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Andhra Pradesh Eyes Global Maritime Hub Status with Major Push for Ports and Shipbuilding



CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Andhra Pradesh is poised to emerge as a globally competitive maritime and logistics hub, with a major push towards port infrastructure, shipbuilding and ship repair, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said in Visakhapatnam at the 31st CII Partnership Summit held in the city today.

Addressing at the summit, Sonowal highlighted the state's strategic advantages, including its approximately 1,053-kilometre coastline along the Bay of Bengal, access to key international shipping routes and proximity to major Asian manufacturing and trading economies. He said these strengths position Andhra Pradesh to become India's principal maritime gateway to ASEAN, East Asia and the wider Indo-Pacific.

Sonowal credited the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the able support from Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for creating the conditions to accelerate the state's maritime ambitions. He said the Centre was committed to working closely with the state government, industry and global investors to unlock its potential.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA INTERACTS WITH MERITORIOUS EMRS STUDENTS AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN



CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, interacted with meritorious students and alumni of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre (RBCC), Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on 12 November 2026. The programme was organised by the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, as part of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026, commemorating the 151st birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

The interaction provided an opportunity for students from different parts of the country to share their academic achievements, educational journeys, experiences and aspirations with the President. The programme also highlighted the role of EMRS in providing quality education and enabling tribal students to pursue higher education and professional careers.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs launches national initiative for conservation of medicinal plants



CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Ministry of Tribal Affairs launches national initiative for conservation of medicinal plants and promotion of sustainable livelihoods in 16 tribal hotspots across 13 States/UTs.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with the CSIR–National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow, formally launched the project “Integrated Conservation, Agro-Technology and Bioresource Enterprise Development for Sustainable Tribal Livelihoods in Tribal Hotspots of India” at the Central University of Odisha, Koraput, on 12 November 2026.

The inaugural programme was attended by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, senior officials of the Ministry, Dr. Ajit Kumar Kumar Shasany, Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha, Dr. Sharad Kumar Srivastava, Chief Scientist and Principal Investigator, CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, Snehaprabha Majhi, ITDA Project Administration, Koraput, scientists from ICMR-National Institute of Health Research, Bhubaneshwar, scientists, experts, industry representatives, faculty members, and tribal community representatives.

National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students Enables Research Scholar to Complete Ph.D.

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students Enables Research Scholar to Complete Ph.D. in Genetics and Plant Breeding.

The academic and professional journey of 29 year research scholar Anjali Kumari (name changed) demonstrates how access to educational support can contribute to individual achievement, family advancement and wider social progress.

Through initiatives such as the NFSC Scheme, the Government of India remains committed to expanding opportunities for students from Scheduled Caste communities and enabling them to contribute meaningfully to the nation's development.

The National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC) Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, continues to facilitate access to higher education and advanced research opportunities for students from Scheduled Caste communities.



Demonstrating the positive impact of the Scheme, Anjali Kumari successfully completed her Ph.D. in Genetics and Plant Breeding with financial assistance of approximately ₹11 lakh received under the NFSC Scheme during 2022–2025.

From Risk to Respect

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 The journey of the sanitation worker from Puducherry, Muthuvel (name changed) highlights how NAMASTE Scheme has contributed to improved workplace safety, livelihood security and social recognition.

Through initiatives such as NAMASTE, the Government of India continues to reaffirm its commitment to protecting, respecting and empowering sanitation workers who play an indispensable role in maintaining public health and cleanliness across the country.

The National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, continues to strengthen occupational safety, dignity and livelihood opportunities for sanitation workers across the country.



Demonstrating the positive impact of the Scheme, Muthuvel, a 58-year-old sanitation worker from Oulgaret Municipality, Puducherry, has experienced significant improvements in his working conditions, health and financial stability following the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and occupational safety orientation under the initiative.

Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan Reaches Over 35.88 Crore People; Over 14.35 Crore Youth

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan Reaches Over 35.88 Crore People; Over 14.35 Crore Youth, 11.33 Crore Women Reached Through Nationwide Awareness Campaign.

The Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA), launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 15 August 2020, has evolved into a nationwide people's movement against substance abuse, reaching over 35.88 crore people across the country as on 12 November 2026.

The campaign has connected with more than 14.35 crore youth and 11.33 crore women, reflecting its expanding outreach among key sections of society. More than 2 lakh citizens have also enrolled as Nasha Mukti Mitr,



strengthening community participation in the collective effort to build a drug-free India.

A Senior Official in the Ministry said the Abhiyaan was initially launched in 272 districts identified as particularly vulnerable to substance use, that was subsequently expanded to 372 districts in August 2022 and extended to all districts of the country with effect from 15 August 2023.

