

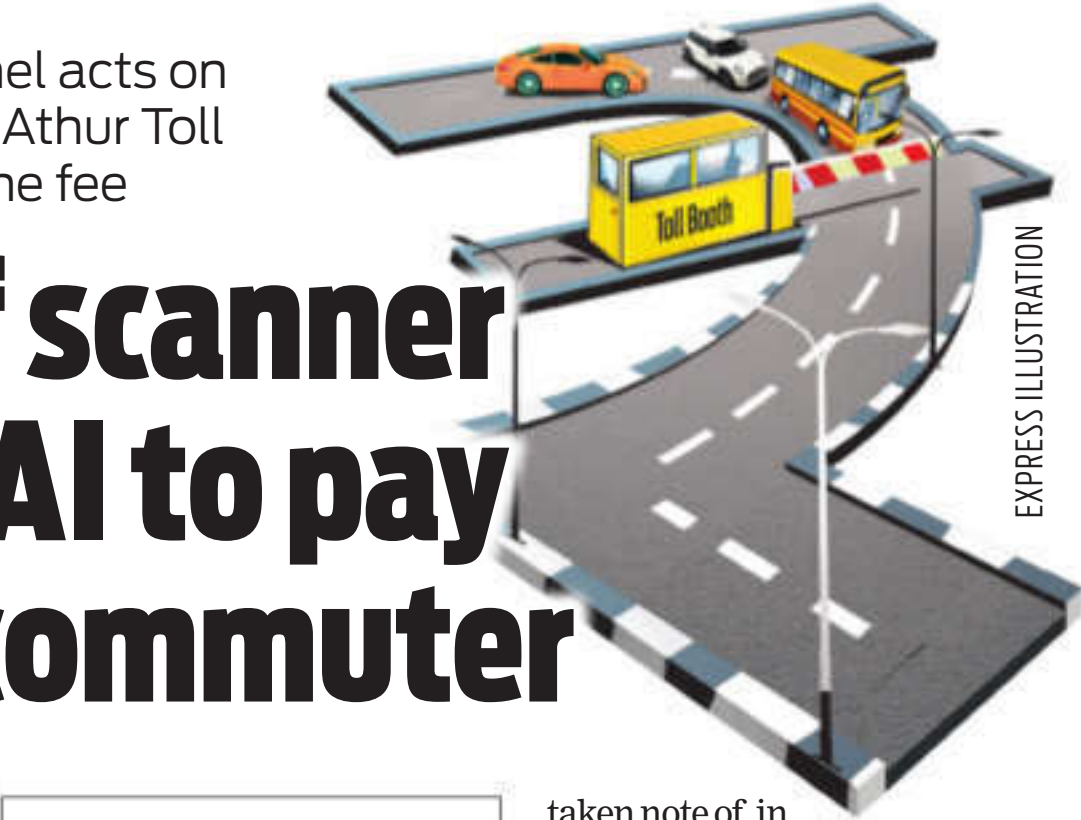
Consumer disputes panel acts on complaint after staff at Athur Toll Plaza charged double the fee

No fine if scanner fails, NHAI to pay ₹10K to commuter

RAJALAKSHMI SAMPATH @Chennai

THE Chennai (North) District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ordered the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to pay ₹10,000 in compensation after finding that staff at Athur Toll Plaza allegedly collected double the toll fee, including a ₹70 penalty, from a commuter after erroneously claiming that their Fastag account had insufficient balance when in reality the plaza's scanner was not working.

The complaint was filed by U Azarudin, a practising advocate, who said in his petition that his friend's family was travelling from Erode to Chennai on February 20, 2025. Their vehicle was stopped at the Athur lane at 3.06 am and staff claimed their Fastag account showed 'no balance' and collected ₹140, including a penalty, from them. However, the Fastag account had a balance of ₹863 at the time, as per the peti-



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Sufficient balance
Fastag receipts submitted as evidence showed the tag had ₹1,103 at Veeracholapuram and ₹1,038 at Senkurichi shortly before Athur, demonstrating there was sufficient balance

tion. The order notes that the automated signal at the plaza was not functioning, and that staff were aware of the fault.

Fastag receipts submitted as evidence showed the tag had ₹1,103 at Veeracholapuram and ₹1,038 at Senkurichi shortly before Athur, demonstrating there was sufficient balance. The commission observed that instead of checking the balance manually, staff entered into a "wordy altercation" and the family faced public embarrassment during the exchange. The timing of the early morning incident was also

taken note of in the order.

