

TN TO GET 5 MORE HI-TECH TRACKING RADARS

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025: In a major push to improve weather forecasting and disaster preparedness, Tamil Nadu will install five new Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs) to boost cyclone tracking, rainfall monitoring and early warning systems.

The radars will come up at Kanya kumari, Tiruchirapalli, Coimbatore, Yercaud and Ramanaathapuram. Of these, three will be set up under the Centre's flagship Mission

Mausam, while two will be established through a special initiative of the Tamil Nadu Disaster Risk Reduction Agency.

The expansion aims to address gaps in radar coverage, particularly in central and southern Tamil Nadu, which are highly vulnerable to both southwest and northeast monsoons and frequent cyclonic activity from the Bay of Bengal.

Currently, the state is covered by eight Doppler radars located

within Tamil Nadu and neighbouring regions.

These include two radars in Chennai, along with installations at Sriharikota, Kalpakkam, Karaikal, and coverage from Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Sulur. Officials noted that areas such as Tiruchi rappalli and Kanya kumari remain inadequately monitored.

The choice of new locations was based on the need for round-the-clock monitoring, higher radar density in

coastal and hilly regions, improved coverage in disaster-prone and densely populated areas, and replacement of ageing equipment.

Once operational, the five additional radars are expected to significantly strengthen Tamil Nadu's weather surveillance network, improve forecast accuracy, enhance early warnings, and enable quicker responses to cyclones, heavy rainfall and extreme weather events.

RAILWAYS COMMISSIONS PROJECTS WORTH RS.25,000 CR

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025: As many as 42 major Indian Railways projects worth over Rs. 25,000 crore were commissioned in 2025, covering innovation, track renewals, electrification works and "airport-like" redeveloped stations, aimed at making passenger and freight trains safer, faster and more comfortable.

According to the year-end review of the Ministry of Railways, the New Year will bring enhanced long-distance sleeper travel through upcoming Vande Bharat Sleeper and Amrit Bharat trains, along with reduced journey times and branded food and beverage options at stations.

During 2025, Indian Railways introduced 15 new Vande Bharat Express trains, taking the total to 164 services across

the network as of December 26. The forthcoming Vande Bharat Sleeper is expected to transform overnight travel by combining speed with modern amenities. Additionally, 13 new non-AC Amrit Bharat Express trains were launched, increasing the total to 30 services focused on affordable, quality travel. Namo Bharat Rapid Rail Services were also expanded to strengthen high-frequency regional connectivity.

Key infrastructure milestones included the commissioning of India's first vertical-lift rail bridge at Pamban, improved all-weather rail connectivity to Kashmir including the world's highest Chenab bridge, and expansion into the Northeast with the Bairabi-Sairang line.

Between April 1 and November 30, over 900 km of new



tracks were commissioned. Track renewals covered 6,880 km, while complete track renewal was carried out over 7,051 km to improve safety and speed. From 2014 to 2025, Indian Railways laid 34,428 km of new track at an average of 8.57 km per day, more than double the pace achieved during 2009-14.

Sectional speeds were enhanced to 130 kmph over 599 km and to 110 kmph over 4,069 km, improving operational efficiency on major routes. Electrification has reached about 99.2 per cent of the Broad Gauge network, with 14 Railway Zones and

25 states and Union Territories achieving 100 per cent electrification.

In FY 2025-26 up to November, over 4,224 LHB coaches were produced, an 18 per cent rise over the previous year. Over the last 11 years, more than 42,600 LHB coaches have been manufactured, significantly improving safety and passenger comfort.

Safety indicators also showed sharp improvement, with consequential train accidents declining from an average of 171 per year during 2004-14 to 31 in 2024-25 and 11 in 2025-26 so far. The safety budget has nearly tripled, while fog safety devices and advanced signalling systems have been widely deployed. Kavach Version 4.0, the indigenous Automatic Train Protection system, has been commissioned over 738 route kilometres.

Meanwhile, the 508-km Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project has achieved 55.63 per cent physical progress and 69.62 per cent financial progress, with expenditure crossing Rs.85,800 crore, the statement said.

RUSSIA, UKRAINE CLOSE TO PEACE DEAL, TRUMP DECLARES

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025: US President Donald Trump on Sunday hosted his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky at his Mar-a-Lago home in this affluent town of Florida, telling reporters he believes both Zelensky and Russian President Vladimir Putin want to make a peace deal to end their war.

Asked whether he believes Putin is serious about peace, Trump told CNN, "I do - I think he is.

I think they both are." Trump, however, was more equivocal when asked whether the meeting would lead to a deal.

"It depends. I do believe we have the makings of a deal," he said. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has

proved "difficult" to solve, he added, but "we're going to get it done; we're going to have a great meeting today." Trump declined to weigh in on whether he expects a deal before the end of the year. "I don't have deadlines," he said. "You know what my deadline is? Getting the war ended." On Russia continuing to bombard Ukraine, Trump suggested Putin was still serious about pursuing an end to the war, pointing out Ukraine had carried out its own attacks on Russia.