A Little Spice, A Little Sweetness, A Beautiful Blend of Relationships Lyca Productions, led

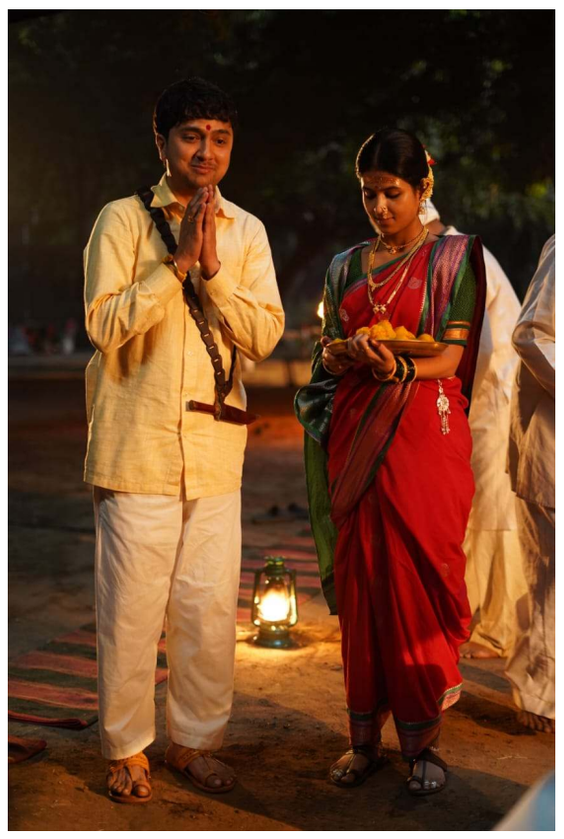


CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 A Little Spice, A Little Sweetness, A Beautiful Blend of Relationships Lyca Productions, led by Subaskaran, presents Inji Vellam, directed by Mani Ratnam. The film arrives in cinemas worldwide on January 29, 2027 One of the most anticipated cinematic collaborations is finally set to meet audiences, as the makers of Inji Vellamofficially announce its worldwide theatrical release on January 29, 2027. Presented by Lyca Productions' Subaskaran and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Mani Ratnam, the film brings together two creative powerhouses whose association has previously delivered landmark cinematic successes, including the Ponniyin Selvan franchise. This time, they reunite for a feel-good romantic drama featuring Makkal Selvan Vijay Sethupathi and Sai Pallavi in the lead roles. A filmmaker whose body of work has consistently inspired many aspiring filmmakers and cinema lovers, Mani Ratnam continues to command immense anticipation with every new project. Known for his distinctive storytelling sensibility and meticulous approach to filmmaking, he has also earned the confidence of producers through his disciplined production schedules. With filming now wrapped, Inji Vellam has entered its post-production phase, with work progressing at full pace ahead of its theatrical debut. The film also features Kannada actress Chaitra Achar, who has steadily established herself as a promising talent through her performances across multilingual cinema. Her filmography includes acclaimed projects such as Sapta Saagaradaache Ello Side B, alongside Meesaya Murukku 2, 3BHK and Room No. 418. Adding to the anticipation is the film's music, composed by Academy Award-winningA.R. Rahman. The recently unveiled bit track with glimpse, which offers a dive into the film's aesthetic portrayal of Kolkata, has already drawn attention for its evocative visuals and musical appeal. The response has further heightened expectations surrounding the complete soundtrack, with audiences eagerly looking forward to experiencing the album in its entirety. Further announcements regarding the film's first single, audio launch and trailer release are expected from the makers in the coming days.



Ahead of its worldwide release on 13th November, India's Oscar Entry film'Gondhal' unveils Global

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Ahead of its worldwide release on 13th November, India's Oscar Entry film'Gondhal' unveils Global trailer; offers a first look at the psychological thriller by Santosh Davakhar Gondhal is set for a worldwide theatrical release on November 13, 2026, across seven languages—Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, and English. This marks history and becomes the first time a Marathi film is being re-released in seven languages for a global theatrical rollout, spanning India, the USA, the UK, Europe, Australia, Dubai, and Africa. The global trailer of Santosh Davakhar's Gondhal, India's official submission for the 99th Academy Awards, is out now, offering a compelling first look at the cerebral psychological thriller. With striking visuals, an evocative cultural setting and a storyline layered with mystery, the trailer hints at the unsettling world that has put the film on the international map. Set against the cultural fabric of Maharashtra, Gondhal follows Suman and Anandrao, a newly married couple whose lives take a disturbing turn as desire, duty and devotion collide. A bride's longing, a husband's obligations and a series of mysterious events gradually draw the couple into a web of uncertainty, where appearances can deceive and the truth remains unchanged. The trailer builds intrigue through its atmospheric visuals and glimpses of a relationship caught between personal desires and deeper obligations. Drawing from Maharashtra's cultural traditions, Santosh Davakhar crafts a narrative that blends regional authenticity with psychological tension, leaving viewers with questions about what lies beneath the surface. Speaking about the film, writer-director Santosh Davakhar says, "Global perceptions of Indian cinema are often shaped by narratives of poverty and caste conflict – important realities, but not the complete expression of India. Gondhal is not a film but generations of culture, people, traditions coming together. Getting the world to know about this tradition is something that makes me immensely happy, global festivals like academy awards help filmmakers to bring forth the ethnicity of our very roots across continents and not only in India. To experience India in its truest form. I created this film to bring one such powerful tradition to the global screen through a culturally authentic and universal cinematic language." With its Oscar journey moving forward, Gondhal continues to build momentum as India's official submission for the 99th Academy Awards in the Best International Feature Film category. The film is also being considered across multiple categories, marking another milestone in its journey towards international recognition. Santosh Davakhar won the Silver Peacock for best director at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Jury members at the festival called the film "like a Shakespearean fable set in a real world." Featuring Ishita Deshmukh, Kishor



Kadam, Yogesh Sohani and Nishad Bhoir, Gondhal is produced by Santosh Davakhar produced the film with Diksha Davakhar, his co-founder at production banner Davakhar Films. The company backs regional stories and aims for top-tier craft in camera work, sound, music and acting. Amalendu Chaudhary shot the film, which opens with an unbroken take lasting 25 minutes.

