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Agriculture Pavilion in IITF 2026 Witnesses Massive Footfall

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 The Agriculture Pavilion set-up by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) in the 'India International Trade Fair (IITF)' 2026 has emerged as a major crowd-puller at Pragati Maidan.

Commencing from November 13 and to be continued till November 27th 2026, the pavilion today witnessed extraordinary public participation. The momentum received a major boost with the visit of the Joint Secretary (Extension), who interacted extensively with exhibitors, farmers, and tech innovators, praising their efforts towards awareness creation about sustainable and modern agriculture.

The theme of the pavilion beautifully reflects the progress of MoA&FW in empowering farmers through farmer-centric interventions of flagship schemes, technology transfer and direct market linkages from 'Seed to Market'.

Strategic Display of Key initiatives and Achievement of MoA&FW Schemes in Agriculture



Pavilion include:

• Digital Agriculture & Public Infrastructure: A cornerstone of the pavilion depicts the live demonstration of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Agriculture, featuring AgriStack, Decision Support System (DSS) for geospatial intelligence, and AR/VR-based Digital Crop Surveys.

India must become a developer, innovator & global leader in advanced technologies: Raksha Mantri

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has called for making India not merely a user of advanced technologies, but also a developer, innovator and global leader in critical domains, emphasising the need to strengthen the country's Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) ecosystem to enhance defence preparedness and self-reliance.

Virtually addressing the 36th Annual Conference on Non-Destructive Evaluation & Enabling Technologies and the 15th International Symposium on Non-Destructive Testing in Aerospace on November 15, 2026, he stressed the importance of developing indigenous capabilities in advanced inspection technologies, promoting consistent quality assurance practices and ensuring the accuracy, reliability and integrity of testing results, particularly in strategic applications. He asserted that there can be no compromise on the integrity of testing results in strategic applications.



Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates EPFO Lounge and ESIC Pavilion at IITF 2026

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 The Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, today inaugurated the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Lounge and the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Pavilion at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Central Provident Fund Commissioner (CPFC) Ramesh Krishnamurthi, Director General, ESIC, Ashok Kumar Singh, and other senior officers from both EPFO and ESIC were present on the occasion.

Following the inauguration, Dr. Mandaviya witnessed the initiatives and facilities being offered at the respective kiosks, and also interacted with visitors. The Union Minister expressed his apprec iation for the citizen-centric, technology-driven initiatives aimed at making social security services more accessible, efficient, and engaging for workers, pensioners, employers and the general public.

EPFO Lounge



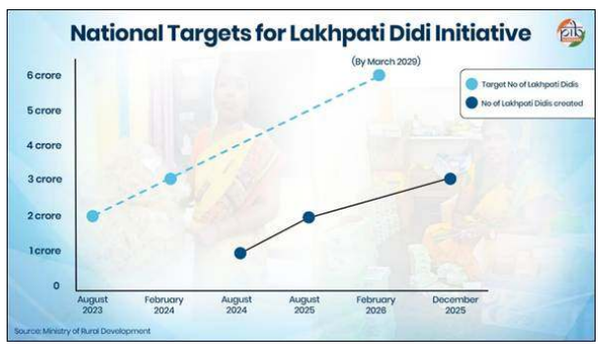
The Lakhpati Didi Initiative promotes sustainable household incomes through women's entrepreneurship and diversified livelihoods

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 is being implemented under the DAY-NRLM, which leverages the SHG network to provide rural women with financial access, skills and market opportunities. The initiative's implementation reflects a phased approach to policy planning, institutional strengthening and community mobilisation. As of June 2026, t he initiative has enabled 3.76 crore Lakhpati Didis, with a target of six crore by March 2029.An independent assessment by IIM Ahmedabad reported a 61 percent rise in average monthly household income and a 61.7 percent increase in average monthly savings in Lakhpati Didi households.

From Subsistence to Sustainable Livelihoods

The Lakhpati Didi Initiative is a flagship effort to strengthen women's economic participation in rural India. It aims to improve household incomes through sustainable livelihood opportunities and enterprise development. The government announced this initiative on 15 August 2023. It initially targeted two crore women from Self-Help Group (SHG) households. The target was subsequently increased to three crore in February 2024. The initiative aims to create six crore Lakhpati Didis by March 2029. This target was envisioned in February 2026.

A Lakhpati Didi is an SHG member whose household earns at least ₹ 1 lakh annually. The benchmark considers total household income rather than individual earnings. Income from eligible farm and non-farm activities contributes towards this target. It is calculated after expenses and should remain sustainable across agricultural seasons or business cycles.



The initiative builds on the institutional network of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). It seeks to move rural women beyond subsistence-based activities. Its approach combines livelihood diversification, financial inclusion, skill development and enterprise support.

3.76 Crore Rural SHG Women Enabled as Lakhpati Didis

By June 2026, 3.76 crore rural SHG women had been enabled as Lakhpati Didis and 5.70 crore women were identified as Potential Lakhpati Didis.

