

Concluding his Rajender were present during the occasion.

WHILE TAMIL NADU FIGHTS DELHI OVER NEET, ONE FREE COACHING CENTRE IN MAGUDANCHAVADI HAS ALREADY CLOSED THE GAP

Chennai, 21 August by student.

2026: NEET remains one of the most contested exams in Tamil Nadu politics. The state Assembly passed a unanimous resolution this month urging the Centre to abolish it, after President Droupadi Murmu withheld assent to the state's own NEET exemption bill; the government's Justice A.K. Rajan Committee has found the exam favours affluent, English-medium, urban candidates over government school and Tamil-medium students, exactly the students it disadvantages most.

While that legal and political fight continues in Delhi and the courts, one free coaching centre in a small village has already been closing that same gap, student

At around 8.45 pm on 13 August, as NEET counselling wound down outside the Omandurar Government Estate Hospital campus, Mrs. Gayathri Ananthakrishnan sat alone in her car taking in what a year of work had delivered: six students from her free coaching centre, all from small Tamil Nadu villages, had secured MBBS admission. “That night was a validation of a year of commitment, perseverance, near give-up moments, shared struggles and shared dreams,” she said. “From our homes in our villages, to the classrooms in Magudanchavadi, to the corridors of medical colleges — one incredible journey.”

The Shanmuga



nathan Kanagavalli the question can I Charitable Trust's answer it. “It was a centre, which Mrs. struggle, not an exam Gayathri heads, was on equal footing,” Mrs Gayathri said. “What made the difference was the shared dream between student,

Mrs Gayathri thanked Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore, for its CSR support,

Teaching was tailored to each student, Tamil medium or English medium, with weekly tests and Wednesday review meetings. One Tamil-medium student summed up her own struggle simply: “Question purinja thaanae, answer solla mudiyum, madam” — only once I understand

“I'm sure these children will pay it forward,” she said, “and soon what started as a ripple will be a wave.”

THE BEST FOLDABLE FOR EVERY LIFESTYLE: GALAXY Z FOLD8 AND GALAXY Z FOLD8 ULTRA

Coimbatore, 21 August 2026: Samsung’s latest innovations, the Galaxy Z Fold8 and Galaxy Z Fold8 Ultra, redefine what it means to be the best foldable by offering two distinct form factors tailored to different lifestyles. Whether you’re immersed in entertainment, multitasking, or content creation, these devices provide the perfect blend of design and functionality to meet your needs.

The Galaxy Z Fold8 stands out as the best foldable for immersive discovery and content experience. Its redesigned proportions ensure a compact profile when closed, while unfolding reveals a wider canvas

that enhances how content is experienced. The 4:3 main display offers an immersive viewing experience for movies, gaming, and social media, while rotating the device to a 3:4 orientation makes it ideal for reading and browsing. At just 201 grams, it’s Samsung’s lightest Galaxy Z Fold yet, combining portability with a 4,800mAh battery that supports up to 26 hours of video playback. This makes it the best foldable for users who want a seamless and natural way to consume content.

On the other hand, the Galaxy Z Fold8 Ultra is the best foldable for powerful productivity and creation. As the first Ultra model in



Samsung’s Galaxy Z series, it features an expansive 8-inch display that provides a large workspace for multitasking and creative work. Despite its size, it remains remarkably slim at just 4.1mm when unfolded and weighs only 215 grams. The advanced camera system, including a 200MP main camera, extends its capabilities for creators who want to capture, edit, and share from one device. This makes it the best foldable for profes

sionals and creators who need a powerful mobile workspace. Together, the Galaxy Z Fold8 and Galaxy Z Fold8 Ultra represent two different interpretations of what it means to be the best foldable. The Galaxy Z Fold8 is designed for discovery, offering an immersive way to experience content, while the Galaxy Z Fold8 Ultra is built for maximum productivity and creation, delivering the power of an Ultra experience in a foldable form.

PRHUB STRENGTHENS LEADERSHIP TO FUEL TRANSFORMATION & NEXT PHASE OF GROWTH

Bangalore, 21 Beerendra Jha joins

August 2026: as Market Lead – PRHUB, one of India’s Chennai.

leading independent, Khurram Aslam joins as Market Lead - integrated communications firms has made Hyderabad.

Emilee Kashyap has been elevated as Chief of Staff.

Raji (Rajam) Sarath is Associate Vice President – Account Management, Content & Personal Branding.

Sonam Motreja is Associate Vice President - Influencer marketing, associate support & media buying.