Following its selection as India's official submission for the 99th Academy Awards, the film's trailer offers audiences a first glimpse into its visually striking world of psychological intrigue and cultural complexity.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh's visit to Italy begins with follow-up

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh's visit to Italy begins with follow-up on Special Strategic Partnership decided during PM Modi's visit in May 2026.

The Indian delegation led by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh, began its official visit to Italy with engagements aimed at taking forward the Special Strategic Partnership decided during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit in May 2026, with particular emphasis on strengthening bilateral cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.

The initial interaction with representatives of the scientific fraternity and officials of the Embassy of India reaffirmed the traditional relationship between the two countries and the importance of further reinforcing bilateral scientific and technological cooperation.

The Minister's visit from November 11 to



15, 2026, includes a series of high-level bilateral engagements and institutional interactions aimed at providing further momentum to India-Italy scientific collaboration.

Bhagni Nivedita Chhatri Niwash in Tripura

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Access to safe and affordable accommodation is an important enabler of higher education, particularly for young women travelling from distant and rural areas.

Bhagni Nivedita Chhatri Niwash, located at Krishnanagar, Agartala West, Tripura, is a hostel initiative to support girl students belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community as they pursue college and university education.

The initiative highlights the role of targeted hostel infrastructure in advancing inclusive educational opportunities. On completion, the proposed 54-seat facility is expected to support OBC girl students travelling from distant areas and contribute to a more enabling environment for higher education.

For students living far from educational institutions, finding suitable accommodation can present a practical challenge to continuing their studies. A dedicated hostel facility is meant to ease this difficulty and provide a more supportive environment in which students can focus on their academic goals.

Bhagni Nivedita Chhatri Niwash has a planned capacity of 54 seats. The project information reports 20 current residents or beneficiaries. The facility is meant to provide accommodation to eligible OBC students and strengthen boarding arrangements.

The project is being implemented by the Rural Development Department, Government of Tripura, on behalf of the OBC Welfare Department. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, is the funding and supporting agency. The facility reflects the importance of coordination between the Central and State Governments in supporting educational infrastructure.

The hostel has essential planned amenities including electricity, proper sanitation and hygiene, safe drinking water and



suitable security arrangements. Together, these facilities shall support a safe and conducive residential environment for students pursuing higher education.

Beyond its immediate accommodation purpose, the hostel project represents an effort to strengthen educational access for OBC girls by providing the physical infrastructure needed to support their studies. Such residential facilities can help create conditions in which students are better able to pursue their academic aspirations.

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Rela Hospital Performs Tamil Nadu's First-of-its-Kind Endoscopic Procedure to Treat Rare Swallowing Disorder in an Eight-Year-Old

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 In a first-of-its-kind procedure in Tamil Nadu, Rela Hospital successfully performed an advanced endoscopic procedure, Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM), in an eight-year-old boy diagnosed with Type II achalasia cardia, an extremely rare condition. The disorder affects the nerves controlling the muscles of the food pipe (oesophagus), making it difficult for food and liquids to pass into the stomach.

The young patient had been experiencing progressively worsening difficulty in swallowing both solid food and liquids. Following the procedure, he made a satisfactory recovery and was able to resume clear liquids, followed by a soft diet, within 24 hours.

Under normal circumstances, during swallowing, the lower oesophageal sphincter, a muscular valve at the lower end of the food pipe, relaxes to allow food and liquids to pass into the stomach. In achalasia cardia, however, this muscle fails to relax adequately and remains abnormally tight, obstructing the passage of food into the stomach. This results in progressive difficulty in swallowing, and can also affect a child's nutrition, growth and overall health. Achalasia is extremely rare in children, affecting only 0.1-0.18 per 100,000 children annually.

Traditionally, achalasia is treated through a laparoscopic procedure, in which the surgeon accesses the food pipe through small incisions in the abdomen to release the tight muscle. This surgery needs longer post-operative care (3-4 days) with external sutures with morbidities. POEM, in contrast, is an advanced endoscopic technique. It passes an endoscope through the mouth and creates a small tunnel within the wall of the food pipe to reach and carefully divide the tight muscle fibres. This relieves the obstruction and allows both solids and liquids to pass more easily into the stomach. The entire procedure is performed through the mouth, without any external cuts, stitches or visible scars.

The procedure was successfully performed by Dr. SNK Chenduran, Senior Consultant & Endoscopic Surgeon, Department of Medical Gastroenterology, with support from expert anaesthesia team, pediatric team and nursing team.

