

CM Vijay Hails Sivaji Ganesan's Lasting Cinema Legacy; TN Govt Announces Centenary Celebrations

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Thursday paid tribute to legendary actor Sivaji Ganesan on his birth anniversary, recalling his unparalleled acting skills and contribution to Tamil cinema. October 1 is officially observed as Sivaji Ganesan's birth anniversary.

In a social media post, Vijay said Sivaji Ganesan, popularly known as "Nadigar Thilagam", had brought the characters he portrayed to life through his extraordinary acting ability and commanding voice and earned an enduring place in the hearts of Tamils across the world.

The Chief Minister said he paid homage to the veteran actor while remembering his immense contribution to the world of art.

Vijay said Sivaji Ganesan had portrayed a



wide range of roles from historical and mythological figures to ordinary people with remarkable skill.

Through his performances, Sivaji Ganesan also showcased the richness and greatness of the Tamil language to audiences across the world and became a benchmark for acting, Vijay said.

The Chief Minister said the actor had vividly portrayed different dimensions of human emotions, including love, affection, courage, anger and sorrow, through his performances. He said

Sivaji Ganesan's achievements in cinema would transcend generations and remain a source of pride for Tamil Nadu. Born on October 1, 1928, Sivaji Ganesan began his career in theatre before making his film debut with Parasakthi in 1952.

During his long career, he became one of the most prominent figures in Tamil cinema and received several honours, including the Chevalier honour from the French government and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

Sivaji Ganesan died on July 21, 2001. His birth anniversary

continues to be commemorated in Tamil Nadu, including at the Sivaji Ganesan memorial in Chennai.

The Tamil Nadu Government will celebrate the birth centenary of legendary actor 'Nadigar Thilagam' Sivaji Ganesan as a state event, minister Rajmohan announced on Thursday. The modalities of the celebrations will be finalised in consultation with Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay and the Nadigar Sangam. Rajmohan made the announcement after paying floral tributes to Sivaji Ganesan on his 99th birth anniversary at the actor's memorial in Adyar. Assembly Speaker J. C. D. Prabhakar, Ministers P. Venkataramanan and Vanni Arasu, actor Nasser and members of Sivaji Ganesan's family also paid tributes.

Modi and Netanyahu Praise Indian Captain Smit Machchhar for Averting Catastrophic Flydubai Disaster

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: A flydubai passenger aircraft bound for Israel from the United Arab Emirates diverted to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday after flight tracking data showed that the aircraft initially transmitted squawk code 7700, the internationally recognised signal for a general emergency. It later switched to 7500, a code used to

indicate unlawful interference, including a possible hijacking, before reverting to 7700.

The passengers were later safely sent to Tel Aviv where they were received by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Transportation Minister Miri Regev at the Ben Gurion Airport.

Actually, an altercation happened between members of the cockpit crew, according to Israeli media reports and officials. The incident briefly triggered fears of a possible hijacking.

The Boeing 737 MAX 8, operating as flight FZ1073 from Dubai International Airport to Ben Gurion Airport, was carrying more than 100 passengers, including a large number of Israelis. The aircraft landed at Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Airport in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.

Flydubai confirmed that the aircraft had experienced an "incident" while en route but did not provide details about what happened in the cockpit.

A passenger on board the flydubai flight told Israel's 124 channel that one of the pilots on the flight was stabbed and there were moments when she believed she was going to die.

"We just heard screams, and then the cockpit door opened, and we saw a huge amount of blood," the passenger, identified only as Miriam, told the channel.

"The aircraft has landed safely in Tabuk (TUU), and all passengers are safe and accounted for," the airline said in a statement. "Our teams are working closely with the relevant authorities. Further updates will be issued as additional confirmed details become available." The codes themselves do not establish what happened aboard the aircraft.

According to reports citing Israeli security officials and passengers, the emergency followed a violent confrontation between two pilots in the cockpit. Some reports said one pilot stabbed another with a knife, while passengers and other crew members intervened and helped restrain the attacker.

The aircraft also reportedly lost a significant amount of altitude during the incident. CNN, citing flight data, reported that the plane descended from about 34,000 feet to approximately 17,400 feet in less than two minutes.

The incident prompted the Israeli Air



Force to scramble fighter jets as a precaution, according to Israeli media reports. Israeli airspace was also temporarily closed before being reopened after the aircraft landed safely in Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held consultations with defence officials as the situation unfolded.

Flydubai later confirmed that an incident occurred during the flight, that the aircraft landed safely in Tabuk, and that all passengers and crew were safe and accounted for.

One of the heroes of the day in the drama aboard the flydubai flight is Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar, the captain of the aircraft that the Omani co pilot attempted to crash. Captain Machchhar was wounded by the stabbing during the physical struggle with the attacker, who was serving as the co-pilot. The co-pilot stabbed him,

but Captain Machchhar did not give up and together with the Israeli passengers who broke into the cockpit, managed to prevent a deadly attempt to crash the plane.

Machchhar has been hospitalised in Saudi Arabia along with his co-pilot and attacker. Captain Machchhar underwent surgery and is currently in stable condition.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the courage of the Indian pilot, who, despite being injured, did everything possible to save the flydubai flight carrying 174 people.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hailed Indian commercial pilot Captain Smit Machchhar as a "HERO" for his courage and presence of mind in confronting a violent cockpit attack aboard a flydubai flight, saying his valour helped save hundreds of lives and avert a major tragedy.

Bypoll Battle Intensifies: CM Vijay to Spearhead Massive Roadshow in Madurantakam Tomorrow

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: Chief Minister and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president C. Joseph Vijay is scheduled to return to Madurantakam on Friday to campaign for party candidate Maragatham Kumaravel in the October 6 Assembly bypoll. A roadshow is planned as part of his second campaign visit to the constituency. Vijay had earlier campaigned in Madurantakam on September 25, when he addressed a public meeting in support of Kumaravel. The TVK has fielded Kumaravel in the bypoll after she resigned as an AIADMK MLA and joined the party.



