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Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah presents

DEHRADUN – 7 Nov, 2026 Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah presents the President's Colour to Uttarakhand Police in Dehradun.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah today presented the President's Colour to the Uttarakhand Police in Dehradun. On this occasion, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, along other dignitaries, was present.



Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser and DPIIT Launches API Integration between Startup



CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser and DPIIT Launches API Integration between Startup India and I-STEM Portals to Strengthen Access to National Research Infrastructure.

The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, in collaboration with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, launched the API integration of DPIIT's Startup India Portal with the Indian Science, Technology and Engineering Facilities Map (I-STEM) Portal on 6 November 2026, under the chairmanship of Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA). The initiative seeks to strengthen linkages between the startup ecosystem and the country's research infrastructure by enabling DPIIT-recognised startups to discover and access existing scientific and testing facilities.

The launch was attended by Dr. () Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary, Office of the PSA; and Ateesh Kumar Singh, Additional Secretary, DPIIT. Dr. Vishal Choudhary, Scientist-F; Dr. Santhosh Nair, Scientist-D; Dr. Shefali Uttam, Technical Staff, Office of the PSA; and members of the DPIIT and I-STEM teams were also present. Dr. Vishal Choudhary gave a brief presentation about the current status and impact of I-STEM.

From Academic Aspirations to Global Research Opportunities Through the National Overseas Scholarship

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 At the age of 28, Aarav Kumar (name changed), is pursuing his Ph.D. in Electronic and Electrical Engineering. His journey highlights the role of the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme in facilitating access to international higher education, reducing financial barriers and enabling talented scholars to pursue advanced research opportunities.

With a strong interest in research and innovation, Aarav aspired to pursue doctoral studies abroad to gain exposure to advanced research facilities, international academic practices and emerging developments in his field. His family consistently encouraged his educational ambitions and supported his pursuit of academic excellence.

However, pursuing higher education abroad involved considerable financial commitments, including tuition fees, accommodation, living expenses, travel and other academic requirements. Managing these expenses while continuing doctoral research posed significant challenges. Adapting to a new country and a different academic and cultural environment also brought new learning experiences.



Department of Scientific and Industrial Research achieved 100% targets under Special Campaign 6



CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 The implementation phase of Special Campaign 6 in Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) was launched by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science &Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitender Singh, at CSIR Headquarters/DSIR, New Delhi on 2 nd October, 2026 alongwith DG, CSIR cum Secretary, DSIR and the senior officers/scientists/staff across DSIR, CSIR, CEL & NRDC.

Under the active guidance of Dr (). N. Kalaiselvi, DG, CSIR cum Secretary, DSIR and with a close monitoring of the campaign by Surinder Pal Singh, Joint Secretary and nodal officer of the Special campaign 6 in DSIR, the Department and its subordinate organisations; CSIR an autonomous body of DSIR, the two PSUs i.e Central Electronics Limited (CEL) and NRDC, actively implemented the campaign in their Headquarters and in the field offices.

During Special Campaign 6, the target of disposal of pendency of public grievances, References from MPs and record management has been achieved 100 per cent. Regarding reviewing of files for weeding out, against the targets of 9805 physical files, DSIR alongwith CSIR, CEL and NRDC have reviewed 13,956 physical files. The achievement in this parameter is recorded more than 140%. Regarding reviewing of e-files, out of the targets of 2493 e-files, 3274 e-files have been reviewed during the campaign. Impressive results are shown in disposal of scraps and clearing of office space with generation of revenue to the tune of Rs. 76,36,047 and 21,117 square feet space has also been freed. Hundred per cent targets of 150 cleanliness sites have been achieved by DSIR, CEL, NRDC, CSIR and its laboratories across the country. Further, the Department has focused on the wide publicity of the campaigns through social media and issued 42 tweets and PIBs have been issued from time to time to report progress/achievements during the campaign.

DSIR introduced a few noticeable Best Practices during Special Campaign 6 as well. The best practices of DSIR during the campaign are (a) Sanitation technologies designed to revolutionize urban hygiene, by CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur (b) Bio Bitumen from Lignocellulosic Biomass – From Farm Residue to Roads" by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum and (c) Coral-reef monitoring Robot (C-Bot) by CSIR-NIO, Goa.

Sanitation technologies designed to revolutionize urban hygiene, by CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur

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Dr Salins R — MBBS MD — 87780 87742 — General Physician
Dr Praveena E — MBBS MS (ENT) — 9944 100443 — Sr ENT Surgeon

A Journey Towards Academic Achievement Through the NFSC Fellowship

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 For 33 year Rahul Kumar (name changed), the NFSC Scheme has been an important source of support in his pursuit of academic excellence and research advancement.