In his comments, Dr. SNK Chenduran said, "Performing POEM in an eight-year-old child requires considerable technical expertise and precision, as the oesophagus in children is much smaller and narrower than in adults, providing very limited working space to perform the procedure. Further creating a tunnel within the wall of the oesophagus requires meticulous dissection in the correct tissue plane for delicate tissues in children. Despite these challenges, we successfully completed the procedure in approximately 50 minutes. This is an important advancement in offering children with this rare condition an effective, minimally invasive treatment option."

Dr. Dinesh Jothimani, Director - Hepatology and Medical Gastroenterology, Rela Hospital, said,"imagine this child with achalasia going through a major surgery, feeding through the tubes, and long hospital stay. Evolution of such innovative endoscopic techniques and expertise, made the child go home within 24 hours and with complete restoration of swallowing. Early recognition and timely treatment particularly important in the management of Achalasia. Parents should watch out for warning signs such as difficulty swallowing food or even water, regurgitating undigested food, repeated vomiting, unexplained weight loss or coughing while eating. These symptoms should not be dismissed as ordinary eating difficulties in children. Any child experiencing persistent difficulty in swallowing should be evaluated by a doctor. Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment can prevent complications such as malnutrition, poor weight gain and food entering the lungs."



Commenting on the milestone, Prof. Mohamed Rela, Chairman & Managing Director, Rela Hospital, said, "While POEM is an established treatment for achalasia in adults, performing it in children calls for a much higher degree of technical precision and specialised expertise. Only a limited number of advanced therapeutic endoscopists and centres have the expertise to perform paediatric POEM. Successfully performing this procedure for the first time in Tamil Nadu marks a significant milestone in the state's advanced therapeutic endoscopy capabilities. It reflects our commitment to bringing highly specialised, minimally invasive treatment options to children, enabling them to benefit from incisionless procedures, potentially quicker recovery and an earlier return to normal activities."

Allu Sneha Reddy Joins Baoli Art Sangam as Chairperson – Culture & Heritage A

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Allu Sneha Reddy Joins Baoli Art Sangam as Chairperson – Culture & Heritage A new chapter in celebrating India's art, culture and heritage Allu Sneha Reddy has joined Baoli Art Sangam, India's First Stepwell Art Biennale, as Chairperson – Culture & Heritage, marking a significant new association with India's artistic and cultural landscape. Known for her distinctive sense of style and appreciation for art and culture, Sneha Reddy's association brings a fresh perspective to an initiative dedicated to celebrating India's rich heritage. Baoli Art Sangam seeks to bring renewed attention to India's historic stepwells, highlighting their architectural brilliance, cultural significance and the timeless relationship between water, art and civilisation. Through this association, Sneha Reddy will be part of an initiative that aims to celebrate India's artistic legacy while encouraging greater appreciation for its cultural roots and heritage. Baoli Art Sangam will take place from December 1, 2026, to January 10, 2027, bringing together art, culture and heritage in a unique celebration of India's legacy.



CCRAS-CARI and University of Delhi sign MoU to document medicinal plant diversity

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 CCRAS-CARI and University of Delhi sign MoU to document medicinal plant diversity of DU North Campus.

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) - Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), New Delhi and the University of Delhi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 10 November 2026 to undertake a collaborative project titled "Inventory of Phyto-diversity of Medicinal Importance Used in Ayurveda of North Campus of Delhi University."

The MoU was formally signed by Prof. (Vd.) Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General, CCRAS, and Dr. Vikas Gupta, Registrar, University of Delhi, at the VC Office, North Campus, New Delhi.

The project aims to systematically document, identify and conserve the medicinal plant diversity available across the 250-300 acres of the University of Delhi's North Campus. The initiative seeks to explore the rich botanical heritage of the campus and document plant species of medicinal importance described in Ayurveda.

The major activities under the project will include comprehensive field surveys, identification and documentation of medicinal plant species, preparation of herbarium specimens, and installation of QR-code-enabled name boards across the campus to facilitate easy identification and access to information about medicinal plants.

The project will also result in the preparation of an illustrated pictorial book documenting the medicinal flora of the North Campus, along with joint research publications to disseminate the scientific findings.

Prof. K. Ratnabali, Dean of Academic Affairs, Delhi University; Prof. (Dr.) Shobha Bagai, Director of the Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC), Delhi; Dr. Hemanta Panigrahi, Director in Charge, CARI, New Delhi; Dr. Sakshi Sharma, Research Officer and PI of the Project, CARI, New Delhi; Prof. (Dr.) Suresh Kumar, PI of the Project, Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC), University of Delhi; and Prof. (Dr.) Vandana, Department of Chemistry, Dyal Singh College, Delhi University, were also present on the occasion.

This collaborative initiative represents an important step towards strengthening institutional cooperation in the fields of Ayurveda, biodiversity conservation, medicinal plant research and scientific documentation. It is expected to contribute significantly to raising awareness about the medicinal wealth of the university campus and promoting the conservation and sustainable utilisation of medicinal plant resources.





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New Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer for Southern Railway



CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Sharad Srivastava, a Senior Officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) of 1996 batch, assumed charge as Senior Deputy General Manager (SDGM) and Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), Southern Railway, on 12.11.2026. Prior to this assignment, he served as Executive Director (MilRail), Railway Board, dealing with Defence transportation, Military Logistics, strategic movability and co-ordination between the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Defence.

