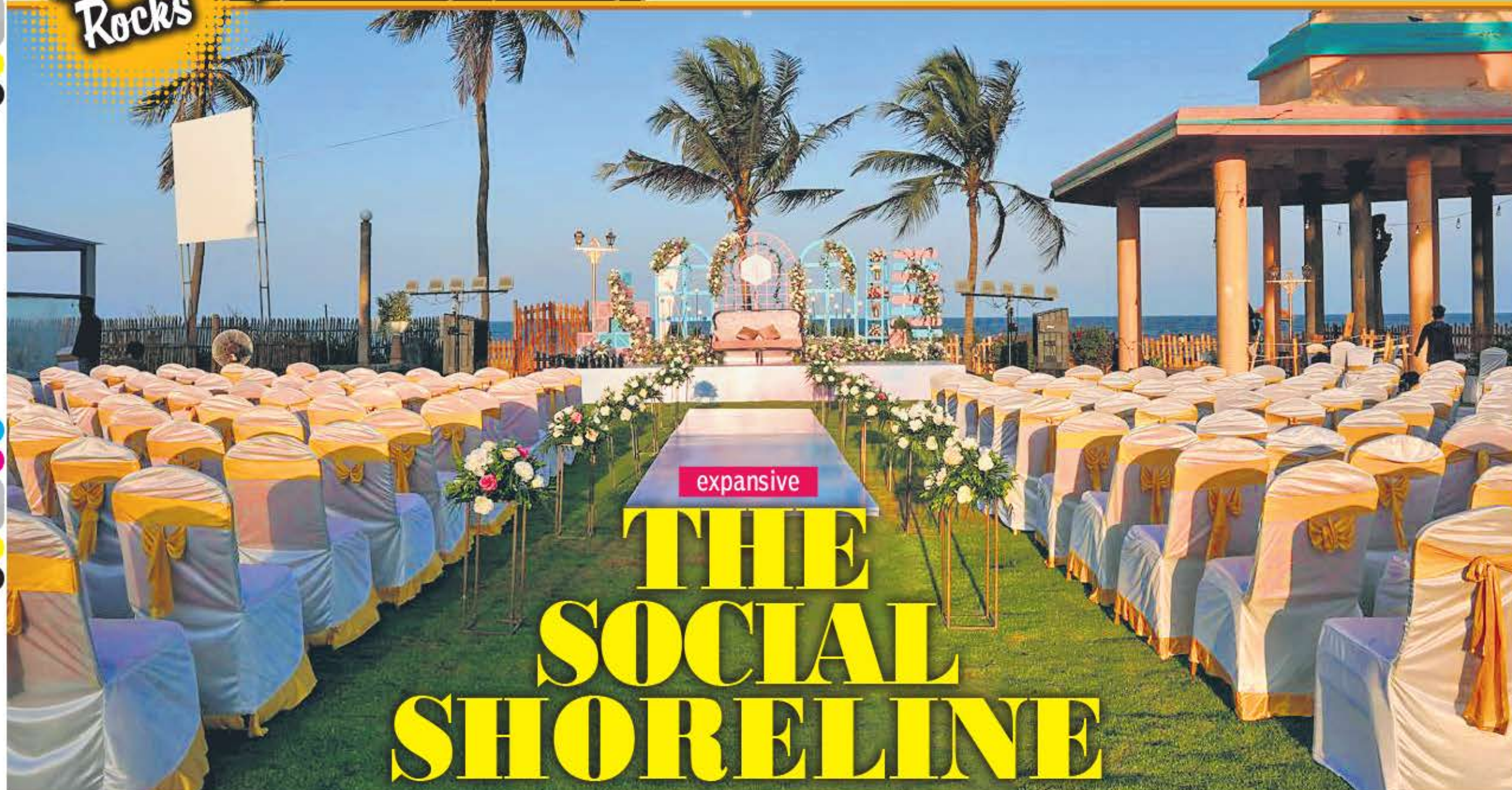


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THE SOCIAL SHORELINE

ON A TYPICAL morning at Besant Nagar Beach, one person might be watching the sunrise, another might be taking photographs, and a group nearby could be warming up for a run. A little further away, someone may be settling down with a book, while vendors prepare for the day's visitors. Come evening, the scene changes again, with families, food stalls, performers and people looking for a few hours by the sea.

For a long time, these everyday rituals defined Chennai's relationship with its beaches. Going to the beach meant spending time with family, meeting friends, eating something from a roadside stall or simply watching the waves. But the coastline is increasingly becoming a place where people organise their interests around others.

From photography walks and community running sessions to live music, creative workshops and beachside celebrations, Chennai's beaches are taking on a more active cultural identity today. We speak with artists, organisers, and community heads to understand how the coastline

From sunrise runs and photography walks to live music and beachside weddings, Chennai's coastline is becoming a hub for communities built around shared interests

shapes the cultural lens of the city.

Finding a community

Sathish Ashwin, founder of VAMOS Run Club, knows how quickly a small gathering can grow into something larger. The club began with three people running together. Today, he says, it has more than 5,000 members and organises regular weekend sessions alongside larger events and collaborations.

"Running is one of the sports that is very hard to pick up because it needs a lot of patience. A lot of people will not do it alone," he adds.

VAMOS therefore makes its weekend sessions about more than covering a particular distance. Running is accompanied

by games and opportunities to meet people, helping participants form connections that encourage them to return.