His experience highlights the role of targeted fellowship assistance in reducing financial barriers, promoting inclusive access to higher education and enabling scholars to contribute to the nation through research and knowledge creation.

Rahul Kumar, a resident of Janjgir-Champa district in Chhattisgarh, is pursuing his Ph.D. with the aspiration of becoming an outstanding researcher and contributing to the holistic progress of the nation.

Coming from a Below Poverty Line (BPL) family, he faced significant financial constraints and a lack of resources that made it difficult to pursue advanced research. His academic journey was further affected by challenges arising from misleading information and institutional practices, including the imposition of regulations outside the University Grants Commission (UGC) framework.

A significant turning point came in July 2023, when he began receiving assistance under the National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC) Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The fellowship provided financial assistance, including fellowship support and House Rent Allowance (HRA), amounting to ₹45,700. This support offered much-needed financial stability and helped address the challenges that had been hindering his pursuit of research.

The assistance, which he describes as far beyond his expectations, enabled him to focus more effectively on his doctoral studies and research goals. The financial support helped ease resource-related constraints and provided him with greater scope to pursue his academic work with dedication. It addressed several of the difficulties that had previously come in the way of undertaking quality research.



The fellowship has added immense value to his research and personal life. With financial barriers eased, Kumar has been able to continue working towards his Ph.D. and strengthen his academic pursuits. His journey reflects how timely educational assistance can help scholars from economically weaker backgrounds continue higher studies and work towards their aspirations.



Southern Railway's concerted efforts to ensure comfortable travel during Diwali season- 2026

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 Southern Railway has put in place a comprehensive set of initiatives to enhance the travel experience of passengers during the Diwali season 2026 (from the last week of October 2026 through November 2026), while maintaining the highest standards of service. The key initiatives are as follows:

Diwali Special Trains 2026

Southern Railway operated 132 Diwali special trains, including 62 services from other zonal Railways, providing 207 trips to meet the surge in demand during the festival season. In addition, 22 Mail/Express trains operated during the season were augmented with additional coaches for passenger convenience, and 8 unreserved MEMU trains were operated to clear the extra rush of waitlisted passengers.

These special trains catered to high passenger demand on popular sectors such as Chennai – Madurai – Tirunelveli – Kanniyakumari, Chennai – Rameswaram, Chennai – Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai – Mumbai, Chennai – Podanur, Chennai – Ramanathapuram, Thiruvananthapuram – Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram – Delhi, Thiruvananthapuram – Bengaluru and Coimbatore – Tinsukia. They also connected important destinations across the country, such as Hyderabad in Telangana, Santragachi and Shalimar in West Bengal, and Barauni in Bihar.

Deployment of Security Personnel

In addition to the normal bundobust of 300 RPF officers, additional staff of 180 have been deployed at Dr. M.G.R. Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Perambur, Tambaram, Mambalam, Chennai Beach and St. Thomas Mount stations for crowd management. Further, 25 retired RPF personnel have also been deployed to assist the RPF. In addition, 30 National Service Scheme (NSS) personnel, 30 St. John's Ambulance personnel and 158 Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel are being utilised in coordination with the RPF. The Dog Squad is also deployed for anti-sabotage checking at important railway stations.

Security Control Rooms and Queue Bundobust

Security Control Rooms are monitoring the crowd at important stations of Southern Railway through Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) systems. Queue bundobust at originating stations is being organised in coordination with Operating, GRP and Commercial staff at the field level.

Prevention of Cross-Movement of Passengers

Vestibules are being closed at platform level in coordination with the Operating, Commercial and Mechanical departments to prevent cross-movement of passengers from general coaches to reserved coaches.

Other Arrangements

• Punctuality Monitoring: The punctuality of regular and Diwali special trains is closely monitored to ensure timely arrival at destinations. Popular trains are given priority to manage the festive rush efficiently.

• Commercial Staff for Passenger Assistance: Commercial staff are deployed at vantage points in stations to assist passengers.

• Additional Booking Windows: To enhance passenger convenience, extra booking windows have been opened at major stations such as Dr. M.G.R. Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Tambaram, Madurai, Tiruchchirappalli, Palakkad, Thiruvananthapuram Central and Salem.

• Timely Announcements: Passengers were informed of train and coach positions well in advance through timely announcements.

• Mixed Escort for Security: Long-distance trains are provided with mixed escort teams to give real-time assistance, with a focus on the safety and comfort of women passengers.

