

CM VIJAY ANNOUNCES 3 SUBSIDISED LPG CYLINDERS AS PROMISED DURING POLLS PARANDUR AIRPORT PROJECT TOTALLY DROPPED: TVK CHIEF

Chennai, 25 August	will not distribute LPG	ment had decided to	Chief Minister said the
2026: Tamil Nadu	cylinders directly.	abandon the proposed	proposed Parandur
Chief Minister C.	Instead, the cost of	Parandur airport	airport project had
Joseph Vijay on	three cylinders will be	project in order to	been abandoned to
Monday announced	transferred directly to	prevent agricultural	prevent agricultural
two major decisions in	the bank accounts of	lands from being	land from being
the Assembly, provid	eligible beneficiaries	affected. He said the	affected. He said the
ing the cost of three	after they purchase the	govern ment had	govern ment would
LPG cylinders a year to	cylinders. Transaction	initiated the process of	identify an alternative
more than 1.3 crore	details will be obtained	identifying an	location for a new
eligible families and	from oil marketing	alternative location for	airport and initiate the
dropping the proposed	companies for making	a new airport.	necessary process.
Parandur airport	the payments.	The Parandur	The Parandur
project to protect	Families with an	proposal had faced	project had faced
agricultural land.	annual income often to	continued opposition	opposition from local

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay today announced that the State government would provide the cost of three LPG cylinders every year to more than 1.30 crore eligible families under the first phase of the Annapoorani Super Six scheme.	Rs 2.5 lakh, economically disadvantaged households, small and marginal farmers and families of persons with disabilities will be among those covered by the scheme.	from residents and farmers over concerns relating to land acquisition, agricultural lands and water bodies.	residents and farmers over concerns about acquisition of agricultural land and the impact on water bodies. The announcement led to a political confrontation in the Assembly, with DMK MLAs seeking permission to raise the issue. After the Speaker
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Making the announcement amid rising household expenditure. He said in the Assembly, Vijay the government had said the scheme would be implemented from its welfare commitment January, coinciding with Pongal. The government would allocate around Rs 4,000 crore annually for the programme.

The Chief Minister also announced the expansion of free bus travel for women and transgender persons from October 2. The expanded scheme is estimated to cost the State about Rs 6,000 crore annually.

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IFS OFFICER TRAINEES OF 2025 BATCH CALL ON PM

Chennai, 25 August 2026: The Officer Trainees of the 2025 Batch of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at Seva Teerth earlier today. The group comprised 50 IFS Officer Trainees who come from different States and UTs across the country. During the interaction, Prime Minister called upon the young diplomats to build strong grassroots-level engagement in their countries of posting and deepen India's connection with local communities. He emphasised that Indian Missions should foster meaningful relationship not only with governments and institutions but also with people at the community level. He encouraged the Officer Trainees to expand their networks beyond traditional diplomatic circles and deepen engagement with people. Prime Minister encouraged them to combine India's civilisational strengths with technology, innovation and effective communication to further strengthen India's global engagement. Prime Minister called upon the Officer Trainees to serve as catalytic agents for India's economic engagement with the world. He also emphasised the importance of strengthening the digital presence of Indian Missions. He said that a website is often the first gateway through which people interact with an institution and called for greater use of technology to make the delivery of consular and other services more seamless, responsive and citizen-centric.

CM EXTENDS WOMEN FREE BUS TRAVEL TO EXPRESS, DELUXE AND LSS SERVICE

Chennai, 25 August	At present, women	operating in hill areas.	introduced on October
2026: Tamil Nadu	are permitted to travel		2, coinciding with the
Chief Minister C.	free on ordinary-fare	There will be no	birth anniversary of
Joseph Vijay today	buses in cities and	income ceiling or	Mahatma Gandhi.
announced a major	towns and in hill areas,	restriction on the	
expansion of the State's	with the existing	number of journeys a	It will subsequently
free bus travel scheme	facility limited to speci	woman can undertake	be expanded to other
for women, allowing	fied services. Express,	under the scheme. The	services in phases. The
them to travel free of	LSS, Deluxe and	facility will also be	government estimates
cost on additional	mofussil buses are	available to trans	that implementing the
categories of govern	currently outside the	gender persons.	expanded scheme will
ment buses from	free travel scheme.		entail an annual expen
October 2.		The government	diture of approxi
		said the expanded	

