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India Takes a Historic Leap Towards Self-Reliance: Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Dedicates Country's First Indigenous H5N1 Bird Flu Vaccine to the Nation in Bhopal

BHOPAL – 21 Nov, 2026 India Takes a Historic Leap Towards Self-Reliance: Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Dedicates Country's First Indigenous H5N1 Bird Flu Vaccine to the Nation in Bhopal.

In a major milestone for India's scientific capabilities and the country's drive towards self-reliance, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan today dedicated India's first indigenous chicken vaccine against Avian Influenza (H5N1), commonly known as bird flu, to the nation at a program in Bhopal. On the occasion, the Union Minister announced the establishment of a new state-of-the-art laboratory in Bhopal at an estimated cost of ₹300 crore. He also took a dig at opposition leaders for questioning India's constitutional institutions and the capabilities of its scientists while speaking abroad. Priced at an affordable ₹1-2 per dose,



the vaccine is the world's first vaccine against this particular variant of bird flu. It is expected to strengthen disease prevention in the poultry sector, protect the livelihoods of millions of poultry farmers and help reduce the enormous economic losses caused by animal diseases.

Those who malign India abroad must see the new, self-reliant India

PROVISIONAL INDEX OF CORE INDUSTRIES FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2026, AND FINAL INDEX FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2026 WITH BASE YEAR 2022-23

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 PROVISIONAL INDEX OF CORE INDUSTRIES FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2026, AND FINAL INDEX FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2026 WITH BASE YEAR 2022-23.

Key highlights of ICI for the month of October 2026

The Index of Core Industries (ICI) grew by 10.9 per cent in October 2026 (Provisional) on a year-on-year basis, compared with October 2025. This is higher than the growth rate of 8.2 per cent recorded in September 2026 (Final Index).

Iron Ore, Coal, Electricity, Cement, Steel, and Refinery Products observed (Y-o-Y) growth rate of 26.4 per cent, 23.1 per cent, 21.6 per cent, 15.4 per cent,



7.3 per cent, and 3.4 per cent, respectively, whereas Natural Gas, Crude Oil, and Fertilizers witnessed negative growth in October 2026.

Iron Ore, Electricity, Cement, Coal and Steel have been the major drivers of overall growth of ICI during recent months.

Cumulative growth rate of ICI during April-October 2026 was 6.0 per cent (Provisional) compared to 2.3 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Flags Off 'Yuva Somnath Yatra' from New Delhi

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 The 'Yuva Somnath Yatra', organised under the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, was flagged off by Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat from Safdarjung Railway Station, New Delhi. More than 1,100 students from various colleges and institutions have embarked on this special train journey to Somnath, Gujarat.



Addressing the gathering, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that despite repeated attacks over a thousand years, the Somnath Temple continues to stand as a symbol of India's enduring cultural heritage. He highlighted how earlier generations protected not only their faith but also the country's rich traditions and heritage. He said that the history of Somnath reflects India's faith, resilience and cultural continuity.

President Droupadi Murmu Addresses 12th Convocation of ABVIMS and Dr. RML Hospital in Presence of Union Health Minister J.P

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences (ABVIMS) and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi, celebrated its 12th Convocation Ceremony today at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, addressed the gathering on the occasion in the presence of Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, J.P. Nadda.

The convocation ceremony marked an important milestone in the academic journey of the graduating students, recognising their



dedication, perseverance and commitment to the medical profession.

Union Health Ministry's Health Pavilion at IITF 2026 Records Over 12,189 Stall Visits in First Five Days, Promoting Health Awareness and Preventive Healthcare

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Union Health Ministry's Health Pavilion at IITF 2026 Records Over 12,189 Stall Visits in First Five Days, Promoting Health Awareness and Preventive Healthcare.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is witnessing encouraging public participation at its Health Pavilion at the 45 th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2026, being organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from 14 th to 27 th November 2026. The Pavilion has recorded over 12,189 cumulative stall visits during the first five days (14 th – 18 th November 2026), reflecting strong public interest in healthcare awareness, preventive screening and information about various healthcare initiatives of the Government.



The Health Pavilion was inaugurated on 14 th November 2026 by Dr. M. Srinivas, Member, NITI Aayog, in the presence of the Union Health Secretary, Punya Salila Srivastava. Themed ' युवा भारत, स्वस्थ भारत ', the Pavilion has emerged as an important platform for public engagement, health education and dissemination of information on Government healthcare programmes and services. Visitors, including children, youth, families and other sections of society, are actively participating in the activities being organised across the Pavilion.

India premiere of Paweł Pawlikowski's Fatherland opens 57th IFFI, taking audiences through a divided post-war Germany

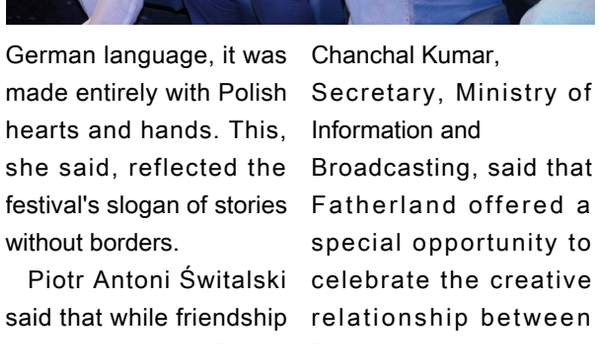
CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 India premiere of Paweł Pawlikowski's Fatherland opens 57th IFFI, taking audiences through a divided post-war Germany.

A journey through a nation scarred by war, divided by ideology and grappling with the weight of its past marked the opening of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa today. Acclaimed filmmaker Paweł Pawlikowski's Fatherland (Ojczyzna) opened the nine-day festival with its India Premiere, offering audiences an evocative portrait of post-war Germany at the dawn of the Cold War.

The black-and-white drama, directed by the Oscar-winning filmmaker, weaves together history, family relationships and the complexities of a divided homeland through the story of Nobel Prize-winning German writer Thomas Mann and his daughter Erika. The film drew a full house across all screening halls of INOX, setting an impressive note for the opening of the nine-day festival.

Before the screening, Ewa Puszczyńska, Producer, Fatherland, Piotr Antoni Świtalski, Head of Mission, Poland Embassy, New Delhi and Małgorzata Wejsis-Gołębiak, Director, Polish Institute in New Delhi walked the red carpet at INOX, Panjim.

Speaking about the film, Ewa Puszczyńska highlighted how it's very making embodied the spirit of IFFI's theme. She said that although Fatherland tells the story of a German writer and the German people in the



German language, it was made entirely with Polish hearts and hands. This, she said, reflected the festival's slogan of stories without borders.

Piotr Antoni Świtalski said that while friendship between India and Poland was growing across multiple dimensions, culture remained its strongest foundation. He added that Paweł Pawlikowski brought a fresh focus and perspective to the traditional Polish school of filmmaking.

Felicitating the guests, Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, said that Fatherland offered a special opportunity to celebrate the creative relationship between Poland and India. Ashutosh Gowariker, Festival Director, IFFI, G. Krishnakumar, Chairman, National Film Development Corporation of India and Pankaj Saxena, Artistic Director, IFFI were also present.

A father-daughter journey through a fractured Germany

Anthropic shares slump on second day of trading as markets reel from AI sell-off



CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Asian markets record worst week since 2020 as investors question huge sums being poured into AI build-out

Anthropic's shares have slumped at the start of a second day of trading, as its record-breaking IPO failed to stem a sell-off in AI-linked companies.

Shares in the frontier AI company, which floated on Thursday, fell by more than 9% at the start of trading on Friday. They dropped to $88.17, towards the $83 level at which Anthropic priced its stock market debut.

Anthropic's first two days as a listed company have been volatile. Its shares jumped by 17% after briefly surging by almost 40% when trading in the firm began.

US technology stocks followed Anthropic down on Friday, knocking 2% off the value of the Nasdaq share index, with memory chipmaker SanDisk falling 14% and rival Micron down 10%. The broader S&P 500 share index fell 1%.

Global markets slumped on Friday too; Asian stock markets recorded their worst week since 2020, as shares in big chip companies fell. In Taiwan, stocks dropped 6.7% to hit their lowest point since mid-April, with the chip maker TSMC down about 6%.

The Arunachal Pradesh Congress urges the central government not to impose the Siang Dam project on indigenous communities.

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 The Congress asked him whether the central government would give a written assurance that it would not "impose" the 11,000 MW Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP) on the state's tribal communities, a few hours before Union Home Minister Amit Shah began his three-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh on Friday (November 20, 2026).

Shah is expected to discuss national security and infrastructure development during his visit. The Central Government has proposed SUMP in response to China's 60,000-megawatt hydropower project under construction in the upper reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo River in the Tibet region.

Violent protests erupted against this project out of fear that it would displace or affect more than 1.25 million people, mostly from indigenous communities.

In a statement released late Thursday evening (November 19, 2026), the Arunachal Pradesh Congress unit said that development without transparency and governance without accountability cannot deliver sustainable progress.

The party has stated that SUMP has raised serious concerns about vulnerable communities, ancestral land, displacement,



environmental and geological hazards, livelihoods, cultural heritage, and the future of indigenous institutions. "The ongoing protests and the alleged deployment of security forces have further heightened tensions in the Siang region," it said.

Bangladesh hit by fresh arson attacks in political unrest

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Fresh arson attacks erupted in Bangladesh on Friday (November 20, 2026) as authorities restored communications with the hometown of convicted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, after days of unrest over her planned return from exile.

Hasina, 79, has vowed to return to Bangladesh in December from India, despite being sentenced to death in absentia for crimes against humanity over a deadly crackdown during the 2024 uprising that ousted her.

Hasina's former ruling party, the Awami League, whose activities are now banned, called for strikes this week to mark the anniversary of the day Hasina received her death sentence.

Hundreds of paramilitary troops have been deployed to contain the unrest, in which at least three people have been killed.

A petrol bomb was hurled at the residence of a junior Foreign Minister, Humaiun Kobir, in the northeastern city of Sylhet on Friday (November 20, 2026), police said.

Kobir said Dhaka



would deal with attacks "very firmly".

"It is not possible to bring back a 'fled terrorist' by throwing petrol bombs," he told reporters on Friday (November 20, 2026).

CM Vijay turns pallbearer at Kolathur MLA V.S. Babu's funeral

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Friday turned a pallbearer, carrying the body of Kolathur TVK MLA V.S. Babu from his house to the funeral van.

Vijay, who had paid his last respects to Babu on Thursday, attended the funeral on Friday. Babu died of cardiac arrest on Thursday after a prolonged hospitalisation. The Chief Minister along with three others carried Babu's body on his shoulder from the late MLA's house in Perambur to the funeral van parked some distance away.

Along with his Cabinet colleagues, MDMK general secretary Vaiko and relatives of Babu, the Chief Minister walked to the cremation ground at Vi.Ka. Nagar, where Babu's last rites were performed.

Babu, who had political stints in the DMK and the AIADMK, joined the TVK earlier this year and defeated the then incumbent Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin in Kolathur in 2026 Assembly elections. He



was admitted to MGM Hospital in Aminjikarai on September 9 following breathing difficulties.

