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Union Minister Dr Virendra Kumar Launches 'Vayo Samman Rashtriya Abhiyan' to Strengthen Intergenerational Bonding

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar today launched the 'Vayo Samman Rashtriya Abhiyan', a National Intergenerational Bonding Campaign, under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY), in the National Capital here this evening.

The initiative marks an important step towards strengthening intergenerational solidarity and promoting a society that recognises and values the experience, wisdom and contributions of senior citizens.

The Minister also released the Handbook on Vayo Samman Rashtriya Abhiyan and launched the Vayo SAATHI volunteer initiative to mobilise citizens in support of senior citizens.

On the occasion, two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Voluntary organizations namely Ram Chandra Mission (SRCM) and Adhyatma Vigyan Satsang Kendra (AVSK), Jodhpur, were signed and formally exchanged



in the presence of the Union Minister, Secretary MoSJE and other senior officials of the Ministry.

These collaborations aim to promote the holistic well-being of senior citizens through meditation, yoga and wellness programmes, besides encouraging intergenerational engagement through pledge drives, walkathons and other community-based activities.

Supply chain diversification & greater regional cooperation are key

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 Supply chain diversification & greater regional cooperation are key to stronger maritime inter-dependence amid strained security environment: Raksha Mantri at Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2026.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has called for making inter-dependence among regional partners more secure and resilient through diversification of supply chains, reliable maritime infrastructure, enhanced maritime awareness and greater cooperation, along with the ability to anticipate, withstand and recover from disruptions, amid growing strains in the global maritime security environment. He was delivering the commemorative address at the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD), the Indian Navy's annual apex-level international strategic conference, being held in New Delhi on November 4, 2026.



Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 Captivates Visitors with Vibrant Cultural Performances and Traditional Craftsmanship

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 Captivates Visitors with Vibrant Cultural Performances and Traditional Craftsmanship at Dilli Haat.

The Shilp Samagam Mela 2026, currently underway at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi, continues to draw enthusiastic crowds with its spectacular display of India's artistic traditions, indigenous craftsmanship, and vibrant cultural diversity.

Organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the 15-day Mela has transformed into a bustling hub of inclusive celebration and will remain open to visitors until



November 15, 2026.

Centred around the theme 'प्रकाश और परंपरा – ज्योति से ज्योति जलाएँ', the Mela highlights India's rich heritage of traditional crafts and festive lighting. The fair has been curated across seven distinct thematic zones to offer visitors a multi-sensory cultural experience.

India Aiming for Global Competitiveness Through Indigenous Capabilities and International Cooperation

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 India Aiming for Global Competitiveness Through Indigenous Capabilities and International Cooperation: Dr. Jitendra Singh at IPRD 2026.

India is aiming to achieve global competitiveness in ocean research and exploration through indigenous capabilities, international cooperation and global co-creation, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, said while addressing the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2026, organised by the National Maritime Foundation under the Ministry of Defence.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that India's approach to scientific missions in recent years has increasingly been based on a mission-mode framework, bringing together multiple departments and institutions rather than confining research to individual ministries. He highlighted the growing convergence of ocean sciences, space technology, nuclear science, geology, electronics and robotics in advancing India's maritime and deep-ocean capabilities.

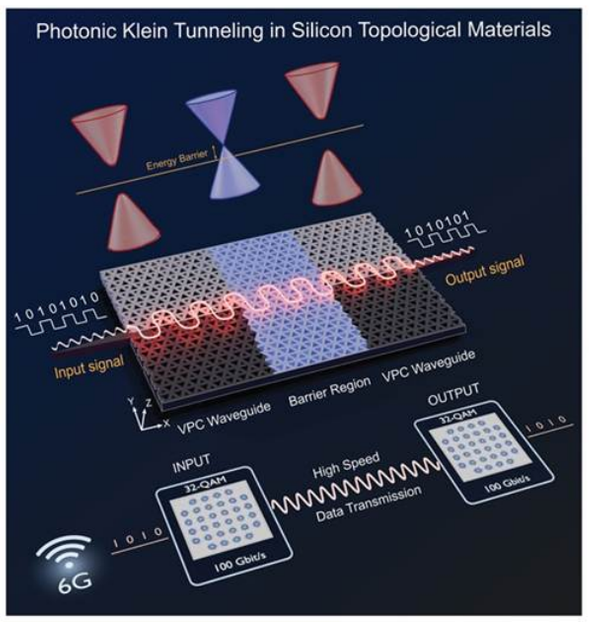


Novel silicon chip allowing terahertz waves to pass through barriers could enable future 6G networks

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 A new silicon chip that allows terahertz waves to pass through an engineered barrier with little loss, while carrying data at 100 Gbit/s, points to compact terahertz circuits for future 6G communication technologies.

Future sixth-generation (6G) wireless networks are expected to use terahertz frequencies, which lie between microwaves and infrared light and offer wide bandwidth. Guiding these waves through compact circuits is challenging, as bends, junctions and abrupt changes in a waveguide can scatter or reflect part of the signal, weakening it as it travels.

By arranging triangular holes in a carefully designed pattern in a silicon slab, researchers can create a photonic crystal that guides terahertz waves along the boundary



between two regions. Such boundary channels resist certain kinds of backscattering, but a practical circuit must also tolerate deliberately introduced obstacles and changes in geometry.