Putin is "very serious, I think I can say that," he told reporters. "I believe Ukraine has made some very strong attacks also, and I don't say that negatively.

I think you probably

have to." Earlier in the day Trump said he spoke to Putin over phone, and called the conversation "very productive".

"I just had a good and very productive telephone call with President Putin of Russia prior to my meeting, at 1:00 p.m. today [Sunday], with President Zelensky of Ukraine," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

The phone conversation with Putin came amid a barrage of Russian missiles and drones on Kyiv, providing an urgent backdrop to the Zelensky talks, CNN reported.

Trump and Putin last spoke in October and agreed during the call to convene a summit in Budapest. Days later, however, Trump abruptly

cancelled the meeting, saying he thought it would be a waste of time.

Trump also confirmed he planned to speak again today with the Russian president following the conclusion of his talks with Zelensky.

Meanwhile, Zelensky on Saturday stopped over in the city of Halifax, Canada, and met with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney before flying to Florida to meet with Trump. Carney and Zelensky held a bilateral meeting to discuss the latest developments in ongoing peace talks, and Carney affirmed Canada's "full support" for Ukraine, according to a statement on the official website of the prime minister.

'INDIA-AUSTRALIA TRADE PACT ANCHORS ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT'

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday highlighted the significance of the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA) as India advances Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) negotiations with other nations. He noted that the pact continues to anchor India's economic engagement in the Indo-Pacific, in line with the 'Make in India' initiative and the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

From January 1, 2026, 100 per cent of Australian tariff lines

will be zero-duty for Indian exports, opening new opportunities for labour-intensive sectors, Goyal said.

Marking the third anniversary of Ind-Aus ECTA, Goyal described the partnership as one that has transformed intent into tangible impact. "Together, India and Australia are building a future of shared prosperity and trusted trade," he posted on X.

Over the past three years, the agreement has driven sustained export growth, deeper market access, and stronger supply-chain resilience, benefiting exporters, MSMEs,

farmers, and workers. India's exports to Australia grew 8 per cent in FY 2024-25, strengthening the trade balance. Key sectors such as manufacturing, chemicals, textiles, plastics, pharmaceuticals, petroleum products, and gems and jewellery recorded strong gains.

Agri-exports also saw broad-based growth, with significant rises in fruits, vegetables, marine products, spices, and coffee. Gems and jewellery exports increased 16 per cent from April to November 2025. A Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on organic products

was signed, facilitating smoother trade and reducing compliance costs for exporters.

Goyal also noted that India and New Zealand have concluded a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, eliminating duties on 100 per cent of Indian exports and including a \$20 billion investment commitment over 15 years, strengthening economic and strategic cooperation. India's total exports of goods and services reached a record \$418.91 billion during April-September 2025, a 5.86 per cent annual increase, maintaining the strong momentum from the previous fiscal year.

CONG HAILS SC DIRECTIVE ON ARAVALLIS

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025: The Indian National Congress on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court's directives regarding the redefinition of the Aravalli Hills, currently being pushed by the Modi Government.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the matter "needs to be studied in greater detail" and recalled that the proposed redefinition had been opposed by the Forest Survey of India, the Central Empowered

Committee of the Supreme Court, and the amicus curiae himself.

"The Indian National Congress welcomes the directives given by the Supreme Court on the redefinition of the Aravallis being pushed through by the Modi Government.

The issue is now to be studied in greater detail. It needs to be recalled that the redefinition has been opposed by the Forest Survey of India, the

Central Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court, and by the amicus curiae himself," he said in X post.

"There is now a temporary respite but the struggle to save the Aravallis from the machinations of the Modi Government to open it up to mining, real estate, and other activities will have to be resisted in a sustained manner. Today's Supreme Court directive gives a flicker of hope," he added.

Ramesh further demanded the immediate resignation of the Union Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, stating that the judgment "is a rejection of all the arguments he has been giving in favour of the redefinition."

The Supreme Court has "put in abeyance" its earlier decision (issued on November 20) to accept the Central Environment Ministry's definition of Aravalli Hills and the Aravalli Range.

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CARDIOLOGISTS CALL FOR SCIENCE-LED REASSESSMENT OF SATURATED FATS AND PALM OIL AT IMA NATCON 2025

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025: At the 100th National Conference of the Indian Medical Association (IMA NATCON 2025), cardiologists called for a more evidence-based understanding of dietary fats and cardiovascular health, emphasising that long-standing assumptions must be reviewed in light of evolving scientific evidence. The centenary edition of IMA NATCON brought together thousands of doctors, researchers, and healthcare leaders from across India, reinforcing its role as a key platform for shaping clinical and public-health perspectives.

Two expert-led sessions by Dr Varun Bansal and Dr Ketan Mehta provided clinical clarity on topics often clouded by misinformation, examining the role of dietary fats, palm oil and emerging cardio metabolic interventions through the lens of clinical evidence and global research.