Environmental groups oppose plan to recruit anti-poaching watchers through private agencies

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Environmental organisations have urged the Tamil Nadu government to withdraw its decision to recruit anti-poaching watchers and other forest protection staff through private agencies, stating that the move could undermine forest and wildlife protection in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

The Forest Department had invited tenders to recruit 293 personnel through outsourcing for the Ooty and Masinagudi forest divisions from December 2026 to March 2027. Of these, 134 personnel would be deployed in the Masinagudi division and 159 in the Ooty division. As many as 221 would be involved in forest and wildlife protection, including 99 anti-poaching watchers.

In a joint statement, Osai and Poovulagin Nanbargal said anti-poaching watchers played a crucial role in protecting forests, particularly in areas vulnerable to poaching and human-wildlife conflict. Many of them were from local and tribal communities who had an intimate understanding of the forests.

They said anti-poaching operations required round-the-clock monitoring from camps set up inside forests. These workers were paid



a monthly wage of ₹15,625 despite working for nearly all 30 days of the month. Many continued in the hope that they would be made permanent after 10 years of service.





In world of conflicts, cultural ties strongest guarantee for peace: PM Modi

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Underlining the importance of civilisational dialogue for global peace, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday India was engaging in dialogue on cultural and civilisational connections at a time when discussions around the world are focused on

Addressing the first Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum at Purana Qila in New Delhi, Modi said cultural connections are the strongest guarantee for global peace.

"This is the first SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum. At a time when

world are dominated by war and unrest, we in India are engaging in a dialogue on civilisational connections. This is significant because cultural connection serves as the strongest guarantee for global peace," he said.

He said empires have certainly changed the

civilisational dialogues have changed the way the world thinks, enriching it.

As ministers of several SCO countries including Pakistan's Musadik Masood Malik listened, Modi said, "Our culture has taught us Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. That is, the whole world is our family.



our own well-being is deeply rooted in the spirit of global well-being.

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Editor: R.SATHYANARAYANAN

Godrej extends its cooling expertise into premium commercial beverage cooling with one-of-its kind instant cooling solution.

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 With its eyes on the growing Beverage Refrigeration industry, the Appliances Business of Godrej Enterprises Group has introduced Godrej Instacool, a first-of-its-kind, instant beverage cooling solution that brings a new level of speed and efficiency to beverage cooling and hospitality industry. The innovative appliance which cools beverages in as little as one to four minutes, eliminates the need to prechill drinks, making it a true win. The end consumers get to pick from a wider variety rather than being restricted to a limited choice of prechilled beverages. The beverage serving businesses save on recurring energy costs and blocked floor space on one hand and on the other, earn higher revenues by offering greater variety and better customer experience. Beverage manufacturers gain from higher offtakes. The significant energy savings reduces the energy demand of commercial cooling equipment on the power grid and the manufactured-in-India solution reduces the heavy dependence on imported solutions.

India's beverage refrigeration industry is pegged at approximately USD 1.2–1.5 billion, and backed by the rapid expansion of organised retail, food service and hospitality sector, is estimated to grow at 9–11% CAGR over the next decade. Rising disposable incomes, a young population and urbanisation are fuelling demand for wines, craft beers etc. Reports suggest a CAGR of 8%+ for cafés and bars in 2024-2029 with over sixty-five thousand bars and clubs and expanding further. Cooling equipment are usually a significant recurring cost with their high energy consumption, blocking precious floor space and at the premium end, come with a hefty cost given the dependence on imported solutions. As businesses increasingly focus on improving operational efficiency, reducing energy consumption and optimising space, there is a need for innovative, technology-led beverage cooling solutions. Godrej aims to address this gap with faster, on-demand beverage cooling with a manufactured in India solution.[SR1]

Godrej's Instacool in partnership with V-Tex UK, features proprietary Vortex Technology is a patented, on-demand beverage chilling technology that rapidly cools cans and bottles, while delivering over 70% energy savings compared to traditional refrigeration. Further, with dimensions similar to a dishwasher, it is a more compact solution as compared to traditional commercial cooling solutions, significantly reducing the infrastructure and space required for continuously cooling beverage. This makes it a game changing made-in-India solution for beverage manufacturers, distributors, retailers and hospitality businesses.

Speaking on the new product launch, Kamal Nandi, Business Head at Appliances Business of Godrej Enterprises Group said, "India's evolving food service, hospitality and organised retail landscape is creating new opportunities for innovative commercial cooling solutions. Hospitality and food service businesses today are increasingly prioritising operational efficiency, energy savings and space optimisation.

With Godrej Instacool, we are entering an exciting space within premium commercial cooling, bringing together differentiated technology with our manufacturing and service expertise in cooling. By enabling beverages to be cooled in as little as one to four minutes while delivering over 70% energy savings, the manufactured-in-India solution addresses some of the key operational challenges faced by beverage serving businesses delivering them cost savings and improved revenues, improves offtakes for beverage manufacturers, enhances the overall experience for end consumers as well as reduces the demand on our energy grid from commercial cooling equipment. We see significant potential for technology-led solutions such as Instacool in shaping the future of premium commercial beverage cooling in India."



Adding further, Jaishankar Natarajan, Product Head of Instacool at Appliances Business of Godrej Enterprises Group, said, "Businesses today are looking for solutions that are not just efficient but also thoughtfully designed to meet their evolving needs. With Instacool, we are simplifying commercial beverage cooling for businesses, by replacing multiple refrigeration units with a single cooling solution which is both effective when it comes to cooling performance and far more efficient when it comes to energy consumption and space. Further, with on demand cooling – we are also enabling hospitality businesses to stock and offer greater variety to consumers improving their user experience. Further, with on demand cooling – we are also improving end consumer experience by enabling hospitality businesses to stock and offer far greater variety of beverages."

Designed for diverse commercial environments, including restaurants, bars, beverage retail outlets and event spaces, Godrej's Instacool is engineered to cool a wide range of beverage formats and accommodates cans, glass bottles and PET bottles from 150 ml to 1500 ml, as well as most wine bottle formats up to 370 mm in height and 100 mm in diameter. Its cooling effectiveness translates to customisable cooling in as little as one to four minutes, the space-efficient design helps reduce the need for multiple conventional refrigeration units freeing up valuable space, while its efficient operation reduces energy consumption. This product is available at an exclusive price on request.

Ranveer Singh and Aman Gupta Launch H.I.M, a New Men's Personal Care Brand



CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Actor Ranveer Singh and entrepreneur Aman Gupta have jointly launched H.I.M (Handsome Indian Man), a new men's personal care brand specially formulated for Indian skin, climate and biology. The brand debuts with eight products across face, body and hair care, powered by IN·XT™, a proprietary molecule developed exclusively for H.I.M.

The product range includes Face Wash, Face Cream, Sunscreen, Body Wash, Body Lotion, Shampoo, Hair Serum and Soap Bar. Developed based on research into Indian male skin, the products are designed to address common concerns such as excess oil, body breakouts, dryness, dandruff and hair thinning. The range is priced between ₹299 and ₹899 and is available on the H.I.M website, Amazon and Blinkit.

Speaking about the launch, Ranveer Singh, Co-founder, H.I.M, said that the brand aims to offer personal care products specifically designed for Indian men and their unique skin and environmental needs. Aman Gupta, Co-founder, H.I.M, added that India's men's personal care category is growing rapidly and that H.I.M aims to meet the evolving needs of the next generation of Indian consumers.

Invesco Mutual Fund today announced the launch of the Invesco India BSE Top 10 Banks ETF (An open-ended scheme replicating/tracking BSE Top

MUMBAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Index and the Invesco India Nifty Metal Index Fund (An open-ended scheme replicating/tracking Nifty Metal Index), offering investors passive investment opportunities across two sectors that are integral to India's economic and industrial growth story.

Invesco India BSE Top 10 Banks ETF will make passive investments in equity and equity-related securities replicating the composition of the BSE Top 10 Banks Index, subject to tracking errors, if any. The index comprises India's 10 largest listed banks across public and private sectors, providing exposure to leading banking franchises that play a critical role in financing India's growth across housing, infrastructure, manufacturing, consumption, MSMEs and the digital economy.

The scheme will follow a passive investment strategy and invest in constituents of the BSE Top 10 Banks Index in the same weights as the index, with an endeavour to maintain low tracking error. The ETF offers investors a transparent and efficient way to access India's banking leaders through a single investment vehicle.

Invesco India Nifty Metal Index Fund will make passive investments in equity and equity-related securities replicating the composition of the Nifty Metal Index, subject to tracking error. The index comprises companies engaged across metals and mining segments including iron & steel, aluminium, copper, zinc and diversified metals, offering investors exposure to businesses that are central to India's industrialisation and infrastructure development.

The scheme will invest in companies that are constituents of the Nifty Metal Index in the same weights as the index, with an endeavour to track the benchmark as closely as possible while maintaining low tracking error.

India's economic growth continues to be supported by rising infrastructure spending, manufacturing expansion, financial deepening and an increasing focus on domestic industrial capabilities. While India's banking sector stands to benefit from expanding credit penetration, formalisation of the economy and digital financial adoption, the metals sector is positioned to benefit from the country's capex cycle, manufacturing-led growth, energy transition and infrastructure development. Together, the Invesco India BSE Top 10 Banks ETF and the Invesco India Nifty Metal Index Fund are designed to offer investors transparent and cost-efficient access to two important pillars of India's long-term growth story through passive investing. Both the funds will be managed by Abhisek Bahinipati.

The minimum lumpsum investment amount during the NFO for the Invesco India BSE Top 10 Banks ETF is ₹5,000 and in multiples of ₹1 thereafter. The minimum lumpsum investment amount during the NFO for the Invesco India Nifty Metal Index Fund is ₹100 and in multiples of ₹1 thereafter. For SIP investments, Invesco India Nifty Metal Index Fund offers Daily (Min. ₹20/- available only through digital platforms), Weekly (Min. ₹100/-), Monthly (Min. ₹100/-), and Quarterly frequency (Min. ₹300/-) and in multiples of ₹1/- thereafter. No exit load will be charged to investors.

Union Minister Manohar Lal confers SVANidhi Samman Awards 2026



CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 The Department of Urban Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, organised the SVANidhi Samman Awards 2026 on 20 November 2026 at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The awards were conferred by Manohar Lal, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, in the presence of Tokhan Sahu, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, as Guest of Honour, to recognise the outstanding contributions of States/UTs, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Lending Institutions and partner organisations in strengthening street vendors' livelihoods and advancing financial inclusion, digital adoption and social security under the PM SVANidhi Scheme.

Featuring 52 awards and 5 special recognitions, the awards celebrated excellence across States, cities, banks and other stakeholders. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh were among the leading States recognised for their performance in implementing the Scheme and expanding its outreach. Cities and ULBs were also recognised for their contribution to effective grassroots implementation, improved outreach and digital adoption.

Poland condemns Russian 'provocation' after airspace violations

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Poland has said Russia violated its airspace three times overnight, in what Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said was a "provocation" by Moscow.

Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz told a news conference on Friday that investigations were under way at three locations – Nowy Lipowiec, roughly 60km (37 miles) from the Poland-Ukraine border, Molodycz, about 50km (31 miles) to the south, and Rudnik nad Sanem, about 50km to the west.

