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KAMARAJAR BREAKFAST SCHEME TO COVER 15 LAKH MORE STUDENTS FROM SEPT 17. CM TO LAUNCH FROM VIRUDUNAGAR SCHOOL WERE KAMARAJAR STUDIED

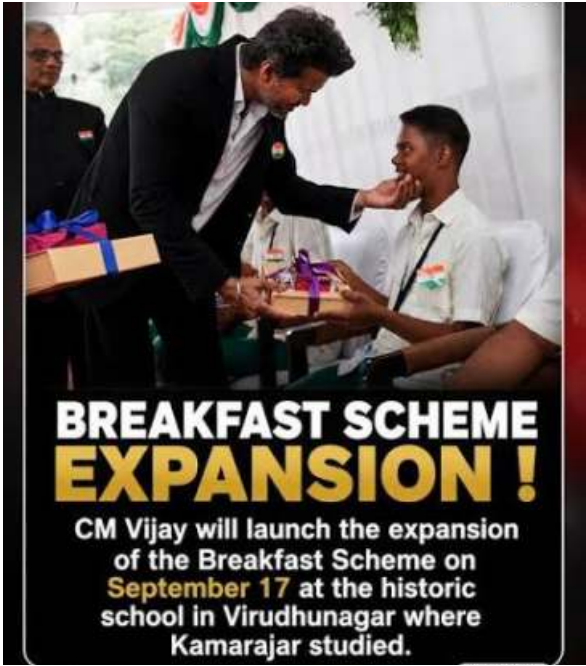
Chennai, 29 August as Chief Minister, 2026: The Tamil Nadu government will expand the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme to Classes VI to VIII from September 17, bringing 15.14 lakh students in 15,454 government and government-aided schools under the programme.

Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay is expected to launch the expansion at KVS Middle School in Virudhunagar, where former Chief Minister K. Kamaraj studied. The launch, scheduled on the birth anniversary of Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, will also mark Vijay's first visit to a southern district after assuming office

according to government sources. An official announcement is expected shortly.

The government has sanctioned Rs 268.72 crore for the expansion, comprising Rs 240.01 crore towards recurring expenditure and Rs 28.71 crore towards non-recurring expenditure.

The breakfast programme, introduced by the previous DMK government, was initially launched on September 15, 2022, at a government primary school in Nelpettai, Madurai. In its first phase, it covered 1.14 lakh students in 1,545 schools and was subsequently expanded to



government and government-aided primary schools across the State.

After the change in government, Vijay, during a Social Welfare Department review at the Secretariat on June 15, directed officials to extend the scheme up to Class VIII from September 17.

The State government subsequently

renamed the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme as the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme through a government order issued on July 22.

With the latest expansion, students in Classes VI to VIII will also receive breakfast under the scheme, extending its coverage beyond primary school children.

TN INVITES TENDER FOR 5,32,388 BICYCLES WITH HELMETS, WATER BOTTLES

Chennai, 29 August 2026: The Tamil Nadu government has invited an e-tender to procure 5,32,388 modern bicycles with IS-certified helmets and water bottles for Class 11 students in the 2026-27 academic year.

The bicycles will be distributed to 2,37,133 boys and 2,95,255 girls under the Backward Classes Welfare Department. The bicycles will be sourced from ISO certified manufacturers and will have water-bottle holders. The helmets must comply with IS 10613:2023 standards.

The government has fixed an earnest money deposit of Rs. 70 lakh for the tender. Bidders can submit their applications online from August 29 to September 28.

The selected supplier must deliver the bicycles, helmets and water bottles within 150 days of receiving the purchase order. The department has begun the procurement process to ensure distribution during the 2026-27 academic year.

The tender follows the announcement made by Finance Minister Mariya Wilson while presenting the revised Budget for 2026-27. The government had announced that around five lakh Class 11



students would receive modern bicycles with safety helmets and waterbottle facilities.

The revised Budget allocated Rs. 44,527 crore for School Education and Rs. 8,393 crore for Higher Education, besides announcing several measures for students and youth.

Under the Vetri Laptop Scheme, free laptops will be provided to college students at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,000 crore.

The government

has also announced skill training for one lakh youth and additional support for competitive examination preparation.

Other measures include Rs. 10 crore for student hostel facilities and the establishment of five new ITIs at an estimated cost of Rs. 90 crore.