• Help Desks: Special help desks were set up at all major stations to guide passengers and facilitate easy crowd clearance.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Introduces Innova Crysta LIMO, a Dedicated Offering for Fleet Customers Coimbatore,

COIMBATORE – 7 Nov, 2026 Toyota Kirloskar Motor Introduces Innova Crysta LIMO, a Dedicated Offering for Fleet Customers Coimbatore, 05 November 2026: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has introduced the Innova Crysta LIMO Edition, a dedicated offering designed exclusively for fleet and commercial mobility customers. Available in the GX-SLF grade, the new edition brings a distinct identity to Toyota's professional mobility portfolio while retaining the Innova's established strengths of reliability, comfort, safety and performance. Powered by Toyota's proven 2.4-litre diesel engine and paired with a manual transmission, the Innova Crysta LIMO offers dependable performance, spacious interiors and comfortable captain seats, making it well-suited for long-distance travel and commercial mobility requirements. With over two decades of legacy, the Innova has earned the trust of customers across India through its consistent performance, passenger comfort and dependable ownership experience. The introduction of the LIMO Edition further strengthens Toyota's commitment to the fleet segment by offering a dedicated identity tailored to professional mobility customers. The Innova Crysta also comes equipped with key safety features, including seven airbags, ABS, Vehicle Stability Control and Hill Start Assist Control, ensuring enhanced passenger safety and confidence. Backed by Toyota's comprehensive ownership support, the



vehicle offers a standard warranty of 3 years/1,00,000 km, extendable up to 5 years/2,20,000 km, along with 24x7 roadside assistance and Express Maintenance Service, providing added peace of mind to fleet operators.

One Way Express Special Trains Chennai Egmore – Kanniyakumari and Kanniyakumari – Barauni for Diwali & Chhath Festival

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 The following One Way Express Special Train (Train on Demand) will be operated to clear the extra rush of passengers during Diwali and Chhath festival, as detailed below:

1. Train No. 06183 Chennai Egmore – Kanniyakumari One-Way Superfast Special:

Train No. 06183 Chennai Egmore – Kanniyakumari One-Way Superfast Special will leave Chennai Egmore at 12.30 hrs on 07th November, 2026 (Saturday) and reach Kanniyakumari at 00.30 hrs, the next day (1 Service)

Coach Composition: 6 – Sleeper Class Coaches, 12 – General Second Class Coaches & 2 – Luggage cum Brake Vans

The details of stoppages of Train No. 06183 Chennai Egmore – Kanniyakumari One-Way Superfast Special are as follows (Timings in hours):

2. Train No. 06187 Kanniyakumari – Barauni One-Way Express Special:

Train No. 06187 Kanniyakumari – Barauni One-Way Express Special will leave Kanniyakumari at 05.00 hrs on 08th November, 2026 (Sunday) and reach Barauni at 02.30 hrs, the fourth day (1 Service).

Coach Composition: 6 – Sleeper Class Coaches, 12 – General Second Class Coaches & 2 – Luggage cum Brake Vans

The details of stoppages of Train No. 06187 Kanniyakumari – Barauni One-Way Express Special are as follows (Timings in hours):

Advance Reservation for Train No. 06183 will open at 18.00 hrs on 06.11.2026 (Today) & For Train No. 06187 will open at 08.00 hrs on 07.11.2026 (Tomorrow)

Diwali Shopping Gets Faster with Amazon Now's Festive Deals and Cashback Offers

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 Amazon Now has expanded its festive shopping offerings, enabling customers across more than 120 Indian cities to receive Diwali essentials within minutes. The service caters to last-minute requirements ranging from Dhanteras puja preparations and home decorations to Diwali gatherings and Bhai Dooj gifting.

The product range includes traditional and LED diyas, puja oil, cotton wicks, Lakshmi-Ganesh and Kuber idols, charan paduka, rangoli materials, torans, paper lanterns, sweets, chocolates and festive hampers. Playing cards, tambola sets, poker chips, party props, e-crackers and ear muffs for pets are also available.

Under its 'Fast Festive Deals', Amazon Now is offering products starting at Rs. 9 and discounts of up to 70% on select items. Customers will not have to pay handling, convenience, surge or rain fees on orders. Assured cashback includes Rs. 50 on purchases above Rs. 499, Rs. 100 above Rs. 899 and Rs. 200 for Prime members on orders above Rs. 1,499.

Prime customers can avail free delivery on orders above Rs. 99, while non-Prime customers get the benefit on orders above Rs. 149. Instant bank discounts are also available through AXIS, HDFC, IDFC and RBL credit cards.

Meanwhile, the Amazon Great Indian Festival 2026 continues until November 10, having recorded over 393 crore customer visits and savings exceeding Rs. 2,800 crore.

Do not drink and drive - one drink can cost a lifetime.

Wear a helmet - your head has no spare.