With three decades of rich experience in Railway Operations, Commercial Management and Public Administration, Srivastava has held several key assignments in the Traffic and Commercial Departments of Indian Railways. He has served as Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Madurai Division, Southern Railway, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Moradabad Division, Northern Railway, and as Executive Director, Public Grievances, under the Minister of State for Railways.

Srivastava succeeds V. R. Lenin, IRTS, as Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer, Southern Railway. Lenin has been appointed as Additional Member (Marketing & Business Development), Railway Board.

DRI busts red sanders smuggling syndicate at Chennai Port

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 DRI busts red sanders smuggling syndicate at Chennai Port; seizes around 13,000 kg red sanders worth Rs. 7.72 crore; three arrested.

Acting on specific intelligence regarding an attempt by a Chennai-based syndicate to smuggle Red Sanders logs to Malaysia, officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), intercepted an export container at Chennai Port during 9–11 November 2026, before its loading onto the vessel.

The container, declared to contain "Paper Laminate Rolls", was subjected to detailed examination on 9–10 November 2026. Examination revealed 12.87 metric tonnes of high-grade Red Sanders logs, valued at approximately Rs. 7.72 crore, concealed alongside a small quantity of the declared cargo and gravel stones. The Red Sanders and cover cargo were seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the syndicate had exploited the self-sealing facility available to a manufacturer-exporter. The syndicate arranged an export consignment through the exporter, diverted the container to a private godown and replaced the declared paper laminate rolls with Red Sanders logs before dispatching it for export.

A subsequent search of the godown led to the recovery of the original declared cargo, an industrial weighing scale and traces of Red Sanders, providing further evidence of the modus operandi.



Three key members of the syndicate involved in the smuggling operation have been arrested under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962.

Red Sanders (Pterocarpus santalinus) is a protected species listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Its export from India is prohibited under the Foreign Trade Policy.

The operation highlights the misuse of legitimate export channels and trade facilitation measures for organised wildlife trafficking. DRI remains committed to dismantling such smuggling networks and protecting India's rich biodiversity through intelligence-led enforcement.

PRESS RELEASE OF CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ON BASE 2024=100 FOR OCTOBER, 2026

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026

Highlights

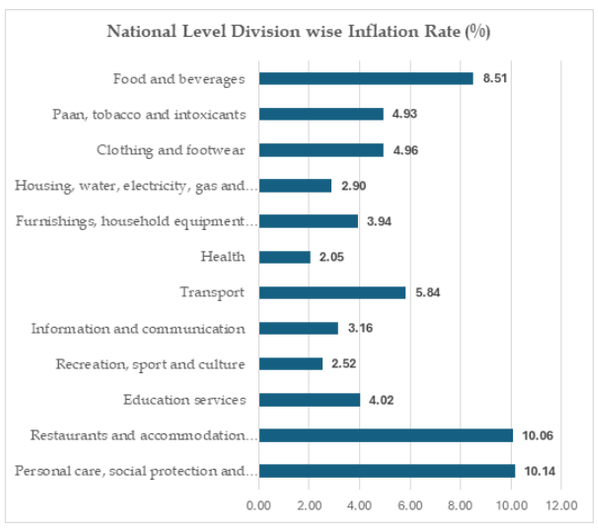
Retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index in October, 2026 is 6.09%

Year on year food inflation, based on Consumer Food Price Index, in October, 2026 is 8.94%

I. Key Statistics

National Level Indices

Year-on-year inflation rate based on All India Consumer Price Index (CPI) with base year 2024 for the month of October, 2026 over October, 2025 is 6.09%(Provisional). Corresponding inflation rates for rural and urban are 6.63% and 5.41%, respectively.



September, 2026 (Final)

October, 2026 (Provisional)

Rural

Urban

Combined

Inflation (%)

CPI (General) Index

Food Inflation: - Year-on-year inflation rate based on All India Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) for the month of October, 2026 over October, 2025 is 8.94% (Provisional). Corresponding inflation rates for rural and urban are 9.09% and 8.68%, respectively.

At National level, division wise inflation for the month of October, 2026 in the Combined sector may be seen from the graph below

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அரசு மூத்த மருத்துவ அதிகாரி

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CPWD Strengthens Cleanliness and Administrative Efficiency through Special Campaign 6.0

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Government of India announced Special Campaign 6 for which Preparatory Phase commenced from 15 th - 30 th September 2026 followed by implementation phase from 2 nd - 31 st October 2026. CPWD website and social media platforms were actively used to sensitize the Nodal Officers and CPWD Offices.

CPWD designed a banner for Special Campaign 6, highlighting its key focus areas, for display at office premises, GPRA, GPOA and project sites across the country.

CPWD offices undertook various initiatives under Special Campaign 6, reaffirming commitment to Swachhata.

This year too, CPWD formulated a comprehensive action plan and set specific targets for improving overall cleanliness in GPRA and GPOA complexes, reducing pendency in references, ensuring effective space management and systematic review of records, with special emphasis on the proper disposal of e-waste.