A new government law college will also be established in Madurai to benefit students pursuing legal education in southern Tamil Nadu.

MINISTER PRAISES CM'S MINORITY WELFARE PIVOT

Chennai, 29 August 2026: The Tamil Nadu Government has announced more than 20 measures for the welfare of minority communities in a single financial statement, Minority Welfare Minister Shahjahan said in the Assembly on Friday, hailing the initiatives as steps aimed at empowering the community.

Replying to the demands for grants for the Minority Welfare Department, Shahjahan said the Government had allocated Rs. 20 crore to enable educationally backward students from minority communities to pursue higher education free of cost in government and government-aided arts and science colleges.

He said the government would also establish a community welfare centre at a cost

of Rs. 10 crore in areas it as a historic occasion provide good governance to the people of Tamil Nadu.

The Minister said the announcement of more than 20 measures for minorities in a single financial statement was unprecedented in the state's history. He thanked the government for according priority to minority welfare.

Shahjahan said the Chief Minister had assured the IUML that his government would work for all sections of society and remain committed to the welfare of minorities. He said the IUML had extended its support to the Government to prevent the NDA from coming to power in Tamil Nadu. He added that the Chief

Minister's visit to the IUML office had strengthened the relationship between the government and the organisation.

“People had voted for change and this government is capable of delivering the changes they have been waiting for,” Shahjahan said, expressing confidence that the administration would

He said the measures were designed to provide tangible support and help uplift minority communities.

He said the government would continue to focus on education, employment and social welfare, while ensuring that development benefits reached all communities without discrimination.

VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI TO UZBEKISTAN AND KYRGYZ REPUBLIC (29 AUGUST-1 SEPTEMBER 2026)

Chennai, 29 August 2026: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Uzbekistan from 29-30 August on a bilateral visit and the Kyrgyz Republic for the 26th SCO Summit from 31 August to 1 September 2026.

At the invitation of the President of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Prime Minister will undertake a State Visit to Tashkent on 29-30 August 2026. This will be Prime Minister's fourth visit to Uzbekistan. During the

visit, Prime Minister and Uzbekistan-2030. Shanghai Cooperation Prime Minister is also expected to visit the Shastri Memorial in Tashkent and the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies.

From Tashkent, at the invitation of the President of Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Mr. Sadyr Zhaparov, Prime Minister will travel to Bishkek to participate in the 26th SCO Summit on 31 August-1 September 2026. The Summit marks the 25th anniversary of the

Prime Minister will address the Summit where he will highlight India's priorities of Security, Connectivity and Opportunity at the forum. Prime Minister will also hold bilateral meetings with SCO leaders on the sidelines of the Summit. He will also attend the Opening Ceremony of the 6th World Nomad Games, a celebration of the rich cultural heritage of Central Asia.

79% OF STUDENTS PREFER FLEXIBLE CLASSROOMS AS SMART LEARNING GAINS MOMENTUM IN INDIA, REVEALS A STUDY FROM INTERIO BY GODREJ

Mumbai, 29 August 2026: Interio by Godrej, a leading furniture brand from the Godrej Enterprises Group, has unveiled its latest whitepaper, “Beyond the Screens: The Rise of Smart Learning Spaces,” examining how schools across India are adopting technology-enabled learning and what is required to create effective smart learning environments. Developed by the Work space & Ergonomics Research Cell at Interio by Godrej, the white paper explores how learning environments that integrate technology, ergonomic furniture and flexible classroom layouts can enhance student engagement, collaboration and learning outcomes. The research draws insights from a diverse group of students across disciplines, age group (19-28), regions, colleges and universities, providing a comprehensive understanding of evolving

learning needs and the role of technology in shaping modern educational environments. Commenting on the findings, Sameer Joshi, Senior Vice President and Head of B2B Business, Interio by Godrej said, "India's education ecosystem spans over 14.71 lakh schools and serves more than 24.69 crore students[1], making the quality of learning environments critical to future learning outcomes. Government investments of ₹1.47 lakh crore under the Smart Cities Mission have accelerated the adoption of technology-enabled classrooms. The classroom is no longer just a space for delivering information; it is becoming an environment where collaboration, creativity and critical thinking are nurtured. While schools have made significant progress in adopting digital technologies, the next phase of transformation lies in