An independent evaluation of the Lakhpati Didi initiative by IIM Ahmedabad, covering 6,531 respondents in 17 states and UTs, reported improvements in household economic conditions. Average monthly household income increased by 61 percent, while average monthly savings increased by 61.7 percent.

Institutional Foundation: DAY-NRLM and the SHG Network

At the Climate Summit, India Makes the Case for a Sunday Bike Ride

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 Most of the talk at a United Nations climate summit is about energy, finance and technology. On Saturday afternoon, at the International Solar Alliance Pavilion at COP31, India's Fit India Movement made a smaller argument: that the climate fight is also won on ordinary streets, one weekend ride at a time.

"A city can build a bicycle lane, but only if its citizens choose to ride on it," Mayank Srivastava, deputy director general of the Sports Authority of India, told the audience. "Infrastructure alone does not change how people live."



Dhinakaran, Vasan urge Vijay to protect interests of T.N. farmers in Mekedatu issue



CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 AMMK founder T.T.V. Dhinakaran on Sunday (November 15, 2026) accused Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay of shedding crocodile tears over the Mekedatu dam issue and said the latter had to choose between his party's alliance with the Congress and the livelihoods of Tamil Nadu farmers.

In a statement, Dhinakaran accused Vijay of failing to discharge his responsibility to protect farmers' livelihoods for the sake of retaining power, alleging this had emboldened Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to persist with the Mekedatu project.

Condemning Shivakumar's remarks on constructing the dam across the Cauvery, Dhinakaran urged Vijay to exert political pressure through the Congress leadership to stop the project, warning failure to do so would amount to a betrayal of Tamil Nadu farmers.

Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar) leader G.K. Vasan also criticised Shivakumar's remarks on constructing the Mekedatu dam, stating his demand for the Centre's support and his interpretation of the Supreme Court's verdict were unacceptable.

In a statement, Vasan said Karnataka's efforts to construct the dam amounted to an infringement of Tamil Nadu's rights.





Assam Congress writes to PM, seeks enhanced aid for victims of Kaziranga accident



CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 Assam Congress leader Debabrata Saikia on Sunday (November 15, 2026) urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to enhance compensation for victims of the Kaziranga minibus-truck collision, provide free treatment to the injured and livelihood assistance to families of the 26 deceased.

In the letter, the former leader of the opposition in the Assembly expressed concern over the deplorable condition of the National Highway-715 stretch and alleged that the authorities' neglect of essential road safety measures was disturbing.

Saikia demanded a thorough examination of the road's condition, design, maintenance, traffic management and safety arrangements, as well as urgent intervention on highway safety, healthcare and infrastructure of the region.

Appreciating the Prime Minister for announcing financial assistance immediately after the accident, he added that the magnitude of the tragedy demanded enhanced compensation and rehabilitation measures.

Administrative accountability must be fixed while the conduct of the drivers involved must also be investigated, the Congress leader said in the letter while expressing disappointment over the response of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who visited the accident site a day later on Saturday (November 14, 2026).

Pope Leo speaks on community 'suffering' on visit to remote Andes



CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 Pope Leo XIV has spoken about the "suffering of those who are forced to leave their homeland in search of a better future", which he said had left communities under threat, during a visit to an isolated Andean village in his former diocese.

About 6,000 people live in Santa Cruz de Succhabamba, located in a remote part of the Andes mountains of northern Peru, but the Pope's visit still drew a crowd of about 20,000, according to the Vatican.

At an outdoor Mass, the Pope spoke of "declining birth rates that are emptying villages" and the unequal distribution of the land's resources.

More than 40% of the population in the Cajamarca region, where the town is located, live in poverty - the highest figure in Peru, according to official data.

Cajamarca has lost the highest number of people to internal migration, with 729,000 people born there now living elsewhere in Peru.

In his sermon, the Pope thanked those who had made the journey to see him and emphasised the importance of never losing heart, despite life's difficulties.

German delegation visits Auroville



CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 German Ambassador to India Jasper Wieck, accompanied by Michael Hasper, Consul General at the German Consulate General in Chennai, visited the international township of Auroville on Saturday (November 14, 2026).

The delegation was received by officials of the Auroville Foundation, including Officer on Special Duty G. Seetharaman, along with members of the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC) and the Working Committee.

According to a press note, the centrepiece of the visit was an interactive meeting with the ATDC and the Working Committee, addressed virtually by Jayanti S. Ravi, Secretary of the Auroville Foundation (Ministry of Education, Government of India) and Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Gujarat.

Foundation officials briefed the delegation on progress under the township's Galaxy Master Plan, including the 98 per cent completion of the 4.4-km circular Crown Road, which links Auroville's Residential, Industrial, Cultural and International zones, and upcoming projects such as youth housing, a Civic Anchor Town Hall, the Morning Star Women's Wellness Center and CIRHU, the Centre for International Research on Human Unity.