Kosiniak-Kamysz added that the three objects were probably two missiles and a drone.

The incursions were reported as Poland held military exercises involving the " Coalition of the Willing ", a group of European countries coordinating help and support for Ukraine.

The potential crash site near Nowy Lipowiec is about 76km (47 miles) from where European troops were taking part in military exercises to prepare for a potential post-war mission in Ukraine, aimed at helping to stabilise the country and rebuild its military once the war ends.

"These exercises, combined with the presence of defence ministers from France, the United Kingdom, and the Baltic states – along with eight chiefs of staff, including those from our key allies – suggest that the convergence of these events is no accident," Kosiniak-Kamysz said.



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NLC India Renewables Limited files DRHP with SEBI for IPO - ₹ 3300 crore to be raised as fresh capital, OFS of 10 crore shares

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 NLC India Renewables Limited (NIRL), a wholly owned subsidiary of 'Navratna' Central Public Sector Enterprise NLC India Limited, has filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with capital markets regulator SEBI to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The proposed IPO of the Tamil Nadu headquartered company is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to ₹3,300 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 10 crore equity shares by the Promoter Selling Shareholder - NLC India Limited, according to the DRHP.

NLC India Renewables Limited proposes to utilize ₹2,475 crore from the Net Proceeds of the Fresh Issue towards repayment/ pre-payment of certain outstanding borrowings availed by the Company, and rest on general corporate purposes. As on November 10, 2026, the company had outstanding borrowings (fund based) of ₹3,524.8 crore.

The company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may consider a Pre-IPO Placement of Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹660 crore, prior to filing of the Red Herring Prospectus with the RoC. If the Pre-IPO Placement is completed, the amount raised will be reduced from the Fresh Issue.

NLC India Renewables Limited develops, owns and operates renewable energy plants and generates revenue through the sale of power to Central and State government agencies and public utilities. Its portfolio spans a diverse range of projects and technologies across the renewable energy ecosystem. The solar power portfolio comprises ground-mounted, rooftop and floating solar power projects, complemented by wind and hybrid power projects.

NIRL is expanding its capabilities across energy storage and emerging energy solutions, including through the development of BESS (Battery Energy Storage Systems), PSPs (Pumped Storage Projects) and a pilot-scale green hydrogen plant using solar-powered electrolysis.

NIRL reported revenue from operations of ₹172.6 crore and profit after tax (PAT) of ₹45.4 crore for FY26. For the six-month period ended September 30, 2026, revenue from operations stood at ₹393.5 crore, while PAT was ₹151.6 crore.

Effective January 1, 2026, NIRL acquired the renewable energy business undertaking of NLC India Limited, comprising primarily seven renewable energy projects

NIRL benefits from the strong parentage of NLC India Limited, which has a legacy of approximately 70 years in India's energy sector. From commencing operations with a single lignite mine at Neyveli, Tamil Nadu, NLC India Limited has evolved into a pan-India integrated energy company with operations spanning lignite and coal mining and power generation.

As of October 31, 2026, NIRL's total Project Portfolio and Project Pipeline capacity is 16,203.96 MW for solar, wind, hybrid and FDRE capacity and 8,238.30 MWh for BESS and PSP.

Juniper Green Energy Limited, Adani Green Energy Limited, NTPC Green Energy Limited and Acme Solar Holdings Limited are the listed peers of the company as per the DRHP

SBI Capital Markets Limited, HDFC Bank Limited, IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited and IIFL Capital Services Limited are the book running lead managers (BRLMs) to the offer.

Malaysian Tamil Crime Thriller 'IRUMBUTH THOTTAM' Breaks the Silence on Issues Society Hesitates to Discuss; Set for a Grand Release Across Tamil Nadu Soon!

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 'Jana Nayagan' fame Irfan Zaini makes his appearance as a lead actor with the Malaysian Tamil film 'IRUMBUTH THOTTAM'!

Following 'Adutha Kattam' and 'Maindhan', 'IRUMBUTH THOTTAM' marks the third Malaysian Tamil film to be released in Tamil Nadu by HAVEN PICTURES' RK Kannan!

Produced by Jegen John Peter under the banner of AVLT PRODUCTION, 'IRUMBUTH THOTTAM' is a Malaysian Tamil film directed by Jaydev Jayakumar. The film is an investigative crime thriller, shot entirely in Malaysia.

Jana Nayagan' fame Irfan Zaini makes his appearance as a lead actor with the Malaysian Tamil film 'IRUMBUTH THOTTAM'!

The film also features a talented Malaysian ensemble cast, including Loga Varman Strideran, Marie Dashani Matthews, Mohana Raj along with Dhurgaashini S.Vijayan, Vinoshan, Balan Kash, Dato Geethanjali G, Kalaimamani KS.Maniam, Nisha & Vijay Naidu.

In a special appearance, the Tuan Yuneswaran Ramaraj, Malaysia's Deputy Minister of National Unity, plays the character 'Tuan Deivigan'. This marks the first time that a serving Deputy Minister has acted in a Malaysian Tamil film.

The cinematography is handled by Thinesh Kumar @ TK, while Shameshan Mani Maran has composed the music. Director Jaydev Jayakumar has also taken charge of the film's editing.

A Gripping Investigation That Uncovers Hidden Truths

The mysterious murder of a schoolgirl raises suspicion around a teacher. A forensic detective joins hands with a local police officer to investigate the case. As the investigation progresses, several secrets begin to unravel, one layer at a time.

Beyond identifying the real murderer, 'IRUMBUTH THOTTAM' unfolds as a journey in pursuit of justice, exposing the bitter truths concealed behind the seemingly flawless image of society.

Director's Statement

Speaking about the film, director Jaydev Jayakumar says:

"My intention with 'IRUMBUTH THOTTAM' was to break the silence surrounding issues that people still hesitate to discuss, even in modern society. Being an ardent fan of investigative crime thrillers, I wanted to use the intensity, suspense and gripping narrative of this genre as a bridge to address these challenging social realities.

The characters and settings in the film are inspired by my childhood memories. The entire film was shot in Tebong, located in Malacca, my hometown. I believe this film will challenge the audience's perspectives on social norms."

Preparations for the film's theatrical release are progressing at a brisk pace.



The official announcement regarding the release date will be made soon.

Directed, Written & Edited by: Jaydev Jayakumar

Producer: Jegen John Peter

Creative Head: Karthik Shaamalan

Cinematographer: Thinesh Kumar @ TK

Music Composer: Shameshan Mani Maran

Assistant Directors: Satheeswararao Anantharao, Devaprasanth R. Visvalingam

Cinematography Team: Ravi Tamilarasan, Sathish, Logan, Megan Arts, Jonathan, Devkumar

Art Director: Rajini Kanth

Make-up Artists: Shobana Sri, Sheela

Wardrobe Organizer: Jaya Durga Devi

Visual Effects (VFX): Manoj Kumar Ganapathi

Production Managers: Aboh Shafiq, Bharathan Balachandran

Public Relations: A. John

A study shows that most deliveries in private hospitals are performed by C-section.

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 As the debate over the rising number of cesarean surgeries performed in India reaches its peak, new data on insurance claims for over 160,000 maternity-related hospital admissions show that the average rate of such deliveries has reached an all-time high of 69%.

This data is based on claims for hospitalization of corporate employees and office staff in the country insured by the insurance company, Plum.

Plum Data Labs' analysis of these requests examined the percentage of out-of-pocket expenses, including patterns of maternity care in hospitals, choice of hospitals, and some regional differences.



Medical reasons for a C-section include: breech presentation (the baby is not head-down), complications in the uterus or umbilical cord, women carrying more than one baby in a pregnancy, and high blood pressure in mothers.

According to the World Health Organization, since 1985, the international health community has considered 10% to 15% of all deliveries being C-sections as the optimal rate.

Although Plum Data Labs' findings are high, they are consistent with the trends of the National Family Health Survey for 2023/24, which was released earlier this year. According to that survey, 54% of deliveries in the private sector were C-sections.

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

OM Movie Review: Dhanush and Mammootty Deliver a Gripping, Emotionally Charged Spy Thriller

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Director Rajkumar Periasamy, following the success of Amaran, ventures into the high-stakes world of illegal red sandalwood smuggling with OM—an ambitious, tautly woven espionage thriller anchored by two of Indian cinema's finest actors, Dhanush and Mammootty. Backed by an impressive ensemble featuring Sai Pallavi, Sreeleela, Naseeruddin Shah, and Indrans, OM blends raw crime drama with deeply human emotional undercurrents to create a thoroughly engaging theatrical experience.

The Plot Set against the gritty backdrop of Andhra Pradesh's red sandalwood trade, the story introduces Thirukumaran aka (Dhanush), who earns the trust of dreaded smuggler-turned-politician Burma Karthikeyan aka Siya (Mammootty) after saving him from an assassination attempt. Welcomed into Siya's inner circle like a younger brother, is actually Palani, a dedicated undercover police officer from Tiruvannamalai. Tasked with dismantling Siya's syndicate—and ultimately reaching the Dubai-based kingpin Hameed (Naseeruddin Shah)—Palani works under the covert "Operation Mole" (OM), spearheaded by sharp officer Nithya Reddy (Sai Pallavi). However, as Palani gets closer to Siya, he discovers unexpected shades of humanity in the criminal mastermind, all while struggling to shield his unsuspecting wife Roja (Sreeleela), their son, and his father (Indrans) from the dangerous double life he leads.

Performances Dhanush and Mammootty are the undeniable pillars of OM, elevating every frame they share. Dhanush brings tremendous physicality, vulnerability, and intensity to Palani, effortlessly balancing the grit of an undercover operative with the quiet guilt of a husband failing to meet his family's expectations. Mammootty commands the screen with effortless gravitas as Siya; the writing gifts his character fascinating contradictions—ruthless in business yet genuinely compassionate, whether discussing his love for football or helping a young boy with a medical crisis.

Sai Pallavi shines with poised authority as Nithya Reddy, bringing steady conviction to the procedural aspects of the mission. Sreeleela leaves a lovely impression as Roja, capturing the innocence and relatable marital misunderstandings of a young wife, while her natural chemistry with Dhanush grounds the film's domestic moments.

Direction & Technical Brilliance Rajkumar Periasamy crafts a rich, immersive world, taking the time in the first half to build tension and establish complex character dynamics that culminate in a thrilling, emotionally charged interval block. What sets OM apart from standard action thrillers is its focus on the psychological toll of undercover work, keeping audiences deeply invested in how Palani and Siya's destinies collide.

Technically, the film boasts standout craft. Cinematographer Ezhil Arasu K brilliantly captures both the dense forest landscapes and the tense, gritty atmosphere of the smuggling network. A single-shot action sequence featuring Dhanush is an absolute showstopper—a triumph of choreography, camera movement, and sheer physical endurance—while Mammootty's dramatic courtroom scenes are equally compelling. Young composer Sai Abhyankar delivers a top-notch musical score, with chart-topping songs and a pulsating background score that amplifies both the suspense and the poignant emotional beats.



Verdict OM is a compelling blend of espionage, crime, and heartfelt drama. Driven by powerhouse performances from Dhanush and Mammootty, sharp technical execution, and Rajkumar Periasamy's distinct storytelling, this spy thriller delivers a rewarding and memorable big-screen spectacle.