creating learning spaces that integrate technology with thoughtful design, despite widespread ergonomics, flexibility and comfort. At Interio by Godrej, we believe the future of education depends not only on smart devices but on smart learning spaces that enable teachers to teach better and students to learn better." The whitepaper highlights the transformation of classrooms into technology-enabled learning environments. It reveals that 100% of teachers surveyed believe technology improves student engagement and understanding, while 91% have received formal technology training, indicating increasing readiness among educators to enhance digital teaching methods. The research also found that all surveyed schools have already integrated technology into classrooms, with 75% of teachers describing

classroom technology as seamless and intuitive. However, despite widespread adoption, technology continues to be used primarily for classroom instruction, indicating significant opportunities to expand its use for assessments, analytics, structured feedback and personalised learning. The study also highlights the role of classroom design in improving learning outcomes. It found that 94% of teachers who can reconfigure classroom furniture report being more effective, while 79% of students prefer learning environments where seating can be rearranged for collaboration or focused study. These findings show that flexible furniture, ergonomic seating, effective acoustics and well-planned audio-visual infrastructure are essential components to technology in creating engaging learning environments.

NIPPON PAINT INDIA EXPANDS NEO HOMES RETAIL NETWORK IN TAMIL NADU

Tanjore, 29 August 2026: Nippon Paint India, part of NIPSEA Group – a subsidiary of Nippon Paint Holdings Co., Ltd., has expanded its retail footprint in Tamil Nadu with the launch of four new NEO Homes experiential retail stores across Trichy and Tanjore. The stores have been launched in partnership with Supreme Paints & Hardware and NA Traders in Trichy, and Pushpam Hardware and VS Enterprises in Tanjore. With these additions, the company's NEO

Homes network has reached 26 stores across India. NEO Homes brings together Nippon Paint India's decorative portfolio, colour solutions, application expertise and painting accessories in a curated retail environment. The format enables homeowners and professionals to explore products and colours with expert guidance, making the paint selection and home transformation journey more engaging and informed. The expansion also strengthens



the company's presence across key regional markets in Tamil Nadu. Commenting on the expansion, Mr. Mark Titus, President – Decorative Business, Nippon Paint India, said the company aims to deepen its presence and create greater relevance at the point where consumers make

their painting decisions. He added that NEO Homes is not simply a point of distribution but an important consumer touchpoint that showcases the brand's breadth, expertise and understanding of evolving home needs, while providing dealer partners with a stronger platform to engage consumers.

YES BANK HOSTS 'AI FEST' TO EXPLORE THE NEXT PHASE OF AI-LED TRANSFORMATION

Mumbai, 28 August 2026: YES BANK, one of India's leading private sector banks, successfully hosted a distinct technology-led initiative - 'AI Fest' at the YES BANK's Head quarters in Mumbai. The event brought together Artificial Intelligence (AI) use case solution providers and aimed to explore real-world AI applications and scalable implementation strategies.

YES BANK 'AI Fest' 2026 was built around the theme of Intelligence, Innovation and Impact—showcasing how AI moves from concept to measurable business value. The event provided a platform to

evaluate emerging AI solutions and engage directly with technology innovators.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Mahesh Ramamoorthy, Chief Information Officer, YES BANK, said, “Financial services is at an inflection point with AI, as the sector focuses scaling AI responsibly and create lasting value. Our ‘AI Fest’ was designed to create a focused environment where our teams at YES BANK could ideate on possible AI solutions that are mature enough to be adopted. We were able to bring together our business, product, risk, compliance and multiple other teams along with the techno



logy ecosystem under one roof to discuss challenges and ideate on democratising AI. The ‘AI Fest’ aligns with our broader AI strategy of building capabilities methodically, governed by robust frameworks, and focused on delivering sustainable impact across the Bank.”

YES BANK has been increasingly integrating AI across its operations, anchored by a Board-

approved AI Governance Policy aligned with the RBI's Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of AI. To operationalise this framework, the Bank established an AI Council and an AI Centre of Excellence to oversee implementation, the model lifecycle and introduced a Responsible AI training programme. The Bank has deployed AI across select processes and journeys.

VICE PRESIDENT C. P. RADHAKRISHNAN LAUNCHES 'GNANI ARTHA', A SOVEREIGN AI STACK COMPRISING EVON 3.3 AND PLEXUS

Chennai, 28 August 2026: Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan today launched 'Gnani Artha', a sovereign AI stack comprising Evon 3.3 and Plexus, developed by GNANI AI, at Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Evon 3.3 is a large language model, while Plexus is a platform that connects AI intelligence with real-world work and institutions.

