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

HELLO MADRAS
hellomadrasdaily@gmail.com
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The Truth

காலை 10 மணி முதல் மதியம் 2 மணி வரை - முதல் முறை இந்த நோட்டீசை கொண்டுவருபவர்களுக்கு சிகிச்சை இலவசம்
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Ayush Pavilion Emerges as a Major Attraction at India International Trade Fair 2026

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 The Ministry of Ayush is showcasing India's diverse traditional healthcare systems at the 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2026, being held from 13 to 27 November at Hall No. 2, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The Ayush Pavilion is offering visitors an engaging experience through healthcare consultations, interactive activities, traditional dietary preparations, medicinal plant displays and educational presentations highlighting the relevance of Ayush systems in promoting preventive healthcare and healthy living.This year's Ayush Pavilion at IITF is themed "Ayush Ki Virasat Se Swasth Bharat Ka Vikaas" (आयुष की विरासत से स्वस्थ भारत का विकास), in alignment with the overarching theme of IITF, "Development and Heritage" (विकास और विरासत).

Joint workshop of the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, on their role in eradication of poverty, concludes in Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Minister

NEW DELHI – 24 Nov, 2026 Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has achieved unprecedented, extraordinary and historic milestones in the field of poverty eradication. According to the World Bank's recent report, nearly 500 million people in the country have moved out of poverty, while the rate of extreme poverty has declined from 27.1 per cent to just 2.6 per cent. This remarkable progress reflects the contribution of several sectors and government initiatives, particularly agriculture and allied activities, agricultural research, land resources and rural development. To assess the role played by these areas in the achievement and discuss the strategy for the road ahead, a special one-day workshop was organised today at the Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. The joint workshop was chaired by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development, Shivraj



Singh Chouhan. Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Bhagirath Choudhary and Union Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan also participated.

Describing the country's progress, Chouhan called it an "extraordinary, unimaginable and unprecedented miracle".

Gyan Bharatam Session at the 1st SCO Civilization Dialogue Forum Reconnects the Manuscript Heritage

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Language, Script and Manuscript Traditions.

India's manuscript heritage, encompassing knowledge of polity, economy, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, agriculture and sustainable living, reflects a rich civilizational journey in which knowledge travelled across regions through lipi (script), bhāṣā (language) and jñāna (knowledge). Rooted in the spirit of the Ṛgvedic prayer "ā no bhadrāḥ kratavo yantu viśvataḥ" (let noble thoughts come to us from all sides), this shared legacy was the focus of Session IV on "Language, Literature, Script and Manuscript Traditions", convened by the Ministry of Culture under the Gyan Bharatam Mission on 22 November 2026 at Purana Qila (Old Fort), New Delhi. The session brought together eminent scholars, experts and delegates from SCO Member States and Dialogue Partners to deliberate on the shared manuscript heritage and avenues for collaboration.



The session was part of the 1 st SCO Civilization Dialogue Forum, held from 20 to 22 November 2026 and inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi.

Inderjeet Singh, CEO (Gyan Bharatam) & Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, briefed participants from SCO countries on the Gyan Bharatam Mission and its operational activities to the participation SCO Countries: Survey and Cataloguing; Conservation and Capacity Building; Technology and Digitization; Linguistics and Translation; and Research, Publication and Outreach. He highlighted the key features of AI and its integrated features, Gyan-MitramAI, Pandulipi Darpana and BharatiyaGPT, and the milestone achieved that over 1.26 crore manuscripts have been reported through the National Manuscript Survey.

Emphasising the collaborative vision of the Mission, he stated, "For the Gyan Bharatam Mission, this is both a responsibility and an invitation to work together." He also highlighted the significance of Indic scripts across the SCO region and the role of manuscripts in fostering global dialogue and building a global digital repository of knowledge.

Prof. Anirban Dash, Project Director, Gyan Bharatam, Ministry of Culture, moderated the session and welcomed the participants. He observed that language gives voice to our thoughts, Language and literature preserve them, and these manuscripts carry wisdoms across time and places. He highlighted how knowledge travelled across mountains and seas, underwent translation and adaptation, and became part of the intellectual life of diverse societies.

Union Environment Minister chairs 92nd Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, chaired the 92 nd Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL), today in New Delhi.

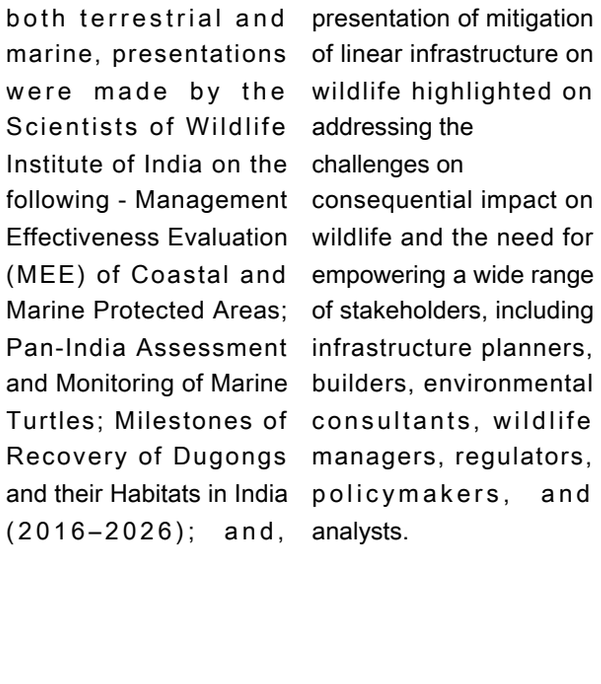
As part of the policy agenda, the Standing Committee considered the report on Wildlife Week 2026, celebrated under the theme 'Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife'. The Minister highlighted the initiatives taken during the Wildlife Week 2026, including the tiger reintroduction in Buxa, the release of Great Indian Bustards in Rajasthan and the expansion of Project Cheetah to a third site, reflecting the Government's focus on tangible, science-based conservation outcomes on the ground.

Further, Yadav congratulated the awardees selected during the Wildlife Week, and highlighted that the frontline staff and local communities are the backbone of India's wildlife conservation efforts. The Minister then felicitated them for exemplary wildlife conservation work:

Frontline Staff – Protection and Anti-Poaching: Late Banoth Naveen (Telangana), Hukai H. Zhimo (Nagaland) and V. Kumaresan (Tamil Nadu).

Frontline Staff – Wildlife Monitoring and Special Skills: Umesh Bharat Kalsarpe (Maharashtra), AshwinsinhKiritsinhJadeja (Gujarat) and the Bahraich Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Group (Uttar Pradesh).

Community Conservation Award: Shree MahavirMachchhimarSahakariMandali Ltd., Mangrol (Gujarat), for whale shark conservation, and Ponnuruvi Eco-Tourism Management Committee, Sirumalai Hills (Tamil Nadu).



Nameri Tiger Reserve, Assam was also accredited under Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS).

The 92 nd meeting of SC-NBWL was themed on 'marine conservation'. Underscoring the need for strengthening the conservation of wildlife, both terrestrial and marine, presentations were made by the Scientists of Wildlife Institute of India on the following - Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas; Pan-India Assessment and Monitoring of Marine Turtles; Milestones of Recovery of Dugongs and their Habitats in India (2016–2026); and, Mitigating the Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife.

These presentations highlighted the status and achievements in conservation of wildlife, especially related to the management effectiveness of marine protected areas, marine turtle and dugongs. The presentation of mitigation of linear infrastructure on wildlife highlighted on addressing the challenges on consequential impact on wildlife and the need for empowering a wide range of stakeholders, including infrastructure planners, builders, environmental consultants, wildlife managers, regulators, policymakers, and analysts.

Scientists discover a rare stellar fossil that preserves clues to the universe's first generations of stars

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Scientists discover a rare stellar fossil that preserves clues to the universe's first generations of stars.

Astronomers have discovered a rare ancient star, HE 1153−0518, whose chemical composition preserves the signatures of some of the earliest generations of stars in the Universe.

The earliest generations of stars in the Universe formed only a few hundred million years after the Big Bang. Although those massive stars no longer exist, they enriched the primordial gas with newly synthesized elements before ending their lives in supernovae explosions.

Ancient metal-poor stars that formed from this enriched gas preserve these chemical signatures and therefore act as "stellar fossils," allowing astronomers to reconstruct the history of the early Universe. Hence the discovery of such a rare stellar fossil provides important clues to the nucleosynthesis processes that enriched the primordial Universe and shaped the chemical evolution of our Galaxy.

Using high-resolution spectroscopic data collected at Subaru telescope at Hawaii, together with recent astrometric and photometric data, a team from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, an Autonomous Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Dakshin Kamrup College, Assam, determined the atmospheric properties and chemical abundances of the star with high precision. These measurements of atmospheric properties and chemical abundances enable a comprehensive investigation of the nucleosynthetic history of how its various elements were synthesized in nuclear reactions and its evolutionary status.

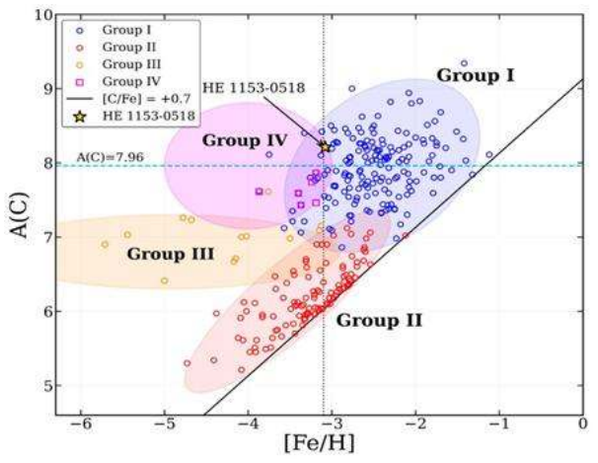


Fig: Yoon-Beers diagram showing the absolute carbon abundance, A(C), as a function of metallicity, [Fe/H], for carbon-enhanced metal-poor (CEMP) stars. The coloured ellipses show the approximate locations of the different groups as indicated. The large yellow star marks HE 1153-0518 from this work. The solid black line represents the CEMP classification boundary corresponding to [C/Fe] = +0.7.

The study identifies HE 1153−0518 as a previously unknown sub-class of carbon-enhanced metal-poor (CEMP) stars called CEMP-no star. Among the CEMP stars, CEMP-no stars form a sub-group that exhibits enhancement in carbon and is deficient in heavy elements. These stars form a rare class of stellar fossils that provides a direct window into the earliest phases of Galactic evolution. The star HE 1153-0518 contains only about one-thousandth of the Sun's iron abundance, yet is remarkably rich in carbon and sodium while being severely deficient in heavy elements produced by neutron-capture nucleosynthesis.

SRMIST Kabaddi Women's 'A' Team Won the Gold Medal in the State Level Invitational Kabaddi Women's Tournament held at Kongu Arts and Science College, Morappur, Dharmapuri



DHARMAPURI – 24 Nov, 2026

Match Results:

Quarter Finals:

SRMIST 'A' Beat AVS College

Score: (30-12)

Semi Finals:

SRMIST 'A' Beat SRMIST 'B'

Score: (25-20)

Finals:

SRMIST 'A' Beat Pachamuthu Kabaddi Club

Score: (40-07)

Final Standings:

Winners:

SRMIST 'A'

Runners:

Pachamuthu Kabaddi Club

Third Place:

SRMIST 'B' & Salem Kingmaker

A total of 19 Teams Participated in the Tournament

Anil Agarwal calls for industry and government to unite behind PM's vision for India's growth

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 In a recent social media post, Anil Agarwal, Chairman, Vedanta Group, reflected on the Prime Minister's address to industry at FICCI. He called for greater collaboration between the government and private sector to accelerate India's economic growth and create large-scale employment opportunities.