Polls open in Cape Verde in race with first female presidential candidate



CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 Voters have begun casting their ballots in Cape Verde, where President Jose Maria Neves is facing off against the West African island nation's first female presidential candidate, Joana Rosa, in a vote hinging on slowing down persistent emigration.

More than 300,000 people are eligible to vote on Sunday from 8am to 6pm (09:00 GMT to 19:00 GMT) and will choose from six presidential candidates in a country known for its stability in the politically volatile region.

Neves, a member of the country's oldest political party, the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV), is tipped to be the favourite but faces his strongest challenger in Rosa of the Movement for Democracy party.

The 66-year-old served as prime minister for 15 years and became president in 2021. His party won 37 of 72 parliamentary seats in May, allowing Neves to appoint Francisco Carvalho, then mayor of the capital, Praia, as prime minister.

Rosa, an opposition candidate and former justice minister, is the first woman to run for president since independence in 1975. Her party governed for 10 years before the May vote.

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Why a Supreme Court order may let Maharashtra's women prisoners live with their children

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 Maharashtra is planning its first open prison colony exclusively for women, where eligible inmates will be able to live with their children and families, take up jobs and gradually prepare for life outside prison. A committee appointed following a Supreme Court order has identified two possible sites — in Nashik and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar — for setting up the facilities.

The committee is looking at making the facilities operational next year by identifying eligible prisoners and employment opportunities for them.

The committee is headed by Bombay High Court judge, Justice Bharati Dangre, with Additional Chief Secretary, Home (Appeals and Security), Radhika Rastogi, as a member and Additional Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services Suhas Warke as member secretary.

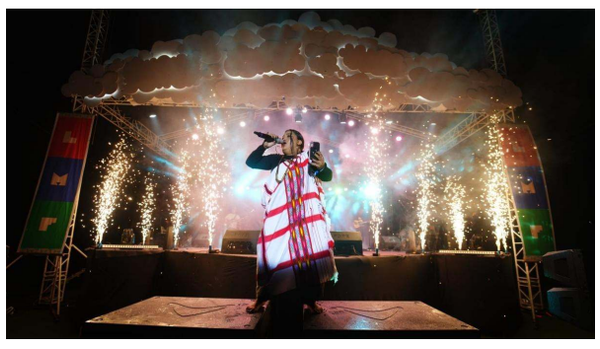
It was constituted in June following a February order of the Supreme Court, directing states to establish new open and semi-open correctional facilities, fill vacancies in



existing ones and oversee their functioning, including the transfer of eligible prisoners.

"Based on the current criteria for choosing prisoners for open correctional institutions, establishing such colonies for women can be the first step.

Mizoram village revels in return of World War II-hit festival



CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 Performer at the Leitlangpui Musical Festival, which returned to Serkawn village in Mizoram's Lunglei district 80 years after becoming an indirect casualty of World War 2. Photo: Special Arrangement

A village in south-central Mizoram's Lunglei district has revelled in the return of a festival that was an indirect casualty of the Second World War 80 years ago.

Serkawn, about 175 km south of Aizawl, the State's capital, organised the Serkawn Contest from 1932 to 1946 to celebrate the musical heritage and emerging creative talent in the erstwhile Lushai Hills. It was not held in 1942 due to World War 2, but the toll the conflict took on the global economy killed the concert after four years.

The concert staged a comeback at Serkawn from November 11 to 13 in a new avatar—the Leitlangpui Music Festival. It marked the return of a "heritage event" to a location deeply rooted in the history of modern Mizo music.

The Union Ministry of Tourism and the Mizoram Tourism Department organised the event with Bbyanimals as the official event partner.

Jordan sentences three men to death over church attack

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 A Jordanian Court on Sunday (November 15, 2026) sentenced three men to death by hanging for carrying out last month's deadly gun attack on a church in the kingdom's south.

Gunmen killed nine people and wounded 25 others when they stormed a funeral at a Greek Orthodox church in Hammoud village, in Jordan's Karak governorate on October 23.

Authorities said three men, two Jordanian brothers and their relative by marriage, had fled after the attack and were arrested three days later.

In a statement Sunday (November 15, 2026), the Jordanian Military said the "State Security Court issued its ruling sentencing to death the three criminals who carried out the terrorist attack" at the Greek Orthodox church.

The court found them guilty of "committing terrorist attacks" resulting in death, as well as weapons offences, "conspiracy to commit terrorist acts" and



"promoting the ideas of a terrorist organisation".

The attack shocked the Muslim-majority kingdom, where Christians make up around 3% of the population.

Palaniswami urges Vijay to raise Mekedatu issue with Congress leadership

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Sunday (November 15, 2026) urged Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay to take up Karnataka's proposed Mekedatu dam project with the Congress leadership during his likely visit to New Delhi on Monday (November 16, 2026) and press for the implementation of Supreme Court orders on the Cauvery issue.