Ministry of Minority Affairs Organises 'Samavesh Se VIKAS' to Review PM VIKAS Implementation

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 Ministry of Minority Affairs Organises 'Samavesh Se VIKAS' to Review PM VIKAS Implementation and Strengthen Stakeholder Engagement.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs organised "Samavesh Se VIKAS – Implementation Review and Stakeholder Dialogue" on 4 November 2026 at Samrasta Hall, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The event brought together over 80 participants, in the presence of Shyama Prasad Roy, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, and Neha Giri, Director, Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Representatives of Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) and other stakeholders participated in discussions focused on reviewing the progress of Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS), addressing implementation-related challenges and identifying measures to strengthen training quality, placements and overall outcomes under the scheme.

Addressing the gathering, Shyama Prasad Roy, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, emphasised the importance of ensuring that skill development translates into meaningful employment opportunities and a better future for beneficiaries.



Kauvery Hospital Launches Mobile Orthopaedic and Spine Care Unit to Bring Specialised Healthcare to Doorsteps



CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 Kauvery Hospital Vadapalani, in collaboration with Hexaware Technologies, has launched a Mobile Orthopaedic and Spine Care Unit as part of a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative to extend specialised orthopaedic and spine care to rural and remote communities.

The mobile unit is equipped with a digital X-ray system with an onboard reader and Bone Mineral Density (BMD) assessment facilities, enabling people to access essential diagnostic services closer to their communities. The initiative places special emphasis on senior citizens, people with mobility limitations and those who face challenges in travelling to hospitals for medical consultations and investigations.

The unit will facilitate the early assessment of conditions such as arthritis, osteoporosis, fractures and spinal disorders. Digital X-rays will help doctors evaluate bone and joint conditions, fractures and spinal abnormalities, while BMD assessments will help identify individuals at risk of low bone density and osteoporosis.

Speaking on the initiative, Dr. Aravindan Selvaraj, Co-founder and Executive Director, Kauvery Group of Hospitals, said, "Bone, joint and spine conditions can significantly affect an individual's mobility and quality of life, particularly among senior citizens. However, access to specialised care remains a challenge for many people in rural and remote communities. Through this initiative, we aim to take essential screening and assessment facilities closer to people and help them access timely medical attention. Our collaboration with Hexaware Technologies strengthens our commitment to making quality healthcare more accessible to the communities we serve."

Dr. Ramya Kannan, Vice President – Finance, Hexaware Technologies, said, "At Hexaware, we believe meaningful community initiatives should create a tangible difference in people's lives. We are pleased to partner with Kauvery Hospitals in bringing orthopaedic and spine care closer to senior citizens and people living in rural and remote communities. We hope this initiative promotes awareness of bone health, mobility and healthy ageing while improving access to specialised healthcare."

Through this collaboration, Kauvery Hospital Vadapalani and Hexaware Technologies aim to improve access to essential diagnostic services, encourage early assessment of bone, joint and spine conditions, and help more people maintain mobility and independence.



Indus Towers Creates a Global Benchmark with 50,000 Solar-Powered Telecom Sites

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 Integrated ~300 MW of distributed solar capacity across the network

Plans to scale to 100,000 solar-powered telecom sites

Solar sites digitally connected to enable real-time monitoring of power generation and performance

Gurugram, November 4, 2026: Indus Towers Limited, one of the world's largest telecom tower infrastructure companies, has become the first passive telecom infrastructure company to successfully deploy 50,000 solar powered telecom sites across India, creating a global benchmark for sustainable infrastructure at scale. Looking ahead, Indus Towers aims to expand its solar footprint to 100,000 telecom sites, further strengthening its position as a leader in sustainable telecom infrastructure.

With a cumulative installed solar capacity of approximately 300 MW, the initiative has created one of the largest distributed renewable energy ecosystems in the telecom infrastructure sector. As per our calculation, the environmental impact is equivalent to planting nearly 2 crore trees, while contributing an estimated reduction of approximately 420,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually through reduced dependence on conventional energy sources.

Commenting on creating a global benchmark, Prachur Sah, MD & CEO, Indus Towers Limited said, "Reaching 50,000 solar-powered telecom sites with close to 300 MW Capacity is more than an operational milestone; it is a defining moment in the evolution of sustainable telecom infrastructure. As the first passive infrastructure company to achieve this scale, we have demonstrated that innovation, technology, and sustainability can come together to create meaningful impact for the industry and the environment. In a relatively short period since accelerating our solar deployment program in 2024, we have built one of the largest distributed solar ecosystems in the telecom infrastructure sector, delivering cleaner energy, reducing carbon emissions, and strengthening network resilience.

This milestone reflects our commitment to responsible growth, and we remain focused on our ambition of powering 100,000 telecom sites through solar energy, further optimising energy cost, while continuing to redefine benchmarks for sustainable digital infrastructure. Importantly, the expertise, operating model, and technology platforms we have built through this journey position us to replicate this success in Africa where reliable and sustainable energy solutions are critical to expanding digital connectivity. Having demonstrated the ability to deploy and manage renewable energy solutions at unprecedented scale, we believe we have a distinct competitive advantage in helping create similar sustainable telecom ecosystems and setting new benchmarks for the industry."

