

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

CHENNAI • SATURDAY • APRIL 25, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

1997-1997
When the Kuki-Naga conflict was at its peak, claiming over 1,000 lives

MANIPUR BLEEDS AGAIN AS FRESH KUKI-NAGA TENSION LEAVES 3 DEAD
Three persons were killed in two separate incidents of firing between the armed groups of Manipur's rival tribal communities Kukis and Nagas on Friday

Houses set on fire, many suffer injuries
Security forces recovered two bodies from Mullan village, hours after a fierce exchange of fire between militants. Some houses were set on fire and several persons were injured

In a separate incident, a youth was killed allegedly in an ambush by militants near Sinakethei village in Ukhrul district on Friday morning

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com

facebook.com/newindianexpress
twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

Chennai Express

25-04-2026 SATURDAY

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
Mail us: cityexpresschn@gmail.com

Express Views on this week's releases

PG 4

DAY'S DIARY
DNA comprehended
On April 25, 1953, James Watson and Francis Crick published a landmark paper, proposing the double helix as the long elusive structure of DNA

PHOTO 51
Photograph 51, taken under the supervision of Rosalind Franklin at King's College London in May 1952, provided crucial information to deduce the structure of DNA



PUBLICATION
Watson and Crick's calculations from the photo produced parameters for the size and structure. The findings were published in *Nature* magazine



NOBEL PRIZE
Their article revolutionised the study of biology and medicine and ten years later, in 1962, Crick and Watson won the Nobel Prize

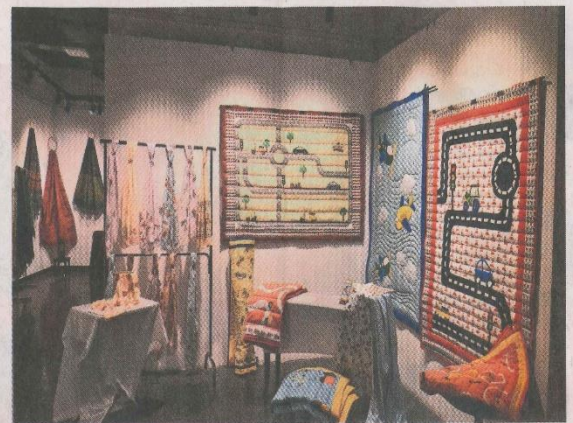
RAKSHA MAALYA RV

Art finds home in varied mediums

FABRIC makes a ludo board, tote bags turn into moving canvases, and panels of black and white break with a sudden burst of colour. Each work pushes beyond what sits on the surface at Grad Show: Unfolding Surfaces, featuring the works of around 50 final-year Bachelor of Visual Arts (BVA) students from Stella Maris College.

The showcase at Lalit Kala Akademi, which will be on until April 27, brings together a diverse range of projects developed over the past four to five months, marking the culmination of the students' undergraduate journey.

Rather than sticking to one fixed interpretation, the exhibits comes together through individual explorations, with each student approaching the theme in their own way. The works range from personal narratives and contemporary concerns to reflections on culture and tradition, allowing the idea of "surfaces" to unfold in varied and often deeply personal ways.



PHOTOS: MARTIN LOUIS

Across the exhibition, textiles appear in varied forms, with several works using fabric as both the medium and the message. One student presented a "walking gallery" of hand-painted and digitally designed tote bags, featuring endangered birds, inspired by the tradition-

al Kalamkari style, turning everyday objects into functional artworks. Another showcased a series of kaftan tops designed around the idea of light, drawing from fireworks and the South Indian *vilakku*, translating these motifs into wearable forms. A third work, a textile décor installation made entirely from scrap fabric, was built around four themes: land, water, air, and animals, centred on sustainability and zero-waste practices. "You can use, wash, and reuse them. It was a zero-waste project, not even a single piece of fabric was wasted," says the Srisha, the artist.

Colour often plays a central role in artworks, but in artist Vasudha Shankar's series of five mixed-media panels on canvas, black dominates the surface, with only a hint of colour in the centrepiece. Titled 'Gaze and Spectorship', the work looks at the idea of gaze — both male and female, not always in a perverted sense — before extending into women's issues like harassment and assault, and the narratives that form around them. The central panel stands out as the only one with colour, breaking the monotony. As Vasudha justifies it, "People basically build rumours upon a story — I know what the truth is, you know what the truth is. But when something like harassment or assault takes place, a lot of rumours

and narratives are built around it."

Art can also act as a way of passing down culture, especially when certain traditions are rarely documented. One such work is a picture book series inspired by Kalamazhuthu, particularly Bhadrakali Kalamazhuthu, a traditional ritual art form from Kerala. "I did my re-

search paper on Kalamazhuthu, and there was only one book, it's not something that children would understand, so I wanted to make it for children," says Anjali, the artist.

Overall, the exhibits offer food for thought, as each piece continues to unfold beyond what catches one's eye.

Extraction from the paper: The New Indian Express

Date: 25, April 2026

Page: 4