In a statement, Palaniswami criticised Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for repeatedly asserting that building a dam at Mekedatu was Karnataka's right and required no one's permission. He said such remarks could create differences between the people of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Accusing the Congress government in Karnataka of disregarding the Supreme Court verdict on water release, Palaniswami said the proposed dam would threaten irrigation in the Cauvery Delta districts and drinking



water supply to 20 districts in Tamil Nadu. He urged Vijay to raise the issue with Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge.

Iran targets Bahrain airbase as strikes resume in Gulf: Middle East crisis live

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 Hello and welcome to our live coverage of the fighting in the Middle East.

Iran has targeted an airbase in Bahrain in the latest resumption of strikes since September, prompting public warnings and sirens to ring out in the Gulf kingdom this morning.

According to Iranian media, the IRGC said it had sent six drones to attack a US radar system hosted in the US-allied island state.

Explosions were heard around the capital, Manama, but Bahrain authorities say their air defences intercepted the attacks before they reached their targets.

Bahrain, which lies directly across the Persian Gulf from Iran, is home to the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, and has been repeatedly attacked by Tehran during the course of the war, which has seen flare-ups in strikes amid long bouts of inaction.

There are fears Iran's attacks this morning might signal a resumption of the war while US President Donald Trump has threatened but



refrained from returning to major combat.

Negotiations to end the war remain at a stalemate, with the US maintaining its naval blockade and Iran its stranglehold over the strait of Hormuz.

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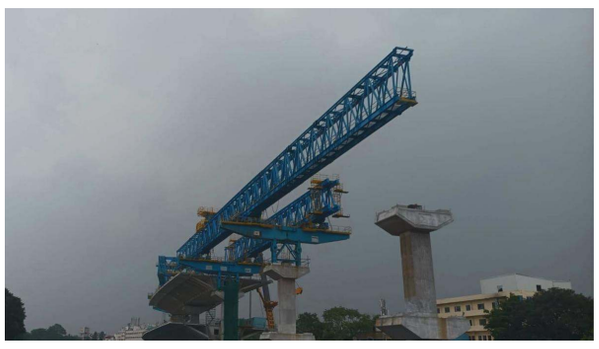
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Cyclone Akvan to move towards Andhra coast by November 19, rainfall expected in Tamil Nadu, Bengal



CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 A depression over the southeast and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal is likely to strengthen into a severe cyclonic storm by November 17, the meteorological department said on Sunday (November 15, 2026).

Cyclone Akvan is expected to cause rains in north coastal districts in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal area, it said. The department announced that the cycline is expected to move towards the Andhra Pradesh coast around November 19.

The Regional Meteorological Centre issued a Nowcast alert at 1 p.m. in Tamilnadu, valid till 4 p.m. for light to moderate rainfall at isolated places over Cuddalore, Chengalpattu, Mayiladuthurai, Nagappattinam, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Viluppuram districts and Karaikal and Puducherry.

According to the latest weather report, Saturday's (November 14) well-marked low-pressure area over the southeast Bay of Bengal moved northwestward, intensified into a depression and lay centred at 5:30 a.m. today. It is very likely to continue to move northwestward, intensify further into a cyclonic storm over the central parts of the south and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal on November, 16 and into a severe cyclonic storm on November 17.

Chhath Puja Special Trains from Bihar: Over 47,000 berths and seats available till November 30: Full list



CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 Chhath Puja Special Trains from Bihar: East Central Railway (ECR) on Sunday said that over 47,000 berths and seats are available in Chhath Puja special trains departing from various stations in Bihar between November 16 and 30. Passengers can book these seats and berths for their return journeys after celebrating Chhath Puja.

These special trains will connect key routes including: Patna-Bhagalpur, Patliputra-Purnia Court, Jaynagar-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (Mumbai), Raxaul-Podanur, Sitamarhi-Anand Vihar Terminal (Delhi), Gaya-Chennai, Darbhanga-Hadapsar (Pune), Rajgir-Ahmedabad, Barauni Junction-Bandra Terminus (Mumbai), Raxaul-Howrah, Madhubani-Kolkata, Danapur-Hadapsar, Patliputra-Ramnagar, Patna-Ernakulam, Patna-Khatipura (Jaipur), Patna-Sealdah, Darbhanga-Shalimar and Patna-Khurda Road, among others.

According to East Central Railway (ECR), as of 10 am on November 15, around 2,716 berths and seats were available in Chhath Puja special trains departing on November 16. The availability stood at 2,176 on November 17, 3,904 on November 18, 1,191 on November 19 and 2,840 on November 20.

Revivo Clinic Forms Giant Human Blue Circle to Mark World Diabetes Day 2026



CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 300 participants champion muscle strengthening for better diabetes management

Chennai, November 14, 2026: Revivo Clinic for Obesity and Diabetes marked World Diabetes Day with a public awareness initiative, “Build Muscle. Beat Diabetes.” Around 300 participants formed a Giant Human Blue Circle at YMCA Grounds, Nandanam, highlighting early action on diabetes and the importance of muscle strength in glucose regulation.