He has proposed greater privatisation of government-owned companies across natural resources, energy, manufacturing and heavy industry, highlighting the potential of private-sector management to improve productivity, create jobs and encourage the growth of MSMEs. He suggests that privatisation should be accompanied by two conditions, no retrenchment and a threefold increase in employment. He also highlights public share distribution as an alternative to corporate acquisitions, with proceeds from privatisation potentially being used to reduce government debt and invest in infrastructure.

Emphasising the Prime Minister's focus on trust, Agarwal has called for replacing lengthy approval processes with self-certification and simpler regulations. He believes the government should establish clear rules and ensure compliance through audits, allowing businesses and new industries to start and scale more rapidly.

Agarwal has also highlighted exploration as a significant opportunity for young entrepreneurs and startups in the minerals, metals and hydrocarbons sectors. He advocates enabling exploration startups to sell their discoveries to established companies such as ONGC and Hindustan Zinc, which have the capacity to undertake large-scale mining and processing investments. He believes this could encourage hundreds of startups, create entrepreneurial opportunities and strengthen India's domestic resource ecosystem.

Concluding his post, he has called upon industry, government and citizens to come together to build a national movement around privatisation, self-certification and exploration. Drawing a parallel with the success of the Jai Jawan Jai Kisan movement in achieving food self-sufficiency, he advocates a similar collective effort to create jobs, raise incomes and strengthen the Indian rupee.

LINK: https://x.com/AnilAgarwal_Ved/status/2123740183862325289?s=20

Dabur Honey Unveils New Campaign Celebrating Its Everyday Role in Indian Households and the Trust Backed by Quality

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Dabur India Ltd. has unveiled a new television commercial (TVC) for Dabur Honey that celebrates the versatility of honey in Indian homes and puts the brand's quality credentials front and centre. The 30-second film is anchored in three proof points that set Dabur Honey apart with it testing across 22 quality parameters, traceability from beekeepers to factory, and AGMARK Special Grade certification.

The film presents honey as one of the most versatile ingredients in the kitchen featuring young women, mothers and families who have made honey a part of their regular habits. From starting the day with warm water and honey, sweetening a smoothie, choosing it as a natural sweetener or adding a touch of goodness to family meals, it shows how one jar adapts to different people, preferences and moments of the day, making the case for honey as an everyday essential.

"At Dabur, we believe trust is earned through unwavering commitment to quality and transparency. Our new campaign, 'Aapka Vishwas Banata Hai Hamare Honey Ko Sabse Khaas', is a celebration of the millions of consumers who choose Dabur Honey every day. Their trust inspires us to



maintain the highest standards of quality, ensuring that every pack of Dabur Honey delivers the purity and assurance that families expect from us." Sriram Padmanabhan, Director Marketing, Dabur India Ltd., said.

Flipkart Doubles Its Last-Mile Electric Fleet in a Year; Switch Intent Is Nearly 4X Higher Among Riders Who Have Tried an EV

BENGALURU – 24 Nov, 2026 Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has doubled its last-mile electric vehicle (EV) fleet to 42,000 this festive season, from over 20,000 in 2025. This is progress towards the company's commitment to a 100% electric last-mile fleet by 2030 under the Climate Group's EV100 initiative.

Electric two-wheelers serving Flipkart Minutes account for about 77% of the fleet, growing in step with quick commerce across cities, and another 20% operate across the rest of Flipkart's delivery network. The fleet grew most in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Pune and Gurugram.

A Flipkart survey of over 9,400 delivery partners (Wishmasters), including EV and internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle users, looked at what shapes the decision to switch. Intent to switch is nearly four times higher among respondents who have tried an EV. Among EV riders, 59% cited cost savings as a key motivation, while charging access remains an operational need. Among ICE riders, 55% said financial support such as EMI loans, down-payment assistance or a daily EMI option would encourage them to switch.

Awareness of government incentives was higher among EV riders (58%) than non-EV riders (37%), which suggests rider education matters.

Flipkart supports Wishmasters through training, awareness drives, nationwide EV roadshows and digital learning on the incentives and financing options available to them. The company also organised an EV Mela in Bengaluru, bringing together manufacturers including Ampere, Bajaj, Hero Vida, and Motovolt alongside financing institutions.

EV Assist, launched earlier this year, connects Wishmasters with electric two-wheeler rental providers so they can adopt an EV without buying a vehicle upfront. It has seen strong demand in Delhi NCR, Patna and Bengaluru.

On charging, Flipkart is working with YUMA, one of India's largest battery-swapping companies, and other ecosystem partners on charging infrastructure across its hubs and micro fulfilment centers. Eight battery-swapping stations are operational in Bengaluru, with plans to extend to other metro cities.

Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group, said, "Our delivery partners decide whether electric works, and they tell us it comes down to cost, charging and financing. A rider who has tried an EV is nearly four times more likely to switch, so our job is to make that first try easy. Doubling our fleet this festive season shows riders are ready when the switch is practical, and we will keep building this with our Wishmasters and partners."



India's approach progressively shifting from Post- Disaster Relief to Disaster Prevention in Landslide Management: Dr Singh at 7th World Landslide Forum

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, and MoS in the PMO, Dr. Jitendra Singh, today said India's approach is progressively shifting its approach to landslide management from post-disaster relief to prevention, preparedness and risk reduction, marking a major transformation in the country's disaster management strategy.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 7th World Landslide Forum (WLF7) at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Faridabad, the Minister said India is moving away from waiting for disasters to occur and mobilising relief machinery afterwards, towards anticipating risks, strengthening early warning systems and preventing avoidable loss of lives and infrastructure.

The 7th World Landslide Forum, being held from November 22 to 27, 2026, is being hosted in India for the first time by Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in collaboration with the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) and the International Programme on Landslides (IPL). The inaugural session brought together international experts, scientists and policymakers from more than 75 countries.

Dignitaries present included Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr. Srinivas Kumar Tummala; Chancellor of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Mata Amritanandamayi Devi; Vice-Chancellor Dr. Vikram Rangan; Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr. Maneesha Vinodini Ramesh; and other academic leaders and international delegates.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said India's diverse geological and geophysical landscape, encompassing the Himalayas, Western Ghats, northeastern region and other vulnerable mountain areas, makes landslide risk reduction a critical national priority. Recalling major landslide disasters in Wayanad, Kerala, Chamoli in Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, he stressed the need for interdisciplinary research, continuous monitoring and coordinated scientific efforts to minimise the impact of such disasters.



The Minister said the Department of Science and Technology has been engaged in geospatial technologies and natural resource data management since 1982 through the Natural Resources Data Management System (NRDMS). The National Geospatial Policy and National Geospatial Programme introduced in 2019 have further strengthened India's geospatial ecosystem by leveraging contemporary technologies. The Department has supported landslide warning and early detection systems, low-cost AI-based and video-based monitoring solutions, geological and geophysical investigations, vulnerability mapping and related research initiatives.



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Bhima Unveils 'KAHANI' featuring Janhvi Kapoor, Celebrating the Stories and Traditions of Indian Weddings

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 The new bridal campaign, 'Kahani – Bridal Stories by Bhima', celebrates the brides of today through a jewellery collection inspired by heritage, family traditions and individual expressions.

Campaign Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ze7lH256ZKY

Chennai, 23rd November 2026: Bhima Gold, one of South India's most respected and enduring jewellery houses, announced the launch of 'KAHANI – Bridal Stories by Bhima', a new wedding jewellery campaign featuring actor Janhvi Kapoor. Rooted in the rich traditions of Indian weddings, the campaign celebrates the stories, emotions and personal expressions that make every bride's journey unique.

Built around the thought of 'Celebrating the Brides of Now', Kahani recognises how today's brides are embracing the traditions they have grown up with while bringing their own individuality and perspectives to their wedding celebrations. The campaign captures this evolving relationship between heritage and self-expression, highlighting how bridal jewellery remains an integral part of the wedding experience.

Each creation celebrates jewellery as more than an adornment, a cherished keepsake that connects generations and preserves memories. Featuring Janhvi Kapoor, Kahani celebrates the modern Indian bride who embraces her heritage while expressing her individuality. Through this campaign, Bhima reinforces its connection with today's wedding consumers and the evolving bridal landscape.

The campaign will run across Bhima Gold showrooms in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, showcasing its wedding jewellery collection.

As Bhima Gold continues its journey into its next century, Kahani reaffirms the brand's belief in jewellery as a timeless expression of traditions, emotions and stories that connect generations.

About Bhima Gold Pvt. Ltd.

The visionary K. Lakshminarayana Bhattar founded Bhima, a beacon of elegance and heritage, in 1925. From its inception, Bhima has been synonymous with exceptional craftsmanship and has become a distinguished name in the realm of jewellery in South India. Boasting 21 stores strategically located across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, Bhima is the epitome of timeless elegance, offering an exquisite range of jewellery in gold, diamonds, and precious stones.



Currently under the visionary leadership of Vishnusharan Bhatt, Bhima is expanding its footprint across diverse markets in South India. With a legacy spanning over a century, the brand remains unwaveringly committed to excellence, seamlessly blending timeless values with a dynamic approach to meet the evolving needs of society. Upholding principles of craftsmanship, meticulous attention to detail, and a strong sense of philanthropy, Bhima continues to be the trusted destination for discerning individuals seeking exquisite jewellery and contributing to meaningful social welfare initiatives.

Media Contact Information

Kaizzen Communications

Murali/Supriya Debnath

bhima.gold@kaizzencomm.com

DELIVERY OF ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE SHALLOW WATER CRAFT, 'ASHANK' (YARD 3036)



KOLKATA – 24 Nov, 2026 'Ashank', one of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, was delivered to Indian Navy on 23 Nov 2026 at Visakhapatnam.

The ASW SWCs (ex-GRSE) have been designed and constructed in accordance with the Classification Rules of Indian Register of Shipping.

Equipped with state-of-the-art lightweight torpedoes, indigenous rocket launchers and advanced sonar systems, Yard 3036 'Ashank' is a potent platform designed to strengthen the Navy's underwater surveillance and Anti-Submarine Warfare capabilities, particularly in coastal water. These ships are among the largest Indian Naval warships propelled by waterjets. The ship will further strengthen the Navy's Anti-submarine, coastal surveillance and mine-laying capabilities.

The delivery of 'Ashank' is yet another milestone in the Indian Navy's pursuit of indigenous shipbuilding, in line with the Government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. With over 80 percent indigenous content, the ship stands as a testament to the growing strength of the domestic defence manufacturing ecosystem and reducing dependency on imports.

New advanced material developed by incorporating metallic nanowires into MOFs can harness sunlight to degrade pollutants

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 A novel material developed by scientists through incorporating metallic nanowires into metal–organic framework (MOF), can harness a broad range of light wavelengths to efficiently degrade environmental pollutants like pyrene, a persistent polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH).

Pyrene is a persistent pollutant and cause serious environmental problems because it is toxic to organisms and difficult to remediate. Scientists have been exploring ways of remediating Pyrene using Metal organic Frameworks (MOF), molecular constructions with large spaces through which gases and other chemicals can flow, the importance of which was recognized through the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2026.

One-dimensional metallic nanowires are promising materials for capturing and using light because they can conduct electricity efficiently and interact strongly with light. Their unique structure helps them absorb more light. These properties make them attractive for developing advanced light-driven technologies. In particular, plasmonic photocatalysis offers a promising approach for sustainable energy and environmental applications because it can effectively utilize both visible and near-infrared light. Thus, incorporating metallic nanowires into MOFs can synergistically integrate the properties of both components.

