



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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XI APPOINTS SENIOR DIPLOMAT XU FEIHONG AS NEW ENVOY TO INDIA

The appointment comes after a long delay of 18 months amid frozen relations between the two countries over the military standoff in Ladakh

TO TAKE CHARGE BEFORE POLL RESULTS COME

While there is no official announcement yet, the Chinese foreign ministry has confirmed that Xu, former Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan and Romania, has been appointed as China's new envoy in India, PTI reported on Tuesday. Reports indicate that Xu, 60, will travel to New Delhi soon and will assume charge before the Lok Sabha election results are declared



POST LYING VACANT SINCE OCTOBER 2022

- Xu will succeed veteran Chinese diplomat Sun Weidong, who completed his tenure in India in October 2022. Sun, who was China's envoy to Pakistan before his India stint, is currently China's vice-minister for foreign affairs
- A posting to New Delhi is considered prestigious and highly sought after among Chinese diplomats because it could lead to faster career progression

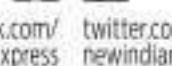


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THE LAST TIME THERE WAS SUCH A LONG GAP IN THE POSTING OF A CHINESE ENVOY IN INDIA

Haryana govt in a minority as 3 Inds exit

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

THE Nayab Singh Saini-led Haryana government was on Tuesday reduced to a minority as three independent lawmakers withdrew their support, triggering a political crisis.

Technically, the government will not fall immediately since there has to be a gap of six months between confidence votes. The last trust vote was on March 12 after Saini replaced Manohar Lal Khattar as CM. However, the Congress went for the BJP's jugular, demanding President's rule.

The three independents are Sombir Sangwan (Dadri), Rangbir Gollen (Pundri) and Dharampal Gonder (Nilokheri). They said they will support the Congress during the LS polls.

The trio made the announcement at Rohtak in the presence of the Leader of Opposition and former Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Haryana Congress president Uday Bhan. "We took the decision because of various issues, including those related to farmers. Till Khattar was CM, we supported the BJP. Sadly, he is not in power," Gonder said.

The independents were disgruntled after being denied berths in the Saini cabinet.

Average turnout again in 3rd phase

Overall voting percentage 63.53%, says EC

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

MARKING another dip in voter turnout, the third phase of the Lok Sabha election on Tuesday recorded average polling of 63.53% across 93 seats in 11 states and Union territories. The same 93 seats had polled 67.33% in 2019. While Assam had the highest turnout at 77.06%, Goa came second at 75.13% and West Bengal at 73.96%. UP witnessed the lowest at 57.34%, while Bihar polled 58.16% Gujarat 57.62%, Maharashtra 61.44%, Chhattisgarh 70.05%, Karnataka 69.65% and MP 66.05%.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were among those who exercised their franchise in Gujarat. In the third phase, stakes are high for the BJP as it had won 71 of the 93 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

While the BJP is looking to repeat its stunning 2019 performance, the states in focus will be Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat. All 26 seats in Gujarat, 14



seats in Karnataka and 11 seats in Maharashtra are up for grabs in the third phase.

The BJP is facing a crucial test in Karnataka, where it won 27 of 28 LS seats in 2019. However, the party lost the assembly elections in 2023. As BJP is facing heat over the alleged sex scandal involving Prajwal Revanna, the Hassan candidate of BJP-JDS alliance, the contest in 14 seats is being keenly watched to see if the controversy will impact the BJP.

The NDA had won 7 out of 11 seats in Maharashtra in 2019. Analysts say the split in NCP and Shiv Sena may not augur well for NDA.



Plan on to link 200 waterbodies to save Chennai from flood, drought

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN @ Chennai

TO prevent flooding in Chennai and surrounding areas and to improve the city's water storage capacity, the water resources department (WRD) has planned to link 200 tanks in Adyar and Kovalam river basins.

According to WRD officials, the initiative is aimed at preventing flooding during monsoon in Chennai, particularly in places such as Tambar-

am, Mudichur, and Mannavakkam. A senior official said 90% of city's rainwater flows into the sea due to lack of adequate storage structures, and linking of waterbodies will help address the issue.

Another official said 134 of 196 tanks in Adyar basin and 66 of 120 tanks in Kovalam basin have been identified for inter-linking through 'cut and cover' method based on a survey of the two basins spread across

Chennai, Kancheepuram, and Chengalpattu districts. Under the 'cut and cover' method, instead of acquiring land for building open channels or to restore encroached canals, covered structure will be built below the ground level to carry excess water from one tank to another. Since the structure would be covered, the possibility of encroachment of water channels would be eliminated. This would also help reduce cost and speedy execution of the project, sources said.

EXPRESS READ

Four killed as car rams stationary truck in TN

Ariyalur: Four people from Thanjavur returning from a temple event in Perambalur in a car died after the vehicle rammed into a stationary truck on the Ariyalur-Thanjavur NH in Ariyalur district on Tuesday evening | P2

Maya removes nephew Akash as successor

LUCKNOW: BSP chief Mayawati on Tuesday said she is divesting her nephew Akash Anand of his responsibilities as the party's national co-ordinator and her successor, barely five months after she had anointed him

Maratha stir to upset poll calculations in Beed

SUDHIR SURYAWANSI @ Mumbai

THE contest in Maharashtra's Beed Lok Sabha constituency, the bastion of the Munde family, is all set to go down to the wire on May 13 as a confluence of factors is threatening to upset conservative electoral calculations.

Beed has been represented by the Munde family since 2009. This time, the BJP has denied ticket to sitting MP Pritam Munde, daughter of late popular leader Gopinath Munde, and instead



fielded her sister Pankaja Munde, who is facing tough challenge from Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP's candidate) Bajrang Sonwane.

Pankaja was a minister in BJP-led government in Maharashtra from 2014 to 2019, but she lost the 2019 assembly elections to her cousin Dhananjay Munde, who is now a minister in the NCP (Ajit Pawar) government in Maharashtra. Interestingly, Dhananjay is Pankaja's star campaigner in 2024.

As for Sonwane, he lost the



ILLUSTRATION: MANDAR PARDIKAR

Pankaja Munde vs Bajrang Sonwane

2019 LS election to Pritam Munde by 1.5 lakh votes. He believes he has a better chance

this time as the Maratha quota issue is fast emerging as a deciding factor. The Maratha voters are said to be backing Sonwane while Pankaja has a better connect with the OBCs.

"Maratha voters' polarisation was always an issue but the fragmentation helped Munde family by triggering consolidation of OBC communities. But in 2024, it's different," said a local journalist.

Expressing similar views, a political observer said the challenges before Pankaja are formidable.

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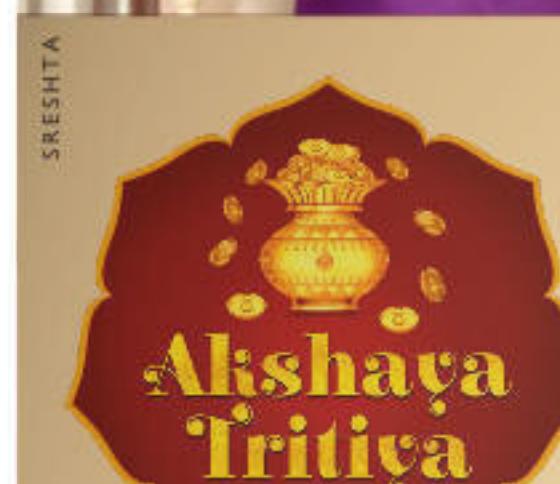
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21 µg/m³

The PM2.5 level recorded at Alandur on Tuesday. Nitrogen dioxide level was at 20 µg/m³ against the prescribed standard of 80 µg/m³

NEWS UPDATE FROM TN
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newindianexpress.com

Dogs which attacked five-year-old girl shifted to Madurai farmhouse

Owners must daily send photos of dogs to corp for the next 10 days to monitor for rabies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@Chennai

EVEN as the Chennai corporation was expected to take custody of the two dogs that attacked a five-year-old girl on Sunday evening, the family, after obtaining due permission, took the dogs to their farmhouse in Madurai.

Official sources said they had allowed this relocation since the farmhouse is a secluded open area, and not too different from the place the corporation officials had originally planned to keep the dogs in. The civic body, by itself, does not have the resources to take custody of dogs and maintain them, except at the Animal Birth Control facilities where dogs undergo surgeries and are then released back into the areas they come from.

"The family had taken due permission and they have also been asked to send us photographs of the dogs every day



The GCC park at Nungambakkam where Suraksha was grievously injured after two pet dogs of a local resident attacked her on Sunday evening | P JAWAHAR

for the next 10 days to monitor any signs of rabies as per protocol," said a senior corporation official. The plan initially was for the corporation authorities to secure the dogs and take them to a sequestered spot for observation.

While there is a call for

stricter pet licensing implementation in the aftermath of the issue, the authorities said pet licenses only help the city corporation enumerate and keep track of the pets in the city and their vaccination records. "While we are revisiting the stray dog population

strategies, it is important to ensure responsible pet ownership."

Owners should be mindful of the fears of the public and not take any risks as far as safety is concerned. Vaccinations must be administered at the right time," the official added. They are also mulling setting up designated spaces for pets like exclusive parks, which may be brought about once the model code of conduct is lifted.

Suraksha's surgery tomorrow

The five-year-old child who suffered severe injuries in the attack, Suraksha, is scheduled for surgery on Thursday. "She sustained some injuries to her scalp, but the blood supply seems to be regular. The surgery is due on Thursday and in the meantime, she is not in intensive care. She is recovering well," said sources. The medical expenses of the child are borne by the dog owner.

Doctors save Bangladeshi woman's limb

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@Chennai

DOCTORS at Kauvery Hospital have performed a limb preservation surgery on a 29-year-old woman from Bangladesh who was diagnosed with an aggressive form of giant cell tumour in the right bottom part of her thigh bone, which led to a fracture.

The woman came to the hospital with complaints of persistent pain and swelling in her right knee. She had been enduring discomfort for two months, and the pain progressively worsened and got exacerbated by movement. This affected her daily routine leading her to go into depression, according to a press release.

After tests, doctors diagnosed a fracture caused by a giant cell tumour. The doctors then performed a limb preservation surgery, in which the right bottom part of her thigh bone was replaced. This helped in the removal of the tumour and restored her mobility. She has regained her ability to walk, the release added.

The woman came to the hospital with complaints of persistent pain and swelling in her right knee. She had been enduring discomfort for two months, and the pain progressively worsened

Kauvery Hospital release



MEAN STREETS

A homeless woman takes cover under a cardboard sheet to escape from the scorching sun in Chennai | PRAVIKUMAR

SFI holds protest outside US consulate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

AT least 28 members of the Student Federation of India (SFI) were detained by the city police for allegedly protesting near the American Consulate on Tuesday morning. They were protesting against the United States for extending support to

Israel in the latter's ongoing war against Palestine. All the detained persons were let go on station bail in the evening.

SFI had sought permission from the city police to stage a protest outside the consulate. But the police refused it and said they could stage a protest at Valluvar Kottam or at Rajarathinam Stadium. The SFI,

however, decided to stage a protest outside the consulate and the police deployed nearly 250 personnel near the spot. In the morning, SFI members gathered near the consulate with placards and raised slogans. Since they were protesting without permit and were marching towards the consulate, police detained them

EXPRESS READ

Special SI drunk while on poll duty, suspended

Vellore: District Superintendent of Police M N Manivannan on Tuesday ordered the suspension of Bagayam Special Sub-Inspector (SSI) Venkatesan for allegedly being involved in a drunken altercation while on LS election duty. Official sources said on the evening of polling day (April 19), the SSI and other officials were transporting VVPAT machines in a vehicle. During then, Venkatesan quarrelled with a booth officer, allegedly in a drunken state. Video and photo evidence of the incident were later submitted to the authorities, and consequently, Venkatesan was relieved of his duties and a replacement was appointed, sources said. ENS

Dr Agarwal's hospital doc ranked 17th among top ophthalmologists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

SOOSAN Jacob, Director and Chief of Refractive and Cornea Foundation and Senior Consultant of Cataract and Glaucoma Services at Dr Agarwal's

Group of Hospitals has been ranked 17th in the Ophthalmologist Power List 2024 for her innovative contributions to the field of ophthalmology. According to a press release, Dr Jacob is one of the only two Indians to find a place in the annual

ranking of 100 most influential clinicians, scientists and leaders in ophthalmology. The power list is compiled by 'The Ophthalmologist', an international publication dedicated to the field. The selection is based on national and international rec-

ognition among peers, the release added. Dr Amar Agarwal, Chairman of Dr Agarwal's Group of Eye Hospitals said it is a proud moment for the hospital to have Dr Soosan recognised as among the world's top 20 influencers in her field.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that we have been accorded environmental clearance by State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for Proposed Expansion of commercial Tower in the Existing Mall at T.S.Nos.5/2, 5/3, 6/2 & 6/3 of Velachery Village, Guindy-Mambalam Taluk Chennai District, Tamil Nadu. The copies of the said clearance available in Tamilnadu Pollution control Board (TNPB) and also can be seen in the website http://environmentalclearance.nic.in/Staterecord.aspx?State_Name=Tamil%20Nadu (Lt.No SEIAA-TN/F.No.9583/8(b)/ EC.No:1009/2022, dated: 14.02.2024)

Mrs. Classic Mall Development Company Limited, Mrs. Classic Housing Projects Private Limited, Mrs. Starboard Hotels Private Limited, No 142, Velachery Main Road, Chennai- 600 042

WESTERN RAILWAY

ELECTRICAL WORK

Sr. DEEP/BCT, invites Tender Notice No.: EL 81/7_881/WAI/1 dated 02.05.2024. Work and location : Mumbai Central - Electrical work in connection with Mumbai Central CFO Yard extension of existing sick line. Approx. cost of work Rs.: 5,04,88,919/- Cost of Bid Security Rs.: 4,02,500/- Date/ Time of submission: Till 06.06.2024, 15.00 hrs. Time & Date of opening: On 06.06.2024 at 15.30 hrs. NOTE: Please visit our website www.irps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. 0104 Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRwy

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POSSESSION NOTICE

(Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd., having its Administrative Office at No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam-612001 and one of the Branch Offices at 1-B, Roja Nagar, Red Hills High Road, Bazaar Street, Madhavaram, Chennai, Thiruvallur - 600060 - Chennai Madhavaram Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2)(d)(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 29.01.2024 calling upon the Borrowers No.1.Mrs.Saravana Oil Store, No. 25, Mariamman Kovil Street, Madhavaram, Chennai - 600060. No.2 Mr.B.Saravanam, S/o.Balaraman, No.1/82, Bajajai Koli Street, Sirungavoor, Chennai - 600052 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.17,97,315/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Fifteen Only) within 60 days from the date of the said notice with subsequent interest thereon from 23.01.2024 with monthly rests.

The Borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 3rd day of May 2024.

The Borrowers above named 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 City Union Bank Ltd., for an amount of Rs.17,40,275/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Forty Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Five Only) and interest thereon from 06.04.2024 till the repayment of entire dues.

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

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY/IES

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule A Property 1 (Property Owned By S.Hema)
Property Description: All that piece and parcel of Superstructure together land bearing Plot No. 16 "Shanthi Colony" Comprised in Patta No.815 in Survey No. 137/2 and 137/3 Part, Situated in No. 13, Pulli Line Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District, Measuring to an extent of 1350 Sq ft and Bounded on North by : 20 feet Wide road, South by : Plot No.17, East by : 23 Feet Wide road and West by : Plot No.15. Measuring on : North by : 45 Feet South by : 45 Feet East by : 30 Feet and West by : 30 Feet Situated in the Registration District of Thiruvallur and Sub-Registration District of Red Hills. Place: Chennai Date: 03.05.2024

Authorised Officer
Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamilnadu - 612001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435 - 2402322, Fax: 0435 - 2431746, Website : www.cityunionbank.com

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RULE - 8 (1) POSSESSION NOTICE

(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the State Bank of India under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (No.3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 06.01.2024 calling upon the borrower Shri.Mohanraj A/S/Arumugam, Bajajai Koli Street, Guler Village, Kanchipadi, Tiruttani Taluk, Tiruvallur Dist. Pin: 631204 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.15,80,031/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Eighty Thousand and Thirty one only) (ABL A/c No. 38636602730 - Rs. 10,50,819 & KCC A/c No. 38636599522 - Rs. 5,29,212/-) as on 06.01.2024 and further interest from 07.01.2024, cost, etc.thereon, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 6th day of May of the year 2024.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of Rs.16,39,168/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Eight only) (ABL A/c No. 38636602730 - Rs. 10,87,414/- & KCC A/c No. 38636599522 - Rs. 5,51,754/-) as on 06.05.2024 and further interest from 07.05.2024, cost, etc.thereon.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Tiruvallur District, Tiruttani Taluk, Tiruttani SRO in No.42, Guler Village, the ground and the RCC terraced House thereon, bearing Door No.35. Comprised in Purja S.F.No.86/1, New SF No.227/3. Bounded on the East by : Street, West by : Pachayappa's Naidu's land, North by : Common Plot, South by : Pachayappa's Naidu plot

PLACE : ARAKKONAM DATE : 06.05.2024 AUTHORIZED OFFICER (STATE BANK OF INDIA)

Heatwave ends in TN, city sees marginal dip in mercury level

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@Chennai

THE worst of the summer heat is over as the maximum temperature has dipped across Tamil Nadu, thanks to pre-monsoon showers.

The weather in Chennai has improved marginally with cloudy skies. Maximum temperature will be around 36-37 degree Celsius for the next two days. Tamil Nadu has received 69% deficit rainfall from March 1 to May 7. The Chennai region has received zero rainfall making it one of the driest spells in the state capital. On Tuesday, Tiruchirappalli recorded the highest temperature of 42.1 degree Celsius.

While the State has not received any significant rainfall, places in Nilgiris, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and other interior districts, which endured one of the torrid heatwave spells, received good rainfall in the last couple of days bringing down the temperature. The regional meteorological centre said there would be heavy rainfall in ghat and interior districts on May 8 and 9 as well. As per the forecast, Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Theni, Dindigul, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, Erode, Salem, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Tirupattur, Vellore and Virudhunagar districts would receive heavy rain on Wednesday. Moderate showers are predicted till May 13.

CRIME FILE

Elderly woman stabbed to death at Ennore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@Chennai

help of his friends," a police officer said.

On Monday night, Jeevaraja and his friends went in search of Vignesh, but could not find him. So they decided to look for Mahesh. They went to his house, but Mahesh also was not there. The gang found Bakkiyam sitting outside. In a fit of rage, they attacked her with knives and fled," police said. Her neighbours rushed her to a private hospital nearby and subsequently, she was referred to Government Stanley Hospital where she was declared dead.

The deceased woman, A Bakkiyam (65), was a small-time money-lender in the locality. The three men went to her house at Ennore in search of Magi alias Mahesh (24). Mahesh was the husband of Bakkiyam's granddaughter and was living with them. "In March this year, Mahesh along with his friends, Vignesh, Santhosh, Hariharan and Ranjith attacked Jeevaraja in a dispute involving a girl in their locality. The police then arrested the gang and sent them to prison. They got out on bail a few weeks ago. To avenge the attack, Jeevaraja plotted to assault the gang with the

Avadi Police Commissionerate jurisdiction within a month. On April 15, an armed gang robbed a jewellery shop in Muthupet and escaped with gold worth ₹1.5 crore and ₹5 lakh in cash. Four people were arrested by the police. On April 27, a history sheet was hacked to death due to previous enmity. His hands and head were severed. Six people were arrested in this case. On April 28, a husband-wife duo was hacked to death inside house by a man who was arrested the next day.

Chennai: Avadi Commissionerate Police destroyed a total of 195.42 kg of ganja at a private facility in Chengalpattu on Monday. The contraband was seized in connection with as many as 61 cases | EXPRESS

50 sovereigns stolen from house in Avadi

Chennai: An unidentified gang

burged gold weighing 50

sovereign

3.25 FSI for buildings in integrated townships planned to boost growth

New policy in final stage; govt to promote townships through significant pvt investments

C SHIVAKUMAR @Chennai

THE state government is mulling on increasing floor space index (FSI) to over 3.25 in integrated townships, which it is planning to promote with significant investment from private sector, through the new policy it is finalising for integrated townships.

At present, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority has set the FSI for residential buildings at 1.5 and 2 in most areas while for commercial buildings it can go up to 3. Sources said CMDA is thinking about increasing the maximum floor space index to 6.5 in the Transit Oriented Development (ToD) area along the Chennai Metro Rail and MRTS corridor and developers could push for higher FSI.

According to sources, the normal applicable FSI in integrated townships will be based on the road width as applicable under Tamil Nadu Combined Development and Building Rules (TNCDR). However, officials are considering a flexible



File picture of building projects in Chennai | EXPRESS

FSI so that balance unutilised FSI at one site can be used in another site within the same integrated township.

Over and above the FSI as prescribed in TNCDR, sources said, an additional FSI of 0.1 may be provided for the houses to be built in the townships for economically weaker sections, in addition to the 10% of minimum requirement for EWS.

Srinivas Ankipatti, Senior Director, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, Knight Frank India, said developers could be demanding an even higher FSI to what is proposed under the policy. Though the state lacks proper

integrated townships, it has few residential townships developed by Hiranandani and SPR group, which could be converted into integrated townships by adding amenities mandated. Integrated townships inside city could be built on 25 acres while on peripheries it could go up to 100 to 200 acres or beyond.

Dr Niranjan Hiranandani, Chairman, Hiranandani Group, said, "Integrated townships will propel economic growth, attract investment and boost employment. After the pandemic, interests of home-buyers are skewed towards such integrated township model in quest of

better integrated living with community benefits. Gated projects attract all segments of home-owners. Buyers will benefit from such township projects as it caters to their preferences in terms of education, healthcare, entertainment and retail all at one stop destination. This will have a multiplier effect on GDP growth."

Similarly, the draft integrated policy, which was prepared by the State Planning Commission, has proposed to provide a green channel / single window clearance system for developers who want to establish and operate a project of the size of an integrated township.

In places where land use conversion is needed to ensure availability of large pieces of contiguous lands, re-classification will be decided by the Empowered Committee for Integrated Townships to be formed by the government, sources said. However, the biggest challenge will be to amend the Town and Country Planning Act. The present Act does not provide for Township policy, sources said.