The beach plays a central role in this approach. The club's weekend gatherings are usually held at Besant Nagar Beach, although the organisers also use Palavakkam and Marina beaches interchangeably. Sathish says the open space allows them to accommodate group activities that would be difficult to organise in more confined urban settings.

The location also attracts people who have not necessarily come to exercise. Some arrive for the sunrise, notice the group and decide to join in. Others are drawn by the sight of people running together.

"A lot of people look at us, and people who

come just to visit the beach get interested and join us," he says.

For VAMOS, the beach is not simply a scenic alternative to a running track. It is part of what makes the community possible. The openness of the space, the presence of other people and the informal atmosphere encourage participation without making the activity feel exclusive.

The beach as a creative classroom

Safrin Halima of the art collective The Chaos Club also credits the open coastal setting. Through photography walks, she encourages participants to observe people and everyday life through a camera lens.

For Safrin, the beach is a particularly rewarding place to do this because it brings together a cross-section of Chennai's population. Vendors, shopkeepers, families and visitors share the same landscape, creating opportunities for photographs that reflect the city beyond its familiar landmarks.

In a city where social activities can often revolve around restaurants, shopping



Artiste Tovika Zhimomi performing at the VGP-organised event



From the photo walk by The Chaos Club



Vibha

Continued on page 74

Pic: Aditya Bedre

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centres, and organised entertainment venues, a photography walk offers a different way to spend time together. It is inexpensive, informal and centred on learning through observation.

The beach's accessibility is a major part of its appeal. Participants do not need a studio, specialist equipment or an elaborate setup. They can begin with a phone camera, a willingness to observe, and an interest in the people around them.

Safrin believes the beach has also become a place where people are learning to slow down. Some arrive to read, others to crochet, while some simply want to sit and spend time without an agenda.

"There's a certain mindfulness in how beaches are approached today. They're less a place to pass through and more a place to pause," she says.

Safrin hopes to expand this idea through a group art workshop on the beach. She sees the coastline remaining one of the most accessible settings for organisers and artistes, particularly those looking to create experiences around shared interests rather than formal instruction.

Bringing the arts beyond the stage

For musicians, however, moving into public spaces requires a different kind of adjustment. Vibha, a singer who has performed by the beach, is accustomed to singing with a live band or accompanying herself on guitar. But performing in an open setting has required her to adapt to the environment and the audience.

The difficulty is that people arriving at a beachside venue may not have come for music. They could be there to eat, socialise or enjoy the view. Unlike a concert audience, they have not necessarily chosen to listen to a particular performer.

Vibha says she sometimes feels she is losing the crowd when people do not recognise a song or are unfamiliar with the genre. During a jazz set in July, she addressed this by performing jazz versions of popular songs. Her rendition of Metallica's *Nothing Else Matters* became a crowd favourite.

"It was something that they could recognise," she says, explaining why the arrangement connected with listeners who might not ordinarily seek out jazz.

There are practical challenges as well. Wind can affect the audio, the heat and humidity can make singing uncomfortable, and connectivity problems can prevent performers from accessing backing tracks or accommodating song requests.

Yet the experience offers something that a conventional venue cannot always provide: the chance to encounter music unexpectedly. A person who did not plan to listen to a singer might stop out of curiosity and discover something new.

Beach; a part of the celebration

Not every beach gathering is organised around a hobby or artistic pursuit. For Meghana Sumesh, who works in management at VGP Heritage, the coastline also provides a setting for celebrations that people want to make memorable.

Beachside weddings, birthday parties and breakfast gath-



erings are among the events she has seen take place. Their appeal lies in the atmosphere that the setting naturally provides. "Beach weddings are no longer just a thing of the West!" she says.

A celebration by the sea offers a different experience from a conventional banquet hall. The landscape becomes part of the occasion, while the light and breeze influence how people experience the event. In the early morning, Meghana says, Golden Beach at Injambakkam can be particularly beautiful, with the sunlight reflecting on the water.

"It's really pretty, and I wish more people could experience this," she says.

Meghana believes the natural surroundings reduce the need for elaborate decoration. "You don't need a huge backdrop or décor when nature's given you something incomparable."

The beach also draws guests from across Chennai, not just those who live nearby. According to Meghana, people are willing to travel for the experience of celebrating by the sea.



This reflects a broader change in how people approach leisure. A location that once served as the default destination for an evening outing can become the main attraction for a more carefully planned experience. The setting is familiar, but the reason for visiting has changed.

Keeping the beach open to everyone

As more communities use the coastline, maintaining the space becomes a shared responsibility. The very qualities that make the beach attractive, including its openness and natural setting, can be compromised if visitors and organisers fail to look after it.

Meghana says cleaning up after events remains one of the biggest challenges. While event teams arrange cleaning before and after gatherings, she wants visitors to take greater responsibility for their own waste.

"Be sensitive towards all living creatures and ensure that we don't leave behind our trash," she says.

She also points to the need to respect turtle-nesting grounds and to be mindful of the ecological effects of increased night-time activity. The beach is not simply an open-air venue. It is part of a living coastal environment, and the growth of events must take that into account.

Safrin acknowledges that



Sathish Ashwin, founder; Keerthana Rajendran and Santhosh Gunasekaran, co-founders, VAMOS Run Club



Shot by Abhinaya during the photo walks

weather is a major limitation for outdoor activities. Wind, heat and humidity can affect the comfort of participants, while open spaces cannot accommodate every type of workshop or event. Vibha's experience with sound and connectivity reinforces the fact that a beautiful setting does not eliminate practical difficulties.