September 25 Public Meeting
October 2 Roadshow - CM Vijay's
Madurantakam Plan

The roadshow is expected to cover key roads and populated areas of the constituency, with Vijay scheduled to seek support for Kumaravel. Arrangements are being made by party functionaries ahead of

his visit.

There is also speculation that Vijay may visit Melmaruvathur during the trip and offer prayers at the Adhiparasakthi temple and pay respects at the memorial of Bangaru Adigalar.

However, the Melmaruvathur visit has not been officially confirmed and would depend on the final schedule.

Security arrangements are being strengthened in Madurantakam and surrounding areas in view of the Chief Minister's visit. Traffic regulations may also be introduced along the roadshow route.

The Madurantakam bypoll is scheduled for October 6, with campaigning set to conclude on October 4. The constituency is witnessing a multi cornered contest, with Kumaravel among the candidates in the fray.

Southern Railway observes month-long Special Cleanliness Campaigns General Manager launches the Swachhata Pakhwada Special Cleanliness Campaign today

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: U. Subba Rao, General Manager, Southern Railway launched the Swachhata Pakhwada - 2026 Cleanliness Campaign today, 1st October 2026 at Southern Railway Headquarters. The General Manager administered the Swachhata Pledge to the Officers and Staff and later participated in Shramdaan and tree plantation drives. The General Manager felicitated the Safai Mitras for their valuable contributions and distributed health kits.

Swachhata Hi Seva - 2026

Swachhata Hi Seva - 2026, the special cleanliness campaign focusing on intensive cleanliness across various railway stations, offices, colonies, tracks and trains, was carried out across Southern Railway from 17th September to 1st October 2026.

During the drive, Southern Railway has undertaken a comprehensive range of Swachhata activities across its Divisions, Workshops, Railway Hospitals and other establishments during this period, covering cleanliness, waste management, public

participation, youth engagement, environmental awareness and Safai Mitra welfare. The campaign has been implemented across more than 300 stations, with a strong focus on converting cleanliness initiatives into sustained behavioural and environmental practices.

More than 9000 Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) have been cleaned, with 70,650 participants actively involved in CTU cleaning activities. Under "Swachh Paathsaala - Yuva for Swachhata", 181 events were conducted with the participation of 4,211 students and 92 stakeholders, including schools, educational institutions and NGOs, thereby creating awareness among the younger generation on cleanliness, waste management and environmental responsibility.

The campaign placed special emphasis on Jan Bhagidari, with more than 650 advocacy campaigns conducted on initiatives such as Say No to Plastic, Green Festivals and Zero-Waste Sports. 98 campaigns on SWM Rules and four-way source segregation further strengthened awareness on scientific waste management at source.

The welfare and safety of sanitation personnel remained a key focus, with 161 Safai Mitra Suraksha evan Samman Shivar and Health Camps



conducted, benefiting around 4,500 Safai Mitras and their families through health, safety and welfare interventions. This reinforces the commitment to ensuring dignity, safety and well-being of those engaged in maintaining railway premises clean.

Under "Swachhata Se Samridhhi", 94 events and exhibitions were organised to promote reuse, recycling and productive utilisation of waste. Heritage site celebrations were conducted across Southern Railway highlighting the importance of maintaining the cleanliness and heritage value of iconic railway locations. A significant quantity of 45 tonnes of plastic waste was also removed during the campaign.

Southern Railway Organized Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath (One Day, One Hour, Together!) Mass Shramdaan across all divisions and units with massive participation of more than 16000 participants.

Swachhata Pakhwada-2026

Southern Railway will continue the Swachhata campaign

through a focused Swachhata Pakhwada from 1st to 15th October 2026, covering stations, offices, colonies, yards and other railway establishments. The programme will include mass Shramdaan, Swachh Bharat Diwas celebrations, deep cleaning of major stations, track-side and legacy waste removal, removal of unwanted posters and gutka stains, and intensive cleaning of passenger areas, kitchens and toilets.

The concluding phase will focus on four-way waste segregation, identification of Bulk Waste Generators, strengthening of waste-processing facilities and preparation of unit-wise Solid Waste Management Action Plans. Collectively, these activities will help sustain the cleanliness gains achieved during September, prevent re-accumulation of waste, improve the visual and hygienic environment of railway premises, and strengthen scientific waste management at source. The programme will also reinforce staff and public participation, environmental responsibility and a sustained culture of cleanliness across Southern Railway.

EverBrands India Limited files DRHP with SEBI for its IPO

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: EverBrands India Limited (formerly known as Culinary Brands Private Limited), a multi-brand food and beverages (“F&B”) platform comprising globally recognized and legacy brands - Subway, Lavazza, Dilmah and its owned Fresh & Honest brand, has filed its DRHP with SEBI for an IPO. The company operates across F&B categories, and the platform comprises the following two verticals –

Quick service restaurants (“QSR”) vertical: The Company holds exclusive master franchisee rights for Subway restaurants across India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Beverage vertical: The company’s beverages vertical operates as a full-spectrum, integrated, multi-brand beverages platform comprising premium international brands such as Lavazza coffee and Dilmah tea as well as its owned home-grown value-driven Fresh & Honest coffee brand. As a part of this vertical, EverBrands is the exclusive brand partner for Lavazza and Dilmah in India for their coffee and tea products, respectively.

The IPO comprises a fresh issue aggregating

up to Rs.600 crore.

