

# TN govt steps in to settle Rs 143 crore dues to farmers after NCCF delays payment

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CHENNAI: In a major relief to thousands of farmers affected by delayed payments, the Tamil Nadu government has stepped in to disburse Rs 143 crore in pending dues following procurement lapses by the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF), a central agency functioning under the Union Department of Consumer Affairs. The NCCF had halted paddy procurement operations in eight non-delta districts — Tiruvannamalai, Kancheepuram, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, Vellore, Ranipet, Villupuram, and Thiruvallur — amid peak harvesting, triggering protests from farmers who were left unpaid.



5,000 affected farmers within the next 7 to 10 days. The amount will later be recovered from the NCCF, officials confirmed.

The decision follows a formal request from the Union Government urging Tamil Nadu to intervene and resolve the crisis caused by the NCCF's operational failures. Under an earlier agreement, the NCCF

had been authorised to procure paddy from the eight districts at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and convert the paddy into rice for delivery to TNCS. TNCS, in turn, would pay the NCCF upon receipt of the rice. However, officials revealed that while NCCF procured approximately 3.6 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of paddy from nearly

24,000 farmers — worth Rs 810 crore — it managed to process and deliver less than 40 per cent of the stock. This disruption in the conversion process caused a cascading delay in the payment cycle.

Much of the procured paddy reportedly remained stored in open Direct Procurement Centres (DPCs), leading to excessive moisture accumulation and spoilage during rains. The deterioration in stock quality further complicated the processing and payment procedures, ultimately forcing the NCCF to suspend procurement activities in the eight districts. In light of the ongoing issues, TNCS has decided to assume direct control of paddy procurement operations in the affected districts, ending NCCF's role in the process.



On the occasion of the 99th birth anniversary of Kaviarasu Kannadasan, Honble Ministers paid floral tributes to his portrait in Thyagaraya Nagar, Chennai

## AIADMK condemns degradation of Dravidian Icons at Murugan devotees' meet

Chennai, June 24 (IANS) Amid mounting criticism for their silence during the BJP-backed "Murugan Bakthargal Manadu" in Madurai, senior AIADMK leader and Tamil Nadu Deputy Leader of the Opposition R B Udhayakumar on Tuesday strongly condemned the denigration of Dravidian stalwarts Thanthai Periyar and C N Annadurai at the event.



The AIADMK, which has come under fire over the last two days for the presence of its senior leaders at the event where a controversial video was screened, clarified its stance through a video statement by Udhayakumar. He stated that he and other senior functionaries - including Sellur K Raju, V V Rajan Chellappa, Kadambur C

Raju, and K T Rajenthra Balaji - had attended the conference purely as devotees of Lord Murugan and were under the impression that it would be an apolitical gathering. "We believed the event would be a spiritual and cultural celebration, not a political platform to attack ideologies or leaders," said Udhayakumar.

"We attended out of respect for religious harmony and differing views," he added, invoking former Chief Minister Annadurai's words: "Even the flowers in the neighbour's garden have fragrance."

The controversy erupted after a video shown at the conference described Dravidian leaders as "atheist jackals" and accused them of promoting a "fake Dravidianism" cloaked in secularism.

The Hindu Munnani, one of the key organisers of the event, used the platform to advocate for the revival of a "Theiviga Tamil Nadu" and passed resolutions that reportedly called for the eradication of Dravidian ideology from the state.

Udhayakumar, however, distanced the AIADMK from the content of the video and

the resolutions passed. He claimed the party functionaries were seated behind the screen during the screening and were unaware of the offensive visuals and commentary.

"There was no opportunity for us to view the video from our position on the dais. We were completely unaware of the defamatory content," he said.

He further asserted that the AIADMK had always stood firm in defending the legacy of Periyar and Annadurai. "We never hesitate to voice our opposition whenever these great leaders are criticised," he said. The incident has reignited political tensions in Tamil Nadu, with AIADMK's presence at the event drawing sharp reactions from opposition parties and pro-Dravidian voices.

## Pregnant woman 'assaulted' by police, Tamil Nadu BJP demands stringent action

Chennai, June 24 (IANS) A shocking incident has come to light from Kanakamma Chathiram police station in Tiruvallur district, where three women — including a five-month pregnant woman — were allegedly brutally assaulted by a police officer when they tried to file a sexual harassment complaint. The incident, captured on video, has sparked outrage and drawn sharp criticism from political leaders.