Commenting on the hiring and promotions, Xavier Prabhu, Founder & CEO, PRHUB, said, “Clients today

need integrated thinking that delivers outcomes aligned to their business, branding and marketing priorities. They need lean partners equipped with the right blend of specialists, which is what the hiring of Harini and Krishna Prasad is about. Raji has been helping the

Krishnaprasad Balakrishnan (KP), ex-Ogilvy & Dentsu India, joins as Executive Creative Director.

AWS BRINGS OPENAI GPT-5.6 TERRA AND LUNA MODELS TO AMAZON BEDROCK IN INDIA

Chennai, 21 August advanced models Amazon Bedrock, 2026: Amazon Web Services (AWS) has announced the general availability of Open

AI’s GPT-5.6 Terra and GPT-5.6 Luna models on Amazon Bedrock in India with in-country inferencing. The launch enables organizations across financial services, healthcare, public sector, startups and other industries to access OpenAI’s



fast-growing personal their roles.”

The company recently undertook a one of its’ kind structured leadership assessment and capability-mapping exercise led by an independent senior professional in the space, aimed at aligning individual strengths with the evolving needs of the business and creating a more empowered leadership ecosystem within the organization. Based on the independent professional’s report, a through revamp of the organizational structure and roles was carried out. The revised organizational structure and senior leadership depth across will catalyze its expansion into newer specialized offerings and integrated communication solutions.



TECH-LED MANUFACTURING PLATFORM ZETWERK FILES UDRHP TO RAISE RS 2,600 CRORE VIA FRESH ISSUE

Chennai, 21 August 2026: Zetwerk, a technology-led, asset-light manufacturing platform for industrial and consumer goods in India and globally, has filed its Updated Draft Red Herring Prospectus (UDRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The company aggregates manufacturing capacity across a network of third-party suppliers and its own facilities into a "universal factory," unified through Zetwerk OS, its proprietary technology backbone. Its customers span utilities, renewables, consumer electronics, artificial intelligence infrastructure, aerospace, space & defence, oil & gas and industrial automation. Zetwerk operates two reportable business segments: the Manufacturing Business, which enables customers to manufacture industrial and consumer products through its supplier network and own facilities; and the Ecosystem Business, branded Terra91, which aggregates and sources industrial commodities for customers. A third segment, Civil Infrastructure Works, was discontinued in FY26 as part of a strategic realignment to focus on the core segments. The proposed initial public offering comprises a fresh issue of Equity Shares of face value of ₹1 each aggregating up to ₹2,600 Crores and an offer for sale of up to 96,837,455 equity shares of face value ₹1 each by the selling shareholders.

The company's 2026, Zetwerk's Manufacturing platform had a diverse customer base ranging from start-ups to large industrial companies, including 8 of Sensex, 16 of Nifty 50, and 102 of India's Fortune 500 companies. Some of its customers include Siemens Gamesa, Acer India, NextPower, CG Power, NTPC Renewable Energy, L&T MHI Power Boiler, DRDO, NALCO, IOCL, Mortenson, Nordex Acciona, Indian Air Force and Numaligarh Refinery Limited. As of March 31, 2026, Zetwerk's Manufacturing platform had a diverse customer base ranging from start-ups to large industrial companies, including 8 of Sensex, 16 of Nifty 50, and 102 of India's Fortune 500 companies. Some of its customers include Siemens Gamesa, Acer India, NextPower, CG Power, NTPC Renewable Energy, L&T MHI Power Boiler, DRDO, NALCO, IOCL, Mortenson, Nordex Acciona, Indian Air Force and Numaligarh Refinery Limited. The company's 2026, Zetwerk's Manufacturing platform had a diverse customer base ranging from start-ups to large industrial companies, including 8 of Sensex, 16 of Nifty 50, and 102 of India's Fortune 500 companies. Some of its customers include Siemens Gamesa, Acer India, NextPower, CG Power, NTPC Renewable Energy, L&T MHI Power Boiler, DRDO, NALCO, IOCL, Mortenson, Nordex Acciona, Indian Air Force and Numaligarh Refinery Limited.