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Editor: R.SATHYANARAYANAN

Diwali, Chhath Festival Special Trains between Podanur and Barauni

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 The following Special trains (Trains on Demand) will be operated to clear the extra rush of passengers during the Diwali/Chhath festivals, as detailed below:

Train No. 06079/06080 Podanur – Barauni – Podanur Express Specials:

Train No. 06079 Podanur – Barauni Express Special will leave Podanur at 21.55 hrs on 07th November, 2026 (Saturday) and reach Barauni at 09.00 hrs, the fourth day (1 Service)

In the return direction, Train No. 06080 Barauni – Podanur Express Special will leave Barauni at 23.30 hrs on 10th November, 2026 (Tuesday) and reach Podanur at 09.15 hrs, the fourth day (1 Service)

Coach Composition: 7- Sleeper Class Coaches, 3- Chair Car Coaches, 6- General Second Class Coaches & 2- Luggage cum Brake Vans

The details of timings and stoppages of Train Nos. 06079/06080 Podanur – Barauni – Podanur Specials are as follows (timings in hours):

Advance Bookings for the above Special Trains will open at 15.00 hrs on 06.11.2026 (Today) from Southern Railway End

Sigma Advanced Systems Delivers Rs. 417 Crore Q2 Revenue and Rs. 48.60 Crore PAT

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 Sigma Advanced Systems Limited today announced its consolidated results for the second quarter of FY 2026-27, ended September 30, 2026, reflecting continued growth across its aerospace and defence businesses, supported by strategic acquisitions, new order wins and expansion of manufacturing operations.For the first half of FY27, Sigma reported consolidated operational revenue of Rs. 791.34 Cr, consolidated operational EBITDA of Rs. 143.20 Cr, and profit after tax of Rs. 84.01 Cr.

Given the significant expansion in the Company's scale of operations and changes in its business composition throughout FY26, the financial performance for H1 FY27 is not directly comparable with the corresponding period of the previous financial year H1 FY26.

Sigma completed the acquisition of 100% of Bromford Precision Solutions Limited, announced on July 14, 2026, for an Enterprise Value of about GBP 11.89 million (approximately Rs. 153 Cr). Bromford, based in Leicester in the UK, is a specialist manufacturer of high-precision, complex aero-engine rings and other engine structures. The acquisition strengthens Sigma's position in the Rolls-Royce supply chain, and within weeks Bromford secured a further long-term agreement with Rolls-Royce valued at nearly GBP 125 million (approximately Rs. 1,600 Cr). Together with the GBP 300 million (approximately Rs. 3800 Cr) agreement signed in April 2026, Sigma's two Rolls-Royce long-term agreements now total nearly GBP 425 million (approximately Rs. 5400 Cr).

The Sri City Facility has commenced operations following the successful transfer of work from its UK operations. The facility has produced and delivered its first batch of aerospace components to Nasmyth's UK customers, marking a significant milestone in the Company's India-UK manufacturing integration strategy.

SIGMA ADVANCED SYSTEMS
(Formerly Megasoft Limited)

Face Authentication Adoption Surges to 80% as DLC Campaign 5 Generates Nearly 40

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 Face Authentication Adoption Surges to 80% as DLC Campaign 5 Generates Nearly 40 Lakh Certificates in First Five Days: Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today launched the Nationwide Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign 5, with nearly 40 lakh Digital Life Certificates generated in its first five days against approximately 25 lakh during the corresponding period last year, registering a 60 per cent increase.

Face authentication adoption has surged from 61 per cent to nearly 80 per cent during the same period, reflecting growing confidence among pensioners in technology-enabled pension services. Dr. Jitendra Singh said the overwhelming response demonstrates how digital innovation is transforming pensioners' ease of living while making governance more accessible, convenient and dignified for elderly citizens.

Addressing a press conference at the National Media Centre, New Delhi, Dr Jitendra Singh said the campaign has progressively evolved into a nationwide movement, bringing together government departments, pension disbursing banks, pensioners' associations and families to facilitate seamless pension-related services.