Researchers from the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, an Autonomous Institute under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India have developed an isoreticular (having the same underlying network topology as) metal–organic framework-8 (IRMOF-8)-confined copper nanowire (Cu NW)-based hybrid material that incorporates palladium (Pd) nanostructures to enhance light absorption and photocatalytic activity.

At the same time, aluminum (Al) was chosen as an alternative to Pd because of its abundance, cost-effectiveness, and energetic plasmonic properties. The porous IRMOF-8 framework provides a confined environment for the nanowires, enabling close interactions among the components and facilitating efficient charge transfer.

The incorporation of Pd significantly enhanced broadband light absorption via plasmonic interactions, while the earth-abundant Al-based system formed a promising antenna-reactor platform, thereby promoting interfacial charge transfer and photocatalytic disintegration of polybenzenoid hydrocarbon pollutants.

The optimized integration of Pd into the copper nanowire (Cu NW) in metal–organic framework-8 (IRMOF-8) achieved 99% and Al into copper nanowire (Cu NW) in metal–organic framework-8 (IRMOF-8) achieved 85% removal of pyrene under the investigated irradiation and ultrasonication conditions.

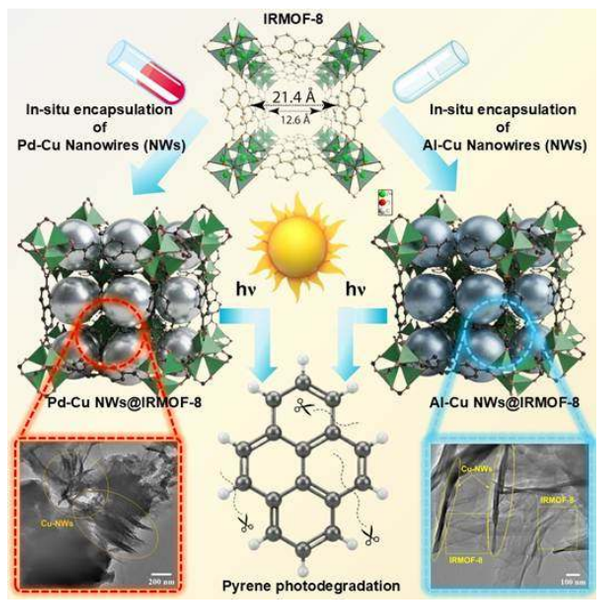


Fig: Schematic representation of the photocatalytic materials designed to target the disintegration of pyrene using solar energy combined with ultrasonication frequencies.

MoSJE Pavilion at 45th IITF 2026 Records Cumulative Sales of Approximately ₹1.16 Crore As on Nov 22, 2026

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 MoSJE Pavilion at 45th IITF 2026 Records Cumulative Sales of Approximately ₹1.16 Crore As on Nov 22, 2026.

The pavilion of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at the ongoing 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2026 in the National Capital here, has recorded cumulative sales of approximately ₹ 1.16 Crore as of November 22, 2026, reflecting an encouraging response from visitors and growing appreciation for indigenous products and traditional craftsmanship.

The visitors are exploring its pavilion thereby supporting the artisans by purchasing their indigenous and handcrafted products.

Located at Hall No. 5, Ground Floor, ITPO, Bharat Mandapam, the Ministry's pavilion showcases India's diverse cultural heritage, traditional skills and indigenous craftsmanship. It offers visitors an opportunity to explore a wide range of authentic handcrafted products while contributing to the economic empowerment of artisans through direct purchases.

The impressive sales performance highlights the increasing consumer interest in India's rich artistic traditions, handcrafted products and the entrepreneurial capabilities of artisans from diverse communities.

The pavilion continues to provide a significant platform for artisans to showcase their products, connect directly with consumers and expand their market reach. The Trade Fair will conclude on November 27, 2026.

A Senior Official in the Ministry said that more than 130 artisans from 19 States are participating in the fair through the Ministry's three Apex Corporations: the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).

He said the participation of these Apex Corporations reflects the Ministry's continued commitment to strengthening market linkages, promoting entrepreneurship and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for artisans and entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, Safai Mitras and De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs).



The Official said these efforts are aligned with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi under his guiding principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas'.

He said the pavilion features an extensive collection of traditional handlooms, intricately designed handicrafts, handcrafted jewellery, textiles, footwear, handmade articles and other indigenous products. These products represent the distinctive artistic identities, traditional skills and cultural diversity of different regions across the country, he added.

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

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தமிழ்நாடு அரசு அங்கீகாரம் பெற்றது
அறிவுசார் குறைபாடுவபடுயாருக்கான இலவச சிறப்பு பள்ளி
HOPES Trust உங்களை ஒரு உதவும் தூமாக ஆதரவு தருவது பெருமைக்கிறது.
உங்கள் சிறிய பங்களிப்பு அறிவுசார் குறைபாடுள்ள குழந்தைகளின் பெரிய மாற்றத்தை ஏற்படுத்தும்.
நன்கொடை அளிக்க கீழே உள்ள கட்டண முறைகளைப் பயன்படுத்தவும்.
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The Protein Gap in South India: A Matter of Awareness, Not Supply

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Protein is often seen as something meant for gym-goers and supplement users. In reality, the body needs it every day for muscle repair, tissue growth and immune function. Yet when asked about their lunch, few people can say how much protein it held.

South India does not lack the ingredients to close this gap.

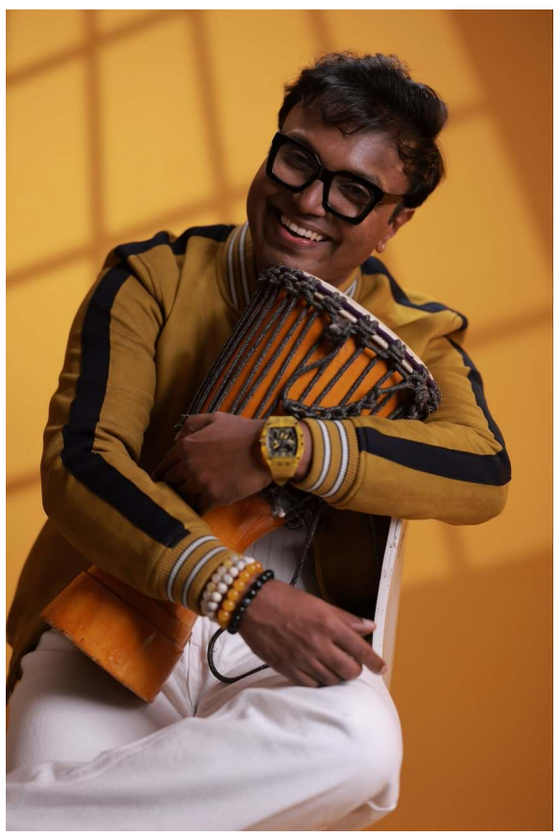
Government data on per-capita milk availability for 2023-24 shows Andhra Pradesh at 719 grams and Karnataka at 543 grams, both above the national average of 471 grams. Curd with lunch, milk at breakfast, paneer in curry and yogurt as a snack are already part of everyday eating in the region.

Dairy brings quality along with availability. Milk, curd and paneer are complete proteins that supply all nine essential amino acids the body cannot make on its own. Paneer offers about 18-20 grams of protein per 100 grams, curd 3-4 grams along with probiotics, and a glass of milk roughly 7-8 grams. The ICMR-NIN guidelines put the daily need of a healthy Indian adult at about 0.83 grams per kg of body weight, which is roughly 50 grams for a 60 kg adult.

Dr. Manika Singh, Nutritionist Consultant, Godrej Industries Group, says: “This is not a story of scarcity. It is a robust nutritional foundation, because the components for protein-conscious eating are already present in most South Indian kitchens. The better question is no longer whether people are eating enough protein, but where the protein is in each meal.”

In Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad, protein is fast becoming a conversation among professionals, students, families and older adults, and not just athletes. South India does not need to change its cuisine. The next step is to notice the protein already on the plate, one everyday choice at a time.

“Signal At 11.30 Blends Profound Emotions with Gripping Mystery and Thrilling Surprises” – D



CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Imman When a compelling mystery is woven around deeply moving human emotions, the result can be an experience that reflects well beyond the screen. Music director D. Imman, who has already created considerable anticipation with the songs of Signal At 11.30, is particularly impressed by the film's emotional depth and intriguing narrative. Having watched the film ahead of its re-recording, the acclaimed composer describes it as an experience that brought together suspense, unexpected revelations and a deeply affecting emotional core. With the film gearing up for its theatrical release on November 27, his appreciation adds another dimension to the growing anticipation. Music directors often get an early glimpse of a film before its background score takes shape, offering them a unique opportunity to experience the cinema in its original form. For D. Imman, Signal At 11.30 proved to be a particularly distinctive experience, inspiring him to push his creative boundaries while composing the film's background score. Sharing his impressions, D. Imman says, “I have been part of films spanning various genres, from commercial entertainers to critically acclaimed and content-driven projects. However, Signal At 11.30 offered me a rather different experience. The film is layered with mystery and thrilling surprises, yet its emotional foundation is equally powerful. While mystery thrillers usually focus on suspense, unexpected turns and keeping audiences on the edge of their seats, this film brings all those elements together with a deeply emotional premise. Watching it before beginning the re-recording gave me a wholesome experience and inspired me to push my creative boundaries with the background score. I wanted the music to complement Malarvizhi Natesan's vision, the artistes' performances and the film's technical brilliance. I genuinely believe that Signal At 11.30 will offer audiences a fulfilling theatrical experience, bringing together compelling emotions, gripping suspense and unexpected surprises.” Starring Santhosh Prathap, Bhavya Trikha and Pujita Ponnada in the lead roles, the film also features Jayaprakash, Munishkanth and several prominent artistes in pivotal characters. Presented by Malarvizhi Natesan and Dr. Shivani Subramani under the banner of Alar Studios, Signal At 11.30 features cinematography by Raja Bhattacharjee, choreography by Sherif and editing by R. Kalaivannan. The film is scheduled for a theatrical release on November 27.

2nd National Yogasana Championship 2026 Grand Success



CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 The 2nd National Yogasana Championship – 2026 was successfully organized by Directorate of Sports, SRM Institute of Science & Technology (SRMIST), associate with Easy Yoga Studioz, and Padmam Yoga Wellness Centre, on 22 November 2026 at 9:30 AM at the SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Vendhar Nagar,Acharapakkam Campus, Chengalpattu District.

Around 500 participants from various schools, colleges, yoga institutions and different age groups enthusiastically participated in the championship. The competition was conducted for participants aged 6 years to 56 years and above, with separate categories for male and female participants.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Prof. R. Mohanakrishnan, Director – Sports, SRMIST, and Special Guests Prof. G. Vadivu, Dean, College of Engineering and Technology, SRM Institute of Science & Technology (SRMIST), Vendhar Nagar, Acharapakkam Campus, and Dr. N. C. Jesus Rajkumar, Associate Professor, Department of Yoga, SRMIST, Kattankulathur and staff Members from Directorate of Sports, Vendhar Nagar, Acharapakkam Campus. The dignitaries addressed the gathering, shared their valuable thoughts on the importance of yoga, physical fitness and healthy living, and blessed and encouraged all the participants with their inspiring words.

As per the competition regulations, each participant performed three compulsory asanas and two asanas of their choice. The top three performers in each age category were awarded medals and merit certificates in recognition of their outstanding performances. All participants were also presented with participation certificates and medals.

The championship was successfully conducted with great enthusiasm, discipline and sportsmanship, providing a wonderful platform for participants to showcase their yoga skills and talents. Lunch and transportation facilities were also arranged for the participants.