Tamil Nadu BJP President Nainar Nagendran condemned the incident on social media, calling it a disgrace to the state's law enforcement system. In his statement, Nagendran said, "The video showing a pregnant woman being mercilessly beaten inside a police station is deeply disturbing. How did a

police officer gather the courage to accept bribes from the accused and then violently assault the victims? Has the police force been stripped of all humanity to the point where even a poor pregnant woman is not spared?" He further questioned the breakdown of justice under the current Dravidian model of governance, stating, "If the police, whose duty is to protect victims from criminals,

end up attacking the victims themselves, where will people go to seek justice in this system?" Nagendran urged Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to intervene immediately, ensure a thorough inquiry, and take strict action against the police officer involved. He said this is not just a matter of individual misconduct but one that tarnishes the reputation of the entire police force. "This incident, which raises

serious questions about the integrity and accountability of the Tamil Nadu Police, must be investigated without delay. The officer, who has acted in a lawless and arrogant manner, must face appropriate disciplinary and legal consequences," Nagendran emphasised. The BJP leader's call for action comes amid growing public outrage over the visuals of the incident, which are now circulating widely on social media. The Tamil Nadu government is yet to issue an official response. This incident adds to concerns about custodial abuse and the misuse of authority by law enforcement in the state. Demands for justice and accountability are mounting as civil rights groups and opposition parties rally behind the victims.

# Creating a cyber-safe learning environment for students

As people from across the globe come together today to commemorate the World Environment Day by cleaning up beaches, planting trees, and holding marches in an effort to revive what environment advocates say is a planet on the precipice, these startups have taken their businesses a notch upwards with cleaner practices. While over 150 countries are slated to host environmentally-themed events, environment experts hope for this year's World Environment Day is to encourage a global effort to tackle what they describe as the decline of the natural world. Inger Andersen, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said, "we are running against the clock. Today, as we look to a...future of heatwaves, droughts, floods, wildfires, pandemics, dirty air, wars, and plastic-ridden oceans, action is more important than ever." On World Environment Day, here's a look into five Indian startups that are working across different sectors with the aim to make environmentally conscious decisions and contribute the transition to a greener future.



**1. PHOOL**  
This is India's very first biomaterial startup and a fragrance-focussed wellness brand. Phool.co is a flower recycling technology startup and so far it has raised \$8 million (Rs60.5 crore) in a Series A round from Sixth Sense Ventures, a consumer-centric venture fund. Phool.co was founded in 2017 by engineering graduates Ankit Agarwal and Prateek Kumar. The startup company uses floral waste, collected from dumping temple waste in rivers, to make patented organic fertiliser and charcoal-free luxury incense products. As of now, this Kanpur-based startup accu-

mulates floral waste from three Indian cities, including one of the biggest temples (Kashi Vishwanath), averting 13 tonnes of waste flowers and toxic chemicals from reaching into the river every day. It is worth noting that self-help women groups handcraft the waste into patented charcoal free incense sticks and essential oils through the 'flower cycling' technology. Additionally, it is India's first direct-to-consumer wellness brand to obtain the coveted Fair for Life-Fairtrade, and Ecocert Organic and Natural certifications. And, there's more, this IIT-backed startup has invented Fleather—'leather made from flowers'. With this commercially viable, vegan alternative to animal leather, the startup hopes to make the use of animal leather obsolete.

**2. BANYAN NATION**  
One of India's first vertically integrated plastic recycling companies, Banyan Nation is a waste management company that collects plastic wastes from industries and recycles them for further use. The startup utilizes its unique technology platform to

integrate thousands of informal workers and produces premium-quality recycled polyolefin plastics (PE and PP) for mainstream and high-quality applications. Founded by Mani Vajipeyajula and Rajkiran Madangopal, this Hyderabad-based company leverages tech-based solutions to collect plastic from informal recyclers and businesses. Interestingly, the company won the World Economic Forum Global Technology Pioneers (2021), Circulars Award at the World Economic Forum (2018 Intel-DST Award Innovations for Digital India (2017), Millennium Alliance Grant (2016), and mBillionth Award (2015).

Beginning its operations in 2019, BlueSmart is an app-based all-electric ride-hailing business to consumer platform with about 600 electric vehicles (EV) operating in the Delhi-NCR region. This Indian company is currently competing with the industry behemoths Ola and Uber, with dedicated electric vehicle fleet for customers looking for sustainable mobility. Founded by Anmol Jaggi and Punit Goyal, the elec-

tric vehicle ride-hailing and charging startup recently raised USD 25 million (around Rs.194 crore) in a fresh funding round. The funding is a follow-up to the Series A round that closed in September 2021, bringing the total Series A investment to USD 50.7 million. The company said it has raised USD 25 million in the Series A1 round, comprising USD 15 million in equity capital and venture debt of USD 10 million. The equity round was led by BP Ventures and Green Frontier Capital, with participation from existing investors. The venture debt funding comes from Stride Ventures, Alteria Capital, BlackSoil and UCIC. Additionally, BluSmart said it plans to use the funds to scale up its all-electric ride-hailing fleet to over 5,000 EVs and expand its network of EV superhubs across Delhi-NCR.