INTERIO SCALES TECHNOLOGY-LED FURNITURE SHOPPING AS ITS E-COMMERCE BUSINESS GROWS 14X IN THREE YEARS

Mumbai, 21 August 2026: Interio by Godrej, a leading furniture brand from the Godrej Enterprises Group, is transforming furniture shopping experience by combining personalisation, digital engagement and physical retail at scale. Its digital engagement tools have contributed to 6% improvement in conversion rates, as the brand integrates AI-powered recommendations, 3D visualisation, room planning and configurable furniture solutions across the customer journey. Interio's e-commerce business has grown 14x over the last three years and now contributes 15% to its furniture business. The brand has also expanded its delivery and installation network from 1,200 to 20,000+ pincodes, while enabling 24-hour delivery and installation across state capitals. Post rebranding, Interio has moved from a traditional product-led retail approach towards an experience-led model that connects physical stores, digital platforms and design consultations. The technology-led approach has been implemented across 137 stores using digital engagement tools situated in 20 cities. Dr. Dev Narayan Sarkar, Senior Vice President and Head of Consumer Business, Interio said, "Furniture purchase is increasingly becoming a decision about how people want to use and experience their home space. The way Indians live and buy furniture is changing as urbanisation expands beyond the larger metros and households adapt to new spaces and evolving needs. Consumers are looking for furniture that works within their homes, serves multiple purposes and can adapt as their requirements change. This is driving us to move beyond a product-led approach towards more personalised and technology-enabled experiences. With digital visualisation, design consultation and configurable furniture, Interio is helping customers make decisions based on their space, life style and changing requirements."



AXIS BANK'S 'CONSUMER PROTECTION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN' TAKES SAFE BANKING TO THE LAST MILE

Chennai, 21 August 2026: Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India, recently concluded its nationwide Consumer Protection Awareness Campaign under the theme "Nazar Fraud Par, Sabr Khud Par", reinforcing its commitment to making banking safer for customers across India. The campaign aimed to educate and empower customers to stay vigilant against evolving fraud risks, while promoting responsible banking practices through sustained awareness and outreach initiatives. This directly aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's focus on strengthening customer awareness and preventive education. In South India, the campaign achieved significant scale with 250+ activities, driving more than 20,000 engagements, across key states like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala, including cities like Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Bhimavaram, Kakinada, Guntur, Nellore, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi and Trivandrum. The Bank partnered with institutions such as Income Tax Department, AP Sheep & Goat Federation, municipal bodies, launches led by district collector offices, SRKR Engineering College, Swarnandhra College of Engineering & Technology and Care Hospitals, along with RBI-led awareness sessions in Trivandrum and planned activities with Tamil Nadu Police in Chennai. Director General of Police Shri Harish Kumar Gupta, IPS, followed by regional officials and public authorities. Commenting on the initiative, Anoop Manohar, Chief Marketing Officer, Axis Bank, said, "At Axis Bank, consumer protection is central to our dil se open promise of building trust in everyday banking. Through this campaign, we are taking fraud awareness beyond advisories into real, on-ground conversations across communities. As banking becomes more digital, our focus is on ensuring customers are informed, prepared, and better protected in their day-to-day banking."



A key highlight of the campaign was Axis Bank's collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh State Government and Police Department to educate citizens on safe digital banking practices. The campaign poster was launched by Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Smt. Vangala Anitha and banking."

AI HELPS INDIA'S SMBS REACH NEW AUDIENCES AND ACCELERATE GROWTH, FINDS AMAZON ADS STUDY

Chennai, 21 August 2026: Amazon Ads has unveiled findings from a new study highlighting how artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming advertising for small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India. The study reveals that AI-powered advertising tools are helping SMBs overcome traditional barriers such as cost, complexity and limited resources. Streaming TV is emerging as an increasingly accessible channel for SMBs. Among businesses interested in TV or streaming TV advertising, 62% believe it can help reach new audiences, while 59% see its potential to strengthen brand awareness. AI is also helping businesses explore international markets, with 56% of respondents who previously considered cross-border campaigns inaccessible now finding them more accessible. The study further highlights AI's role in creative development, with 88% of SMBs likely to use AI to create advertising assets and 85% likely to use it for streaming advertisements. Additionally, 65% say AI enables faster optimisation and 62% say it helps identify customers more quickly. Human judgement continues to remain central, with business owners being the most common final decision-makers at 40%. Looking ahead, 92% of Indian SMBs believe AI will be important to their future competitiveness. "AI-powered tools are opening new opportunities for SMBs while enabling them to retain control over important decisions," said Kapil Sharma, Director – Amazon Ads India.



STRICTLY ULTRA-INTERNATIONAL: 'DISCO' DROPS OFFICIAL FIRST LOOK IN A SLICK MASS LOOK! RELEASING ON NOVEMBER 6..!!

Chennai, 21 August 2026: Alongside Director Ullas Varghese, the movie Chemban is following up the critical acclaim of Anchakkallakokkan with his next venture, Avaran, Arjun titled Disco. The official first-look poster has been unveiled, revealing an ultra-stylish, international makeover for its ensemble cast.