October 2.	Under the expanded	and the expanded	mately Rs 6,000 crore.
The expanded scheme, named Vetri Payanam, will be implemented as part of the government's "Vetri Tamilagam" vision. The Chief Minister made the announcement under Rule 110 in the Assembly.	scheme, women will be allowed free travel on ordinary, Express, LSS and Deluxe government buses operating in cities and towns. Free travel will also be extended to ordinary-fare mofussil buses for inter-district journeys and ordinary buses	facility would make public transport more accessible to women across the State, enabling students to travel to colleges, workers to reach work places and women to access health care and other essential services without paying fares. The scheme will be	The Chief Minister described the initiative as a social investment intended to support women's education, employment, family responsibilities and entrepreneurship by improving their mobility and access to opportunities

VICE-PRESIDENT LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST NON-GMO HIGH-EXPANSION POPCORN MAIZE HYBRID SEED IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Chennai, 25 August 2026: Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan today launched India's first non-GMO, high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed at Musunuru in Eluru district of Andhra Pradesh, describing it as a significant step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat in agriculture. He also felicitated best-performing farmers

Referring to the launch, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan said India had for years depended on imported hybrid technology for high-quality popcorn maize. The new indigenous hybrid, he said, marks an important step towards reducing such dependence and conserving foreign exchange.



The photograph shows Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, dressed in a white kurta and shawl, holding a large ceremonial check or certificate. He is standing on a stage with other officials, including a man in a white kurta and shawl who is also holding the certificate. In the background, a banner is visible with the text 'Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu' and 'Minister of India's Food and Agriculture'.

He also commended enterprise in Andhra Pradesh to a major popcorn maize processing enterprise, strengthening market access and income opportunities for thousands of farming families.

horticulture and natural

and seven other States	He commended	farming, and farmer-	said a developed India
and partners associated	Gourmet Popcornica	centric support	will be built “from the
with Gourmet Pop	and farmers for	systems.	ground”- from the soil
cornica.	developing an Indian	Highlighting the	cultivated by farmers,

Addressing the gathering, the Vice-President said farmers

nation and agriculture has shaped India's civilisational and cultural life. He emphasised the importance of technology, innovation and indigenous seed development in strengthening Indian

The Vice-President appreciated Union Government's farmer-centric initiatives, including PM-KISAN, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, National Food Security and Nutrition Mission and Namo Drone Didi.

17,500 farmers across eight States, cultivating nearly 40,000 acres, are part of the Gourmet Popcornica journey. He lauded the journey of Shri S.B.P. Patabhi Rama Rao and Gourmet Popcornica from a homegrown

acre by acre. He said the Musunuru initiative demonstrates how innovation, entrepreneurship and farmer partnerships can create a stronger, more self-reliant and globally competitive agricultural sector.



SAMSUNG SRIPERUMBUDUR PLANT HELPS 200 WOMEN BUILD SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS; DISTRIBUTES PEDAL SEWING MACHINES

Sriperumbudur, 25 August 2026: Samsung India has helped 200 women from villages around its Sriperumbudur manufacturing facility take a step towards building independent livelihoods, with participants receiving tailoring certifications and sewing machines after completing two months of skills and entrepreneurship training.

The women, 100 each from Santhavallur and Sirumangadu, received their certificates and pedal sewing machines at a ceremony in Sriperumbudur. The machines will enable them to begin taking tailoring orders from home, supplement household incomes or explore setting up small tailoring businesses in their communities.

Launched in May, the programme combined hands-on training in stitching and garment making with basic entrepreneurship skills. The

initiative is part of Samsung’s community development efforts around its manufacturing operations in Tamil Nadu, with a focus on creating practical livelihood opportunities for women. “Many women joined the programme with little or no formal tailoring experience. Today, they are confidently stitching garments, taking customer orders and thinking about how to build a steady income. Seeing their confidence grow has been the most rewarding part of this journey,” said K. Kumari, tailoring trainer for the programme in Santhavallur.

For A. Divya from Santhavallur, receiving a sewing machine means she can put her new skills to work immediately. “I always wanted to learn a skill that would help me support my family. This training has given me the confidence to start working from home, and

receiving a sewing machine means I can begin immediately,” she said. R. Nandhini from Sirumangadu said the training had given her an opportunity to become more financially independent. “This training has shown me that I can build a livelihood with my own skills. With the sewing machine I received, I hope to start taking tailoring orders in my village, contribute to my household income and become financially independent,” she said.

Samsung has been manufacturing in Tamil Nadu since 2007, with its Sriperumbudur facility forming an important part of the company’s manufacturing footprint in India.

These include Samsung Innovation Campus, which equips young people with skills in emerging technologies such as AI, and Samsung DOST, which provides industry-ready training for retail and technical service roles. Through Samsung Solve for Tomorrow, the company is also encouraging young innovators from Tamil Nadu to develop technology-led solutions to real-world challenges.