The challenge is to make the beach more welcoming without making it less accessible to the people who already depend on it for recreation, work and daily life.

—Apurva P

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Romance: How to Ruin Diwali: Meet the Parents

Perfectionist Mmabatho Nkomo (Rosemary Zimu-Mnguni) hopes to make a good impression when she meets her fiancé Varshen's (Kyle Clark) traditional Indian family for the first time. But the arrival of her estranged parents turns the Diwali gathering into an awkward family affair. Things spiral further when Mmabatho accidentally reveals her future father-in-law's secret affair — leaving her scrambling to repair the damage before the celebrations fall apart in this popular South African TV series. *October 30. On Netflix.*



Family: A Dog's Perfect Christmas

As Christmas approaches, the Goss family struggles to stay together following a series of personal setbacks. When a medical emergency leaves the household in turmoil, a lost Corgi puppy arrives at an unexpected moment. Narrated by Winstead — the family's loyal Basset Hound — the film follows how the dogs help their grieving grandfather and teenage granddaughter reconnect and rediscover the importance of family during the festive season. *November 4. On Netflix.*



Sports drama: The Greatest

The series traces the formative years of boxing legend Muhammad Ali (Jaalen Best) — from his gold medal victory at the 1960 Rome Olympics to his landmark win against Sonny Liston (Amin Joseph) in 1964, which made him the world heavyweight champion. Beyond his rise in the ring, the story explores his relationships with family, mentors and civil rights leader Malcolm X — revealing the personal convictions that shaped his identity and legacy. *November 4. On Prime Video.*



Crime-thriller: Nocturne

Ex-soldier and homicide detective Jonah Lynn (Liev Schreiber) is pulled back into the investigations of missing people connected to notorious serial killer Jurek Walter (Stephen Graham). Despite Jurek being locked up in prison, Jonah's investigation hits a roadblock, forcing him into a race against time to find the remaining victim and sending his surrogate daughter — FBI agent Saga Bauer (Zazie Beetz) — undercover and directly in contact with Jurek. *October 30. On Apple TV.*



Comedy: SCTV: The Greatest Show You've Never Heard Of

This documentary revisits the rise of *Second City Television (SCTV)* — the Canadian sketch comedy show that helped launch the careers of some of comedy's biggest names. Featuring interviews with surviving cast members, rare archival footage and a reunion in Toronto — it explores the creative partnerships, friendships and unconventional ideas that shaped the series and cemented its influence on television comedy. *October 30. On Netflix.*



Drama: Love Always

A married couple on the verge of divorce gets an unexpected chance to rethink their relationship when a mysterious twist turns them young again. Forced to revisit their past while navigating life with younger bodies, they confront old regrets, forgotten dreams and unresolved conflicts as they adjust to their changed circumstances. *Language: Tamil. October 30. On JioHotstar.*



Comedy: Stick (Season 2)

As teenage golf prodigy Santi Wheeler (Peter Dinklage) moves closer to realising his dream of becoming a professional golfer — his mentor Pryce Cahill (Owen Wilson) begins to question his own unfinished ambitions. Encouraged by former rival Clark Ross (Timothy Olyphant), Pryce launches an unlikely comeback, hoping to become the oldest golfer to win a major championship. With a new coach and trusted caddy by his side, he must confront the failures of his past while proving he still has what it takes to compete. *November 4. On Apple TV.*





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The SAMA 8000 is a flagship 7.1.4 channel soundbar system with Dolby Atmos. It's engineered to deliver a truly cinematic home theatre experience. The setup features a soundbar, a pair of wireless surround speakers, and a powerful wireless sub, creating an expansive 3D soundstage. Connectivity includes HDMI in, HDMI eARC, Optical and BT. sonodyne.com



Capillus HairBand

The Capillus HairBand is a hair-wellness wearable for women, which brings medical-grade laser tech into a lightweight wearable designed to be used thrice a week for five minutes. The technology used here is low-level laser therapy for rejuvenating hair growth. capillus.com

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Sonos Ace Ultra

Sonos' new Ace Ultra are noise-cancelling headphones with up to 35 hours of battery and rich audio, which can connect directly with your Sonos system. You can now move sound between headphones and Sonos speakers without pausing or restarting. Features include Spatial Audio, Lossless Audio and Dolby Atmos. Sonos.com



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Nike Air Zoom Hyperslide

This Nike x Hyperice recovery slide comes with Air Zoom cushioning and a Hyperice pod that delivers vibration and heat. It's designed to reduce tension and promote relaxation in the feet after training or a long day. The Hyperslide has a removable, magnetic pod in the adjustable strap, which offers three levels of heat and vibration, controlled on-pod through the Hyperice. app.nike.com



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Frameo

Frameo is a digital frame (available in multiple sizes) with an app for support that connects to wifi and can receive photo and videos seamlessly. It's super easy to set up and comes with perks like calendars, individualised albums, collage mode, clock and weather. ₹14990* amazon.in/frameo.com



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Freckle Phone

Here's a unique phone that offers kids (7-13) more tools to explore the world and is free from clutter. The hardware is custom-built for kids and sized for smaller hands and engineered to withstand drops and scrapes. An onboard camera identifies plants, birds, bugs and animals while calls and texts can be made to parent approved contacts. And there's no social media, web browsers or app store here. Freckle.tech

