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Arrest Ruling Party MLA, Deputy Speaker Immediately: LoP Udhayanidhi Stalin Submits Petition to DGP

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 LoP Udhayanidhi on a press interaction disclosed:- When we went to submit a complaint petition today, we were told that the DGP had gone to attend a training event for the 'Singappen Padai' (Lioness Force). All we want to ask is: what training are you giving this Singappen Padai, and what is their actual job? I am asking both the people of Tamil Nadu and you, the journalists—have you ever seen this Singappen Padai anywhere? The Chief Minister announced this as a major achievement, yet you journalists are witnessing firsthand how severely law and order has deteriorated in Tamil Nadu since this government took office. The people of Tamil Nadu are suffering because of this every single day.

I have repeatedly spoken about this in the Legislative Assembly as well; however, the people of Tamil Nadu saw what the Chief Minister—who is supposed to answer all of this—actually did. I spoke with hard data from a database. I asked several questions in the Assembly about how many murders, sexual assaults, and incidents of drug smuggling have taken place. Instead of giving a direct answer that day, the Chief Minister "time-traveled" back nearly 50 to 60 years and gave completely irrelevant replies. As a result, the people of Tamil Nadu are facing immense hardship every day.

Specifically, over 75 percent of those involved in such violent incidents are functionaries of the ruling party. And by ruling party functionaries, I don't just mean ward secretaries or branch secretaries—district secretaries, ministers, and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) themselves are involved in such wrongdoings, violence, and sexual assaults. Even when we raised the issue regarding the Srivaikuntam MLA earlier, there was no proper response. Atrocities where several district secretaries have subjected women from their own party to sexual violence are happening right now.

The height of this is that a ruling party legislator, Kallakurichi MLA Arul Vignesh, has been continuously sending obscene messages to a woman officer—the District Collector. Not just in the history of Tamil Nadu, such a shameful incident has never occurred anywhere in the history of India. In addition to sending obscene messages to a District Collector, the MLA went to her camp office while intoxicated and created a ruckus.

They came to power on May 10, and this happened in July itself. Usually, when a new government assumes office, we say there is a "honeymoon period" of six months where no questions should be asked; it seems this MLA and the Chief Minister took that phrase in its literal sense. These incidents have been happening since July 31. Journalists and people on social media began writing about this continuously. Our Member of Parliament and Deputy General Secretary, Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, was the first to bring this news out into the open.

However, they have appointed a minister solely to tell lies. When journalists go and ask him, he—who has made a habit of telling completely unrelated lies—gives evasive answers. 116 days ago, the District Collector had already lodged a complaint with the Chief Secretary. In response, the Chief Secretary told her, "Get yourself transferred to another district and leave." Now, as people dig deeper, these facts are coming out one by one.

Everyone has been talking about the MLA concerned for the past month, yet no action has been taken against him to date. Even yesterday, it took court intervention to get a minor action initiated—it took 116 days just to register an FIR. Through the press, I want to ask the people whether this Chief Minister, who holds the law and order portfolio, has been asleep for 116 days.

Furthermore, ever since the allegation became public, online abusers known as "virtual warriors" have been attacking and making derogatory remarks against the victim herself.

In the complaint petition I submitted to the DGP today, I emphasized that action must also be taken against the Chief Secretary—who tried to cover up the crime despite receiving a complaint on July 31—and that he must be added as an accused in the case. Did the Chief Secretary inform the Chief Minister about this matter or not? Not informing him is a grave mistake; if he did inform him, why has the Chief Minister kept his mouth shut for 114 days until today? Perhaps the Chief Minister is afraid to summon the MLA and ask, "Is what you are doing right?" The people of Tamil Nadu are watching all of this. What answer are the ministers—who earlier defended the government claiming no such incident ever happened—going to give now?

Similarly, everyone saw another incident where Deputy Speaker Ravisankar brutally assaulted a person who came to his house to submit a petition. Once the video went viral, they summoned him in the middle of the night, applied makeup so the injuries wouldn't show, made him sit next to the Deputy Speaker, and released another video of the two laughing and talking like friends. Two or three hours later, that same person gave an interview stating, "They called me, threatened me, and forced me to shoot that video; it is true that the Deputy Speaker beat me." It has been 16 days since that incident, and no action has been taken on that either. Therefore, we have also stated in our petition that the police must take action against the Deputy Speaker.

