

**RS. 4,800 CR DESALINATION PLANT FOR NORTH CHENNAI
CM ORDERS MAJOR REVAMP TO ENSURE WATER FOR ALL
RS. 1,000 CR DRINKING WATER UPGRADE FOR LOCAL BODIES**

Chennai, 03 Sep drinking water produc In Chennai city, the
2026: Chief Minister tion and strengthening capacity of the Kilpauk
C. Joseph Vijay today distribution infrastruc Water Treatment Plant
announced a series of ture, with the objective will be expanded at an
major drinking water of providing safe, estimated cost of Rs
projects worth uninterrupted and 410crore.

thousands of crores, round-the-clock drinking water to people across several parts of Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister also announced Rs 1,000 crore for drink

capacity to produce 400 million litres of drinking water a day. Making the works in Madurai and announcements under Cuddalore Corpora

The government Assembly, Vijay said lities and 20 town will also provide Rs. the proposed plant panchayats. Another 300 crore in the first would strengthen water Rs 300 crore will be phase to renovate 33 supply to North provided in the first ageing combined Chennai, Avadi, phase to renovate 33 drinking water supply Ponneri and Minjur ageing combined schemes, the Chief and help ensure safe drinking water supply Minister said. and uninterrupted schemes.

In Chennai, the capacity of the Kilpauk Water Treatment Plant will be expanded at an estimated cost of Rs. 410 crore.	drinking water. A separate Rs 500-crore project will be implemented to provide 24-hour drinking water to every	The announcements are aimed at increasing water production, strengthening distribution infrastructure and moving towards
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The projects are aimed at increasing household in Avadi reliable round-the-clock drinking water supply.

ALL CASES AGAINST FARMERS, TEACHERS WITHDRAWN, CM ANNOUNCES

Chennai, 03 Sep teachers over liveli
2026: In a major move hood, rights and social-
aimed at upholding welfare issues. The
democratic rights, the Chief Minister said
Tamil Nadu Govern many of those who had
ment has decided to raised their voices
withdraw all cases through democratic
registered during the means continued to
previous regime face hardship because
against farmers and of the cases pending
teachers who had against them.

staged peaceful Referring to
protests seeking to farmers' agitations,
press their demands. Union Minister H

Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay made the announcement in the State Assembly on Wednesday under Rule 110, stating that the decision was being taken on humanitarian grounds and in keeping with democratic principles.

The cases relate to the prolonged protests held between May 2021 and April 2026 by farmers and proposed Parandur airport project over

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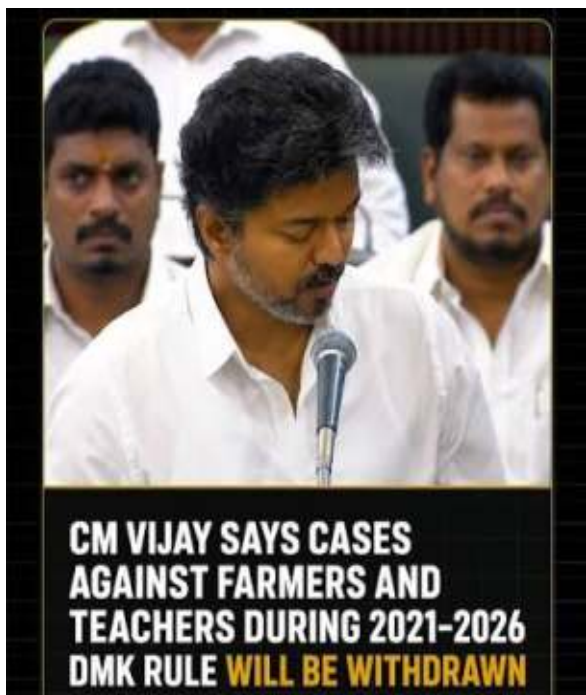
works in Madurai and Cuddalore Corporations, nine municipalities and 20 town panchayats. Another Rs 300 crore will be provided in the first phase to renovate 33 ageing combined drinking water supply schemes.