As is a leading solar energy startup in India, ZunRoof is creating waves by focusing on the residential solar segment by providing best on-grid solar solutions. Currently with major operations in the Delhi NCR region, the four-year-old startup is expanding in

other geographies rapidly. As per the company release, "out of the 1805 solar net meters installed in Delhi, ZunRoof has installed more than 300 solar net meters, claiming the top spot as an individual contributor to the residential adoption in Delhi-NCR region." So far, ZunRoof has worked with 1000 households in Gujarat to go solar by installing 1000 solar rooftops in Ahmedabad, Surat and Vadodara. Solar segment is widely divided in commercial, residential and industrial scales where the sizes and complexities of projects vary a lot, the company release notified. Notably, the residential solar segment is especially tough to penetrate given the individual customer's need to be educated about the solar setup and feasibility of having a solar energy harnessing unit on the rooftops.

This is an Indian electric vehicle company founded by Tarun Mehta and Swapnil Jain in 2013. Headquartered in Bangalore, Ather Energy manufactures two electric scooters, the Ather 450X and the Ather 450 Plus. Additionally, it has also established electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the country called Ather Grid. Electric two-wheeler maker just last month announced raising USD 128 million (around Rs.991 crore) from National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited's (NIIFL) Strategic Opportunities Fund (SOF) and Hero MotoCorp along with additional investors, Ather Energy said in a release. The company said it plans to use the funding to expand manufacturing facilities, invest in research and development, charging infrastructure and to grow its retail network. Additionally, the electric vehicle company partnered with HDFC Bank and IDFC First Bank to offer retail finance for its e-scooters, earlier this year. The collaboration has allowed Ather Energy customers to avail instant loans from the two private lenders at low-interest rates and with a maximum LTV (Loan-to-value), as per the company release.

## Study links bipolar disorder to early death more than smoking

Having bipolar disorder -- a serious mental illness that can cause both manic and depressed moods -- increases the risk of dying early, more than smoking. Researchers from the University of Michigan in the US analysed how large the risk of death among people with bipolar disorder -- who smoked and those who had never smoked. The results, published in the journal *Psychiatry Research*, showed that people with bipolar disorder were four to six times more likely as people without the condition to die prematurely, the study finds. By contrast, people who smoked were about twice as likely to die prematurely than those who had never smoked -- whether or not they had bipolar disorder. The stark difference in mortality, and the differences

in health and lifestyle that likely contributed to it, should prompt more efforts at preventing early deaths, the researchers said. Bipolar disorder has long been seen as a risk factor for mortality.



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The branch of IIFL Finance Ltd. located at 1A, 1st Floor, Cutchery Road, Sirkali, Nagapattinam, Pin - 609110, will be shifting to the below mentioned address with effect from 30th June, 2025.  
New Address: IIFL Finance Ltd., 5A/1, 1st Floor, Markoni Towers, Cutchery Road, Sirkali, Mayiladuthurai Dt - 609110.  
Contact No.: 02271073395  
All existing services can be availed at the new location.

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1A, 1வது தளம், கச்சேரி சாலை, சீர்காழி, நாகப்பட்டினம், பின் - 609110 இல் அமைந்துள்ள ஐஐஎஃப்எல் பப்ளிக் ஃபைனான்ஸ் லிமிடெட் இன் கிளை, 30 ஆம் தேதி ஜூன்மாதம் 2025 முதல் கீழே குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ள முகவரிக்கு மாற்றப்படும்.  
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**Godrej Finance Limited**

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Public Notice by 'Godrej Finance Limited' in terms of Paragraph 43 of Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Company - Scale Based Regulation) Directions, 2023

Godrej Finance Limited (the "Company" or "GFL") is a Public Limited Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 (Corporate Identification Number: U67120MH1992PL0065457) and is registered with the Reserve Bank of India (COR. No: 13.00368) as a Non-Deposit taking Non-Banking Financial Company ("NBFC"). GFL has its registered office situated at Godrej One, Pirojshahagar, Eastern Express Highway, Vikhroli (E), Mumbai - 400079, Maharashtra.

Notice is hereby given that the Company shall close its Branch Office situated at Shanmuga Complex, No 49 N, No115 Kamarajar Street, Kancheepuram - 631501, Tamil Nadu due to operational reasons from 3 months to the date of this notice and branch operations and customer servicing shall be undertaken from Branch Office situated at King Plaza, No 18/1, Valisai Street, Near Corporation office, Vellore - 632001, Tamil Nadu.

All customer queries can be addressed at [customercare@godrejcapital.com](mailto:customercare@godrejcapital.com).

Any clarifications or inquiries in this regard may be addressed to the Company at its registered office within 30 (thirty) days from the date of this notice addressed to Mr. Yogesh Jain, Chief Compliance Officer or at [gfl.compliance@godrejfinance.com](mailto:gfl.compliance@godrejfinance.com)

Sd/-  
On behalf of Godrej Finance Limited

Place: Mumbai  
Date: 25/06/2025