

Over five lakh tourists visited Puducherry in three days preceding New Year, says CM

Rangasamy says Puducherry remained popular as a naturally charming, heritage-rich and peaceful place. Inaugurating the 31st International Yoga Festival, he says the government has been hosting diverse cultural programmes to entertain visitors

The Hindu Bureau PUDUCHERRY

Puducherry's popularity as a preferred tourist destination is evinced by the data which shows that an estimated 5 lakh visitors converged in the city in the three days preceding New Year celebrations, Chief Minister N. Rangasamy has said.

Inaugurating the 31st International Yoga Festival, 2026 at the Gandhi Thidal, the Chief Minister said Puducherry remained popular as a naturally charming, heritage-rich and peaceful place. The government has been hosting diverse cultural programmes throughout the year to entertain visitors and the yoga festival was one such event, he added.

Mr. Rangasamy announced that a 10-day exhibition showcasing va-



Chief Minister N. Rangasamy inaugurating the 31st International Yoga Festival at Gandhi Thidal in Puducherry on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

rious departments and featuring cultural programmes would be held from February 10.

Speaker R. Selvam, Minister for Public Works and Tourism K. Lakshminarayanan, D. Manikandan, Secretary (Tourism), Vishnutharan Kalimuthu, an of-

ficial from the Malaysian Embassy, and M. Mathew Francis, Director (in-charge) of Tourism participated.

The inaugural event featured a drone show, folk music, and various cultural performances.

Over 1,200 participants

from various states of India and abroad are participating in the festival.

A press note said the Puducherry government, through its Department of Tourism, has been hosting the International Yoga Festival every year from January 4 to 7 since 1993, de-

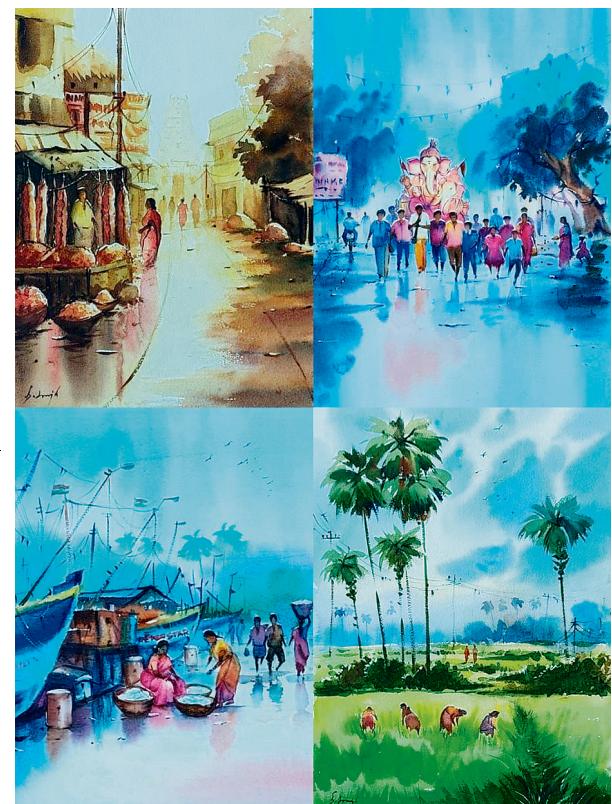
signing the event not just as a celebration, but as a platform that reflects the essence of yoga and contributes to physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

Promoting tourism

The festival's emphasis is on promoting tourism while also ensuring the physical and mental health of the people.

The 31st edition features various yoga competitions for men and women of different age groups, workshops, and demonstrations of various traditional yoga practices led by expert instructors at the Convention Centre located in the Old Port complex.

Special cultural programmes and mass yoga events will be held at Gandhi Thidal on the Beach Road. A highlight will be the awarding of the title of male/female champion of the yoga competitions.



Watercolour paintings by city-based artist D. Gayathry are on show at the Contemporary Art Gallery in Puducherry.

Illustrating aspects of everyday life with watercolour

The Hindu Bureau PUDUCHERRY

A collection of watercolour paintings by city-based artist and art researcher D. Gayathry is on show at the Contemporary Art Gallery.

The expo, "Traditional Vibes" was launched by V. Kaliyaperumal, former Director, Department of Art and Culture in the presence of Gopal Jayaraman, former Regional Director, IGNCA, faculty from the B. P. K. Fine Arts College, wa-

tercolour artists, art students, and art lovers.

The exhibition features a collection of 40 watercolour paintings that reflect the artist's technical skills and cultural sensitivity in their vivid portrayal of scenes from everyday lives or resplendent regional traditions. The exhibits range from representations of temple festivals and Vinayagar idol processions to bustling markets and architecture. The exhibition is open till January 8.