EXPRESS READ

DMK govt has delivered on its promises: CM

Chennai: CM MK Stalin released a 3.42-minute video titled 'Idhu sollatchi alla, seyalatchi' (This is not a government of words, but one of action) to mark the completion of three years of the DMK government. In the video, he lists out achievements of the government. On X platform, he shared a video in which beneficiaries of schemes like Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam, free bus travel, Naan Mudhalvan, CM's breakfast scheme, Thozhi and others share their thoughts. The DMK's IT wing released a 4.53-minute animation video on the welfare measures of the government.

Stalin felicitates trans woman, caste violence victim



Chennai: CM MK Stalin on Tuesday met A Nivetha, the trans woman from Chennai who cleared plus two examinations, and the Nanguneri caste violence victim, M Chinnadurai, who scored 78% at the secretariat and congratulated them. Talking to reporters, Nivetha said Stalin assured to take care of the entire higher education expenses of both of them.



Sudden windstorm destroyed thousands of banana trees in Musiri block in Tiruchy district | EXPRESS

Gale uproots over 5k banana trees in Avinashi villages

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tiruppur/Tiruchi

AT least 5,000 banana trees were uprooted by strong winds in several villages in Avinashi on Saturday and Sunday night. Sources said harvest-ready trees were uprooted in just 10 minutes of the wind in Vettuvapalayam, Sevur, Muriyandampalayam, Thandukaranpalayam and Alathur. Many villages with small banana plantations in Kalipalayam, Mudiyar were also affected in Avinashi.

Speaking to TNIE, P Nanda Kumar (37), a farmer in Thandukaranpalayam, said, "Around 1,400 banana trees in my farmland were destroyed. Almost all of them were seven months old. I spent more than ₹2 lakh for tilling, fertilizer and maintenance. I was about to harvest, but the wind destroyed them. Not just my farmland, several farmers near my plantation were also affected. The worst part is even for clearing the fallen trees and preparing the land for fresh crop a huge investment is needed. I have to spend at least ₹20,000-25,000 per acre. If unripe bananas aren't destroyed, they will be sold for one third of the price to chips

makers." An official from the horticulture department said, "These areas are vulnerable to strong wind movements. In the last two years, several hundred banana trees have been uprooted. But we cannot predict the weather and other environmental conditions. We are waiting for a report from revenue offi-

Lot of crops damaged

Banana trees in Thottiam and Kattuputhur areas of Tiruchi district were also uprooted by strong wind on Sunday. Crops in villages like Manjamedu, Nathamedu, Seelaipillaiyar Puthur, Sri Ramasamudram and Kaduvetti villages in Musiri taluk have suffered lot of damage.

partment will move to GeoTag the location. Revenue inspectors and village administrative officers are deployed in each village. Officials will be assessing the areas and crops damaged and submit a report to the collector. After the approval from chief revenue administrator (Chennai), compensation will be announced".

Tiruchi

Banana trees in Thottiam and Kattuputhur areas of Tiruchi district were also uprooted by strong wind on Sunday. Crops in villages like Manjamedu, Nathamedu, Seelaipillaiyar Puthur, Sri Ramasamudram and Kaduvetti villages in Musiri taluk have suffered lot of damage.

The strong wind also destroyed betel vine crops cultivated on around 5 acres in Thottiam block, and damaged 50 coconut trees and maize crops on over 2 acres in Kattuputhur.

On receiving information, Musiri DMK MLA N Thiagarajan inspected the fields and assured the farmers of compensation from the government. Officials have assured to conduct an enumeration soon to ascertain the extent of loss.

Legal team visits jail to probe 'torture' of 'Savukku' Shankar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Coimbatore/Chennai

FOLLOWING allegations that YouTuber 'Savukku' Shankar was tortured by Coimbatore Central Prison personnel, a five-member team headed by D Shambugavel, chief legal aid defence counsel of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and two doctors, visited the prison and held an investigation on Tuesday. The report will be submitted before the Judicial Magistrate - IV on Wednesday.

Talking to reporters at the court, Shankar's counsel S Gopalakrishnan alleged that his client was denied treatment for the hand fracture and was suffering in pain. The counsel showed an order copy given to the prison authority by Theni police for effecting arrest in a case related to Shankar and two others possessing ganja while they were staying in Theni on Saturday. Shankar had acknowledged receipt of the order affixing his left thumb impression instead of signing. "Shankar did so because his right hand is fractured following the assault," Gopalakrishnan said.

Responding to the allegation, the prison department in a release said, no prisoner has been assaulted. In another development, the fourth judicial magistrate court in Coimbatore on Tuesday post-

ed to hear the bail plea submitted by Shankar on charges of making derogatory remarks, on May 10. The magistrate ordered that police petition seeking custody will be heard on May 9.

The cyber crime wing of CCB Chennai too registered a case against Shankar based on a complaint lodged by journalist Sandhya Ravishankar in 2018.

In a post on X, she said Shankar had made derogatory comments against her in a blog post.

Earlier, the head of the Tamil Munnetra Padai Veeralakshmi lodged a complaint against Shankar and Felix Gerald of Red Pix for making derogatory comments about women cops based on which both men have been booked.

Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act and the Information Technology Act, 2000.

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'Savukku' Shankar's advocate S Gopalakrishnan talking to reporters at the district court in Coimbatore on Tuesday evening | EXPRESS



Mom files habeas for judicial probe into 'assault'

R SIVAKUMAR @Chennai

ALLEGING that prison authorities had thrashed 'Savukku' Shankar inflicting grievous injuries, his mother A Kamala moved a habeas corpus petition at the Madras High Court seeking judicial probe into the alleged custodial violence and providing him proper treatment at a private hospital.

She said her son had earned the wrath of the government and corrupt officials by exposing scams of land mafia and

that of white-collar criminals acting hand-in-glove with many bureaucrats. This was the reason for slapping false charges against him, she said.

Stating that she came to know through Shankar's lawyer that he was 'brutally attacked' by jail wardens resulting in severe injuries and a fracture in the right hand, Kamala alleged that her son was beaten up with a steel pipe

and injuries were made to appear as if they were sustained in an accident.

Contending that the incidents made it clear that the violence took place under the supervision of senior prison officials, she said officials did not arrange for proper treatment, thereby violating fundamental rights guaranteed to a person by the Constitution.

Kamala prayed for a direc-

tion to the authorities concerned to conduct a 'judicial inquiry' regarding the 'custodial violence' and to provide 'adequate medical treatment' for Shankar at a private hospital.

Shankar was arrested by the Coimbatore city police on May 4 after registering an FIR under IPC and Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act and the Information Technology Act for allegedly denigrating women police personnel and a top officer.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE state government has been providing three-phase power supply for 12 to 16 hours every day throughout the state to farmers without any interruption since assuming office in 2021. Minister for Finance, Human Resources and Electricity Thangam Thennarasu said in a statement on Tuesday.

The release comes in the backdrop of AI-ADMK general secretary and leader of opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami criticising the government for allegedly failing to ensure three-phase power supply to farmers.

Thennarasu said, "Under the previous AI-ADMK regime, delta regions received three-phase power supply for 12 hours every day while the other areas received it for only 9 hours. We prioritised farmers' welfare and have been supplying power for 12 to 16 hours every day throughout the state. As a result, agriculture production has increased in Tamil Nadu," he said.

said.

As regards challenges faced during summer, he said electricity consumption has risen, especially in delta districts where agricultural power use peaks at night, causing disruption in some high-tension power lines. Steps are being taken in these areas on a war footing to address disruptions and extend the three-phase power supply for more hours. To mitigate low-voltage risks, integrated development plans were initiated in July 2021. A survey revealed that a total of 5,705 transformers were overloaded and 3,200 were functioning with low voltage. To address this, as many as 8,905 additional transformers were installed under the Integrated Development Project inaugurated by Chief Minister MK Stalin in August 2021, enhancing grid capacity by 652 MVA," he said.

Thennarasu highlighted that three-phase power is also being supplied round the clock for combined drinking water projects across the state.

I don't owe Jeyakumar any money, says Thangkabalu; MLA Ruby grilled

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tirunelveli

A special police team conducted an inquiry with former TNCC president KV Thangkabalu at a hotel in Tirunelveli city, and Nanguneri MLA Ruby Manoharan at a private college in Thoothukudi district on Tuesday in connection with the suspicious death of Tirunelveli East District Congress president Jeyakumar Dhansingh.

Speaking to media persons after the inquiry, Thangkabalu denied any involvement in the death and said he has given a written statement to the police. "Jeyakumar's claim, in his purported dying declaration, that I



owe him money is a lie. There was no need for me to seek money from him. I have cooperated well with the police officials," Thangkabalu said.

He said he had arrived in

Tirunelveli for Lok Sabha poll works as per TNCC's instructions. "I coordinated the party functionaries in Tirunelveli for election activities. Ahead of that, I was part of poll works in Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem and Kallakkurichi," Thangkabalu said, and added that he was the first one to have offered a party post to Jeyakumar.

Further, the police received Jeyakumar's postmortem report from Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, and a copy has been sent to Chennai for expert opinion. Superintendent of Police N Silambarasan and a team of DSPs also conducted an inquiry with Jeyakumar's family.

FASTag fee collected in cash, NHAI to pay ₹25K fine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Madurai

THE District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Madurai recently directed the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to pay compensation of ₹25,000 for collecting FASTag fee in cash from a user when the system failed to detect his tag.

The commission, chaired by its president M Piravi Perumal and member P Shanmugapriya, also directed NHAI to pay an additional ₹10,000 to the complainant.

The petitioner Martin David, vice-principal of American College was travelling to Sivakasi on official duty and passed through the Kappalur tollgate in September 2020 where the system failed to detect his



The staff had collected cash when the system failed to detect his tag | EXPRESS

FASTag. Even though his FASTag account had sufficient funds, the toll plaza employees forced him to pay cash, ill-treated him and made him wait, David's petitioner Dinesh Kumar said.

While returning to Madurai from Sivakasi through the same tollgate, the petitioner was subject to the same ordeal again, despite alerting the FASTag issuer bank SBI's helpline about the issue.

NHAI submitted that the tollgate was maintained by a private entity to collect toll, and faulted SBI for deficiency in service. It also refused the claim that the toll plaza employees quarrelled with the petitioner. SBI submitted that the fault was due to NHAI's scanner issues and not their issue.

After considering the contentions of the parties, the commission's president M Piravi Perumal stated that the petitioner had a valid and efficient FASTag with sufficient balance. It highlighted the road transport and highways ministry's notification that if a car's FASTag is valid and functional, but is not detected by the scanners at a toll plaza, then the vehicle owner need not pay any fee. In such cases, the vehicle

owner is exempted from paying the toll and the vehicles can exit the plaza free of cost.

"In this case, the petitioner should have been allowed to leave without paying, but NHAI employees violated the notification and collected the charge, and also ill-treated the petitioner for raising a grievance. The employees caused mental distress and indignation to the complainant. Moreover, NHAI is liable as the employees and/or the contractor was appointed by them," the commission stated.

The commission dismissed the negligence of other respondents, including SBI, and directed NHAI to pay compensation of ₹25,000 for the mental agony and pain suffered by the petitioner.

Interpol alerts 196 countries against MP Prajwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@Bengaluru

RESPONDING to a request by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) through the CBI to issue Blue Corner Notice against Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, accused No. 2 in the Hassan sex scandal case, International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) on Monday reportedly alerted all 196 member countries to identify and report if the MP is spotted in their jurisdiction.

Prajwal, who has a diplomatic passport, needs no visa to travel abroad. Prajwal has booked a return ticket to Bengaluru from Munich on May 15 and will be landing in the city on May 16.

HDK turns guns on Rahul for 'mass rapist' comment

Former Chief Minister and JDS



JDS president H D Kumaraswamy met press on Tuesday and alleged that the SIT is a puppet in the hands of CM Siddaramaiah and DyCM Shivakumar | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

chief H D Kumaraswamy on Tuesday made a scathing attack on senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for stating that Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna had allegedly raped over 400 women, in-

cluding minors, and referring to him as "mass rapist".

"DCM DK Shivakumar is allegedly responsible for distributing the pen drive containing sleazy videos, and should be suspended from the cabinet as he doesn't deserve that post," he urged. He said he would approach Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, seeking a judicial probe into the case, and also anticipates the court will hand over the case to the CBI.

SIT probe a calculated witch hunt against me: Revanna

Holenarsipur JDS MLA HD Revanna, an accused in the sexual harassment case, on Tuesday alleged that the statement given by the Deputy Chief Minister to the media and the Chief Minister writing to the PM clearly indicated that the SIT in-

vestigation was nothing but a calculated witch hunt aimed at humiliating him and his family members. Revanna stated this in his bail petition filed before the special court on Tuesday.

JDS men demand DKS ouster over circulation of pen drive

JDS workers took out a rally against Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar for allegedly circulating pen drives containing obscene videos and pictures of Hassan NDA candidate Prajwal Revanna.

Raising slogans against Shivakumar in Hassan on Tuesday, hundreds of workers commenced their march from the Hemavathi statue to the deputy commissioner's office where they presented the memorandum to Deputy Commissioner C Satyabhamma.



The public meeting venue at Karimnagar, where Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was scheduled to speak, completely collapsed due to heavy rain on Tuesday | EXPRESS

Defer Rythu Bharosa, orders ECI, but Reddy to 'keep word'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hyderabad

ment under the Rythu Bharosa was a clear violation of Model Code of Conduct and directing to release the funds only after the election day, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy challenged BRS supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao that he would release the funds before May 9 as duly abiding by his word to the farmers.

"KCR you note this down, come to Telangana Martyrs Memorial on May 9. The funds will reach where it is supposed to reach. Let us see whether I abide by my word or not," Revanth said.

He called upon the Telangana farmers to refuse the BRS and BJP "conspiracies" to stop disbursement of Rythu Bharosa funds. The Chief Minister was addressing a street corner meeting in Warangal campaigning for his party's contestant Kadimam Kavya. Revanth reached Warangal by road after cancelling his campaigning meeting in Karimnagar.

Collector urges kids who failed Class 12 to clear exam promptly

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Virudhunagar

IN a bid to encourage the students who failed to pass the Class 12 examination, District Collector VP Jeyaseelan organised a career guidance programme in Virudhunagar and advised the students to finish their exam within a month. Citing various role models, who embraced success despite facing failures, Jeyaseelan advised the students that education was a continuous process, which is not merely restricted to scoring high in plus two exams. Addressing students, Jeyaseelan said, "Failures teach us lot of lessons. However, it is essential to awaken ourselves from failures and start climbing the ladder of success." One of the students, who failed in the Class 12 exam, told TNIE that usually only successful students get the opportunity to meet the collector. "However, this time, the collector scripted history by meeting the ones who failed and this has inspired me to continue my studies," he added.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION
BEFORE THE RECOVERY OFFICER
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III AT CHENNAI
6th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastri Bhavan,
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006 Ph: 044 - 2849 8182
Dated : 06.05.2024
In the matter of
Karur Vysya Bank Limited, Kodambakkam Branch
Vs-
M/s. Chennai Shipping Ltd & 6 Others ...Defendant / Certificate Debtors
To
1. M/s. Chennai Shipping Ltd, Rep by its Directors Shri A.S.Ramanathan (Deceased) Shri.R Sekaran (Deceased), Shri.K.Balasubramanian, 'Manoj Villa' Old No.26, New No.10, Zackaria Colony Main Road, Choolaimedu, Chennai-600 094.
2. Mr.R.Sekaran (Deceased)
3. Mr.K.Balasubramanian, S/o Late Sri Krishnaswamy, Flat No.2-J Apartments, 17/80, Warren Road, Mylapore, Chennai-600 004.
4. Mr.Venkataramanan, S/o Late Mr.A.S.Ramanathan, No.57, Sammanna Murthy Avenue, Attiyam Nagar, Sevilmedu, Kancheepuram-631 502
5. Mrs.Uma, D/o Late Mr.A.S.Ramanathan, No.57, Sammanna Murthy Avenue, Attiyam Nagar, Sevilmedu, Kancheepuram-631 502
6. Mr.R.Manoj, S/o Late Mr.R.Sekaran, 'Manoj Villa' Old No.26, New No.10, Zackaria Colony Main Road, Choolaimedu, Chennai-600 094
7. Bank of Maharashtra, Mount Road Branch, 603, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 006
WHEREAS in execution of Recovery Certificate No.277/2018 dated 27.06.2018 in OA No.530/2015 the undersigned has ordered for sale of the undetermined attached immovable property:
You are hereby informed that 3.00 p.m. on the 29.05.2024 has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said property or any portion thereof and also the revenue, if any, assessed upon the property or any part thereof.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

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

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CHANGE OF NAME

MY SON, P. ARULGURU,
born on 12th May 2021,
(District of Birth : Chennai),
residing at No. 7C,
2nd Main Street,
Selvaraj Nagar,
Thirunindravur,
Tiruvallur-602 024,
shall henceforth be known as
P. SHRAVAN
P. Paramaguru (Father).
Tiruvallur, 21st March 2024.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMITHAV
MRITHYUNJAY S R,
S/o. K.Rathi, Indian,
Date of Birth: 21.05.2004
residing at No.5206,
Block-5, TVH Taus,
Egattur OMR,
Chennai-600130,
Shall henceforth be
known as
AMITHAV MRITHYUNJAY R
AMITHAV MRITHYUNJAY S R

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PALANIMUTHU.K
S/o. Karappan R/o. 36/40,
Kanniamman Kovil Street,
Chennai -600098, hereby
declared that my wife name
has been wrongly mention
in my document as
V. MANDUMANI &
MANONMANI,
the correct name
P. MANONMANI. Therefore,
V. MANDUMANI &
MANONMANI &
P. MANONMANI
are same person.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, E. JOYCE KALYANI,
wife of Thiru K. Anburajan,
born on 10th June 1956,
(District of Birth : Chennai),
residing at No. 78/9,
Ponnappa Mudali Street,
Venus Ruby, 1st Floor, F4,
Purasawakkam,
Chennai-600 084,
shall henceforth be known as
JOYCE ANBURAJAN
E. Joyce Kalyani
Chennai, 8th April 2024.

Chennai's water demand may touch 28 tmcft by '30

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: The project, which is awaiting approval from state government, is expected to be rolled out with financial assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, another official said. Chennai's annual water requirement, for both industrial and domestic use, currently pegged at 22 tmcft, is expected to surge to 28 tmcft by 2030 due to population growth and industrial expansion. Augmenting the storage capacity of city's water bodies is thus indispensable to meet future needs, the official said. The official also said that by interlinking the tanks, WRD wants to increase the storage capacity of Chennai's drinking water reservoirs by four tmcft from 13.22 tmcft to 17.22 tmcft.

While the historical records indicate the existence of 3,600 tanks in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kanchipuram, and Chengalpattu districts, WRD currently maintains only fewer than 1,000 tanks in these districts. ENS

Two men test positive for West Nile fever in Thrissur

Thrissur: In the wake of two persons testing positive for West Nile fever in district, health officials have initiated preventive measures, including mosquito eradication. A week ago, a 79-year-old man, who was treated at a private hospital, died due to a viral infection. The presence of the West Nile virus was detected after his death. Similarly, three days ago, a 72-year-old man was confirmed with the disease. ENS

Medico found dead in GH

Salem: A 32-year-old PG student at Salem Government Hospital was found dead in the hospital's common washroom on Tuesday afternoon. Sources suspect the possibility of cardiac arrest. The deceased person was identified as R Arunagiri of Madhurandhagam in Chengalpattu. Salem Town police personnel sent the body for autopsy and began inquiry. ENS

Rain in Salem & Dharmapuri; six cattle die in Krishnagiri

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Salem, Dharmapuri

After temperature reached a blistering 107°F on Monday, Salem district was blessed with a much-needed respite as rainfall swept through the region on Tuesday morning, bringing

an average of 8.74 mm of precipitation.

The rainfall offered a glimmer of hope for the water reservoirs in the area, particularly the Mettur dam. As of 8 am, the dam's water level stood at 52.100 feet, and the storage was 19,160 mcf. Inflow to the dam was 54

cusecs while 1500 cusecs of water was discharged for drinking water requirements. No water is being released into the canals.

Sources in Krishnagiri district disaster management told TNIE, "Since last week, six cattle died in lightning strike at

Shoolagiri, Denkanikottai taluk."

"Three asbestos roof houses were partially damaged in Shoolagiri due to rain and strong wind. On Monday evening, the roof of anganwadi centre was damaged due to wind near Denkanikottai."

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.: NIT/02/24/25, Dated : 06.05.2024, The Principal Chief Materials Manager, Eastern Railway, 17, Netaji Subhas Road, 2nd Floor, Fairlie Place, Kolkata -700011 invites e-tenders for supply of the following items: Sl.No.; Tender No.; Description; Tender Cost; EMD & Tender Opening Date & Time are as follows: 1; 12245188; Procurement of track machine spares; ₹ 0; ₹ 0 8.0 20.2024 at 13.30 hrs; 2; 10245001; Main Transformer 7775 KVA for WAP-7 etc; ₹ 0; ₹ 20,00,000 & 22.05.2024 at 13.30 hrs. 3; 05245018; Engine Oil SAE 15W; ₹ 0; ₹ 0 & 23.05.2024 at 13.30 hrs; 4; 10242514; IOH Kit for ELGI Compressor; ₹ 0; ₹ 3,80,900. 5; 11241657; Procurement of Axle Box Housing finish Machined etc; ₹ 0; ₹ 2,14,010 & 24.05.2024 at 13.30 hrs. (for Sl.No. 4 & each); 6; 15245030; Supply, installation & commissioning of Electric driven Rotary Screw type Air Compressor, Capacity: 500CFM, 10 to 10.5 kg/cm²; etc.; ₹ 0; ₹ 4,15,000 & 27.05.2024 at 13.30 hrs; 7; 20241144; Energy-cum-Speed Monitoring Unit (ESMON) for 25 KV AC EMU & MEMU; ₹ 0; ₹ 1,13,950. 8; 20242187; Procurement of gear case complete for High Horse Power Traction Motor etc.; ₹ 0; ₹ 1,16,390 & 30.05.2024 at 13.30 hrs. (for Sl.No. 7 & each); 9; 21241022; Bogie centre Pivot Top for Casnub Bogie etc.; ₹ 0; ₹ 3,11,230. 10; 21245010; High Capacity Draft Gear Arrangement etc.; ₹ 0; ₹ 4,07,100 & 03.06.2024 at 13.30 hrs. (for Sl.No. 9 & each); 11; 15235157; Supply & commissioning of Air Plasma cutting equipment as per technical specification attached Annexure A; ₹ 0; ₹ 60,130 & 04.06.2024 at 13.30 hrs; 12; 15235055; Procurement of Battery Operated Fork Lift Truck Capacity 5 ton as per KPA Specification No. KELD: 0285-2019, Alt-A; ₹ 0; ₹ 69,890. 13; 15235099; Procurement of Battery Operated Fork lift truck capacity 3T as per Annexure; ₹ 0; ₹ 63,800. 14; 10242167; Set of Inner Labyrinth (DE) for 3 phase etc.; ₹ 0; ₹ 8,2,910 & 27.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)**E-TENDER****TENDER NOTICE NO. DyCE-CN-TBM-01-2024 DATED 04.05.2024**

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaram, Chennai 600 044 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.reps.gov.in. The tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.reps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

Name of the Work: Proposed Third line between Tambaram and Chengalpattu - Proposed construction of S&T Huts, SSE office and Renovation of Dy.CE/CN/TBM office at Tambaram.

