



TRAILBLAZERS of Tamil Nadu

Across Tamil Nadu, a land where ideas have been forged for millennia, stand men who didn't just build enterprises—they shaped the very industrial spine of the state. Their grit, clarity of purpose, and stubborn refusal to settle for the ordinary have turned local dreams into global institutions. These trail blazers show us that progress is never accidental; it springs from a mind that decides to push a little harder, think a little deeper, and build a little bolder.

When we began assembling this year's calendar, we realised the real challenge wasn't discovery - it was selection. Tamil Nadu is a vast constellation of achievers: industrialists who rewired entire sectors, technologists who reimagined the future of work, family business stalwarts who built empires out of quiet discipline, and visionaries whose ideas continue to pulse through classrooms, factories, and boardrooms. The names are far too many to fit into twelve months.

So, in the spirit of joyful difficulty, we turned to a 'lucky-dip' approach to choose the twelve trail blazers for 2026. These icons represent just a fraction of the legacy that Tamil Nadu continues to create every single day. If our readers believe this series deserves to grow, we would be delighted to expand it - into future calendars or even a lasting compendium celebrating those who shaped our state.

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Tell us whom you think should be celebrated next, or if you would like us to share this with someone who would cherish it, email us: help@sharonply.com

#plywoodpioneer

SharonPly is a trailblazer in environmentally responsible plywood manufacturing, having reduced the use of forest wood from 100% to a mere 5%. This remarkable achievement highlights SharonPly's unwavering commitment to sustainability, innovation, and eco-friendly production.

#iamstrongest



For product enquiries  +91 89255 11414

    /SHARONPLYINDIA |  /SHARONPLY | www.sharonply.com



JAN 2026	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

 iamstrongest



The visionary technologist who built Zoho into a global software powerhouse through deep engineering, rural development, and a belief that world-class innovation can flourish outside big cities.



FEB	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2026	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28





யாணமின் வலிமை

A pioneer who shaped India's IT movement, building HCL through engineering excellence, global ambition, and a lifelong commitment to education, empowerment, and transformative philanthropy.

Trailblazers of Tamil Nadu

A. M. M. Murugappa Chettiar - Founder, Murugappa Group

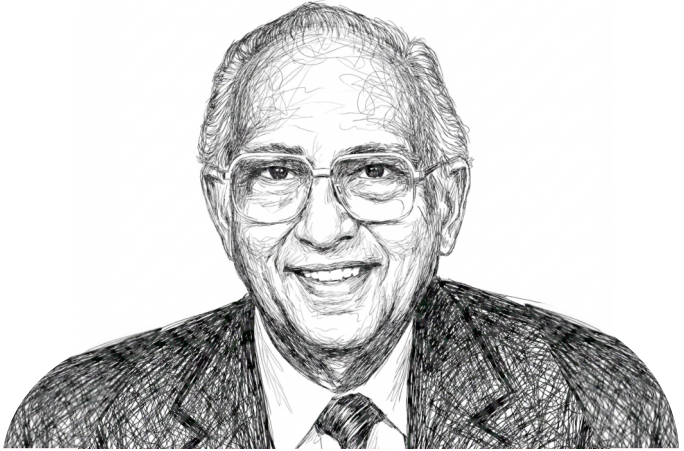


MAR	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2026	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31											

 **iamstrongest**



An industrialist who transformed a small trading business into a respected multi-sector conglomerate rooted in integrity, long-term vision, and deep trust across employees and communities.

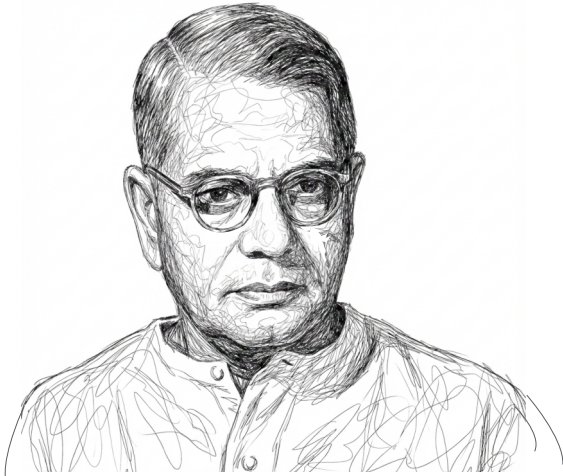


APR	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2026				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30									

**iamstrongest**



An entrepreneurial trailblazer who built MRF from a small toy balloon venture into India's largest tyre manufacturer, driven by relentless quality, discipline, and world-class manufacturing ambition.



MAY	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2026						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						

**iamstrongest**

**யானையின் வலிமை**

A bold nation-builder who combined business acumen and public service, establishing TTK Group with enduring values, consumer trust, and a commitment to pioneering Indian industrial growth.