Puducherry officers transferred to Delhi

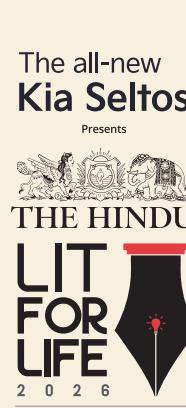
The Hindu Bureau PUDUCHERRY

Three officers serving in Puducherry are among the IAS/IPS personnel of the AGMUT cadre transferred to Delhi in a reshuffle undertaken by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Accordingly, senior bureaucrat and secretary to government Padma Jaiswal

(2003 batch) and IGP Ajit Kumar Singla (2004 batch) and Isha Singh (2021 batch IPS) have been posted in Delhi.

Among the officers posted to Puducherry in the reshuffle are bureaucrat Kinny Singh (2014 batch) reassigned from Delhi and IPS officer Rajinder Kumar Gupta (2014 batch) transferred from J&K.



LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Which of Arundhati Roy's books borrows its evocative title from the Beatles' song 'Let It Be'?

2. Which Tamil epic prominently features the port city of Puhar (Kaveripattinam)?

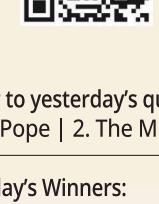
3. Which classic adventure novel follows the orphan Jim Hawkins on a dangerous sea voyage in search of pirate treasure?

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. G.U. Pope | 2. The Mirror of Erised | 3. 24

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Iqbal Singh, Punjab | 2. Indrani Koner, Cuttack | 3. Jharna Karfa, Jaipur



Scan QR code or visit <https://newsth.lite/LFLQUIZ> to take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.






UJJIVAN SMALL FINANCE BANK

Registered Office: Grape Garden, No.27, 3rd "A" Cross, 18th Main, 6th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 5600095, Karnataka.
Branch Office: No.23, Ground Floor & First Floor, Ward No.3, Hospital Road, Gandhi Nagar, Mayiladuthurai, Tamilnadu-609001

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Auction Notice for Sale under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI Act) 2002, Read with Proviso Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

The undersigned as Authorised Officer of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd, has taken possession of the following properties in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that E-Auction of the mortgage properties in the below mentioned account for realization of dues of the Bank will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" on the date as prescribed as here under.

Loan Account Number / Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor	(i) Date of 3-2 Notice & Demand Amount as on (ii) Date of Possession	Present Outstanding Balance	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR
1642210090000006 / 1.M/s.Balaji Dental Clinic	(i) 07.09.2022 & ₹ 30,16,786/- (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Six Only) as on 01.09.2023	₹ 53,11,442.03 (Rupees Fifty Three Lakhs Eleven Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Two and Paise Three Only) as on 06.12.2025	₹ 37,09,400/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Only)	₹ 3,70,940/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty Only)
2.Mr.K.Balaji	(ii) Symbolic Possession 08.02.2023			
3.Mr.Kaliyaperumal.M	& Physical Possession 23.08.2025			

Property Description/Schedule: Puducherry, Registration District, Karaikal Sub Registration Office, Kottucherry Commune Panchayat, 13 Kottucherry Village, New Street, New Nagar, Mangala Nagar, bearing Patta No.486(N), comprised in Old Survey No. 1041 Part, Re - Survey No.104/69/1/1A/4, Bearing Plot No.10, measuring in the extent of South to North Eastern Side 20.80 meter, Western side 17.40 meter, East to West Northern Side 11.00 meter, Southern Side 11.80 meter, total extent of 218 Square Meter or 2346 Square Feet with RCC Roofed Residential Building Boundaries: South of 6.10-meter Common Pathway, West of Plot No.11, North of Property of R.S.No.104/70, East of Plot No.9.

The above property is owned by Mr. K. Balaji, S/o Kaliyaperumal M (No.2 among you)

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION : 11.02.2026 from 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 Noon

Last Date for submission of Bid on or before 10.02.2026, Between 10.00 a.m and 5.00 p.m	Date & Time of Inspection of the property 09.02.2026 Between 10.00 a.m and 5.00 p.m
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For More Details Contact Bank Authorized Officer : Mr.S.Ganavel-98410 17131 / Mr.Tijo Sajan - 78451 92961

The e-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".

The E-Auction will be conducted through Ujjivan Small Finance Bank approved E-auction service provider - M/s. C1 India PVT LTD. Contact person - Mr.Prabhakaran (Mobile No.74182 81709). The intending bidders are advised to visit <https://www.bankeauctions.com> or <https://www.ujjivansb.in/e-auctions> for the details of the property in the website and for taking part in the bid they should register their names at portal <https://www.bankeauctions.com> and get their user-id and password free of cost. Prospective bidders may avail online training on E-Auction from the service provider M/s. C1 India PVT LTD, Helpline Numbers- 72919 18624, 25, 26 support email id- support@bankeauctions.com, Auction portal - <https://www.bankeauctions.com>.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's / Secured Creditor's website i.e., <https://www.ujjivansb.in/e-auctions> / <https://www.bankeauctions.com>

Date: 06.01.2026

Authorized Officer, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

Home Minister hints at government's plan to provide cash for Pongal

The Hindu Bureau PUDUCHERRY

Home Minister A. Namassivayam on Monday hinted at the government's plan to provide cash to ration cardholders as Pongal gift in the Union Territory.