Approximate cash value (₹)	Bid Security/EMD (₹)	Period of Completion in Month(s)	Closing Date
16169187.93	230900.00	SIX	15.00 hrs 29.05.2024

For further details, please refer to web site portal www.reps.gov.in or contact Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaram, Chennai 600 044.

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

(Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

All of you the below mentioned Borrowers are hereby informed that the Bank has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the Demand Notices on the dates mentioned below u/s 13(2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post/ack due have been received bank undelivered. All of you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned below within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the Bank will proceed against all of you by exercising its right under Sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, it is needless to mention that the notice is addressed to all of you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank. As security for the repayment of the said loan to Axis Bank Ltd., all of you executed Loan Agreement, and also created equitable mortgage by deposit of title deeds of the property detailed herein below : We draw your attention to Sec 13 (8) of the Securitisation Act as per which, no further steps shall be taken for transfer or sale of the secured asset, if the dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by secured creditor are tendered by you at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer of the secured assets.

SI.No.1 Ref. No.HL/6527 : BORROWERS : 1. Mr. Pandiyani, S/o. Mr. Babu. 2. Mrs.Gayathri, W/o. Mr. Pandiyani, Both residing at : Block 14, P.O G Jai Nathchar Apartments, 82, Union Road, Maduravoyal, Thiruvallur - 600095. **Property Address:** - Flat No. 2, S No. 561/1, Plot No. S No.558/2, 561/3, 1st Floor, ESKAY Homes, Thanthai Periyar Nagar, Mangadu Village, Sri Perumpudur Chennai - 602105. **Demand Notice Date :** 18.03.2024, **Loan Account No.** PHR156608305623, (Since your Business Loan No. BPR008208719822 by not paying its overdue amount this account classified has "NPA") **NPA Date:** 04.03.2024, **Amount Outstanding:** Rs.17,68,685/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Five Only) being the amount due as on 15.03.2024 (this amount includes interest applied till 15.03.2024) together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate of interest till the date of payment.

Description of Property : SCHEDULE - A : All that piece and parcel of vacant house site bearing Plot No. 10, to an extent of 2247 Square Feet, comprised in Survey Nos. 558/2 & 561/1, Patta No. 1449 as per Patta New Survey No. 561/3 Situated at "Thanthai Periyar Nagar" Mangadu Village, Sriperumbudur Taluk Now Kundrathur Taluk, Kancheepuram District. Located on the North: by - Kattupakkam Village Boundary, South by - Plot No. 11, East by - Vacant Land, West by - 23% feet Wide Road. And having a linear measurement of: East to West on the Northern Side - 13 feet + 52 1/2 feet, East to West on the Southern Side - 64 3/4 feet, North to South on the Eastern Side - 33 1/2 feet, North to South on the Western Side - 32 1/2 feet. Admeasuring in all 2247 sq. ft., **SCHEDULE - B :** 252 (Two Hundred and Fifty-Two) Sq. Feet, Proportionately undivided Share of Land in the entire Property described in the schedule 'A' Above. **SCHEDULE - C :** Residential Flat Bearing No, F2 In First Floor, in Plot No. I, Poonamallee Village measuring 500 Sq. ft., Superplinth area inclusive of all common area.

SI.No.2 Ref. No.HL/6522 : BORROWERS : 1. Mr. A. Murugavel, S/o. Mr. Ayyulu, 2. Mr. M. Mani, S/o. Mr. A. Murugavel. Both residing at : No. 1962, M. S. Kol Street, Royapuram, Chennai - 600013. **Office Address:** - 3. Mr. A. Murugavel, S/o. Mr. Ayyulu, MURUGAVEL CARS, O/o. N.o.8, N.1, 1st, Mannarhini Street, Royapuram, Chennai - 600 013. **Property Address:** - Plot No. 70B, S. No. 286/4, Nandhivarum Village, Gudivanchery, Chennai- 603202. **Demand Notice Date :** 15.03.2024, **Loan Account No.** PHR008204612172, **NPA Date:** 09.03.2024, **Amount Outstanding:** Rs. 38,78,333/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three Only) being the amount due as on 13.03.2024 (this amount includes interest applied till 13.03.2024) together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate of interest till the date of payment.

Description of Property : SCHEDULE - A : All that piece and parcel of the property being Land measuring an extent of 2,460 Sq.Ft, bearing Plot No.105 part and 106 part, and 1800 Sq.Ft, bearing Plot No.106B Eastern side, totally measuring an extent of 4,260 Sq.Ft, comprised in Survey No.135/4/5, as per Patta No.6297 New Sub Division Survey No.135/4/4, in the Layout known as "Krishna Nagar", situated at Vardarajapuram Village, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District Plot No.105 part and 106 part bounded on the North by : Plot No.99 part and 100 part, South by : 20 feet Road, East by : Plot No.106B West by : Plot No.105A, Admeasuring North by : 41 Feet, South by : 41 Feet, East by : 60 Feet, West by : 60 Feet, Plot No.106B Eastern side bounded on the North by : Plot No.100 part and 101 part, South by : 20' feet Road, East by : Plot No.107, West by : Plot No.106 part and 105 part, Admeasuring North by : 30' feet, South by : 30' feet, East by : 60' feet, West by : 60' feet and situated within the Registration District of Chennai South and the Sub Registration District of Padappal. **SCHEDULE - B :** Residential Flat bearing No A-4, in the First Floor, in the Building known as "Limra's Aiswaryam, with 897 Sq.ft, of Built up area together with 389 Sq.ft, of Undivided Share out of the Schedule A mentioned property.

SI.No.3 Ref. No.HL/4875 : BORROWERS : 1. Jannapriya,S. 2. Kandaswamy, M. Both residing at: Limra Aiswaryam,105, A-4 1st Floor , 8th Street Krishna Nagar, Opp To IDBI Bank Varadarajapuram Mudichur,Chennai-600048. **Demand Notice Date :** 31.03.2022, **Loan Account No.** PHR008202633446, **NPA Date:** 09.08.2021, **Amount Outstanding:** Rs. 26,02,131/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Two Thousand One Hundred and Thirty One Only) being the amount due as on 29.03.2022 (this amount includes interest applied till 29.03.2022) together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate of interest till the date of payment.

Description of Property : SCHEDULE - A : All that piece and parcel of the property being Land measuring an extent of 2,460 Sq.Ft, bearing Plot No.105 part and 106 part, and 1800 Sq.Ft, bearing Plot No.106B Eastern side, totally measuring an extent of 4,260 Sq.Ft, comprised in Survey No.135/4/5, as per Patta No.6297 New Sub Division Survey No.135/4/4, in the Layout known as "Krishna Nagar", situated at Vardarajapuram Village, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, within the limits of Avadi Municipality and bounded on the North by : Lands in Survey No.649/6, South by : Sivasakthi Nagar 6th Avenue, Shannugam Street, East by : Lands in Survey No.648, West by : Plot No. B, Admeasuring - East to West on the Northern side : 63 Feet, East to West on the Southern side : 63 Feet, North to South on the Eastern side : 60.6 Feet, North to South on the Western side : 60.6 Feet, situated within the Sub - Registration District of Ambattur and Registration District of Chennai North. **SCHEDULE - B :** All that piece and parcel of the residential Flat bearing No. S1, Second Floor measuring to an extent of 824 Sq.ft including common area in the building known as "A & D constructions".

SI.No.4 Ref. No.HL/6534 : BORROWERS : 1. Mr. Dhinakaran, S/o. Mr. Jayadharan, 2. Mrs. Shyamala, W/o. Mr. Dhinakaran. Both residing at : No.1A, Plot No.26, Anusha Street, Nolambur, Near VGN Phase II, Chennai - 600 095. **Also at:** - No.130/23, Srivasa Puram, Avai Nagar, Chennai - 600 028. **PROPERTY ADDRESS:** - Flat No. S1, 2nd Floor, Plot No. 0, C2 Sivasakthi Nagar, 6th Avenue, Thirumullaiyal Village, Chennai - 600 062. **Demand Notice Date :** 26.03.2024, **Loan Account No.** PHR008201154553, **NPA Date:** 09.12.2023, **Amount Outstanding:** Rs. 18,98,955/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Five Only) being the amount due as on 26.03.2024 (this amount includes interest applied till 26.03.2024) together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate of interest till the date of payment.

Description of Property : SCHEDULE - A : All that piece and parcel of Sub Divided Plot Nos.C1, Measuring 2092 Sq.Ft, and C2 measuring 2318 Sq.Ft, in all total measuring extent of 4410 Sq.Ft, at Sivasakthi Nagar, 6th Avenue, Thirumullaiyal Village, Chennai - 600 062, comprised in S.No.649/5 of Thirumullaiyal Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District, situated within the limits of Avadi Municipality and bounded on the North by : Lands in Survey No.649/6, South by : Sivasakthi Nagar 6th Avenue, Shannugam Street, East by : Lands in Survey No.648, West by : Plot No. B, Admeasuring - East to West on the Northern side : 63 Feet, East to West on the Southern side : 63 Feet, North to South on the Eastern side : 60.6 Feet, North to South on the Western side : 60.6 Feet, situated within the Sub - Registration District of Ambattur and Registration District of Chennai North. **SCHEDULE - B :** All that piece and parcel of the residential Flat bearing No. S1, Second Floor measuring to an extent of 824 Sq.ft including common area in the building known as "A & D constructions".

SI.No.5 Ref. No.HL/6536 : BORROWERS : 1. Mrs. Bastena Roselin, (Legal Heir of Mr.G.Lourdu Amralaj Kishore), W/o. Mr. G.Lourdu Amralaj Kishore, 2. Mr. Richard Maximus Kishore, (Minor Son and Legal Heir of Mr.G.Lourdu Amralaj Kishore), S/o. Late. Mr.G.Lourdu Amralaj Kishore, 3. Mrs. Rachael Kishore, (Minor Daughter and Legal Heir of Mr.G.Lourdu Amralaj Kishore), D/o. Late. Mr.G.Lourdu Amralaj Kishore, **All are residing at:** : At No. 5, Muthamizh Nagar, 2nd Street, Kallikuppam Koratthur Village/Town, Ambattur Taluk, Chennai-600053. **Also at:** : Flat No. 155/4, Golden Jubilee Flats, Padukkam Road, Anna Nagar, West Extension, Chennai-600 040. **Also at:** - Flat Old Door No 15, New No 26, Flat No G1, Ground Floor, Sundaramuthu, Manimegalai Street, Gandhi Nagar, Ambattur, Chennai-600054. **Demand Notice Date :** 28.03.2024, **Loan Account No.** PHR082010002459, **NPA Date:** 04.07.2022, **Amount Outstanding:** Rs. 8,50,559/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Fifty Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Nine Only) being the amount due as on 27.03.2024 (this amount includes interest applied till 27.03.2024) together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate of interest till the date of payment.

Description of Property belongs to Mr. G. Lourdu Amralaj Kishore, S/o. Mr. D. Gnanaraj : All that pieces and parcel of land and property bearing plot no 224, situated at Old Village no.52, New Village no.21 Oragadam Village, Old Door No. 15, Next Door No. 26, Manimegalai Street, Gandhi Nagar Ambattur, Chennai-53, comprised in S.No. 46/1, Gramma Nathan of Oragadam village, Ambattur Municipality, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District, lies within the Registration District of North-Chennai and Sub. Registration District of Ambattur and within the local limits of Municipality Ambattur measuring an extent of 2198 Sq.ft more fully described in Schedule - A. Bounded on the North by : Plot No.194, South by : 20 feet Manimegalai Street, East by : Plot No.223, West by : Plot No.225, Measuring on the: East to West on the Northern side: 36'6", East to West on the Southern side: 38'0", North to South on the Eastern side: 59'0", North to South on the Western side: 59'0". And measuring in all 2198 sqft. **SCHEDULE - B :** (Land Empowered to Sell by the FIRST PART) ; All that piece and parcel of vacant house site will all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto, measuring an extent of 1577 sq.ft, Undivided Share of Land, a portion of the above said Schedule 'A' mentioned property. **SCHEDULE - C :** (Land offered to be conveyed) : 385 sq.ft of undivided share of land in Schedule 'A' property for GREENLAND PROMOTERS.

SI.No.6 Ref. No.HL/6379 : BORROWERS : 1. Mr.T.Madhanagopal, S/o. Mr.G.Thiagarajan, 2. Mrs. E. Ramapriya, W/o. Mr.T.Madhanagopal, 3. Mrs.T.Jayanthi, W/o. Mr.Thiagarajan, G. 4. Mrs. Karpagam Parthiban, W/o. Mr. Parthiban, 5. Mrs. Archana, W/o. Mr. Arul Prakash, **All are residing at:** : No. 9, Manickam Street, Choolai, Chennai - 600112. 6. Mrs. T Jayanthi, W/o. Mr. Thiagarajan G. 7. Mrs. Karpagam Parthiban, W/o. Mr. Parthiban, 8. Mrs. Archana, W/o. Mr. Arul Prakash, **All are residing at:** : No. 9, Manickam Street, Choolai, Chennai - 600 112. **Demand Notice Date :** 28.12.2023, **Loan Account No.** LPR086504436471, **NPA Date:** 09.12.2023, **Amount Outstanding:** Rs. 70,90,350/- (Rupees Seventy Lakhs Ninety Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Only) being the amount due as on 28.12.2023 (this amount includes interest applied till 28.12.2023) together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate of interest till the date of payment.

Description of Property Standing in the name of Mr. T. Madhanagopal, Mrs. T Jayanthi, Mrs. Karpagam Parthiban and Mrs. Archana : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Old Door No.9, New Door No.17, Manicka Chetty Street, Choolai, Chennai - 600112. 6. Mrs. T Jayanthi, W/o. Mr. Thiagarajan G. 7. Mrs. Karpagam Parthiban, W/o. Mr. Parthiban, 8. Mrs. Archana, W/o. Mr. Arul Prakash, together with house building thereon with amenities and the land bounded on the North by : Manicka Chetty Street, South by : House Old Door No.32 Raghava Chetty Street, (New No.39), East by : R. Thiruvengadham Chettiar House, West by : House and Ground of Mr. P.V.Damodaran, situated within the Sub Registration District of Purasawalkam and Registration District of Chennai Central.

Place: Chennai **Date:** 08.05.2024

AUTHORISED OFFICER, AXIS BANK LTD.

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CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Ltd.)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834031, Jharkhand, India

NOTICE

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



SHRI RAM FINANCE LIMITED
Formerly known as Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited
Poonamallee Branch : No:6/54, G.S.Complex, Avadi Road, Senneerkuppam, Poonamallee - 600 056

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Sent on 17.04.2024 by Regd. Post to **1.Mrs.S.Saranya**, W/o.K.Suresh, No.1, Sundhar Nagar, Ramanujakudam Street, Poonamallee, Chennai-600056, 2.Mr.D.Kamalakkannan, S/o.Duraisamy, No.1, Sundhar Nagar, Poonamallee, Chennai - 600 056, 3.Mr.R.Kamalakkannan, S/o.Kamalakkannan, No.1, Sundhar Nagar, Poonamallee, Chennai - 600 056, 3.Mrs.K.Shanthi, W/o.Kamalakkannan, No.1, Sundhar Nagar, Sundhar School, Poonamallee, Chennai - 600 056, 4.Mr.Karthik, S/o.Muthu, No. 103 A, 7th Street, Yamuna Nagar, Panimalar Opp. Nazarethpettai, Chennai - 600123, 5.Mrs.B.Geetha, W/o.Baskar, No.6/11, Panjupet, Periya Street, Kanchipuram - 631502, 6.Mr.B.Premsekhar, S/o.Baskar, No.1036 A, 7th Street, Yamuna Nagar, Nazarethpettai, Chennai - 600123, and also: No.111, Panjupet Big Street, Kanchipuram - 631502. **Sub : Loan account:** Term Loan: (1) POONMT805280002, (2)POONMT806020002 with M/s.Shriram Finance Limited, Poonamallee Branch. **NPA Date:** 28.02.2024

You committed default in repayment of loans to the tune of ₹ 1,58,42,371/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Eight Lakhs Forty Two Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy One Only) as on 17.04.2024 with further interest at the agreed rate from 18.04.2024 till date of repayment. The Company issued notice under the Act on 17.04.2023 calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of ₹1,58,42,371/- as on 17.04.2024.

The notice were sent to all of you by Regd. Post with acknowledgement which has been returned by all of you with an endorsement "UNCLAIMED". You are called upon to pay ₹ 1,58,42,371/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Eight Lak

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MECHANICAL BRANCH-TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE NO.: GEM/2024/B/4889661 DATED: 06-05-2024
 E-Tenders are invited by the Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Southern Railway, Tiruchirappalli-620001 for the following work:

Name of work with its location and completion period:	Eddy current array testing of wheels of LHB coaches at Coaching depot/TPJ for a period of Two years.
Approximate cost of the work:	₹ 11,24,240/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Forty Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty Only) including GST @18% levies and all taxes, etc.
Earnest Money to be deposited	₹ 22,850/- (Rupees Twenty Two thousand, Eight hundred and Fifty Only)
Date & Time for closing of tender:	At 11.00 hours on 31.05.2024
Date & Time for opening of tender:	At 11.30 hours on 31.05.2024.
Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office inviting tender:	http://www.gem.gov.in Office of the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Divisional Office, Mechanical Branch, Southern Railway, Tiruchirappalli-620001.
For Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Tiruchirappalli, For and on behalf of President of India.	

Follow us on: [@twitter.com/GMSRailway](https://twitter.com/GMSRailway)**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**

MECHANICAL BRANCH-TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE NO.: GEM/2024/B/4889661 DATED: 06-05-2024

E-Tenders are invited by the Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Southern Railway, Tiruchirappalli-620001 for the following work:

Name of work with its location and completion period:	ISO 14001:2015 Certification (Environmental Management System) for 7 NGT Railway stations viz Tiruchirappalli Jn., Villupuram Jn., Thanjavur Jn., Kumbakonam, Mayiladuthurai Jn., Nagapattinam & Puducherry of Tiruchirappalli Division for a period of three years.
Approximate cost of the work:	₹ 4,77,900/- (Rupees Four lakh, Seventy seven thousand and Nine hundred only) including GST @ 18%, levies and all taxes, etc.
Date & Time for closing of tender:	At 11.00 hours on 27.05.2024
Date & Time for opening of tender:	At 11.30 hours on 27.05.2024
Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office inviting tender:	http://www.gem.gov.in Office of the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Divisional Office, Mechanical Branch, Southern Railway, Tiruchirappalli-620001.

For Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Tiruchirappalli, For and on behalf of President of India.

Follow us on: [@twitter.com/GMSRailway](https://twitter.com/GMSRailway)**STATE BANK OF INDIA**

159, SHOLINGUR ROAD, ARAKKONAM BRANCH,
ARAKKONAM, VELLORE - 631001.

RULE - 8 (1) POSSESSION NOTICE

(for immovable properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the State Bank of India under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act 2002 (No.3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 06.01.2024 calling upon the borrower Shri. Thulasiraman N S/o Narasimmal Reddy, 1/252 Periya Street, Katayagunta Village, Veeragapuram Group, Tiruttani Taluk,Tiruvallur Dist Pin: 631210 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.11,81,348/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Eighty One Thousand Three hundred and Forty Eight only) (ABL A/c No. 39985812617 -Rs.10,07,946/- & KCC A/c No. 39989213416 - Rs. 1,73,402/-) as on 06.01.2024 and further interest from 07.01.2024 ,cost, etc.thereon. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules,2002 on this 6th day of May, of the year 2024.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of Rs.11,8,022/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Eighteen Thousand and Twenty Two only) (ABL A/c No. 39985812617 -Rs.9,38,691/- & KCC A/c No. 39989213416 - Rs. 1,79,331/-)as on 06.05.2024 and further interest from 07.05.2024, cost, etc.thereon.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Tiruvallur District, Tiruttani Taluk, Tiruvalangadu SRO, No.49, Veeragapuram Village, the ground and the RCC terraced house thereon, comprised in Gramanatham Old S.F.no 147/2part, New S.F.no346/29, the ground measuring an extent of 1324 sq ft Bounded on the East by : Chengalvaraya Reddy's house in S.F.no.346/31, West by : Desi Reddy's House in S.F.No.346/7, North by : Chengalvaraya Reddy's house site in S.F.No.346/28, South by : Road

Place : Arakonam
Date : 06.05.2024
Authorized Officer
(State Bank of India)



FORM NO.I.T.C.P.17

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

NOTICE FOR SETTING A SALE PROCLAMATION BEFORE THE RECOVERY OFFICER**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL III AT CHENNAI**

6th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shashi Bhawan, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006 Phone: 044-28498182

TRC NO. 172/2022

Dated : 06.05.2024

In the matter of

Bank of India, T.Nagar Branch

... Applicant / Certificate Holder

-Vs-

... Defendant / Certificate Debtors

To:

Ms. A. Poonam, D/o. Mr. Anand Jain,
Flat No.1A and 1B, No.2/8, CSK Villa, 2nd Cross Street,
Sylvan Lodge Colony, Kilpauk, Chennai - 600 010.

Whereas you are hereby informed that 3.00 PM on the 27/05/2024 has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and setting the terms thereof. You are required to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said properties or any portion thereof and also the revenue, if any, assessed upon the property or any part thereof.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of land measuring an extent of 70 cents comprised in Nos. 161/4 (26 cents), 161/5 (22 cents), 161/6 (22 cents) of Veerapuram Village, (Mahindra World City), Kattankulathur Panchayat Union, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District bounded on the North by : 30 ft Bramin Street, South by : OSR and Mahindra World School/ Survey No.78, East by : Mahindra World School / Survey No.95, West by : Survey No.161/3, 2 mt Public Pathway, situated with the Registration District of Kancheepuram and Registration Sub District of Joint-II, SRO, Chengalpattu.