Trailblazers of Tamil Nadu

R. Thyagarajan - Founder, Shriram Group



JUN	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2026		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30											

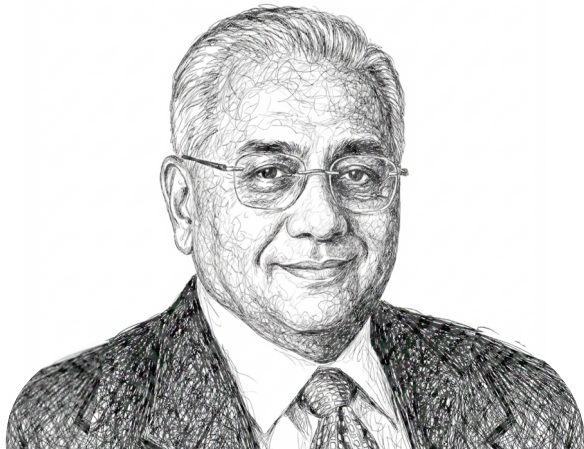
 **iamstrongest**



A humble financial visionary who built Shriram around inclusion, trust-based lending, and a philosophy valuing simplicity, human insight, and long-term empowerment of underserved communities.

Trailblazers of Tamil Nadu

N. Sankar - Founder, Sanmar Group



JUL 2026	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31								

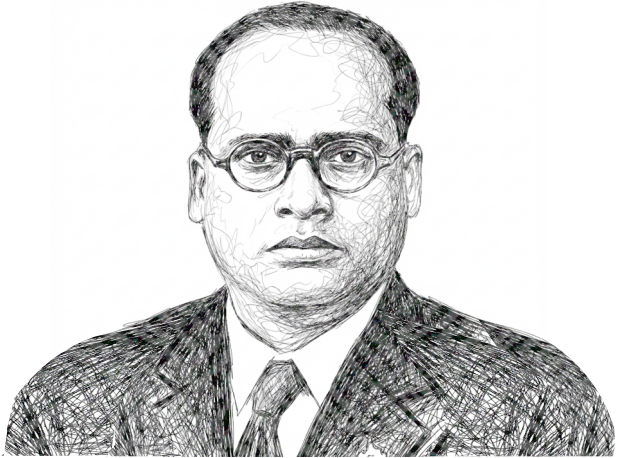
iamstrongest



A transformative leader who built Sanmar into a global chemicals and engineering enterprise anchored in governance, technology, and a patient commitment to responsible, sustainable industrial growth.

Trailblazers of Tamil Nadu

P. Nachimuthu Gounder - Founder, Sakthi Group



AUG
2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					

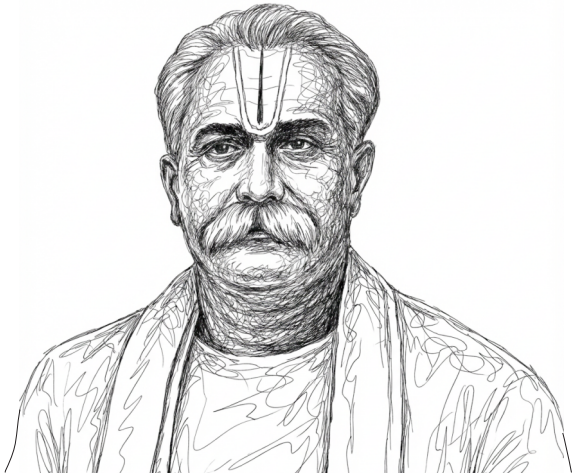
iamstrongest



A self-made industrial pioneer who built Sakthi Group through determination, rural empowerment, and diversification across sectors that transformed Coimbatore's economic and agricultural landscape.

Trailblazers of Tamil Nadu

G. Kuppuswamy Naidu - Founder, Lakshmi Mills



SEP
2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30										

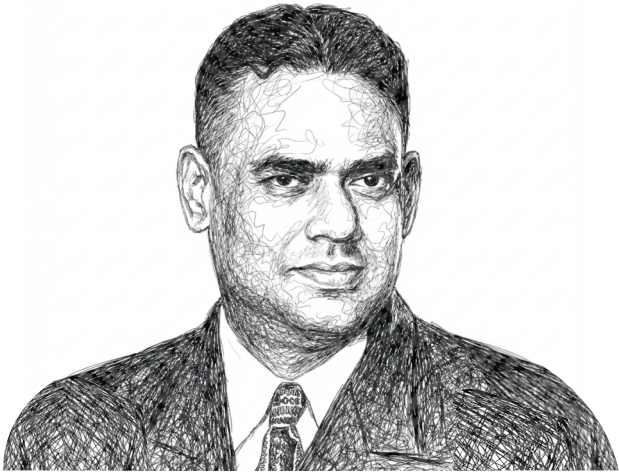
#iamstrongest



A visionary Coimbatore industrialist who modernised India's textile sector, creating Lakshmi Mills with a foundation of quality, innovation, community impact, and enduring industrial leadership.

Trailblazers of Tamil Nadu

S. Anantharamakrishnan - Founder, TAFE Limited



OCT
2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

iamstrongest



An automotive visionary who laid the foundation for TAFE, championing manufacturing excellence, technology adoption, and a mission to uplift Indian agriculture through reliable mechanisation.

Trailblazers of Tamil Nadu

N. R. K. Rajarathnam - Founder, Standard Fireworks



NOV
2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30												

#iamstrongest



An entrepreneurial force who transformed Sivakasi into India's fireworks hub, building through innovation, disciplined manufacturing, and a legacy of empowering thousands of local livelihoods.

Trailblazers of Tamil Nadu

R. G. Chandramogan - Founder, Hatsun Agro Product Ltd.



DEC
2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31									

iamstrongest



யாணமின் வலிமை

A dairy industry icon who built Hatsun from scratch through farmer partnerships, cold-chain innovation, and a relentless focus on quality that reshaped India's organised dairy landscape.