Scripted by actor-writer Chemban Vinod Jose, the film marks Chemban Vinod's screenwriting reunion with actor Antony Varghese (Pepe) following their hit collaboration on Angamaly Diaries. Disco is jointly produced by Chembosky Motion Pictures led by Chemban Vinod Jose and Phars Films led by Ahmed Golchin. While Anchakkallakokkan gained attention for its raw, localized filmmaking style, Disco promises a completely slick, high-budget aesthetic. The striking first-look poster features the lead actors suited up in black attire holding guns, evoking the style



of a classic Hollywood action thriller, with Kalai Kingson, costume designer Femina George as the sole exception. The inclusion of a gun motif within the title logo further hints at a high-octane, action-packed gun-fight entertainer.

The film's key technical crew includes director Ullas Chemban, writer Chemban Vinod Jose, cinematographer Armo, music director Manikandan Ayyappa, editor Rohit V.S. Variyath, production designer Gokul Das, action choreographer

GLENEAGLES HOSPITAL CHENNAI SUCCESSFULLY TREATS TWO RARE FOOD-PIPE DISORDERS THROUGH ADVANCED ENDOSCOPY

Chennai, 21 August 2026: Gleneagles Hospital Chennai, a part of the Fortis Healthcare Network, has successfully performed D-POEM for two elderly patients with rare and complex swallowing disorders through advanced endoscopic procedures, including a D-POEM for an Epiphrenic Diverticulum, which the hospital says is the first such procedure performed by a doctor in Tamil Nadu.

In a significant case, a 73-year-old woman from Jayankondam, Ariyalur District, who had struggled to swallow food and liquids for nearly three years, was successfully treated for Achalasia complicated by a large Epiphrenic Diverticulum using Diverticular Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy (D-



endoscopic procedure performed entirely through the mouth. The technique enabled the team to address the abnormal muscular tightness as well as the diverticulum without an external surgical incision.

The patient recovered well following the procedure and was discharged after three days. At her one-month follow-up, she reported marked improvement in swallowing.

For years, he had experienced regurgitation of undigested food, coughing and a persistent gurgling sensation in his throat, with symptoms becoming increasingly disruptive to his sleep and eating. He had also lost 5 kg over the preceding six months.

CTR-JK TYRE FMSCI INDIAN NATIONAL CAR RACING CHAMPIONSHIP 2026 UNVEILED. ONE NATION, ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

Chennai, 21 August 2026: The CTR-JK Tyre FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2026 was officially unveiled today, bringing together leading figures from Indian motorsport, government representatives, championship teams and members of the media ahead of the upcoming championship season.

The event was graced by Thiru. A Srinath, Minister of Fisheries & Fisherman Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu, as the Chief Guest. Also present were Mr. Akbar Ebrahim, Member, FIA World Motor Sports Council, and President, FIA International Karting Commission; Mr. Arindam Ghosh, President, Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI); Dr. Shwetha Sundeep Anand, Director,



significant platforms emerged as an active contributor to Indian motorsport talent, with JK Tyre playing a defining role in its racing properties, growth and evolution including the Indian Racing League and the Formula 4 Indian Championship. Together with JK Tyre, it aims to further strengthen India's premier circuit racing machinery and internationally aligned support the growth of emerging racing talent. The CTR-JK Tyre launchpad for several of India's leading National Car Racing Championship 2026 drivers, including Narain Karthikeyan, Karun Chandhok, Armaan Ebrahim, Aditya Patel and Kush Maini. Chennai Turbo Riders (CTR) has of the country's most

BUILT ON TRUST: SYNCOM FORMULATIONS REPORTS STRONG Q1 GROWTH

Chennai, 21 August 2026: Syncom Formulations (India) Limited (BSE: 524470 | NSE: SYNCOMF), a WHO-GMP and ISO 9001:2015 certified pharmaceutical company, reported strong financial results for the quarter ended 30 June 2026, with healthy revenue growth and significant improvement in profitability.

On a consolidated basis, total income for Q1 FY2026-27 rose 8% to ₹133.36 crore, compared with ₹122.94 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Revenue from operations increased nearly 7% to ₹125.53 crore from

₹116.90 crore. Profit before tax grew 59% to ₹32.25 crore from ₹20.29 crore, while profit after tax rose approximately 58% to ₹24.85 crore from ₹15.75 crore. Earnings per share improved to ₹0.26 from ₹0.17.

The Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend of ₹0.10 per equity share of ₹1 face value for FY2025-26, subject to share holders' approval at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Our focus remains on responsible, sustainable growth and making quality medicines accessible."

Syncom operates six specialised domestic divisions supported by over 1,000 medical representatives across India, with a strong presence in gynaecological and ophthalmic preparations. Its WHO-GMP-approved manufacturing facility in Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh, produces tablets, capsules, liquid orals, injectables and topical preparations.

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