Madras High Court injuncts circulation of Junior illustration of former DMK Minister E.V. Velu

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Velu seated on the floor of a prison cell with a frightened expression and hugging to his chest a pile of currency notes.

Justice Hemant Chandangoudar granted the interim injunction, till November 26, 2026, against all others too in a John Doe suit (a case filed against unknown entities as well) filed by Velu through his counsel Rahul Balaji. convinced that the balance of convenience was in favour of the plaintiff for the purpose of granting the ex-parte interim injunction as sought for by him pending adjudication of the suit.

Making it clear that he does not seek to stop anyone from reporting about the investigation being conducted in the two cases or the court proceedings related to those cases, the



only seeking a limited order against the illustration which falsely projects him of being guilty of corruption.

Velu also stated the illustration on the cover page of the magazine had been published with the headline 'After Anbil, Velu... ₹5,000 crore scam... Next raid ready!' though the news article published in the inside pages does not support the illustration or the headline on the cover page.

Montra Electric becomes the First and Fastest Indian Brand To Roll Out 1,000 Electric Heavy-Duty Trucks

New Delhi, 21st November 2026: Montra Electric, India's full-spectrum electric commercial vehicle brand, today rolled out its 1,000th Rhino electric truck at its Manesar facility. Montra Electric has become the first Indian brand to achieve this milestone.

To mark this milestone, the brand is marking the milestone under the theme '1,000 Rhinos & Beyond. Charge the Change.' The impact can be measured from the fact that all the Rhino trucks deployed to date have together covered more than 36 million kilometres and avoided over 6.5 million kg of CO_2 emissions, roughly what 14 lakh trees absorb in a year. They have also saved their operators more than ₹70 crore in running costs.

The PM E-DRIVE scheme added to the momentum when the Rhino 5538 EV became India's first heavy-duty electric truck to be certified under in January 2026. This scheme gives buyers an incentive of up to ₹9.6 lakh per vehicle.

Commenting on the milestone, Jalaj Gupta, Managing Director, Montra Electric, (TI Clean Mobility Pvt. Ltd.) said, "When we started, there was no electric heavy truck market in India to build on. We had to prove, load after load, that these trucks could do the job and pay for themselves. With policy support such as PM E-DRIVE, and customers coming back to expand their fleets, electric heavy trucking in India has reached a tipping point. Our first 1,000 Rhinos belong as much to our customers and partners as they do to us. They backed electric trucks early, and the next 1,000 will be built on that trust."

Montra Electric entered the segment at a time when very few Indian fleet operators had ever run an electric heavy truck. Charging points were scarce, and buyers doubted that a battery-powered truck could haul full loads over long distances and still make commercial sense. The company chose to settle



those doubts on its customers' routes, one deployment at a time.

Navneet Sethi, CEO-eM&HCV, Montra Electric, (IPL Tech Pvt. Ltd.) said, "The 1,000th Rhino roll-out marks an important milestone in demonstrating the commercial viability of electric heavy-duty trucking in India. Our trucks have demonstrated their ability to deliver on the parameters that matter the most to fleet operators – performance under load, operational uptime, range and cost efficiency, across demanding applications and long-haul routes. The growing number of repeat orders reflects customer confidence in the product and its ability to deliver tangible business value. Our next priority is to build on this momentum, deepen customer partnerships and expand the footprint of electric heavy-duty trucks across key applications and markets in India."

As Montra Electric enters its next phase of growth, the focus will be on scaling deployments, deepening customer partnerships and expanding the adoption of electric commercial vehicles across India's transportation ecosystem. From setting out to create a market for electric heavy-duty trucking to demonstrating its commercial viability at scale, Montra Electric's journey reflects the possibilities that emerge when technology, customer confidence and a long-term commitment converge.

South African Crime Statistics: Nearly 600 women were killed in three months

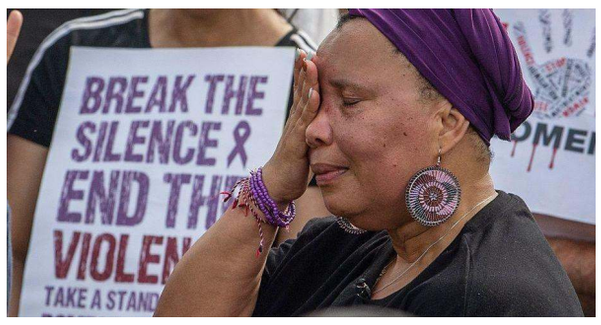
CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 The country's latest crime statistics show that nearly 600 women were killed in South Africa between July and September this year.

This number includes 13 women, whose half-naked, injured bodies were dumped in public places in and around Johannesburg.

These murders sparked widespread outrage nationwide, and the police faced intense pressure to apprehend the perpetrators in a country known for having one of the highest rates of gender-based violence and homicide in the world.

In the latest shocking murder incident, five women and a small child were shot dead in the Free State Province earlier this week.

The latest crime statistics released on Friday show that 581 women were killed in the country between July and September, 131 of them in Gauteng Province, which includes



Johannesburg.

The same statistics show a slight decrease in the number of homicides.

The police reported 5,590 murders, which is 204 fewer than the same period last year. This still averages about 60 murders per day.

It is unclear whether the number of women killed has increased or decreased, as the police recently stopped providing these numbers, citing "significant discrepancies" in the statistics.

Trial run to release Yettinahole water to Tumakuru next week: Agriculture Minister

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 The State government is making efforts to bring the Yettinahole river to the parched district of Tumakuru for the first time next week, subject to Central approval, and to Kolar before June next year.

"As part of our commitment to bring water to Kolar, a trial run will be conducted to release water to Tumakuru. We have permission to lift water from Yettinahole only between June 15 and October 15. Water has to be stored before it is used. We are writing to the Centre to permit lifting of water for the trial run, and if permission is given, water will be brought to Tumakuru," Water Resources Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy told presspersons in Bengaluru on Friday (November 20).

He pointed out that Yettinahole water is



already being released to Hassan, Chikkamagaluru and Kadur, while civil works to enable release of water to Tipturu and Gubbi in Tumakuru district have been completed. "Water will be brought to Kolar by June next year," the Minister said.

He said that ₹19,000 crore has already been spent on the project, and works on a 232 km-stretch out of 252 km have been completed.

Secretary, DoUD, MoHUA chairs 11th meeting of CSMC under PMAY-U 2.0

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 The Government of India has sanctioned 1.75 lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0) and an additional in-principle approval for 1.5 lakh houses was also given during the 11 th meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC), held under the chairmanship of Satendra Singh, Secretary, Department of Urban Development (DoUD), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on 19 th November 2026.

Kumar Ravikant Singh, Joint Secretary and Mission Director (JS&MD), Housing for All (HFA); Sanjeet, Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor (JS&FA);



Vaibhav Rundwal, Director (HFA), officials from the Ministry; and Mission Directors, representatives from States/UTs were among those present in the meeting.

One World, Countless Stories, Infinite Emotions: Goa Rolls Out Red Carpet for IFFI 57

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Somewhere between the first flash of light and the first frame on screen, the world finds a reason to come together. And today, Goa became that world. Against the shimmering backdrop of the Arabian Sea, Goa once again transformed into a global stage where filmmakers, celebrated screen icons and cinephiles converge, cultures collide and imaginations take flight.

With a spectacular inaugural ceremony at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium, Goa, the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) opened its doors to a universe of stories, bringing together 86 nations and over 150 films in a celebration of the limitless magic of the moving image. Inspired by the theme 'Stories Without Borders', this edition celebrates cinema's extraordinary power to transcend geography, dissolve cultural divides and turn different voices into one shared experience.

Addressing the gathering, Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said that IFFI, now an integral part of Goa's cultural calendar for over 22 years, celebrates cinema's power to transcend boundaries and bring cultures together. Linking the festival's theme to India's timeless philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'—the world is one family, he said, "Cinema allows us to experience different cultures and find the common ground that unites us."

Describing the inclusion of Ramayana in the BRICS Cinema section as a proud moment for India, he highlighted IFFI's role



in showcasing the richness of Indian cinema, particularly Marathi, Konkani and Goan films. He expressed hope that this recognition would inspire more young Goans to pursue filmmaking and take their stories to national and international audiences.

Outlining Goa's vision of becoming a comprehensive filmmaking hub, Dr. Sawant said, "We want Goa to be the destination where films are produced and completed." He highlighted the Goa Film Shooting Act, 2021, the online single-window clearance system and financial assistance schemes for filmmakers as key initiatives to strengthen the state's film ecosystem. He also announced the vision of a film city equipped with pre-production, post-production, VFX and film education facilities.

Emphasising the opportunities emerging from technological advancements in animation, artificial intelligence and virtual production, he said Goa aims to equip its young creative talent to be part of the evolving global film industry.

MM கிளினிக்
அரசு மூத்த மருத்துவ அதிகாரி

காலை 10 மணி முதல் மதியம் 2 மணி வரை - முதல் முறை இந்த நோட்டீசை கொண்டுவருபவர்களுக்கு சிகிச்சை இலவசம்

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SRMIST Licenses Patented Polyherbal Anti-Diabetic Formulation to Dr. ShreeVarma's Wellness

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 In a step towards translating traditional-medicine research from the laboratory to the marketplace, SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) has entered into a non-exclusive licensing agreement with Dr. ShreeVarma's Wellness Pvt. Ltd for the manufacture and marketing of its patented polyherbal formulation for the management of diabetes across India. The agreement has a lifetime value of ₹125 lakhs.

The agreement was signed at Ramada Plaza by Wyndham, Guindy. Dr. T. R. Paarivendhar, Chancellor, SRMIST, presided over the ceremony. Prof. C. Muthamizhchelvan, Vice Chancellor, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, and Dr. S. Ponnusamy, Registrar, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, were present, along with Dr. ShreeVarma, Founder and Chairman, and Dr. Henoc Marceau, Director, of Dr. ShreeVarma's Wellness Pvt. Ltd.

The formulation was developed by Dr. Sathish Kumar, Dean, Interdisciplinary Institute of Indian System of Medicine, SRMIST, and his research team. The formulation combines herbs that work together to help manage Diabetes Mellitus. In addition to helping lower blood sugar levels, it exhibits strong antioxidant activity and is designed to protect the kidneys and heart, thereby helping reduce the risk of diabetes-related complications.

The licensing process was facilitated end-to-end by the SRM Technology Transfer Office (SRM TTO), which worked closely with the inventors, negotiated the terms with the industry partner, and drafted and executed the agreement. It will also monitor the licence milestones and ensure compliance throughout its term. SRM TTO facilitates the transfer of inventions to industry through technology licensing, option agreements and industry-academia co-creation of technologies.

SRMIST has so far filed 1,171 patents, of which 1,107 have been published and 638 granted with a filing to granting conversion rate of over 75%. Our conversion rate is above the national average of all IITs and IISC. The institute aims to emerge as a powerhouse of transferable technologies by forging strong industry partnerships and establishing live labs that



enable students and researchers to experience the entire journey from idea to market.