In his presentation, “Atherosclerosis, Dietary Saturated Fats and Palm Oil: Are They Really Connected?”, Dr Bansal challenged long-held assumptions linking saturated fats directly to heart disease. Drawing from multi-country studies, he highlighted that saturated fats are not nutritionally uniform and that cardiovascular risk is influenced by overall dietary patterns, lifestyle and total caloric intake. He noted that while certain fat substitutions may lower cholesterol, they do not consistently reduce cardiovascular mortality, and that comparisons with trans fats show favourable outcomes for palm oil.

His session aligned with WHO and ICMR –NIN guidelines that emphasise moderation, diversity of oils and balanced intake.

“Nutrition science cannot be reduced to simplistic labels. What matters is balance, variety and informed choices, not fear-driven avoidance,”



said Dr Varun Bansal.

Complementing this, Dr Mehta presented on “Palm Tocotrienols in Cardio metabolic Syndrome”, focusing on the rising burden of diabetes, obesity, hypertension and dyslipidaemia in India. He highlighted tocotrienols, a form of Vitamin E present in red palm oil, citing evidence of their anti oxidant, anti-inflam matory and cardio protective potential. Dr Mehta also pointed to the strong safety profile of palm-derived tocotrienols, which hold GRAS status from the US FDA, and stressed their role as a supportive, science-backed intervention alongside lifestyle and clinical care.

“Cardiometabolic syndrome is complex and multifactorial. The focus must be on integrating well-researched nutritional components into patient-centric care,” Dr Ketan Mehta noted.

The sessions generated strong engagement from attending medical professionals, with active discussion and questioning reflecting interest in reassessing long-held dietary assumptions through current scientific evidence. The discussions reinforced the importance of ongoing, science-led dialogue within the medical community to support balanced, evidence-based dietary guidance for cardiovascular and metabolic health.

PREVENTIVE HEALTH, DIGITAL RENEWALS, AND SENIOR CARE LEAD INDIA’S EVOLVING INSURANCE BEHAVIOUR: CARE HEALTH INSURANCE TRENDS REPORT 2025

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025: Care Health Insurance today announced its extensive 2025 Annual Trends Report. A major shift toward proactive Health Insurance purchases and a strong preference for digital engagement are highlighted in the report’s analysis of changing consumer behaviors, digital adoption, and emerging health claims patterns.

According to the report’s data, there is a definite trend of Indians actively obtaining Health Insurance. There is an

increase of more than 27% in the number of insured members in Underwriting Year 2023–2024 to 2024–2025 — underscoring the growing awareness about the need of comprehensive health cover accelerated by escalating medical costs.

Manish Dodeja, Chief Operating Officer, Care Health Insurance, commented, “It is evident from our annual trends report that Indian Health Insurance consumers are proactively seeking comprehensive health coverage and are becoming more

tech-savvy. Consumers are prioritizing preventive healthcare and lifestyle care. Through these behavioural shifts, we are guided and ensuring that Care Health Insurance offers solutions that are intuitive. We’re committed to investing in technology to make Health Insurance easier to understand, more accessible and adaptable to our customers’ evolving needs.”

The company also witnessed a change in purchasing habits across age groups. All cohorts have seen an

annual increase in the average Sum Insured. For example, the average SI for the 0–17 age group increased by over 7% from 2024–2025 to 2025–2026, suggesting that families are securing higher coverage for their children. Aside this, first-time buyers (18–35 years old), continue to make up a sizable portion of all policyholders for the year 2025- 2026 with more than 30% of the total share.

Also, the proportion of Senior Citizens (60 years of age and older) increased to almost 14% in 2025–2026.

SC STAYS SUSPENSION OF SENGAR’S LIFE SENTENCE

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Delhi High Court order that had suspended the life sentence of expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the 2017 Unnao rape case.

A vacation bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant, along with Justices J K Maheshwari and

Augustine George Masih, issued notice to Sengar on the CBI’s plea challenging the high court decision and directed that he remain in custody for now.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI, sought an immediate stay, which the bench granted, noting that the case raises substantial questions of law.

The matter has been posted for further hearing after four weeks.

The Delhi High Court had earlier suspended Sengar’s sentence, citing that he had already served over seven years in prison, pending disposal of his appeal against the December 2019 conviction.

However, Sengar will continue to remain in jail as he is also serving a 10-year sentence in the custodial death of the victim’s father.

The Unnao rape case and related matters were transferred from Uttar Pradesh to Delhi in August 2019 on the Supreme Court’s directions.

SRMIST BADMINTON PLAYER RITHVIK SANJEEVI WINS GOLD AT 87TH SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2025

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025 : Our SRMIST badminton player, Rithvik Sanjeevi, won the Gold Medal in the Men’s Singles event at the 87th Senior National Badminton Championship 2025, organized by the Badminton Association of India, held in Vijayawada from 24th to 28th December 2025.