The announcements are aimed at increasing water production, strengthening distribution infrastructure and moving towards reliable round-the-clock drinking water supply.



The Minjur desalination project, in particular, is expected to provide a major additional source of treated water for the rapidly expanding northern Chennai region.

Madurai Corporation is set to receive a major drinking water infrastructure boost, with Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay announcing a Rs 1,000-crore package for drinking water improvement works in Madurai and Cuddalore Corporations, nine municipalities and 20 town panchayats.



concerns regarding freedom of expression
agricultural lands, and peaceful protest
water bodies and is committed to
livelihoods. creating an environ

The Chief Minister said teachers, who play a vital role in social progress, had also faced cases while peacefully protesting for their legitimate demands and rights.

The government, he said, respects the people's right to ordinary citizens and the government, Vijay said.

DIGITAL DRIVING LICENCE, RCS FROM SEPT 15: CM

Chennai, 03 Sep to the public.

2026: The Tamil Nadu Government will introduce a facility from September 15, 2026, enabling motorists to download their Driving Licence and Registration Certificate (RC) digitally, Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay announced in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday under Rule 110.

At present, applicants pay Rs 250 for chip-enabled Driving Licence and RC cards, which are sent by post. Delivery can take anywhere between one week and one month, causing inconvenience

Under the new system, Digital RCs can be downloaded online by those purchasing new vehicles after registration. Similarly, applicants who clear the driving test will receive their Digital Driving Licence on the same day.

The digital documents will carry a QR code, enabling government offices and other authorised agencies to verify them electronically. The system is also expected to help prevent fake documents. If a document is lost or damaged, it can be



downloaded and The Government
printed again. will also gradually

The Chief Minister said the move was part of the Government's continuing administrative reforms aimed at ensuring transparent, corruption-free governance and making public services simpler and more accessible.

LOK SABHA SPEAKER PAYS FLORAL TRIBUTES TO FORMER SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI P.A. SANGMA

Chennai, 03 Sep The two sides
2026: The India reviewed various
-Afghanistan Joint issues relating to
Working Group (JWG) bilateral trade and
on Trade, Commerce economic cooperation
and Investment held its and discussed
meeting virtually on measures to further
1st September 2026. facilitate trade and
The meeting was strengthen commercial
attended by officials engagement between
from India and the two countries.

Afghanistan, including representatives from commerce, industry, customs, regulatory authorities and diplomatic missions.



Afghan traders, Both sides agreed to banking and financial strengthen institutional cooperation, pharma cooperation and pursue ceutical and agricul follow-up actions in tural trade, energy the identified areas, cooperation, invest including enhanced ment and trade promo customs and data-tion, tariff concessions, sharing cooperation, cargo connectivity and regulatory cooperation port-related issues. in pharmaceuticals and

agriculture, improved trade connectivity, and promotion of investment and business-to-business engagement.

The meeting was held in a warm and constructive atmosphere. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening India-Afghanistan trade, commerce and investment ties and agreed to maintain continued engagement on the issues discussed.

[illegible]

BERGER PAINTS’ CONSTRUCTION CHEMICALS BUSINESS CROSSES ₹1,500 CRORE MILESTONE

Chennai, 03 Sep 2026: Berger Paints India Limited has crossed the ₹1,500 crore milestone in its construction chemicals business, including waterproofing, in FY26, reinforcing the company’s growing presence beyond its core paints portfolio.

Built over the last seven to eight years, the business has expanded across waterproofing, repair, tiling and allied construction applications, as demand for specialized construction chemicals gains momentum across new construction and repair.

The business has recorded a CAGR of over 25% over the last three years, well ahead of the broader waterproofing market, which is estimated to grow at around 8–10%. The wider Indian construction chemicals

market is also poised for strong growth, with rising infrastructure activity, renovation and reconstruction, and increasing adoption of specialized solutions driving demand. According to a June 2026 report by Mordor Intelligence, the market is estimated at US\$2.53 billion in 2026 and is projected to reach US\$4.47 billion by 2031, growing at a CAGR of 12.06%.