The achievement reinforces Indus Towers' leadership in building future-ready telecom infrastructure that combines sustainability with operational resilience. By integrating advanced renewable energy solutions, digital monitoring systems and data-driven maintenance capabilities across its network, the Company is reducing diesel dependence, enhancing energy security and accelerating the transition towards greener connectivity.

THE FACE REMAINS A MYSTERY, THE MUSIC MAKES THE NOISE!

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 THE FACE REMAINS A MYSTERY, THE MUSIC MAKES THE NOISE! MASKED ARTIST THE ARTIST 404 UNVEILS 'NAAN PODHUMA' FROM 'JOHN DOE'

Featuring lead rap vocals by Arjun Das, the first single introduces the intriguing musical identity of The Artist 404, as Madhumita's upcoming thriller gears up for its theatrical release. In the world of global music, an artist's identity can sometimes be as fascinating as the music itself. From Marshmello and Daft Punk to MF DOOM, several internationally acclaimed artistes have turned concealed identities and masks into distinctive artistic signatures, building a connection with audiences without making their faces the focus. Bringing that intriguing element to Tamil cinema is The Artist 404, the masked musical personality who steps into the spotlight with 'Naan Podhuma', the first single from the upcoming film John Doe. Adding to the song's appeal is its exciting vocal combination. Actor Arjun Das takes the lead on rap vocals, while Malavika lends her voice to the track. The rap lyrics are penned by Arcus Aryian and The Artist 404, who has also composed and arranged the song. With its distinctive creative identity and an unusual musical collaboration, 'Naan Podhuma' offers the first glimpse into the soundscape of John Doe. Over the years, Arjun Das has steadily expanded his place in Tamil cinema, taking on diverse scripts and establishing himself as a bankable performer with a distinct screen presence. With each project adding to audience expectations, John Doe has emerged as one of his intriguing upcoming ventures, further raising curiosity around his choice of role and the film's narrative. The mystery surrounding The Artist 404 has also become an interesting talking point in the film's promotional journey. The masked artist made an appearance at the film's pre-release event without revealing their face, drawing attention to an identity that remains deliberately concealed. Now, with the release of 'Naan Podhuma', the music takes centre stage, while the person behind the mask continues to remain a mystery. Written and directed by Madhumita, John Doe features an ensemble cast comprising Arjun Das, Sanchana Natarajan, Srishti, Anupama Kumar, Archana Chandhoke, Badava Gopi, Zaara Vineet Chandhoke and Niirav S. The film is produced by Prasad Devineni and Shobu Yarlagadda, with Kishore Kedari and Madhumita serving as co-producers. The story and screenplay are by Madhumita and Nicholas Chevaillier, while Sowmya Sharma is the creative producer. Preetha Jayaraman handles cinematography, Ashwini Kale is the production designer, and Vijay Venkataramanan is the editor. With 'Naan Podhuma' now out, John Doe has begun unveiling its musical world with an artist who has chosen to let the music speak before the face is ever seen. The song is out now, and the mystery of The Artist 404 is only getting more intriguing. John Doe is scheduled to hit theatres on November 13, 2026.



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15-Month-Old Russian Baby Avoids Lung Transplant Following Treatment at MGM Healthcare

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 Through timely surgical interventions and multidisciplinary care, MGM Healthcare successfully averted the need for lung transplantation in a 15-month-old boy from Russia who developed progressive respiratory failure due to multisystem Langerhans cell histiocytosis (LCH), a rare disorder characterised by the abnormal multiplication and accumulation of Langerhans cells in the body.

The child, airlifted from Russia, was admitted at MGM Healthcare, originally for bilateral lung transplantation due to severe lung involvement, characterised by extensive cystic lung disease, recurrent bilateral pneumothorax (collapse of the lungs caused by air leaking into the space around them), and progressive breathing difficulties.

However, the hospital's multidisciplinary team decided to explore all viable surgical options before proceeding with lung transplantation, an irreversible and complex procedure. The team performed bullectomy, a procedure for the removal of large air-filled space from the lung and repeated chest drain procedures to remove trapped air from around the lungs and allow the lungs to re-expand. It also carried out thoracoscopic atypical lung resection, a minimally-invasive surgery to remove a diseased portion of the lung, rather than removing an entire lung lobe, for diagnosis and treatment. Following these interventions and close monitoring, the child's respiratory condition improved significantly, and he is now doing well. The baby no longer requires a lung transplant.

The multidisciplinary team comprised specialists in cardiac critical care, haematology and haemato-oncology, paediatric pulmonology and surgery, infectious diseases, neurology, urology, dermatology, ENT, thoracic surgery and lung transplantation, along with physician assistants and the ICU staff. There was a prolonged hospital stay, from May through September 2026, as the baby required mechanical ventilation, multiple intercostal drains, advanced imaging, invasive monitoring, multidisciplinary critical care and repeated surgical interventions.

The team was led by Dr. K. R. Balakrishnan, Director, Institute of Heart and Lung Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support, and Dr. Suresh Rao K. G., Co-Director of the Institute of Heart and Lung Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support and Cardiac Critical Care.