MARRIED AT HOME, STRANGERS AT WORK! JIOHOTSTAR'S NEW WORKPLACE COMEDY '& OFFICE' TO PREMIERE ON NOVEMBER 18

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 What happens when a happily married couple is forced to pretend they are complete strangers, five days a week? JioHotstar is bringing this hilarious dilemma to life with its upcoming Tamil original '& Office', premiering November 18, with four new episodes every Wednesday. Set against the familiar world of corporate offices, & Office follows Arivu and Aishwarya, a young married couple struggling to make ends meet. When both find themselves working at the same IT company, they face an unusual challenge — the company's strict policy forbids family members from working together. With their jobs and financial stability at stake, the couple decides to hide their marriage and behave like complete strangers at work. What follows is a comedy of errors where every office meeting, coffee break, colleague interaction and unexpected encounter threatens to expose their secret. From navigating a demanding boss to managing curious colleagues, the couple must constantly invent new lies to protect their biggest truth. Beneath the laughter, the series explores the relatable struggles of young working couples, financial pressures, relationships and the everyday realities of corporate life. The series brings together Pradeep Antony and Smeha Manimegalai as the central couple, alongside Sanam Shetty, known for her film appearances and Bigg Boss Tamil Season 4, and acclaimed filmmaker Magizh Thirumeni, known for directing films including Thadam, Kalaga Thalaivan and Vidaamuyarchi, in a prominent acting role. Speaking about the series, Pradeep Antony, who plays Arivu, said, "What I loved about & Office is how something as simple as hiding a marriage can create endless comedy. Arivu is constantly caught between being a good husband and a convincing stranger at work. The more he tries to control the situation, the worse it gets. It's a very relatable story for anyone who has experienced office life, and I think audiences will have a lot of fun watching this couple struggle to keep their secret." Smeha Manimegalai, who plays Aishwarya, shared, "Every couple behaves differently at home and outside, but imagine having to pretend you don't even know your husband at work! Aishwarya has to balance her relationship, her career and the constant fear of getting caught. The situations are hilarious, but there's also a very real story about two people trying to build a life together. I think young working couples will connect with that instantly." Sharing her excitement about the show, Sanam Shetty said, "Having worked in the IT industry before entering films, I could instantly relate to the corporate setting and the everyday dynamics of office life. The meetings, office politics, colleagues and unexpected



situations are all so familiar. What makes & Office entertaining is how it takes these everyday experiences and turns them into hilarious situations. It's a refreshing comedy that audiences can enjoy and relate to." Magizh Thirumeni, who plays Chandra Bose, said, "Comedy becomes particularly interesting when it emerges naturally from the situation rather than being forced. & Office has a very simple but effective premise — two people trying to protect their marriage by hiding it from everyone around them. The workplace setting, the conflicts between employees and management, and the constant misunderstandings create plenty of opportunities for humour. It has been an enjoyable experience being part of this ensemble." Directed by Abdul Kabeez and produced by Jegan Baskaran, & Office joins JioHotstar's growing slate of Long Running Shows. Designed as a 100-episode series, with four episodes releasing every week, the show combines workplace humour, romance and evolving character relationships to offer audiences a refreshing weekly entertainment experience. & Office premieres November 18, exclusively on JioHotstar, with four new episodes every Wednesday.

Godrej Agrovet Delivers Strong Double-Digit Revenue Growth and Earnings Resilience Amid Challenging Operating Environment

MUMBAI – 7 Nov, 2026 Godrej Agrovet Limited ("GAVL") today announced its financial results for the second quarter and first half of the financial year 2027, ended September 30, 2026.

Godrej Agrovet delivered strong revenue growth of 17% in Q2 FY27, reaching ₹2,995 crore, driven by robust performances in Animal Nutrition, Oil Palm and B2C Foods, supported by higher realisations and volumes. EBITDA remained flat at ₹222 crore compared to the corresponding period last year, with margins impacted by approximately 120 basis points due to input cost inflation and El Niño-related challenges. Strong performance in Animal Nutrition helped offset the EBITDA decline in Crop Care, Dairy and Astec. Profit before tax (PBT) increased by 5% to ₹131 crore, while profit after tax (PAT) grew by 22% to ₹103 crore. The company also demonstrated strong working capital management, improving its working capital cycle to 21 days (approximately ₹655 crore) compared to 32 days (approximately ₹894 crore) in the corresponding period last year.

For the first half of FY27, Godrej Agrovet sustained its revenue growth momentum, recording a 13% increase to ₹5,847 crore compared to the corresponding period last year. Growth was primarily led by Oil Palm and Animal Nutrition, supported by contributions from Dairy and Foods. However, EBITDA, PBT and PAT declined by 5%, 4% and 1%, respectively, compared to the corresponding period last year.

Commenting on Q2 performance, Sunil Kataria, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, GAVL, said:

"Godrej Agrovet delivered a strong Q2 FY27 despite a challenging macro-operating environment, marked by El Niño-related weather disruptions, unprecedented geopolitical volatility and inflationary pressures. Consolidated revenue grew 17% and PAT rose 22%, even as input cost inflation held EBITDA flat. Animal Nutrition and Oil Palm led the quarter, growing revenue by 14% and 28% respectively, with Animal Nutrition segment profit up 32% on better realizations, product mix and operating efficiencies. Crop Care revenue rose 42% on a low base, but El Niño weighed on profitability. Astec revenue was down about 3%, as 15% growth in CDMO was offset by weak enterprise demand. Dairy grew 6%, led by calibrated pricing and value-added products, and Foods grew 8%, led by B2C, while our ACI-GAVL joint venture in Bangladesh grew revenue 32% on 21% higher volumes."