The event was graced by A. Myilvaganan Joint Chief Executive Officer of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu and Special Officer for the Mission Olympic 2036 project, as Chief Guest.

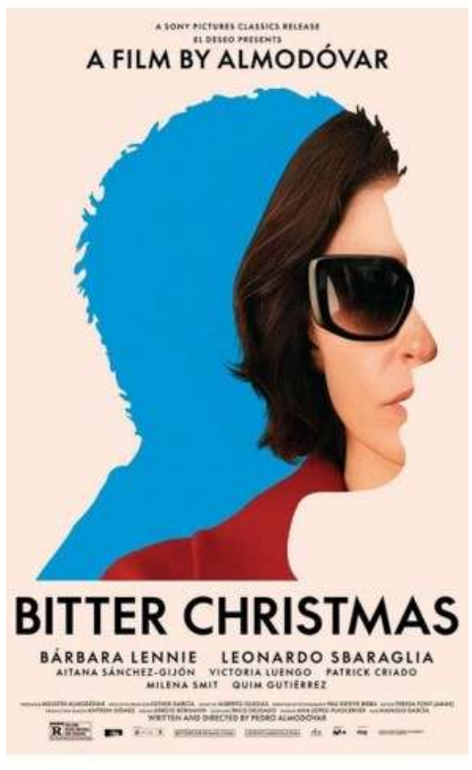
Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest A. Myilvaganan said, “We take so much care in building our home, choosing the cement, the iron rods and the tiles, yet we neglect to build our own muscle. This body is not a house; it is a temple. Give it at least one hour every day, and it will take care of the other 23 hours. It is not about the space or the facility; it is all about the mindset. Keep your mind fit, and the body will automatically become the fittest. Build yourself and build the nation.”

Speaking at the event, Dr. Arun Raghavan, Co-founder and Clinical Lead, Revivo Clinic, said, “Skeletal muscle accounts for approximately 70–80% of insulin-stimulated glucose uptake and is central to blood glucose regulation. Yet strength training remains one of the most overlooked aspects of diabetes care. Resistance training two to three times a week, alongside walking and other physical activity, should become a routine part of diabetes prevention and management.”

Arvind Ashok, Co-founder, Revivo Clinic, added, “It is possible to build muscle at any age. You don’t need a gym or expensive equipment to get started. A simple resistance band or your own body weight is enough. Walking alone may not be sufficient; building muscle requires progressively challenging the body. You can start anywhere, even at home.”

In line with the International Diabetes Federation’s World Diabetes Day theme, “Early Action on Diabetes,” the initiative called for earlier detection and regular physical activity, with muscle strengthening recognised as an essential part of long-term metabolic health.

Spain as Country of Honour at the 57th IFFI: A Celebration of Contemporary Spanish Cinema and Storytelling



CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 Cinema lovers attending the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) are in for a special treat as the festival celebrates the richness and diversity of Spanish cinema. With Spain designated as the Country of Honour, IFFI will present a specially curated selection of four contemporary Spanish films, featuring premieres at the World, Asian and Indian levels. The showcase promises to offer audiences a compelling glimpse into the vibrancy, creativity and evolving storytelling landscape of contemporary Spanish cinema.

The exciting line-up of the Spanish films at IFFI this year will include: Bitter Christmas (Amarga Navidad)

India to strengthen engagement with Italy based 'International Physics Centre', says Minister Dr Jitendra Singh



CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 India and the "International Centre for Theoretical Physics" (ICTP) have taken a significant step towards institutionalising their longstanding scientific partnership with the initiation of the ‘India-ICTP Co-operation Fund’, aimed at strengthening the engagement and mobility of Indian researchers with the international research centre.

A Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed between the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and ICTP in this regard during the visit of Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh, to ICTP in Trieste, Italy. The LoI was exchanged from the Indian side by Dr Praveenkumar Somasundaram, Head of the International Cooperation in DST.

Welcoming the initiative, Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed the hope that the India-ICTP Co-operation Fund would give greater impact to the existing engagement between the two sides and benefit Indian researchers. He noted the importance of institutionalising the ongoing association to provide further impetus to scientific collaboration and researcher mobility.

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Applications Invited for Prestigious Rs.3 Lakh 'Raitha Peeta Award 2027'

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 2nd Edition of the Award Instituted by Agri-Entrepreneur Dr. G. Ramakrishna Achar; December 15, 2026 is the Last Date to Apply

Coimbatore: Applications have been invited from eligible and accomplished farmers for the 2nd edition of the 'Raitha Peeta Award 2027', instituted by Dr. G. Ramakrishna Achar- renowned agri-entrepreneur and Chairman of SKF Elixer with the noble vision of recognizing progressive farmers and ensuring they receive rightful recognition and respect in society. December 15, 2026, is the last date to submit applications.

While last year a single award carrying a cash prize of ₹1 lakh was presented, this edition expands the honor to a total prize pool of ₹3 lakh, which will be awarded to three deserving farmers. Applications are being invited from farmers across Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu. Each selected farmer will be honored with a cash prize of ₹1,00,000.