In his comments, Dr. Balakrishnan said, "Multisystem LCH is a rare disorder in which abnormal cells can accumulate in different organs. When LCH affects the lungs, it can



cause cystic changes and serious respiratory complications, sometimes necessitating consideration of lung transplantation. However, the course of pulmonary LCH can be unpredictable, and some children with severe lung involvement may recover with appropriate medical and supportive care. This case underscores the importance of continuous clinical reassessment and multidisciplinary decision-making before proceeding with an irreversible intervention such as lung transplantation."

Dr. Suresh Rao commented, "Given the severity of the child's lung condition, transplantation was a serious consideration. However, the child's remarkable response to medical management and the recovery of the native lungs allowed us to avoid transplantation. For a child who had travelled all the way from Russia with the possibility of a lung transplant, this was an exceptionally gratifying outcome. It reinforces the principle that knowing when to proceed with transplantation is as important as having the expertise to perform it."

YES BANK launches a special offering for the new age generation

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 'YES vibez'

Mumbai – October 28, 2026: Some start their first venture as hobbies. Some ideas make sense only at 2 a.m. Some pivot halfway through their professional journey. Some want to try out five different things and then quit two. This is how India's nearly 407 million people of today's generation a.k.a Gen Z are living. They are creators, travellers, builders, side-questers and are balancing day jobs and passion projects. This new age generation continue to try, learn, switch lanes as they go and write their own playbook.

Built around this generation's way of life, YES BANK has launched an exclusive Savings Bank Account – YES vibez, where the Gen Z belong. This differentiated banking proposition is designed to meet the evolving financial behaviours, lifestyle preferences, and digital-first expectations of the on-the-go generation. The account offers zero service charges, onboarding benefits up to INR 22,000, free demat and trading account with YES Securities at zero brokerage for 1 year, and various other benefits. From cashback of up to INR 12,000 on debit card spends to



rewards on UPI merchant transactions of up to INR 3,000, entertainment perks on movies and dining out, YES vibez makes everyday banking smart and rewarding for the customers.

The account comes with enhanced benefits and power packed Debit Cards that scales as per the program tier from mass to affluent segment. The YES BANK Reflection Debit Card lets customers pick their own display picture (DP). The YES BANK HealthFit Debit Card focuses on wellness with gym access, health assessments, and pharmacy benefits. YES vibez customers can also access a first-year free FD-backed credit card to build their credit scores confidently and responsibly.

Dheeraj Sanghi, Country Head - Retail Liabilities, Fee and Business Banking, YES BANK said, "Customer centricity, powered by digital and technology led innovation has always been at the core of YES BANK's strategy. We are pleased to announce a dedicated proposition – YES vibez for today's generation. They are the fast-evolving digital-first segment that values lived experiences, and instant recognition. This product has been exclusively designed to make their lives easier, smoother, and richer while supporting them in building responsible financial habits early in their careers. We are committed to building long-term relationships with generation new, that will define India's economic future for decades to come."

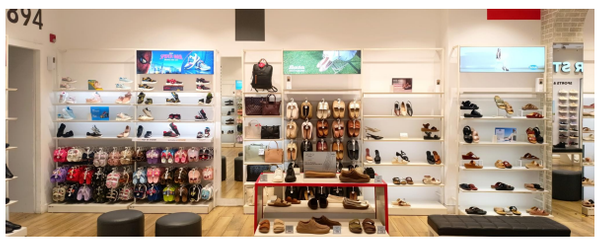
The launch of YES vibez underscores the Bank's commitment to deepen engagement in the Generation New by offering propositions that are meant for their unique needs. YES vibez is banking for the generation of today who don't fit templates. From first pay-check to first startup. From side project to full-time dream. If it matters to them, it matters to YES BANK.

Bata India Reports 7.5% Revenue Growth and 31% Rise in Profit in Q2 FY27

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 Bata India has announced its financial results for the second quarter ended September 30, 2026, reporting revenue of ₹861.8 crore, registering a growth of over 7.5% compared to ₹801.3 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Profit after tax increased by over 31% to ₹18 crore, compared to ₹13.8 crore in Q2 FY26, supported by higher average selling prices (ASP). This marks the fourth consecutive quarter of accelerating growth for the company.

The company recorded strong growth driven by premiumisation and same-store sales growth (SSSG), along with double-digit growth in its Franchise and Industrial & Institutional (I&D) channels. Bata India now operates over 2,000 stores, including franchise outlets, and has more than 3,800 Key Retail Outlets (KROs). Inventory freshness improved to 92%, while net stock was 7% lower compared to September 30, 2025.

Sanjay S. Rao, Managing Director and CEO, Bata India, said, "We



have sustained our growth momentum for the fourth consecutive quarter, supported by strong retail performance, premiumisation and double-digit growth across franchise and I&D channels. We remain focused on profitable growth through network expansion, improved product assortment, consumer engagement and operational excellence. With the festive business shifting to Q3 this year, we expect the growth momentum to continue."