DailyObjects Node 3-in-1

Node is a wireless charging hub, which can be configured into a 3-in-1 dock that uses modules to let power find its way. Modules can be attached, detached, configurations shifted, and every touch-point is designed to make charging feel intuitive and distinctly yours. A wireless charging stand can power up to 25W using Qi2.2 tech while there's a built-in 7800mah battery to keep power portable. There's also a wireless charging disc and an Apple Watch charging stand. A beautiful portable lamp adds to the excitement. dailyobjects.com



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Ninja CREAMi

Creami is a 7-in-1 ice cream maker that creates frozen desserts in the form of creamy ice cream, sorbet, gelato, smoothies, milkshakes and more in just minutes. You get to use the ingredients you choose. CREAMi has dual drive motors to shave thin layers and a creameriser paddle to churn ice crystals. With a 473 ml tub capacity and 7 one-touch programmes, this is a must have! sharkninja.in



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Ray Ban Meta Audio

These new Meta Audio glasses are built without a camera; however, they can play music, podcasts and take calls or even answer your questions. Powered by Meta AI, you can also send messages and set reminders. ray-ban.com



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Apple HomeView

Apple's HomeView looks to make the smart home a lot more personal. A seven-inch touch-screen display doubles as a control centre for your connected devices, a screen for FaceTime calls and an entertainment hub with speakers on board. With Siri and Apple Intelligence in the mix, it can tailor information to individual family members. The idea is to bring communication, home automation and entertainment together in one place. apple.com



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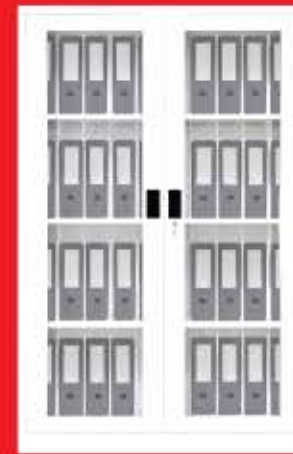
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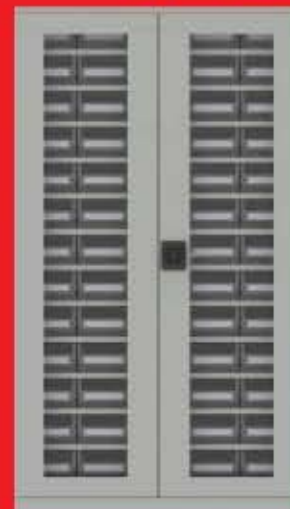
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Motorola Signature 27

The Motorola Signature 27 is shaping up to be a serious flagship contender, with Qualcomm's next-generation Snapdragon 8 Elite Extreme Gen 6 chip, a 200MP periscope telephoto camera and a 50MP Sony main sensor. Add diamond-infused cooling, Bang & Olufsen-tuned audio, premium finishes and a promise of seven years of Android updates, and Motorola appears ready to take on Samsung and Apple at the top end.

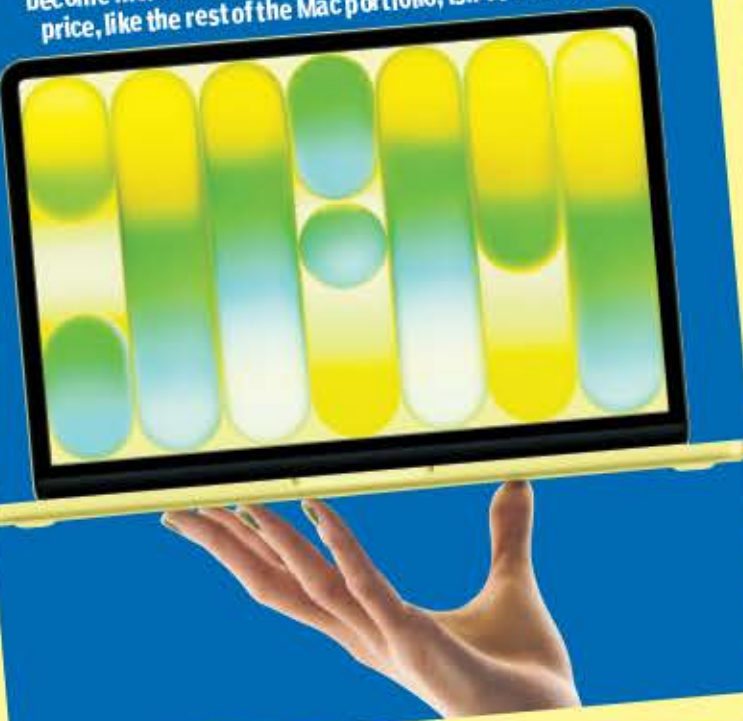


Nothing Phone (4)

Nothing has hinted that it will launch at least six phones in 2027, double this year's three, with a proper flagship Phone (4) expected among them. Transparent design and playful glyph lights are the brand's calling card, and I'm hoping the hardware keeps pace with the style. With this year's supply crunch kept even the biggest brands on their tiptoes, next year looks like a real comeback for Nothing.

MacBook Neo 2

With the redesigned prosumer MacBook launch behind us, Apple will turn its attention to the second-generation MacBook Neo. Following the huge interest the original version saw earlier this year, the successor should see a move to the A19 Pro chip, which bumps up the memory to 12GB, particularly significant as Apple's on-device AI features become more demanding. One hopes a significant jump in price, like the rest of the Mac portfolio, isn't on the cards.



Lenovo ThinkPad Rollable

Lenovo has spent years experimenting with displays that expand beyond conventional laptop dimensions, and the ThinkBook Plus Gen 6 Rollable looks to take that experiment into the production line. Imagine a ThinkPad that turns a standard screen into a tall-line workspace could be genuinely useful for coding, documents and multitasking. The question is whether Lenovo can turn the concept into a dependable business machine without the engineering compromises or eye-watering price that tend to accompany ambitious new hardware.