Welcoming the launch of Gnani Artha, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan said the combination of Evon 3.3 and Plexus reflects the growing strength of India's technology ecosystem and demonstrates that Indian engineers can not only use frontier technologies but also build them.

Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan said technology has transformed dramatically, from the era of typewriters and limited use of personal computers to today's age of Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models. Recalling concerns over computers replacing jobs, he noted that the IT sector instead created numerous employment opportunities in India and abroad. He expressed confidence that AI too will open new avenues of employment and growth, taking India's economic progress to the next stage.

The Vice President highlighted India's rapid progress in Artificial Intelligence, noting that initiatives such as the IndiaAI Mission and Centres of Excellence for AI are



driving the country's transformation. He said much of the momentum behind India's technological transformation has come from the recently concluded Session and would soon be extended to all Scheduled Languages. political will and commitment to an 'India First' approach are strengthening India's capabilities in emerging technologies.

Highlighting the use of AI in Parliament, he said the Digital Sansad portal enables parliamentary debates and papers to be accessed in multiple

Indian languages. He added that simultaneous AI-based interpretation in eight languages was introduced in the recently concluded Session and would soon be extended to all Scheduled Languages. Emphasising the need for technological self-reliance, he said India should not remain merely a consumer of technology. “We should not be consumers always; we need to create, so that others can consume,” he said, underlining the importance of building indigenous technological capabilities.

THE FACE OF PAN-INDIA STARDOM: ALLU ARJUN GRACES FORBES INDIA COVER

Chennai, 29 August The National Award-winning actor and Icon Star Allu Arjun has consistently pushed the boundaries of mainstream stardom. From the prestigious Showstoppers 2026 edition, Pushpa: The Rise to the record-breaking impact of Pushpa 2: The Rule, Allu Arjun has built a strong connection with audiences across languages and geographies.



With his distinctive screen presence, pan-India appeal and growing global recognition, Allu Arjun has emerged as a force that transcends the boundaries of regional cinema. His journey from Telugu cinema to becoming a nationally and internationally recognised star reflects the changing landscape of Indian cinema.

Beyond his achievements on screen, his influence extends across popular culture, brands and the global entertainment landscape. His distinctive style, iconic mannequins and immense fan following have made him one of the most recognisable faces of contemporary Indian

cinema. Being featured on the cover of

Forbes India's Showstoppers 2026 further reflects his stature and the growing influence of Indian stars on the global stage. The cover celebrates not just his success as an actor, but the evolution of Allu Arjun into a powerful cultural phenomenon.

As Allu Arjun continues to explore ambitious projects and expand his horizons, the Forbes India Showstoppers 2026 cover stands as another defining chapter in the journey of the Icon Star.

'TIGERIANS ROAR' SETS THE SCREEN ABLAZE: HRIDHU HAROON'S ELECTRIFYING PRESENCE WINS MASSIVE RESPONSE!

Chennai, 29 August 2026: The first single "Tigerians Roar" from Texas Tiger has arrived to a phenomenal response, with audiences particularly captivated by the powerful screen presence, infectious energy and electrifying dance performance of Hridhu Haroon. Making his debut as a lead hero with Thugs, Hridhu has, in a remarkably short span, explored diverse characters across Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi cinema, including films such as Mumbaikar, All We Imagine as Light, Mura, Maine Pyar Kiya, Bad Girl and Dude.

Having impressed audiences through varied and performance-oriented roles, Hridhu now takes a strikingly different avatar in Texas Tiger, emerging as a 100% commercial entertainer hero in "Tigerians

From the very first beat, "Tigerians Roar" unfolds as a vibrant collage of visual spectacle, infectious rhythm and captivating choreography, with Hridhu Haroon owning every frame with his energetic performance. The dynamic percussion and layered instrumentation further amplify the song's celebratory mood, while Osho Venkat's composition gives the track its distinctive musical character.

The phenomenal response to the very first single has now added considerable momentum to the expectations surrounding Texas Tiger. When a film's opening musical offering strikes such an immediate chord with audiences, it becomes a strong indicator of the excitement awaiting the film. In that regard, "Tigerians Roar" has made a resounding



statement, promising Texas Tiger as a vibrant and stupendous theatrical treat.