Oasis Grace
Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd
Build Your Future With Us
RTN.DR.R.SATHYANARAYANAN,
Director - Business Development
+91 9360136897 / +91 8148231942
No.15, North Mada Street, Srinagar Colony, Saidapet, Chennai-600015
www.oasisgrace.in | business@jmrgroup.org

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Paisabazaar Launches Paisa Vouchers, Offering Deals Across 300+ Brands This Diwali



CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 Paisabazaar, India's leading financial products marketplace and free credit score platform, has launched Paisa Vouchers on the occasion of Diwali, bringing attractive deals and savings across 300+ brands. The new offering expands the platform beyond financial products, covering categories such as shopping, food, travel, fashion, entertainment, fitness and luxury.

Through Paisa Vouchers, consumers can purchase digital gift cards and vouchers from popular brands, including Amazon, Flipkart, Swiggy, Tanishq, MakeMyTrip, Starbucks, Domino's and Pepperfry. The platform offers attractive discounts, instant digital delivery, UPI and debit card payment options, with no additional platform or convenience fees.

Santosh Agarwal, CEO of Paisabazaar, said, "We are constantly evolving to make our platform more valuable for consumers. With Paisa Vouchers, we aim to bring attractive savings across 300+ brands that are part of consumers' everyday lives. Our goal is to help people get more value from their everyday spending and make Paisabazaar a more rewarding destination beyond their credit and investment needs."

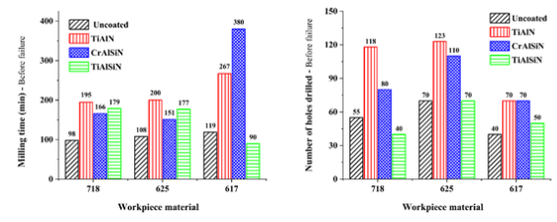
Advanced protective coatings to improve machining of critical superalloys can help aerospace

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 Advanced protective coatings to improve machining of critical superalloys can help aerospace, energy & petrochemical sectors.

An advanced surface-engineering approach developed by scientists can help improve the durability of cutting tools used for machining super alloys.

This could help aerospace, energy and petrochemical sectors, where nickel-based superalloys are indispensable for components operating under extreme conditions.

Machining of super alloys for use in aircraft engines, power plants and petrochemical systems is a major manufacturing challenge. Nickel-based superalloys such as Inconel 718 (IN718), IN625 and IN617 possess exceptional strength and hardness which make them difficult to cut or shape. Rapid work hardening, poor thermal conductivity and strong chemical interaction with cutting tools accelerate tool wear, reduce productivity and increase manufacturing costs.



Scientists from the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), Hyderabad, an autonomous R&D Centre of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) have developed and evaluated two nanocomposite protective coatings —Titanium Aluminium Silicon Nitride (TiAlSiN) and Chromium Aluminium Silicon Nitride (CrAlSiN)— on widely used tungsten carbide cutting tools.

10th Uniform Manufacturers' Fair 2026 to Showcase 150+ Brands and 25,000+ Designs



CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 The Solapur Garment Manufacturers Association (SGMA) will organise the 10th Uniform Manufacturers' Fair 2026 from December 9–11 at Chennai Trade Centre, Hall No. 4, Nandambakkam, Chennai. In a first for India, the exhibition will bring uniform and towel manufacturers together on a common platform, featuring 150+ leading national brands, over 25,000 uniform, fabric and accessory designs, and 3,000+ towel, chaddar and napkin designs.

The three-day B2B exhibition will showcase school, college, sports, industrial, corporate and hospital uniforms, fabrics, footwear, bags, socks, belts, ties and printing solutions. The towel segment will feature bath towels, gift sets, pool towels, kitchen towels, beach towels, bathrobes, Solapur chaddars and hotel towels. The Vibrant Towel initiative will be a key highlight, offering retailers, distributors and bulk buyers direct access to manufacturers and diverse product categories.

Speaking about the fair, Ashok Chavan, Fair Chairman, SGMA, highlighted the association's efforts to strengthen and modernise India's uniform manufacturing ecosystem, while Aniket Mahindrakar, Fair Secretary, SGMA, emphasised the exhibition's role in showcasing emerging industry trends, innovation and business opportunities. Launched in Solapur in 2017, the fair has expanded to Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Varanasi, supporting over 300 entrepreneurs and industrialists while promoting the 'Make in India' vision.

MM கிளினிக்
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Ministry of Coal Achieves 130% Target in Site Cleaning and 162%

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 Ministry of Coal Achieves 130% Target in Site Cleaning and 162% in Scrap Disposal Under Special Campaign 6.

The Ministry of Coal and its CPSEs demonstrated extraordinary over-achievement across all key parameters during Special Campaign 6, establishing exemplary benchmarks in institutional clean-up and administrative reform.

The Ministry cleaned 2,035 sites against a target of 1,565 (130% achievement) and cleared over 14.84 million sq. ft. of area against the planned 10.18 million sq. ft. (146% achievement). Alongside these physical accomplishments, the Ministry recorded perfect 100% disposal rates in successfully resolving 253 out of 253 Public Grievances and clearing 52 out of 52 PMO references.

Overall scrap disposal reached 17,686 metric tons against a target of 10,909 metric tons (162% achievement), yielding a total revenue of ₹61.41 crore. Furthermore, the Ministry made monumental strides in streamlining file operations by reviewing 1,79,793 physical and E-files against a target of 59,593 and total files weeding out and closed are 1,70,336. These operational successes were amplified by social media outreach that featured 16,424 tweets and 38 PIB releases issued.