CPWD successfully implemented Special Campaign 6, and achieved the targets set across various focus areas, including cleanliness, effective record management, optimum space utilization and reduction in the pendency of references. Notably, the achievements in the disposal of public grievances, PMO references and review of records have exceeded the prescribed targets, as reflected in the table below:



CPWD widely publicized the activities undertaken during Special Campaign 6 through its social media platforms, including X, Facebook and Instagram, to disseminate the campaign's objectives and achievements among the general public and create greater awareness and participation among CPWD officers and staff across the country. A few social medial uploads are displayed below:

CPWD remains committed to promoting cleanliness and efficiency in governance through the continued implementation of initiatives under Special Campaign 6.

HUDCO Promotes Cleanliness, Resource Optimisation and Employee Welfare under Special Campaign 6

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Under Special Campaign 6, Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO), through its Corporate Office and Regional Offices, undertook a range of initiatives to promote cleanliness, effective waste management and workplace improvement. The campaign encompassed cleanliness drives, the Swachhta Pledge, plastic waste collection, awareness activities, systematic cleaning and organisation of office premises, weeding out of old files and records, and the disposal of scrap, obsolete IT equipment and other redundant materials through authorised procedures. These efforts contributed to better asset management, efficient space utilisation and the creation of a cleaner, clutter-free and well-organised work environment.

Reaffirming its commitment to the well-being and dignity of its workforce, HUDCO also organised an Eye Check-up Camp in collaboration with Centres for Sight Hospital for Swachhta Mitras, housekeeping personnel, multi-tasking staff and security personnel. The initiative highlighted the importance of occupational health and the welfare of personnel who play a vital role in maintaining workplace cleanliness and hygiene.

Through these collective efforts, HUDCO continues to promote responsible waste disposal, resource optimisation and employee participation, fostering a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable workplace while reinforcing its commitment to the spirit of the Special Campaign.

Raksha Rajya Mantri launches revamped Gallantry Awards portal

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth launched the revamped Gallantry Awards portal (https://gallantryawards.gov.in) in New Delhi on November 12, 2026. The portal is a dedicated digital initiative to honour the courage & supreme sacrifices of the Gallantry Awardees and preserve their legacy for future generations.

The re-developed portal features an enhanced, citizen-centric User Interface and User Experience, with intuitive navigation, responsive design and improved accessibility. The key features include dedicated sections on Events, Memorials and Museums, Warpedia, Awardees, Gallantrypedia (Articles), Media and an interactive Tribute Section enabling citizens to explore the nation's military history & pay homage to its bravehearts.

The Gallantry Awards Portal also hosts Veer Gatha as a dedicated digital space, with a page for every edition that brings its introduction, topics, timeline, evaluation criteria, rewards, resources, results, felicitation ceremony, media gallery and student activities together in one place. Through this, Veer Gatha connects students directly with the stories of the Gallantry awardees. Students learn about the courage and sacrifice of these heroes and express what they learn through their own entries.



The programme has grown from about 8 lakh students and 4,788 schools in the first edition to over 1.92 crore students and 1.9 lakh schools in the fifth. It includes 28,005 students from 91 CBSE-affiliated schools across 18 countries.

The initiative aims to create a comprehensive and authentic digital repository of information on Gallantry Awards, Awardees, wars and military operations since independence, while promoting patriotism and raising awareness about the rich military heritage, particularly among the youth.

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and other senior officials of the Ministry of Defence were present on the occasion.

SR/Savvy/Kamlesh

DRI seizes 22 kg cocaine from passenger arriving from Sierra Leone in New Delhi



CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 In a major crackdown on international drug syndicates, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has intercepted a foreign female passenger arriving from Sierra Leone and seized 22 kg (net) of cocaine from her possession. The seized narcotics are estimated to have a value of several crores of rupees in the illicit international market. The operation exposed a sophisticated and brazen modus operandi involving the use of forged diplomatic credentials to bypass airport security.

The passenger claimed to be a diplomatic courier and was carrying a large briefcase-type box bearing markings such as "Diplomatic Mail" and "Do Not Open Without Authority". She also produced apparently forged documents claiming that the consignment belonged to a United Nations diplomatic courier, evidently to evade scrutiny.

Acting on the intelligence input, DRI officers conducted a thorough examination of the briefcase in accordance with due procedure. The examination resulted in the recovery of 22 packets, concealed within multiple layers of plastic wrapping. The white, brick-shaped substance recovered from the packets tested positive for cocaine during field testing.

The entire contraband, comprising 22 packets of cocaine, was seized under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. The passenger was arrested under the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985 and produced before the competent court.

The DRI remains firmly committed to dismantling novel trafficking routes, leveraging intelligence-led enforcement, and dismantling international syndicates attempting to exploit institutional privileges for illicit trade.

Union Environment Minister holds interaction with LeadIT Industry Members and Project Partners

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 In the run up to participation in UNFCCC COP31 at Antalya (Turkiye), Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav held an interaction with industry representatives from hard to abate sectors like steel, cement and transport, and academic research institutes, today in New Delhi.