The proceeds from the fresh issue are proposed to be utilised towards investment in its wholly-owned subsidiary, Culinary Brands India Private Limited (“CBIPL”), for repayment and/or pre-payment of certain outstanding borrowings and funding capital expenditure for setting up new Subway stores under the company-owned-company-operated (“COCO”) format, along with general corporate purposes. The company proposes to deploy Rs.125 crore towards repayment/pre-payment of CBIPL’s borrowings and Rs.326.85 crore towards setting up new Subway COCO stores.

Each brand in the company’s portfolio has a distinct positioning within its respective category - Subway is the second-largest QSR chain globally as of December 31, 2025 and the third-largest in India by store count as of March 31, 2026. It differentiates itself from other leading QSR players through its fresh, made-to-order, and highly customizable food offering. Lavazza is a globally recognized, authentic Italian coffee brand known for its premium espresso blends, with over 130 years of Italian heritage

and a premium positioning. With a presence in over 100 countries, Dilmah has established a strong global footprint and, with over 40 years of expertise, specializes in single-origin teas aimed at offering an authentic, high-quality tea experience. The brand serves marquee food service customers including Marriot, Hyatt and other such players, providing a strong platform to accelerate growth across the HoReCa segment. Fresh & Honest coffee provides Indian coffee through the company’s B2B business and vending machines and has over 29 years of experience serving corporate and retail consumers seeking value-driven Indian coffee, enabling the company to serve a wide range of customer touchpoints and consumption occasions.

As of March 31, 2026, EverBrands had 1,008 Subway stores across India, comprising 678 COCO stores and 330 franchise-owned-franchise-operated (“FOFO”) stores, and 8 FOFO stores in Sri Lanka. Its COCO store network in India increased from 311 stores as on March 31, 2024, to 434 stores as on March 31, 2025 and 678 stores as on March 31,

2026. The QSR vertical generated revenue from operations of Rs.693.09 crore in FY26, compared with Rs.480.38 crore in FY25 and Rs.355.31 crore in FY24.

The company’s installed coffee machine base increased to 9,455 machines as of March 31, 2026, from 8,322 machines as of March 31, 2025 and 7,217 machines as of March 31, 2024. Revenue from operations from the beverages vertical increased to Rs.240.57 crore in FY26, from Rs.206.36 crore in FY25 and Rs.172.16 crore in FY24.

The company operates in India’s food services market, which, according to the TKC Report, was estimated at Rs.5,613 billion in FY25 and is projected to reach Rs.9,088 billion by FY30, representing a CAGR of 10.1%. Within this, the organised food services segment is projected to grow at a CAGR of 13.5%, from Rs.2,798 billion in FY25 to Rs.5,273 billion in FY30.

Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited, ICICI Securities Limited and Nuvama Wealth Management Limited are the Book Running Lead Managers to the issue.

Amazon Now Expands Ultra-Fast Delivery Service to Over 120 Cities Across India

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: Amazon has expanded its ultra-fast delivery service, Amazon Now, to more than 120 cities across India, doubling its reach in just two weeks. The service is now available in cities including Amritsar, Abohar, Jalandhar, Ambala, Mangalore, Manipal, Vizag, Kochi, Changanassery, Bhubaneswar and Karwar, enabling customers to receive a wide range of products within minutes.

Amazon Now offers tens of thousands of everyday essentials,

including groceries, fruits and vegetables, frozen food, personal care, fashion and beauty products, small appliances, home and kitchen products and more. Orders are fulfilled through a network of nearly 800 micro-fulfilment and urban fulfilment centres.

“We are delighted to take ultra-fast deliveries with Amazon Now to India’s hinterland ahead of the Amazon Great Indian Festival. Amazon Now continues to be the fastest-growing



ecommerce business unit in Amazon India’s history, with orders doubling every quarter. This accelerated rollout underscores our commitment to making fast and reliable delivery accessible to customers across the country,” said Harsh Goyal, Vice President – Everyday Essentials, Amazon India.

In September, Amazon announced that Amazon Now had crossed \$1 billion in annualised gross sales

in India over the preceding three-month period. The company plans to expand the service to more than 300 cities, supported by its growing fulfilment infrastructure.

Ahead of the Amazon Great Indian Festival beginning October 8, customers can also access deals across Amazon Now. Customers can check availability by opening the Amazon shopping app and looking for the ‘Now’ banner.

“The Transformation in ‘Dorothy’ Was Emotionally Overwhelming for Me – It Will Remain One of the Most Cherished Moments of My Career” – Actor Sananth

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: Sananth Opens Up About His Career-Defining Performance in ‘Dorothy’ and the Emotional Connect He Has Found with Audiences.

Sananth’s career as an actor has never been a bed of roses, but rather an excruciating phase where his potential, more often than not, remained unexplored. It is therefore a truly gladdening moment for the actor and movie buffs to see him shine at his pinnacle with his powerful performance in the latest release, Dorothy. While the trailers showcased him as a ruffian with aggressive mannerisms, leading audiences to expect him to portray a rustic character, Sananth delivered an absolute surprise with his remarkable performance as Subbu. The actor, who has waited for years for a role that could truly showcase his potential, has finally found what many are calling the best of his career, with reviews and audience reception showering him with praise.

“This is a dream come true for me. As an aspiring actor, I have always desired to play something that will remain as a lifetime role, which I can look back on after decades and rejoice. I thank my producers, Karthik

Subbaraj and the entire team for giving me a role that explores the deepest emotions of human beings,” says Sananth, who adds that he completely believed in the process, and that conviction has now earned him a positive reception.

Sharing how deeply he connected with the character from the very first narration, Sananth says, “When Karthik Subbaraj narrated the script, I was emotionally bound to the role. Dorothy was born in me from the moment I listened to the script. The vision of Karthik Subbaraj was so clear that he didn’t want to showcase this character through clichéd mannerisms, but instead wanted to convey the emotions. My character gained its substance with the support of the other characters. Both Rishikanth and Keerthy Suresh’s roles were designed with so much intensity that they kept elevating my presence in the movie.”