Prominent best practices executed during the campaign include:

A Rulebook Alone Cannot Guarantee Dignity; Every Hand in Aviation Must Ensure It

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 A Rulebook Alone Cannot Guarantee Dignity; Every Hand in Aviation Must Ensure It: Manmeet Kaur Nanda.

"Merely framing rules, enforcing them or having a handbook will make no difference unless the last person dealing with a passenger with a disability understands and implements what is written in it." Emphasizing the need to translate accessibility commitments into ground-level action, Manmeet Kaur Nanda, Additional Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), called for making continuous sensitization and training an integral part of India's aviation ecosystem to ensure safe, dignified and independent air travel for persons with disabilities.

Highlighting the human cost of inaccessible air travel, Nanda recounted the experience of a para-athlete who had to travel to Egypt and compete in an international sporting event using a broken wheelchair after her original wheelchair was damaged by an airline. Despite this ordeal, the athlete went on to win a medal. Describing such experiences as barriers that the entire aviation ecosystem must collectively eliminate, she stressed that airlines, airport operators, ground-handling personnel, security agencies, customs and immigration officials must undergo regular induction and refresher training. She underlined that the Handbook's coverage of all 21 specified disabilities, including invisible disabilities, would help build greater sensitivity and preparedness among frontline personnel. Calling for measurable accountability, she advocated accessibility performance indicators, time-bound grievance redressal mechanisms and dedicated dashboards to monitor the performance of airlines and airports.



Reiterating the principle of "Nothing About Us Without Us", she emphasized the active involvement of persons with disabilities as trainers and partners in shaping and evaluating aviation services.

Stuti Kacker, Former Secretary, DEPwD and Advisor, Asia-Pacific Network for Accessibility (APNA), highlighted the significant contribution of civil society organizations, disability rights activists, the media and the judiciary in advancing India's accessibility movement.

Acknowledging the pioneering efforts of disability rights advocates, she observed that accessibility is a fundamental right, not an act of charity. She emphasized that Universal Design, inclusive mobility and sustained collaboration are essential to ensuring dignity, independence and equal opportunities.

Armed Forces Medical Services treats over 4,000 patients and performs 365 sight-restoring surgeries

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 Armed Forces Medical Services treats over 4,000 patients and performs 365 sight-restoring surgeries at Rairangpur Mega Multi-Speciality Medical Camp.

The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) successfully conducted the 12th edition of Operation DRISHTI, a Mega Multi-Speciality Medical Camp at Rairangpur, Mayurbhanj, Odisha, treating over 4,000 patients and performing 365 sight-restoring eye surgeries between November 02-04, 2026. The camp provided comprehensive specialist medical care free of cost, bringing advanced healthcare services closer to the people of the region.

On November 04, 2026, Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja, Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS), visited the camp and interacted with patients undergoing consultation and post-operative care. He also presented medicine kits to patients who had undergone eye surgeries. He appreciated the dedication and commitment of the medical teams, who continued their services despite challenging weather conditions posed by a cyclone, ensuring uninterrupted medical care to the people.

The camp brought together specialists from Ophthalmology, Cardiology, Nephrology, Dermatology, Dental and General Medicine under one roof. Every patient reporting at the camp was provided on-site medical attention. The initiative enabled patients to undergo screening, investigations and treatment, with referrals for advanced care wherever required.



The Cardiology Department attended to over 400 patients, conducted 298 ECGs and 406 echocardiograms, and identified 29 patients requiring advanced interventions, including angiography, CT angiography, valve surgery, device implantation and balloon pulmonary valvotomy.

Nephrology treated over 400 patients and conducted 341 ultrasound examinations, while Dermatology attended to over 500 patients. The Dental team treated 221 patients and performed 198 procedures, and General Medicine attended to 339 patients.

The beneficiaries include 75-year-old Biswanath, who had been living with a complicated cataract following an old eye injury. The surgical team successfully performed manual small-incision cataract surgery with a scleral-fixated intraocular lens, restoring the possibility of improved vision. Another beneficiary was 60-year-old Sombari Gope, who had a dense cataract in a structurally small eye. The surgeons successfully performed manual small-incision cataract surgery with a posterior chamber lens, ensuring protection of the cornea.

High-Level Meeting at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi reviews preparations for Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0



CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 A high-level meeting to review the preparatory arrangements and inter-agency coordination for Kashi Tamil Sangamam 5.0 (KTS 5.0) was held at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, on Nov 3, 2026. Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Deepti Gaur Mukerjee chaired the Meeting.

Vice-Chancellor, BHU, Prof. Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi; Additional Chief Secretary (Higher Education), Uttar Pradesh Government, Amit Kumar Ghosh; senior officials from the Union Ministry of Education, the State Government, the district administration, BHU and the Indian Railways, attended the Meeting, along with other key stakeholders.

During the Meeting, discussions were held on inter-departmental and district-level administrative coordination; dedicated rail transport arrangements by IRCTC and other logistics; infrastructural facilities; exhibitions; excursions; cultural programmes to be organised as part of KTS 5.0, etc. Senior officials of the Ministry also visited onsite and offsite venues including Namo Ghat to assess operational readiness.