Dr. T. R. Paarivendhar, Chancellor, SRMIST, speaking on the occasion, said, "Research truly succeeds only when it leaves the laboratory and reaches the people it was meant to serve. This licence shows what can be achieved when our researchers and industry partners work towards the same goal. At SRMIST, we want every strong piece of research to find its way to society, and our work in Indian systems of medicine is a good example of that. I congratulate Dr. Sathish Kumar and his team, and I thank the SRM Technology Transfer Office for guiding this agreement from start to finish."

Dr. Sathish Kumar, Dean, Interdisciplinary Institute of Indian System of Medicine (IIISM), said, "Our aim was not only to develop a formulation, but to develop one that can be useful in people's everyday lives. Diabetes affects the whole body over time, so we focused on a combination of herbs that work together, not just on bringing blood sugar down. Seeing it licensed for the market is a proud moment for the entire IIISM team, and we are grateful to the University and the Technology Transfer Office for supporting us at every stage."

Dr. ShreeVarma, Founder and Chairman, Dr. ShreeVarma's Wellness Pvt. Ltd., said, "We are honoured to partner with SRMIST and to be entrusted with a formulation that has come out of such careful research. Our responsibility now is to take it to the people who can benefit from it, and to do so with the same care and quality that went into developing it. We thank Dr. T. R. Paarivendhar, Dr. Sathish Kumar and the SRM Technology Transfer Office for their support and for the smooth way this agreement came together, and we look forward to a long and fruitful association."

Talking loudly on phone inside trains may land you in jail for 6 months

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Indian Railways has warned passengers that talking loudly on the phone or playing music on speaker mode inside trains may attract a fine of up to Rs 1,000 and imprisonment for up to six months. On Friday, Eastern Railway has issued instructions to all its divisions to prevent noise-related nuisance at stations and inside trains, following directions from the Railway Board.

The zonal railway has advised passengers not to play music or videos on their mobile phones using speaker mode, make loud or prolonged phone calls, or keep their ringtone volume too high. Such activities can disturb fellow passengers, particularly those travelling in AC coaches.

"Passengers have been advised to refrain from playing music or videos on mobile phones in speaker mode, engaging in loud or prolonged telephone conversations,



and keeping mobile phones on high-volume ringtones. Such activities often cause inconvenience to fellow passengers and disturb the peaceful atmosphere in railway compartments, particularly in AC coaches," the ER said in a statement.

According to Eastern Railway, passengers creating a nuisance may face action under Section 145 of the Railways Act, 1989, as amended.

MeitY Engages with UN Special Rapporteur on Digital Accessibility and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) held an interactive session with Heba Hagrass, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on advancing digital accessibility and inclusion in India. The engagement, held at CeG Hall, MeitY, formed part of the Special Rapporteur's official visit to India from November 16-25, 2026. In addition to MeitY officials, the Ministry of External Affairs also took part, along with representatives of National Informatics Centre (NIC), Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC), Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD).



The session was led by Nand Kumarum, Joint Secretary, MeitY, and President & CEO, NeGD. It began with a short film on PM's vision on accessibility along with India's digital accessibility initiatives, followed by a detailed presentation and discussion.

From Creative Ideas to Global Opportunities: WAVES Film Bazaar 2026 Begins in Goa

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 The 20th edition of WAVES Film Bazaar was inaugurated today at Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon, Goa, marking two decades of fostering connections between Indian and international film industries. Organised by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, the five-day marketplace brings together filmmakers, producers, writers, investors, distributors and other industry professionals to explore collaborations and take creative projects towards global markets.

In the keynote address during the inauguration, Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, highlighted the remarkable growth of Film Bazaar from 204 delegates representing 18 countries in 2007 to more than 2,500 delegates in recent editions. He described WAVES Film Bazaar as a platform that transforms creative conception into commercial opportunities.

Referring to the vision of 'Create in India, Create for the World', articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at WAVES 2025, he emphasised the importance of providing Indian creative talent with greater access to international markets and opportunities. He described Film Bazaar as a platform for collaboration and discovery, inviting filmmakers from across the world to make full use of the marketplace, where stories can evolve into partnerships and creativity can generate enduring economic and cultural value.

Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Addressing the gathering as Guest of Honour, Ashutosh Gowariker, Festival Director highlighted the unique role of Film Bazaar in bringing Indian filmmakers and international industry professionals together.

Emphasising that the



platform engages with filmmakers at every stage of their creative journey, he said WAVES Film Bazaar does not wait for a film to be completed but meets filmmakers wherever they are in the process. Whether a filmmaker has an unfinished script or a completed film seeking an audience, the marketplace brings together people who can help take the project forward. He described how a simple conversation, often beginning with an invitation to have coffee, could open doors to meaningful collaborations.

Ashutosh Gowariker, Festival Director

Highlighting the transformative power of cinema, he observed that enabling people to see things differently was a gift. He urged delegates to make the most of the four days, interact with strangers, share their ideas, particularly unfinished projects, and pursue opportunities with the hope of finding a 'yes'.

India Emerging as a Global Research Hub for Diabetes, Genetic Disorders and Next-Generation Healthcare Solutions: Dr

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 India is emerging as a global research hub for diabetes, genetic disorders and next-generation healthcare solutions, with over a dozen diabetes-related research projects currently underway under the Ministry of Science & Technology, largely through the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and some through CSIR, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said today.

Emphasising that research is increasingly focused on the prevention and control of diabetes through next-generation molecular and genetic solutions, Dr. Singh said India's vast population and genetic diversity offer a unique opportunity to develop scientific insights and healthcare solutions with relevance for the country and the world. He cautioned that preventing obesity and diabetes among India's youth is a national responsibility and not merely a medical challenge, requiring collective action beyond the healthcare fraternity.

Dr. Jitendra Singh was addressing the inaugural ceremony of RSSDI 2026, being held from November 19–22 at Bengaluru. The conference brings together leading diabetologists, clinicians, researchers, academicians and healthcare professionals from across the country and abroad. Among the prominent dignitaries present were Krishna Byre Gowda, Minister for Greater Bengaluru Development and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Karnataka; Dr. C. N. Manjunath, Member of Parliament. The inaugural programme also featured fellowship distribution, recognition of awardees and the launch of books and guidelines.

The Minister said India has undergone a significant transformation in its scientific and



healthcare capabilities, moving from dependence on external solutions to developing indigenous vaccines, therapies, antibiotics and advanced medical technologies. Referring to India's DNA-based COVID-19 vaccine, indigenous antibiotics, genetic therapy research, biosimilars and the India Genome Study, he said the country has emerged as a frontline contributor to scientific research, with its research ecosystem increasingly addressing complex health challenges through innovative approaches. He also referred to India's vaccine pipeline for diseases such as HPV, dengue and malaria, and advances in genetic therapies, demonstrating the expanding scope of Indian biomedical research.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said the growing focus on precision medicine and molecular-level interventions is opening new avenues for understanding Type 2 diabetes, associated metabolic disorders and their prevention, particularly among younger populations. He invited greater collaboration between government research institutions, private-sector researchers, clinicians, startups and medical associations, stating that translational research and public-private partnerships are essential to convert scientific discoveries into practical healthcare solutions.

From Ancestral Roots to Human Bonds, 12 Goan Films Bring Local Stories to the Global Stage at 57th IFFI

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Long celebrated across the world for its coastal charm, vibrant heritage, and unmatched hospitality, Goa has another side that deserves equal attention — its stories and the people behind them. At the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), a specially curated package brings this side of Goa to the screen, exploring lives, relationships, memories and experiences that are both deeply local and universally relatable.

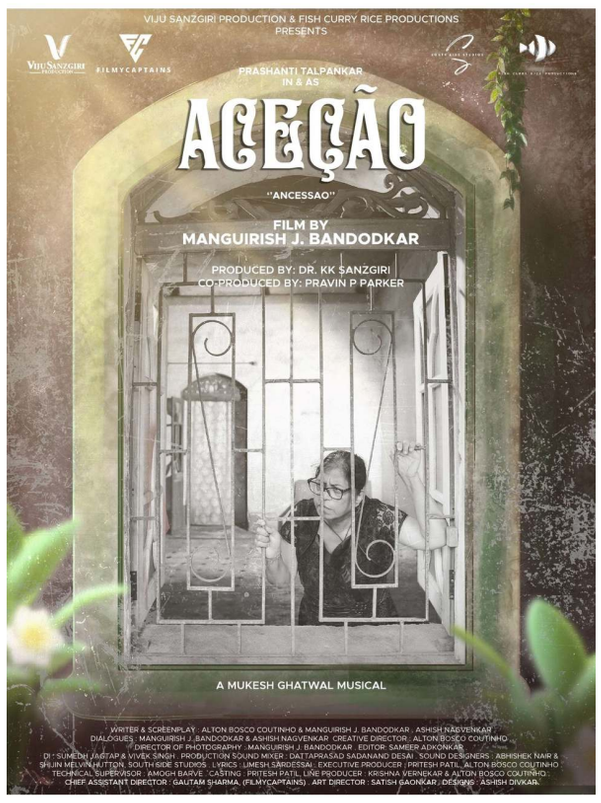
Scheduled for screening from November 21 to 28 at INOX Panjim, this collection of films traverses a rich emotional landscape. Stories of an elderly woman confronting her conscience, a forgotten local hero whose past resurfaces, a daughter seeking reconciliation with her family, and an elderly villager defending his ancestral home reflect the range of human experiences explored through these films.

Spanning Konkani and Marathi, the selection comprises feature and short films that explore a wide spectrum of themes, including family relationships, social realities, personal struggles, identity, childhood, loneliness and personal discovery. From deeply personal narratives to quirky comedies and thought-provoking dramas, the films offer audiences an engaging glimpse into the evolving landscape of filmmaking in Goa.

A glimpse into the Goan film selection:

Director: Manguirish J. Bandodkar | Language: Konkani | Duration: 30 minutes

Set in a quiet Goan village, Ancessao follows an elderly woman living alone, filling the silence of her life with conversations about others. Unable to confront her own grief, she eventually recognises her gossip as a distraction from an unhealed wound. When her conscience prompts her to change, she makes a resolve to mend



her ways, but the transformation proves short-lived.

Director: Vardhan Vijaykumar Kamat | Language: Konkani | Duration: 1 hour 39 minutes

Once a celebrated local hero, Umesh now leads a reclusive life in a rural Goan village, surviving on odd jobs and haunted by an unresolved past. His life takes an unexpected turn when aspiring filmmakers Anton and Rohan arrive to document him. As they navigate local rumours and half-truths, they uncover a forgotten talent and the painful circumstances behind his isolation. As trust gradually develops, Umesh grows increasingly wary of the camera. Umesh explores identity, trust and the cost of a forgotten legacy.

Director: Prasad M. Naik | Language: Konkani | Duration: 11 minutes

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh Calls for Mission-Mode Implementation of SVAMITVA to Achieve Saturation by March 31, 2027

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh Calls for Mission-Mode Implementation of SVAMITVA to Achieve Saturation by March 31, 2027.

The Review Meeting on the SVAMITVA Scheme was held today in New Delhi, with the Centre and the States committing themselves to complete the implementation of rural property ownership under the Scheme within the stipulated timeframe. The meeting was addressed by Union Minister of Panchayati Raj and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAHD), Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh and Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj and FAHD, Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel. Participants included Ministers from nine States, Dr. Vineet Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and other senior officers of the Ministry, senior officials from the States/Union Territories and Survey of India.