This sleepy government and sleepy Chief Minister, who have been slumbering for 116 days, must wake up and take proper action, as law and order rests in his hands. Because all of them have spent the last four months working full-time to cover up this crime, we have zero faith in this government or the Chief Minister. Hence, we have submitted a petition demanding that the government suo motu hand this case over to the CBI, and immediately arrest both the MLA and the Deputy Speaker.

We see TVK cadres claiming on social media that government officials remain pro-DMK even after a regime change, which is why such incidents are being fabricated. Leave Tamil Nadu aside—has an incident where someone sent obscene SMS messages to a District Collector, got drunk, and created a ruckus at their camp office ever happened under any regime in any state in India? You came to power promising to bring "big change." Is this the change you brought? The people of Tamil Nadu have started calling it a "stench" (durnaatram) instead of change (maatram).

Furthermore, TVK cadres are countering by alleging that DMK members also face complaints of crimes against women—citing a complaint that Rishivandiyam MLA Vasantham Karthikeyan threatened a woman District Project Director, and another complaint against a youth wing functionary from the same district for marriage fraud.



In the case of Rishivandiyam MLA Vasantham Karthikeyan, a BDO officer had verbally abused a woman worker from an oppressed community who cooks for the breakfast scheme in his constituency. When that worker complained to the MLA, Vasantham Karthikeyan called the officer and merely fulfilled his duty as a legislator by saying, "Why are you scolding her like this? Get the work done politely, don't abuse her." However, without even respecting his position as an MLA, that officer spoke rudely to him, prompting Vasantham Karthikeyan to file a complaint with the District Collector. Stating that the officer speaks disrespectfully to everyone, not just Vasantham Karthikeyan, three others—Vimala, Bhuvaneswari, and Subramanian—have also filed police complaints against that BDO. Therefore, this government is trying to escape blame by pinning it on Vasantham Karthikeyan.

As for Ashik, whom you asked about, he is indeed a youth wing functionary. As soon as that complaint surfaced, we also conducted an inquiry. Nearly three months ago, Ashik himself had filed a complaint against the very woman who has now accused him, alleging that she had cheated him—but the police ignored it and never investigated. The moment an allegation arises against a DMK functionary, they blow it out of proportion to escape their own faults. Even now, the police force is under their control, isn't it? We urge them to take legal action if there is valid evidence. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam expects arrests to be made, and the people of Tamil Nadu believe it will happen. We urge the Chief Minister to please wake up from his slumber and do this.



CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Mallai Sathya, Founder and Chief Coordinator of the Dravida Vetri Kazhagam, along with party functionaries, paid a courtesy visit to Udhayanidhi Stalin, Leader of the Opposition and DMK Youth Wing Secretary.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONVENTION ON HOMOEOPATHY AT BHUBANESWAR



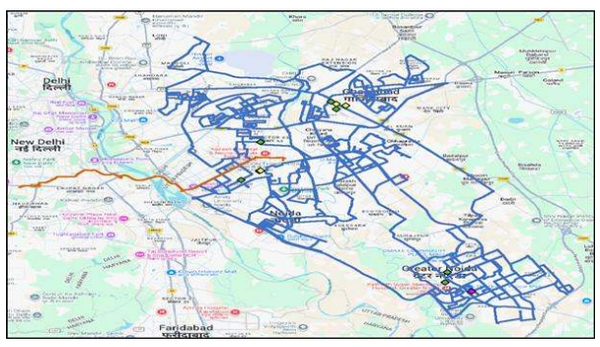
BHUBANESWAR – 26 Nov, 2026 The President of India, Droupadi Murmu graced the National Scientific Convention on Homoeopathy at Bhubaneswar, Odisha today (November 25, 2026).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that homoeopathy represents an important part of India's diverse healthcare landscape. Over the years, it has developed a wide institutional presence in India and has become accessible to people through educational institutions, healthcare facilities and public health networks.