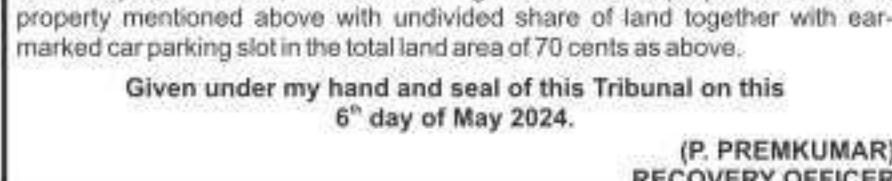
(Undivided Share of the Land)

An undivided share of 512 Sq.ft of land out of 27,442.61 Sq.ft area in the whole property mentioned property minus O.S.R. and other recreational areas belonging to the vendors.

(Apartment)

Flat No.L-4, Fourth Floor, 2 BHK of a super built up area of 1056 sq.ft in the project called "SAPPHIRE" situated at Bramin Street, Veerapuram Village, (Mahindra World City), Kattankulathur Panchayat Union, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, with common right and benefits proportionate to the property mentioned above with undivided share of land together with ear-marked car parking slot in the total land area of 70 cents as above.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this

6th day of May 2024.(P. PREMKUMAR)
RECOVERY OFFICER

Date : 04.05.2024

Place : Cheyyur

RK Nagar Branch

No 60 (old No. 36) V.K. Iyer Road,
R.A. Puram, Mandaveli, Chennai - 600026
Ph: 044-23454297 / 298

PUBLICATION DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sec.13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, sent on 03.05.2024 by Registered Post.

To,

1. M/s. D.P. Enterprises, 291/85, TH road, New Washermanpet, Chennai 600019. 2. Mr. Sridhar K (Proprietor), 14/9A, Thilagar Street, 2nd Street, Thiruvottiyur, Chennai - 600019. 3. M/s. D.P. Enterprises, No 122, Pallavan Nagar, Pulipakkam Village, Chengalpet, Pin - 603001. 4. Mrs. Raji (Guarantor), No. 2-136, Pachayamman Koil St, Nesavalar Nagar, Jalladiyanpet, Chennai - 600100.

RE: Credit facilities with our RK NAGAR branch, Bank of Baroda

You committed default in repayment of loan and hence your loan account has been classified as non-performing asset on 26.04.2024 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India directives and guidelines. The outstanding due to the tune of Rs.85,06,303/- as on 30.04.2024 and the said amount carries further interest at the agreed rate till date of recovery.

The Bank issued notice under the SARFAESI Act under Sec.13(2) on 03.05.2024 calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of Rs.85,06,303/- The notice was sent to you by Regd. Post has been returned unopened.

You are called upon to pay Rs.85,06,303/- being the outstanding dues as on 30.04.2024 together with further interest till date of payment within 60 days from the date of this publication failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the Schedule hereunder.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY**Security agreement with brief description of securities:**

All that piece and parcel of vacant land bearing Plot No. 237, VGP Golden beach measuring 2400 sq ft comprised in Sy.No. 3/2B1, as per Palta No.7145, the New Survey No.3/278 in Ulthandi Village, sholinganthur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, bounded on the North By: Plot No.236, South By: Plot No.238, East By: Plot No.247, West By: 30 Feet Road.

Place: Chennai
Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda
Date : 07.05.2024

QuoteExpress IF I HAVE SEEN FURTHER THAN OTHERS, IT IS BY STANDING UPON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS » ISAAC NEWTON

CHEYYUR BRANCH
No.328, Salt Road, Cheyyur - 603 302.
Ph. No: 044-27489397
e-mail Id : cb103@canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

[Section 13(4)] (For Immovable property)

Whereas The The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 17.10.2023, calling upon the borrower Sri.R.Bhathavachalam Prop. M/s.Sri Manickam Modern Rice Mill to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being Rs.3,73,17,043.59/- (Rupees Three Crore Seventy Three Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Forty Three and Paise Fifty Nine only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said notice.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of Rs. 4,19,18,871.60/- (Rupees Four Crore Nineteen Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy one and Paise Sixty only) and interest thereon.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**Details of Security Assets:**

Movable : Hypothecation of Machine Purchased from Bank Finance.

Name of Title Holder : Sri. R. Bhathavachalam

Immovables : Name of Title holder : Sri. R. Bhathavachalam

Properties situated at Ammanur Village, Cheyyur Taluk, Kancheepuram District. (1) Wet S.No 180/0 - 0.19 Acres (2) Wet S.No 180/7 - 0.54 Acres (3) Wet S.No 180/11 - 0.09 Acres (4) Wet S.No 179/13 - 0.13 Acres (5) Wet S.No 179/3 - 0.98 Acres (6) Dry S.No 172/17 - 0.64 Acres (7) Dry S.No 173/9 - 1.21 Acres (8) Wet S.No 180/4 - 0.10 Acres (9) Wet S.No 180/3 - 0.35 Acres (10) Wet S.No 180/8 - 0.12 Acres (11) Wet S.No 180/10 - 0.08 Acres (12) Dry S.No 172/19A - 0.25 Acres (13) Dry S.No 89/6 - 0.13 Acres (14) Dry S.No 162/4 - 0.75 Acres which has been sub divided S.No.162/4 (15) Dry S.No 172/19B - 0.25 Acres (16) Dry S.No 172/16 - 0.14 Acres. Total = 5.96 Acres.

Date : 04.05.2024

Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

REVISED NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)**

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction



EDITORIAL

CHENNAI

WEDNESDAY 08.05.2024

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

India's doom was sealed the very day they invented the word *mlechchha* and stopped from communion with others

Swami Vivekananda

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

— Ramnath Goenka

RELEGATION FROM TOP TIER NEEDED TO BOOST INDIAN FOOTBALL

ANOTHER season of the Indian Super League is over. Mumbai Football Club lifted the title after beating Mohun Bagan Super Giant on Saturday. There were moments of jubilation and thrilling encounters interspersed with a sprinkling of controversies. Despite all this, there is a substantial debate on the quality of football being played in the middle. The topic that is dominating the discussion is the issue of relegation from the league. This was suggested by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in its roadmap for improving Indian football and making it more competitive. Intriguing as it may sound, ISL is one of the few top-flight national leagues that does not have relegation. And that needs to begin by the next season. The other side of the move—promotion from the I-League—started last year, when Punjab FC (formerly RoundGlass Punjab) joined ISL.

However, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) is still not clear about it. Things got a little more circumspect after AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey said that ISL would not be ready for relegation unless the I-League raised its bar. It is understandable if there is no promotion, but relegation is needed to keep the bottom-of-the-league clubs motivated and busy. It would push the likes of Hyderabad FC, which won only one match this entire season.

One must also understand that AIFF runs the I-League—so if its standard is not good enough, they should concentrate on improving it. The I-League has been going on for over 15 years and was the premier league until ISL was given the top status. And the I-League is not without promise either. If its quality was so hopeless, the just-promoted Punjab FC would have finished at the bottom of the ISL; instead, there were four clubs including East Bengal, Jamshedpur and former champions Bengaluru below Punjab. Even ISL teams scout from the I-League. It's not that all ISL teams are doing well financially either—there was an exodus from Hyderabad FC when it failed to pay players. So the onus is on AIFF; the I-League's supposed lack of quality should not be an excuse to not introduce relegation in ISL. Instead, AIFF should help nurture the I-League, which in turn will help ISL and, in the long run, the national team. To keep ISL healthy and kicking, other leagues need to prosper, too.

CONG FAILS TO GRAB OPPN ROLE IN ODISHA

THE closer Odisha comes to its first phase of polls, the faster the Congress seems to be unravelling in the state. There are three major political parties in the fray. The ruling Biju Janata Dal and the challenger BJP are engaged in a no-holds-barred contest. But the Congress is busy fighting its own demons. Last week, the party's Puri Lok Sabha candidate Sucharita Mohanty returned her ticket days before the nominations closed, citing a lack of funds for campaigning. She was apparently told by the party that her constituency was in a category in which the candidate must fend for herself or himself. For the record, at her first electoral outing in 2014, Mohanty polled 2.59 lakh votes. The grand old party has, so far, changed candidates in 10 assembly and two parliamentary constituencies, leaving little scope for the nominees to even make a serious bid. On Sunday, its change of the Puri assembly candidate led to violence.

This is only a symptom of the greater malaise that has gripped the party. This election presented the Congress a chance to regain political space in the state when the BJD and BJP were busy planning an alliance. It was an ideal opportunity to take up the vacant opposition space, but the party—riddled with favouritism, infighting and a self-over-party ideology—squandered it. It was on show when a nondescript place was chosen for Rahul Gandhi's campaign meeting on April 28. While a politically strategic location could have created an impact over the bigger region, the candidate's interest was preferred to the party's. Unsurprisingly, many of its senior members with electoral relevance quit ahead of the elections to join either the BJD or the BJP. Disenchanted by the top leadership's inability to grasp the situation—the need for young leaders, resources and change—the Congress has seen exodus of even its hardcore followers.

In Odisha, once ruled by the Congress for close to 40 years, there are still pockets where the party enjoys support, but has made little effort to revive it. With its base slipping away fast, the GOP could find itself decimated as the BJD and BJP are out to swallow its vote share. The opposition space is important in a democracy. But such is the state of affairs that the Congress appears in no mood to even grab that role.

QUICK TAKE

RECOGNISE INDIA'S WW2 EFFORT

THE UN observes May 8-9 as a time for remembering all Second World War victims. It marks the Allied forces' victory in Europe and is bookmarked by state events every year. One acknowledgement that goes missing is for India's contribution. More than 85,000 Indian soldiers died in the war. Claude Auchinleck, commander of the Indian army during the war, said the British could not have done without India's help, which included money and rations too. Yet the contribution is now airbrushed out of official Western accounts. The repayment that was expected around independence was not realised. The West can at least start by honouring the Indian soldiers' efforts.

An individual, I have been associated with the RSS, ABVP and BJP for more than 40 years. From the controversy over the renaming of Marathwada University in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (previously Aurangabad) to the vexed issue of quota for the underprivileged, from the 1982-83 movement led by Bal Thackeray against Babasaheb Ambedkar's writings in *The Riddle of Rama and Krishna* and the RSS's vocal opposition to that movement, I have witnessed how the Sangh leadership had adroitly handled scores of issues with a firm commitment to its total opposition to caste-based discrimination.

As per my understanding, there are at least three key aspects of the RSS's approach to castes. First, its unequivocal support to quota for the socially marginalised. Second, its emphasis on ensuring that social justice is reflected in our day-to-day conduct. And third, its approach towards smaller identities as an inseparable part of a larger identity.

However, the overarching philosophy guiding the RSS's approach to all these vexed issues associated with the caste question is that of *samarasata* or social harmony. In the RSS scheme of things, the term adds significant value to the idea of social equality. It is more meaningful as it connotes not just intellectual acceptance for equality and justice, but also emotional participation in the process with an emphasis on sharing and caring. *Samarasata*, to me, is all about emotional integration. It is about a sense of belonging (to the entire society), about making every social group feel that the entire society needs every marginalised group and values its contribution. *Samarasata* is more about empathy than just sympathy.

But make no mistake. This emphasis is not for the sake of emotions alone. It aims to complement our intellectual conviction and commitment to social justice. Atal Bihari Vajpeyi's decision to rename the social welfare ministry as social justice ministry was not for no reason. Besides, this element of emotions makes social equality not just an egalitarian value, but a matter of experiential harmony.

As pointed out by Ram Madhav in a blog, "Samata is equality in thoughts; *samaanta* is equality in law; but *samarasata* is equality of emotions and feelings. For achieving *samarasata*—social harmony, to put it simply—fraternity is the basic requirement." Madhav further brings to our notice that, "Buddha, Mahavir, Basaveshwara, Kanakadasa, Ram-

The Sangh takes *samarasata* or social harmony among castes as an essential concept that goes beyond tokenism. That's why it has always supported quotas for the underprivileged

WHY THE SANGH SUPPORTS RESERVATION

VINAY SAHASRABUDDHE

Senior BJP leader



SOURAV ROY

akrishna, Vivekananda, Narayana Guru, Dayananda Saraswati, Tilak, Gandhi, Ambedkar, Savarkar, Jyotiba Phule—endless is the list of great men who have sacrificed their lives in the pursuit of achieving the lofty ideal of social harmony."

Way back in 1982, at a grand RSS conclave in Pune, the then Sar-Sanghchalak Balasaheb Deoras said without mincing words that if untouchability is not a sin, there is no sin on earth, and hence this social evil has to go lock, stock and barrel. The same kind of unambiguity was again witnessed when the present Sar-Sanghchalak, Mohanrao Bhagwat, repeatedly stated that quotas for the SC, ST and OBCs will have to continue uninterrupted. As recently as April, he said, "The RSS had always stood for reserva-

tion, as sanctioned and guaranteed under the Constitution, and that the organisa-

tion believed reservation should continue as long as it was necessary for those who needed it, provided it was for reasons of backwardness and lack of parity in terms of their living or social standing." He elaborated, "We kept our own fellow human beings behind in the social system. We did not care for them and it continued for 2,000 years. Until we provide them equality, some special remedies have to be there, and reservation is one of them." All in all, there is no scope for even an iota of doubt about the Sangh's unequivocal support for quota.

Social equality and justice are principles that are supremely important and hence nobody can oppose. However,

FOR AN AKSHAYA TRITIYA WITHOUT CHILD MARRIAGES

BHUWAN RIBHU

Child rights activist, lawyer & author of *When Children Have Children: Tipping Point to End Child Marriage*

was not high on the list of priorities for most countries until it was included in UN's Sustainable Development Goals (target 5.3: "eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations"). Consequently, 193 member states are now racing to eliminate the practice by 2030.

In the past decade, at least eight countries have outlawed child marriage or



be a litmus test for those who were a part of this campaign to convert the resolve into deliverables.

First, state governments must prevent mass child marriages through awareness and law enforcement. Awareness campaigns can include school workshops, street plays, and checking the ages of brides and grooms.

Second, strict enforcement of the PCMA can be ensured if the agencies entrusted to uphold the law, such as the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) that's conferred with the power of a first-class judicial magistrate, start issuing injunctions.

If a child marriage is solemnised despite an injunction, it is considered void.

But in a majority of cases, the CWC has confined its role to short-term rehabilitation of children who need protection.

Panchayats can activate child welfare and protection committees at the village, block and district levels to monitor PCMA implementation; conduct counsellings sessions for parents and relatives planning to marry off their children; monitor dropouts and stay vigilant for children missing from schools for more than seven days without intimation.

Third, aggressive prosecutorial drives under the PCMA and application of other criminal laws including those on trafficking, child rape and the POCSO Act will create deterrence.

Stern messages should be sent by prosecuting priests, qazis and pandits who preside over such unions.

Fourth, it is time quality education is provided to all children, especially girls, till the age of 18. This must also be included in election manifestos of all parties.

In April 2024, India witnessed the heartening news of a girl topping inter examinations in Andhra Pradesh after her under-age marriage was stopped and she was able to pursue studies because of the efforts of her local MLA and district magistrate in Kurnool. This girl could be a living testimony of a brighter future. The time to ensure such a future for our children is now. If we fail to protect our children, nothing else would matter.

(Views are personal)

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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India's doom was sealed the very day they invented the word *mlechchha* and stopped from communion with others

Swami Vivekananda

newindianexpress.com

many who principally agree with these values fail to practice them with all sincerity. Many RSS-inspired organisations may not be passing resolutions or giving sermons on these principles. But their commitment to these values is often reflected in their conduct.

When Mahatma Gandhi and later Ambedkar visited RSS camps, they were satisfied that in the RSS, castes or details of social background are neither asked nor given any importance. Many in the RSS make a conscious effort to identify with underprivileged sections. During the birth centenary of Ambedkar some 23 years earlier, many in the RSS ensured that a portrait of Ambedkar adorned their homes. Many, like Girish Prabhune of Pune, have been untiringly working for the upliftment of the Parahis and similar denotified, nomadic tribal communities.

In the late 1980s, the RSS emphasis on building bridges was taken to such an extent that Texas Gaikwad, a Dalit Marathi playwright who had written a play depicting RSS volunteers as murderers of the nation, was approached and a dialogue was established to discuss prejudices and misgivings. In 1982-83, when many Hindu leaders including Bal Thackeray demanded a ban on Ambedkar's book, *Riddle of Ram*, the RSS-BJP refrained from seeking such a ban.

The RSS has its own way of explaining the relationship of castes and communities with the entire society. The approach is that, like all parts of the body, every section is important and all of them are interdependent too. Like the relationship of a body part with the entire body, every section of society relates with the society at large. This relationship is simultaneously related mutually as well as with the entire body. Hence the very question of a superiority-inferiority conflict is resolved with this interdependence, complemented by the spirit of co-working and mutuality.

Significantly, when it comes to *samarasata*, the RSS has always refrained from just tokenism. Organisations trying to wear social equality on their sleeves do a huge disservice to the cause. *Samarasata* is a silent revolution that emerged out of the thinking of the RSS leadership. Here, intellectual integrity and commitment are complemented by an element of emotionality. While equality could be just superficial and short-lived, *samarasata* is more profound and enduring with its focus on conduct and emotions. It has become the RSS's own way of doing away with hypocrisy and lip service.

(Views are personal)

(vinays57@gmail.com)

MAIL BAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Planned succession

Ref: Godrej business split a lesson for family enterprises (May 7). Exemplary tradition of excellence carved out in a span of 127 years makes Godrej stand head and shoulders above almost all business enterprises in India. Let all the upcoming business houses emulate their steps of succession.

S Madhavan Thampi, Haripad

False promises

Ref: Andhra sides make similar promises (May 7). The ruling dispensation made several promises lavishly before the last election. Similar was the experience with the present opposition leader also. People no longer look into the content of the manifesto or take election promises seriously as they tend to evaporate with the election mood.

A G Rajmohan, Anantapur

Off-season break

Ref: How to deal with the epidemic of overtourism (May 7). Over-exploitation always leads to under-availability. To cope with the prospects of a tourist destination losing its sheen, some kind of break in operations may be mooted because these days, even off-season has had significant footfall.

Sachidananda Satpathy, Sambalpur

Inorganic growth

It is fallacious to conclude that higher taxes result in better tourist amenities. The government does not have a futuristic vision on tourism development. Tourism is growing in an inorganic manner, which needs better focus, an enabling plan and time-bound action.

Rajarao Kumar, Bengaluru

Owner's negligence

The news that two pet rottewilers attacked a small girl at a park is appalling. It's sad the dog owner's negligence cost the small girl. Although the police have registered a case, nothing will come of it because the victim belongs to a poor family—the daughter of the park's watchman. That there were similar incidents in the past, too, speaks volumes about the owner's level of respect for the laws of the land.

P G Menon, Chennai

Dangerous search

It's heartbreaking that an elephant was electrocuted by a sagging power line while searching for water. No animal should die due to a lack of water and food. The government must act swiftly to provide water sources, food and protect forest boundaries. Additionally, strict measures need to be taken to prevent human encroachment into forest areas and ensure habitat preservation.

V Paramesari, Tiruchirappalli



Maldives foreign minister to visit Delhi on May 9

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi



A DAY ahead of the complete Indian military troop (88 members) withdrawal from the archipelago slated for May 10, Maldives Foreign Minister **Moosa Zameer** will be on an official visit to Delhi.

Two batches of the 88 Indian military personnel have returned and the last batch is expected soon. These Indians were deployed with one helicopter and two Dornier aircraft that India had deployed in Maldives for medical assistance and emergency services.

The fourth core group meeting between India and the Maldives took place in Delhi on May 3.

Meanwhile, **Moosa Zameer** will meet External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar during his upcoming visit.

Interestingly, **Zameer** is considering meeting India travel and tourism professionals while in the national capital. It may be recalled that after a Maldivian politician used derogatory words for Prime Minister Narendra Modi (when he was in Lakshadweep last year), Indian tour operators had launched a 'boycott Maldives' campaign.

As a result the outflow of Indian tourists to the Maldives dropped. Indian celebrities who

used to travel frequently to the country also stopped and that dampened their outreach.

Statistics reveal that Indian tourists to the Maldives dropped to 42,638 as on April 30 this year from 73,195 from the corresponding period of the previous year.

Indians formed a substantial share of tourists to the Maldives until 2023, however, the diplomatic downturn in its relations with India will continue to impact the tourist inflows.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday "Moosa Zameer, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives, will be in India on an official visit on May 9."

"The Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region and Foreign Minister Zameer's visit is expected to lend further momentum to the bilateral cooperation between the two countries," the MEA said in a statement.

Kharge writes to INDIA allies over discrepancies in EC data

Poll panel is yet to publish total number of voters in each constituency

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi



UPPING the ante on the alleged discrepancies in the voting data released by the Election Commission of India (EC) in the first two phases of the Lok Sabha polls, Congress president **Mallikarjun Kharge** on Tuesday wrote to the leaders of various parties of the opposition INDIA bloc urging them to raise their voice to safeguard democracy and protect the independent functioning of the poll body.

"Let us ensure the independence of the Election Commission of India and make it accountable," his letter read.

The EC released the final voter turnout figures for the first two phases on April 30, eleven days after the first phase on April 19, and four days after the second phase on April 26.

However, it is yet to publish the total number of voters in each Parliamentary constituency.

Several opposition parties, including Congress, CPM, and TMC have raised questions about the delay in releasing the polling data and the non-disclosure of the number of registered voters.

The 2024 Lok Sabha elections are the fight to save democracy and the Constitution of India, said Kharge in his letter, which he shared on X. "As you are aware of the recent develop-

ments, the credibility of the ECI is at an all-time low. It is in the public domain how the ECI, perhaps for the first time in history, delayed the release of the final voting percentages of the first and second phases of the Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress chief also questioned the inordinate delay in releasing the final voting percentages for the two phases.

"In my electoral life of 52 years, I have never witnessed such a high increment of voting percentages, in the final published data, that we now assume came from the later hours of voting on the polling days."

The Congress chief also sought to know if there were any issues with the EVMs.