First preference in selection will be given to farmers practicing sustainable, organic, cow-based, and innovative technology-driven model farming on small and medium-sized lands. Interested farmers can apply directly, or individuals aware of accomplished farmers may nominate them. The application form is available on the website www.gaudhama.com, and entries must be submitted in the prescribed format.

Speaking about the vision behind the award, founder Dr. G. Ramakrishna Achar said, "A truth I discovered after traveling across the country and abroad is that the farmers



and agriculturists of our land do not receive the respect they truly deserve. We call the farmer the backbone of the nation, yet we fail to give them due honor. Because of this, the younger generation is turning away from agriculture. We must accord immense respect to our farmers; only then will future generations feel inspired to take up farming, which will ultimately benefit all of humanity. Therefore, I urge everyone to nominate accomplished farmers known to you."

Last year, the inaugural award was conferred upon B.K. Devaraya Mittabagilu for conserving over 200 rare indigenous paddy varieties.

Celebrities Ganesh Venkatraman, Madhampatty Rangaraj and Dr.Sam Paul Unveil Kanavu Wedding Logo;



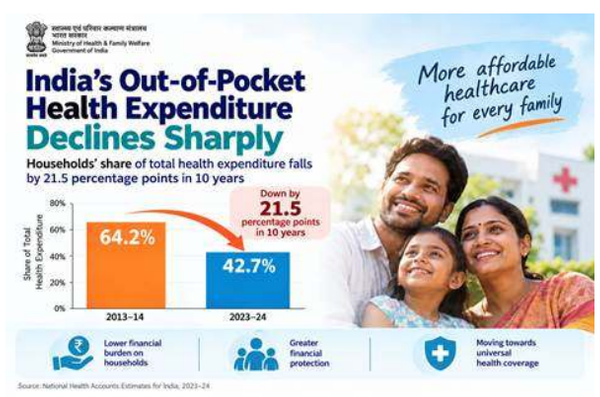
CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 Pavithra Lakshmi Is Announced as the Brand Ambassador India's luxury bridal experience brand opens ahead of a three-day conclave at RK Convention Center, ECR, Chennai, on December 18, 19 and 20. Every celebration deserves to be extraordinary can be changed to something impactful. Kanavu Wedding, the luxury bridal experience brand named after the Tamil word for "dream", unveiled its official logo at Hotel Accord, Chennai. The logo was launched by Ganesh Venkatraman, Madhampatty Rangaraj, Sam Paul, actress Pavithra Lakshmi and Upasana among others in the presence of special invitees and members of the media. The evening also brought the announcement that actor Pavithra Lakshmi is the brand's official ambassador. Conceptualised by MOAR Digital 360, the Chennai-based IT and Branding company led by Monicka Richard, Kanavu Wedding is built on a simple belief: every celebration deserves to be extraordinary. Speaking at the launch, Monicka Richard, Founder and CEO, MOAR Digital 360, said, "Kanavu Wedding is not another wedding expo rather a conclave. It is a fully immersive world where couples step into their wedding dream before they plan a single detail. Chennai is only the launchpad. The brand will expand to the UK, Dubai and Malaysia, bringing the same experience to Indian diaspora communities worldwide. The first Kanavu Wedding conclave will be held on December 18, 19 and 20, 2026, at RK Convention Center, ECR, Chennai. Across three full days, it will bring together more than 150 premium vendors spanning over 30 categories, with more than 6,000 to-be-wed couples expected to attend. The celebrities present extended their warm wishes to the Kanavu Wedding team and conveyed their best for the brand's journey ahead. The evening concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Latha A Krishnan of IRIS Events who was the event planner, thanked the guests, partners and media for their presence and support. With the logo now revealed, all eyes turn to the inaugural conclave from December 18 to 20, 2026, at RK Convention Center, ECR, Chennai, where couples can step into their wedding dream in a fully immersive setting.

Government Health Spending Triples, Households' Out-of-Pocket Expenditure Share Falls Sharply: National Health Accounts 2023–24

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 India has registered substantial progress towards making healthcare more affordable and reducing the financial burden on households, with Government Health Expenditure tripling and the share of Out-of-Pocket Expenditure borne directly by families declining sharply over the past ten years.

The National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for India 2023–24, released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, highlight a significant transformation in India's healthcare financing landscape. Between 2013-14 and 2023–24, Government Health Expenditure increased from approximately ₹1.30 lakh crore to ₹4.14 lakh crore, while Out-of-Pocket Expenditure as a share of Total Health Expenditure declined from 64.2% to 42.7%.

The simultaneous increase in public healthcare financing and decline in the



proportion of spending borne directly by households reflects India's progress towards a more accessible, affordable and financially protective healthcare system.

Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy Unveil Logo and Mascot for 8th Edition of Khelo India Youth Games 2026

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Chief Minister of Telangana A. Revanth Reddy today unveiled the logo and mascot for the 8th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG), scheduled to be held in Telangana from December 11 to 22, 2026.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Mandaviya said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has placed special emphasis on connecting the youth with sports and integrating sports into the broader vision of the country's development.