The President underlined that the future credibility and academic standing of homoeopathy will depend significantly on the scientific integrity of its research and the quality of clinical evidence it generates. She urged research institutions, medical colleges, universities and professional organisations to collaborate in developing a strong research culture. She stated that the National Scientific Convention on Homoeopathy provides an excellent platform for meaningful academic engagement, institutional partnerships and a shared vision for the future. She advised participants, particularly young researchers and professionals, to make full use of this opportunity.

TRAI releases findings of Independent Drive Test (IDT) conducted across Noida, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida and nearby areas route under Delhi LSA, for the month of Sep

NEW DELHI – 26 Nov, 2026 The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released findings of Independent Drive Test (IDT) conducted across Noida, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida and nearby areas route under Delhi LSA, during the month of Sep 2026, for information of general telecom consumers. The purpose of this drive test is to assess and verify real time quality of mobile network services (both voice & data) provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). During the IDT, TRAI captures performance of TSPs for key Quality of Service (QoS) parameters like Coverage, Call Drop Rate (CDR), Call Setup Success Rate (CSSR), data Download (DL) and Upload (UL) throughput etc., which are then published to inform Consumers and encourage TSPs to improve their services.



20 days after Karnataka CM's directive, KMF lowers Nandini curd price by ₹2 per kg; effective from November 29



CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Nearly 20 days after Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar directed the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), the cooperative has announced a reduction of ₹2 per kg in the selling price of Nandini curd.

An official release from KMF stated that the revised prices will be effective from November 29.

"Following a request from the State's milk producers, the selling prices of Nandini milk and curd were revised with effect from November 1, 2026. But, in the interest of consumers, the Government of Karnataka has directed KMF to reduce the selling price of Nandini curd by ₹2 per kg. Accordingly, the price of Nandini curd has been reduced by ₹2 per kg, making it available to consumers at a lower price than the existing one."

While the existing price of curd is ₹34 for 500 grams, after the reduction, the price will be ₹33. Similarly, the existing price of 1 kg curd was ₹68, which has now been reduced to ₹66.

Earlier, the hike in curd prices by KMF was met with criticism from hoteliers, the general public and others.

Amazon Global Selling achieves $27 billion in cumulative e-commerce exports from India

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Amazon today announced that its flagship export programme, Amazon Global Selling, has enabled cumulative e-commerce exports worth $27 billion from India, marking significant progress towards its target of facilitating $80 billion in exports by 2030.

Launched in 2015, the programme has onboarded over 2.4 lakh Indian exporters, representing a 20% growth in its exporter base over the past year. It has also enabled Indian businesses to sell more than one billion Made-in-India products to customers across over 200 countries through more than 18 Amazon international marketplaces.

Srinidhi Kalvapudi, Head of Amazon Global Selling India, said the milestone reflects the growing potential of Indian businesses in global markets. He added that Amazon would focus on AI-led innovation, capacity building and stronger industry partnerships to make cross-border e-commerce simpler and more accessible.

Home textiles and apparel have emerged as key growth drivers, recording compound annual growth rates (CAGR) of 30% and 23%, respectively. Amazon has also launched a cluster-based initiative in Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh, to support rug manufacturers and expand exports. It has signed agreements with three textile export promotion councils to strengthen industry collaboration.

Over the past decade, health and personal care, grocery and beauty have recorded strong CAGRs of 45%, 44% and 42%, respectively.

The programme has registered exporters across 28 states, seven Union Territories and more than 200 cities. In Tamil Nadu, exporters from Erode and Kanchipuram recorded sales exceeding $121.5 million and $29 million, respectively, between January 2025 and the third quarter of 2026.

Through technology, logistics support and strategic partnerships, Amazon Global Selling continues to empower Indian entrepreneurs and manufacturers to build global brands and contribute to India's export ambitions.



Book purchase scam: Madras High Court nominates DGP Venkataraman to keep a watch over DVAC investigation

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 The Madras High Court on Wednesday (November 25, 2026) nominated Director General of Police G. Venkataraman, now serving as the Director of Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services in Chennai, to keep a watch over the investigation being conducted by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti Corruption (DVAC) into a scam in the procurement of books to various public libraries in the State.