Googlebook

Google's renewed play for the premium laptop market, using Android, Gemini AI and tighter phone integration is all set to challenge the MacBook and Windows PC experience. It isn't just another Chromebook refresh: it represents a rethink of Google's laptop software strategy that points to a more unified future for Google's ecosystem, where Android phones and laptops feel like parts of the same computing experience, much as iPhones and MacBooks do. Expect the first Googlebooks from Acer, ASUS, Dell, HP and Lenovo out soon.

iPhone 20

Yep, the OG iPhone turns 20 in 2027, and the 20th-anniversary iPhone could be Apple's biggest redesign since the iPhone X. Leaks point to a striking, quad-curved glass design, slimmer bezels and a near-all-screen display, potentially with Face ID tucked beneath the panel. Solid-state haptic buttons, a next-generation 2nm chip and improved battery technology are also tipped. With a possible iPhone 20 moniker, this September 2027 flagship could be a landmark launch, and we're waiting to see if Apple pulls it off.



Samsung S27 Ultra

The Samsung Galaxy S27 Ultra could be 2027's Android flagship to beat. Rumours and heavy speculations point to a long-overdue battery upgrade, potentially a 5,700mAh silicon-carbon cell, a revamped 200MP camera system and a redesigned camera bar, the latest Qualcomm silicon under the hood and a brighter, more advanced display, all coming together for a serious leap in endurance and imaging.



Android Foldables

With Apple making a fashionably late but well-received entry into the world of foldables, the category could gain popularity beyond tech enthusiasts and early adopters. It could also push brands to look beyond shoe-horning a smartphone- and tablet-designed OS into a form factor that demands more. Expect big strides from the Oppo Find N7, widely regarded as having the best, virtually crease-free inner display, and the wide-screen Z Fold 9 series.



Qualcomm Snapdragon X2 laptops

Qualcomm's next-generation laptop chips are already making their way into PCs, but 2027 could be when the ecosystem really hits its stride. Think thin-and-light Windows machines with serious battery life, capable on-device AI, and enough grunt for everyday creative work. A laptop that lasts all day is terrific; one that does so without making you worry about app compatibility is considerably more useful.



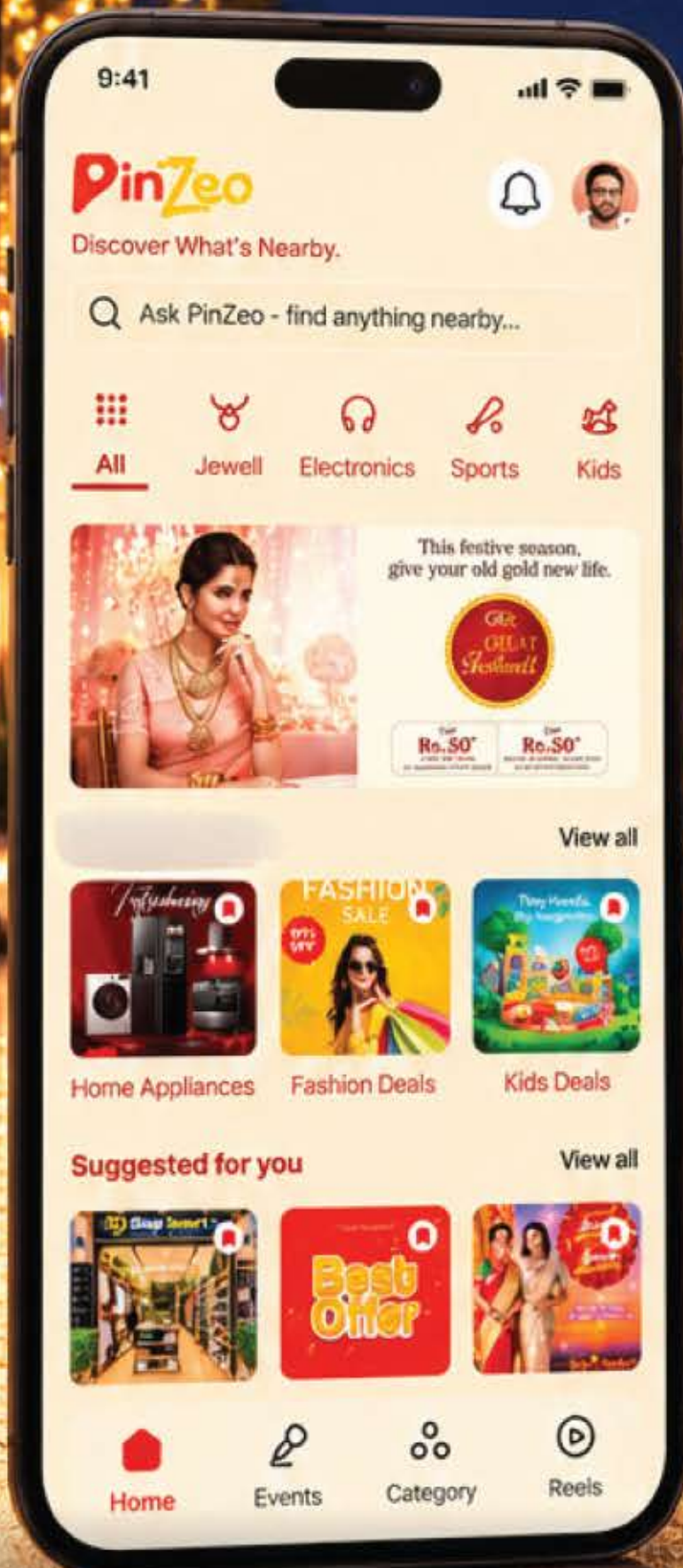
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Rolls-Royce Regatta