CM of Telangana, @revanth_anumula Garu, Ministers in the Telangana government, @Vakiti_srihari Garu, @UttamINC Garu and Union Minister Dr. @mansukhmandviya met Prime Minister @narendramodi. @TelanganaCMO https://t.co/jBCB3PxWQa

"The Union Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to promoting sports. Various competitions,



including the Khelo India Youth Games, Beach Games, Winter Games and Tribal Games, are being organised under the Khelo India initiative to encourage greater participation of the younger generation in sports," Dr. Mandaviya said.

உதவிடுவீர்
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MY ARK Centre for Intellectual Disability
தமிழ்நாடு அரசு அங்கீகாரம் பெற்றது
அறிவுசார் குறையாடுலபடுயாருக்கான இலவச சிறபபு பள்ளி
HOPES Trust உங்களை ஒரு உதவும் தரமாக ஆதரவு தருவது பெருமைக்கிழவு.
உங்கள் சிறிய பங்களிப்பு அறிவுசார் குறைபாடுள்ள குழலில் பெரிய மாற்றத்தை ஏற்படுத்தும்.
நன்கொடை அளிக்க கீழே உள்ள கட்டண முறைகளைப் பயன்படுத்தவும்.
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SRM IST Directorate of Sports conducted India's First Ever All India Ranking Swimming Meet

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Directorate of Sports, successfully conducted the 10th and Final Edition of India's First-Ever All India Ranking Swimming Meet at the Dr. T.R. Paarivendhar Aquatic Complex, Kattankulathur (KTR). Swimmers from various states, including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and other parts of the country, participated in the prestigious event.

The ranking meet, conducted on the second Saturday of every month over a ten-month series, was initiated with the objective of promoting competitive excellence, providing regular competition exposure and helping swimmers consistently maintain peak performance standards.

With the successful completion of the ten-month series, a total of ₹10 lakh in cash prizes, along with medals and trophies, will be



awarded to the overall winners in recognition of their outstanding performances and achievements.

This pioneering initiative reflects the visionary ambition of our Founder Chancellor to encourage greater participation of Indian athletes, particularly from Tamil Nadu, in the Olympic Games. Through world-class sports infrastructure, continuous competitive exposure and dedicated athlete development programmes, SRMIST is committed to nurturing talented swimmers and producing world-class athletes capable of representing India and winning medals at the 2036 Olympic Games.

Actor Shiva Inaugurates the Third Branch of Nassaa Uth Hub at CDR Mall in Madurai

MADURAI – 16 Nov, 2026 Expanding its footprint beyond Chennai, Nassaa Uth Hub brings an exciting gaming and entertainment experience to Madurai.

Nassaa Uth Hub, a vibrant destination for gaming, entertainment and interactive experiences, has marked another significant milestone with the grand inauguration of its third branch at CDR Mall in Madurai. Actor Shiva graced the occasion as the chief guest and officially inaugurated the new outlet, marking the brand's expansion into one of Tamil Nadu's most prominent cities.

The inauguration witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of gaming enthusiasts, youngsters, social media personalities and Instagram influencers, who came together to celebrate the launch and experience the exciting attractions at the new gaming destination. Several popular social media influencers also graced the occasion, capturing and sharing glimpses of the event while exploring the diverse gaming activities and entertainment offerings at the venue.

With two successful branches already operating in Chennai — one at Besant Nagar and another at Kanathur, ECR — Nassaa Uth Hub has now extended its presence to Madurai with its third outlet at CDR Mall. This expansion marks an important step in the brand's journey towards reaching a wider audience and bringing immersive gaming experiences closer to youngsters and families across Tamil Nadu.

The newly inaugurated Madurai branch promises an



engaging environment where visitors can come together to explore gaming, enjoy friendly competition and create memorable experiences. The event offered attendees an opportunity to experience the various gaming zone activities firsthand, with actor Shiva and the visiting influencers actively exploring the attractions and adding to the excitement of the launch.

The presence of actor Shiva brought further prominence to the occasion, while the participation of social media influencers helped create considerable buzz around the new destination. The inauguration also reflected the growing popularity of interactive gaming and experiential entertainment among today's younger generation.

With its third branch now open in Madurai, Nassaa Uth Hub continues its growth journey, strengthening its presence in Tamil Nadu's entertainment and gaming landscape. Building on its Chennai establishments, the brand looks forward to welcoming gaming enthusiasts in Madurai and offering them an exciting space to play, connect and make unforgettable memories.