Referring to the amended National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, the commission pointed out that a vehicle with a valid and adequately-funded Fastag must be allowed through without payment when the Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) system fails. A Zero Transaction Receipt must also be issued in such cases. The order states that this mandatory step was not followed at Athur.

The commission also recorded that NHAI did not respond to an earlier legal notice from the complainant and did not appear before the forum, leading to an ex parte order.

Holding the incident to be a deficiency in service, the panel directed NHAI to pay ₹10,000 and to pay the cost of ₹5000 towards litigation cost, within two months, with 9% annual interest on delay, the order read.

GCC seeks volunteers, NGOs to maintain cattle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE Greater Chennai Corporation has invited volunteers and non-governmental organisations to submit letters of willingness to feed and maintain cattle at the existing and upcoming cattle sheds across the 15 zones in the city.

In 2024, the GCC's survey revealed that around 22,875 cattle are being reared in the city, and they are often, due to insufficient space, left on the roads or streets,

96K pet registrations recorded, 49K licences issued

The GCC has recorded 96,056 pet registrations on its portal as of Sunday and has so far issued 49,347 pet licences, which is an increase of 5,703 licences compared to November 30, according to official data. On Sunday alone, it vaccinated 956 pets, implanted microchips, and issued licences across its six pet clinics in different locations and the animal birth control centre at Sholinganallur. The deadline for pet licensing and vaccination drive is December 14, after which pet owners without a licence could face a fine of ₹5,000.

leading to safety and traffic-related concerns. Following this, the corporation deployed one cattle-catching vehicle and five cattle-catchers per zone. It also

announced, any cattle found roaming the streets will be caught and the owners will be fined ₹10,000. Between 2021 and 2025, the civic body impounded

16,692 cattle and collected ₹4.43 crore in fines, a release said.

As a long-term solution to the issue, the GCC has begun to construct 17 modern cattle sheds across 15 zones in the city. Currently, sheds at Tiruvottiyur, Madhavaram, Royapuram and Teynampet are functional. These sheds will remain a designated space for owners to leave their cattle instead of allowing them to roam the streets. This will ensure cattle owners' livelihood while addressing safety concerns, the release added.



HARD DAY'S WORK
At Mukkudal in Tirunelveli, a farmer rides his bullock cart along the tree-lined road after finishing a day of work in the fields, reflecting the region's continued reliance on traditional farming practices | V KARTHIKALAGU

STATE CONFERENCE

Writers' assn urges union govt to release Keezhadi report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Thanjavur

THE 16th state conference of the Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers and Artists Association which concluded in Thanjavur on Sunday urged the Union Government to immediately release the Keezhadi excavation report authored by archaeologist K Amarnath Ramakrishna.

A resolution to this effect was passed by the members during the state conference.

The resolution pointed out that the union government has been refusing to release the report, which was submitted in 2023, even after all the political, social movements of Tamil Nadu have demanded the same. Another resolution demanded the Head of Police Force, Tamil Nadu to instruct the district police offices to not fix the time limit of 10 pm for conducting art and literary programmes.

The members also urged for conducting archaeological excavations at Dompucheri mound on the banks of the Periyar river in Theni district, a second phase excavation in Kulasekaraperi and establishing an archaeological museum at Vembakkottai in Virudhunagar district.

Madukkur Ramalingam, Kalapiran and Saidai J were elected as state president, general secretary and treasurer of the association.

EXPRESS READ

Arappor Iyakkam seeks action against advocates over quarry hearing row

TIRUNELVELI: Arappor Iyakkam has urged the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to initiate disciplinary action against ten Tirunelveli-based advocates under the Advocates Act, 1961, for allegedly assaulting participants and disrupting a public hearing on illegal stone quarrying. The complaint, filed by PUCL national general secretary Dr. Suresh and Arappor Iyakkam convener Jayaram Venkatesan, includes documents and video evidence. They have sought the advocates' removal from the Bar for professional misconduct. The hearing on November 2 aimed to help farmers and villagers voice concerns over the impact of illegal quarrying. ENS

Centuries-old blocks at Periyar college set for ₹6-cr revival



Langa and Takkoya blocks, originally built for training plantation workers, were used as the first classrooms for Thanthai Periyar govt college | EXPRESS

VIVANESH PARTHIBAN @Tiruchy

TWO century-old buildings, used as the first classrooms of the Thanthai Periyar Government Arts & Science College in Tiruchy, were set for revival, with the Public Works Department's (PWD's) Heritage Wing having commenced restoration works at a cost of ₹6.3 crore on November 29.