Rolls-Royce will introduce the Phantom Regatta, an extended commission, which pays tribute to the racing yachts of the English South Coast and to the regattas on the Solent. The exterior is finished in Regatta Blue, a deep marine tone, over a lower body of English White, applied as a hand-laid two-tone treatment that recalls the line where a yacht's hull meets the water. The interior colourway evokes a yacht under full sail: deep blue water below, with white canvas above. Seat and door piping, contrast stitching and the steering wheel are presented in both tones, and the RR monograms are embroidered in Turchese. *Estimated pricing: ₹22 crore.*



Here's a look at some of the most exciting cars set to make their debut in the coming months. From the biggest and best in the category to more humble wheels, these upcoming rides are sure to turn heads and take your breath away

DRIVEN BY THE FUTURE**Denza Z9 GT**

The Denza Z9 GT is BYD's luxury marque, and this four-door shooting brake is set to occupy a unique position in the luxury car market. At the heart of the Z9 GT is a substantial 122.5kWh battery pack that powers three electric motors, delivering a combined output of 1,156hp to all four wheels. This formidable powertrain enables the electric shooting brake to accelerate from 0 to 100kph in a claimed 2.7 seconds, while its top speed is rated at 270kph, placing it firmly among the high-performance electric cars in its segment. The Z9 GT also promises impressive usability, offering a WLTP-certified driving range of up to 600km on a single charge. *Estimated pricing: ₹1.2 crore.*



Everybody loves automobiles for a reason. They are an expression of freedom, your own point of therapy. The idea is to show you the biggest and baddest of them all, highlighting the amazing strides being made in technology. So here are some contemporary cars heading your way, which have the right fusion of technology and comfort. The list includes pure petrol, hybrids and full electrics! And the best part? Most of these are around the corner with bookings already open for most. All pricing is ex-showroom.

Skoda Superb

The new Superb is now even more spacious while also being safer than ever, courtesy of 10 airbags, numerous assistance systems and a total of 28 Simply Clever features. Moreover, the Superb combines excellent fuel economy with great performance. India will initially get a state-of-the-art diesel. Later, there could be a new plug-in hybrid with an increased electric range of more than 100 kms cover, an output spectrum from 110 kW (150 hp) to 195 kW (265 hp). One of the key interior modifications is the gearshift lever mounted on the steering column. This frees up space on the centre console, providing the driver with even more comfort and additional storage space. *Estimated pricing: ₹55 lakh.*





Mercedes-Maybach

Mercedes-Benz India has launched the new Mercedes-Maybach S 580e, the first-ever electrified Mercedes-Maybach in India. The car uniquely blends the serenity of electric driving with the effortless range and flexibility of an internal combustion engine, creating an unparalleled luxury experience without any compromise. The India-spec

Mercedes-Maybach S 580e is offered exclusively in the indulgent four-seat first-class rear configuration, transforming the cabin into a luxurious private lounge. Individual executive rear seats, a full-length business centre console, wireless charging and temperature-controlled cup holders deliver exceptional comfort and convenience. At the heart of the Mercedes-Maybach S 580e is an advanced six-cylinder plug-in hybrid powertrain with 4MATIC, producing 585 hp and 750 Nm of torque, complemented by the seamless operation of the 9G-TRONIC transmission. It offers 100 kms of range in pure electric form, with a top speed of 140 km/h on pure electric. Priced at ₹3.35 crore.

Mercedes Benz GLC electric

For many years, the GLC has been the most popular model from Mercedes-Benz, repeatedly topping the charts as the brand's bestseller worldwide. Now comes the all-new Mercedes-Benz GLC with EQ Technology, offering 360 kW with up to 713 kms of range in the GLC 400 4MATIC. It leads the way with a design language and intelligence powered by the AI-driven MB.OS superbrain. Built electric-first, as the first model in a completely new vehicle family, it excels in performance, range, efficiency and charging speed.

Greeting customers as they step into the all-new GLC is the stunning all-new seamless MBUX HYPERSCREEN. At 39.1 inches, it is the largest screen in a Mercedes-Benz to-date. Combined with warm and inviting ambient light that illuminates even the starry SKY CONTROL panoramic roof, it takes to a new level, the unique Mercedes-Benz 'Welcome Home' feeling of comfort, safety and being supported. Estimated pricing: ₹85 lakh.



Audi Q9

The new Audi Q9 combines spaciousness, precise dynamics, and technological innovations. Highlights include third-generation curved digital OLED rear lights, individual electric seats in the second row, power doors and the largest panoramic sunroof ever fitted to an Audi. Sophisticated suspension and quattro all-wheel drive, paired with highly efficient powertrains, guarantee composure on almost every surface. For the first time, automatic doors offer increased comfort when entering and exiting the vehicle. Extensive surround sensors protect against collisions: an obstacle detection system stops the door if it cannot be opened fully. The third-generation digital OLED rear lights set new standards for form, function, and safety. The outer digital OLED panels, a world first, are curved in three dimensions, thanks to ultra-thin glass. Digital Matrix LED headlights with a micro-LED module provide precise illumination, and high contrast. Estimated pricing: ₹1.5 crore.