Match Results:
Quarter Finals:
Rithvik Sanjeevi Beat K. Sathish Kumar
SCORE: (21-13 /

22-20)
Semifinals:
Rithvik Sanjeevi Beat Kiran George
SCORE: (21-16 / 17-21/22-20)
Finals:
Rithvik Sanjeevi Beat Bharat Raghav
SCORE: (21-16 / 22-20)
A Total of 128 Players Participated in the Tournament
Final Standing:
Winner: Rithvik Sanjeevi, Runner: Bharat Raghav



VALEDICTORY CEREMONY OF SOUTH ZONE INTER-UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL (MEN) TOURNAMENT 2025-2026 AT SRM IST

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025 : The South Zone Inter-University Basketball (Men) Tournament 2025–2026, held from 24th to 28th December 2025, concluded successfully at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRM IST), Kattankulathur Campus.

The Valedictory Ceremony is scheduled to take place on 28th December 2025 at 6:15 PM at the SRM IST, Kattankulathur Campus, marking the grand conclusion of the tournament.

Dr. Bernardshaw Neppolian, Dean – Research, SRM IST, KTR Campus, will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest, preside over the function, and deliver the

Valedictory Address.

The ceremony will also be honored by the presence of Mr. S. Saravanakumar, Lead Analyst, Bank of New York Mellon, SRM IST Alumnus and National Basketball Player, who will felicitate the gathering.

Adding further distinction to the event, Mr. Govindarajan S., Area Sales Manager, Oxford University Press, SRM IST Alumnus and National Basketball Player, will attend as the Guest of Honour.

League Results
SRM IST Beat Bharathiyar University .Score(63/46)
Jain University Beat Christ University Score(85/62)
Final Results
SRM IST Lost to Jain University .Score (55/ 61)
Final Standings:



SRM IST Beat Christ University . Score(43/37)
Jain University Beat Bharathiyar University Score (68/47)
Third Place Match
Bharathiyar University Beat Christ University . Score (45/35)
Final Results
SRM IST Lost to Jain University .Score (55/ 61)
Final Standings:

Winners: JAIN UNIVERSITY,KAR
Runners: SRMIST, TN
Third Place: BHARATHIAR UNIVERSITY,TN
Fourth Place: CHRIST UNIVER SITY,KAR

Top Four teams Qualified for All India Inter University Basketball Tournament held at University of Mumbai, Maharashtra on 21st to 24th February 2026.

AUTOMOTIVE LIGHTING MAJOR, NEOLITE ZKW LIGHTINGS FILES DRHP FOR 600 CR IPO

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025 : Neolite ZKW Lightings Limited, an established manufacturer and global supplier of automotive lighting products and components for OEMs and among the leading players in the domestic commercial vehicle lighting segment with a market share of 34.43% in Fiscal 2025, as per CRISIL report, has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The company’s initial public offering aggregates up to ₹6,000.00 million and comprises a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to ₹4,000.00 million by the company and an offer for sale of equity shares aggregating up to ₹2,000.00 million by the selling share

holders — Rajesh Jain (₹1,140.00 million), Neokraft Global Private Limited (₹400.00 million) and ZKW Group GmbH (₹460.00 million).

In consultation with the Book Running Lead Managers, the company may also consider a pre-IPO placement of specified securities aggregating up to ₹750 million, as permitted under applicable law.

The net proceeds from the fresh issue are proposed to be utilised towards setting up a new greenfield manufacturing facility at Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu, amounting to ₹1,525.10 million; purchase of plant and machinery and electronic expansion at existing manufacturing facilities amounting to ₹790.79 million; and repayment and/or prepayment, in full or in

part, of certain outstanding borrowings aggregating to ₹650 million. The balance proceeds, if any, will be deployed towards general corporate purposes.

Incorporated in 1992 and led by its founder and promoter Mr Rajesh Jain along with its CEO Mr Rajesh Soni, Neolite ZKW Lightings has established itself as a manufacturer and global supplier of automotive lighting products catering to OEMs across passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, off-road vehicles, two-wheelers and three-wheelers, as well as the aftermarket segment.

The Company has a strategic alliance with ZKW group GMBH (which became a subsidiary of LG Electronics in 2018). What began as a strategic

initiative to strengthen business growth, technical competencies and geographic reach turned into a collaborative arrangement since 2012. It is one of the leading players in global automotive lighting industry, known for its expertise in premium lighting solutions and for supplying high-tech LED and laser headlamps to marquee global OEMs such as BMW and Audi.

Backed by LG’s expertise in electronics, ZKW has also advanced in digital and matrix lighting solutions, aligning with the autonomous driving trend.

As of October 31, 2025, the company served over 40 OEMs and offered a portfolio of more than 830 SKUs, including LED and EV-focused lighting solutions.