The event served as a significant initiative to promote yoga, physical fitness, discipline and healthy living among people of all age groups, while encouraging the importance of incorporating yoga into everyday life. The championship concluded on a successful note, leaving participants and organizers with memorable experiences and renewed enthusiasm towards the practice and promotion of yoga.

MY Bharat - NSS Records Over 73,500 Participations Across the Nation During Week 10 of ‘Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat’ Campaign



CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, through the Directorate of MY Bharat - National Service Scheme, organised Cluster of Block Level Sports Meets and awareness activities during Week 10 of the 100-Week ‘Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan’, recording 73,529 total participations across 162 participating institutions. The activities included 366 sporting tournaments involving 17,699 participants, 200 pledge ceremonies in which 28,360 individuals took the Nasha Mukt Sankalp and 1,006 grassroots activities. Female participants accounted for nearly 49 per cent of the gender-disaggregated entries.

Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 2, 2026, the campaign is built around four core pillars: Prevent, Protect, Recover and Lead. Week 10 activities were organised under the Month 3 theme, ‘Strong Communities, Healthy Youth (Gram Seva & Sangathan)’, with a focus on promoting fitness, teamwork, community participation and awareness about substance abuse. The programme covered block-level sports grounds, district stadiums, university and college campuses and Gram Panchayat venues, with participation from 162 institutions across the Nation.

Of the 73,529 total participations recorded, 73,436 were gender-disaggregated entries, comprising 37,471 male and 35,965 female participants. A total of 28,360 individuals, including 14,275 male and 14,085 female participants, took the Nasha Mukt Sankalp during 200 oath ceremonies.

Meanwhile, 17,699 athletes, including 9,188 male and 8,511 female participants, competed in sporting tournaments. Female participation accounted for 48.1 per cent of sports competitors and 49.7 per cent of oath participants. Dedicated races for Children With Special Needs (CWSN) were also organised by participating units, including GMSSS-46 in Chandigarh.

In terms of regional participation, Bhopal recorded the highest turnout with 10,403 participations, followed by Chennai with 9,175, Bangalore with 8,478, Chandigarh with 7,992 and Delhi with 7,384. Other regions reporting substantial participation included Hyderabad (5,660), Guwahati (5,490), Jaipur (4,681), Pune (4,027), Kolkata (3,752), Lucknow (2,885), Trivandrum (2,251) and Bhubaneswar (1,351).

The Cluster of Block Level Sports Meets brought together university campuses, affiliated colleges, NSS units and local youth clubs. Competitions were organised in Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Volleyball, Athletics, Football, Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Tug-of-War, Chess, Carrom and traditional indigenous games such as Pittu, Gilli Danda and Satoliya. Dedicated competitive categories for female athletes were organised across participating centres.

‘Nasha Mukt Yuva, Viksit Bharat Quiz’ Records Participation of 60,693 Citizens



CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 The online ‘Nasha Mukt Yuva, Viksit Bharat Quiz’, organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA), has witnessed encouraging participation from citizens across the country.

The quiz recorded participation of 60,693 citizens as per the latest officially reported figures available as of November 23, 2026. The initiative seeks to strengthen public awareness about the harmful effects of substance use and encourage citizens, particularly young people, to actively contribute towards building a drug-free India.

A Senior Official in the Ministry said the quiz launched on October 26, 2026, is being conducted through the MY Bharat portal and will remain open for participation until November 25, 2026.

He said the citizens, especially youth, are encouraged to participate in this nationwide awareness initiative and become active contributors to the vision of a Nasha Mukt Bharat and Viksit Bharat.

MY Bharat Quiz QR

The Official said the interested participants can access the quiz through the Participation Link: https://mybharat.gov.in/quizzes/yuva/detail/Url9dIIwCinQVSf8lwPB9w/

The quiz comprises 20 Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs), which participants are required to answer within 10 minutes.

The Official said a participation certificate is generated for every participant who successfully submits the quiz while participants can also view the correct answers upon completion, enabling them to enhance their understanding of substance use prevention.

Launched on August 15, 2020, the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan aims to strengthen drug demand reduction efforts through preventive education, awareness generation, treatment, rehabilitation and community participation, he said.

He said initially launched in 272 vulnerable districts, the Abhiyaan has subsequently expanded its coverage to all districts across the country, emerging as a nationwide people's movement against substance use.

The Official said the Abhiyaan has reached over 35.96 crore people, including 14.39 crore youth and 11.37 crore women, reflecting the extensive outreach and growing public engagement in the campaign.

Under the Abhiyaan, more than 34.36 lakh activities have been conducted in educational institutions to promote awareness and encourage informed choices among students and young people, he said.

Furthermore, 39.91 lakh persons have been treated and rehabilitated through a network of more than 755 Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE)-supported De-Addiction Centres operating across the country, the Official said.

NMBA Mobile App

ICMR's SAMPADA survey shows lower prevalence of anaemia compared to previous national surveys

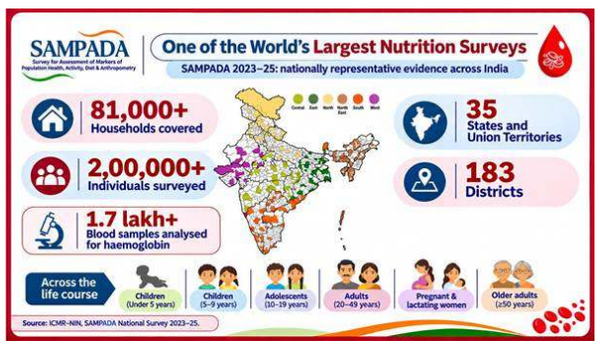
CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released key findings from the Survey for Assessment of Markers of Population Health, Activity, Diet and Anthropometry (SAMPADA) 2023-2025, providing comprehensive national evidence on anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies across the life course.

SAMPADA represents one of the largest and most comprehensive nutrition surveys undertaken globally. The survey covered more than 2 lakh individuals from over 81,000 households across 183 districts in 35 States and Union Territories. More than 1.7 lakh blood samples were analysed for haemoglobin estimation across different age, sex and physiological groups.

A major strength of SAMPADA is the use of gold standard method of venous blood sampling and automated analysers for haemoglobin estimation, providing greater accuracy and reproducibility. In a sub-sample, the survey also assessed iron status, folate, vitamin B12, together with inflammatory biomarkers C-reactive protein (CRP) and alpha-1-acid glycoprotein (AGP) to obtain national level prevalence estimates.

The SAMPADA findings show an encouraging shift with overall lower prevalence of anaemia compared to previous surveys. The difference is particularly large in case of children aged 12-59 months who had 42% anaemia prevalence. Adolescent girls aged 10-19 years had anaemia prevalence of 46%, adolescent boys aged 10-19 years and men aged 20–59 years had 22-23% anaemia prevalence whereas women of reproductive age had 56% prevalence.

The survey also provides nationally representative estimates among older adults, extending the assessment of anaemia to an age group for which national-level evidence has been limited. The findings also highlight important differences by



age, sex, physiological status and location, reinforcing the need for population-specific approaches rather than a single strategy for all groups.

The key highlights of the report are:

Majority of anaemia is mild, highlighting opportunities for early action. Mild anaemia constitutes a substantial proportion of the overall anaemia burden. About half of anaemic women including pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls and children, have mild anaemia indicating considerably lower risk of serious health consequences than moderate or severe anaemia. Anaemia prevalence is much lower among adolescent boys, adult and older men and even among those affected, three-fourths have only mild anaemia.

Severe anaemia was observed in less than 2% people in majority of the age groups.

Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava inaugurates India's first dedicated Human Metabolic Chamber Facility at Christian Medical College (CMC) Vellore

VELLORE – 24 Nov, 2026 Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava inaugurates India's first dedicated Human Metabolic Chamber Facility at Christian Medical College (CMC) Vellore.

Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava today inaugurated India's first dedicated Human Metabolic Chamber Facility at Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore. Established jointly by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) and CMC Vellore, the facility will strengthen research into human metabolism, nutrition, diabetes, obesity and other metabolic conditions. The initiative is in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to strengthen prevention and healthcare for all, and create a Swasth and Viksit Bharat.

Addressing the gathering, Srivastava congratulated TIFR, the Advanced Research Unit on Metabolism, Development & Aging (ARUMDA) and CMC Vellore on the initiative and acknowledged the Department of Atomic Energy for supporting the collaboration. She underscored the importance of generating evidence that reflects the diversity and specific risk profiles of India's population, noting that findings from other countries may not adequately capture them.

The Human Metabolic Chamber is a room-sized calorimeter that measures oxygen consumption and carbon dioxide production while a volunteer lives, eats and sleeps inside for 24 hours or longer. The measurements help determine total energy expenditure and how the body uses fat and carbohydrates across meals, physical activity and sleep. The facility complements ARUMDA's National Analytical Facility for Nutrition and Metabolism Research, established last year, enabling researchers to link molecular and biochemical measurements with the



body's energy utilisation.

The collaboration also draws on CMC Vellore's clinical expertise in diabetes and other endocrine and metabolic disorders, including its past studies on insulin sensitivity and energy expenditure in individuals with a history of undernutrition and low birth weight. The facility was set up with funding from the Department of Atomic Energy and Corporate Social Responsibility support from Hindustan Unilever Limited, with expert advice from NUTRIM at Maastricht University and network support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in India.

Goa's Future in Cinema: Filmmakers Explore Goa's Cinematic Potential and its Unique Natural and Cultural Heritage at IFFI 2026

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Goa's Future in Cinema: Filmmakers Explore Goa's Cinematic Potential and its Unique Natural and Cultural Heritage at IFFI 2026.

Goa's potential as a filmmaking destination, the scope for strengthening film-related infrastructure and the importance of preserving its distinctive natural and cultural heritage formed the key themes at an engaging panel discussion titled 'Goa in Cinema' at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

Bringing together perspectives from Konkani, Hindi and international cinema, the session featured noted Konkani filmmaker Rajendra Talak, Hindi film director and screenwriter Vijay Krishna Acharya, and French actress Marianne Borgo. Film critic Sachin Chatte moderated the discussion.

Speaking about Goa's potential to emerge as a prominent filmmaking destination, Vijay Krishna Acharya highlighted the distinctive visual and cultural appeal of the state, which has attracted filmmakers over the years. He observed that Goa possesses a unique and exotic identity that sets it apart from mainstream cinematic locations. Citing the film Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa, he said that its characters and setting were so organically connected that the story could flourish only in Goa.

Emphasising the need to make filmmaking economically viable, Acharya called for the establishment of a film city that would enable filmmakers to shoot in Goa across different budget categories. "Cost is a crucial consideration in filmmaking. Goa could attract more productions if it offered suitable infrastructure at competitive costs," he pointed out. He also highlighted the potential of film schools and film literacy centres in providing local people with access to professional training and



employment opportunities in the film industry. Such initiatives, he said, could create a generational impact and help Goa emerge as a unique artistic centre.

Offering a contrasting perspective, Rajendra Talak expressed reservations about the viability of a film city in the state. He observed that the state offered considerable scope for film productions, with its natural landscapes, traditional houses and heritage sites providing a wide range of settings. He also emphasised the importance of ensuring that initiatives to promote filmmaking remain aligned with the preservation of Goa's cultural identity and natural environment.

Reimagining the Superhero: Ayan Mukerji and Basil Joseph Converse on Crafting Culturally Rooted Worlds

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 The extraordinary possibilities of mythology, superheroes and fantastical worlds, rooted in India's rich cultural heritage, took centre stage at an engaging In-conversation session titled 'The Epic Genres – Mythologies, Superheroes & New Worlds' at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. Filmmakers Ayan Mukerji and Basil Joseph, in a conversation moderated by Puja Talwar, explored the creative challenges of bringing superheroes and mythological narratives to the screen, the influence of Indian folklore and spirituality, and the evolving role of technology in cinematic storytelling.