Sananth also has special words for the film’s technical brilliance, particularly the music of Maestro Ilayaraaja and the visuals of cinematographer Thirunavukkarasu. “Isaignani Ilayaraaja sir’s music is like a celestial bliss showered on the film. DOP Thiru sir has made the film achieve a



global phenomenon. His visual language conveys more emotions to international and regional audiences. Dorothy will be a soulful tattoo engraved deep in my heart, and playing this role is like winning a lifetime honour. To see the audiences, especially mothers and sisters from every home, appreciating my character and performance leaves me speechless.” Adding more about the climax scene, Sananth claims, “There is a particular sequence towards the end where the character undergoes a transformation, and portraying that moment was one of the biggest challenges for me. It required me to completely let go of everything I had established about Subbu until then and emotionally surrender to a new space. Karthik Subbaraj sir presented that transformation with extraordinary sensitivity, never allowing it to feel forced or superficial. Thiru sir’s camera captured the emotional nuances so beautifully,

while Isaignani Ilayaraaja sir’s music added an incredible soul to the entire sequence. The combination of their presentation, visuals and music made the moment far more powerful than what I had imagined while performing it. It remains one of the most challenging and emotionally fulfilling portions of my experience in Dorothy.”

Dorothy is written and directed by Karthik Subbaraj and produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Guneet Monga Kapoor and Achin Jain. The film stars Keerthy Suresh, Sananth and Rishikanth, with an original score by Maestro Ilayaraaja. Presented by Jio Studios and Sikhya Entertainment, the film is produced by Sikhya Entertainment and Dhammam Films. S. Thirunavukkarasu is the Director of Photography, Pavan Narendra is the Executive Producer, Saravanan Chandran has contributed additional screenplay, and Ganesh Siva is the editor.

“SIGMA HAS BEEN A JOURNEY OF TRUST, HARD WORK AND PASSION” – DIRECTOR SANJAY

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: I am extremely excited about the release of Sigma, and at the same time, I am equally anxious. The hype and expectations surrounding the film are immense, and I am confident that we will live up to them.

Sigma is releasing worldwide in theatres on October 2, with Sakthi Film Distributors bringing the film to audiences. We have chosen a genre and a visual colour palette that we believe will connect strongly with the expectations of today’s audience. As a team, we have put in everything possible to deliver an engaging and entertaining cinematic experience.

I am immensely thankful to Mr. Subas Karan, Chairman, Lyca Productions, for placing his trust in me and giving me the responsibility of directing Sigma. I am equally grateful to Mr. Tamil Kumaran, Head of Lyca Productions, who spearheaded our operations and execution. His constant support and encouragement have been invaluable

throughout the journey.

I am ever grateful to my actors, Sandeep bro and Faria Abdullah, for trusting me and the script. The film demanded extensive hard work, and both of them gave themselves completely to the process. I must also acknowledge the valuable contribution of senior artistes such as Sampath, Raju Master and the entire cast who supported the film wholeheartedly.

For any director, especially a debutant, having a DOP with a clear visual vision and a strong support system is a blessing. I consider myself fortunate to have worked with Krishnan Vasanth, whose visual understanding has been instrumental in shaping the film.

I am equally blessed to have Praveen KL as our editor. His experience and creative understanding have been a tremendous strength to the project. Thaman needs no introduction. His music and beats are among the chief weapons in our arsenal, adding tremendous energy to



the film.

Planning, executing and maintaining the quality of a film on this scale is never an easy task. It would not have been possible without the phenomenal support of my core team, especially our Executive Producer Mr. Subramanian Narayanan and Creative Producer Mr. Sanjeev. Their contribution throughout the making of Sigma has been immense.

Our action directors Venkat and Silva have added tremendous energy and spice to the core content. Every frame has been carefully designed to complement the look and feel of the film.

Cinema is ultimately a medium of entertainment. As a team, we have left no stone unturned to make

Sigma an entertaining and engaging cinematic saga. We have worked with the intention of creating a film that can cut across regional and linguistic barriers and connect with audiences across territories.

I believe confidence in a project must always come with humility. With that confidence and sheer humility, I request audiences to watch Sigma in theatres from October 2 and experience the film with us.

I am another debutant director stepping into this vast ocean of talent called cinema. At this stage of my journey, the support and acceptance of the audience mean everything to me.

Please watch Sigma, support us, and make this journey memorable.

Colgate India Creates World Record with 3 Lakhs Oral Screenings

Pondicherry, 02 Oct 2026: Colgate India, in partnership with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), and Indian Dental Association (IDA) Tamil Nadu, has set a new world record for the ‘Largest Multi-Location Oral Screening’ by screening 308,106 students across 547 CBSE-affiliated schools in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry within 10 days, from 17 to 28 August 2026. The initiative involved 2,100 dentists and 29 regional dental colleges across 40 districts and was officially recognized by the World Records Union (WRU).

The landmark initiative was led by Colgate as the principal sponsor, bringing together dental professionals, educators and civic stakeholders to promote preventive oral healthcare, nutrition awareness and substance abuse prevention among school students. The partnership was represented by Dr. K. Yogarajan, CDH Chairman – IDA; Dr. K. P. Senthamarai Kannan, State Secretary – IDA; Dr. A. P. Maheshwar, IDA State President; P. Aravindhan, IPS, Additional Director, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Chennai; Ms. Shilpa Shree Muniswamappa,



Director – ESG & Communications, Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited; and Mr. Christopher Taylor Craft, Official Records Manager, World Records Union.