"On earlier occasions, the Commission has published voter turnout data within 24 hours of polling. What has changed this time? Why has the Commission failed to issue any clar-

On earlier occasions, the Election Commission has published voter turnout data within 24 hours of polling. What has changed this time? Why has the Commission failed to issue any clarification to justify the delay, despite being repeatedly questioned by political parties and political activists?

Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress president

ification to justify the delay, despite being repeatedly questioned by political parties and political activists?" he wondered.

The Congress veteran also threw a volley of questions to the EC. "We ask the Commission, for the first phase, why is there a near increase of 5.5% in the final voter turnout from the date of conclusion of voting (at 7 pm on 19.04.2024) to the delayed release of voter turnout data (on 30.04.2024)?"

For the second phase, there is a near increase of more than 5.74% in the final voter turnout from the date of conclusion of voting (at 7 pm on 26.04.2024) to the delayed release of data (On 30.04.2024)," he asked.

Apart from the delay, Kharge pointed out that the data released does not mention the votes polled in each Parliamentary constituency and the respective assembly constituencies.

Congress' former media coordinator Khera, actor Shekhar Suman join BJP

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

BIHAR-born Bollywood actor Shekhar Suman and former Congress national media coordinator Radhika Khera joined the BJP on Tuesday. Their joining came on the third phase of poling in general elections and triggered speculation that the saffron party may consider sending Shekhar Suman to the Rajya Sabha either from Bihar or some other Hindi heartland state.

Shekhar Suman has recently been seen in the 'Heeramandi' webseries. After joining the party, the actor said he joined the BJP with "positive thoughts" for contributing to the development of the nation.

Speaking to the media, Shekhar said: "I did not know until yesterday that I would be sitting here. A lot of things happen in life. Sometimes you don't know what you are supposed to do and you get a direction from above and you follow it".

Shekhar Suman had unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha election 2009 as a Congress candidate when he was pitted against BJP's Shatrughan Sinha from the Patna Sahib.

Radhika Khera quit the Congress recently accusing some party leaders of torturing her because she visited the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Speaking to

May contest from Bihar

Shekhar Suman's joining BJP came on the third phase of polling in general elections and triggered speculation that the saffron party may consider sending him to the Rajya Sabha either from Bihar or some other Hindi heartland state. Before Shekhar, another actor Rupali Ganguly had also joined the saffron ranks.

the media, Radhika complained about "mistrust" after her Ayodhya visit. "Today's Congress is not Mahatma Gandhi's Congress, it is anti-Ram, anti-Hindu Congress", she alleged.

"I was punished in Congress for being a Hindu, a Sanatan girl and a devotee of Lord Ram," she said.

BJP sources said over 2,000 prominent leaders from various parties, mostly from Congress and AAP, have joined the BJP in the last 6-7 months.

Before Shekhar joined the BJP, another actor Rupali Ganguly joined the saffron ranks. Other prominent leaders who have joined BJP ahead of the LS polls are industrialist and former Congress leader Navin Jindal, former IAF chief Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhaduria, former Congress leader and spokesperson Gaurav Vallabh, former Delhi Congress leader Arvinder Singh Lovely.

SC grants partial relief to 25K Bengal teachers

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court, in its decision on Tuesday, partially stayed the Calcutta High Court order that cancelled the appointment of over 25,000 assistant teachers and non-teaching staff in West Bengal, pending the final outcome of the Supreme Court's judgement.

This order provides a partial relief for the appointed teachers, as the Supreme Court stayed the Calcutta High Court's decision to cancel their appointments. However, the appointees must remain apprehensive about their future as the CBI continues its investigation, as mandated by the Supreme Court.

The SC said that the CBI would persist with its investigation into the scam but would not take any coercive steps or actions against the candidates or state government officials.

The Calcutta High Court had ordered the cancellation of 25,000 appointments of teaching and non-teaching staff after finding irregularities and misconduct without proper reasoning.

The Supreme Court granted conditional interim protection from the previous order and stated that the salaries of the unlawfully appointed individu-

ALSO IN TOP COURT

'Ensure no innocent is in history sheet'

The top court on Tuesday asked the police in states and UTs to ensure that innocents and individuals from backward communities are not named in a history sheet. Initiating suo motu action, a bench said there are some studies available in the public domain that reveal a pattern of "unfair, prejudicial and atrocious" mindset.



Maha govt told to hold safety audit of HC

The special bench of the Supreme Court led by the Chief Justice on Tuesday took note of concerns over the safety of the 150-year-old Bombay High Court building and the need for additional space, and directed Maharashtra government to "forthwith" conduct a safety audit of the heritage structure.

SC asks Patanjali to remove misleading ads

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

OBSERVING that certain misleading advertisements for Patanjali products are still available on various online platforms, the Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned Patanjali about the steps being taken to remove them.

The court also denied an oral request to exempt the personal appearances of Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna at the next hearing. Previously, the apex court had excused them from appearing in person today, resulting in their absence.

The bench asked Patanjali what actions were being taken to contact the relevant agencies to remove the ads. "We want to point out that your misleading ads, which promote products that have now been prohibited, are still accessible on internet channels. What actions are you taking to remove them?" the apex court inquired.

The arguments on Tuesday were inconclusive and will continue after the Supreme Court's summer vacation.

INDIAN Naval ships Delhi, Shakti and Kiltan have reached Singapore as part of the long-leg operational deployment, led by Rear Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.

The visiting ships were given a warm welcome by personnel of Republic of Singapore Navy and the High Commissioner of India. "The visit is part of the Operational Deployment of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet to the South China sea," the Indian Navy said in a statement.

"This visit is poised to strengthen the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two maritime nations through a series of engagements," it said.

INS Delhi is a guided missile destroyer, Shakti a replenishment fleet tanker and Kiltan an anti-submarine warfare corvette.

The region of SCS has been bearing tensions due to contested claims to maritime boundaries, which include islands and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). China has been asserting its claim, based on its historical rights. Currently, the

Indian Navy's warships in Singapore before deployment in South China Sea

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi



Chinese navy is involved in a standoff with the US-backed Philippines naval ships in the South China Sea.

The Philippines is asserting its claim over the Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea, which is strongly resisted by China. China claims most of the South China Sea. The Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims.

The Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Enrique A Manalo, and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar,

and SFA co-chaired the 5th meeting of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation.

Holding wide-ranging and substantive discussions on regional and international issues of mutual concern, they underlined that "both countries have a shared interest in a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. They underlined the need for peaceful settlement of disputes and for adherence to international law, especially the UNCLOS and the 2016 Arbitral Award on South China Sea."

India slams Canada over offensive float during parade by Khalistani activists

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

Extremist elements

A float in the Nagar Kirtan parade in Canada's Malton showed Prime Minister Narendra Modi behind bars. "As you are aware, we have repeatedly raised our strong concerns regarding the violent imagery being used by extremist elements in Canada against our political leadership. Last year, a float depicting the assassination of our former PM was used in a procession. Display of posters of Indian diplomats have also been put across Canada," said MEA spokesman Randhir Jaiswal.

any civilised society. Democratic countries, which respect the rule of law, should not allow intimidation by radical elements in the name of freedom of expression, it said.

"We continue to remain concerned about the security of our diplomatic representatives in Canada and expect the government of Canada to ensure that they are able to carry out

their responsibilities without fear," Jaiswal said.

India has urged Canada to stop providing criminal and secessionist elements a safe haven and political space.

Meanwhile, Canada's Immigration Minister Marc Miller has rejected External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's remark that Ottawa is "lax" about admitting criminals into the country, saying authorities conduct a thorough record check on people entering Canada on student visas.

On Saturday, Jaishankar said that India had "convinced them (Canadian authorities) several times not to give visa, legitimacy or political space to such people for whom it is causing problems for us and also for our relationship." His remarks came after Canadian authorities charged three Indians, who entered the country on student visa, with the murder of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

J'khand cash haul: Minister's aide, help arrested

MUKEH RANJAN @ Ranchi

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam's personal secretary Sanjiv Lal and the latter's domestic help on Tuesday, following the recovery of more than ₹35 crore cash from a flat linked to them, officials said.

The agency also undertook fresh searches at five locations in the state and seized another ₹1.5 crore in cash.

Lal and his domestic help, Jehegir Alam, were taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) following their questioning and produced before court, the officials said. In its remand note submitted to the court, ED said, "It is ascertained that Sanjeev Lal takes care of the collection of commission on behalf of some influential persons and plays a pivotal role in managing the tenders and collection of commission from engineers. Also, the commission is distributed to higher ups of government. During the investigation,

names of senior bureaucrats and politicians have emerged" On Monday, ED conducted raids at multiple locations in Ranchi linked to former rural development department chief engineer Virendra Ram, who is under judicial custody after being arrested by ED in a money laundering case.

Alamgir denied any connection with the recovered cash alleging that the raids were timed to be conducted ahead of the arrival of Rahul Gandhi in Jharkhand.

"Sanjeev Lal is a government official and has also served BJP ministers before being appointed his PS to me. Let the ED come to any conclusion first; then only I can say anything in this regard," said the minister.

Jharkhand BJP chief Babul Marandi demanded removal of the minister. He also alleged that a letter written by ED to the Chief Secretary alerting him about the rampant corruption in the rural development department was also recovered along with the cash.

"Look at the shamelessness of corrupt ministers; the business of acquiring immense illegal wealth continued by suppressing the letter on the basis of which the action was to be taken," Marandi said.

Alamgir denies link

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BIHAR

PM takes a jibe at Lalu's Muslim quota remark

Modi says religion-based quota an insult to Ambedkar; RJD chief later makes U-turn

RAMASHANKAR & ANURAAG SINGH
@Patna/Bhopal

FORMER Bihar chief minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad on Tuesday stoked a controversy after he favoured "full reservation" for Muslims, drawing flak from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and NDA leaders.

Lalu later backtracked on his statement after Modi and other leaders launched a broadside against him even as he countered the PM, asking if he was aware of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.

Referring to Lalu's comment, Modi said in MP that the Congress was silent, but one of its allies confirmed the INDIA bloc's intentions of giving reservation to Muslims. He also referred RJD president as a leader "who ate fodder meant for animals".

Speaking to the media in Patna, Lalu alleged that the ruling BJP wanted to do away with reservations by scrapping the Constitution. "Muslims need full reservation... The BJP wants to finish off the Constitution and democracy of the country," the RJD supremo said. After his remarks triggered a political storm, Lalu put out a video message clarifying that the basis of reservation should not be religion but social backwardness.

What Lalu Prasad said

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they want to give it Muslims."

Apparently taken aback by PM's strong comments, the RJD chief said, "Is he (Modi) a bigger and real OBC than me? He has also no more understanding of the problems of the poor, backwards and Dalits."

Lalu said, "Sanghis (RSS leaders) and BJP leaders have old wish and conspiracy to abolish Baba Saheb's Constitution and reservation given by Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur. In 2000, the then BJP-led NDA government at the Centre had even formed Constitution Review Commission. Had they faith in Constitution, they would not have used divisive language, spreading hatred in the society."

Raising the issue of Congress government in Karnataka including the Muslims among the OBC category, Modi said the Congress is eyeing the reservation of SC, ST and OBC. "They've already done it in Karnataka by bringing all Muslims in the OBC category, which will steal the 27% reservation of existing OBC for its vote bank. The Congress now wants to replicate the same model nationally, isn't it like backstabbing Baba Saheb Ambedkar and disrespecting the country's Constitution."

The PM came down heavily on the Congress, saying that it did not want Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar to get credit for making the Constitution. "That is why now Congress has started saying that Baba Saheb's contribution in making the Constitution was less, Nehruji played the biggest role in making the Constitution. Do you agree with this?" Modi asked.

As his remarks triggered a political storm, Lalu put out a video message clarifying that the basis of reservation should not be religion but social backwardness.

"The basis of reservation is social backwardness and not religion, PM lacks even this much understanding. I have got the Mandal Commission implemented. Whether Modi has ever read recommendations of the Mandal Commission? More than 3,500 backward castes get reservation under Mandal Commission and hundreds of castes from other reservation also have the reservation facility," he said.

Obliquely referring to Lalu's words, Modi said, "The Opposition can't see beyond appeasement. A fodder scam accused leader who is out on bail is advocating reservations for Muslims. He (Lalu) says reservations must be given to Muslims, and that means whatever reservation SCs/STs and OBCs have,



JHARKHAND

Rahul vows ₹1L to poor, raise in NREGA wages



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a public meeting in Jharkhand's Gumla on Tuesday | PTI



If the Constitution is destroyed, tribals will be finished, dalits will be finished and OBCs will be nowhere as everything will go to the 10-15 millionaires of this country

Rahul Gandhi,
Congress leader

Jal, Jungle, Zameen

Rahul Gandhi promised to ensure tribals' rights over jal, jungle and zameen. "Adivasi means who have the first rights on the land of this country. If I am calling you adivasi... it means jal, jungle and zameen of this country belongs to you and hence you must have the first rights on it," he said. "We call you Adivasi, they (saffron organisations) call you Vanvasi which is kind of derogatory word for you. This is wrong... Vanavasi means those who live in jungles. You are not vanvasi, you are Adivasi... You are those who have the first right over jal, jungle and zameen," he said.

They don't want your progress. They want you to work as their domestic helps in big cities. They don't want your children to become engineers, lawyers and doctors," he added. "This is the difference between BJP and INDIA bloc... We want your children to become doctors, engineers, lawyers and industrialists. Today they call you Vanvasi... In another few years, they will finish the jungles and ask you to beg before the people," Gandhi said. He said the BJP wants to do away with Constitution so

ELECTION 2024

BJP expels 28 members in Arunachal for 6 years

The BJP in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday expelled 28 members for six years after they contested the simultaneous assembly and parliamentary elections against the party's official candidates. The 28 members had contested the polls on tickets of National People's Party, Nationalist Congress Party, People's Party of Arunachal and as independent candidates.

Another JMM MLA files papers as independent

Another JMM legislator, Lobin Hembrom, on Tuesday filed nomination as an independent candidate from Rajmahal seat in Jharkhand.

As per the seat-sharing agreement in the ruling alliance in Jharkhand, the Rajmahal seat went to JMM, which fielded its sitting

MP Vijay Hansdak. Hembrom, the Borio legislator, filed the papers from Rajmahal to protest Hansdak's selection by the party.

BJP candidates face farmers' ire in Punjab

BJP candidates continued to face farmers' ire in Punjab with party nominees Hans Raj Hans and Dinesh Babu on Tuesday witnessing protests during campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls. Hans is the BJP candidate from the Faridkot constituency while Babu is in the fray from Gurdaspur seat. The BJP candidates and leaders have been facing protests from farmers when they are campaigning for the polls in the state.

VALLEY SEATS

BJP plays hide and seek in Kashmir messaging

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

mad Ashraf Mir:

The party has also not publicly announced whom the party would support in Anantnag and Baramulla LS seat.

When asked whom the party will support on three Valley seats, BJP's general secretary (Org) Ashok Koul said Home Minister Amit Shah has already made it clear that the party won't support NC, PDP and Congress.

"The party workers are free to vote for any candidate other than NC, PDP and Congress.

We have not told them anything. We have told them not to vote for NC, PDP and Congress and rest they can vote for anybody," he said.

Asked whether it would create confusion among the party workers, Koul said, "There will be no confusion. Our party workers are mature enough and they know whom to vote".

Another BJP leader, wishing to be named, said there has been a lot of positive change in Kashmir since Article 370 abrogation.

The BJP leader said there has been a lot of promotion of bat and apple in the last few years, indirectly referring to Apni Party of Altaf Bukhari.



600 youth

From Nepal have joined the Russian army for the Ukraine war



GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • WI: Windy • HR: Heavy Rain • SN: Snow
TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	30	16	SNY	Los Angeles	23	13	SNY
Colombo	33	27	LR	Melbourne	18	9	SNY
Dhaka	31	25	SNY	Moscow	5	-1	LR
Dubai	36	29	SNY	New York	28	16	LC
Houston	31	25	LC	Singapore	32	28	SNY
Istanbul	23	15	SNY	Toronto	23	10	SNY
London	20	11	SNY	Washington	17	8	SNY

newindianexpress.com

Israel stops short of full-fledged offensive in Rafah

Takes control of border crossing with Egypt; rejects warnings from allies; truce negotiations with Hamas on edge

CAIRO

ISRAELI tanks seized control of Gaza's vital Rafah border crossing on Tuesday as Israel brushed off urgent warnings from close allies and moved into the southern city even as ceasefire negotiations with Hamas remained on a knife's edge. The UN warned of a potential collapse of the flow of aid to Palestinians from the closure of Rafah and the other main crossing into Gaza, Kerem Shalom, at a time when officials say the northern part of the enclave is already experiencing "full-blown famine."

The Israeli foray overnight came after hours of whip-lash in the Israel-Hamas war, with the militant group on Monday saying it accepted an Egyptian-Qatari mediated ceasefire proposal. Israel, however, insisted the deal did not meet its core demands. The high-stakes diplomatic moves and military brinkmanship left a glimmer of hope alive — if only barely — for a deal to bring at least a pause in the war, which as it marked its 7-month point Tuesday, has killed more than 34,700 Palestinians, according to local health officials, and has devastated the Gaza Strip.

The incursion appeared to be short of the full-fledged offensive into Rafah that Israel has planned, and it was not immediately known if it would be expanded. The looming operation threatens to widen a rift



Israel Defense Forces tanks enter the Gazan side of the Rafah border crossing on Tuesday | AP

between Israel and its main backer, the United States, which says it is concerned over the fate of around 1.3 million Palestinians crammed into the city.

"Netanyahu only cares about coming out on top. He doesn't care about children. I don't think he'll agree" to a deal, said Najwa al-Saksuk as her family packed up.

Israeli strikes rang out and raised plumes of black smoke. The Israeli 401st Brigade entered the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing early Tuesday, the Israeli military said, taking "operational control" of it. Footage released by the military showed Israeli flags flying from tanks that seized the area. It also said that ground troops and airstrikes targeted suspected Hamas positions in Rafah.

The military claimed it had intelligence the crossing was "being used for terrorist purposes," though it did not immediately provide evidence.

It said Hamas fighters near the crossing launched a mortar attack that killed four Israeli troops near Kerem Shalom on Sunday and that more mortars and rockets were fired from the area on Tuesday.

The Rafah crossing with Egypt and the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel are critical points of entry for food, medicine and other supplies keeping Gaza's population of 2.3 million alive. They have been closed for at least the past two days.

AP

Malaysia defends MBDA, Lockheed Martin at expo

Malaysia will not interfere in business relations between arms manufacturers and other countries, its defence minister said Tuesday, after protesters demanded that the government expel companies that supply weapons to Israel from an international exhibition. They were protesting the presence of Lockheed Martin, European missile manufacturer MBDA and others that provide arms to Israel.

TOLL SO FAR

36,426



Hostage families urge US to pressure Israel for deal

Families of hostages held in Gaza have urged the US and other governments with citizens among the captives to pressure Israel to strike a deal with Hamas for their return. Israel estimates 128 hostages remain in Gaza. AFP

German police break up student protest in Berlin

German police on Tuesday broke up a protest by several hundred pro-Palestinian activists who had occupied a courtyard at Berlin's Free University earlier in the day, the latest such action, as protests spread across Europe.



WAR INTO 3RD YR
Russian spy plot to kill Zelenskyy foiled, says head of state security

KYIV

UKRAINIAN counterintelligence investigators have foiled a Russian plot to assassinate President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (in pic above) and other top military and political figures, Ukraine's state security service said.

Two colonels in the State Guard of Ukraine, which protects top officials, were detained on suspicion of enacting the plan drawn up by Russia's Federal Security Service, a statement said on Tuesday. The colonels were recruited before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, according to the statement.

It quoted the head of the State Security Service, Vasyl Maliuk, as saying the plot foresees an attack before Russian President Vladimir Putin's inauguration for a fifth term on Tuesday. Maliuk said that he personally oversaw the top-secret operation to track the plot. Ukrainian claims of Russian efforts to kill Zelenskyy aren't new. Zelenskyy said in 2022 there has been at least 10 attempts to assassinate him, and now the war with Russia has stretched into its third year.

Also, prosecutors in Poland said last month that a Polish man had been arrested on allegations of being ready to spy on behalf of Russia's military intelligence in an alleged plot to assassinate Zelenskyy.

Zelenskyy has proved to be a valuable asset for his country as the war against Ukraine's bigger neighbor grinds on, and as Kyiv's depleted forces wait for more troops and weapons. He has urged his people to keep fighting and instilled a belief that Ukraine can prevail.

Zelenskyy's movements are kept secret for security reasons, and his visits are announced after he has left. AP



File photo of 787-10 Dreamliner on the tarmac at Boeing campus in North Charleston, South Carolina | AP

pleted required inspections to confirm adequate bonding and grounding where the wings join the fuselage on certain 787 Dreamliner airplanes," the agency said in a written statement.

"The FAA is investigating whether Boeing completed the inspections and whether company employees may have falsified aircraft records."

The company has been under intense pressure since a door plug blew out of a Boeing 737 Max during an Alaska Airlines flight in January, leaving a gaping hole in the plane. The accident halted progress that Boeing seemed to be making while recovering from two deadly crashes of Max jets in 2018 and 2019.

Those crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia, which killed 346 people, are back in the spotlight, too. The families of some of the victims have pushed the Justice Department to revive a criminal fraud charge against the company.

AP

STARTING POINT

EU adopts its first law devoted to tackling violence against women



justice minister, Paul Van Tighelt. The law criminalises cyber stalking, cyber harassment and cyber incitement to hatred or violence across the EU. It sets minimum sentences, ranging from one year to five years in prison, depending on the crime.

Under the rules, if the victim is a child, spouse or a former spouse, the punishment can be more severe.

While there had been unanimous agreement on the law's importance, the inclusion of an EU-wide definition of rape was a source of contention during negotiations. The bloc was split between countries including Italy and Greece who wanted a definition of rape, against nations like France and Germany who opposed its inclusion, arguing the EU did not have competence in the matter, AFP reported.

Spain's equality minister Ana Redondo admitted she would have preferred the rules "to be a little more ambitious." Spain's equality minister Ana Redondo admitted she would have preferred the rules "to be a little more ambitious."

Court rejects bail plea of Nirav Modi

LONDON

FUGITIVE businessman Nirav Modi, who has been in prison in London for over five years, on Tuesday made a new bail application which was rejected by a UK judge who ruled that he continued to pose a 'substantial risk' of absconding justice.