Speaking about the challenges of making superhero films in India, Basil Joseph observed that Indian cinema has traditionally portrayed its leading men as larger-than-life figures, often possessing qualities associated with superheroes. This makes creating a distinct superhero cinematic universe particularly challenging. Reflecting on his film Minnal Murali, he explained how creative



challenges, and budgetary constraints too, can inspire inventive storytelling. Scenes featuring a superhero running with a lungi covering his face and wearing chappals in the movie Minnal Murali emerged from such considerations.

Ayan Mukerji shared that the idea of extraordinary powers residing within ordinary people was what initially attracted him to the superhero genre. Discussing the challenge of creating an Indian identity for films that draw inspiration from Western fantasy, he acknowledged that Brahmastra initially carried certain Western influences, partly because of his admiration for stories such as Harry Potter. However, incorporating elements of spirituality into the writing helped give the film its distinct Indian identity.

Emphasising the importance of authenticity in filmmaking, Basil Joseph said that filmmakers must remain true to their characters and themselves rather than attempting to make their films appear artificial. He stressed that simplicity and creative honesty are essential, adding that one should never compromise one's own identity in the pursuit of making a film look 'cool'.

Recalling the making of Brahmastra, Ayan Mukerji described the film as a logistically challenging undertaking. He noted that working within restrictions often pushes filmmakers to think beyond conventional approaches and discover more imaginative solutions. Creative challenges, he observed, can become catalysts for innovation rather than obstacles.

Advancing Higher Education through NFSC Fellowship

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 The journey of Raju (name changed) reflects the role of targeted educational support in helping scholars pursue higher studies, advance research and work towards greater financial stability and professional opportunity.

Access to financial assistance in higher education can help scholars pursue advanced research, continuing research and undertaking the work needed to progress towards his academic goals.



The assistance, amounting to ₹15 lakh, helped him focus on his research work, progress with data collection and strengthen his soft skills. The support also addressed the financial challenges he had been facing and contributed to an improvement in his family's financial circumstances.

The fellowship has brought positive changes in his educational, financial and personal life, helping him make progress towards completing his doctoral research and pursuing his future career aspirations.

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Joint workshop of the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, on their role in eradication of poverty, concludes in Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Minister



NEW DELHI – 24 Nov, 2026 Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has achieved unprecedented, extraordinary and historic milestones in the field of poverty eradication.

According to the World Bank's recent report, nearly 500 million people in the country have moved out of poverty, while the rate of extreme poverty has declined from 27.1 per cent to just 2.6 per cent. This remarkable progress reflects the contribution of several sectors and government initiatives, particularly agriculture and allied activities, agricultural research, land resources and rural development. To assess the role played by these areas in the achievement and discuss the strategy for the road ahead, a special one-day workshop was organised today at the Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. The joint workshop was chaired by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Bhagirath Choudhary and Union Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan also participated. Describing the country's progress, Chouhan called it an "extraordinary, unimaginable and unprecedented miracle".

The workshop brought together the senior-most officials of all four departments whose work and initiatives were being reviewed. Those present included Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Atish Chandra; Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Rohit Kansal; Secretary, Department of Land Resources, Dilip Kumar; and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Dr M. L. Jat. Senior officials and scientists from the four departments also attended, along with Section Officers, Assistant Section Officers and a large number of other officers and employees. The participation of staff across different levels reflected the workshop's focus not only on reviewing departmental achievements, but also on recognising the contribution of those involved in taking policies and schemes from the planning stage to implementation.

Lifting 500 million people out of poverty, more than the population of the United States, is a miracle

15 Day Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 at Dilli Haat, Concludes with Cumulative Sales of Over ₹1.13 Crore

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 15 Day Shilp Samagam Mela 2026 at Dilli Haat, Concludes with Cumulative Sales of Over ₹1.13 Crore.

The 15-day Shilp Samagam Mela 2026, organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment concluded successfully on 15 th of this month, at Dilli Haat, INA, in the National Capital here, with cumulative sales of ₹ 1,13,34,681 recorded by the four participating National Corporations under the Ministry.

The Mela witnessed encouraging public participation, reflecting growing appreciation for India's traditional handicrafts, handloom products, indigenous creations and the entrepreneurial potential of artisans from beneficiary communities.

Organised from November 1 to 15, 2026, under the theme 'प्रकाश और परंपरा – ज्योति से ज्योति जलाएँ ', the Mela celebrated India's rich cultural heritage, traditional craftsmanship, festive lighting and artistic diversity.

More than 130 stalls across seven thematic zones — कला आँगन, प्रकाश चौक, पूजा पथ, सजावट बाज़ार, घराना, स्वाद चौक and मंच — offered visitors a vibrant experience of traditional crafts, textiles, home décor, festive products, indigenous creations and regional culinary traditions.

A Senior Official in the Ministry said the Mela provided a dedicated platform to artisans and beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Safai Karamcharis and persons with disabilities to showcase their products, engage directly with consumers and expand their market opportunities.

The participating artisans were supported through the Ministry's apex corporations, namely National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC), National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) and National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC), the Official said.

The Mela was inaugurated by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar, on November 2, 2026. During his visit, the Minister toured the stalls, interacted with artisans and appreciated their craftsmanship, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit, the Official said.



Dr Kumar highlighted the significance of providing platforms that enable artisans to showcase their products, strengthen livelihood opportunities and contribute towards an inclusive and self-reliant India, he further said.

The Official said the Mela also marked the first-ever joint Shilp Utsav initiative of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), bringing traditional artisans and creative talent of persons with disabilities together on an inclusive platform through Bharat TULIP and Purple Fest.

Blooming Beyond Borders

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Roots of a Blooming Industry

India is a land of remarkable natural diversity, stretching from snow-bound mountains and fertile plains to arid deserts and long coastlines. These varied agro-climatic conditions support the cultivation of an extraordinary variety of flowers that bloom across regions and seasons. Coupled with the deep cultural, spiritual, and emotional significance of flowers in India, these natural advantages have fostered a thriving floriculture sector.

Recognising its economic and aesthetic potential, the government has identified floriculture as a " sunrise industry ". What was once a relatively niche segment within Indian agriculture has evolved into a dynamic component of the horticulture sector. The sector contributes to farmer incomes, agricultural exports, and rural enterprise development while increasingly adopting modern cultivation practices and technologies. Today, floriculture encompasses a diverse range of products, production systems, and value-added applications. Rising consumer demand, widening market opportunities, policy support, and technological advancements are driving its continued growth.

Inside India's Floral Economy

Floriculture is the art and science of growing flowers to achieve high standards of flower quality and aesthetic appeal. As an integral branch of horticulture, it includes the cultivation of flowers and ornamental crops from planting to harvesting. The sector also involves the production of planting material through seeds, cuttings, budding, and grafting. It further includes the marketing of flowers and flower-based products.

Floriculture Product Categories

Loose flowers are harvested and marketed without long stems. These are generally sold by weight and are commonly used for garlands and gajras.

*India's floriculture sector has emerged as a dynamic component of horticulture. It is supported by favourable agro-climatic conditions, cultural demand, and expanding commercial applications. According to the Third Advance Estimates for 2025-26, floriculture covered **410 thousand hectares** and produced **4,882 thousand metric tonnes** of flowers, with Andhra Pradesh leading national production. Exports increased from **USD 216.74 million in FY 2021-22 to USD 258.26 million in FY 2025-26**, reflecting growing international demand. The sector serves religious, decorative, industrial, and pharmaceutical markets while generating opportunities for farmers through value-added production and export diversification. Government support through horticulture missions, research institutions, financial assistance, and export facilitation has strengthened production systems. Scientific interventions, including CSIR-led initiatives, are enabling crop diversification, regional specialization, and wider market access.*

Examples include marigolds and jasmine.

Retail Shop selling loose flowers as Garlands

Cut Flowers are harvested and marketed with stems. These are commonly used in bouquets and vase arrangements. Examples include roses, gerberas, carnations, orchids, and lilies.

Cut flowers sold in bunches as bouquets

In addition to flowers, floriculture includes cut foliage, potted and bedding plants, and ornamental planting materials like seeds for propagation and landscaping.

Flowers that Shape the Market

India cultivates a variety of flowers tailored to domestic and international demand. Key varieties include:

Roses: Widely grown in Karnataka and Maharashtra; high in export value.

Marigolds: Popular in religious ceremonies; extensively grown in Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh.

Carnations, Chrysanthemums, Gerberas: Grown in controlled environments for export.

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அறிவுசார் குறைபாடுடையோருக்கான இலவச சிறப்பு பள்ளி
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உங்கள் சிறிய பங்களிப்பு அறிவுசார் குறைபாடுள்ள குழந்தைகளின் வாழ்வில் பெரிய மாற்றத்தை ஏற்படுத்தும்.
நன்கொடை அளிக்க கீழே உள்ள கட்டண முறைகளைப் பயன்படுத்தவும்.
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RS Polyclinic
OUR ESTEEMED DOCTORS
Dr M. Rajkumar — MBBS MS DNB MCH (vascular) — 98410 25996 — Sr Vascular Surgeon
Dr K. Namitha Bhuvaneswari — MS (Opthal) DO MBA — 9444 288784 — Sr Eye Surgeon
Dr Sathish Rajkumar — MBBS MS FMAS — 9445 401793 — Laparoscopic & Laser Surgeon
Dr Shanthi R — MBBS MS MCH (vascular) — 9884 650945 — Sr Vascular Surgeon
Dr Salins R — MBBS MD — 87780 87742 — General Physician
Dr Praveena E — MBBS MS (ENT) — 9944 100443 — Sr ENT Surgeon

From Manual Sewer Cleaning to Robotic Sanitation Operations

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Transitioning sanitation workers from hazardous manual cleaning to mechanised sanitation operations is an important step towards improving occupational safety, health and dignity. Training and access to technology can help workers build technical skills and undertake sanitation work in safer conditions.

Raja (Name Changed), a 41-year-old Scheduled Caste sanitation worker from Mysuru, Karnataka, spent nearly 15 years engaged in manual sewer and septic tank cleaning, with prolonged direct exposure to hazardous waste. Inadequate access to machinery and training, along with the health challenges associated with toxic exposure, affected his physical well-being. With limited education and his family dependent on his income, opportunities to move to safer work remained constrained.

With an interest in mechanised sanitation operations, he received Occupational Safety and Mechanised Sanitation Training under the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme in 2026, as part of a batch of 45 sanitation workers. The training covered occupational health hazards, safe work practices and operation of the Bandicoot robotic sanitation system.

Following the training, Rajagopala is now working as a Bandicoot robotic sanitation system operator, marking a significant shift from manual sewer cleaning to machine-based sanitation operations. His new role enables him to undertake



sanitation work with reduced direct exposure to hazardous waste and in a safer, more dignified environment.

His journey highlights how occupational safety training and mechanised equipment under the NAMASTE Scheme can support sanitation workers in acquiring technical skills, improving work conditions and moving towards safer and dignified livelihoods.

Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE)

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Snapshot:

Establishments and employment registered significant year - on - year growth during July – September 2026, recording the highest - ever quarterly growth in the sector.

The estimated number of establishments stood at 9. 47 crore, registering a Year - on - Year growth of 18. 81 %.

Employment in the unincorporated non - agricultural sector reached 15. 03 crore, with the Other Services sector emerging as a key driver, recording employment growth of more than 33 %.

Number of hired workers increased by about 5% over same quarter last year.