The initiative strengthens Colgate India’s flagship Bright Smiles, Bright Futures® (BSBF) programme, which has reached over 200

million children and their families across India since 1991, including more than 11 million children across 35,000 schools in 2025. The World Record milestone reinforces Colgate’s commitment to expanding preventive oral health education and building healthier habits among children through collaborative, large-scale community initiatives.

M11 Energy Wins Two Honours at India SAF Awards 2026

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: M11 Energy Transition Pvt. Ltd., which operates an integrated biofuel facility at Padubidri in Karnataka’s Udupi district, has received two recognitions at the India SAF Awards 2026—the SAF Investment Award 2026 and the SAF Feedstock Investment & Financing Leadership Award—National.

The awards were presented on September 29, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, during the second edition of the India SAF Conclave & Awards. The recognitions acknowledge M11 Energy’s efforts towards mobilising investment, strengthening feedstock capabilities and



advancing domestic Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production.

M11 Energy’s HEFA-based SAF project in Mangaluru has now progressed to the Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) stage, marking an important milestone in the company’s plans to develop domestic SAF production capabilities.

The company’s SAF journey builds on its existing experience in collecting used cooking

oil (UCO) and converting it into biodiesel. With a collection network spanning 9 states and 26 districts, M11 Energy aims to extend its circular-economy model from road transportation to aviation by creating a pathway for waste-derived feedstocks to contribute to India’s clean-energy transition.

Raman Chopra, Business Head – SAF, M11 Energy Transition Pvt. Ltd., said, “We are honoured to receive two recognitions at the India SAF Awards 2026. These awards validate our efforts to build a credible SAF value chain from Karnataka and strengthen domestic capabilities across

feedstock, investment and renewable fuel production.”

Subhan Khan, Managing Director, M11 Energy Transition, said, “Our ambition is to build an ecosystem that connects waste, technology, investment, employment and cleaner fuels. The SAF project is an important next step in our journey towards supporting India’s clean-energy transition.”

The company said the development of SAF capabilities in Karnataka could create opportunities across feedstock aggregation, technology, manufacturing, skilled employment and the wider renewable-energy ecosystem.

Movie Review: 8,000 Years, Seven Seas, One Compartment: The Cosmic Romance of Yezhu Kadal Yezhu Malai

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: Ram’s Yezhu Kadal Yezhu Malai is a breathtakingly ambitious cinematic masterpiece that redefines the boundaries of romance and philosophical storytelling in Indian cinema. Directed by one of Tamil cinema’s finest visionaries, the film takes a concept that sounds like ancient folklore and elevates it into a deeply immersive, existential experience. Rather than succumbing to the predictable beats of a commercial entertainer, it chooses the bold, rewarding path of an avant-garde chamber drama that leaves a lasting imprint on the soul. A Cosmic Myth in a Train CompartmentThe film brilliantly juxtaposes the grandest possible scale with the most grounded reality. We meet an immortal man (Nivin Pauly) who has walked the Earth for over 8,000 years, pursuing his soulmate across centuries. His cosmic journey collides with the



ordinary world in a bustling train compartment on Diwali night. Here, he crosses paths with an Everyman (Soori), a working-class immigrant worker returning home, aching to finally embrace the son he has only ever seen through video calls. What follows is not a standard thriller, but a profound confrontation of perspectives. Their intense conversations—unexpectedly bridged by a tiny, recurring rat—become a metaphorical pipeline into a unique romance that challenges our very understanding of time, memory, and devotion. Redefining PeranbuTrue to his signature style seen in Katradhu Tamizh and

Peranbu, Director Ram expands the definition of love. It is no longer a shallow, possessive attraction confined to two individuals; it is an expansive, elemental force. The narrative beautifully argues that true love must extend to the outcasts, to nature, and to all living creatures equally. It is Ram’s most abstract, densest, and most indulgent exploration of the human condition, shifting the film from a simple romance into a profound spiritual fable. A Masterclass in Acting and ToneThe cinematic weight of the movie rests squarely on the brilliant performances of its cast. Nivin Pauly carries the ancient, weary sorrow of an

immortal being with incredible gravity, delivering one of the most complex performances of his career. Soori anchors the audience, providing a phenomenal, grounded portrayal of human vulnerability. His gradual transformation from an individual consumed by his own micro-world into someone who glimpses the broader tapestry of existence is deeply moving. Anjali brings a haunting, mystical quality to her roles across different eras, serving as the perfect, ethereal muse for this eternal quest. While traditional viewers might look for rapid plot twists, the film’s strength lies exactly in its deliberate, hypnotic pace. Ram turns a single train journey into an expansive philosophical arena. Accompanied by Yuvan Shankar Raja’s evocative, soul-stirring background score, the tight chamber setting forces the audience to slow down, look inward, and truly introspect.

Amazon Great Indian Festival 2026 Set to Bring Festive Deals from October 8

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: Amazon Great Indian Festival 2026 will begin on October 8, offering customers deals across smartphones, electronics, fashion, beauty, home and kitchen, everyday essentials and more. Early deals are already live, allowing customers to begin their festive shopping ahead of the event.

Customers can avail themselves of a 10% instant SBI bank discount, unlimited 5% cashback with the

Amazon Pay ICICI Bank Credit Card, coupons, no-cost EMI, exchange offers and additional savings for Prime members. Leading brands including Samsung, Apple, Sony, LG, Xiaomi, Nike and L’Oréal Paris will feature products during the festival.

Prime members using the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank Credit Card can earn unlimited 5% cashback, while non-Prime members can earn 3% cashback. Amazon

Pay Later customers can also receive 10% cashback on select purchases and opt for three interest-free EMIs on cart values of Rs.1,500 and above, with zero processing fee.

Amazon Now has expanded to more than 120 cities across India, offering thousands of products for delivery within minutes. The company said its network expansion, including more than 150 new delivery stations, has enabled same-day

deliveries to reach 30% more cities over the past year.