The structures — Langa and Takkoya blocks — were built in the 1920s with a distinctive blend of Gothic (English) and Indian architectural styles. College Principal K Angammal said the buildings were originally constructed by the British to train labourers bound for Sri Lankan plantations. Post-independence, the ownership

of the land changed hands until it was bought by social reformer Thanthai Periyar, who donated it during the 1960s for establishing the academic institution, the principal said, adding that the two structures were the first buildings used by the institution before other blocks were built.

Raja Sabha MP Tiruchy Siva, an alumnus of the college, said he had studied and written examinations at the two buildings. "When I heard about a potential demolition, we submitted a proposal. The state government recognised the heritage value of the buildings and sanctioned the funds," he said, extending gratitude to Minister Thangam Thennarasu. A few rooms would be remade

to showcase the legacy of Periyar and the remaining would be used for academic purposes, said the administration.

PWD's Heritage Wing officials said the restoration project aims to employ traditional techniques to completely preserve the architectural character of the structures. A senior official from the wing said that traditional practices, such as lime mortar plastering and the Madras terrace roofing method, are being followed. Further, later additions to the structures are being removed, and materials such as lime, heritage bricks, jaggery, kadukkai and Athangudi tiles are being used. The project is expected to be completed in 12 months, officials added.

'Extend OTT release window to eight weeks'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tiruppur

MOVIES should be released on OTT platforms only eight weeks after their release in theatres, demanded M Subramaniam, president of Tamil Nadu Theatre and Multiplex Owners Association in Tiruppur on Sunday.

Speaking to reporters, Subramaniam said, "The number of people coming to the cinema is decreasing. The main reason is the early release of movies on OTT platforms."

"Currently, movies are released on OTT platforms in three or four weeks. This is why people avoid going to theatres to watch movies. Movies should be released on the OTT platform only after eight weeks. But few big producers refuse to accept this. The entire film industry has been affected by their obstinacy. Producers should prioritise the release of films in theatres," he added.

Flagging the high remuneration demanded by artists and its infeasibility, Subramaniam

said "The number of producers in the Tamil film industry has decreased. Many big actors, who demand ₹100 crore to ₹150 cr, are at home without work because there are no producers here who pay big salaries. Many companies that offered high salaries no longer exist. Even small actors are demanding a higher amount. They don't think about giving three good films a year.

"We will convene a meeting of producers, distributors and theatre owners to discuss this. Our decision is that actors should be paid on a percentage basis." He expected a lacklustre season ahead as "only a few films are coming to the screen in January".

"We have all been facing great difficulties in running theatres for the past two months. We expect the coming months to be similar. There won't be any film releases in February and March. Then the election will come. Some films may come out in April and May. The number of films currently under production has also decreased," he added.



M Subramaniam

Traffic cop rescues kidnapped man at Akkarai signal; 5 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

A kidnapping triggered by a money dispute ended in a dramatic rescue near the East Coast Road's Akkarai signal on Saturday morning, when a traffic sub-inspector intervened and blocked the car, hearing the victim's cries for help. Five men were arrested, while two others escaped, police said.

According to Thirumangalam police, the victim Dharmaraj (31) of Sevvapet in Tiruvallur district runs a washing machine service centre on Avvai Street in Thirumangalam. The accused claimed they had loaned him money to invest in a private finance firm and abducted him after he allegedly failed to return the amount.

On Friday evening, while Dharmaraj was walking along Avvai Street, three men got down from a car, confirmed his identity and forcibly pushed him inside.

He was taken to a location near Kovalam, where he was allegedly held overnight, threatened and assaulted. On Saturday, the gang allegedly forced him and recorded a video in which he agreed to repay the money before driving him again towards Akkarai.

As the car approached the signal, Dharmaraj shouted for help, prompting the traffic SI on duty to block the vehicle, rescue him and detain five suspects. Two others managed to flee. The arrested men were identified as Sreeji (30), Premkumar (36), Yuvaraj (36), Anand (25) and Venugopal (30). They were first handed over to Neelankarai police and later transferred to Thirumangalam police due to jurisdiction. Police seized the car and five mobile phones.