The 52-year-old diamond merchant, who lost his extradition battle to face fraud and money laundering charges in India, did not appear for the bail hearing at Westminster Magistrates Court in London but his son and two daughters were present in the gallery.

District Judge John Zani accepted their legal team's submission that the long passage of time since the last bail application three and a half years ago constituted a change in circumstances to allow the hearing to go ahead.

"However, I am satisfied that there remain substantial grounds against bail," concluded Judge Zani in his judgment after a short hearing.

PTI

Astronaut launch delayed over oxygen pressure-relief valve issue

CAPE CANAVERAL



Boeing's Starliner capsule atop an Atlas V rocket at Cape Canaveral Station | AP

open and close, creating a loud buzz. The valve may have exceeded its 200,000 lifetime cycles, Bruno said, which means it would have to be replaced, pushing the launch into next week. But if engineers can determine the valve is still within that limit, the launch team could try again as soon as Friday. It was the latest delay for Boeing's first crew flight, on hold for years because of capsule trouble.

Within minutes of the countdown halting, Boeing's new astrovan was back at the launch pad to retrieve Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams. AP

IMMORTALS

	Smt MEENA CHITRA KUMAR of Sholinganallur passed away on April 22, 2024		Smt MAINA BAI KUMBHAT of Chetpet passed away on April 29, 2024		Shri MOTICHAND CHORDIA of Sovcarpet passed away on April 29, 2024
	Shri BALRAJ Y V of Kodambakkam passed away on April 30, 2024		Shri SANJAY KUMAR DEVDA J of Purasailkalam passed away on April 30, 2024		Shri MANISH M SHAH of Kilpauk passed away on April 30, 2024
	Shri MUKESH KUMAR BARDIYA of Pattalam passed away on April 30, 2024		Shri SRIDHAR V of Aminjikarai passed away on May 01, 2024		Shri JAWAHARLAL NEHRU of Anna Nagar West passed away on May 02, 2024
	Smt SARGUNAVATHI V of Thiruporur passed away on May 02, 2024		Smt KAMALAMMAL B J of Vyasarpadi passed away on May 03, 2024		Shri GOVINDARAJ of Chitlapakkam passed away on May 03, 2024
	Shri BALAGANAPATHI G of Pallikaranai passed away on May 03, 2024		Smt MEENA PARASU of Selaiyur passed away on May 03, 2024		Shri NARASIMHA RAO M of Sulurpet passed away on May 04, 2024

Their eyes were donated to Sankara Nethralaya. Ph : 28281919

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



Toy exports fall 14% after hitting peak in 2021-22

Slowdown in the US and Europe, subsidies in China and Vietnam among major reasons



DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

INDIA'S toy exports have hit the slow lane after showing spectacular rise since FY215. After touching a peak of \$177 million in FY22, exports of toys have been declining ever since. As per the data collated by the Global Trade Research Institute (GTRI), toy exports have come down to \$152 million in FY24. Simultaneously, there has been a rise in imports. Toy imports have risen 81% since FY22 to \$65 million.

As per the industry, the tapering off of exports could be attributed to slowdown in major markets like the US and Europe. The stagnation could be attributed to 'cost disability' that Indian manufacturers face due to high subsidies given to manufacturers in China and Vietnam.

Talking to TNIE, chairman of Toy Association of India Manu Gupta said that India has achieved a certain critical level of toy exports, but in order to



exponentially grow from here, the industry needs to overcome the cost disability it faces due to massive subsidies offered by countries like China and Vietnam. He says in order to grow toy exports in the country, the government should consider the request for a Production-Linked Incentive scheme for the sector. He also bats for a National Toys Policy for a comprehensive boost to the sector.

Ajay Srivastava, founder, GTRI, however, attributes the stagnation in exports to the inability of quality control measures to boost exports.

"While quality control measures were primarily aimed at boosting local industry and ensuring safety, they did not significantly enhance India's toy exports," says Srivastava of GTRI. Introduction of higher import duties and the quality control measures has impacted the toy trade in India with imports falling drastically from \$304.1 million in FY19 to \$64.9 million in FY24.

Number of 'ghost malls' increases in major cities

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

OWING to growing preference towards online shopping and the advent of top 'Grade A' class shopping centres, number of ghost shopping malls, characterised by a vacancy rate exceeding 40%, rose from 57 in 2022 to 64 in 2023 across eight major cities, said real estate consultancy firm Knight Frank on Tuesday.

The consultant noted that there has been a sharp rise in low-performing retail assets with nearly 13.3 million square feet (mn sq ft) of retail shopping centre space categorised as ghost shopping centres. There has been an increase of 238% year-on-year (YoY) in ghost shopping centres by gross leasable area (GLA) since 2022 in the prime markets. As a result of the rise in vacant spaces,



Knight Frank estimates that loss of value to be at ₹6700 crore or \$798 million in 2023.

National Capital Region (NCR) accounted for the highest Ghost Shopping Centre stock measuring at 5.3 mn sq ft (rise of 58% YoY), followed by Mumbai with 2.1 mn sq ft (rise of 86% YoY) and Bengaluru with 2.0 mn sq ft (rise of 46% YoY). The sharpest rise in

Ghost Shopping Centres was recorded in Kolkata (237% YoY), albeit at a lower base.

Knight Frank stated when new Grade A shopping centres were opened, many retailers made a beeline to expand their presence. This led to a high double-digit vacancy in Grade C structures. Ghost malls often fail to attract customers' and retailers' interest due to vari-

ous constraints such as bad location, obsolete design, strata sold arrangements in addition to dilapidation and unattractiveness of structures.

Shishir Baijal, Chairman & MD, Knight Frank India, said "Grade A malls have excelled, maintaining robust occupancy, foot traffic, and conversion rates, thereby delivering value to their customers. Conversely, Grade C assets and those classified as Ghost Shopping Centres are lagging, prompting landlords to take action to rejuvenate or divest such properties."

In tier 1 cities, total number of shopping centres have reduced in a period of one year. Despite new addition of 8 new retail centres, number of shopping centres reduced to 263 in 2023 as 16 shopping centres were shut down over the last year.

While the tobacco companies did the valuation for excise duty purposes based upon the maximum retail price valuation rule, the revenue authorities disputed by levying and demanding

the differential tax, based on the transaction value of product.

Abhishek A Rastogi, founder of Rastogi Chambers, representing the tobacco companies argued for the application of cum duty tax principles in determining the duty owed.

He argued that the cardinal

principle of cum duty can't be ignored for finalisation of the demand and the quantum of duty must be finalised by the tribunal, keeping in mind the provisions of cum duty tax. The apex court accepted the review application to the extent of cum duty tax and ordered that tribunal must determine the quantum of duty based on this principle.

Cum duty principles will make the differential taxes to almost nil as these products were charged at 67% tax at that time. Interestingly, the tribunal had not given any ruling on the principles of cum duty tax at the initial stage as on the other two principles the tribunal had already decided in favour of the companies.

Sovereign wealth funds' assets in India rise 60%

BENN KOCHVEEDAN @ Mumbai

ASSETS under custody of sovereign wealth funds in domestic companies rose by 60% to touch ₹4.7 lakh crore in the 12 months period preceding April 2024 as against ₹3 lakh crore last year, according to the latest NSDL data.

The world's largest sovereign funds such as the Government Pension Fund Global of Norway, which with ₹1.4 lakh crore in assets under custody is the world's largest; the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, the Sama Foreign Holdings of Saudi Arabia, the Canadian Pension Funds, the GIC & Temasek of Singapore, and the Kuwait Investment Authority, among others, are some of the leading sovereign wealth funds which

have been pumping tens of billions into domestic companies/entities/infra assets. They're increasing their India bet, as the country remains the fastest growing large market.

These funds have been putting money in the country on the back of tax exemptions they have begun to get since recent years along with relaxation in the KYC norms, which has reduced the compliance cost ad time for them. Total securities/assets owned by sovereign wealth funds in domestic companies/entities/infra assets jumped by 60% to ₹4.7 lakh crore in the year ending April 2024, show data. In the previous 12 months period ending April 2023, assets under custody of these funds was ₹3 lakh crore, according to the same data.

Hinduja overhauls corp structure for RelCap deal

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE successful bidder for Reliance Capital – IndusIndia International Holding Ltd (IIHL) – has changed the entire corporate structure of the transaction for implementation of the resolution plan 20 days ahead of the deadline for completion of the process.

Under the new structure, the transaction will take place through four new companies – Cyture India Private Limited,

Ecopolis Properties Private Limited, Cyture Technologies Private Limited, and IIHL BFSI Holding Limited. In the earlier structure, the Hinduja Group had proposed to implement the entire transaction primarily through two companies – IIHL BFSI (India) Ltd and Aasia Enterprises.

According to IIHL, Cyture India will act as the holding company of Aasia as it will hold a majority stake in Aasia Enterprises, and its shareholders will be the same as that of partners of Aasia – Ashok Hinduja, Harsha Hinduja, and Shom Hinduja.

ers will be the same as that of partners of Aasia – Ashok Hinduja, Harsha Hinduja, and Shom Hinduja. The other two new entities – Cyture Technologies and Ecopolis Properties – will be the 100% subsidiaries of Aasia Enterprises. The



Cyture to act as holding co of Aasia

As per IIHL, Cyture India will act as the holding company of Aasia as it will hold a majority stake in Aasia Enterprises, and its shareholders will be the same as that of partners of Aasia – Ashok Hinduja, Harsha Hinduja, and Shom Hinduja

fourth newly introduced and incorporated company, IIHL BFSI Holding Ltd will be 100% owned by IIHL. The company has apprised of the change to the Reserve Bank of India, which had on 17 November 2023 given approval to its earlier structure for the transaction.

IIHL has emerged as the successful bidder for erstwhile Anil Ambani-promoted Reliance Capital with creditors approving its resolution plan with 99.6% vote share.

Volatility Index touches 1-year high ahead of 2024 general elections outcome

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

AHEAD of the general elections results, volatility index, or India VIX, surged for the ninth straight session on Tuesday to hit a fresh 52-week high, sending jitter in the market. The index hit a high of 17.63 on Tuesday and later closed at 17.01, up 2.45%. With this, the fear gauge has jumped more than 70% in the last nine trading sessions.

"The rise aligns with historical trends, as the VIX typically climbs before major events like general elections... Based on this historical context, a further increase in the VIX is likely, with a potential move towards 25 before the election results," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastika Investmart. The historical data shows that the index has seen a jump of 150% during 2019 and over 200% in 2014.

Meena further states that two key factors are driving the VIX's rise. First, portfolio investors are buying protective put options to hedge their holdings. Second, traders are speculating on significant price movements post-election by purchasing both calls and put options.

The India VIX is a volatility index calculated by the NSE from the order book of NIFTY

options. The best bid-ask quotes of near and next-month NIFTY options contracts traded on the NSE's F&O segment are used for this. India VIX reflects investors' perceptions of market volatility in the near term, i.e. it portrays market volatility over the next 30 calendar days.

The fresh surge in India VIX comes after it had dropped 20% to 10.2 levels on April 23 when bulls were all over the market.

Since then the index has seen a sharp spike, raising concerns among market participants. Equity market benchmarks – BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty have fallen more than 2% each in the last three sessions.

"While a lot can be explained in terms of historical trends, the approach of record peaks, upcoming election results, and even the liquidity impact on lot size reduction in Nifty, the recent swings are difficult to fully attribute," said Anand James, Chief Market Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

James added that what is raising eyebrows now is how steep and the extent of the rise and fall is despite the short time frame. Just three weeks back, the VIX had fallen to record lows, after Nifty averted a major fall and bounced off the previous month's low, calming investors.

ASIANOMICS

SRI LANKA

AIMS TO HALVE DEBT SERVICING COSTS: APEX BANK CHIEF

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka aims to halve the servicing costs once it completes the debt restructuring process, the country's central bank chief said on Tuesday. The country rejected international bondholders' proposal in April to restructure more than \$12 billion in debt, putting at risk critical International Monetary Fund support and delaying its efforts to resolve a two-year-long debt crisis. Sri Lanka has already struck a deal with its main government creditors, but an "agreement in principle" with bondholders is also needed to secure IMF Board approval for the next \$337 million instalment of its \$2.9 billion programme. The country is expected to grow by 3% in 2024 after its economy went into free-fall in 2022 due to record low foreign exchange reserves, pushing it into its worst financial crisis since independence from Britain in 1948. It defaulted on its foreign debt in May, 2022.

PHILIPPINES

INFLATION RISES FOR 3RD MONTH

Annual inflation in the Philippines rose for the third straight month in April on account of accelerated food and transport price growth, backing the central bank's recent decisions to keep monetary policy restrictive. The consumer price index increased 3.8% in April from a year earlier and within the central bank's 3.5% to 4.3% forecast for the month. Annual inflation was 3.7% in March. The April data brought year-to-date inflation to 3.4%, within the central bank's 2% to 4% target for 2024. The core inflation rate, which strips out volatile food and fuel items, eased to 3.2% in April from March's 3.4%. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said it expected inflation to return to its 2% to 4% target for this year and next. In 2023, inflation averaged 6.0%. The central bank, which will meet on May 16, has held the benchmark rate steady at the current 17-year high of 6.5% at its last four meetings.

JAPAN

SERVICE ACTIVITY GAINS ON SOLID DEMAND

The service sector activity in Japan grew at the fastest pace in eight months in April, thanks to solid business and consumer spending, a private survey showed on Tuesday. The final air Jibun Bank Service purchasing managers' index (PMI) jumped to 54.3 last month, the highest level since August 2023, a slight increase from 54.1 in March. The index has remained above the 50 mark that separates contraction from expansion since September 2022, but it edged down from the flash reading of 54.6. The survey showed prices charged by companies to their clients increased sharply, with the rate of inflation hitting its highest since April 2014 when the nation raised the sales tax. The companies cited rising expenses from higher wages as the main reason for passing on costs to customers, a fact that won't be lost on the Bank of Japan which has for years urged firms to raise pay at a steady pace to spur consumption.

Apex court reverses decision, extends relief to tobacco manufacturers

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

IN a recent development, the Supreme Court, upon reviewing a petition by Urmin Products, has decided to grant relief to tobacco manufacturers. The case, originating in 2006 over the classification of chewing tobacco and scented Zarda for excise duty purposes, saw the tribunal initially ruling in favour of the companies. However, a subsequent appeal by revenue authorities led to a significant financial burden on the manufacturers.

While the tobacco companies did the valuation for excise duty purposes based upon the maximum retail price valuation rule, the revenue authorities disputed by levying and demanding



the differential tax, based on the transaction value of product. Abhishek A Rastogi, founder of Rastogi Chambers, representing the tobacco companies argued for the application of cum duty tax principles in determining the duty owed.

He argued that the cardinal

principle of cum duty can't be ignored for finalisation of the demand and the quantum of duty must be finalised by the tribunal, keeping in mind the provisions of cum duty tax. The apex court accepted the review application to the extent of cum duty tax and ordered that tribunal must determine the quantum of duty based on this principle.

Cum duty principles will make the differential taxes to almost nil as these products were charged at 67% tax at that time. Interestingly, the tribunal had not given any ruling on the principles of cum duty tax at the initial stage as on the other two principles the tribunal had already decided in favour of the companies.

Will achieve \$1 bn in revenues: Happiest Minds

Q4 FY23 RESULTS

Will achieve \$1 bn in revenues: Happiest Minds

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU-based mid-tier IT company Happiest Minds Technologies, which posted a 14% increase in the full financial year FY24 revenue at Rs 1,625 crore, is on track to achieve its long-term vision of \$1 billion in revenues by FY31.

In an interaction with TNIE, Venkatraman Narayanan, MD & CEO, said the objective of reaching \$1 billion will be a combination of both organic and inorganic growth. The company recently acquired PureSoftware Technologies for about ₹779 crore and this will strengthen the company's Banking, Financial Services, Insurance (BFSI) and Healthcare and Life Sciences verticals. It also acquired Macmillan Learning India for about Rs

There were years when we have grown 37%, so our CAGR has been quite solid up until now and we are planning to keep the same growth rate or maybe even slightly better.

Venkatraman Narayanan, MD & CEO, Happiest Minds Technologies

4.5 crore to strengthen its edtech vertical.

Narayanan said the compa-

ny's organic growth has been quite strong. "We have been growing at about 21-22% until now and in fact much faster. There were years when we have grown 37%, so our CAGR has been quite solid up until now and we are planning to keep the same growth rate or maybe even slightly better."

In a post-earnings media call, Ashok

Aman, Deepak eye Paris ticket as World Qualifier to kick-off Thursday

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

A TOTAL of 14 Indian wrestlers (six each in men's freestyle and Greco-Roman and two in women) will be in action when the World Olympic Games Qualifier, the last chance to earn Paris ticket, begins in Istanbul on Thursday.

As many as four women wrestlers (Vinesh Phogat 50kg, Anting Panghal 53kg, Anshu Malik 57kg and Reetika Hooda 76kg) have earned an Olympic quota each but none of the male grapplers have managed a place for the country in the 2024 Games so far. Hopes were high when the men wrestlers competed at the Asian Olympic Games Qualifier last month but none of them could manage to reach the final. Sujeet Kalkal (65kg) and Deepak Punia (86kg), who got stranded

at the Dubai International Airport and could reach the venue only after the weigh-in, did not compete. The Indian team comprising 13 wrestlers, eight coaches and three physiotherapists along with the Wrestling Federation of India president Sanjay Kumar Singh flew for Istanbul on Tuesday morning. Deepak (86kg) is learnt to have flown for the venue on Sunday. The competition will begin with bouts in Greco-Roman followed by women's wrestling on Friday. The men freestyle wrestlers' competition will begin on Saturday. As per the criteria, the finalists apart from the winner of the play-off between two bronze medalists in each weight category will earn the quota.

Challenges in freestyle

All eyes will be on Aman Sehra-

wat (57kg), Sujeet (65kg), Deepak Punia (86kg) and Sumit Malik (125kg) in the men's freestyle. Aman might have failed to reach the final in the Asian Qualifier but he could be India's brightest prospect in Istanbul. The 2023 Asian Games bronze medalist, however, will have to face tough challenges from Tokyo Olympian Georgi Vangelov of Bulgaria, world silver medallist Alireza Sarlak of Iran and Muhammet Karavus, the local favourite.

If that was not enough, Spencer Lee of the USA, former U-17 and U-20 world champion, will be in Istanbul, making his comeback to international tournament eight years after world title in U-20. Aman, the 2022 U-23 world champion, will also have to go past world bronze medalists Zanabazar Zandabud of Mongolia and German Horst



India squad
Freestyle: Aman (57kg), Sujeet (65kg), Jaideep (74kg), Deepak Punia (86kg), Deepak (97kg), Sumit (125kg); Women: Mansi (62kg), Nisha (68kg); Greco-Roman: Sumit (60kg), Ashu (67kg), Vikas (77kg), Sunil (87kg), Nitesh (97kg), Naveen (130kg).

Lehr; Han Chong Song, the 2023 Asian Games silver medalist is also in the fray. Sujeet will be raring to go this time. Like, Aman he too will face stiff competitions from Zain Allen Rutherford of the USA, the 2022 world silver medalist.

Tokyo Olympian Deepak too has to overcome challenges from quite a few wrestlers including Magomed Eldarovitch Ramazanov of Bulgaria, who won

gold in the first Ranking Series in Zagreb and Magomed Sharipov of Bahrain. The latter had recently lost to Deepak in the 2023 Asian Games. Punia's namesake, Deepak, who will compete in 97kg, will have to counter challenge from Nishan Preet Singh Randhawa of Canada. The Canadian defeated Deepak in the 2022 Common-



Australia coach Andrew McDonald on Tuesday said even though skipper Mitchell Marsh's progress is slower than expected, the all-rounder will be fit to bowl in the upcoming T20 World Cup. "We've got plenty of time now that he has been ruled out the IPL. (Our) first game is just short of a month away now. So ample time for him to get ready," McDonald said.

newindianexpress.com

JAKE, THE REAPER OF RUNS

Despite missing the WC berth, the Australian youngster once again lit up the stage in IPL

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@Chennai

EVEN as late as the second week of March, Jake Fraser-McGurk's Summer plans didn't involve playing for Delhi Capitals. The breakout star of the Indian Premier League (IPL) may have probably been looking at shooting some hoops with mates, some fishing and working on his game in March, April and May.

Then, a spot opened up thanks to Lungi Ngidi's injury. Delhi plumped for him even if they had a stacked Aussie-heavy top-order. Whether by chance or by design, it has worked wonders. He has been electric and has routinely embarrassed top bowlers. On Tuesday, the opener continued with a breath-taking takedown of Rajasthan Royals inside the powerplay. He had made a soporific start (run-a-ball 7) as Trent Boult, one of the finest new-ball operators in the history of the league in terms of wickets, had altered the line of attack. The Kiwi usually searches for some swing early to bring the pads into play. Here, it was a nod to McGurk's aggression so the seamer was looking to angle in deliveries, with the length going to be short as well as full.

Off the fourth ball of the innings, Boult had hit McGurk in the unmentionables. The opener was down and the physio spent a good time working to ensure nothing was damaged. By the time McGurk's work was done for the evening, he had put a big dent in the visitors' aspirations of sealing a playoff berth with a win. After being hit in the box, McGurk went 401640401444646. Sure, some of those were slogs but the good thing with the way he slogs is his base, the bat speed and balance. It was in evidence straightforwardly as he hit through the line off Boult over mid-off after giving some room. His first six of the night — also off Boult



Jake Fraser-McGurk smashed a 20-ball 50 as Delhi beat Rajasthan by 20 runs | AP

BATTLE FOR THE FOURTH

Sunrisers Hyderabad and Lucknow Super Giants – two teams fighting to be in the top four – go up against each other. A look...

NEED FOR TWO POINTS

SRH and LSG, placed fourth and fifth, respectively, need two wins in three matches to make the play-offs. Which practically makes this a direct match-up, giving the winning team a headstart. Who will come out on top?



While it has been an up and down campaign so far, Heinrich Klaasen has not made an impact since the Bengaluru game. Against LSG, he would want to do that for it is a crucial match for Hyderabad.

WILL AGARWAL PLAY?

After what seemed like a set combination for Hyderabad, Pat Cummins and Co went back to Mayank Agarwal in the last game. However, will he continue? If so, how much will it affect the team combination? The questions remain.

Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Lucknow Super Giants, Hyderabad

Live on Star Sports and JioCinema, 7:30PM

— was pumped straight into the sightscreen. The front leg was already out of the way when the Kiwi bowler was in his delivery stride. When the ball pitched inside his hitting zone, the bat made one smooth arc to send the ball soaring over the bowler's head. More boundaries followed. When Avesh Khan was introduced, the 22-year-old got lucky as an inside edge narrowly evaded the leg-stump before it sped

past Sanju Samson for a boundary. More good luck followed him as an uppish club just evaded the man stationed at extra cover. Avesh very quickly lost his length and JFM brought down the full face of the bat to loft him over mid-off. Sanju Samson had some words of advice but it didn't matter much as he kept travelling. In the process, the Australian reached a 19-ball 50. It ought to have been 56

Teams	P	W	L	Pts	NRR
KKR	11	8	3	16	1.45
RR	11	8	3	16	0.47
CSK	11	6	5	12	0.7
SRH	11	6	5	12	-0.06
DC	12	6	6	12	-0.31
LSG	11	6	5	12	-0.37
RCB	11	4	7	8	-0.04
PBKS	11	4	7	8	-0.18
MI	12	4	8	8	-0.21
GT	11	4	7	8	-1.32

* until the end of RR vs DC match

off 20 as an attempted R Ashwin carrom ball was a knee-high full-toss. But he mishit the delivery straight to covers. 60/1 off 42 overs. The light had been extinguished against the run of play but he had fulfilled his role to perfection as DC posted 221/8 before restricting RR to 201/8 to seal a 20-run win.

Having already had multiple innings like this this year, a few people expected him to feature in Australia squad but he didn't have any expectation. "There's two ways you can look at it," he told the *Willow Talk* podcast last week. "They (selectors) probably had a good idea of what (the squad) was a month and a half ago, trying to build that, how they can get the connection in that team. It's also hard to fit in. You've got David Warner, our best opener ever in three formats. You've got Travis Head, who's lighting it up over here (in the IPL) and has lit up for the past 18 months. And then Mitch Marsh is the same and he's also the captain." But with Warner still nursing an injury, Marsh still convalescing back home, will they be tempted to relook at Fraser-McGurk? With more than 15 days to go to hand in the final 15-man squads, you can't rule it out. Not yet anyway.

Brief scores: DC 221/8 in 20 ovs (Jake 50, Porel 65; Ashwin 3/24) bt RR 201/8 in 20 ovs (Samson 66, Parag 27; Mukesh 2/30).

KALYANI MANGALE @Chennai

CHAMARI ATHAPATHTHU has played international cricket for over 15 years. She has lived through the ups and downs of Sri Lankan cricket. Whether it was beating then-defending champions England in the 2013 ODI World Cup or overpowering South Africa in the latest T20 World Cup edition in 2023, she has been the beating heart of the team. These ups also came with lows where Sri Lanka women did not play any cricket for more than a year following the COVID-19 pandemic and missed out on a chance to play in the 2022 ODI World Cup.

Since the start of the new ICC ODI Championship, Sri Lanka have consistently played games against quality opposition at home and away venues. Not just that, Sri Lanka have also beaten better-ranked teams and Athapaththu saw it as one of the most important factors in the change of fortune for her team. "We have played a lot of cricket

in recent times and we have beaten a few teams as well. We beat New Zealand in Sri Lanka, England on their home soil, and South Africa in South Africa. So, my team is in a positive mindset. That will definitely help in the qualifiers," Athapaththu had said before the qualifiers. Since the new cycle, one of the things that has changed for

Sri Lanka qualified for the T20 World Cup after beating United Arab Emirates | ICC

Sri Lanka is the contribution from the likes of Vishmi Gunaratne, Harshitha Samarawickrama, and Kavisha Dilhari. Earlier, Athapaththu's contribution was so dominant that the Sri Lankan batting would fall apart once the opposition figured out how to send the captain back. Now these youngsters also started to dig deep to first support their captain and later survive on their own.

The best example of the next generation standing up came in the T20I series against England, where Sri Lanka's bowling attack and these batters stood up as Sri Lanka clinched the three-match T20 series. And that was the theme in the T20 World Cup Qualifiers as well. In their first match of the qualifiers, bowlers defended the total against Thailand. Athapaththu scored a half-century against Scotland, while Dilhari took

**Gukesh, Arjun and Pragg in Warsaw for Rapid and Blitz**

AGENCIES @ Warsaw

FRESH from his historic triumph at the Candidates' tournament, Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh will compete in the Superbet Rapid and Blitz chess tournament which begins here on Wednesday.

A part of the Grand Chess tour, the event will also see GM R Praggnanandhaa in action for the first time since the Candidates while world number seven Erigaisu Arjun is the other Indian in the 10-player field for the tourna-



ment which will have nine rounds of rapid and 18 rounds of blitz to decide the winner.

The tournament favourite is Magnus Carlsen of Norway who starts as the top seed. The four players who have signed up for the entire tour are Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, Anish Giri of Holland and Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan.

All of them will take part in four out of five events out of which two will be classical and remaining three will be rapid and blitz.

MADRAS Cricket Club beat Besant Nagar Club 2-1 (2-6, 6-3, 6-3) in final of 15th UCAL-Tamil Nadu Tennis Association Chennai City Club mixed doubles league played at Besant Nagar Club. Madras Cricket Club duo of Prithvi Shekar and Sai Samhita got the better of Ajai Selvaraj and Nithyraj Baburaj in three sets in a match of high quality tennis to retain the title.

Chess tourney for children

The 2nd CAPA Chess Academy-Tamil Nadu State Level children's and Open Chess tournament will be held on May 19 at Hall Of Chess, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Chennai 600003. Boys and girls can participate in U-7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 categories and Open segment.

Entry fee is ₹400. Total cash prize is ₹25,000 for Open category. For further details contact, 9499915932; 8056057212.

Hockey camp a success

Former Indian captain Mohammad Riaz organised a summer coaching camp for children at the Madrasa I Azam school grounds at Anna Salai, Chennai. The camp was well received as more than 100 children took part. Apart from Riaz, Dastagir Pasha (Dastu), Shaukat Basheer and Abdul Subhan were also involved.

Indian rider Kavin secures top-10 finish

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

INDIAN rider Kavin Quintal made a stunning debut in the 2024 FIM JuniorGP World Championship with a top-10 finish in the Stk European class in Round 2 at the Circuito do Estoril, outside Lisbon, Portugal. Kavin, who represents Fifty Motorsport team, clocked 23:19.001s for the 11 laps, just 34.866s adrift of the winner Adrian Rodriguez of Spain (SF Racing) and just 10.092s off fifth-placed Lorenzo Della Porta (Yamaha GV Racing). Kavin faced early setbacks and had to start the race from the 30th position on the grid.

Crystal Palace hand out royal thrashing to Man United

AFP @ London

MANCHESTER United are at risk of failing to qualify for Europe next season after a dismal 4-0 thrashing at Crystal Palace left the Red Devils eighth in the Premier League. Michael Olise scored twice, either side of goals from the in-form Jean-Philippe Mateta and Tyrick Mitchell, as the Eagles' resurgence since the appointment of Oliver Glazner as manager continues.

The time for a change of boss at Old Trafford could be coming soon as Erik ten Hag fails to ar-



rest a slide in his second season in charge. United have only been absent from European competition once since the 1989-90 season. That came after finishing seventh in David Moyes' sole campaign 10 years ago and the Scot was sacked with four games of the season to go. United have never come lower than seventh in the Premier League era but are staring that possibility in the face with Arsenal to come at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Ten Hag has routinely cited injury problems as mitigation for his side's struggles.

'Confident of Real reaching final'

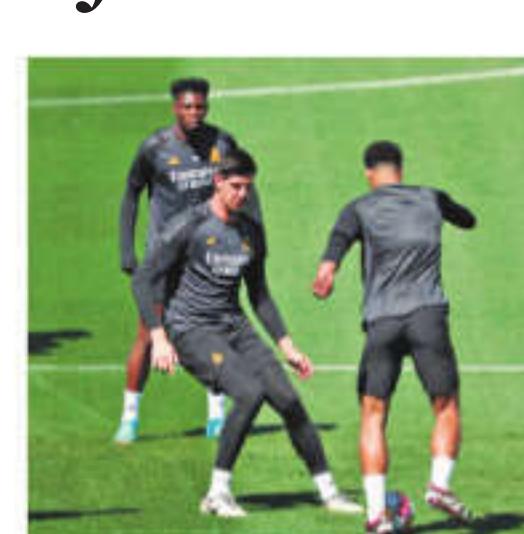
AGENCIES @ Madrid

REAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said he was confident his side could overcome Bayern Munich on Wednesday to reach the Champions League final. The record 14-time winners snatched a 2-2 draw in the first leg of the semifinal clash in Munich with Vinicius Junior scoring a brace. "I am confident because this is Real Madrid, we have this squad, I'm confident in the fans who will help us," Ancelotti told a news conference Tuesday. "We think we've got it better, but (Bayern coach Thomas) Tuchel will think he does too."

Ancelotti admitted German giants Bayern, six-time winners, were the superior side in coach. "We respect them... they did better than us in the first leg."

The coach confirmed Andrey Lunin would start in goal despite Thibaut Courtois returning from injury and keeping a clean sheet as Madrid clinched their La Liga crown this weekend. The Belgian stopper had been out since last summer with a bad knee injury.

Various long-standing Madrid players could leave at the end of the season, with Luka Modric, Toni Kroos, Lucas Vazquez and Nacho Fernandez all out of contract in the summer. "I hope not, but some will be living their final Champions League match at the Bernabeu," said Madrid defender Dani Carvajal.



Real Madrid's players attend a training session in Madrid on Tuesday | AFP

the first leg draw at the Allianz Arena. "These are similar clubs, they have great history and a lot of success in the Champions League," continued the Italian



DAY'S DIARY

First Bond film

On this day in 1963, the first-ever James Bond film, *Dr. No*, starring Sean Connery as the super-spy codenamed 007 premiered in the US

PLOT

Co-starring Ursula Andress, Joseph Wiseman and Jack Lord, *Dr. No* sends Bond to Jamaica to investigate the murders of a fellow agent and his secretary



CHARACTERISATION

The spy was created by novelist Ian Fleming in his 1953 thriller *Casino Royale*. He wrote 12 novels over the next 10 years featuring Bond



TRIVIA

Connery went on to appear in six Bond films, including *Goldfinger*, *From Russia With Love*, *Thunderball*, *You Only Live Twice* and *Never Say Never Again*

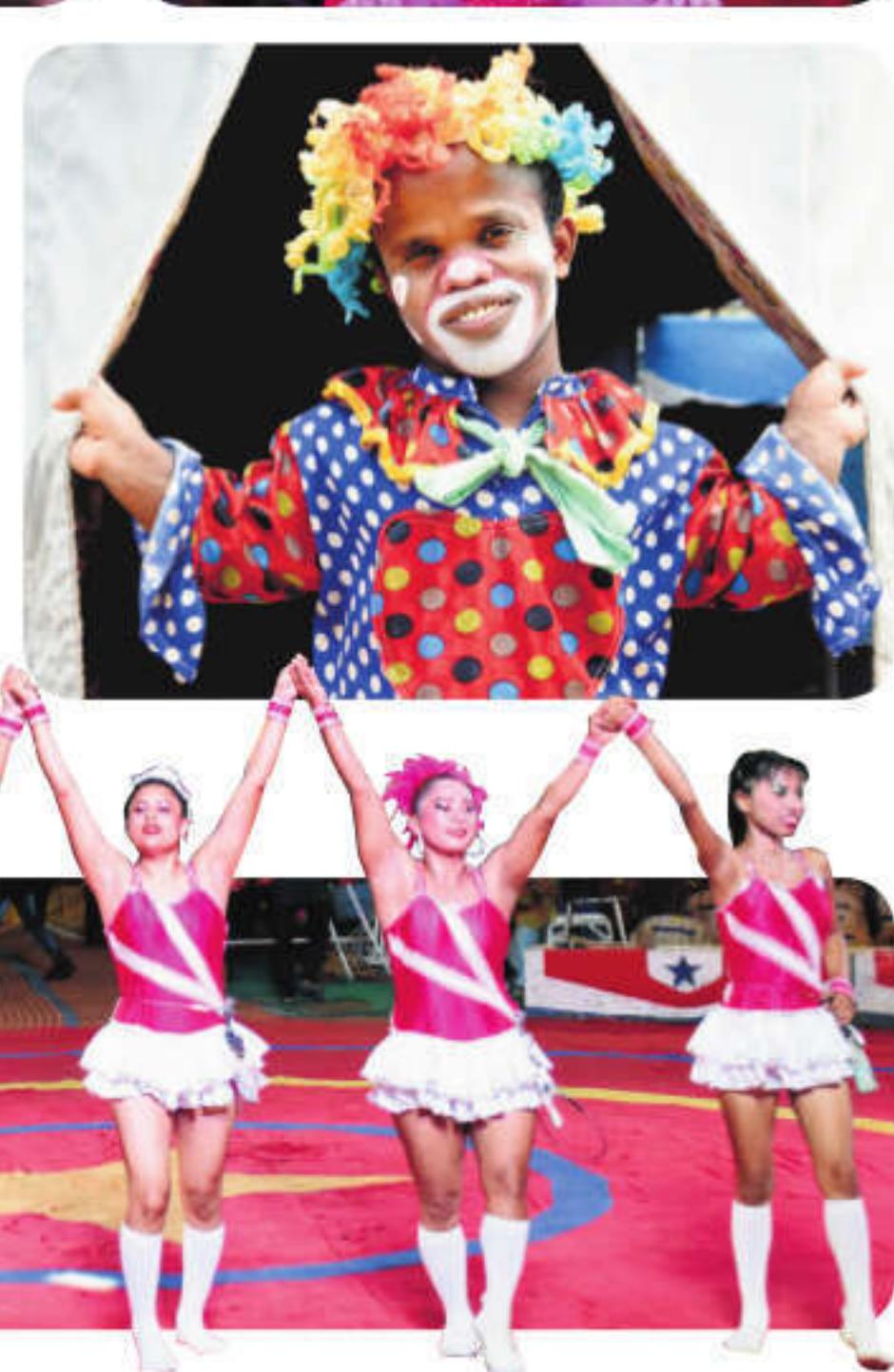
Tasty treats for your little ones

PG 3



JOIN IN FOR JUMBO JOYS

JHE Jumbo Circus is back in town again with its list of awe-inspiring acts. What's new this time though is that the organisers are targeting the IT crowd on OMR. This summer holidays, the tents of the circus were filled with tiny tots and their parents who held their breaths, clapped gleefully and cheered on as the performers took to stage. Ace acrobats, tactful jugglers, jovial clowns and mesmerising dogs came under the spotlight to provide entertainment. TNIE lensman Ashwin Prasath visits the show in town to capture some breathtaking moments



KARTIK BHARDWAJ

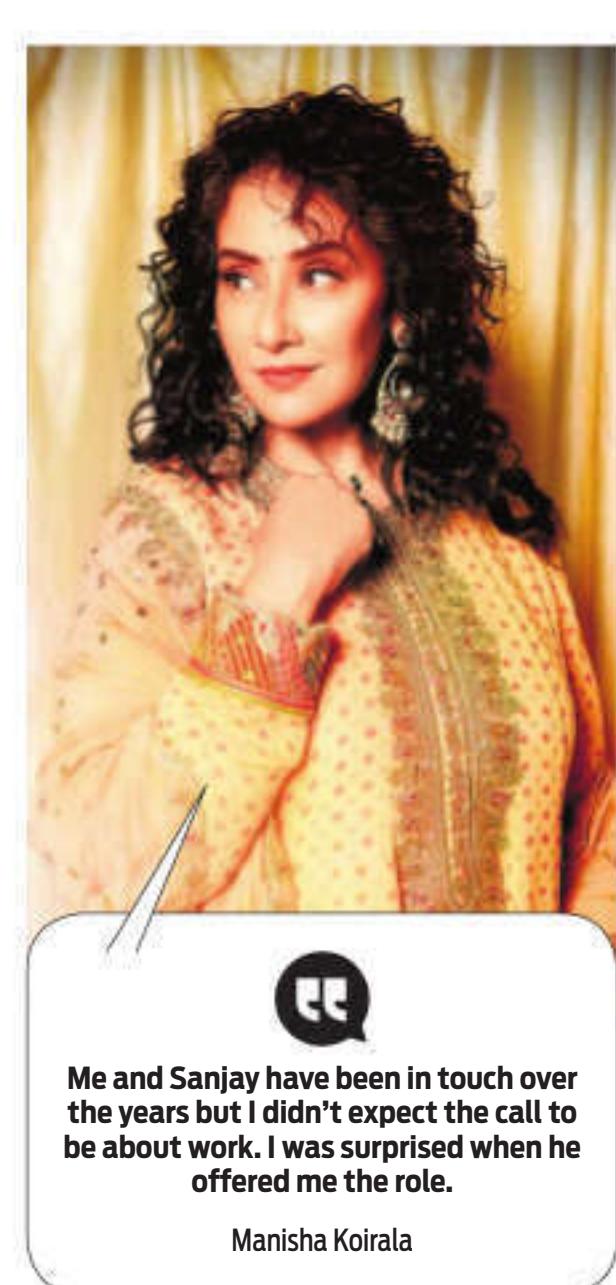
THE casting process for a Sanjay Leela Bhansali ensemble sounds like a recruitment sequence from a heist film. "I was actually gardening back home in Nepal when I got the call," shares Manisha Koirala, who plays Mallikajaan, the queen-bee courtesan in Bhansali's recent glitter of a dream *Heeramantri: The Diamond Bazaar*. "I quickly washed the mud off my hands and picked up the phone. Me and Sanjay have been in touch over the years but I didn't expect the call to be about work. I was surprised when he offered me the role," she says. "I thought I had given whatever I had but then this project brought me back."

For Aditi Rao Hydari, the series' songbird-seductress Bibbojaan, it was like a shower of celestial blessings. "I remember that day. One of my films in the South had released to a hundred per cent occupancy. I was in the car, going for promotional interviews and I got a call from Sanjay sir's office, inviting me for a look test. It was a double bounty," she says. "Such a special day."

However, for Sharmin Segal, who



The dazzling charm of the courtesans



("We casually met and discussed cinema"), and Sanjeeda Sheikh, the vindictive Waheedan, ("We had met once for a TV show but it didn't happen. I thought he had forgotten me. Turned out he didn't"). The omission is not something the auteur can be accused of. "I think he has four eyes even in the back of his head," jokes Manisha. "He has had this uncanny obsession with details since his first film." The actor worked with Bhansali on his debut directorial *Khamoshi: The Musical* (1996). "I was playing the daughter of hearing and speech-impaired parents. He made me go to a special school for months to learn sign language. He even made my sign language teacher his assistant. So, by the time we got down to shoot, I knew my character, my lines and sign language down to the T."

Bhansali has the reputation of being a micromanaging perfectionist on set. He once said that he wouldn't let actors go to their vanity vans until he found "the moment". "His consciousness is telling him to micro-manage but what he is actually seeking is the magic of spontaneity," says Sharmin.

(Continued on Page 4)

plays Mallikajaan's younger daughter, the poetess Alamzeh, the casting process was more of a training montage. "Everyone knows I am Sanjay Leela Bhansali's niece. I was under a lot of scrutiny since I am part of 'the family,'" she says. "He made me audition 17 times." It was less cinematic and more casual for Richa Chadha, the alcoholic *tawaif* Lajjo

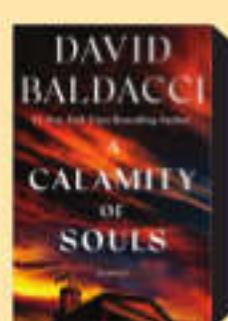
Me and Sanjay have been in touch over the years but I didn't expect the call to be about work. I was surprised when he offered me the role.

Manisha Koirala

**The Women: A Novel**

by Kristin Hannah

The story revolves around 28-year-old Frances McGrath, a nursing student who has led a sheltered life to date and is faced with the realities of the world as she decides to join the Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam War. The war, which continues beyond the battleground, changes the way Frances views her life.

**A Calamity of Souls**

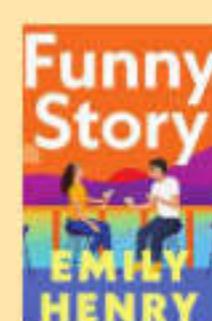
by David Baldacci

Based on the tumultuous time of 1984 in South Virginia, this story revolves around Jack Lee, a white lawyer who defends the case of a wrongfully accused black man, along with a black lawyer named Desiree Dubose.

**Before the Coffee Gets Cold**

by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

In a Tokyo café, patrons discover they can travel back in time, but with strict rules: they cannot leave the café and must return before their coffee gets cold. Through poignant stories, individuals seek closure, rectify past regrets, and confront unresolved relationships, all within the time it takes for coffee to cool.

**Funny Story**

by Emily Henry

The author takes us through a heartwarming tale of unexpected love and self-discovery as we follow Daphne in her journey to find love again. It talks about the friendships you form as an adult and the tumultuous relationships you're forced to face as you grow and change.

**EMPTY SANDS**

With kathiri veiyil taking over the city, the Marina beach wears a deserted look. | MARTIN LOUIS

QUICKFIX**CRISPY CORN SNACK****INGREDIENTS**

- Sweet corn
- Corn flour: 4 tsp
- Rice flour: 2 tsp
- Maida (optional): 1 tsp
- Chilli powder: 1 tsp
- Black pepper: 1.5 tsp
- Salt as per taste
- Lemon: 1
- Capsicum: 1
- Onion: 1
- Coriander leaves

METHOD

- Boil the sweet corn with water and a little bit of salt for 2 to 3 minutes; drain and rinse under running water.
- In a mixing bowl, add corn flour, rice flour, maida, salt, and chilli powder, and mix it with sweet corn. Do not add any excess water to retain the crispiness of the corn.
- Heat enough oil to deep-fry. Once the oil is hot, drop the corn into the pan batch-wise.
- In a bowl, mix the fried corn with finely chopped capsicum, onion, coriander leaves, salt, pepper powder, and lemon.
- Now, the crispy corn is ready to serve and devour!



Contributed by ANU, Bengaluru

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE**Mask your skin**

Experience luxury with the Kate Hudson Mask Collection, crafted with organic ingredients and infused with the delicate floral scent of rose. Each mask provides effective results while remaining gentle on the skin.