A new recipe to shape magnetisation that could open new doors to storing quantum information

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Scientists have cracked a way to tune an exotic form of quantum magnetism in a network by changing the connectivity of the network. This may have applications in quantum devices, for example, in storing quantum information.

Many systems are composed of interacting objects, and that can range from gas in the room to social networks. The hub-and-spoke diagrams showing flight routes in aeroplane magazines illustrate how connectivity allows people to move across cities. Another relatable example is that of superspreaders during COVID, who acted as hubs in spreading the disease.

These are familiar instances that show how different patterns of connections can determine collective behaviour. But these are all classical systems.

A team from the Raman Research Institute (RRI), an Autonomous Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), explored what happens when many quantum objects interact with each other, what sets the collective ordering and how the quantum units organise themselves.

To understand the system, Revathy B. S., the lead author of the new study and a postdoctoral fellow at RRI, and Shovan Dutta, co-author and assistant professor in the Theoretical Physics group at RRI, pictured a square lattice with one vacant site (hole) and all other sites occupied by one electron.

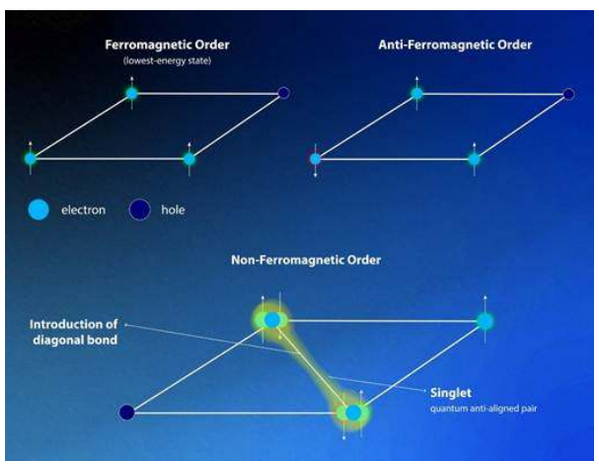


Fig 1: The top row shows the possible magnetic ordering of a many-body quantum system within a single square lattice. The bottom shows that the introduction of a diagonal in the square lattice yield

The electrons have an intrinsic property called spin, which can point up or down. The hole can hop from one site to another, and this motion of the hole can influence how the electron spins arrange themselves, giving rise to what scientists' call "kinetic magnetism". Unlike conventional magnetism which arises from direct interactions between the spins, kinetic magnetism arises from the quantum motion (kinetic energy) of particles. Kinetic magnetism is a true quantum-mechanical effect with no classical counterpart.

If all the spins point along the same direction, it is called ferromagnetic order, and if adjacent spins have opposite directions, it is called antiferromagnetic ordering. For a square lattice with one hole, it has been shown before that the lowest-energy state is ferromagnetic.

Nationwide campaign to run from 19th November to 10th December 2026, culminating on Human Rights Day Campaign to focus on assessments and improvements by States/UTs of

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 and accessibility of community and institutional toilets in rural areas.

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, launched the 'Swachh Shauchalay – Garimamay Bhavishya' (SSGB) campaign under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] yesterday on World Toilet Day, 2026. The campaign and its reporting module were e-launched by Aishvarya Singh, Joint Secretary & National Mission Director, SBM(G), DDWS.

The event commenced with welcome remarks and context setting for the campaign by the Deputy Secretary, DDWS. This was followed by a brief presentation on the progress of SBM(G) by Director, DDWS which highlighted the achievement of ODF Plus (Model) status in around 89.9% villages and achievements under other components of SBM(G).

Thereafter the ' Swachh Shauchalay – Garimamay Bhavishya ' campaign was e-launched by Joint Secretary & National Mission Director. She also launched the reporting module designed by DDWS for States/UTs to report progress of the campaign.

The United Nations theme for World Toilet Day 2026, ' Safe toilets. Equal futures.', links sanitation to gender equality. Aligned with the same, the Swachh Shauchalay – Garimamay Bhavishya campaign focuses on improving rural sanitation facilities, with particular attention to the needs of women, girl students and Divyangjan.

The objectives of Swachh Shauchalay – Garimamay Bhavishya campaign include: -

Assessment of the status of CSCs and institutional toilets



(Schools, Anganwadi centres and Panchayat Ghar etc) and undertake repairs/maintenance/restoration, as required. For institutional toilets this may be done through concerned authorities (SMC/AWC/GPK/GPB etc). Motivating individual households to also undertake repair/maintenance of their IHHLs, where warranted.

Assessment of toilet typology for the village and retrofitting of identified single-pit toilets to twin-pit toilets and septic tank without soak pits to septic tank with soak pits, wherever feasible, against targets set by States/UTs.

Assessment and planning of mechanized desludging wherever operational or required for FSM compliance.

Assessment and strengthening of O&M arrangements for the upkeep and maintenance of CSCs and institutional toilets.

Encourage communities to transform CSCs and institutional toilets into welcoming, clean and well-maintained spaces with local wall art, signage and improvement of surroundings. Individual households may also be motivated to do the same for their IHHLs.

Assessment of the ODF sustainability in the village; promote continued use of toilets through intensive Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) and awareness drives to sustain ODF status.

Pollen from wetland of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve regenerative capacity of tropical forest ecosystems

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 A new study carried out at Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve shows that in 2700- and 2300-years BP, the region experienced a strong Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM), while between 2300- and 1600-years BP, it underwent multiple climatic phases, including periods of high humidity and prolonged drought significantly influencing the composition, structure, distribution of forest vegetation and shifts in regional landscape through time.

This was followed by stable monsoon and increasing evidence of human activity between 1600 and 820 years BP and strengthening of monsoons during the last 400 years resulting in recovery of forests.

This indicated the resilience and regenerative capacity of tropical forest ecosystems that populated the region, under favourable climatic conditions.

Understanding the long-term variability of the ISM is essential because it is a key driver of India's climate, ecosystems, and water resources. As Indian agriculture is highly dependent on monsoon rainfall, even small changes in monsoon intensity or timing can affect crop productivity, food security, and the national economy. Reconstructing past climate and vegetation changes provides valuable long-term insights into natural monsoon variability and ecosystem responses.

However, there is a lack of high-resolution Late Holocene palaeoclimate records from the Core Monsoon Zone (CMZ) of central India.

Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), an Autonomous Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), used pollen-based records from Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in central India's Core Monsoon Zone and integrated them with the Earth System Paleoclimate Simulation (ESPS) model to reconstruct vegetation and Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) variability over the past ~2700 years.

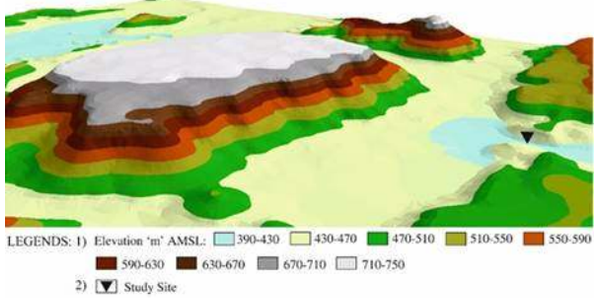


Fig 1: Three-dimensional (3D) elevation model of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, located in the Core Monsoon Zone, Madhya Pradesh, India.

This combination allowed researchers to reconstruct historical Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) patterns for the past 3000 years, correlating climate changes with significant events in Indian history.

Dr. Anjali Trivedi, along with Anupam Nag and Prof. M. G. Thakkar from BSIP) studied sediment core from the Chakradhara Wetland of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, located in Umaria district of Northeastern Madhya Pradesh, India, segmented the core and prepared samples for radio carbon dating and pollen analysis.

INSA President Professor Shekhar C. Mande Appointed to UN's 10-Member Group on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals

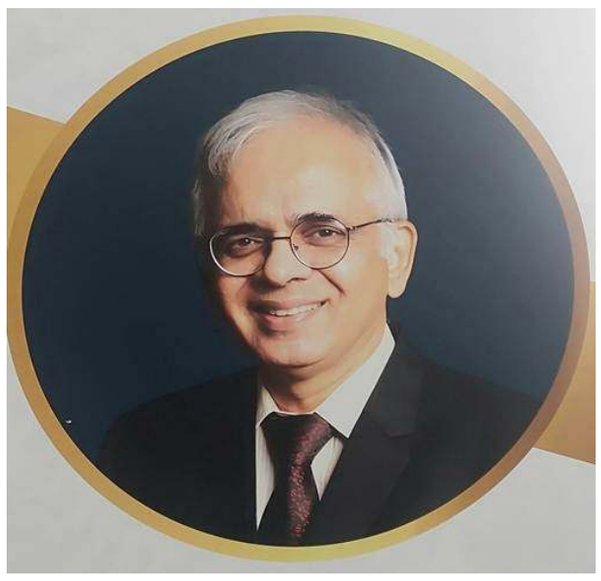
CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 INSA President Professor Shekhar C. Mande Appointed to UN's 10-Member Group on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals.

Professor Shekhar C. Mande, President of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), has been appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General to the United Nations Group of Ten High-level Representatives of Civil Society, Private Sector and Scientific Community to Promote Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the 2026–2028 term.

Professor Mande joins nine other eminent experts from across the world in the High-Level Expert Group, which includes Marian Dorcas Quain (Ghana) and Giorgio Rossi (Italy) as Co-Chairs, along with Magnus Andersson (Sweden), Mônica Tejo Cavalcanti (Brazil), Evgeniya Dmitrieva (Russian Federation), Motoko Kotani (Japan), Jin Li (China), Madin Maseeh (Maldives), and Rita Orji (Nigeria). The members represent diverse scientific disciplines and sectors and will bring their collective expertise to advancing global efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals under the UN's 2030 Agenda.

The 10-Member Group is an integral part of the United Nations Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), which promotes collaboration and partnerships to harness science, technology and innovation for sustainable development. The Group works closely with the UN Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT), providing guidance and recommendations on emerging scientific and technological developments and their implications for sustainable development.

The Group's mandate includes contributing to the UN Science, Technology and Innovation Forum,



providing recommendations on technology solutions and partnerships, and advising on areas such as emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, digitalisation, biotechnology, quantum technologies, capacity building, social inclusion and STI roadmaps for the SDGs.

Professor Mande is a distinguished structural and computational biologist and scientific administrator. He is currently President of INSA and a Distinguished Professor at the Bioinformatics Centre, Savitribai Phule Pune University, as well as a JC Bose Fellow at the National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune. Professor Mande also serves as the National President of Vijnana Bharati, a national science movement dedicated to promoting scientific awareness in India. He has previously served as Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Government of India.

His appointment reflects the growing recognition of Indian scientific expertise and its contribution to international dialogue on science, technology and innovation for addressing global development challenges.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Represents India as Chief Guest at Oman National Day Reception in New Delhi

NEW DELHI – 21 Nov, 2026 Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, represented the Government of India as the Chief Guest at the National Day Reception of the Sultanate of Oman, hosted at the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, today. Sonowal was received by H.E. Issa Saleh Al Shibani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to India, in the presence of senior diplomats, government officials, and distinguished guests.