The gathering brought together Indian member companies of the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT), including Tata Steel, JSW Steel, SAIL, Synergy Advanced Metals, Adani Ambuja Cement, Dalmia Cement, JK Cement, JSW Cement, UltraTech Cement, Volvo Group and Spicejet. The participating project partners under the India-Sweden Industry Transition Partnership (ITP) included Jindal Steel and Power Ltd, Prism Johnson, Höganäs India and MyHome Industries. Further, premier research institutions working on low carbon technologies as project partners were also present, including National Council for Cement and Building Materials, IIT Bombay, IIT Bhubaneshwar, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, IIT Hyderabad and IIT Kharagpur.

Speaking at the interaction, Yadav said, "The MoEFCC and Government of India are committed to support collaborative climate action. LeadIT 3.0 will be an implementation-oriented platform, translating ambition into tangible impact". He emphasized that India's approach to climate action is firmly rooted in the power of collaboration among government, industry, and academia. The Minister highlighted India's efforts towards climate action through ambitious policies and programmes.

Chaired an interaction with Indian LeadIT (Leadership Group for Industry Transition) member companies and project partners in New Delhi today. Launched by India and Sweden in 2019 to achieve industrial decarbonisation in heavy and hard-to-abate sectors by, LeadIT brings together 19 countries and 33 companies, including 13 from India. During the interaction, reaffirmed the strong commitment of the Government led by PM @narendramodi ji to LeadIT, with a clear focus on building impactful partnerships for a low-carbon industrial future.

LeadIT industry members and project partners shared their experiences of engaging with LeadIT and highlighted the importance of collaboration with government and academia. Industry members appreciated the support that the platform has provided in formulating project partnerships, assessing technology feasibility and sharing knowledge. Industry representatives also expressed the need for further support for pre-competitive project preparation, pilot projects and capacity building.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal to Inaugurate 45th India International Trade Fair on November 13.

The 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2026, organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), will be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from 14 to 27 November 2026. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, will inaugurate the Fair as the Chief Guest on 13 November 2026. The inauguration ceremony will also feature an Odissi performance by Padma awardee Guru Madhavi Mudgal and her group.

Themed 'Vikas aur Virasat', IITF 2026 will bring together more than 3,500 exhibitors from India and abroad across 17 halls, covering over 1,00,000 square metres of exhibition space. The Fair will witness participation from 32 States and Union Territories and 51 Central Ministries, Government Departments, PSUs and Public Sector Banks. Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are the Partner States, while Assam, Delhi, Jharkhand and West Bengal are the Focus States. The participating States and UTs will showcase their regional products, local industries, traditional crafts, culture, tourism potential and development initiatives.

International participation will include 11 countries, with pavilions featuring exhibitors from Thailand, Iran, Ghana, Nepal, Afghanistan, the UAE, Turkey, China, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, providing opportunities for international business engagement and trade linkages.

Chairman, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), Jawed Ashraf, said that IITF 2026 will celebrate India's progress, diversity and heritage, with a special focus on youth through around 600 start-ups at the Hall of Inspiration and district-level crafts, cuisine and culture at the ODOP Pavilion.

IITF 2026 will introduce new experiences for businesses and visitors alike. The Hall of Inspiration in Hall 14 will showcase around 600 Indian start-ups across deep-tech, agri-tech, drones, space, healthcare and edtech, providing young enterprises with visibility and opportunities to connect with wider markets.

The One District One Product (ODOP) Pavilion will feature participation from 21 States and showcase signature crafts, cuisine, culture and products from districts across the country, highlighting local enterprise, traditional skills and the artisans behind them.

Playverse@Mandapam will offer an immersive and interactive digital experience combining entertainment and education, designed particularly to engage young visitors and families. Together, these initiatives reflect the spirit of 'Vikas aur Virasat', bringing India's technological progress, entrepreneurship and traditional strengths onto one platform.

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Strong Industry Response Reflects Growing Interest in Establishing Domestic ACC Manufacturing Capacity Bid

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Strong Industry Response Reflects Growing Interest in Establishing Domestic ACC Manufacturing Capacity Bid opening marks a significant step towards strengthening India's Domestic ACC Manufacturing Ecosystem.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) has received 22 bids from prospective bidders for 10 GWh capacity offered under the Global Tender floated on the Central Public Procurement (CPP) Portal for selection of beneficiary firms to establish giga-scale Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) manufacturing facilities in India. The 10 GWh capacity is earmarked for Grid-Scale Stationary Storage (GSSS) applications and forms part of the overall targeted 50 GWh ACC manufacturing capacity under the National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage.

Request for Proposal (RFP) was floated on CPP portal on 15 th July 2026. The pre-bid conference was held on 29 th July 2026. The last date for receiving bids was 10 th November 2026 on CPP portal and the Technical Bids were opened on 11 th November 2026 in the presence of the bidders at MHI. The bidding is being conducted online through a transparent two-stage Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) mechanism. The list of bidders who have submitted their bids is as follows:

S. No.

Name of the Bidder

ACME Solar Holdings Ltd.

Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

Avaada Electro Ltd.

Exide Energy Solutions Ltd.

Fujiyama Power Systems Ltd.

GK Energy Ltd.

Godawari New Energy Pvt. Ltd.

JPM Energy Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

JSW Neo Energy Ltd.

Lineage Power Pvt. Ltd.