He further added, "Our strategic transformation is progressing well. In Animal Nutrition, we are premiumizing the portfolio and have exited shrimp to focus on profitable, scalable segments. In Oil Palm, we are investing for growth through plantation expansion and the commissioning of the Khammam complex, CPKO refinery and biogas plant. In Crop Care, Ashitaka® is scaling fast, with H1 sales six times that of last year. In Foods, B2C salience rose to ~38% from ~27%, with a growth of around 50%. In Dairy, value-added products now make up ~49% of the portfolio, up from ~44%, and calibrated pricing action together with our go-to-market revamp pilot positions us to build further. At Astec, we remain focused on growing CDMO, new products and capacity utilization."

He concluded by saying that "Our strong performance in an exceptionally challenging environment demonstrates the inherent strength and resilience of our unique agri and foods platform, giving us the confidence to build on this foundation and take the business to the next phase of growth. As we enter the second half of FY27, we remain committed to advancing our strategic transformation and creating sustainable long-term value for all stakeholders."

Agreement Signed between DBN (Digital Bharat Nidhi) - Department of Telecommunications

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 Agreement Signed between DBN (Digital Bharat Nidhi) - Department of Telecommunications; Government of Telangana; TRIICL; BSNL & T-Fibre for Implementation of Amended BharatNet Program in Telangana.

In a significant step towards strengthening digital infrastructure and accelerating broadband connectivity across rural Telangana, Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) under Department of Telecommunications (DoT) signed an Agreement for implementation of the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) in the State under the State-led model today at Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi.

The Agreement was signed between Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), DoT; Government of Telangana; Telangana Rural Internet Infrastructure Corporation Limited (TRIICL); Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Telangana Fiber Grid Corporation Limited (T-Fiber) for implementation of the Amended BharatNet Program in the State of Telangana.





Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah addresses Uttarakhand State

DEHRADUN – 7 Nov, 2026 Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah addresses Uttarakhand State Foundation Day celebrations in Dehradun.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah addressed the Uttarakhand State Foundation Day celebrations in Dehradun today. On this occasion, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, along with several other distinguished dignitaries, was also present.

Addressing the gathering on this occasion, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah said that today is a day to remember and express gratitude to our revered late leader, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. For many years, the people of this region had been struggling for the creation of a separate state of Uttarakhand, but governments led by opposition parties did not allow the state to be formed. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee fulfilled this long-standing demand by establishing



Uttarakhand on 9 November 2000.

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, Visits Hungary to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation in Trade, Investment and Technology.

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, and Electronics and Information Technology, Jitin Prasada, visited Hungary from November 4–6, 2026. The visit reflected the growing momentum in bilateral engagement between India and Hungary and provided an opportunity to further strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, technology, innovation and industrial development.

During the visit, Jitin Prasada called on the Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly. The interaction focused on strengthening bilateral relations and exploring opportunities for enhanced cooperation between India and Hungary, including in the broader context of India–European Union relations.

Prasada also met the Minister of Science and Technology of Hungary. The discussions focused on expanding bilateral cooperation in emerging technologies, research



and innovation, and exploring opportunities for greater collaboration between industries and research institutions of the two countries.

INS TRISHUL CONCLUDES PORT CALL AT SOUDA BAY, GREECE

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 Indian Naval Ship Trishul concluded her port call at Souda Bay, Greece, on 03 Nov 2026, as part of her ongoing deployment in the Mediterranean Sea. The visit provided an opportunity to further strengthen maritime engagement between the Indian Navy and the Hellenic Navy through professional interactions, operational discussions and cultural engagements.

During the port call, the Commanding Officer of INS Trishul called on senior functionaries of the Hellenic Navy, as well as the heads of the NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre (NMIOTC) and US Naval Support Activity (NSA), Souda Bay. The interactions focussed on operational logistics requirements, cooperation and mutual support amongst partner navies. The discussions provided an opportunity to exchange views on areas of common interest and explore avenues for facilitating operational support and cooperation.

Professional engagements between Indian and Hellenic Naval personnel included cross-visits and interactions.



Hellenic Naval personnel also visited INS Trishul and were familiarised with the ship and its capabilities through an onboard tour. These interactions provided an opportunity for personnel of both navies to gain insights into each other's professional practices and exchange experiences.