Range Rover Electric

Range Rover, The original luxury SUV, will now be available with electric propulsion, heralding a new era. The vehicle features twin permanent magnet 260kW electric motors that generate 550PS and 850Nm of torque, and is powered by a 118.5kWh lithium-ion double-stack battery consisting of 344 prismatic cells delivering outstanding energy density. The advanced 800-volt architecture provides fast, adaptable split-charging capability. The 0-100 km/h sprint takes 3.6 seconds, and with a range of up to 530 kms, most drivers can complete their daily journeys without needing to recharge. Estimated pricing: ₹3 crore.

Bentley Torcal

Led by Design Director Robin Page, the in-house design team at Crewe has created a low, sleek SUV that introduces a new design language, rooted in Bentley's DNA. Torcal's long wheelbase, short overhangs and frontal aspect create a powerful stance and embody 'upright elegance', one of Bentley's guiding design principles. The first Bentley with a fully electric powertrain, Torcal delivers performance in a way that will be familiar to Bentley owners of any era. Delivering up to 888 PS, with a torque of 1,350 Nm, Torcal can accelerate from 0-100 km/h in 2.9 secs. The high-voltage battery consists of 192 lithium-ion pouch cells in series, running at 800V nominal, with a net capacity of 113 kWh. Estimated pricing: ₹4.5 crore.



BMW M5 Touring "100 Jahre Nürburgring"

As such, the all-new BMW M5 Touring "100 Jahre Nürburgring" limited edition satisfies the wish list of demanding enthusiasts who value the hallmark dynamic prowess of an M machine and the refined performance of a BMW M5 but do not want to forego the additional load space, practicality and long-distance comfort of a touring model. As in the saloon, the M HYBRID system produces a maximum output of 727 hp and a peak torque of 1,000 Nm for a 0-100 km/h time of 3.6 seconds and a top speed of 302 km/h. At the same time, the partly electrified powertrain enables almost silent and locally emission-free driving with a range of up to 60 kms. Estimated pricing: ₹2.7 crore.

— Ranojoy Mukerji

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Gingee

Gingee is a historic town in Tamil Nadu, best known for Gingee Fort, or Senji Kottai, a formidable stronghold spread across three rocky hills. Its granite ramparts, ancient granaries and seven-storey *kalyana mahal* speak of its military past. A few kilometres away, Singavaram is home to a rock-cut Ranganatha Temple, where a giant reclining Vishnu is linked to the legend of Raja Desingh, the young ruler who died fighting the Nawab of Arcot in 1714. Visit between November and February, when the cooler weather makes exploring the fort more pleasant.

Distance and drive: Around 155-180 km; 2.5-3.5 hours.



Lord Vishnu as Ranganatha at the Madhya Ranga Temple

getaway

Vellore

Vellore's 16th-century fort, built under the Vijayanagara Empire, witnessed the 1806 mutiny against British rule and houses a Shiva temple, a mosque and a church within the same walls. Beyond the fort, the gold-clad Mahalakshmi Temple at Sripuram makes a striking detour, while Amirthi Forest leads to a seasonal waterfall. Follow your appetite towards nearby Ambur for its celebrated *biryani* or Arcot for the syrup-soaked *makkan peda*.

Distance and drive: Around 135-150 km; 2.5-3 hours.



Vellore Fort

Tirupati

A *darshan* at Tirumala may be the reason for the journey, but there's good reason to linger after we've paid our respects. The ancient Silathoranam rock arch sits among the hills, Chandragiri Fort recalls the might of the Vijayanagara Empire, and Talakona Waterfalls offers a forest escape beyond the temple crowds. Back at the table, tuck into a fiery Andhra meal with *gongura pachadi*, then make room for the famous Tirupati *laddu* and a plate of tangy *pulihora*, served as temple *prasadam*.

Distance and drive: Around 135-160 km; 3-4 hours.



Chandragiri Fort

Nagalapuram

The drive from Chennai to Nagalapuram takes us towards the rocky slopes of the Eastern Ghats, where forest trails lead to waterfalls and natural pools. The town is also home to the Sri Vedanarayana Swamy Temple, where the setting sun illuminates the deity's feet, navel and head on successive days during the annual Surya Puja, usually held in late March. Time your visit around the festival to witness the meeting of sunlight and temple architecture.

Distance and drive: Around 70-85 km; 2-2.5 hours.

— Anoushka Kundu
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Nagalapuram waterfall

Pulicat

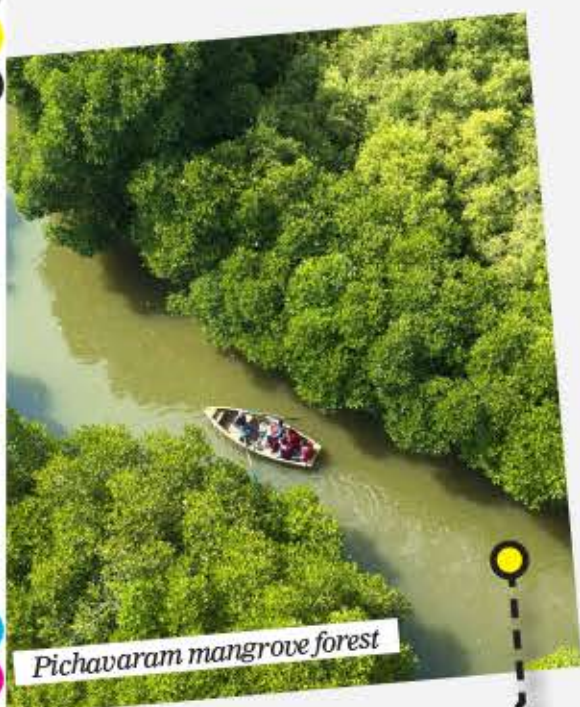
An hour or so north of Chennai, Pulicat is a fishing town with a past that stretches well beyond its quiet-looking lagoon. Between October and March, migratory flamingos gather on the mudflats, while the Dutch cemetery recalls the town's history as a colonial trading port. Hire a local boatman to explore the water, eat the day's catch and look for palmyra-leaf handicrafts made by the local women. Time your trip for February 2, when Pulicat Day celebrates the lagoon with catamaran races and heritage activities.