The tailoring initiative extends this focus to communities around Samsung’s Sriperumbudur manufacturing facility, helping women translate vocational skills into income opportunities close to home.

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A group of people, including men and women, standing behind a table displaying sewing machines and other items. A banner in the background mentions 'SAMSUNG' and 'SRIPERUMBUDUR'.

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TOYOTA TKM EMPOWERS RURAL WOMEN THROUGH 38TH ICARE INITIATIVE

Chennai, 25 August 2026: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) announced the successful completion of its 38th iCARE (I, Community Action to Reach Everyone) initiative under its Employee Volunteerism Program, held in observance of World Entrepreneurs’ Day. The initiative focused on strengthening livelihood opportunities for rural women from Self Help Groups (SHGs) through eco-friendly home décor crafts

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A group of women standing behind a table displaying various handicrafts and products. They are smiling and holding up some of the items.

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MAKING EVERY LONG WEEKEND MORE REWARDING: MAKEMYTRIP AND AXIS BANK LAUNCH EXCLUSIVE TRAVEL BENEFITS THROUGH MARCH 2027

Chennai, 25 August 2026: MakeMyTrip and Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India, today announced a partnership to offer exclusive travel benefits during key long weekends and peak holiday travel periods.

Travel is increasingly becoming a year-round habit rather than an occasional indulgence with travellers opting for more frequent, shorter getaways throughout the year. Long weekends, in particular, have emerged as some of the popular travel peaks.

Built around India's long weekend calendar, the programme is designed to offer recurring travel benefits across multiple holiday periods throughout the year. The offering covers domestic and international flights, hotels, MakeMyTrip, we are bringing timely and relevant benefits that make travel planning more rewarding and accessible for our cardholders. This collaboration further strengthens our commitment to delivering differentiated travel experiences and enhancing the value our customers derive from their Axis Bank Credit Cards."

Raj Rishi Singh, Chief Operating Officer – Flights, Corporate, GCC & Marketing, MakeMyTrip, said, "Marketing is increasingly building around the right moment, not just the loudest voice. This partnership with Axis Bank reflects that shift, showing up with real value exactly when the traveller is deciding, not just when we want to be seen."

As part of the offer, For every eligible long weekend, a dedicated booking window will open ahead of the holiday period, giving customers access to exclusive benefits and offers across travel categories.

Vinit Bajaj, Group Head – Acquiring and Cards, Axis Bank, said, "Travel continues to be a key focus area for us, as customers increasingly seek meaningful experiences and greater value from their everyday spends. Long weekends are great opportunities for travel and people are making the most of it with short getaways throughout the year. Through our partnership with

‘IRUMUDI KATTU’ – A POWERFUL BLEND OF FAMILY, FAITH AND EMOTION

Chennai, 25 August 2026: Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja has teamed up with director Siva Nirvana for the emotional story of family, hope and change of heart, 'Irumudi'. Produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers and presented by T-Series Films, 'Irumudi Kattu' is set to hit the screens worldwide on August 21. The press meet was held today.

Producer Ravi Shankar said, "Director Siva told us this story with three different layers: thriller, family story and spirituality. We were surprised how this was possible. But, Siva has done it beautifully in this film. The actors and technical team like Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja, actress Priya Bhavani, Shankar have done a great job. All South Indian fans will enjoy this cult classic film in theaters. This film of Siva Nirvana has been selected by the god Ayyappa himself. Watch the film and tell us."

Dialogue writer Vijay Balaji said, "I have already worked with Mythri Movie Makers on two films. This is a story that takes place between three fathers. The biggest strength of this film is

the music composer Maharaja Ravi Teja sir, GV Prakash. Mass Maharaja has come to Chennai on Madras Day. Everyone will definitely like the film."

Cinematographer Vishnu Sharma said, "It is an honor to work on Ravi Teja sir's film. Siva sir has captured the story well. This will definitely be a new story for Tamil fans too."

Child star Nathikara said, "This film is very special to me. I thank director Siva sir, Mass



FREEDOM OILS BRAND OWNER GEMINI EDIBLES & FATS INDIA FILES FOR IPO

Chennai, 25 August 2026: Gemini Edibles & Fats India Limited (GEF), one of the largest regional branded edible oil players in the Indian market with a presence in Southern India and certain states of Eastern India, is proposing its initial public offering (IPO), comprising an Offer for Sale (OFS) of up to 41.15 million equity shares.