The Ambassador of India to Greece, HE Ravi Shankar, also visited the ship. He was briefed on the combat capabilities of INS Trishul and interacted with the crew. A cultural event was hosted onboard the ship, which was attended by the Ambassador of India to Greece; Maj Gen N Dimitrakos, Commander, NATO Missile Firing Installation; senior officers of the Hellenic and US Navy; and members of the Indian diaspora. The event provided an opportunity for interaction among diplomatic representatives, naval personnel and members of the Indian community.

On departure from Souda Bay, INS Trishul undertook a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with HS Limnos (F451) of the Hellenic Navy. The exercise involved a series of coordinated evolutions at sea, including manoeuvring drills, replenishment approaches, cross-deck landing by the ship's integral helicopter and communication procedure drills. The PASSEX provided an opportunity for both navies to undertake coordinated activities at sea and exchange professional expertise and best practices, further enhancing operational cooperation and interoperability.







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Union Health Ministry Reviews Progress of AB PM-JAY and ABDM with States

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 Union Health Ministry Reviews Progress of AB PM-JAY and ABDM with States and UTs; Charts Roadmap for Strengthening Implementation.



The National Health Authority (NHA), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, convened a two-day National Review Meeting in Kolkata on 5–6 November 2026 to review the progress of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), and to deliberate on priorities and strategies for strengthening their implementation in the coming phase.

The meeting brought together senior officials from States and Union Territories to review the implementation and progress of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), and to deliberate on priorities and strategies for strengthening these flagship initiatives in the coming years.

Department of Financial Services Conferred with the 'PM Surya Ghar Excellence Award'

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 Department of Financial Services Conferred with the 'PM Surya Ghar Excellence Award' for Leading Government Building Solarisation.

Demonstrating an exceptional institutional commitment towards this national mandate, the Department of Financial Services has successfully achieved 100% solarisation across all identified feasible buildings of organisations under its administrative control. Out of 4,144 buildings, after technical and structural feasibility assessments—accounting for roof-access rights, building ownership, shadow profiles and load-bearing parameters—2,576 viable buildings were identified for solarization.

Organisations of DFS has fully commissioned rooftop solar PV plants across all 2,576 feasible buildings, delivering an aggregate installed clean capacity of 61.50 MW.

In view of the above significant achievement Department of Financial Services it was conferred with the PM Surya Ghar Excellence Award (2 nd Position) under the category " Maximum Buildings Solarized by Central Ministries/Departments " on 05.11.2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The award was presented by the Vice-President of India during the PM Surya Ghar



Excellence Awards Ceremony, during the valedictory session of Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026 (BRE Summit). The summit was organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) alongside the 9 th General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the 4th International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH).

The conferment of the PM Surya Ghar Excellence Award underscores the Department of Financial Services' steadfast contribution towards India's broader net-zero commitments and reinforces the proactive role of financial institutions in driving sustainable development through infrastructure.

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G. Kishan Reddy Calls for Expediting Mineral Exploration and Strengthening Centre–State Coordination



CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 The 4 th Conference of Mining Ministers concluded in Goa. The second day witnessed deliberations on key priorities for the growth of the mining sector, with participation from States including Telangana, West Bengal, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Representatives from these States highlighted key issues, shared their experiences and discussed challenges and opportunities in the sector.

G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Coal and Mines, emphasised the need for the Centre and States to work together to expedite mineral exploration, particularly in view of the growing demand for critical minerals. He also stressed enhancing States' revenue through mining, improving mine planning and ensuring effective mine closure practices. Satish Chandra Dubey, Minister of State for Coal and Mines, highlighted the importance of collective efforts by States to accelerate mining initiatives and contribute to the country's mineral self-reliance.

Keshav Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, stated that the Ministry had taken note of the issues and suggestions raised by the participating States and assured that efforts would be made to address challenges, particularly delays and procedural bottlenecks, through better coordination and timely resolution.

The second day and the conference concluded on a positive note, with a renewed commitment towards strengthening Centre–State cooperation, addressing key challenges and accelerating the development of India's mining sector in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047

Prajith Kumar MV

NHAI Guidelines to Standardise Design and Infrastructure for Multi-Lane Free Flow Tolling

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 NHAI Guidelines to Standardise Design and Infrastructure for Multi-Lane Free Flow Tolling on Four-Lane and Above National Highways.

Paving way for wider adoption of barrier-less Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system across the country, National Highways Authrity of India (NHAI) has issued guidelines to standardise design and infrastructure of toll plazas on four-lane and above National Highways. The guidelines will ensure that upcoming and ongoing National Highway projects are equipped to support MLFF based barrier-free toll collection without requiring vehicles to stop at toll booths. The initiative is aimed at eliminating traffic queues and waiting time, reducing fuel consumption at toll plazas, while making National Highway journeys safer and more seamless.