Distance and drive: Around 55-75 km; 1.5-2 hours.



Dutch Cemetery

Migratory flamingos gather in Pulicat between October and March



Pichavaram mangrove forest

Chidambaram and Pichavaram

Chidambaram is home to the Thillai Nataraja Temple, where Shiva is worshipped as the cosmic dancer beneath a gold-roofed sanctum. After exploring its monumental gateways and pillared halls, seek out *kathirikai gothsu*, the tangy brinjal dish associated with the temple town. Then drive to Pichavaram, where a boat floats through one of India's major mangrove forests, its tangled roots sheltering fish and birdlife. Visit between November and February for a more manageable mix of temple walks and time on the water.

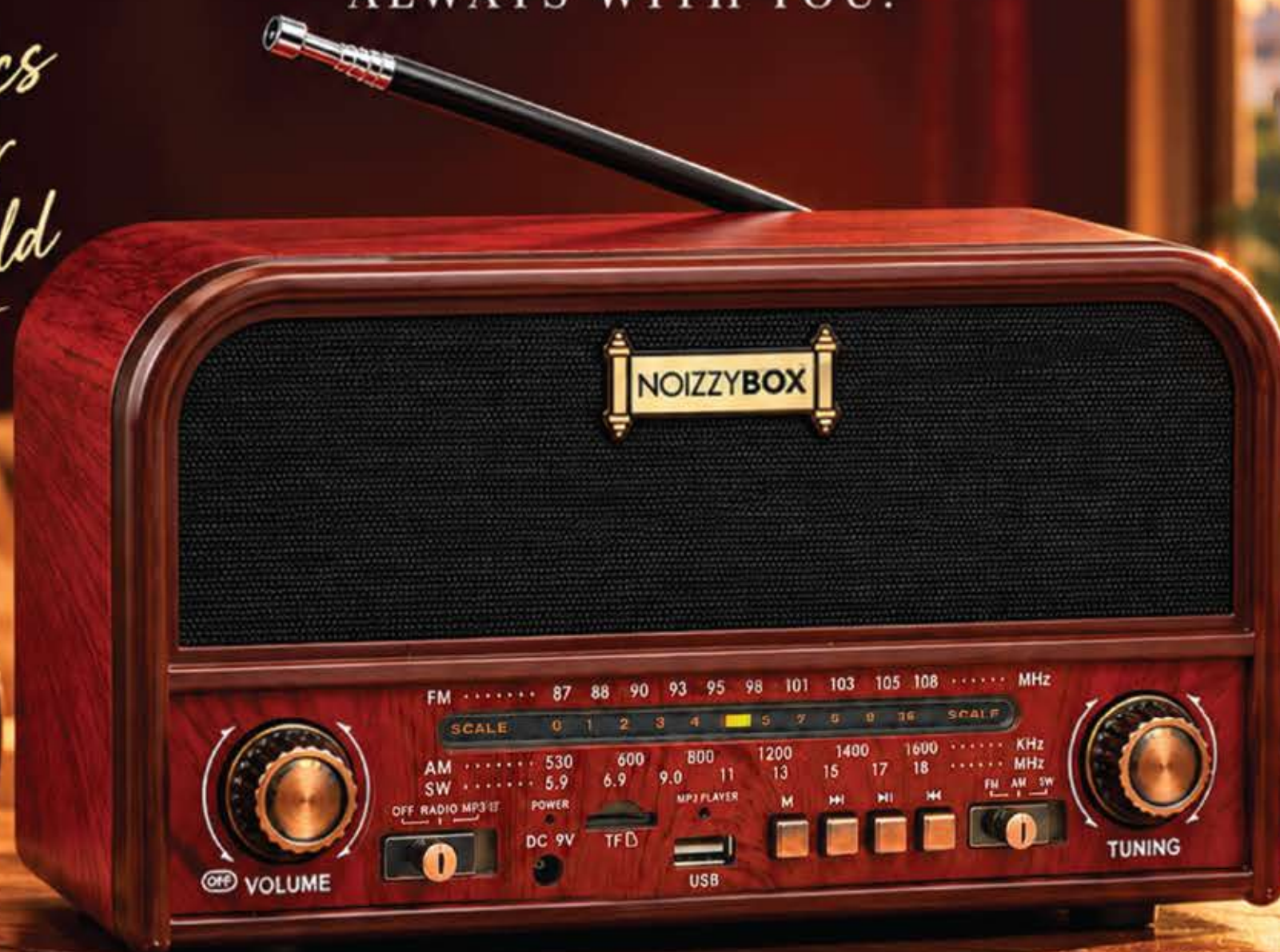
Distance and drive: Around 230-260 km; 4-4.5 hours.

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