Amazon is also highlighting AI-powered tools including Rufus and Lens AI. Rufus provides personalised recommendations and price tracking, while Lens AI enables product discovery using photographs. AI Review Highlights, Quick Learn and Buying Guides further support customers in evaluating products.

Aon Study Shows India's Campus Hiring Remains Resilient as Employers Prioritise Skills and Critical Roles

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: Aon plc (NYSE: AON), a leading global professional services firm, today released the findings of the 15th annual edition of its Campus Study Report 2026-27. The study finds that India’s campus hiring market remains resilient as employers place greater emphasis on skills, critical roles and job readiness.

Demand for graduates remains healthy across qualifications. According to the study, 56% of organisations plan to increase hiring of Chartered Accountant and Company Secretary graduates, 51% expect to hire more interns, 40% intend to recruit more diploma holders and 36% foresee higher hiring of engineers. However, median intake sizes across several cohorts have not moved significantly.

“India’s campus hiring market remains resilient, but employers are becoming more selective of the skills and roles they hire,” said Roopank Chaudhary, Partner and Head of

Talent and Rewards Consulting, India, Aon. “Organisations continue to invest in campus talent, yet hiring decisions are increasingly shaped by business demand, specialised skills and graduate readiness. The findings show employers are building early-career pipelines that align more closely with the capabilities they need to support future growth.”

Overall, projected campus pay is set to rise by around 2% to 7% year-on-year across major streams. For bachelor of technology graduates, projected median total cost to company (TCC) for the 2027 cohort at the seven IITs covered in the study is expected to remain close to INR 16.46 lakh, while median TCC at Tier-1 engineering colleges is projected to increase from INR 13.85 lakh to INR 14.75 lakh.

For Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduates, projected median TCC at top IIMs is anticipated to remain at INR 26 lakh, with

Tier-1 management institutes projected to move from INR 20.89 lakh to INR 21.50 lakh. In this study, TCC covers fixed pay, one-time cash offers such as joining bonuses and annual variable pay, excluding long-term incentives. Taken together, these findings point to a steady trajectory for campus compensation rather than an overheated hiring environment.

Internships continue to play an important role in building early-career talent pipelines. Across the qualifications covered, about 90% of organisations hire interns, and roughly 80% to 85% use pre-placement interviews or offers as a structured pathway for converting strong performers into full-time employees.

Culture and inclusion are increasingly embedded in campus hiring decisions. Ninety percent of organisations report assessing culture alignment during the hiring process, most commonly through HR-led interviews, and 32%

see a clear link between culture alignment and individual performance. More than half have set gender representation goals across major talent cohorts, while about 30% have visited institutes outside their traditional campus lists to support these objectives. Together, these efforts help organisations build early-career talent pools that are both high-performing and representative of the communities they serve.

“AI is helping organisations assess candidates more effectively by placing greater emphasis on skills, role relevance and job readiness,” said Amit Kumar Otewani, Associate Partner, Talent Solutions, India, Aon. “As talent needs evolve, employers are using these tools to make more informed hiring decisions and build stronger talent pipelines. Campus hiring is no longer a staffing exercise; it is an opportunity to build the capabilities and strengthen workforce resilience for long-term success.”

Mirae Asset Mutual Fund launches Mirae Asset Life Cycle Fund 2056

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India) Pvt. Ltd. announced the launch of the Mirae Asset Life Cycle Fund 2056 (“The Scheme”), an open-ended fund with attribute of pre-determined maturity and mandatory glide path for goal-based investing, designed to enable goal-based investing.

The New Fund Offer (NFO) will open for subscription on September 28, 2026 and closes on October 12, 2026. The Scheme reopens on October 21, 2026. The minimum initial investment during the NFO is Rs. 5,000 and in multiples of Re. 1 thereafter. The Scheme is also available via SIP from Rs. 99 per month. It is benchmarked against

NIFTY 500 TRI (65%) + NIFTY Short Duration Debt Index (25%) + Domestic Prices of Gold (7.5%) + Domestic Prices of Silver (2.5%). It will be managed by Mr. Harshad Borawake (equity portion), Mr. Basant Bafna (debt portion) and Mr. Ritesh Patel (commodity portion). “We welcome SEBI’s move to bring Life Cycle Funds to the fore as a category. By defining the glide path, exit load structure and the tax framework, the regulator has given investors a structured way to plan for their goals rather than react to markets. As per the new framework, our Scheme carries a specified maturity year i.e. 2056 – and a glide path that systematically shifts

allocation from growth-oriented equity toward capital-preserving debt and arbitrage as the maturity year approaches, thereby reducing the need for investors to actively adjust the portfolio allocation over time,” said Mr. Vaibhav Shah, Head Products, Business Strategy & International Business, Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India) Pvt. Ltd.

“Equity is the growth engine in the early accumulation years of a Life Cycle Fund, when the horizon is longest and compounding has the most time to work. Our approach combines a Growth-at-a-Reasonable-Price discipline with a valuation-led framework to set net

equity exposure, fine-tuned by our judgement on fundamentals,” said Mr. Harshad Borawake, Fund Manager Equity, Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India) Pvt. Ltd.

“As the Scheme approaches its 2056 maturity, the allocation shifts from equity towards debt and arbitrage in a rules-based manner, aiming to participate in long-term growth early on and gradually reduce risk as the investors goal draws near.”

The scheme carries a tiered exit load of 3% for redemptions within one year of allotment, 2% between years one and two, and 1% between years two and three, with no exit load after three years.