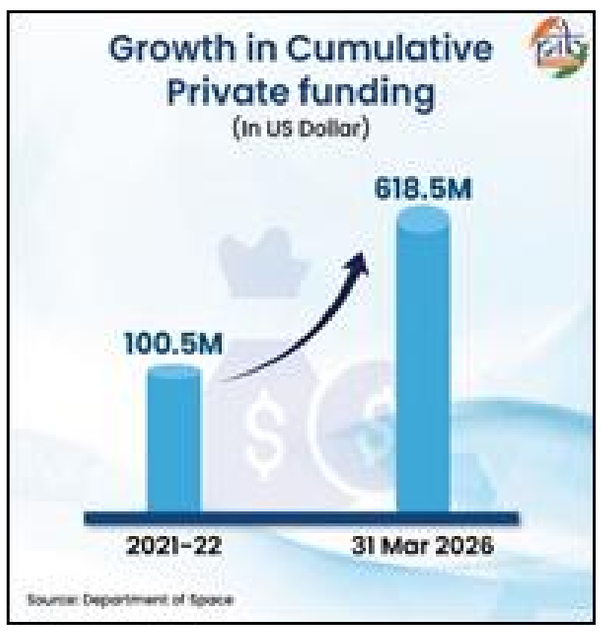
Opening Up India's Space Economy

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 India's space journey began with a strong, government-led institutional base built around ISRO and the Department of Space. As capabilities matured, the Government adopted a more facilitative approach that kept public-sector leadership while encouraging private innovation, investment and entrepreneurship. Policy reforms opened the entire space value chain to Non-Government Entities, with IN-SPACe as the single-window interface between Govt. and private entities and NSIL as the commercial arm. The Indian Space Policy 2023 defined each institution's role, while liberalised foreign investment rules, clear authorisation procedures and dedicated funding schemes supported start-ups. These steps are steadily building a collaborative, industry-led and globally competitive space ecosystem.

Where It All Began – From State-Led Foundations to Global Leadership

India's space journey has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past decade. It has evolved from pioneering scientific research into a globally competitive space programme. This progress reflects sustained national ambition, institutional vision and indigenous technological innovation. Today, India is advancing towards a more commercially dynamic space sector. Growing private-sector participation is further expanding its industrial and technological capabilities.

The foundations of this journey were laid through a strong institutional framework. The Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR) was established in 1962. It functioned under the Department of Atomic Energy and spearheaded India's early space research initiatives. Subsequently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established in August 1969, replacing INCOSPAR.



In June 1972, the Government constituted the Space Commission and established the Department of Space (DoS). ISRO was brought under the DoS in September 1972.

As India's space capabilities matured, the Government recognised the need for broader institutional participation. This required moving beyond a predominantly government-led operational framework. Accordingly, the Government adopted a more facilitative and outcome-oriented approach to space-sector governance. This approach retained public-sector leadership while encouraging private innovation, investment and entrepreneurship.

A landmark step in this direction came on 24 June 2020. The Union Cabinet approved reforms enabling greater private-sector participation in space activities. These reforms marked a significant shift towards a collaborative public-private model. They also laid the foundation for a more competitive and commercially driven space sector. These reforms redefined the institutional framework governing India's space activities. They positioned the private sector as an active partner in advancing national capabilities, commercial opportunities and global competitiveness.

Key Indicators

Yuge Yugeen Bharat: A Museum for the Ages

CHENNAI – 16 Nov, 2026 India's civilisational heritage, spanning over 5,000 years, reflects a rich legacy of art, architecture, knowledge systems, traditions and cultural practices that have evolved over centuries. To preserve and present this heritage, the Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum is being developed as a landmark national cultural institution at the historic North and South Block Complex in New Delhi. Envisaged as a museum of the people, it will showcase the continuity, diversity and richness of India's civilisational journey through an integrated presentation of its tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

First announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 18 May 2023, the project received approval from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 11 November 2026, with an estimated total project cost of ₹ 3,230 crore. Being developed by the Ministry of Culture, the museum will transform the historic North and South Blocks, formerly housing key government offices, into public cultural spaces through adaptive reuse while preserving their architectural character. Planned as a museum of global scale, it will bring together historical collections, thematic galleries and modern exhibition technologies to make India's cultural heritage accessible to citizens, researchers and visitors from across the world.

From Historic Buildings to a World-Class Museum

The Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum will transform the historic North and South Blocks in New Delhi



from centres of governance into public cultural spaces. Developed through adaptive reuse, the project will preserve the architectural heritage of these landmark buildings while creating modern exhibition spaces and visitor facilities. The museum is envisaged as a major cultural destination, combining heritage conservation with contemporary museum infrastructure.

Preserving Heritage Through Adaptive Reuse

Historic Significance: The North and South Blocks served as centres of government administration until 13 February 2026, nearly 95 years after the inauguration of South Block. The South Block housed the Prime Minister's Office since Independence, and Cabinet meetings under 16 Prime Ministers were held in these buildings.

Transformation into Public Spaces: Following the relocation of government offices to Seva Teerth, the new Prime Minister's Office, and the Kartavya Bhavans, the two buildings are being repurposed as part of the Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum.

Architectural Conservation: The project will preserve the buildings' historic character, façades and architectural integrity through minimal intervention.