The selling shareholders comprise Alka Chowdhry, Golden Agri International Enterprises Pte. Ltd. (GAIE), Black River Food 2 Pte. Ltd. and Investment & Commercial Enterprise Pte. Ltd. (ICE). Of the total shares offered, Alka Chowdhry and GAIE are each offering approximately 2.06 million shares, while Black River Food 2 and ICE are offering approximately 30.86 million and 6.17 million shares, respectively. Headquartered in Hyderabad, GEFL, is led by an industry veteran Pradeep Kumar Chowdhry and is primarily engaged in the trading, processing, manufacturing and marketing of edible oils and specialty fats and is now evolving into an integrated consumer brand platform – it recently added spices and convenience foods to its portfolio. In FY26, the company had an estimated market share of approximately 22.2% in South India's packaged sunflower oil under the 'First Klass' brand. Between FY24 and FY26 its contribution to the company's revenues increased from 64% to 72%. Its geographic footprint, for branded packaged oils, has expanded from our initial base in Andhra Pradesh into Telangana, Odisha and Karnataka, and more recently into Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu. As per its Industry report in the DRHP, the companies branded revenue grew at a CAGR of 20.5% between Fiscal 2020 and Fiscal 2025, significantly outpacing the overall branded edible oil market, which grew at a CAGR of 10.1% during the same period.

Under the branded retail consumer vertical, it markets oils such as sunflower oil, rice bran oil, mustard oil, groundnut oil, soybean oil and palm oil under our own brands in various pack sizes. The Premium oils such as sunflower, rice bran, mustard and groundnut are sold under the 'Freedom' and 'Be-Rite' brands, while palm oil is sold

SEEKHO MARKS SIX YEARS, CROSSES 100 MILLION DOWNLOADS AS INDIA'S LEARNING HABITS EVOLVE

Bangalore, 25 August 2026: Seekho, India's leading edutainment platform and the country's first short-video subscription app for lifelong learning, today marked six years of operations, crossing 100 million lifetime downloads and reaching 4 million current paid subscribers. The milestone follows a year of strong momentum for the company. In 2025, Seekho added 21.75 million users, while engagement continued to deepen, with retained users now spending 28-29 minutes daily on the platform, up from around 23 minutes a year ago. This reflects a growing base of learners returning regularly to build practical, real-world skills rather than consuming content as a one-time activity.

"When we started Seekho, the idea was simple – learning should be as engaging as entertainment, but far more meaningful. Six years later, what excites us most isn't just the scale we've reached; it's how people are choosing to learn. Millions of Indians are opening Seekho every day to improve their communication, build an additional source of income, understand finance, or learn a new skill they can apply immediately. That's the future of learning we believed in from day one, and we're still only getting started," said Rohit Choudhary, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Seekho.

The platform's learning trends also offer a window into how aspirations across India are changing. Over the past year, English Speaking and Part-Time Income emerged as Seekho's work hours. Short, practical lessons also allow users to fit learning into their daily routines.

The platform is also seeing growing interest in applied AI learning. Instead of exploring AI as a technical subject, learners are using it as a productivity and income-generation tool. Popular topics include creating YouTube videos using AI, generating AI voiceovers, building social media channels and using AI tools to grow digital businesses. The trend reflects a broader shift from learning for knowledge alone to learning with immediate, measurable outcomes.



G. V. PRAKASH KUMAR AS LEAD, SEAN ROLDAN AS COMPOSER: K.S. SINISH PRESENTS ‘NINJA’ SHOOTING STARTS WITH A RITUAL POOJA CEREMONY ON AUGUST 24!

Chennai, 25 August The shooting of 2026: Some collabo Ninja commenced today (August 24) in curiously, and ‘Ninja’ Thanjavur, with the brings together two of production beginning Tamil cinema’s with a traditional pooja celebrated musical ceremony held at talents in an exciting Sripathy Cinemas. The new avatar. G. V. first schedule is Prakash Kumar, who planned for 20 days, was initially onboard marking the beginning as the music composer, of a fresh cinematic now steps into the lead journey featuring a role, with Prarthana new combination of (Thalaivar Thambi talent both in front of Thalaimayil-Love and behind the camera. Today-Parking fame) K. S. Sinish has playing female lead, previously produced while acclaimed the National Award- composer Sean Roldan winning film takes charge of the ‘Parking’, while he is the film’s music. Written also simultaneously and directed by producing another Murugu, the film is project titled ‘Super produced by S. Sai hero’ starring Arjun Das and Sandy. It is worth mentioning that Learn and Teach Production (Produc tion house behind Pa.