Enterprise Registration rises to 43. 28 % in July – September 2026, up over 6 percentage points from July – September 2025.

Cashless transactions continued to enjoy widespread acceptance, with about 8 in 10 establishments (80%) adopting cashless modes of transaction.

NSO Releases Quarterly Estimates of the Unincorporated Non - Agricultural Sector for the quarter July to September 2026

In line with its commitment to strengthening the availability of high-frequency indicators, the National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), has been publishing quarterly bulletins on key findings from the unincorporated non-agricultural sector since 2025. The present release, the Quarterly Bulletin on Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE) for July–September 2026, represents the quarterly edition of the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) and provides key quarterly estimates of the sector. QBUSE underscores NSO's continued commitment to providing timely, reliable and actionable data on one of the most dynamic segments of the Indian economy, supporting informed policymaking, research and evidence-based decision-making.

Similar annual estimates from the latest ASUSE (Jan 25- Dec 25)

- *Estimated number of establishments* ***7.92 crores***
- *Estimated number of workers* ***12.81 crores***

While ASUSE will continue to publish detailed annual estimates on a wider set of financial and non - financial indicators, QBUSE delivers periodic quarterly estimates on the scale, composition, and employment profile of unincorporated non - agricultural enterprises using the same framework. The quarterly data aims to capture short - term movements in the sector.

MY Bharat Mobilises Over 95,000 Participants Across 36 States/UTs During Week 10 of 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat' Campaign

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 MY Bharat Mobilises Over 95,000 Participants Across 36 States/UTs During Week 10 of 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat' Campaign.

The tenth week of the 100-week 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Abhiyan' witnessed participation of 95,147 youth and citizens across 36 States and Union Territories through 440 programmes organised by MY Bharat. The activities included 322 Cluster of Blocks Level Sports Meets and 118 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Par Paricharcha' (Neighbourhood Youth Parliament) sessions, as per the provisional report dated 22 November 2026.

The Cluster of Blocks Level Sports Meets, organised on 21 and 22 November 2026, brought together youth from multiple blocks and villages for sporting competitions, traditional games and other sports activities. The initiative aimed to promote physical fitness, teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship while connecting grassroots communities with district-level sporting opportunities and providing talented young participants a platform for recognition.

A total of 322 sports programmes were organised, witnessing participation of 81,489 youth and citizens across 1,053 activities. Prominent participation was reported from Uttarakhand, Ernakulam in Kerala, Tirap and Kra Daadi in Arunachal Pradesh, Shopian and Samba in Jammu and Kashmir and Gopalganj in Bihar.



Alongside the sporting activities, 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Par Paricharcha' (Neighbourhood Youth Parliament) sessions were organised at the block level on 21 November 2026. With a minimum participation target of 80 youth per block, each NYP featured four structured sessions covering an introduction to the MY Bharat Portal; Understanding Substance Abuse: Challenges before India's Youth; From Awareness to Action: Tools for a Nasha Mukt Yuva; and an audio-visual presentation on Stories of Change: The Journey Towards a Nasha Mukt Bharat.

The 118 Neighbourhood Youth Parliament programmes recorded participation of 13,658 youth across 360 activities. The sessions provided a platform for young people to discuss the challenges posed by substance abuse, preventive measures and their role in promoting a drug-free society.

Partner organisations, including Brahma Kumaris and Heartfulness, supported the campaign activities. Heartfulness also extended support to sporting events, including badminton competitions organised at Pune.

PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 The Prime Minister of Nepal, Rt. Balendra Shah, called on the President of India, Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (November 23, 2026).

Welcoming Prime Minister Shah to Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President congratulated him on the strong mandate for his government in the March 2026 elections, and wished him success in his efforts to fulfill the aspirations of the people.

The President expressed her condolences for the loss of life caused by the Bhotekoshi floods. She said that as always, in this difficult time, India has stood by Nepal, providing prompt humanitarian assistance and technical support, and will continue to do so as a close partner in the recovery and reconstruction efforts.

The President underlined that climate change is a shared challenge for both our nations, and we must work together to strengthen early warning systems and disaster management.

The President said that the unique and multi-faceted India-Nepal relations are based on our shared civilizational



heritage and the deep cherished bonds between the people of the two countries.

She said that the Joint Vision document announced during this visit reflects the aspirations of the people of both our nations, especially the youth. She expressed confidence that it will provide a clear direction for our future cooperation in trade and investment, infrastructure, development partnership, connectivity, cultural and people to people exchanges, as well as in new and emerging sectors such as start-ups, digital services, space and innovation.

Viksit Bharat and Samunnat Nepal: Re-imagining the Partnership

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of Nepal, H.E. Balendra Shah, paid a State Visit to India from 22 to 23 November 2026. The two Prime Ministers held cordial, substantial and forward-looking talks in New Delhi and undertook a comprehensive review of the bilateral relationship.

The two leaders acknowledged that the age-old, civilisational ties between India and Nepal have developed into a multifaceted partnership that derives strength from deep people-to-people linkages apart from adherence to the principles of mutual respect and benefit.

Nepal conveyed its appreciation for India's prompt humanitarian and search-and-rescue assistance following the floods and debris flows in the Rasuwa–Trishuli basin and elsewhere in August 2026. The leaders agreed to remain engaged on the further support to be provided for Nepal's reconstruction efforts.

The two leaders agreed that the bilateral partnership should reflect contemporary political, economic and technological realities, and should be based on an updated and forward-looking legal framework, where existing bilateral agreements,including the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship, could be reviewed on the basis of mutual consent. All outstanding matters, including those related to water resources, energy, trade & commerce and boundary, are to be resolved through mutual discussion and dialogue.

To translate the India-Nepal relationship into a modern and results-oriented partnership that delivers tangible benefits to the people of both countries, the two leaders have adopted this 'Joint Vision' that focuses on the aspirations of the people of India and Nepal, especially the youth; and will provide a roadmap for the future of the bilateral partnership with a focus on the following ten pillars:

I. Comprehensive Economic and Development Partnership

India's national vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' and Nepal's national aspiration of 'Samunnat Nepal' have several complementarities that could be leveraged to further enhance the extensive economic ties between the two countries. This would include:

i. Reviewing the enabling frameworks/agreements for trade and investment between both countries to facilitate a more comprehensive economic partnership.

ii. To open new transit connectivity and air routes to enable improved access and strengthen connectivity.

MY Bharat to organise Yuva Samvad on Constitution Day

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Programme to cover over 600 districts across 30+ States/UTs under the theme 'Viksit Bharat@2047'.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, through Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), will organise the 'Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvad' on the occasion of Constitution Day, between 24th and 26th November 2026, across more than 500 colleges in over 600 districts spanning 30+ States and Union Territories. The nationwide initiative aims to connect young people in the age group of 15–29 years with India's developmental journey, its achievements and aspirations for the future, while inspiring them to become active participants in the nation's transformation into a developed country by 2047.

In keeping with the spirit of Constitution Day, participants across institutions will collectively undertake a reading of the Preamble to the Constitution of India, reaffirming their commitment to constitutional values and the ideals enshrined in the Constitution. The programme will also provide a nationwide platform for engaging young people through interactive dialogues and awareness sessions, encouraging them to reflect on India's progress, emerging opportunities and their role in shaping the country's future.

To translate this vision into meaningful engagement at the grassroots level, distinguished Youth Icons will lead sessions at participating universities and colleges. As a key component of these engagements, each Youth Icon will deliver a specially curated presentation on the theme 'Viksit Bharat@2047', taking



students through India's developmental journey, its achievements in recent years and its aspirations for becoming a developed nation by 2047. The presentation will highlight the country's progress in poverty reduction and socio-economic transformation, including efforts to improve the lives and livelihood opportunities of millions of people through inclusive development and welfare initiatives. It will also showcase India's significant progress in addressing Naxalism, restoring peace and creating an enabling environment for development in previously affected regions. Further, it will emphasise the importance of building a healthy, empowered and addiction-free society, highlighting how substance abuse undermines individual potential, family well-being, societal progress and national productivity. The presentation will underline that a Nasha Mukt Bharat is fundamental to realising the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, with the youth playing a decisive role in driving this transformation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi joins the Shabad Kirtan on the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Prime Minister Narendra Modi today joined the Shabad Kirtan on the sacred occasion of the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Prime Minister opened his remarks with the greeting Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh! Bowing with reverence to Guru Nanak Dev Ji in the sacred atmosphere and expressing heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the Shabad Kirtan, he extended festive greetings to the nation.“I extend countless greetings to all countrymen on the occasion of Parkash Purab,” remarked Modi.

Describing every Shabad of Gurbani and every melody of Kirtan as far more than mere music, the Prime Minister characterized it as a spiritual practice in itself and like diving into an ocean of knowledge.

“Therefore, whenever I receive an invitation for such an event, whenever I get the opportunity, I definitely attend the Sangat and Kirtan,” remarked PM Modi.

Recalling Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teaching of Kirat Karo, Vand Chhako, Naam Japo as a natural part of his life from childhood, the Prime Minister spoke fondly of bowing in Gurdwaras, immersing in Gurbani, experiencing the joy of Seva, partaking in Langar, and paying obeisance at Sri Harmandir Sahib on numerous occasions. “Old colleagues would know that I have also spent a lot of time in Punjab, and that period has been one of the most special memories of my life,” remarked Modi.

Expressing gratitude for continually receiving the company of Sikh saints by the Guru's grace, including the privilege of hosting numerous saints and scholars at the Prime Minister's residence, Modi noted the distinct spiritual energy felt through their presence at the event and felicitated all Sikh brothers. “On this occasion, I bow to all saints and scholars,” remarked PM Modi.

Highlighting that this year's Parkash Purab coincides with the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, who laid down his life on the very soil of Delhi to protect the nation's identity, faith, belief, and values, the Prime Minister noted that even after 350 years, the inspiration of that sacrifice remains deeply ingrained in the soil and every corner of the nation. “Every citizen of the country will always remain grateful to him for it,” affirmed Modi.

The relationship between India and Nepal is woven together by the threads of shared history, faith, culture and deep people-to-people ties

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 English Translation of Prime Minister’s Press Statement during the Joint Press Statement with the Prime Minister of Nepal.

Your Excellency, Prime Minister Balendra Shah ji, Delegates from both countries, Friends from the media Namaskaar!

It is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Balendra Shah on his first bilateral visit to India since taking office as Prime Minister of Nepal.

A few months ago, when he addressed the United Nations as the world’s youngest Prime Minister, we had a clear glimpse of his vision and foresight. And today, during our discussions over the past few hours, I have witnessed his clear vision and unwavering commitment to the future of Nepal and to India-Nepal relations.

The historic mandate entrusted to him by the people of Nepal this year reflects the aspirations and hopes of the country's younger generation.

India has always been a committed partner in Nepal's journey towards becoming a strong and prosperous nation. Guided by this spirit, we have taken several important decisions today to elevate our bilateral relations to new heights.

Friends,

The relationship between India and Nepal is not merely one of neighbourhood, it is rooted in a deep sense of kinship and enduring trust. Our joys are shared, as are our challenges. We are partners in each other's progress and a source of support for one another in times of difficulty.

We express our deepest condolences over the loss of lives caused by the devastating floods that struck Nepal in August. Today, we also announce a Development Cooperation Package worth NPR 24,000 crore to support Nepal's reconstruction and long-term development. Our resolve will be to ensure that the lives of affected families return to normal, new opportunities are created, and Nepal's capacity to effectively address future disasters is further strengthened.

The relationship between India and Nepal is woven together by the threads of shared history, faith, culture and deep people-to-people ties. Lord Ram and Mata Sita are enduring symbols of our shared civilisation and faith.