DAY 04- SOUTH ZONE INTER UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL MEN TOURNAMENT 2025-26

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025: The Directorate of Sports, SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRM IST), Kattankulathur, is proud to host the South Zone Inter University Basketball Men Tournament 2025 –2026 under the auspices of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). The tournament will be held from 24th to 28th December 2025 at the SRMIST campus, Kattankulathur, Chengalpattu District, Tamil Nadu.

Day 04 Results: (27.12.2025)

Pre Quarter Final Results.

SRM IST, TN Beat Cochin University of Science and Techno

logy,KL.

Score: (82/39).

Visvesvaraya Technological University, KAR Beat PES University, KAR.

Score: (60/53).

University of Calicut Beat Bangalore University.

Score: (60/50).

Bharathiar University, TN Beat Mahatma Gandhi University, KL.

Score: (87/68).

Quarter Finals

SRM IST, TN Beat Hindustan IST, TN.

Score: (79/62).

Bharathiar University, TN Beat University of Madras, TN.

Score: (61/59).



Jain University,lore, KAR Beat KAR Beat University Visvesvaraya Techno of Calicut, KL. Score: logical University, (65/50). Belagavi, KAR.

CHRIST, Banga Score: (72/43).

THE RISE OF INVISIBLE THREATS AND WHY MODERN PURIFIERS ARE DESIGNED TO DETECT AND ELIMINATE THEM

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025: Clear water has always carried an illusion of safety. For decades, households across India have relied on sight and taste to judge purity, if water looked clean, it must be harmless. However, studying groundwater patterns and contamination trends, this assumption is becoming increasingly outdated.

The latest national groundwater quality assessment released by the Central Ground Water Board in 2024 only reinforces what many experts in the field have already observed: some of the most harmful contaminants in drinking water are the ones you cannot see, taste, or smell.

This gap between visible clarity and actual safety has also been deteriorated by the growing presence of fake or unbranded products. However, they fail to remove invisible chemical threats. Many households unknowingly install counterfeit filters believing they offer the same protection, when in reality they allow contaminants to pass through unchecked.

What concerns specialists today are not the visible impurities that traditional filtration can address, but the invisible chemical signatures

that quietly infiltrate groundwater systems. Arsenic, uranium, and nitrate are not new to India’s aquifers, yet their behaviour has evolved with changing extraction patterns. As water tables decline, aquifers begin releasing deeper geogenic elements into the supply.

These contaminants do not alter the water’s appearance, which is precisely why their risks remain underestimated at the household level. Over years of working with community water systems, it has been observed how chronic exposure to even low concentrations of such contaminants can silently impact long-term health outcomes.

The issue is real, due to fact that the unbranded or fake filters are often made with inferior granulated carbon or uncertified components which cannot remove heavy metals or pesticides even at the initial stages of use. This has been conclusively demonstrated in a scientific testing, including an independent IIT-Madras case study that compared genuine Nanopore Longlife filters with ordinary/unbranded filters.

The study found that while genuine filters maintained high removal efficiency for up to 12,000 litres, fake filters failed to eliminate contami

nants and showed rapid performance decline even after the first 10 litres.

The shift we are now observing among consumers is both timely and necessary. A growing number of households are recognizing that safety cannot be judged by clarity alone. There is greater awareness that carcinogenic elements like arsenic or kidney-impacting heavy metals like uranium do not manifest through taste. Similarly, elevated nitrate levels, which can irritate the digestive system and affect infants more severely, provide no sensory warning. This emerging understanding reflects growing awareness of how people perceive water risks. It signals a move from intuition to informed decision-making.

This evolution in mindset is what is driving the adoption of modern purification systems. Today’s technologically advanced purifiers are not merely upgrading older models; they are purpose-built responses to the invisible challenges that hydrogeologists and public health experts have been cautioning against. They are designed to target dissolved contaminants, heavy metals, and chemical residues that conventional methods cannot eliminate. What I find particularly encouraging is

that many consumers are no longer selecting purifiers based solely on features or aesthetics, but on the nature of their water and the threats most relevant to their region.

However, even the most advanced purifier can only perform as intended when paired with genuine, certified filters. This is why experts increasingly emphasize the use of authorized consumables, because fake and unbranded filters compromise both the technology and the protection it is meant to provide.

The IIT-Madras case study highlights this clearly: genuine filters consistently removed carcinogenic heavy metals and pesticides, while fake filters failed across every parameter tested.

India’s water story is entering a new phase, one where protection takes precedence over perception.

Clear water is not always clean water, and the real danger often lies beneath the surface.

As invisible contaminants continue to evolve, the technologies we rely on must evolve with them. Modern purifiers are becoming not just lifestyle products, but essential household defences informed by science, grounded in data, and increasingly understood through the lens of everyday health protection.

WAAREE ENERGIES EMERGES AS INDIA'S LARGEST ALMM -APPROVED SOLAR MANUFACTURER, CROSSING 20 GW

Mumbai, 30 Dec 2025 : Waaree Energies Limited has further consolidated its leadership in India’s solar manufacturing ecosystem with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) publishing the company’s expanded listing under the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM).