Mahendra Sponge and Power Ltd.

Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd.

Nsure Reliable Power Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Reliance Industries Ltd.

Renew Photovoltaics Pvt. Ltd.

Sai Bioenergy Pvt. Ltd.

Shirdi Sai Electricals Ltd.

Sun Drops Energia Ltd.

Utex New Energy Pvt. Ltd.

Vikram Solar Ltd.

Waaree Energy Storage Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Zetsol Energy Pvt. Ltd.

In May 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the PLI Scheme on the 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage', with a total budgetary outlay of ₹18,100 crore for achieving an ACC manufacturing capacity of 50 GWh in the country. The Scheme seeks to enhance India's domestic ACC manufacturing capabilities and encourage large domestic and international players to establish a globally competitive ACC manufacturing ecosystem in India.

The allocation of 10 GWh for GSSS applications is expected to support the country's rapidly growing energy-storage requirements arising from the expansion of renewable energy. It will contribute to enhancing energy security and deepening the domestic value chain for ACC technologies.

Dr. P.K. Mishra addresses the 22nd Foundation Day of PPVFRA

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Dr. P.K. Mishra addresses the 22nd Foundation Day of PPVFRA and Plant Genome Saviour Award Ceremony.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr. P.K. Mishra, today called for recognising farmers as custodians and innovators of India's agricultural biodiversity and linking their traditional knowledge with scientific research, seed systems and market opportunities.

Addressing the 22nd Foundation Day of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA) and the Plant Genome Saviour Award Ceremony, Dr. Mishra noted that the occasion marked 25 years of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.

He said India's rich agricultural biodiversity was vital for developing crops resilient to climate change, water stress, pests and diseases, while preserving traditional knowledge, food cultures and community livelihoods. He highlighted India's 22 agro-biodiversity hotspots and cited Koraput in Odisha, recognised by FAO in 2012 as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System, as an example of community-led conservation.

Highlighting India's distinctive framework for farmers' rights, Dr. Mishra said the Act balanced plant breeders' rights with recognition of farmers as conservers, cultivators and developers of plant varieties. Nearly half of the varieties registered under PPVFRA were farmers' varieties. He also emphasised the role of benefit-sharing provisions and the National Gene Fund in ensuring fair returns to communities conserving genetic resources.

Referring to India's scientific capabilities, he noted that the National Genebank at ICAR-NBPGR was the second largest in the world and that around 3,000 climate-resilient crop varieties had been developed under the National Agricultural Research System. He also highlighted the potential of Geographical Indications in creating economic opportunities for distinctive agricultural products.

Dr. Mishra highlighted India's contribution to international efforts on farmers' rights through its engagement with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the 2022 Governing Body session in New Delhi and the 2023 Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights. He also referred to the Indore Declaration adopted by BRICS Agriculture Ministers and the establishment of a Global Forum on Farmers' Rights in Seed Systems.

Calling for a shift from recognition to empowerment, Dr. Mishra emphasised strengthening community seed banks and field gene banks, connecting traditional knowledge with modern scientific research, and linking farmers' varieties with quality seed systems, Farmer Producer Organisations and wider markets. He called for promoting farmer entrepreneurship and ensuring fair and transparent benefit-sharing so that conservation translated into sustainable economic opportunities.

Ministry of Jal Shakti Extends Timeline for Citizen Feedback

CHENNAI – 13 Nov, 2026 Ministry of Jal Shakti Extends Timeline for Citizen Feedback on Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) 2.0.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has extended the timeline for submitting Citizen Feedback on the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) 2.0 Portal until 30 November 2026. The Citizen Feedback Portal was opened to the public on 26 January 2026, providing citizens across the country an opportunity to share their feedback on water conservation, rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and storage works reported under the JSJB 2.0 initiative. The extension will enable citizens to continue providing feedback on the artificial recharge and storage structures created under the initiative.

The second phase of JSJB has marked a significant milestone in advancing the nationwide water conservation movement envisioned by the Prime Minister on 6 September 2024 at Surat, Gujarat, with the objective of transforming water conservation into a true Jan Andolan through active public participation. As of 31 May 2026, more than 1.5 crore rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, water conservation and storage structures have been reported across the country under the initiative.

The Citizen Feedback mechanism on the JSJB 2.0 Portal seeks to further strengthen Jan Bhagidari by enabling citizens to provide feedback on the reported works. Through their valuable inputs, citizens can help identify maintenance requirements, monitor the functionality of structures and contribute to improving their long-term effectiveness.

Feedback from citizens will also support the verification and assessment of assets reported under the initiative. Since recognition is provided to Districts, States/UTs and other stakeholders based on the number of artificial recharge and storage works completed under the initiative, citizen participation in feedback is particularly significant. The mechanism is expected to enhance the quality and credibility of reporting, promote transparency in implementation, and encourage Districts and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to ensure proper maintenance and sustained functionality of the structures created.

Citizens and stakeholders may submit their suggestions and feedback through the JSJB 2.0 Portal at:

https://jsjb.mowr.gov.in/DashboardJsjb.aspx

Through this initiative, the Ministry aims to strengthen community ownership of water conservation structures and further advance the nationwide movement towards sustainable water management and water security.