Addressing the gathering, Sarbananda Sonowal extended warm greetings on behalf of the Government and the people of India to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Government, and the friendly people of Oman, wishing the Sultanate continued peace, progress, and prosperity.

Underscoring the deep-rooted historical ties between the two nations, the Union Minister noted that for nearly five thousand years, sailors and merchants have crossed the Arabian Sea, connecting ancient Indian ports with Muscat, Sohar, and Salalah. "The Arabian Sea has never separated our countries. It has always connected us," Sonowal said, adding that these centuries-old exchanges built bonds of trust long before formal diplomatic ties were established.

Recalling his visit to Muscat in January this year to welcome INSV Kaundinya following its maiden voyage from Porbandar, Sonowal described the vessel, inspired by a fifth-century ship depicted in the Ajanta caves and built using



traditional stitching techniques, as a living symbol of the enduring maritime, trade, and people-to-people ties between India and Oman.

Highlighting the renewed momentum in the India-Oman Strategic Partnership following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Oman in December 2025, Sonowal pointed to two landmark milestones: the entry into force of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in June 2026, and the adoption of the Joint Vision Document on Maritime Cooperation.

"India and Oman are natural maritime partners occupying strategic positions along major shipping routes connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe. Oman's ports at Duqm, Sohar, and Salalah, together with India's expanding port network, can support stronger trade connectivity and more resilient supply chains," the Union Minister stated. He emphasised vast opportunities for bilateral collaboration in port-led development, shipbuilding and ship repair, green fuels, digital port systems, maritime training, logistics, and the blue economy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Chairs Plenary Session of 'SAMAVESHI NITI SANKALP 2026'

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Prime Minister Narendra Modi applauded the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for organizing the Departmental Summit and facilitating meaningful deliberations. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of collective action and a 'Whole of Government' approach in achieving the objectives of social justice, social empowerment and a Nasha Mukt Bharat.

Addressing the plenary session of the two-day Departmental Summit titled 'Samaveshi Niti Sankalp', at the Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, in the National Capital here on Thursday, Modi h ighlighted the transformative impact of the Government's welfare initiatives, he observed that nearly 50 crore people lifted out of poverty have experienced genuine social empowerment.

Calling for the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan to be transformed into a nationwide Jan Andolan, the Prime Minister stressed that every citizen, family, educational institution and community must contribute to building a drug-free India.

Modi encouraged schools to organize essay competitions and undertake awareness initiatives, while sensitizing parents to recognize early signs of substance abuse and addiction.

Emphasizing the importance of rehabilitation and social reintegration, the Prime Minister observed that the journeys of individuals who have successfully overcome substance dependence carry a powerful message of hope.

"These journeys



carry the strongest message of hope. They show that recovery is possible and that a life free from drugs is a life of dignity," he said.

The Prime Minister also urged farmers to shun illicit crop cultivation and called for coordinated efforts involving all Ministries, State Governments, district administrations and spiritual organizations to strengthen the national campaign against drug abuse.

Recognising the influence of spiritual leaders, the Prime Minister said that spiritual gurus and organisations have a vital role to play in the mission. Their guidance, he noted, can inspire millions to choose a life free from drugs.

On the empowerment of persons with disabilities, the Prime Minister highlighted the significance of the term 'Divyang', noting its contribution towards enhancing the dignity, respect and self-esteem of persons with disabilities.

Modi encouraged its wider use and popularization to foster a positive outlook towards Divyangjan across society. He also emphasized the need to identify, nurture and recognize their inherent talents and abilities by providing appropriate opportunities and platforms for their participation and contribution.

Strengthening Educational Opportunities for OBC Students through Dedicated Hostel Infrastructure

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Access to safe and affordable accommodation plays an important role in enabling students, particularly those from rural and socially and economically weaker backgrounds, to continue their education. The proposed hostel seeks to address accommodation-related challenges by providing essential boarding facilities and a healthy environment conducive to learning, personal development and academic advancement.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, has initiated the establishment of a 150-seat hostel for students belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community at Alagapur Gram Panchayat in North Tripura. The initiative aims to strengthen educational opportunities by providing suitable residential infrastructure and creating a supportive environment for students to pursue their academic aspirations.

Starting during the financial year 2025–26, the hostel project has a planned accommodation capacity of 150 students. Once completed and operational, the hostel is expected to provide accommodation for up to 150 eligible OBC students and contribute to improved access to educational opportunities in North Tripura. This will also provide them facility of a structured and supportive living environment.

The project is being implemented by the Rural Development Department, Government of Tripura, on behalf of the OBC Welfare Department, with funding support from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.



This collaborative initiative reflects the importance of Centre-State coordination in expanding educational infrastructure and promoting inclusive socio-economic development.

The proposed hostel will provide essential amenities, including electricity, proper sanitation and hygiene facilities, safe drinking water and adequate security arrangements. These facilities are intended to ensure a safe, healthy and supportive residential environment, allowing students to concentrate on their educational pursuits.

Beyond residential accommodation, the hostel is envisaged as a space for nurturing academic excellence, leadership qualities and skill development among OBC students. The initiative also seeks to encourage participation in refresher programmes and skill-orientation courses, helping students develop competencies that can support their future educational and professional aspirations.

The initiative reflects the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's continued commitment towards inclusive education, equitable access to opportunities and the development of supportive educational infrastructure for disadvantaged communities, contributing to the broader vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

Reflecting Strong Consumer Response to Indigenous Products and Traditional Craftsmanship Trade Fair To Conclude on November 27, 2026

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 The pavilion of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at the ongoing 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, continues to receive an encouraging response from visitors, with cumulative sales reaching over ₹ 60.78 lakh as of November 19, 2026.

The continued rise in sales reflects growing consumer appreciation for India's traditional craftsmanship, indigenous products, entrepreneurial talent of artisans from diverse communities and sustainable livelihood generation, across the country.

The Ministry's pavilion, located at Hall No. 5, Ground Floor, ITPO, has emerged as a vibrant platform showcasing India's diverse artistic traditions, indigenous skills and entrepreneurial talent, while facilitating direct engagement between traditional artisans and consumers.

The Ministry's pavilion offers visitors an opportunity to experience India's diverse cultural and artistic heritage, interact directly with artisans and contribute to their economic empowerment by purchasing authentic, indigenous and handcrafted products.

A Senior Official in the Ministry said more than 130 artisans from 19 States are showcasing their products at the ongoing Trade Fair through the Ministry's three Apex Corporations, namely the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).



He remarked that the participation of the Ministry's three Apex Corporations underscores the continued efforts towards strengthening market linkages, promoting entrepreneurship and advancing the socio-economic empowerment of artisans and entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, Safai Mitras and De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs), in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the principle of ' Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

The Official said the pavilion showcases an extensive range of traditional handlooms, intricately designed handicrafts, handcrafted jewellery, textiles, footwear, handmade articles and other indigenous products, representing the distinctive artistic identities and rich cultural heritage of different regions of the country.

Participation in national-level exhibitions such as IITF provides artisans an opportunity to enhance product visibility, engage directly with customers, understand evolving consumer preferences, establish business networks and explore newer market opportunities, he said.

Empowering Women Entrepreneurship Through Financial Assistance under NSFDC

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Access to timely financial assistance and institutional support plays a significant role in strengthening entrepreneurship among women from Scheduled Caste communities. By enabling small business owners to expand their operations, improve infrastructure and enhance production capacity, financial assistance contributes to sustainable livelihoods, economic independence and inclusive growth.

A Journey of Enterprise and Determination

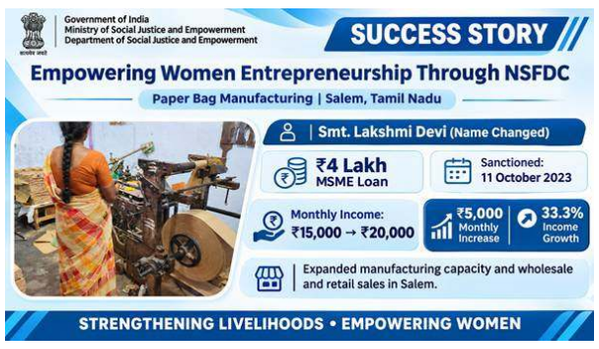
Lakshmi Devi (name changed), a 55-year-old woman entrepreneur belonging to the Scheduled Caste community from Salem district in Tamil Nadu, has demonstrated remarkable determination in building and sustaining her paper bag manufacturing enterprise.

Coming from an agricultural background, she ventured into paper bag manufacturing and has been successfully operating her unit for more than ten years. Through consistent efforts, she established a presence in the local market, supplying paper bags to customers and businesses in and around Salem.

Despite her experience and commitment, limited financial resources constrained the expansion of her enterprise. Inadequate manufacturing infrastructure and restricted production capacity affected her ability to meet growing market demand and increase her earnings. Her monthly income remained approximately ₹15,000, highlighting the need for additional financial support to strengthen her business.

Financial Assistance for Business Expansion

Recognising the opportunity to expand her enterprise, Lakshmi Devi approached a bank for financial assistance to improve her manufacturing infrastructure and increase production capacity.



On 11 October 2023, she was sanctioned a loan of ₹ 4 lakh under the MSME Loan Scheme, with support linked to the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC).

She effectively utilised the financial assistance to strengthen her paper bag manufacturing unit, improve its operational capacity and increase the availability of finished products.

The intervention enabled her to expand both wholesale and retail sales of paper bags in Salem and surrounding areas. The beneficiary also received support under the VISVAS scheme implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, as reported in the beneficiary information.

Strengthening Income and Economic Independence

The financial assistance brought a measurable improvement in the beneficiary's economic circumstances. With enhanced production capacity and improved market access, her monthly income increased from approximately ₹15,000 to ₹20,000, representing an additional earning of ₹5,000 per month.

This 33.3% increase in monthly income reflects the positive impact of need-based credit assistance in supporting small-scale women entrepreneurs.

Consultation focuses on strengthening the MICE and Wedding Tourism ecosystem through closer Government–industry collaboration India improves its global ranking in international association meetings from 37th in 2022 to 26th in 2025

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 The Ministry of Tourism organised a Stakeholder Consultation on MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) and Wedding Tourism in New Delhi on 19 November 2026, under the chairmanship of Bhuvnesh Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism. The consultation brought together representatives of leading industry associations, convention and exhibition venues and industry bodies to review progress in the two sectors and seek industry inputs to position India as a leading global destination for business events and weddings.

The consultation witnessed participation from the Indian Exhibition Industry Association (IEIA), Event and Entertainment Management Association (EEMA), Indian Weddings Industry Association (IWIA), Jio World Convention Centre (JWCC), India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Addressing the participants, Bhuvnesh Kumar, highlighted the potential of the MICE sector and emphasised the need for a structured approach, closer coordination and regular engagement between the Government and industry.

Suman Billa, Additional Secretary and Director General (Tourism), underscored the important role of sectoral bodies in strengthening the MICE and Wedding Tourism ecosystem.