Commenting on the milestone, Abhijit Roy, MD and CEO, Berger Paints India, said, “We see construction chemicals as a natural extension of our role in building and protecting the spaces that matter to consumers. Over the years, we have invested in understanding evolving construction needs, developing differentiated products and building greater awareness around the

category.

As the market continues to formalise and adoption deepens, our focus will be on scaling the business responsibly, strengthening our presence across geographies and creating solutions that address the needs of both construction professionals and consumers.”

The company’s construction chemicals portfolio is led by Home Shield, which houses its waterproofing solutions. Berger has focused on product development to address emerging needs, including Home Shield Waterproof Putty, which combines

the application of putty to create a uniform wall surface with waterproofing functionality. Another addition is Roof Cool and Seal, which provides roof waterproofing along with a cooling benefit.

Launched around two years ago, the product has a Solar Reflectance Index (SRI) of over 111%, enabling high solar reflectance and contributing to a cooling effect. Berger has also expanded into tiling solutions, including tile adhesives, tile grouts and other adhesive products, strengthening its presence across the broader construction chemicals value chain.

THE TATA TRUSTS CALL FOR EARLY DETECTION AND DIAGNOSIS OF DEMENTIA THROUGH THEIR PUBLIC HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN, ‘VAJOOD RAHE MAUJOOD’

Chennai, 03 Sep 2026: This World Alzheimer’s Month, the Tata Trusts focus attention on Dementia, an important health challenge that could hit India’s elderly population sooner than we imagine.

The Trusts’ campaign ‘Vajood Rahe Maujood’, calls for early interventions not just by the affected families but also at an ecosystem level.

India’s elderly population is growing rapidly. By 2050, India is projected to be home to more than 347 million people aged 60 and above. A population roughly equivalent to the entire population

of the United States today. This demographic shift will fundamentally reshape the demands placed on India’s healthcare systems, families and care infrastructure. Ageing and its associated health challenges, including dementia, thus become an urgent area of research and action.

According to Alzheimer’s & Dementia Journal, 8.8 million elderly people are estimated to be living with dementia in India today. Another study suggested that close to 90% of dementia cases in India go undiagnosed. The scale of the challenge is accelerating rapidly; a 2023 AIIMS-USC study

estimates that the number of Indian seniors living with dementia could reach 16.9 million by 2036, nearly doubling earlier than expected. This underscores why India’s response must go beyond early detection to building a stronger, more collaborative dementia ecosystem.

The campaign film makes use of firsthand accounts from psychiatrists, neurologists and geriatricians, as also caregivers and patients living with early-stage dementia, to highlight the fact that dementia is not merely a disease that causes loss of memory but is actually one where the patients progressively lose their sense of self. ‘Vajood

Rahe Maujood’, accordingly, sets out to build awareness around dementia while urging us to be alert to the early symptoms, and not misattribute them to aging.

Reflecting on the importance of this campaign, Mr. Siddharth Sharma, CEO, Tata Trusts, said, “Dementia will be one of the defining health conversations in India over the next three decades. Our effort is to build a shared, evidence-based understanding of dementia in India, one that looks beyond the disease to the realities of the individual and the caregiver and seeks to build an ecosystem of care around them”.

NEXT BHARAT VENTURES PORTFOLIO REACHES 2 MILLION LIVES, RELEASES IMPACT REPORT LINKING SOCIAL IMPACT WITH FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Chennai, 03 Sep 2026: Next Bharat Ventures (NBV), a

new-age impact first fund backed by capital from Japan, today unveiled its Impact Report 2026, highlighting how businesses serving India’s Next Billion across the rural and informal economy can create measurable social impact while building commercially viable and scalable enterprises. The report records 20 lakh people reached through 21 portfolio companies, with startups from South India impacting over 3 lakh lives, alongside strong commercial momentum across key sectors

since Next Bharat’s investment.