As per the latest MNRE notification, Waaree’s Chikhli (Gujarat) manufacturing facility is now listed with an ALMM-approved capacity of 16.444 GW, taking the company’s total solar module manufacturing capacity in India, including Indosolar, to 20.17 GW.

The updated ALMM list also includes new high-efficiency module models, such as:-

G12R TOPCon

G12 TOPCon

G12 HJT modules from the SG Chikhli plant

These additions further enhance Waaree’s product portfolio across advanced cell technologies, supporting utility-scale, C&I, and rooftop solar projects across India

Commenting on the development, Mr. Sunil Rathi, Executive Director, Waaree Group, said: “This expanded ALMM listing marks a key milestone in Waaree’s journey of building scale with technology leadership. Crossing 20 GW of India manufacturing capacity reflects our long-term commitment to strengthening domestic solar manufacturing, improving efficiency benchmarks, and supporting India’s clean energy transition. The inclusion of advanced TOPCon and HJT modules positions us strongly to meet evolving project requirements while reinforcing supply chain confidence for developers and policymakers alike.”



The updated listing comes at a time when India is rapidly scaling solar installations to meet its 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity target by 2030, with domestic manufacturing emerging as a critical pillar of energy security, cost stability, and quality assurance.

With continued investments in advanced cell technologies, automation, and backward integration, Waaree Energies remains focused on delivering high-performance, ALMM-compliant solar modules aligned with India’s renewable growth roadmap.

About Waaree Energies:

Founded in 1990, Waaree Energies Limited is India’s leading renewable energy company, driving the global transition to clean power. Headquartered in Mumbai, Waaree operates advanced manufacturing facilities with a total solar PV module capacity of ~22.77 GW worldwide and a solar cell capacity of (20.17 GW in India & 2.6 GW in USA). With a strong footprint across India and over 25 countries, Waaree offers a comprehensive portfolio spanning solar panels & inverters manufacturing, EPC services, green hydrogen solutions, battery energy storage systems, green energy infrastructure, and data centres. Committed to sustain ability and innovation, Waaree delivers cutting-edge, cost-effective solutions to power a greener future.

SBI ONBOARDS 541 PROBATIONARY OFFICERS TO STRENGTHEN ITS FUTURE-READY LEADERSHIP

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025 : State Bank of India, the nation’s largest and most trusted bank, has announced today the declaration of the final results of the Probationary Officer (PO) Recruitment 2025, filling 541 vacancies across the country. The list of selected candidates is available on the bank’s official website.

The recruitment drive was undertaken to induct young and dynamic talent into SBI’s junior management cadre through one of the most significant hiring initiatives in the industry, building the bank’s leadership pipeline and its long-term commitment to

excellence in banking services. Coming on the back of hiring of 505 Probationary Officers in June 2025, this fresh recruitment underscores SBI’s sustained focus on strengthening its human capital. The selected Probationary Officers will be deployed nationwide across business verticals, with select international postings and a structured pathway for progression to senior and top management roles.

The selection process commenced with the online preliminary examinations held in August 2025, followed by the main examinations conduc

ted in September 2025. Candidates shortlisted from the main examination subsequently underwent Phase III of the selection process, including psychometric assessment, group exercise and personal interview.

The recruitments are part of the bank’s broader plan to hire 18,000 people in FY26, are of its biggest recruitment drives. Speaking on this, Shri CS Setty, Chairman, State Bank of India, had said, “Our total recruitment across categories is about 18,000 people, out of which around 13,500 will be clerical recruitment, 3,000 will be probationary officers and local-based officers. As we on-board this new talent pool, we further aim to strengthen our human resource capabilities by implementing structured skill development programmes aligned with evolving customer service and technological requirements.” With a workforce comprising over 2,46,000+ people, State Bank of India continues to be one of the largest recruiters in the banking sector and remains focused on generating meaningful employment while building capabilities aligned with emerging business, technological and customer expectations.

SRM IST CLINCHES SOUTH ZONE INTER-UNIVERSITY TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT (MEN) 2025–2026

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025 : Our SRM IST Table Tennis Men Team Won the GOLD Medal in the South Zone Inter-University Table Tennis Tournament (Men) 2025–2026, organized by AMET University, Chennai, from 25th to 28th December 2025.

Match Results

Quarter Finals: SRM IST Beat GITAM University by 3–0

Semi Finals:

SRM IST Beat University of Madras by 3–2

Grand Final:

SRM IST Beat Jain University by 3–2

Final Standings

Winners: SRM IST, Runners-up: Jain University

Third Place: University of Madras

Fourth Place: VELS University

Top four Team qualified for All India Inter University Table Tennis Men Tournament at Chitagrah University, Punjab from 2 to 5 January 2026.



Adding further pride to the institution, SRM IST players received the prestigious Emerging Player Award.

Emerging Player

Awardees - Mr. Balamurugan SRMIST Mr. Amir Afthab SRMISTA Total of 104 Table Tennis Men Teams Participated in the above said tournament.

AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH EMERGES AS THE BIGGEST HOLLYWOOD FILM OF 2025 IN INDIA, DOMINATES CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SEASON

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025 : James Cameron’s Avatar: Fire and Ash has firmly established itself as the biggest Hollywood release of 2025 in India, delivering an extraordinary box office performance and reaffirming the franchise’s unmatched appeal with Indian audiences.

Over Christmas Day, the film continued its phenomenal run, outperforming all new releases and maintain

ing a commanding lead at the box office gearing for a promising second weekend. The sustained momentum highlights not just a strong opening, but exceptional word of mouth across markets.

During the Christmas holiday season, Avatar: Fire and Ash has emerged as the number one choice for family audiences, drawing audiences across age groups to cinemas and reinforcing its status as



the ultimate festive big-screen spectacle.

So far, the film has grossed over ₹130 crore at the Indian box office, a milestone that underscores its massive reach, scale and emotional connect with audiences nationwide.

With its continued dominance and holiday seasons pull, Avatar: Fire and Ash stands tall as a defining cinematic success of the year, setting new benchmarks for Hollywood releases in India.



harmony in an Indian musical context.

This album expands the expressive scope of the raga, using it as a tool to build richer textures and larger musical forms.

Thribinna reflects a vision of an Indian Symphony —where tradition and imagination come together to create music on a broader canvas.

This album is available on all digital platforms.

OSCAR-GRAMMY WINNER AR RAHMAN LAUNCHES 'THRIBINNA', AN INDIAN SYMPHONY PROJECT CONCEPTUALISED BY GRAMMY AWARDEE VIOLIN MAESTRO GANESH RAJAGOPALAN

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025: Oscar and Grammy winner AR Rahman, who played a key role in placing Indian music on global map, launched Thribinna, an Indian symphony project conceptualised by Grammy awardee violin maestro Ganesh Rajagopalan, on December 27 (Saturday) at the Big violinshop, Chennai.

The evening started with AR Rahman launching the album, followed by a live performance of compositions from Thribinna by Ganesh Rajagopalan, featuring the Swarayoga Ensemble and Anirudha Bhat on the Mridangam.

In addition to

legendary composer AR Rahman, distinguished guests from the music and film fraternity including popular classical musicians Krishna Kumar and Binny Krishna Kumar, violin maestro Kumaresh and veena virtuoso Jayanthi Kumaresh attended the event.

Thribinna is inspired by an ancient idea in Carnatic music where swaras were divided and experienced together, rather than only one after another.

Rooted in early ghamaka concepts, Thribinna explores the simultaneous use of multiple notes from the same raga to create

TOYOTA INDIA'S BRAND AMBASSADOR DRUM TAO STRIKES A POWERFUL CHORD: SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES ITS TOUR IN INDIA

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025 : Renowned Japanese percussion ensemble DRUM TAO, Toyota Kirloskar Motor’s (TKM) Brand Ambassador, successfully concluded its energetic India tour. Beginning with a vibrant showcase at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong, and the Hornbill Music Festival at Kohima, the ensemble travelled through cities including Vijayawada, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Kolkata, Guwahati, Varanasi, Mumbai, Pune and Andaman Islands, before culminating in a powerful and memorable finale in Bangalore.

Spread over 40 days, DRUM TAO’s India tour celebrated the artistic bond and long-standing cultural ties between India and Japan through 15 performances. With their powerful Taiko drumming, flawless synchronization, and visually striking stage presentation, the group captivated around 70 K e n t h u s i a s t i c audiences nationwide,

generating widespread buzz.

Commenting on the culmination of the India tour, Mr. Varinder Wadhwa, Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business & Profit Enhancement, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, “We are proud and delighted to have brought DRUM TAO and their world-class artistry to audiences across India. The overwhelming response received across cities, spanning audiences of all age groups, especially from India’s youth, further highlights how people are increasingly embracing global cultures through music, art and shared experiences, shaping a new wave of creative expression. As we conclude this memorable tour, we are proud to have enabled a platform that brought together rhythm and creativity, reflecting Toyota’s philosophy of ensuring ‘Mass Happiness’ in its true sense. Encouraged by this extraordinary audience response, we are



excited to explore a much larger and more ambitious collaboration with DRUM TAO in the coming year.”

Toyota’s association with DRUM TAO is rooted in the brand’s philosophy of “Mass Happiness”, where connection goes beyond physical movement to include the exchange of ideas and creativity. As a company that draws strength from its Japanese heritage and deep-rooted commitment to India, this association not only celebrates the art of performance, but also reflects shared values of harmony, innovation and inclusivity that transcend borders and connect generations.

Founded in Oita,

Japan, in 1993, Drum Tao has built a formidable global legacy by blending traditional Japanese percussion with contemporary music, athletic movement and striking visual story telling. Having performed for over 10 million people worldwide, the ensemble is celebrated for transforming taiko drumming into a modern performance art form. Audiences can visit Toyota Kirloskar Motor’s website and social media channels to catch highlights from DRUM TAO’s India tour, including city-wise performance previews and behind-the-scenes moments. They can also stay tuned to the dedicated page for updates on future plans next year.