In 2018, on the sacred land of Janakpur, I had said, “Without Nepal, our pilgrimages are incomplete; without Nepal, even our Lord Ram is incomplete.”

NHAI’s Barrier-less MLFF Tolling System Boosts Net Toll Revenue by 19.84% Across Operational Fee Plazas

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Transforming Electronic Toll Collection system in the country, the implementation of Barrier-Less Tolling through Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) technology is delivering significant benefits to the National Highway commuters as well as the Government, with a substantial increase in net toll revenue and transaction volumes across operational plazas. The barrier-less initiative has demonstrated the potential of technology-driven tolling to transform National Highway travel by eliminating the need for vehicles to stop at toll plazas. The system facilitates seamless movement of vehicles, reduces congestion and travel time, minimises fuel consumption and vehicular emissions, and enhances transparency and efficiency in toll collection.

Following the successful launch on 1 st May 2026 at Choryasi Fee Plaza in Gujarat, the MLFF system has progressively been operationalised at eight more fee plazas, namely Mundka, Daulatpura, Gharaunda, Manoharpura, Shahjahanpur, Paranur, Nemili and Chenasamudram. As on 31 October 2026, the cumulative performance across these seven plazas (excluding Nemili and Chenasamudram which went live in November 2026) indicates an increase of 19.84% in net revenue to NHAI, compared to the corresponding pre-MLFF baseline. Transaction volumes have also registered significant growth.

Significant increase in net revenue

The cumulative performance of the seven operational MLFF plazas, since their respective dates of commencement up to 01 st November 2026 as compared to period immediately before launch of MLFF, is as below:

MLFF Fee Plaza Go Live Date

Increase in Net Revenue with respect to pre-MLFF period

Choryasi, Gujarat

Mundka, Delhi

Daulatpura, Rajasthan

Gharaunda, Haryana

Manoharpura, Rajasthan

Shahjahanpur, Rajasthan

Paranur, Tamil Nadu

Average increase across 7 plazas

Overall increase (combined weighted basis)

(Nemili Toll Plazas and Chenasamudram Toll Plazas went live on 12.11.26 and 21.11.26 hence not considered above)

In absolute terms, the seven plazas have generated cumulative net revenue of around ₹538.95 crore, as against the corresponding pre-MLFF benchmark of approximately ₹449.72 crore, representing additional net revenue of about ₹89.23 crore.

The increase in revenue is particularly noteworthy as it has been achieved alongside a substantial increase in transaction volumes and reduction in collection cost. This demonstrates that MLFF is not merely facilitating faster toll collection but is also improving the efficiency and coverage of toll collection, thereby reducing revenue leakage and ensuring better realisation of the applicable user fee.

Nayi Chetna 5.0 to be Launched on 25 November

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 The Ministry of Rural Development will launch the fifth edition of its national gender campaign, Nayi Chetna – Pahal Badlav Ki, on 25 November 2026, marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The month-long campaign will be implemented nationwide from 25 November to 23 December 2026 under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister of Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare, will inaugurate the national launch in the presence of Annpurna Devi, Union Minister of Women and Child Development. The event will also witness the presence of Kamlesh Paswan, Minister of State, Rural Development along with senior officials of participating Ministries, representatives of State Governments, development partners and women leaders from community institutions across the country.

The launch will take place at 2:00 PM at Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium, NASC Complex, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, Pusa, New Delhi – 110012.

The theme of Nayi Chetna 5.0, “From Access to Agency: Empowering Women through Livelihoods and Equal Opportunities for a Viksit Bharat,” highlights the importance of women’s access and mobility as critical enablers of economic empowerment, livelihood participation and independent decision-making.

Four interconnected areas of focus

Nayi Chetna 5.0 will place women’s economic empowerment at the centre of its approach, with a focus on four interconnected areas: recognising women as economic contributors, strengthening women’s access to and control over assets, promoting safe mobility, and redistributing unpaid care work. Particular emphasis will be placed on addressing barriers that restrict women’s access to livelihood opportunities, markets, financial services, public spaces and essential services, and their ability to move freely, safely and independently. The campaign aims to move beyond awareness generation towards coordinated action and measurable improvements in women’s economic participation, agency and decision-making.

The highlights of the event

Joint Inter-Ministerial Advisory involving 15 Ministries/Departments

Prime Minister Shah acknowledged with appreciation India's humanitarian and technical support and solidarity in the aftermath of the devastating Rasuwa-Bhotekoshi floods that caused significant loss of life and destruction of property in Nepal

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, H.E. Balendra Shah, Prime Minister of Nepal, undertook a State Visit to India from 22-23 November 2026. He was accompanied by a high-level official delegation. This visit was Prime Minister Balendra Shah's first visit to India after his assumption of office. Prime Minister Shah was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan. He paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat. Prime Minister Shah called on President of India, Droupadi Murmu. External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar also called on Prime Minister Shah. Prime Minister Modi held talks with Prime Minister Shah and hosted a luncheon in his honour. The discussions between the two leaders covered key areas of bilateral cooperation and regional issues of mutual interest as well as global developments. Prime Minister Shah acknowledged with appreciation India's humanitarian and technical support and solidarity in the aftermath of the devastating Rasuwa-Bhotekoshi floods that caused significant loss of life and destruction of property in Nepal. Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed India's unwavering support to Nepal's development journey as a close friend and neighbour. India will extend development assistance of INR 15,000 crores (NPR 24,000 crores) comprising a grant assistance of INR 3,500 crores (NPR 5,600 crores) for post-disaster reconstruction and new infrastructure projects in Nepal; and a Rupee-denominated Line of Credit of INR 11,500 crores (NPR 18,400 crores) for energy sector projects. Specific projects as well as modalities for the provision of development assistance will be finalized through mutual consultations. Both leaders noted with satisfaction the ongoing progress in the implementation of development projects in Nepal, including the High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP). They noted the progress achieved in the construction of the National Police Academy in Nepal, being built with assistance from Government of India. Both leaders also welcomed the announcement of setting up an Agro-Industrial Park in Chitwan with grant assistance from India. The two leaders adopted a Joint Vision for a "Viksit Bharat and Samunnat Nepal". The Joint Vision statement provides the roadmap for an aspirational and future-oriented partnership between India and Nepal. It encompasses initiatives to augment traditionally strong areas of bilateral cooperation such as economic and development partnership, connectivity, energy and water resources, and people-to-people linkages, as well as new synergies in the domains of climate resilience, disaster mitigation and management, sports, start-ups, digital services, space and innovation. The leaders noted the on-going discussions on civil aviation matters, aimed at enhancing connectivity and boosting bilateral economic engagement. Both sides agreed that the existing unidirectional B345 Kathmandu-Bhairahawa-Lucknow route, will be made bidirectional. Technical consultations will be held to finalize the modalities in this regard and to address other civil aviation proposals from both sides currently under discussion. Prime Minister Modi announced a new connectivity avenue for Nepal's transit trade through Deendayal Port (Kandla, Gujarat). Further, access to Paradip port (Odisha) will also be made available once requisite infrastructure is in place. The two leaders underlined the importance of improving cross-border connectivity and enhancing border infrastructure, through the establishment of new railway lines, bridges, Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) and petroleum pipelines. The two Prime Ministers flagged off the inaugural Sarayu-Kamala Express rail service between Ayodhya and Janakpur. This rail service will not only improve connectivity but also give a fillip to religious and cultural tourism along the Ramayana Circuit, and strengthen the civilisational ties between India and Nepal. The leaders agreed to explore similar connections to develop Buddhist and Shiv-Shakti religious tourism circuits. The two leaders announced the finalization of the Field Location Survey for the proposed Raxaul–Kathmandu electrified broad-gauge railway line, and announced that the two sides will collaborate in the development of the East-West Railway in Nepal. The two leaders laid virtually the foundation stone for a new ICP at Banbasa and welcomed the progress in the construction of the ICPs at Bhairahawa, Sunauli and Dodhara-Chandani. Three ICPs between India and Nepal are already operational. A new cross-border motorable bridge between Dharchula (India) and Darchula (Nepal) was inaugurated by the leaders. This will help improve direct connectivity between Western Nepal and India. The leaders noted with satisfaction the progress in joint field work relating to maintenance and repair of boundary pillars, and directed the Foreign Secretaries to work on the outstanding boundary issues. In an expansion of cross-border petroleum infrastructure between India and Nepal, the leaders dedicated to the people of Nepal phase II of the Motihari-Amlekhgunj Pipeline. The two leaders also laid virtually the foundation stone for the development of a petroleum terminal at Jhapa, Nepal and emphasized the importance of early commencement of work on the petroleum pipeline between Siliguri and Jhapa. Both sides agreed to explore cooperation in the construction of gas pipelines between India and Nepal. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the bilateral progress in the hydropower sector, in keeping with the India-Nepal Joint Vision Document for Power Sector Cooperation and the Long Term Power Trade Agreement. Both sides welcomed the active engagement of Indian companies in the hydro-power sector in Nepal, and agreed to ensure the expeditious completion of various hydropower projects being developed by Indian companies in Nepal. On this occasion, the two leaders laid virtually the foundation stone for the 669 MW Lower Arun Hydro-Electric Project. The two leaders directed the Pancheshwar Development Authority and the Joint Committee on Water Resources to finalise the Detailed Project Report of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project expeditiously and commence work on the implementation of the project. Both leaders also agreed on the need to accelerate work on the DPR of the Saptakoshi and Sunkoshi multipurpose projects to harness water resources for mutual benefit and mitigate the impact of floods. The two sides noted with satisfaction the progress regarding the formation of JVs for two high-capacity cross-border transmission lines between Inaruwa (Nepal) - New Purnea (India) and Dododhara (Nepal) – Bareilly (India). In an expansion of India's development and capacity-building support to Nepal, the two leaders agreed that India would set up an off-shore IIT campus in Nepal. This will serve as a force-multiplier in Nepal's education sector and also promote job creation. Both leaders welcomed the expanding co-operation between India and Nepal in the area of technology, including start-ups and digital and financial connectivity. Both sides acknowledged the need to mutually facilitate smoother access to services, including banking and telecom, for the people of one country residing in the other. The following Memoranda of Understanding were exchanged between the two sides during the visit: i. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Academic and Research Collaboration between National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India, and Crime Investigation Department, Nepal Police. ii. MoU between Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), India, and National Police Academy (NPA), Nepal. iii. MoU between National Centre for Good Governance, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, Government of India, and Nepal Administrative Staff College, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Government of Nepal, on Capacity Building Training Programme for Civil Servants of Nepal. iv. MoU between Government of India and Government of Nepal on Cooperation in the field of Ayurveda and other Traditional Systems of Medicine. v. MoU between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Government of India, and Ministry of Information and Communication (MOIC), Government of Nepal, on Establishment of Satellite Communication (SATCOM) Network for the Utilization of South Asia Satellite. vi. MoU between Government of India and Government of Nepal on Technical Cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development. vii. MoU between Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, and Ministry of Health and Food Safety, Government of Nepal, on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine. viii. MoU between Government of India and Government of Nepal on Cooperation in the field of Livestock and Fisheries Development. The Prime Minister of Nepal expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister of India for the warm hospitality accorded to him and his delegation; and formally invited him to visit Nepal. The Indian Prime Minister accepted the invitation, with the official dates for the visit to be confirmed through diplomatic channels. The India-Nepal partnership is built on deep trust, friendship, mutual respect and understanding across all levels, and is further strengthened by strong people-to-people connections as well as close economic and developmental cooperation. The visit reaffirmed the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries and the commitment of the two sides to advance it further.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Lauds India's Achievement of Administering Over 1 Crore HPV Vaccine Doses in Less Than Nine Months

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Prime Minister Narendra Modi Lauds India's Achievement of Administering Over 1 Crore HPV Vaccine Doses in Less Than Nine Months.