NBV has committed INR 20.76 crore in seed funding with the goal of building a Y Combinator inspired ecosystem for impact-driven entrepreneurship in India. This includes INR 9 crore investment for Blackfrog Technologies, whose Emvolio is India’s first patented, WHO-PQS prequalified active-cooled vaccine carrier designed for last-mile delivery in remote and infrastructure-constrained regions. The solution has reached 251,512 beneficiaries in India to date, and



also has a global presence in Africa.

Vipul Nath Jindal, Founder and CEO of Next Bharat Ventures, commented, “Impacting 2 million lives is an important milestone for us, but our ambition is to scale that impact exponentially from here. With Fund II, we want to back businesses that can improve the livelihoods of India’s Next Billion and address some of the most persistent gaps in access. We have been

deliberate in choosing Lps who deeply resonate with our mission and take a long-term view of capital. This is why Japan has been an important market for us, with Suzuki continuing to anchor our fund alongside several other Japanese institutions.

Going forward, we will focus on entrepreneurs solving last-mile gaps in healthcare and harnessing technologies such as AI for social good.”

NEARLY 1 IN 4 PET PARENTS FEEDING HOME-COOKED MEALS REPORT DIGESTIVE ISSUES; PEDIGREE® RESPONDS WITH HEALTHY BELLY

Chennai, 03 Sep 2026: PEDIGREE®, India’s leading dog food brand from Mars Pet Nutrition, has launched PEDI GREE® Healthy Belly, a new complete and balanced food for adult dogs developed to support healthy digestion.

The product brings together belly-friendly ingredients such as pumpkin and sweet potato; highly digestible proteins from chicken and egg; and prebiotics and fibres

that help promote optimal digestion, increase good gut bacteria and support the immune system. It also introduces PEDI GREE® India’s first belly-shaped kibble, giving the product a distinctive form inspired by the digestive-health need it is designed to address.

The launch responds to an emerging concern among dog parents in India. In an internal study*, nearly one in four pet parents (26%) feeding home-cooked meals reported observing digestive issues in their pets. As pet parents become more attentive to their dogs’ everyday well-being, they are increasingly looking for nutrition that supports specific health needs rather than addressing concerns only after they arise.

Ayesha Huda, Chief Marketing Officer, Mars Pet Nutrition India, said: “Our insight is that digestive health is an important concern for Indian pet parents, particularly among those relying on home-cooked meals. We therefore looked at how nutrition science could help us create a



bespoke solution for everyday feeding. We choose ingredients with known belly-friendly impact such as pumpkin and sweet potato, highly digestible proteins from chicken and egg, and prebiotics to support healthy digestion and good gut bacteria.. As the brand that helped build the pet-food category in India, we want to continue advancing it through science-backed innovation that responds to the changing needs of pets and their parents.”

“Anyone who lives with a dog knows how closely you pay attention to their health and everyday behaviour. Digestive health is an important part of their overall wellbeing, and nutrition can play a significant role in supporting it. As an athlete, I understand how much the right nutrition matters to energy, health and performance.

PEDIGREE® Healthy Belly makes it easier for pet parents to understand and support this important aspect of their dog’s wellbeing.”

THE SCRIPT THAT LEFT SCREENPLAY MAESTRO K. BHAGYARAJ IMPRESSED – WHAT LIES BENEATH ‘BEEP’ AHEAD OF ITS SEPTEMBER 18 RELEASE?

Chennai, 03 Sep 2026: From an acclaimed short film to his first feature, director Ila. Shanmuga Sundar is now bringing his distinctive story telling sensibility to the big screen with Beep.

Having earned recognition for his short film Kattu, Shanmuga Sundar makes his feature-film directorial debut with this unconventional crime drama, which promises to explore crime not through relentless violence, but through characters, psychology and the mysteries surrounding them.

The film features Raghav Ranganathan in a pivotal role, along side Punjab-based actress Perna Khanna, Yamini, Sarpatta Parambarai fame Priyadarshini, Nithish Veera and others.

Unlike conventional crime thrillers built around gunfire, graphic violence and bloodshed, Beep takes a more character-driven route, delving into the lives of people who exist on the margins of society.