WHERE: www.boddess.com

Glittering offers

Celebrate Akshaya Tritiya at GRT Jewellers with an array of the new designs along with following offers:

- Discount of ₹60/g when you buy gold jewellery.
- Get ₹60/g when you exchange old gold jewellery.
- A 10% discount on the value of diamonds and uncut diamonds (excluding solitaires).
- 25% discount on making charges for silver articles.
- 10% discount on the MRP for silver jewellery.

WHERE: All GRT showrooms

**Giving back the love**

Celebrate this Mother's Day with a specially curated brunch menu featuring an exquisite array of gourmet dishes like hara gobi soup, mezze platter with pita bread, cashew nut chocolate chip cake, and more.

WHEN: May 12

WHERE: Waterside, Feathers, A Radha Hotel

**Shopping spree**

Upgrade your wardrobe and flaunt your summer outfits with this collection – Summer Memories – a pop-up featuring vibrant and breezy silhouettes from an array of designers.

WHERE: Amethyst

WHEN: Till May 12, 11 am- 7.30 pm

Summer camp

A summer camp with fun-filled activities like art, painting, drama, video gaming, dance, culinary arts, sports, etc. is being held for special kids by Vidya Sudha till 20th May.

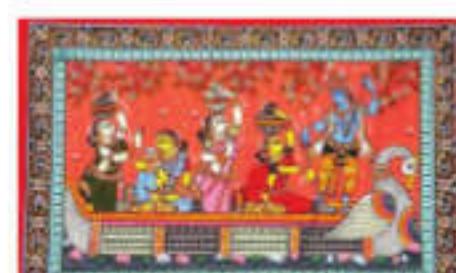
WHERE: Vidya Sudha, #1, Ramachandra Nagar, Porur

CALL: 9840832457

**Mix, match, and more**

Explore Kiko Milano's new Lip Markers, which have a long-lasting, transfer-resistant formula and matte shades to match your summer fits.

WHERE: All Kiko Milano stores across India

**Hastakala Utsav**

Explore and shop paintings from Rajasthan, sarees from WB, Orissa Ikkat saris, silk, and Chanderi saris from MP and more, as artisans from across the country, are coming together here under a single roof.

WHERE: Sri Sankara Hall, TTK Road

WHEN: Till May 10, 10 am to 9 pm

Ink your lips

Get ready to fall in love with your lips with the Lip Velvet Collection by Anastasia Beverly Hills By Boddess. These velvety-smooth lip mousse are weightless and available in intense colours.

WHERE: www.boddess.com

**Beat the heat**

Beat the heat with an exquisite collection of iced teas in the flavours of hibiscus apple, peach ginger, and more. It comes in two forms: instant premix and pitcher tea bags.

WHERE: www.vahdam.in

**EXPRESS CONNECT**

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

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By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ART CORNER**COLOURS OF THE EARTH**

Painting by Balu BS, an MFA student, who is speech and hearing impaired, from the College of Fine Arts Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.





As temperatures soar, visit these longstanding ice cream shops for...

SCOOFS OF SUMMER CHEERS

Sree Balaji Ice Cream

BROTHERS Manoharan and Chandrasekaran set up the shop in 1980. "People who visit the shop tell me that the taste is still the same as it was 30-40 years back," says Sasi Kumar, one of the partners. Offering one flavour a day, the store provides eight flavours. "We have a timetable. On Sundays we alternate between pineapple and pistachio," he adds. Earlier priced at 75 paise a cone, now it is ₹25. The other products available here are cup ice cream at ₹15 and 250 g in a bowl, served for family, at ₹80. They also sell takeaway ice creams at an additional cost of ₹5.

Time: Daily, 10 am-10 pm. **Visit:** 3, Paper Mills Road, Jagannathan Colony, Perambur, Chennai:600011



Vinu's Igloo

Afew years ago, ice cream was seen as a luxury. I intended to make it easily available to commoners," says Vinoth V of Vinu's Igloo, an ice cream parlour started in 1995 in West Mambalam. The USP of the store is their pricing. Initially sold for ₹1, their smaller cones are now being sold at ₹2. They offer eight different flavours but chocolate, vanilla, pistachio, strawberry and butterscotch are in demand. If customers like the flavour, they can buy a larger one for ₹50. Vinoth is all set to launch eight more branches and introduce stick ice cream by the end of the month.

Time: Daily, 10 am to 12 pm. **Visit:** 35, Thambiah Road, AGS Colony, West Mambalam, Chennai:600033



SV Bakery

STARTED as a small business in 2000 by Rajan Kumar, SV Sweets Bakers and Ice creams in Chromepet is popular for its signature soft-serv. "Every day we change the flavours. This is done randomly and we don't have a fixed day for a flavour. Currently, we serve six to seven flavours like mango, strawberry, blackcurrant, pistachio, chocolate and butterscotch," says Rajan.

Serving the third generation of customers, he says,

"We use 100% pure milk to make our soft serve. Since we don't add water our ice creams are rich and creamy."

With pure offerings, the soft serve costs ₹20 for all flavours and the choco-dip from ₹30.

Time: Daily, 7 am to 9 pm. **Visit:** 47, Radha Nagar Main Road, Chromepet, Chennai:600044

Snofield

SET up in 1982, Snofield in Gopalapuram offers sundaes, faloodas and cakes. Their summer specials include fruit salads with ice cream, pistachio and fruit ice cream faloodas, and their prime ingredient mango. Every dessert on the menu can be customised with mango. "The customers make their combinations of sundaes, faloodas, and fruit salads with mangoes during this season," shares Ashok from Snofield. Their sundaes, especially Tall Beauty which comprises vanilla and chocolate ice cream, choco sponge cake, chocolate sauce and nuts have been popular since its establishment. "It's been 40 years and generations of families have been our customers. We have people bringing their grandchildren here saying, I used to have ice cream here in the old days," shares Ashok. Their summer plan is to add more flavours to the menu.

Time: Daily, 11 am to 11 pm. **Visit:** Amaravathi Complex, 1, Cathedral Road, Gopalapuram, Chennai:600086

Inputs by: Meghana Sree R, PS Niranjan, Sonu M Kothari



FOOD FUNDAMENTALS
Dr Nithya Franklyn

(Dr Nithya Franklyn is a paediatrician, chef, and MasterChef Tamil finalist)

WITH an exciting line-up of authentic vegetarian dishes, Tamil Brahmin cooking is all about traditional culinary practices. They are comparatively less spicy and taste unique. The nutritional value of the ingredients is given prime importance.

The cuisine traces its roots back to the Vedic period and features traditional cooking methods like roasting, steaming, sun-drying (*papad*), pickling (mango, lemon), and roasting and grinding (idli *podi*, *paruppu podi*). The principles of Ayurveda are generally followed and the cuisine caters to the six essential flavours —

sweet, salty, bitter, sour, astringent, and pungent. Focus is given equally to nutrition, flavour, texture and variety.

Generally, Tamil Brahmin cuisine has two different styles of cooking — the Iyer (Saivite) style and the Iyengar (Vaishnavite) style. Both have explored the infinite possibilities of vegetarian dishes with the Iyer cuisine alone boasting 27 types of *sambar* and more than 40 types of *rasam*. Some of these may overlap in both styles. Even within these two sects, the recipes change depending on their place of birth. Hence, the food of Tirunelveli Brahmins would be different from that of Srirangam Brahmins. In general, onion and garlic are not included due to their pungent flavour, though the current generation has started including them. The Iyengar cuisine practices the Satvik tradition more strictly whereas in many Iyer weddings *vengaya sambar* with shallots is a delicacy.

This cuisine emphasises the

AKKARAVADISAL

INGREDIENTS

Raw rice: 1 cup

Moong dal: 1/4 cup

Ghee: 1/4 cup

Jaggery: 1 to 1.5 cups

Cashew nuts, raisins

Edible camphor: a pinch

Milk: 4.5 cups



use of sacred grains — rice, lentils, vegetables, curry leaves, coconut, cumin, and mustard seeds and this blend symbolises health, auspiciousness, spirituality, and tradition. Tam-Brahmin cuisine is based on the concept you are what you eat. Hence it is believed that the food we eat shapes our personality

and mood and that a healthy vegetarian diet fosters serene qualities. Every ingredient used has a purpose beyond taste is what they believe. For example, curry leaves and coriander leaves cleanse our intestines, fenugreek leaves aid in digestion, and are included in their diet along with legumes

METHOD

Wash the rice and *dal* together.

In a heavy brass pan, heat a tablespoon of *ghee* and add the rice. Roast till you get a good aroma.

Add the milk and cook on medium flame for around 15 to 20 minutes till mushy.

Make a syrup by adding 1/2 cup water and jaggery. Filter it and add it to the rice mixture.

Heat the remaining *ghee*, fry the dry fruit, add the rice, and cook for a few minutes till glossy. Serve hot.

for protein; pepper is used as a remedy for cough and cold, and turmeric as a wound healer. Brahmins are generally orthodox and give great importance to cleanliness before they start cooking. They usually have a bath and perform a puja before entering the kitchen as they believe God tastes the

meal first. This belief makes them give great attention to the right mix of flavour, nutrition, and texture. They use *amudhu* (nectar) as a suffix to their dishes. *Rasam* is called *sathamudhu*, *poriyal* which is a stir-fried vegetable is called *karamudhu*, and *payasam* is the highlight of every meal. Rice is cooked till mushy and mashed with milk and butter before adding curd to make it creamy and then tempered. The list of rice varieties in this cuisine is aplenty like *puliyodarai*, *kadamba sadam*, *sambar sadam*, *vathakulambu sadam* etc.

The highlight of this cuisine is its strong, freshly brewed de-gree filter coffee. Most households buy and roast their coffee seeds and have their coffee grinder to grind it fresh every time. A hot fresh filter coffee served in a brass *davarai* with that froth and a hint of bitterness has fans around the world and can brighten any dull soul.

Another important tradition of Tam-Brahms is combining breakfast and lunch to have a full-course meal from around 10 am to 11 am. They then follow it up with a tiffin and coffee at around 3 pm, and just a fruit or curd rice before bed. Modern-day pressures and diet have made many switch to a

says, adding, "Tasty Tiffin offers a timely and indispensable resource that addresses this need head-on with creative lunch box ideas that cater to modern tastes and lifestyles." As she wrote the book with busy parents in mind, her recipes are complete with simple instructions, accessible ingredients, time-saving tips, and make-ahead options. "Each recipe is crafted to be approachable and achievable, even for those with limited time or culinary experience," she notes.

Archana also understands that preparing the perfect lunch box does not always have to involve trendy practices. She says, "It is not about being crafty and cutting things in various arts as such type of cooking and packing is not sustainable. Instead, it is about choosing the right bento box which has compartments and providing various colourful options in those sections. The presentation of food plays a crucial role in packing lunch boxes, however, that should not be a single factor in planning them."

With such practical tips and guidelines, Archana's book focuses on efficient food arrangement and the introduction of new flavours and colours in meals, rather than time-consuming or unnecessarily artistic lunch plans. This practicality extends to the ingredients specified in every recipe too. Archana states, "One of the guiding principles behind Tasty Tiffin was to make the recipes as accessible and approachable as possible, using ingredients that are commonly found in most home kitchens. By focusing on pantry staples and everyday essentials, I aimed to eliminate the need for special trips to the grocery store and ensure that parents can easily whip up delicious and nutritious meals



flavours and textures that appeal to young palates. Additionally, each dish had to be nutritionally balanced, incorporating a variety of food groups and essential nutrients to support children's growth and development. The emphasis on healthy food choices is woven into the fabric of every recipe, reflecting my commitment to promoting balanced and nourishing meals for children."

When asked about her opinion on the fundamentals of an optimal tiffin, she mentions the importance of balance. "There must be a harmonious balance between taste, nutrition, and practicality. A successful tiffin should feature a variety of textures, flavours, and food groups to keep kids engaged and satisfied throughout the day. I always believe in multiple small portions and adding variety, especially when they are younger." She furthermore notes the prioritisation of hassle-free preparation, packing, and transport of the same.

Listing her personal favourites from her book of recipes, the mother of two reflects, "As a parent, it's challenging to pick favourites among the delectable recipes featured in Tasty Tiffin, but a few standout dishes have undoubtedly become beloved staples in our household. The cheesy spinach and corn quesadillas and the mini vegetable idlis, served with a side of tangy chutney, are always loved. However, perhaps the ultimate crowd-pleaser is the peanut butter and banana sandwiches, a playful yet nutritious snack that never fails to delight young taste buds."

Packed with captivating photographs, easy-to-follow steps, and a multitude of recipes that effortlessly combine different food preferences, Archana has formulated an all-in-one guide to happy and healthy children, as well as satisfied parents. She concludes, "By infusing my personal touch into each dish, I aimed to create a collection that resonates with families across generations and cuisine preferences, mixing and matching cuisines that give new life to dishes and paving the way for new culinary adventures."

'Tasty Tiffin' is available to order on Amazon. For more appetising recipes, tutorials, and resources for meal plans, visit Archana's website at www.archanaskitchen.com. Connect with her on all social media platforms at Archana's Kitchen.

SACRED SERVINGS OF SUMPTUOUS FOOD



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For the love of mother nature

NAMRATA JOSHI

ALENA Keane-Lee's *Standing Above The Clouds* is about the power underlying solidarity of women, not just for the cause of gender but on the issues of community, culture, belief systems, environment, ways of living and life itself.

It follows the mothers and daughters of three native Hawaiian families dedicated to protecting the sacred mountain of Mauna Kea. Their efforts to safeguard it against the construction of the infamous Thirty Meter Telescope—the world's largest—started in 2010 and led to widespread protests, local, national, and global. The film tracks the ten-year struggle till the pandemic in March 2020 brought the movement, and life at large, to a pause.

CINEMA WITHOUT BORDERS

In this weekly column, the writer introduces you to powerful cinema from across the world

Film: *Standing above the clouds*

While highlighting the specifics of their protest, the film grounds it in the universal concerns about environmental degradation, ecological crisis, and human rights violations. *Standing Above The Clouds* is also an anthropological documentation of native Hawaiian life. Also, it is a deeply personal and emotional tale about how the movement affected the women involved.

At the head of the movement is teacher Pua Case and



her two artist-activist daughters Hawane Rios and Kapule Flores. Their lives that had been centred around home, family, domesticity, and cultural practices and traditions, get taken over by frontline duties and court proceedings. It brings them closer to other women from the community—Leina 'Ala Sleighholm, Ma-

hana Kihoi, Malama Monica—to form a rare sorority of strength. Yet there's also the danger of violence and arrests as they stand steadfast in their opposition to the building and development.

The film gives us an intimate peek into how their dedication to the grassroots movement affects them physically,

emotionally and psychologically. After nine months of living in a camp on the mountain, COVID forces them to return home for some rest, recuperation, and healing, "to retreat to the kitchen table", as one of them puts it. There is the aftermath of PTSD to deal with. The mantra is to stay positive despite the ex-

haustion. What stood out for me were the ethnological details that the film maps out. The mothers and daughters are like the eyes of the filmmaker, and, in turn, the viewer, with which to see, get acquainted with and understand the native culture. There's something extremely tender and heartwarming in the way they follow and aim to preserve the shrines, cultural traditions, and practices. On the one hand, we have colourful songs, dances, rituals, and festivals. On the other is the pristine but fragile ecosystem.

Their deep connection with nature is presented with depth and sensitivity. How their lives are entwined with their surroundings and how the mountain is a beacon of hope for them, a symbol of tenacity.

There's the focus on intergenerational connection—the urgency for mothers to pass on the practices to daughters, to have them stay connected with sacred spots, protect ancestral places and honour these spaces that strengthen them. Ironically, it's the elders of the community and their

caregivers who are the first to be arrested and removed from the site. There is a fable-like feel to the narrative. No wonder the protests themselves come with an artistic touch and powerful messaging—"do not destroy what you cannot repair; it's not about fighting something but loving something".

The film recently won the Bill Nemtin Award for Best Social Impact Documentary at Hot Docs 2024 in Canada. It reminded me a lot of an Indian documentary by Shishir Jha called *Dharti Latar Re Horo (Tortoise Under the Earth)* about a tribal couple protesting corporatisation and commercialisation of the tribal belt while coping with the death of their daughter to uranium mining in Jharkhand. Both films are cautionary tales about the human toll of mindless modernization and development that leads to displacement and loss of not just human lives but ethnic cultures and organic ways of living. Films that are humanitarian wake-up calls that also celebrate the elemental feminine energy.



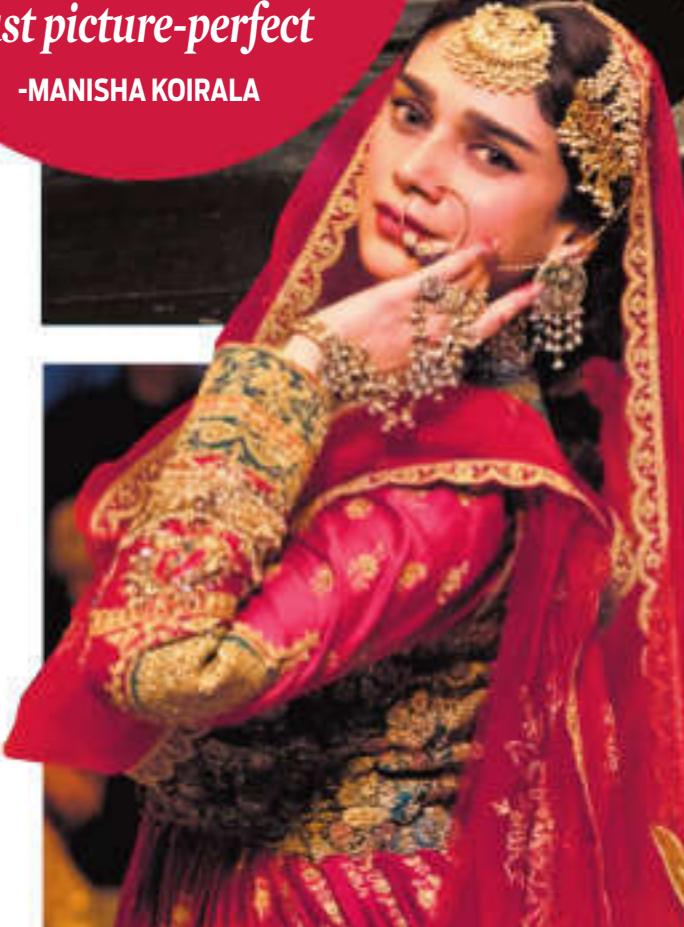
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

RICHA negates the rumours of him being a hard taskmaster. "The thing is, he will give you agency if he trusts you as an actor. He will ask you what you think your character will do at this moment. What are they likely to say? How are they likely to feel? He did it with me in *Ram-Leela* (2013). There was a scene with Supriya Pathak and it wasn't working. I was fairly new at the time but he still asked me, 'What do you think will happen?' I said that if Supriya ma'am's character says the dialogue with some humanity, it will work. He is like a musician who keeps experimenting with different instruments to make the scene not just sound better but also interesting." Aditi also takes up the music metaphor. "Even the silences he has in his films have a certain musicality to them. It seems like he is setting his scene and the performances of his characters to a certain piece of music playing in his head," she says.

But what is a Bhansali project without its grand, intricate set? Spanning across 3 acres in Mumbai's film city, the set for *Heeramandi* has been the director's largest till now. "When I first worked with him, I knew he had a vision to become bigger and better but to this scale!" says Manisha. "When I entered the set of *Heeramandi* for the first time I was flabbergasted by the grandeur. Each corner was just picture-perfect."

When I entered the set of Heeramandi for the first time I was flabbergasted by the grandeur. Each corner was just picture-perfect

-MANISHA KOIRALA



ayam dancer. They even turn their heads as if it is a performance. I took some cues from their mannerisms to get the poise of my character," she explains. Richa, on the other hand, used veteran actor Meena Kumari as a template to express the melancholy of the lovelorn Lajjo. "It was not just

her performances in films like *Pakeezah* (1972) but also how she was in real life. I read her poetry. I tried to almost mimic the pain, the incompleteness in her voice," she says.

Bhansali's imaginations are often criticized for being restricted to the beauty of imagery. "But there is so much more

than that," says Aditi. "I know that there is so much talk about the aesthetic world he builds. But for us actors, that is just the base. He is actually trying to create an authentic, immersive experience for the viewers and also for the actors who are part of it. It is all about the emotional journey he is taking you on."

"I think what he is constantly trying to do is to lift even an inconsequential scene," explains Manisha. "There can be nothing mundane." Sharmin is almost reverential. "I don't think any of us mortal beings can understand his vision or what goes on in his subconscious."

TRON: ARES COMPLETES FILMING

THE much-awaited follow-up to *Tron: Legacy*, which stars Jared Leto in the lead, has finally wrapped up filming. On Monday, director Joachim Ronning took to his social media handles to confirm the news.

Tron: Ares has Evan Peters, Greta Lee, and Jodie Turner-Smith in prominent roles. The cast of the film also includes Hasan Min-

haj, Arturo Castro, Gillian Anderson, Sarah Desjardins and Cameron Monaghan. The original *Tron* film, which was released in 1982, had Jeff Bridges playing the lead. The actor returned for the 2010 sequel and has now confirmed that he is also a part of the upcoming third instalment. According to reports, the film follows Ares, a highly sophisticated program that is sent into the real world from the digital world, on a

dangerous mission. The phenomenon marks humankind's first encounter with AI beings. Produced by Walt Disney Pictures and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, *Tron: Ares* is produced by Leto, Justin Springer, and Emma Ludbrook. The makers are yet to confirm a release date for the film.



Maayaone gets a first look poster

WE had earlier reported that producer-turned-director CV Kumar is working on his upcoming directorial *Maayaone*, starring Sundeep Kishan in the lead role. The film, which is a direct sequel to the 2017 film *Maayavan/Project Z* (2017), was previously titled *Maayavan: Reloaded*.

On Tuesday, the makers of *Maayaone* released the first look poster of the film on the occasion of Sundeep Kishan's birthday. The film also stars Akanksha Ranjan Kapoor as the female lead. She has worked in films like *Guilty* (2020) and *Monica, O My Darling* (2022). Neil Nitin Mukesh will also be playing a pivotal role in the upcoming film.

Maayavan starred Sundeep Kishan in the lead alongside Lavanya Tripathi, Jackie Shroff, and late actor Daniel Balaji in prominent roles. The screenplay of the original film was written by director Nalan Kumarasamy. *Maayaone* is produced by Rambrahmam Sunkara under the banner AK Entertainments. The film has cinematography by Karthik K Thillai and music by Santhosh Narayanan.