The fifth edition of KTS is scheduled to be held from November 28 to December 12, 2026 on the theme 'Thirukkural Payilvom-Thirukkural Abhyas Karen'. KTS 5.0 seeks to bring the timeless ethical and moral wisdom of the classical Tamil text Thirukkural closer to the youth and learners across the country.

As part of the Programme, around 1,400 participants from Tamil Nadu, organized into seven groups of around 200 persons each, will undertake an eight-day journey comprising four days of travel and four days of visits and structured programmes. The itinerary will include visits to Varanasi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya, featuring cultural, academic, domain-specific and spiritual engagements. 50 teachers from Tamil Nadu will also visit Uttar Pradesh and teach Thirukkural in schools and colleges during KTS 5.0.

The web portal and the delegate registration process for KTS 5.0 were inaugurated by Union Minister for Education Pralhad Joshi on 22 October 2026.

A nationwide Students' Engagement Programme will also be undertaken through 1,000 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country to promote wider understanding of the Thirukkural among students from diverse academic disciplines and linguistic backgrounds. The Initiative will include structured study, research and campus-based activities for wider dissemination of the teachings and values of the Thirukkural. The details are available at www.kts.cict.in.

Shram Samvad: Indore & Dhar Region Level Capacity-Building and Awareness Programme on Labour Codes

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 A District Level Capacity-Building and Awareness Programme, "Shram Samvad", on Labour Codes, Labour Welfare and Social Protection, was jointly organized by Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE), Government of India (GoI) and Labour Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with Association of Industries Madhya Pradesh and Pithampur Audhyogik Sangathan at Indore, Madhya Pradesh on 3rd November, 2026.

The programme aimed at enhancing awareness among employers, HR, Legal and Finance professionals regarding the Labour Codes and rules made thereunder. It also focused on strengthening awareness and institutional capacity on labour reforms, welfare and social protection, promoting Centre-State coordination and stakeholder engagement. Sushri Sheetala Patle Labour Commissioner, Madhya Pradesh presided over the programme and participants included senior officials from MoLE, Labour Department, GoMP, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) [CLC(C)], Directorate General Labour Welfare (DGLW) along with more than 150 participants from employers, industry representatives, legal, HR and finance professionals

The programme featured a series of technical sessions designed to provide participants with practical insights into the Labour Codes, employer obligations, and key social security initiatives of the GoI.



S.R. Datta, Director, MoLE presented the keynote address highlighting the key features of the Labour Codes. Various sessions were conducted by officials from MoLE, focusing on the key compliance requirements for employers under each of the four Labour Codes and Central Rules notified under the Labour Codes. The sessions provided practical guidance on statutory obligations and compliance responsibilities, enabling participants to better understand the operational aspects of the new labour codes.

Representatives from EPFO and DGLW also led sessions on Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY) and Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Scheme, respectively.

To facilitate the employers and compliance professionals in effective implementation of the Labour Codes and Rules, 'Handbook of Compliance for Employers' and 'Compilation of Frequently Asked Questions' developed by MoLE were also shared with the participants.





From Substance Dependence to a Healthier and More Stable Life

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 For 30 year Suresh Kumar (name changed), the support provided under the NAPDDR Scheme has marked an important step towards recovery, economic stability and a renewed sense of purpose.

His journey highlights the importance of timely intervention, sustained counselling, family participation and structured rehabilitation in helping individuals overcome substance dependence and rebuild their lives with dignity and confidence.

Suresh Kumar, a resident of Karimnagar district in Telangana, faced significant personal, social and financial challenges due to prolonged alcohol and tobacco consumption. His journey towards substance dependence began during his late teenage years, largely influenced by peer pressure and emotional stress. Over time, his dependence intensified, adversely affecting his physical and mental health, family relationships and professional life.

The decline in his confidence, reduced motivation, irregular work attendance and financial instability further complicated his situation. His relationships with family members became strained, and he gradually withdrew from social interactions. Despite these difficulties, his family continued to support him and remained committed to helping him overcome his dependence.

A significant turning point came on 12 November 2025, when he received support at the Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA), operated by Prakriti Environment Society in Karimnagar, Telangana, under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.



Through the intervention, he received comprehensive assistance, including individual counselling, group therapy, family counselling, motivational interviewing and relapse prevention therapy. Medical supervision and emotional support helped him address the challenges associated with substance dependence. Vocational guidance and rehabilitation services further supported his efforts to rebuild his confidence and reintegrate into family and social life.

With continued counselling, family involvement and structured rehabilitation, Kumar gradually regained control over his life. The intervention helped him develop healthier coping mechanisms, strengthen family relationships and work towards sustained recovery. The combined support of professional counselling and family participation played an important role in his progress towards a healthier lifestyle.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurates Vanijya Bhawan and Udyog Bhawan in Jaipur

JAIPUR – 5 Nov, 2026 Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal today virtually inaugurated Vanijya Bhawan and Udyog Bhawan in Jaipur, marking the beginning of the co-location of offices of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and its associated and affiliated organisations at a single location. Jaipur has become the first city and the first State capital to bring all these offices together under one roof.