The guidelines prescribe uniform requirements for toll plaza layouts, lane configuration, gantries, road infrastructure, lighting, signage and supporting facilities. It also lays down an implementation framework for upcoming and ongoing National Highway projects.

Standardized design for different National Highway configurations

The policy circular lays down standardised guidelines for the layout and infrastructure of Barrier-Less Toll Plazas across different configurations of National Highways. These guidelines broadly prescribe the plaza layout, number of tolling lanes, provision and placement of gantries, and associated road safety features, signage and lighting arrangements to ensure uniformity in the design and facilitate seamless implementation of barrier-less tolling across the country.

With vehicles being tolled without the need to stop at physical barriers, the number of lanes required at a toll plaza has been rationalised in comparison to conventional toll plazas, facilitating more efficient utilisation of available space and improving traffic movement through the tolling zone.

Implementation on National Highway projects

The guidelines will apply to all future and under construction projects. Projects at the Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage will incorporate the new design in their documents, while projects already awarded or under construction will adopt the changes through applicable contractual provisions. NHAI field offices have been directed to incorporate the prescribed requirements in upcoming projects and facilitate their adoption in ongoing projects.

Emphasis on safety and user convenience

INDIA AND MYANMAR COMMENCE INAUGURAL TRI-SERVICES JOINT HADR EXERCISE 'RAHAT MITRA'



CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 India and Myanmar commenced the maiden bilateral Tri-Services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise, ' RAHAT MITRA ', at Chennai on 05 Nov 2026. The exercise is being conducted from 05 to 06 Nov 2026.

Centred on the theme ' Together for Humanity, Stronger through Partnership ', the exercise aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation, foster mutual trust and enhance coordination between the Defence Forces of both nations.

The inaugural exercise provides an important platform for the Indian and Myanmar Defence Forces to engage in professional exchanges, share experiences and enhance interoperability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations. It brings together more than 300 personnel from all three services of both countries, reflecting their shared commitment to humanitarian cooperation and regional disaster response.

Coordinated under the aegis of the Indian Navy, Exercise RAHAT MITRA marks an important step towards further strengthening defence cooperation and the longstanding bilateral relationship between India and Myanmar.

The exercise reflects India's commitment to its 'Neighbourhood First' policy and the strategic vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions). It will also reinforce the shared resolve of both nations to uphold peace and stability and provide humanitarian assistance during times of crisis.

Government doubles OMSS (D) rice sale target from 25 LMT to 50 LMT

CHENNAI – 7 Nov, 2026 Government doubles OMSS (D) rice sale target from 25 LMT to 50 LMT for 2026-27; 25 LMT already sold through e-auctions up to 31 October 2026.

The Government of India is closely monitoring food grain prices, particularly rice, and undertaking a series of policy interventions to ensure adequate domestic supplies, maintain price stability, prevent hoarding and safeguard consumer interests. In this regard, the Government has undertaken the following measures:

Mandatory Disclosure of Rice and Paddy Stocks Across the Country

The Government of India has issued an order dated 06.11.2026, directing all Traders/Wholesalers, Retailers, Big Chain Retailers and Processors/Millers across all States and Union Territories to declare their stock positions of rice and paddy under the following six categories:

(i) Basmati Rice; (ii) Non-Basmati Premium Rice; (iii) non-Basmati Rice; (iv) Parboiled Rice; (v) Broken Rice; and (vi) Paddy.

All entities stocking rice and paddy are required to disclose their stock positions every Friday on the Food Stock Portal (https://foodstock.dfpd.gov.in) and ensure that the information furnished is accurate and regularly updated. Any entity found unregistered on the portal or violating the prescribed stock limits shall be liable for appropriate punitive action under Sections 6 and 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Concurrence to Southern States for Imposition of Stock Limits

With a view to ensuring the availability of rice to consumers at reasonable prices, particularly in the Southern States, the Government of India has conveyed its concurrence, vide communication dated 06.11.2026, to the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana to impose stock limits on paddy and rice through appropriate control orders, wherever considered necessary.

These stock limits shall remain in force up to 31st January 2027. The Central and State Governments will closely monitor the implementation of these measures to ensure adequate market availability and prevent hoarding and black marketing.

Additional Allocation of Bharat Rice to Expand Market Availability

The Government of India is allocating additional quantities of 'Bharat Rice' to three agencies, NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar with the objective of substantially expanding its sale and availability across the country, particularly in the Southern States. The agencies have also been directed to explore all possible distribution channels to ensure wider reach and easy accessibility of 'Bharat Rice' to consumers. The initiative is expected to augment market supplies, improve consumer access to rice at affordable prices and contribute to moderating retail prices.

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வாகை

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