Dhiya Fertility and Maternity Center Performs Tamil Nadu's First Robot-Assisted Fertility Procedure; 37-Year-Old Woman Delivers Healthy Baby Girl

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: Marking a first in Tamil Nadu, Dhiya Fertility and Maternity Center has successfully performed robot-assisted Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) in a 37-year-old woman with a nine-year history of infertility. The advanced fertility treatment resulted in a successful pregnancy. The patient subsequently gave birth to a healthy baby girl at full term through vaginal delivery.

The patient had type 2 diabetes and low ovarian reserve. She underwent two cycles of Intrauterine Insemination (IUI), in which prepared sperm is placed directly into the uterus around ovulation. When these were unsuccessful, she proceeded to In Vitro Fertilization (IVF), where eggs are retrieved and fertilized with sperm in a laboratory through conventional ICSI. Although an embryo developed and was transferred to the uterus, the IVF cycle did not result in pregnancy.

Given her low ovarian reserve, and previous unsuccessful fertility treatments, Dhiya Fertility and Maternity Center adopted an individualized approach and performed dual egg collection in October and November 2025, retrieving three eggs, all of which were mature (M2) and suitable for fertilization.

The medical team used robot-assisted ICSI, instead of the



conventional ICSI, to inject a single sperm into each mature egg. Three eggs fertilized, and the resulting embryos developed to Day 5, reaching the blastocyst stage. Using the robotic system again, the team transferred one Day-5 embryo into the uterus on January 12, 2026. The pregnancy progressed normally and ultimately resulted in the full-term birth of a healthy baby girl.

In conventional ICSI, an embryologist uses a holding pipette with gentle suction to stabilize the egg while a fine injection pipette delivers a single sperm into it. Robotic ICSI replaces this suction-based approach with a tiny, non-pneumatic mechanical gripper that securely holds and stabilizes the egg. By providing controlled, precise and consistent micromanipulation, the robotic system enables greater control during both egg positioning and sperm injection, representing a new approach to the ICSI procedure.

The procedures were performed by a multidisciplinary team

led by Dr. Keerthana Ashwin, Director and Consultant Gynaecologist, Dhiya Fertility and Maternity Center, with Dr. Poovannan, Consultant Anaesthesiologist, and Ms. Sreenithya K, Senior Embryologist, supporting the treatment and embryology procedures.

In her comments, Dr. Keerthana Ashwin said, "We are delighted to have performed Tamil Nadu's first robot-assisted ICSI and to see the treatment culminate in a successful pregnancy and the birth of a healthy baby girl. The patient had been on a long and challenging fertility journey for nearly nine years, undergoing multiple treatments without achieving a successful pregnancy. For her and her family, the birth of the baby marks a deeply meaningful outcome after years of perseverance and hope. This achievement is also an important milestone for our team as we continue to explore advanced technologies that can enhance precision in fertility care."

Talking about the advantages of robot-assisted ICSI, she said that the innovation offers a more controlled approach to the delicate process of egg holding and sperm injection. "Though an egg may appear as a two-dimensional structure under a microscope, it is actually a three-dimensional spherical structure and extremely fragile. In conventional ICSI, the egg is held using gentle suction, which can place mechanical stress on the egg. In robotic ICSI, a non-pneumatic mechanical gripper is used instead of suction to hold and stabilize the egg. This allows precise and stable manipulation of the egg during the ICSI procedure. In our experience, we have also observed a higher rate of blastocyst development compared with our experience with conventional ICSI," she said.

This marks Tamilnadu's first ROBO ICSI baby and many more to come in the upcoming months from Dhiya Fertility and maternity Center ,OMR, Kandanchavadi, Perungudi, Chennai.

Amazon India to Expand Ashray Network to 200 Centres

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: Ahead of the festive season, Amazon India today announced plans to add 50 new Ashray centres across the country, taking the total network to 200. The company is on track to reach 250 Ashray centres by the end of 2026. Amazon also expanded its mobile Ashray vans to Bengaluru, making it the fourth city after Delhi NCR, Mumbai and Hyderabad.

"With the festive season driving a sharp increase in deliveries, it is more important than ever that drivers across

the industry have access to rest on their routes. Ashray was built on the idea that every delivery driver deserves a clean, cool place to rest during their workday," said Salim R. Memon, Director, Operations, Amazon India.

Launched in 2024 in Delhi NCR, Ashray centres are open to all delivery drivers, including those who do not deliver for Amazon. The centres offer air-conditioned seating, drinking water, mobile charging points, clean washrooms, first-aid kits and resting areas.



Each centre accommodates 10-15 people and provides free access for up to 30 minutes, with parking facilities. Centres operate year-round from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mobile Ashray vans provide similar facilities along high-footfall delivery routes, including air-conditioned seating,

drinking water, free Wi-Fi and mobile charging points.

The expansion forms part of Amazon India's broader investment of over Rs.2,800 crore in 2026 towards associate

safety, health and financial well-being across its operations network.

"Sigma is an important film for Jason Sanjay and Lyca. It has come out well - Lyca Productions Tamilkumaran

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: Jason Sanjay is making his directorial debut with the film 'Sigma', produced by Lyca Productions Subhaskaran. The film, which stars Sundeep Kishan, Faria Abdullah and others, will be released in theaters on October 2nd. The press meet for the film was held.

Art director Benjamin said, "Thank you to director Sanjay, the production company, and the crew for trusting me in this film and giving me a chance. Both the making and visuals are amazing. Please watch it in theaters and support it. Thank you to Sanjay sir and Sandeep sir."

Actor Anbu said, "I have been working on

this film for almost a year and a half. Sanjay Bro said that I wrote this character with me in mind. The film has come out well with emotional and entertainment elements. Thanks to Sanjay Bro, Sandeep Bro, Faria and the entire crew."

Co-director Sanjay said, "'Sigma' is releasing on October 2. The film needs all of your support."