At the heart of the story is a gifted young man from a modest background, who possesses an extraordinary ability to absorb and retain photographs and visual details with remarkable precision. He earns admission to one of India’s leading business schools, but his personal ambition is surprisingly simple — he wants to meet the girl he admires.

Then, an unexpected incident changes the course of his life. What follows is an intriguing journey involving his close-knit group of six friends, who find themselves drawn into a situation far beyond anything they could have anticipated. How they attempt to rescue him forms the crux of Beep.

A Crime Drama That Chooses Suspense Over Spectacle

Speaking about the film, director Ila. Shanmuga Sundar explains that Beep deliberately moves away from the familiar grammar of violent crime thrillers.

“This is not a film filled with graphic violence, elaborate fight sequences or gun battles. There is a murder in the story, but the narrative is driven by its characters and their intelligence (AI) and the rapid expansion of quick commerce.

INDIA’S E-COMMERCE MARKET SET TO REACH USD 345 BILLION BY 2030: INFISUM REPORT

Chennai, 03 Sep 2026: India’s e-commerce market is projected to nearly triple from USD 125 billion in 2024 to USD 345 billion by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 18.4%, according to Infisum’s latest report, Smart Growth in a Fast Market. The growth will be driven by rising digital adoption, increasing internet penetration, artificial



individual pursuits. That is what makes the journey interesting.

I have nothing against guns or knives, but I felt they were not necessary for this particular story. Beep is not a film like Ratsasan. It is closer in spirit to films such as Drishyam and Thodakkam.”

One of the film’s most noteworthy highlights is the association of legendary screen writer, director and actor K. Bhagyaraj, who has lent his voice to Beep as its narrator.

Interestingly, Bhagyaraj was initially hesitant to come on board the project. However, after reading the script, his response changed completely.

The trailer of Beep was recently unveiled by director Venkat Prabhu, along with actors Premgi Amaren, Vaibhav, Ajay Raj, Ramya and Preetha Raghav.

The trailer has already crossed one million views on YouTube, generating considerable curiosity among audiences.

For a debut director venturing into a concept-driven crime drama, the response has been particularly encouraging, creating anticipation around what Beep has in store beyond its trailer.

With its character-driven narrative, unconventional approach to crime and emphasis on mystery and psychological tension, Beep is poised to offer audiences a crime drama that seeks to keep them guessing rather than overwhelm them with spectacle.

‘Beep’ hits theatres on September 18.

Technical Crew

Written & Directed by: Ila. Shanmuga Sundar, Music: Prashant Vihari, Cinematography: Pradeep Padmakumar, Editing: Abhishek & Vignesh, Action: Ramkumar, Public Relations: A. John.

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Commenting on the findings, Dr. Badri Narayanan Gopalkrishnan, Fellow, NITI Aayog, said, “Quick commerce is permanent infrastructure, not a trend. Valued at USD 65–70 billion by 2030, it will drive 45–50% of incremental e-retail growth.” He added that Amazon Now and Flipkart Minutes are positioned to become preferred players, while established consumer trust and rapid delivery could help platforms strengthen their market position.

TRISHA KRISHNAN, RADHIKA SARATHKUMAR AND APARNA BALAMURALI STARRER MARKS PANORAMA STUDIOS’ FIRST TAMIL PRODUCTION, IN ASSOCIATION WITH LOCOMOTIVE GLOBAL; RAJA KRISHNA MENON’S PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR BEGINS SHOOT IN LONDON

Chennai, 03 Sep 2026: Panorama Studios, in association with Locomotive Global, is set to make its foray into Tamil cinema with its first Tamil production, an intriguing psychological horror film directed by acclaimed filmmaker Raja Krishna Menon. Starring Trisha Krishnan, Radhika Sarathkumar, and Aparna Balamurali, the yet-to-be-titled film promises to bring together a dark psychological drama and horror in a compelling narrative. The film has gone on floors, with principal photography now underway.