Congratulating the Departments of Commerce and Departments for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on the initiative, Goyal said that the project should mark the beginning of rapid action towards implementing the concept across the country, particularly in every State capital. He said that these centres would serve as hubs to support industry and international trade and function as one-stop locations for activities relating to the promotion of exports, investments and internal trade. They would also support businesses and industry in their journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

Emphasising that the initiative must become a collective commitment of the entire ecosystem, Goyal called for the active participation of government offices, stakeholders, State Government representatives, exporters, importers, investors and businesses. He stressed that the objective should go beyond administrative consolidation and extend to transforming service delivery, simplifying processes and making it easier to do business and comply with the laws of the land.

The Minister directed that all processes, including applications for licences and permits, SCOMET approvals and other services, should move entirely online. He set 31st March 2027 as the deadline for completing the necessary digitisation, including the digitisation of past data and records at the Regional Authorities (RAs) of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) across the country. From 1st April 2027, no person should be required or expected to visit any of the offices physically for these services.

He said that, wherever physical verification of original documents is necessary, a small counter could be provided to facilitate verification and uploading of documents. Computers could also be installed at office entrances to enable simultaneous verification and uploading of documents, wherever required. The Minister encouraged self-certification and greater trust in stakeholders, stressing that the Government should demonstrate its confidence in citizens and businesses.

Conclusion of Special Campaign 6 of Department of Food and Public Distribution

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), along with its PSUs and subordinate/attached offices, undertook initiatives to implement Special Campaign 6 from 2nd October to 31st October, 2026. The campaign aimed at clearing pendency and promoting Swachhata (cleanliness) in its office premises.

The campaign was conducted in two phases i.e. the Preparatory Phase (15th September to 30th September, 2026) and the Implementation Phase (2nd October to 31st October, 2026). During the Preparatory Phase, various pending matters such as references from Members of Parliament, references from State Governments, public grievances, physical files identified for weeding, scrap disposal/e-waste, and sites requiring cleaning and beautification were identified.

During the period, Minister (Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution), Pralhad Joshi, convened a review meeting with senior officers and provided necessary directions for the effective implementation of Special Campaign 6.

During the campaign period, the achievements under various parameters were regularly updated on the Special Campaign 6 portal. Further, Department of Food and Public Distribution in response to directive issued by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), also undertook a deep cleaning drive as a part of one day cleanliness activity on 29.10.2026 at Krishi Bhawan under Special Campaign 6, promoting workplace hygiene, cleanliness



and better upkeep of office premises.

Further, one day activity was also undertaken on 29.10.2026 by all offices under DFPD i.e. Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA), National Sugar Institute (NSI, Kanpur), Indian Grain Management and Research Institutes (IGMRIs), Quality Control Cells (QCCs), Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL) and Directorate of Sugar and Vegetable Oil (DSVO).

During the Implementation Phase, concerted efforts were made by DFPD to clear all identified pendencies. The Department successfully resolved all pending matters within the stipulated timeframe, including State Government References – 03, MP References – 54, Public Grievances – 937, and Public Grievance Appeals – 1479 along with 36824 physical files weeded, 8026 e-files closed,. Additionally, 2977 cleanliness campaigns were conducted, 60788 sq. ft. of office space freed and revenue of ₹4168772/- generated from the disposal of e-waste/obsolete materials.

Tweets, PIB releases etc. were also regularly issued/uploaded to highlight progress and achievements.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Launches Network Anubhav Platform

CHENNAI – 5 Nov, 2026 The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today launched the Network Anubhav Platform – A geospatial and analytical dashboard for user test data and TRAI independent drive test data and to provide DND web interface. User test data comprises of the test results from MySpeed and MyCall apps of TRAI. The platform delivers insights on various network parameters to consumers, service providers and TRAI.

Key Features of the Geo-Spatial Maps

Geo-Spatial maps allow consumers to:-

View test results categorised as Cellular or Fixed broadband, further segregated service provider-wise and technology-wise, based on parameters, including download and upload speeds.

Navigate and zoom the map to examine the location and distribution of consumer-generated test observations.

Use filters, legends, supporting tables and downloadable reports to interpret the displayed results.

The platform reports percentile values calculated from tests conducted by users in a given area:

P50 (median speed): Half of the tests recorded a speed at or above this value.

P80 (for Mobile Broadband): 80% of the tests recorded a speed at or above this value.

P90 (for Fixed Broadband): 90% of the tests recorded a speed at or above this value.

Though these values based on user tests do not represent comprehensive assessment of network quality based on standard methodology, they provide valuable information to users regarding experience of other users at various locations. The maps also facilitate a geospatial appreciation of independent drive tests for various locations. Together, these data sets and their geospatial visualization provide valuable information to users about experience of other users and results of Independent Drive Tests.

Empowerment of Consumers

Consumers can report spam and test internet speeds. Aggregated results from TRAI Apps, web interface, and Independent Drive Tests are available on the Network Anubhav dashboard. Consumers can view location-specific results of tests conducted by other users.

Insights for TSPs and TRAI

Through a secure interface, Telecom service providers can view data of call quality, coverage and internet tests conducted by consumers. Along with location, date, time, and values of technical parameters, TSPs can identify geographic locations for further analysis and can use it for network improvement.

TRAI can use the aggregated insights for evidence-based monitoring of consumer experience and use this data for improvement in network performance.

MySpeed SDK