India's sustained efforts to strengthen preventive healthcare and protect the health of its daughters have reached an important milestone, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauding the achievement of administering over 1 crore doses of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in less than nine months under the National HPV Vaccination Campaign. The achievement marks a significant step towards protecting adolescent girls against HPV infections that can cause cervical cancer and reflects the growing reach of preventive healthcare services across the country.

In his message, the Prime Minister described the achievement as a significant milestone in India's journey towards preventive healthcare. He noted that every dose is a step towards protecting girls from cervical cancer and ensuring a healthier future for them and commended all stakeholders whose efforts contributed to this achievement.

A significant milestone in our journey towards preventive healthcare. Every dose is a step towards protecting girls from cervical cancer and ensuring a healthier future for them. I commend all the stakeholders whose efforts have ensured this remarkable feat.

Vice-President of India C. P. Radhakrishnan has also appreciated the achievement of administering over 1 crore HPV vaccine doses in less than nine months, describing it as a significant milestone in the fight against cervical cancer. He appreciated the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, State Governments and healthcare professionals involved in the successful implementation of the nationwide campaign. The Vice-President also acknowledged the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Government's continued commitment to strengthening preventive healthcare, protecting adolescent girls and building a healthier future for generations of women.

India's achievement of administering over 1 crore doses of the HPV vaccine in less than 9 months is a significant milestone in the fight against cervical cancer. I appreciate the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the State Governments and all healthcare professionals involved in the successful implementation of this nationwide campaign. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, this remarkable progress reflects the Government's continued commitment to strengthening preventive healthcare, protecting adolescent girls and building a healthier future for generations of women. A significant step towards a healthier India! @MoHFW_INDIA

'Pagla Ghora' and 'Ohh My Dog' Explore the Profound Dimensions of Human Conscience and Unconditional Love at 57th IFFI

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 While one story brings the ghosts of the past face to face with a restless conscience, the other celebrates a love so pure that no distance or adversity can diminish it. Exploring two contrasting yet deeply moving dimensions of the human experience, ' Pagla Ghora' and ' Ohh My Dog', the Bengali and Hindi selections in the Indian Panorama, took centre stage at a press conference today at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

Filmmakers Sekhar Das and Amit Rai, accompanied by acclaimed Bengali actress Gargee RoyChowdhury and producer Dr. Prabir Bhaumik, interacted with the media, sharing insights into their respective films and their exploration of guilt, betrayal, empathy and unconditional devotion. Together, these narratives celebrate cinema's power to transcend linguistic and cultural boundaries through the universal language of human emotion.

Pagla Ghora: A Haunting Journey into Guilt, Remorse and the Human Conscience

National Film Award-winning filmmaker Sekhar Das, along with lead actress Gargee RoyChowdhury and producer Dr. Prabir Bhaumik, shared insights into the cinematic adaptation of legendary playwright Badal Sircar's post-realist theatrical masterpiece, ' Pagla Ghora'. Set against the eerie backdrop of a forest crematorium at night, the film follows four men who gather for the cremation of a woman who died by suicide. As her spirit confronts them, their buried secrets surface, revealing a shared history of betrayal and infidelity. What unfolds is a haunting exploration of guilt, emotional abandonment and the human conscience, underscoring the painful truth that remorse often comes too late.

Speaking about the enduring relevance of Badal Sircar's work and the universal appeal of regional cinema, Director Sekhar Das underscored the power of authentic storytelling to transcend linguistic and geographical boundaries. "Art does not have any borders; it only has roots. When a story is deeply rooted in human conscience and emotional truth, it speaks to audiences everywhere, regardless of language," he remarked.

Gargee RoyChowdhury reflected on the emotional intricacies of portraying a character whose presence becomes both a mirror to human frailty and a catalyst for moral awakening. Her role, she highlighted, demanded a delicate engagement with the film's layered emotional landscape.

"Feeling" Before Story: Aquí and The Huntress Carry Human Emotions Across Borders at IFFI 2026

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 Two very different films at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa have one thing in common: both aim to make the audience feel before they understand, placing human emotions at the centre of storytelling. Filmmakers Tiago Guedes and Suzanne Andrews Correa addressed the press during the festival today, sharing insights into their respective films, Aquí and The Huntress (La Cazadora).

Aquí, directed by Tiago Guedes, is a dystopian drama adapted from J. M. Coetzee's Jesus trilogy, screening in the International Competition section. The Huntress (La Cazadora), the debut feature of Mexican-American filmmaker Suzanne Andrews Correa, is a Spanish-language drama thriller inspired by real-life violence against women in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

Aquí: A Family Built on Choice

Aquí, a 2026 film that premiered at the Cannes Film Festival on 18 th May 2026, is being screened in the International Competition at IFFI 2026, being held from November 20 th to 28 th in Goa. Adapted into a single film from Coetzee's Jesus trilogy, it is set in a society where people begin their lives with no memory of the past, memories are erased and conformity is enforced.

The story follows Simón, who takes in a young boy named David, whom he meets on the journey to this new world. Believing the boy needs a mother, Simón seeks out Inés, who agrees, and the three slowly form an unconventional family. But a society that expects everyone to follow its rules cannot easily accept David, who refuses to fit in. Through his imagination and his desire for freedom, he challenges the world around him. Simón and Inés realise that raising a child is an uncertain journey, full of questions and without easy answers.

Director Tiago Guedes said the film seeks to explore what it means to be human, raising philosophical questions that he believes everyone should reflect upon. On adapting Coetzee's books, he explained that while reading them, he focussed more on the feelings the story evoked than on the plot itself. This, he said, helps the intensity of the book's essence reach the screen as a visual experience.

IICT and Wacom India Sign Strategic MoU at 57th IFFI to Strengthen India-Japan Creative Collaboration

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 The Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), India's National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR), signed an MoU with Wacom India at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026 to strengthen India-Japan cooperation in creative technologies and skill development.

The partnership aims to expand access to professional tools and industry-led training for Indian students. Under the agreement, 18 students across IICT's three two-year diploma programmes in Animation Film Design, Interactive Video Game Design & Development, and Post Production & VFX will receive 50% tuition scholarships, along with accommodation assistance for eligible outstation students.

The collaboration will also provide structured mentorship and global exposure through 10 Wacom-branded creative contests and quarterly masterclasses on Manga, Anime and other creative disciplines, led by Japanese and Indian artists and experts, by December 2027. The two institutions will jointly develop a global student portfolio showcase covering digital illustration, concept art, character design, animation and game art, enabling students to build industry-ready portfolios. The agreement also provides for IICT's integration into Wacom tablet packaging and its Pixel Perch creator platform, subject to mutually agreed implementation plans.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ashish Kulkarni, Founding Director, IICT, said that connecting young creators with global ecosystems is essential to growing India's creative economy. He noted that the partnership brings together Japan's strengths in animation, manga and gaming with India's diverse storytelling heritage, enabling students to create original intellectual property for global audiences.

Dr. Vishwas Deoskar, Chief Executive Officer, IICT, highlighted the importance of practical experience in enhancing employability in the AVGC-XR sector. He said that contests, masterclasses, professional tools and portfolio development would help students work on real-world briefs and demonstrate their industry readiness.

Koji Yano, Global Head of the Creative Experience Unit, Wacom, highlighted the potential for creative collaboration and knowledge exchange between India and Japan across animation, manga, gaming and digital content. He said Wacom's technologies, including digital ink, would enable young Indian creators to collaborate and participate in global creative partnerships.

Data Users Conference on the New Series of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) Held in Mumbai on

MUMBAI – 24 Nov, 2026 The The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the Knowledge Partner, organised a "Data Users Conference on the New Series of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP)" on 23 November 2026 at Mumbai. Following the release of revised series of GDP, CPI and IIP at different points during 2026, the conference was organised to familiarise data users with the methodological changes, data sources and key improvements incorporated in each of the revised series. It also aimed to facilitate a better understanding of these changes and their implications for the resulting estimates.

The conference brought together representatives of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), SEBI, economists, forecasters, credit rating agencies, experts from financial institutions and the banking sector, academia, research institutions, industry and investor organisations, users of official statistics and senior officials of the Central and State Governments. The inaugural session comprised welcome remarks by Dr. Dalip Singh, Director General (Central Statistics), MoSPI; the setting of the context by Dr. Saurabh Garg, Secretary, MoSPI; the inaugural address by Dr. Poonam Gupta, Deputy Governor, RBI; the keynote address by Deepak Parekh, Former Chairman, HDFC; and the vote of thanks by Siddhartha Kundu, ADG, National Accounts Division, MoSPI. A booklet containing brief concept notes on the revised series of these indices was shared with the participants.

Dr. Dalip Singh, Director General (Central Statistics), in his welcome address, noted that macroeconomic statistics form the foundation of economic analysis, policy making and informed decision making and that GDP, CPI and IIP together provide a comprehensive measure of economic activity and growth. He observed that, as the structure of the economy, production processes, consumption patterns and technology continue to evolve, the statistical system must evolve continuously to remain representative of prevailing economic realities. He recalled that MoSPI had completed the base revision of these three indicators and launched the new series during 2026, with greater use of administrative and survey-based data, wider coverage and important methodological improvements and acknowledged the contribution of expert committees, central ministries, State Governments, RBI and other institutions.

From a Mother's Longing to a Child's Fight for Life: Rahma and The Farm Bring Moving Stories to IFFI

CHENNAI – 24 Nov, 2026 From a Mother's Longing to a Child's Fight for Life: Rahma and The Farm Bring Moving Stories to IFFI.

Stories of motherhood, compassion, human vulnerability and the sanctity of life came into focus at a press conference featuring filmmakers associated with two films showcased under the International Cinema Section of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), being held in Goa. The films, Rahma and The Farm, explore distinct yet deeply interconnected themes, inviting audiences to look beyond their own struggles and recognise the pain and aspirations of others.

The press conference was attended by Faysal Soysal, director and writer of Rahma; Elif Eda, director and writer of The Farm; and Emre Pekçakır, director of photography of The Farm. The filmmakers shared insights into the creative vision, thematic concerns and experiences behind bringing these compelling stories to the screen.

Rahma: A poignant exploration of motherhood, longing and human connection

Directed and written by Faysal Soysal, Rahma follows Meryem, an archaeologist whose longing to become a mother remains unfulfilled despite multiple surgeries and unsuccessful IVF treatments. As hope begins to fade, she considers surrogacy in Georgia, despite her husband İbrahim's reservations. Her life takes an unexpected turn when she encounters Rahma, a nine-year-old Syrian orphan struggling to survive on her own. As Meryem gradually discovers Rahma's situation, an extraordinary bond begins to develop between them, bringing solace and emotional healing into her life.

Speaking about the inspiration behind the film, Faysal Soysal said that the story emerged from a reflection on the intense struggles couples undergo in their desire to have children, juxtaposed with the many children who grow up without families. Through Rahma, he sought to explore the emotional complexities of parenthood, the meaning of family and the unexpected ways in which human relationships can fulfil deep-seated emotional needs.

The Farm: A young girl's courageous stand for the sanctity of life

Written and directed by Elif Eda, The Farm tells the story of 12-year-old İrem, who moves in with her estranged grandmother on a dairy farm following the sudden loss of her parents. Disturbed by the practice of separating newborn calves from their mothers to increase milk production, İrem is unable to reconcile with the cruelty she witnesses. With the help of Halid, an orphan working as an apprentice to the farm's veterinarian, she sets out on a determined mission to free the pregnant cows.