During interrogation, police found that Anand has two previous criminal cases and Venugopal, one. All five were produced before a court on Saturday and remanded in judicial custody. A hunt is on for the absconding accused.



INTEGRAL COACH FACTORY, CHENNAI-38

The following e-tender is published in IREPS website. Firms are requested to login to www.ireps.gov.in and quote against the tenders. Manual Quotations will not be entertained for the tender.

Tender No.	Open Tender File Reference No.	Name of the Work	Quantity	Date & Time of Tender Closing & Opening
202547	MS / C / OT / 12 / MASKING	Masking of different variants of shells in shell division for leak testing as per IS Spec. 11865 / 2006	3059 Shells	24.12.2025 at 15:00 Hrs.

Hindi version of the above advertisement is available in <https://icf.indianrailways.gov.in/>

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE IN THE MATTER OF ST. JOHN FREIGHT SYSTEMS LIMITED

Under Liquidation, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench order dated 26-11-2019 (effective from 11-03-2020)

Notice is hereby given for the auction of assets of M/S. ST. JOHN FREIGHT SYSTEMS LIMITED on a AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS & WHATEVER IS THERE IS condition on a NON-RECOURSE basis without any warranties and indemnities in respect of the below mentioned assets through the BAANKNET Portal.

ITEM NO.1	Particulars	Reserve Price (Amount in Rs.)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)
	Land parcel measuring 6.70 Acres located across Amudham Colony and Chengam Nagar, Athipattu Village, near Ennore Port, Ponneri Taluk, Thiruvallur Chennai - 600120	15,15,85,000	1,51,58,500

ITEM NO.2	Particulars	Reserve Price (Amount in Rs.)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)
	Land parcel measuring 0.70 Acres located across Chengam Nagar, KGS Nagar, and Poonkol Nagar, Athipattu Village, near Ennore Port, Ponneri Taluk, Thiruvallur Chennai - 600120	1,45,26,500	14,52,650

Important Notes:

- The sale shall be on a AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS, WHATEVER IS IT, WHATEVER THERE IS condition on a NON-RECOURSE basis without any kind of warranties and indemnities.
- The details of the assets, process and timeline are outlined in the process document. The said E- Auction process document shall be available on the website of e-auction platform on <https://bbi.baanknet.com/e-auction-ibbi/home>. Further all terms and conditions stipulated in the process document shall prevail and be binding on all the parties.
- The Liquidator shall have absolute right to accept or reject any or all offers or adjourn/postpone/cancel/modify/terminate the e-auction or withdraw the assets from auction at any stage without providing any reason thereof.
- Interested bidder shall participate only after mandatorily reading and agreeing the terms and conditions stipulated by the process document. In addition, the interested buyer shall not be allowed to submit a bid if he fails to meet the eligibility criteria set out in Section 29A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

Expression of interest on or before 24-12-2025.
Date of E-Auction: 07-01-2026
Interested parties may contact the Liquidator for more details

Sd/-
R. Venkatakrishnan
Liquidator - IBI/PA-001/PA-P00115/2017-18/10250
Tel: 044-28150540, 28150541, 28150542
Mobile: +91 98408 13918
Email: rvk@rvkassociates.com / stjohn.crp@rvkassociates.com
Date: 06-12-2025

EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION
MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT
GOVT. OF INDIA
REGIONAL OFFICE, AMBATTUR
R-40, A-1, TNHB Shopping-cum-Office Complex, Mugappair Road, Mugappair East, Chennai-600037. Tel/Fax : 044-2655 0080/0544, Web : www.epfindia.gov.in, Email : ro.ambattur@epfindia.gov.in

NOTICE

The establishment M/s Cargo Wings Logistics Ltd (TNAMB0069914000), M/s. Gupta Power Infrastructure Limited (TNAMB1160226000) and M/s Yosmitte Engineering Private Limited (TNAMB2072948000) are under liquidation.

Notice is hereby given that any member of EPFO who had worked in this establishment but have not yet applied for final settlement of provident fund / pension fund benefits may initiate the process through online application on our website.

Any past / present employee of this establishment who was eligible for membership of EPFO, but the employer had not deposited contributions into the provident fund / pension fund, may submit their claim along with proof on or before 15.12.25. Claim along with proof maybe submitted in person, by post or by email.

Sd/- Regional PF Commissioner-II
Thiruvallur Regional Office

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