The song features lyrics by Kelithe, Thamizh Aadhavan and Aa.Pa.Raja, with vocals by Kelithe and Thamizh Aadhavan. Osho Venkat has composed the music for the song.

Written and directed by Selvah Kumar Thirumaran, Texas Tiger is produced by UK Squad, with Balaji Kumar, Parthiban Kumar, Selvah Kumar Thirumaran and Sujith as Producers. The film stars Hridhu Haroon, Samyuktha Viswanathan, Rohini Molletti, Anthony Daasan, Sachana

Namidass, Ramesh Thilak, Parthiban, Wafa Khatheer, Peter K, Samyuktha Shanmuganathan and others. The technical team comprises Osho Venkat as Music Director, Vishnu Mani Vadivu as Cinematographer, Praveen Antony as Editor and K.B. Nandhu as Art Director.

With "Tigerians Roar" setting the musical promotions on a high note and Hridhu Haroon's energetic performance emerging as one of its major talking points, Texas Tiger has already begun generating strong curiosity for what promises to be an exciting and high-energy cinematic experience.

FROM RAKHIS TO LAST-MINUTE GIFTS: FLIPKART MINUTES SEES 3X SURGE IN ORDERS AS INDIA CELEBRATES RAKSHA BANDHAN

Chennai, 29 August Aurangabad, Madurai 2026: This Raksha Bandhan, Flipkart Minutes captured how India celebrates, blending tradition and personal expression. Customers drove 3X growth in festive shopping on the platform, with Gen Z accounting for more than 40% of shoppers, signalling how digital-first younger consumers are rewriting gifting norms. Rakhi and Fashion Maang Tikka emerged as the fastest-growing categories at 20X and 4X growth respectively, leading demand alongside Precious Earrings, Gold & Silver Coins & Bars and Pooja Thali Sets. The momentum spanned metros from Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Kolkata to non-metros including

Flipkart Minutes' dedicated Rakhi Store became the go-to destination for last-minute festive needs, with 2000+ Rakhis sold per minute along with Mobile Handsets, True wireless earbuds, Gold Coin Bar and Smart Watches topping gifting categories. Shopping peaked between 4PM and 10PM with mobile phones recording the highest gifting orders in a single hour, a testament to how quick commerce is becoming central to on-time festive delivery.

Gifting choices reflected a clear shift from convention. Beyond traditional



gifts, shoppers drove 3.5X growth across accessories such as fashion brooches, mobile tripods and watch combos with YoY as shoppers search trends for sweets like besan laddu and rasmalai, chocolates and Rakhi-related searches including 'Rakhi gift hamper for brother', 'Rakhi Gift Basket for sister' and 'Rudraksha Rakhi' pointing to a broader move towards personalised, occasion-led purchases. Ethnic

From planned purchases to eleventh-hour gestures, Flipkart Minutes is powering the full spectrum of Raksha Bandhan shopping for Gen Z, Bharat, and consumers across the country.

THE MOVIE 'ENNA VILAI' RELEASING ON SEPTEMBER 17TH MARKS ACTOR KARUNAAS'S 25 YEARS IN CINEMA!

Chennai, 29 August 2026: Actor Karunaas is set to mark a significant milestone in his cinematic journey with Enna Vilai, which coincides with his completion of 25 years in Tamil cinema. Known for his versatility across comedy, character-driven and emotionally demanding roles, Karunaas says the film holds a special place in his career.

Speaking about the film, he said, "As I complete 25 years in cinema, I feel Enna Vilai has come to me at a very special time. Honestly, I feel I was

Award-winning film maker Sajeev Pazhoor, Enna Vilai is produced by Githesh Viswambarn and Anugopal Venugopalan under the banner of Kalamaya Cineverse.

The film features Nimisha Sajayan, Karunaas, Vijaya lakshmi, Poornima Bhagyaraj, Y.G. Mahendran, Motta Rajendran, Nizhalgal Ravi, Chiththa Darshan, Mohan Ram, Chetan Kumar, Kavithalaya Krishnan, Kamalesh, Goli Soda Pandi, J.S. Kavi, Swaminathan, Deepa Shankar, Kavi Nakkalites and others.



The technical crew includes Alby Antony (Cinematography), Sam C.S. (Music), Sreejith Sarang (Editing) and Tapas Nayak (Sound Design).

Having earned appreciation through screenings at various international film festivals, Enna Vilai is gearing up for its theatrical release in September 17 2026.

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