The deliberations focused on strengthening the overall MICE and Wedding Tourism ecosystem, recognising professional service providers, improving sectoral data and promoting Indian destinations in collaboration with States and Union Territories.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government is working to position India as a leading global MICE destination. India ' s MICE market, valued at USD 49.4 billion in 2024, is projected to reach USD 103.7 billion by 2030. The Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a MICE destination through the ' Meet in India ' sub-brand under the ' Incredible India ' campaign.

India has also recorded progress in the international association meetings segment. According to the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), India ' s global ranking improved from 37th in 2022 to 26th in 2025, while the country ranked 6th in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2025, New Delhi was the highest-ranked Indian city, followed jointly by Bengaluru and Mumbai.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES 12TH CONVOCATION OF ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND DR RAM MANOHAR LOHIA HOSPITAL

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 The President of India, Droupadi Murmu graced the 12th convocation of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi today (November 20, 2026).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that today the concept of 'One Health' is of paramount importance in the field of global health. Due to the constant contact between humans, animals, plants, and the environment, a health issue arising in one domain can affect others as well. Many infectious diseases spread from animals to humans, while air and water pollution, climate change, and environmental imbalances also pose serious challenges to human health. It is, therefore, essential to work in collaboration with experts from the fields of human medicine, veterinary medicine, and environmental science. This integrated approach will not only facilitate disease prevention and timely detection but also enhance our preparedness to address future health crises.



The President said that understanding the social, economic, nutritional, and environmental conditions is crucial for the prevention and treatment of diseases, as these factors have a direct impact on human health. Research into treatment and preventive measures tailored to local health challenges and circumstances should be encouraged.

The President said that, in assessing the evolving health needs, the Government of India has revised the Health Policy in 2017. Within this comprehensive and inclusive Health Policy, greater emphasis was placed on preventive and promotive services, alongside curative solutions. The focus on rehabilitative and palliative care was also strengthened. In view of the rapid rise of non-communicable diseases such as mental stress, diabetes, and cancer, special emphasis is being placed on various aspects related to their prevention.

President said that the initiatives undertaken by the Government of India in the health sector over the past decade are yielding far-reaching effects. These have led to a significant expansion of healthcare services, spanning from primary to tertiary levels.

The President told graduating doctors that through their research and efforts, healthcare services can become more effective, accessible, affordable, and people-centric. She underlined that their expertise should also benefit marginalized communities in remote areas, as well as the country's primary healthcare services. Their thinking and actions should be such that the benefits of their skills can reach the underprivileged sections of society.

Click here to see President's Speech.

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya calls for Sports Industry Leaders to 'Make In India, Play In India, Grow With India'

NEW DELHI – 21 Nov, 2026 Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, inaugurated the 16th edition of TURF, FICCI's (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) Global Summit on Business of Sports, in New Delhi on Friday.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Mandaviya said, "Sports have emerged as a powerful instrument for youth development, social inclusion, economic opportunity and international cooperation."

He said, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has placed sports at the centre of its nation-building agenda. Our approach is guided by a clear vision – creating opportunities for every aspiring athlete, from the playground to the podium."

The summit is being held under the theme "Powering India's Sports Economy: Partnerships, Innovation & Global Leadership".

Highlighting the transformation of India's sporting ecosystem over the last 12 years, Dr. Mandaviya said, "Through initiatives such as Khelo India Mission, Fit India Movement, and Target Olympic Podium Scheme, we are expanding grassroots participation, identifying sporting talent and creating pathways towards high-performance sports."

The Union Cabinet recently approved the new Khelo India Scheme, with an outlay of Rs 36,441 crore for the next five years, to strengthen sports infrastructure, nurture talent, and promote sports development across the country.



Highlighting India's performance, Dr. Mandaviya said, "At the Asian Games 2026, India finished fourth in the medal standings."

He added, "Equally historic was India's performance at the Asian Para Games 2026, where our para-athletes secured a record 114 medals, our highest-ever tally at the Games."

Speaking on the role of industry, Dr. Mandaviya said, "We recognise that the future of sports will be shaped, not only by athletes and sporting institutions, but also by a strong, competitive and innovation-driven sports industry."

The Government has approved the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme, with an outlay of Rs 1,856.67 crore, to make India a global hub for sports goods manufacturing and innovation.

Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 sets out a comprehensive vision for sports development in India, while the National Sports Governance Act is ensuring accountability and transparency in sports administration.

Dr. Mandaviya outlined India's intent to host major international sporting events. India is set to host the Commonwealth Games 2030 in Ahmedabad, while also harbouring hopes of hosting the 2036 Olympics in the same city.

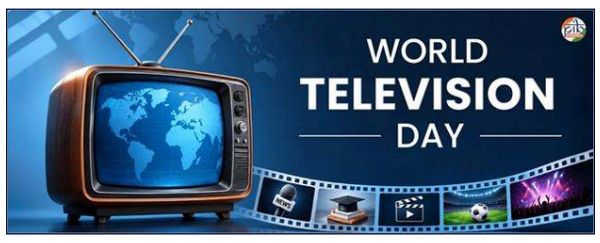
India's Television Broadcasting Shift

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Setting the Context: World Television Day

Broadcasting is the systematic transmission of audio and video content to a large audience through electronic communication networks. Television broadcasting combines sound and moving images to deliver news, information, education and entertainment. Over the decades, technological advancements have expanded its reach through terrestrial, satellite, cable and internet-based platforms. This has made television an important medium of mass communication.

In India, television broadcasting has transformed communication by connecting diverse communities across geographical and linguistic boundaries. It has supported socio-economic development through educational programmes, agricultural information, health awareness and public service campaigns. It has also emerged as a major source of entertainment, bringing films, television serials, and sports etc. into millions of households, while also promoting India's cultural and linguistic diversity. It has further strengthened public administration by enabling the dissemination of government policies, welfare schemes, development initiatives and emergency information, thereby improving public awareness and access to essential information.

Recognising television's growing influence on public opinion, global communication and cultural exchange, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day in 1996. The observance recognises television's role in informing, educating and connecting societies. It also highlights the importance of responsible broadcasting in addressing contemporary challenges and supporting informed public discourse.



A television screen can bring distant events, new ideas and different perspectives into people's homes. It connects audiences with developments beyond their immediate surroundings. Over the decades, television has become an important medium for entertainment, information, education and public communication in India.

The Changing Technologies of Television

Television broadcasting in India has evolved alongside advances in communication and transmission technologies. Each technological advancement transformed the transmission and distribution of television programmes, expanding their reach and accessibility.

The Early Broadcast Era: Terrestrial Television (1959–1975)

From Indian Fields to Global Markets: Agri-Exports Gather Pace

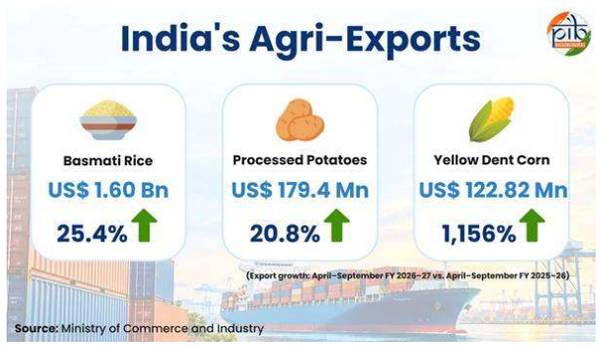
CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 India's agricultural exports recorded strong growth during April-September FY 2026-27, led by Basmati rice, processed frozen potatoes and yellow dent corn. Basmati rice exports increased 25.4%, while processed potato exports rose 20.8%. Yellow dent corn exports surged around 12-fold. Strong growth in exports across West Asia, East and Southeast Asia, and other international markets reflects the widening geographical reach of India's agricultural and processed food exports.

Introduction

India's agricultural exports recorded strong growth across key commodities during April–September FY 2026–27, with Basmati rice, prepared or preserved frozen potatoes and yellow dent corn registering significant increases. The performance reflects a combination of stronger demand in traditional markets, rapid growth in emerging destinations and the increasing geographical diversification of India's agricultural exports.

Basmati rice exports increased across several West Asian markets, including Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Yemen and Oman. The United States also recorded growth during the period. Meanwhile, processed potato exports gained momentum across East and Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia, and Japan.

Yellow dent corn registered a particularly sharp increase in exports, with Vietnam, Bangladesh and the Philippines emerging as major destinations. Growth across these agricultural commodities highlights the



widening geographical spread of India's exports and its expanding presence in international markets.

Basmati Rice Exports Rise 25% to US$ 1.60 Billion

Exports of Basmati rice increased around 25.4%, from US$ 1.28 billion during April–September FY 2025–26 to US$ 1.60 billion in the corresponding period of FY 2026–27. The increase was recorded across several important markets in West Asia, North America and other regions.

Iran emerged as the largest destination among the reported markets, with exports increasing 44.1%, from US$ 129.8 million to US$ 187.1 million.

Saudi Arabia recorded growth of 7.9%, with exports rising from US$ 161.6 million to US$ 174.4 million.

The United States registered an increase of 27.7%, with shipments rising from US$ 109.5 million to US$ 139.8 million.

The UAE recorded growth of more than 50%, with exports reaching US$ 138.3 million during the period.

Yemen registered a substantial increase of 66.8%, with exports rising from US$ 74.7 million to US$ 124.6 million.

Oman also recorded strong growth of 65.3%, with shipments increasing from US$ 44.9 million to US$ 74.2 million.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Message of Peace, Equality and Service Continues to Guide Humanity: Kiren Rijiju

CHENNAI – 21 Nov, 2026 Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Message of Peace, Equality and Service Continues to Guide Humanity: Kiren Rijiju.

National Commission for Minorities (NCM) celebrated Guru Purab with devotion and reverence, commemorating the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji and paying tribute to his timeless teachings of peace, harmony, equality and selfless service.

Addressing the gathering, Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, paid homage to Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji and said his teaching's remain profoundly relevant in contemporary society. Rijiju said Guru Nanak Dev Ji gave humanity the eternal message of Ik Onkar — One God, and all human beings as His children. Through the three guiding principles of Naam Japo, Kirat Karo and Vand Chhakko, the Guru taught remembrance of God, honest labour, and sharing with others.

Referring to the tradition of Shabad Kirtan, the Union Minister said Guru Nanak Dev Ji established it as a powerful medium for peace, spiritual awakening and harmony among people. Highlighting the institution of Langar, he underscored the Guru's vision that no person should go hungry. Langar, he said, embodies equality, sharing and service to humanity — where all sit together in one pangat, without distinction of caste, status or creed.



The Union Minister also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Gurdwara Khalsa Diwan in Manila, Philippines, highlighting the Government's commitment to strengthening India's spiritual and cultural connections across the world. He reiterated that the Government's guiding philosophy of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' reflects the spirit of inclusivity and equal opportunities for all.

Speaking about the spirit of sacrifice deeply embedded in Sikh history and tradition, the Union Minister said he was deeply moved by the extraordinary courage and sacrifices of the Sahibzadas. He noted that their lives continue to inspire generations with lessons of courage, faith and unwavering commitment to principles.

The programme was attended by Chairman, National Commission for Minorities, Harjit Singh Grewal; Vice-Chairperson S. Munawari Begum; Members Berjis Desai, Glenn D. Ticlo and Dr. Yangchan Dolma.