"The Chief Minister will make an announcement on the subject. The BJP has also requested Chief Minister to consider giving cash to ration cardholders as Pongal assistance," he said in reply to a query at a press conference.

He was responding to a question on whether the AINRC-BJP government



Festival assistance: Chief Minister N. Rangasamy launching the distribution of Pongal gift kits to ration cardholders in Puducherry on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

taining five grocery items with a bag free of cost to card holders as Pongal gift.

Around 3.47 lakh ration cardholders in the four regions of the Union Territory will get the kit containing rice (4kg), Naatu Sakkai (1 kg), Moong Dal (1 kg), Sunflower Oil (1 litre) and Ghee (300 gm). The Public Distribution System

(PDS) outlets will start distributing the kit in other places soon.

Chief Minister N. Rangasamy inaugurated the distribution at a PDS outlet in Thilaspet.

Speaker R. Selvam, Minister for Public Works K. Lakshminarayanan, legislators and officials attended the event.

RAJIV GANDHI HOUSING CORPORATION LTD.

Cauvery Bhavan, 9th Floor, E&F Block, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560009. Phone : 080-23118888/22106888

Dated: 05.01.2026

Short Term Tender Notification (Through KPPP portal)

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited invites Short Term tenders for the following works through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from the eligible contractors.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender [Excluding GST] (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Rs. (in Lakhs)
1	Construction of Post Metric Boys Hostel Building Works (G+1 Floor) for Minorities at Haveri Town, Haveri District (Fixed Price No Variation) Package-6 Indent No: RGRHCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT41/CALL2	358.08	3.58
2.	Construction of Women's College Building for Waqf Board 07 No's (G+1) in different taluks of Bagalkote, Belagavi, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, Uttara Kannada and Vijayapura Districts (Fixed Price No Variation) Package-1 Indent No: RGRHCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT52	3210.74	32.10
3.	Construction of Women's College Building for Waqf Board 08 No's (G+1) in different taluks of Bangalore Urban, Bangalore Rural, Chikkaballapura, Chitradurga, Davangere, Kolar, Tumkur and Ramanagar Districts (Fixed Price No Variation) Package-2 Indent No: RGRHCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT53	3669.41	36.69
4.	Construction of Women's College Building for Waqf Board 09 No's (G+1) in different taluks of Chikkamagaluru, Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, Udupi, Shimoga, Mysore, Mandya, Chamarajanagar and Hassan Districts (Fixed Price No Variation) Package-3 Indent No: RGRHCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT54	4128.09	41.28
5.	Construction of Women's College Building for Waqf Board 06 No's (G+1) in different taluks of Bidar, Koppal, Vijayanagar, Kalaburagi, Raichur and Yadgiri Districts (Fixed Price No Variation) Package-4 Indent No: RGRHCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT55	2752.06	27.52

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID: 17-01-2026

Further information visit : <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>, <https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- General Manager (S D)



SCHOOL BUZZ

SGFI NATIONAL GAMES TRIUMPH

Spark Matriculation School students Rithika S of Class IX and Varshika S of Class VII excelled at the School Games Federation of India National Games, winning gold in the Under-14 soft tennis team event. Rithika also secured a bronze medal in the singles category. Representing Tamil Nadu, the students were felicitated on campus. Chairman Mr. Soundararajan, deputy chairman Mr. Balaji Soundararajan, Principal Mrs. Ananda Lekshmi and Vice Principal Mr. Santha Kumar congratulated them. The achievements were guided by coaches Mr. Ashok Kumar and Mr. Vignesh, with strong parental support acknowledged.

POLIO AWARENESS DRIVE

Aristo Public School students came together to collect funds in support of a polio awareness campaign, promoting the importance of immunisation and community health. Through teamwork and empathy, students demonstrated leadership and social responsibility while contributing to a global health cause. The initiative helped them understand the value of

service, compassion and collective effort. The school expressed pride in the students for their active participation and commitment to humanitarian values, noting that such efforts encourage responsible citizenship and contribute towards the vision of a polio-free future.

YOUNG TALENT CELEBRATED

The Study L'École Internationale hosted a vibrant celebration of young talent, with participation from their students and participants from visiting schools. Learners from Pre-KG to Grade II took part in events such as Colouring, Drawing, Rhymes Enactment, Spell Bee and Math Relay. A highlight of the programme was the Sing Along, where teachers and children jointly presented rhymes in English, Tamil, Hindi and French, reflecting cultural harmony. The event offered a joyful platform for young learners to express creativity and confidence, making it a memorable experience for all participants.

For Subscription related queries, please contact N. Hariharan: Handphone: +91 97890 69672 | Email: hariharan.n@thehindu.co.in