Director Raja Krishna Menon said, “Someone once quite aptly called me ‘genre agnostic’, and this film is another exploration in that journey. This is a story that is a first for me in many ways — my first film in Tamil, my first psychological horror, and my first story centred entirely around women. Adding to that is the privilege of working with Trisha Krishnan, Radhika ma’am, Aparna Balamurali, the wonderful cast and a fantastic crew. It makes this journey all the more exciting. Panorama Studios and Kumar Mangat ji have been incredibly supportive of my creative process, while Vikas and Sunder from Amazon India are supporting Amazon’s fulfilment and delivery operations during the expected surge in customer demand.

The film brings together three accomplished actors with an impressive body of work across Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi cinema. Trisha Krishnan, one of Tamil cinema’s most celebrated leading actors, is known for acclaimed performances in 96, Vinnai thaandi Varuvaayaa, Ghilli and Ponniyin Selvan. Veteran actor Radhika Sarathkumar, fondly known as “Kaliarasi”, has delivered memorable performances across decades in films including Kizhakku Cheemaiyile, Pasumpon, Thanga Magan and Theri and Aparna Balamurali, who has emerged as one of the most acclaimed performers of her generation, known for her performances in Soorai Pottru, Maheshinte Prathikaaram and 8

AMAZON INDIA CREATES OVER 1.6 LAKH SEASONAL JOBS AHEAD OF FESTIVE SEASON

Chennai, 03 Sep 2026: Amazon India has announced the creation of more than 1.6 lakh seasonal job opportunities across its operations network ahead of the upcoming festive season. The opportunities span over 400 cities, including major metros and tier-2 and tier-3 cities such as Varanasi, Kochi, Jalandhar, Ghaziabad, Ranchi, Salem and Gorakhpur.

The seasonal workforce expansion also includes opportunities for thousands of women and persons with disabilities, enhancing its fulfilment

TATA MOTORS REGISTERED 49% GROWTH YOY WITH TOTAL SALES OF 44,411 COMMERCIAL VEHICLE UNITS IN AUGUST 2026

Mumbai, 03 Sep 2026: Tata Motors Limited sales in the domestic & international markets for August 2026 stood at 44,411 units, compared to 29,863 units

Domestic sales of MH&ICV in August 2026, 17,531 units vs 13,405 units in August 2025 (up 31% YoY). Domestic & Inter

Director Raja Krishna Menon said, “Someone once quite aptly called me ‘genre agnostic’, and this film is another exploration in that journey. This is a story that is a first for me in many ways — my first film in Tamil, my first psychological horror, and my first story centred entirely around women. Adding to that is the privilege of working with Trisha Krishnan, Radhika ma’am, Aparna Balamurali, the wonderful cast and a fantastic crew. It makes this journey all the more exciting. Panorama Studios and Kumar Mangat ji have been incredibly supportive of my creative process, while Vikas and Sunder from Amazon India are supporting Amazon’s fulfilment and delivery operations during the expected surge in customer demand.

Abhinav Singh, Vice President – Operations, APAC, Middle East, Africa and Turkey, Amazon, said the company is focused on delivering fast and reliable service to customers across India during the festive period. He said the company has created over 1.6 lakh seasonal opportunities across its operations network to meet increased demand, while strengthening its fulfilment

Amazon said its seasonal associates will have access to safety, wellbeing and social security benefits, along with training and support. The company’s operations network includes fulfilment centres, sorting centres and delivery stations across the country, supported by delivery partners and Amazon Flex partners. Amazon also highlighted initiatives such as Samman, which supports delivery associates through insurance, financial inclusion and other benefits, and Ashray, its air-conditioned rest-stop network for delivery personnel. The company plans to expand the Ashray network to 250 centres by the end of 2026, further supporting delivery personnel across major cities.

Category	August 25	August 26	Month 0 v 1
MHV Trucks	10,812	7,651	42%
LMHV Trucks	6,859	5,721	20%
Passenger Carries	4,701	3,577	33%
ICV Cargo and pickup	18,447	10,742	34%
Total CV Domestic	38,819	27,691	39%
International Business	7,792	2,382	227%
Total CV	46,611	29,863	49%

national sales for units vs 14,667 units in August 2025 (up 29% YoY). Domestic & Inter