Actress Faria said, "I am a little nervous about the release of the film. Thank you to Lyca Productions, Sanjay, Sandeep, the crew and my family. Watch the film and tell me."

Actor Sundeep Kishan said, "Thank you to everyone who supported my Tamil cinema journey from



'Yaruda Mahesh' to 'Sigma'. I see my cinema career as a little Bigg Boss. Lyca is working to take Indian cinema to the next level. Thaman has composed wonderful music for the film."

Sanjay came to directing thinking that what he loved should be the symbol of his life. Despite having the opportunity to debut as a hero, he chose his first love and became a director. The film is sure to be loved by everyone.

"Sigma will be an entertaining, jolly action film. I will definitely be happy if this film becomes a huge success and Sanjay goes to a big place as a director."

Lyca Productions Tamilkumaran said, "Sigma is an important film for Jason Sanjay and Lyca. It has come out well. He is very kind. Subash Anna is also happy after watching the film. Tell me after watching the film."

Interio by Godrej brings strength and style together in its latest steel kitchen campaign

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: Chennai, October 1st 2026: Interio by Godrej, one of India's leading furniture brands under the Godrej Enterprises Group, has unveiled its latest campaign for its steel kitchens, bringing alive the combination of strength, durability and contemporary design through a fun and relatable narrative. The campaign showcases how Interio's steel kitchens are built to stand up to the everyday demands of Indian households, while adding style and character to one of the most important spaces in the home.

The film captures a light-hearted interaction between a couple, their neighbours and the household help, bringing alive the irresistible appeal of Interio's steel kitchens. As one after another finds a reason to enter and use the beautifully designed kitchen, the space soon becomes a

lively hub, with everyone jostling for room while the kitchen effortlessly handles the everyday bustle. Through this playful narrative, the campaign brings alive the dual appeal of Interio's steel kitchens: stylish enough to draw everyone in and strong enough to withstand the demands of a busy Indian household.

Speaking about the campaign, Reshu Saraf, Head of Integrated Marketing & Communications, Interio by Godrej, said, "Interio by Godrej is committed to transforming living spaces with stylish furniture that complements the needs of modern Indian homes. The kitchen, one of the most important spaces in a home, is an integral part of this vision. With steel kitchens, our objective is to bring together strength and durability while also providing a wide range of colours



and material options to create spaces that are designed for real homes and families. Through this innovative campaign, we wanted to bring that proposition to life in a manner that is engaging, relatable and rooted in the everyday experiences of Indian families."

Designed around the demands of modern Indian kitchens, Interio by Godrej's steel

kitchens offer solutions that suit individual preferences. The kitchens are termite resistant, moisture resistant and rust protected, making them suited to the Indian households. Consumers can also personalise their kitchens with a

choice of five material types and more than 200 colour options. Backed by 30-year warranty, Interio offers long-term assurance. Through this campaign, Interio by Godrej continues to bring its design philosophy to life by creating kitchen spaces that are made for the way Indian families live, gather and engage with their homes.

Produced by Trunkcall Films and directed by Ayaan Das, the film has been conceptualised by creative agency TBWA\Lintas and will be amplified across YouTube, social media and other digital platforms.

More Retail sets Benchmark for Green Logistics by fully electrifying Mid-Mile Fleet with Montra Electric EVIATOR

Chennai, 02 Oct 2026: More Retail, one of India's leading supermarket chains, is accelerating the transition of its mid-mile logistics fleet to 100% electric mobility, with Montra Electric, India's full-spectrum electric commercial vehicle brand, as its trusted EV partner. The retailer now operates 110 Montra Electric EVIATOR e-SCVs across its distribution network, including 25 vehicles flagged off in Bengaluru today, taking electric vehicles to nearly 30% of its mid-mile fleet. Together, the 110 Montra Electric EVIATORs cover can cover a minimum on 22,000 km every day which will aid in reducing over 1,750 tonnes of tailpipe CO2 emissions in a year. The transition away from conventional diesel and petrol SCVs

is driven by lower energy costs, gearless braking and reduced maintenance. Since deployment, the EVIATORs have shown strong reliability in daily store replenishment and hyper-local fulfilment across More Retail's major delivery hubs. Built for high-frequency city routes, the Montra Electric EVIATOR offers high torque for heavy payloads, easy automatic driving in traffic, and an ergonomic cabin that drivers say reduces fatigue over long daily shifts.

Mr. Saju Nair, CEO, e-SCV Division, Montra Electric, said, "Electrification of commercial mobility will accelerate when it delivers measurable business value at scale. More Retail's journey towards 100% electrification with our EVIATOR, is a strong

example of that shift, from evaluating EVs as an alternative to deploying them as a core part of everyday logistics. As More Retail moves towards a fully electric mid-mile fleet, our focus is to enable that transition with vehicles and an ecosystem built around uptime, efficiency and long-term profitability." Mr. Prasanna Hegde - National Transport Manager, More Retail Pvt Ltd said, "Our mid-mile fleet keeps our stores stocked every day, so reliability comes first for us. The move from ICE vehicles to Montra Electric's EVIATOR e-SCVs has been smooth across our distribution network. The vehicles have already covered over 8.8 lakh kilometres on our routes, and our drivers have responded well to their comfort, instant torque and day-to-day

dependability. Alongside lower operating costs, we are cutting emissions with every delivery run. With 150 of our 600 mid-mile vehicles now electric, we are well on our way to a fully electric fleet, and Montra Electric has been a trusted partner at every step."

The Montra Electric EVIATOR features a 10.3-foot load deck, the largest in its segment, and a payload capacity of up to 1,707 kg, making it well suited to retail crates and bulk supply runs. Its range on a single charge supports uninterrupted runs between distribution centres and retail outlets. Integrated fleet management systems provide real-time battery status, driver behaviour analytics and route optimisation to maximise uptime.