Ranjith-Arya’s brings together an intriguing mix of experienced talents and fresh creative voices.

The biggest talking point surrounding Ninja marks an interes ting shift in their respective creative roles and adds to the curiosity surrounding the project.

The technical crew comprises Harish Kannan as Director of Photography, Ganesh Siva as Editor, Gopi Anand as Art Director, Priya Ravi as Costume Designer and Dinesh Kaasi as Stunt Director. With Sean Roldan composing the music and Murugu at the helm, the film

Produced by S. Sai Devanand and K. S. Sinish under Soldiers’ Factory and Learn and Teach Production, the

film has now commenced its first schedule in Thanjavur, with further updates on the project to follow.

KARTHIKEYAN DK: FROM PATTUKOTTAI TO THE SCREEN

Chennai, 25 August has a look that reminds 2026: Hailing from many of the younger Pattukottai, Karthi Kamal Haasan— keyan DK, popularly particularly the combi known as Dee Kay, is nation of charm, steadily making his expres sive features presence felt in the and effort less style. It world of Tamil enter is a resem blance he tainment. His journey takes as a compliment, has taken him from the especially since Kamal popular television sir is his favourite hero space to increasingly and a m a j o r prominent roles on inspiration. screen.



Despite his growing character roles that visibility, Karthikeyan allow him to discover is in no hurry to chase different shades as an stardom. “I’m never in actor.

With his striking looks, natural screen appeal and growing experience across television and OTT, Dee Kay is now ready for the next phase of his journey.

From Pattukottai to the wider Tamil enter tainment industry, Karthikeyan DK is not rushing the journey—he is biding his time, waiting for the roles that can make the wait worthwhile.

Among Kamal Haasan’s films, Anbe Sivam holds a special place for him. He is particularly drawn to the way Kamal Haasan has approached charac ter-driven roles, where performance takes precedence over con ventional heroism. Karthikeyan also carries a deep love for music, especially the compositions of Ilaiya raaja, whose music has been an important part of his personal and artistic journey.

A naturally hand some actor with a classic screen presence, Karthikeyan

VARSHINI: FROM PHYSICS TO PERFORMANCE

Chennai, 25 August Shobana . She is 2026: Varshini fascinated by actors karmegham who plays who can bring depth Ramya in Motha and individuality to Raathiri, comes to their characters rather cinema with a rather than merely perform un conventional ing for the camera. background. A Physics student from psgr krishnanmmal college, Coimbatore. Varshini discovered her passion for performance Hindi well, and through short films and stage experiences. believes this could give her access to a much wider range of oppor tunities as an artist.

Her artistic journey has also been shaped by Bharatanatyam, which gave her a strong foundation in expres sion, discipline and body language. She has been part of short films,gradually build ing her confidence in front of the camera.

Varshini has a particular admiration for Hindi cinema and draws inspiration from performers such as T a b u , R e k h a , Aishwarya Rai and



greatly admires for her natural performances karmegham, Motha and ability to remain Raathiri is an important authentic on screen. step forward—a She also looks up to chance to move beyond Dhanush sir, parti short films and bring cularly for his versati her preparation, dance lity and his ability to training and love for completely transform performance to a much himself for a character. larger audience. From studying Physics in Coimbatore to stepping into the cinematic world as Karmegam, Varshini’s journey proves that sometimes the most unexpected paths can lead to the most exciting desti nations.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF 26-HOUR CONTINUOUS NON-STOP SWIMMING - ANTI-DRUG AWARENESS INITIATIVE AND NOVA WORLD RECORD RECOGNITION

Chennai, 25 August event was held from 2026: SRM Institute 9:00 a.m. on 23 August of Science and Techno 2026 to 11:00 a.m. on 24 August 2026 at the Directorate of Sports, successfully Dr. T. R. Paarivendhar organized a unique 26- Aquatic Complex, SRMIST, Kattan Hour Continuous Non- Stop Swimming – kulathur – 603203.

Anti-Drug Awareness Initiative as part of the Founder’s Birthday Celebration 2026. The event aimed to create strong awareness among students, youth, and the public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a healthy, active, and drug-free society.

As part of this initia tive, 88 swimmers participated in conti nuous non-stop swimm ing for 26 hours, demonstrating their commitment to spread ing the message: “Just Say No to Drugs.” The



ceremony was inaugu torate of Sports ,SRM rated by Additional IST at 11:00 a.m. on 24 Registrar, MSL, Dr. T. August 2026.

The successful completion of this remarkable initiative marks a significant achievement for SRMIST and rein forces its commitment to promoting sports, fitness, healthy living, and a drug-free society.

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