INDIA'S FIRST KID'S ANIMATION FILM, 'KIKI & KOKO' DIRECTED BY PN ARAYANAN AND PRESENTED BY INIKA PRODUCTIONS, HAD ITS TEASER LAUNCH EVENT ON DEC 26, 2025.

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025 : During the event, Meena, CEO of Inika Productions said this film is a matter of pride for us. As a single parent, I have raised my children well and have also been involved in many initiatives related to children's education. Director Narayanan had written 20 different characters focusing on what should be conveyed to children. My favorite character among them is Shrinika. This is a very simple story without any complications. It talks about what children between the ages of 2 and 14 years learn when they go to school. The film is filled with fun elements. Its not just for kids, but for adults as well. We definitely need all your support.

VFX Director Gokulraj Bhaskar said for the past one year, we have been discussing the story of Kiki & Koko. I have worked on many Hollywood, Tamil and Malayalam films. For this film, the design of the character

Director P. Narayanan said a child is a blessing given to everyone. When we

shape that blessing, we should feel proud of it. In films, we often introduce kids to fantasy elements that don't happen in real life like Spiderman flying or Heman fighting. In this film, we show what actually happens in real life, no one will be hitting anyone and no one will be flying. As ordinary human beings, we help others, smile, remember gratitude and show love. These practical values are what we have spoken about in this film. The greatest wealth we can give our children is their character. Be loving to everyone and love will come back to you.

Music composer C. Sathya said even the title of this film gave me the excitement of

MGM HEALTHCARE MALAR, ADYAR ACHIEVES LONG-TERM OUTCOMES WITH A NOVEL AUTOGRAFT CARTILAGE TISSUE TRANSPLANT IN THE KNEE OF A 53-YEAR-OLD GENTLEMAN

Chennai, 30 Dec 2025 : MGM Healthcare Malar, Adyar has successfully performed a fifth-generation Autograft Cartilage Tissue Transplant, an advanced daycare arthroscopic technique that enables patients to walk immediately after surgery and helps avert the need for total knee replacement. In this single-stage procedure, healthy cartilage is harvested from the patient’s own joint and transplanted to the damaged area, overcoming major limitations of earlier methods such as multiple surgeries or external cartilage culturing.

This advanced cartilage tissue transplant is particularly beneficial for patients with focal chondral defects, osteochondral lesions, early osteoarthritis, and chondromalacia patella, conditions where untreated cartilage damage can lead to severe joint degeneration and the eventual need for total knee replacement. By preserving the natural joint and restoring damaged cartilage early, this advanced technique offers a safer, joint-preserving

In his comments, Dr Nandkumar Sundaram, Senior Consultant, Department of Orthopaedics, said, “In cases where the smooth, cushion-like cartilage in a joint is damaged due to injury, wear-and-tear, or arthritis, specialised techniques are required to restore it and maintain smooth joint movement. Among the available options, autograft cartilage tissue transplant is highly effective. The procedure involves graft preparation, PRP application, using platelet-rich plasma from the patient’s own blood to promote healing, and fibrin glue fixation, a natural biological adhesive

that secures the graft. All these steps are completed within a single, minimally invasive arthroscopic procedure. Patients can walk immediately after surgery without the need for braces or assistive supports. This surgery reduces pain, improves mobility, repairs sports or traumatic injuries, and helps prevent or delay the progression of arthritis.”

One of the long-term outcome patients is a 53-year-old man from Tamil Nadu, currently working in Madhya Pradesh, who had suffered from severe knee pain and restricted mobility for over 15 years due to osteoarthritis. Progressive cartilage damage and joint deformity had placed him



Kiki was inspired from a cotton flower. Since this is a children's film, the director was very clear that it should be made without causing any kind of harm to children. We seek all your wishes and support for our effort.

Creative Producer and VFX specialist, G.M. Karthikeyan said I have been in this industry for over 20 years. This story began with Meena. To bring this story to life effectively, we brought in teams from Pune and Bengaluru to work on it. I believe you will like it.

Music composer C. Sathya said even the title of this film gave me the excitement of

stage autograft cartilage transplant in 2018, he has remained completely symptom-free for six years, demonstrating the remarkable recovery this technique can achieve.



Dr Sundaram emphasized that the success of this procedure depends on strict patient-selection criteria. “When appropriately selected, patients experience significant pain relief, improved mobility, and a prolonged joint life span, effectively delaying the need for total knee replacement,” he added.

Mr. Venugopal Bhat, Chief Operating Officer, MGM Healthcare Malar, Adyar, quoted, “This long-term success highlights our commitment to minimally invasive innovation that improves patients’ quality of life.”

at risk of requiring a total knee replacement. However, after undergoing a single-

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