Pursuant to an order passed by a Division Bench led by Justice G.R. Swaminathan requesting Justice V. Lakshminarayanan to monitor the criminal investigation, the latter requested the services of Venkataraman who had been the former Director of Vigilance and Anti Corruption apart from serving in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) with vast experience in probing corruption cases.

The judge wanted Venkataraman to go through the materials collected by the DVAC investigating team on a regular basis and submit periodical status reports before the court. Though Additional Public Prosecutor Arun Anbumani feared that the nomination of the officer might interfere with the hierarchy in DVAC and undermine the authority, the judge said, such an apprehension was "misplaced."



The Hindu's coffee table book on exploration of the Western Ghats released



CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Authored by Vrinda Ramanan and J. Ramanan, mountaineers, writers and photographers, the book was launched by Tamil Nadu Forests Minister R.V. Ranjith Kumar. The first copies were received by Rohit Ramesh, Director, Suresh Nambath, Editor, and L.V. The book is a sequel to 'Mountains of our Destiny: An Expedition to the Indian Himalaya', also by the same authors.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister noted the importance of the forests, rivers and mountains to sustaining agriculture, livelihoods and ecological balance. He highlighted the need to ensure forest conservation, spoke of the measures taken by the government to improve upon work being done, such as AI technology to prevent elephant deaths on railway tracks and in the control of forest fires, and congratulated the authors on their work.

Author J. Ramanan explained that the two mountain ranges: the Himalayas and the Western Ghats formed the bedrock of India's existence. Without them, he said, we would not have had our rivers. The 1,500 km Western Ghats in particular, recognised as a biodiversity hotspot, was one of the richest ecological resources in the country, sustaining thousands of lives.

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From 'Ramayana' to 'Suzume': How Indian cinephiles are embracing Japanese cinema

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 "I wish more people watched anime in India; I hate that many liken the genre to cartoons meant for children" — this sentiment, expressed by a friend back in 2018, came back to me this weekend as I witnessed first-hand the a Chennai audience embraced Japanese cinema. The Chennai edition of The Japan Foundation's Japanese Film Festival was yet another reminder that Indian audiences are increasingly looking beyond their familiar cinematic borders.

The JFF — held on the PVR INOX theatre in Express Avenue mall — is evidence that this East Asian wave isn't stopping anytime soon. Over the years, appetite for Japanese anime has risen in India, with streaming platforms like Netflix and Crunchyroll bringing the world of anime a little closer Arts and Culture (Arts and Cultural Exchange) at The Japan Foundation, New Delhi, believes the shift in consumer behaviour during the COVID-19 lockdown played a major role. "People started watching movies on streaming platforms and eventually series. They discovered the sheer variety of content out there — not anime, but also newer series made for the next generation



Mobile wildlife forensic lab to be stationed at Pethikuttai in Coimbatore district

COIMBATORE – 26 Nov, 2026 Forest Departments Wildlife Transit and Treatment Centre at Pethikuttai in Coimbatore district.

The Forest Department's mobile wildlife forensic-cum-diagnostic laboratory (MWFDL), stationed in Tiruchi district, will be moved to the Wildlife Transit and Treatment Centre at Pethikuttai in Sirumugai forest range of the Coimbatore Forest Division soon.

The order was issued after a Special Division Bench of the Madras High Court directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Chennai, on October 31 to shift the facility to Coimbatore Division to cater to needs arising out of the Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and other areas in and around Coimbatore, Erode, Dindigul, Kodaikanal and Valparai.

According to the Forest Department, the MWFDL is an air-conditioned vehicle equipped with facilities, including mobile centrifuge, compound microscope, haematology analyser, serum biochemistry analyser, two refrigerators, minus 20°C freezers, micropipettes and inverter.

Serum biochemistry analyser in the MWFDL can be used to evaluate the functioning of different organs of an individual animal and to detect underlying diseases or metabolic imbalances. The haematology analyser provides information about the blood and immune status of an animal's health.



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Editor: R.SATHYANARAYANAN

Congress leads Rajasthan zila parishad polls, but BJP turns numbers game on its head

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 The Congress party on Wednesday managed to elect Zila Pramukhs in 24 of 37 districts, while the BJP managed to double its tally to 10 amid cross-voting in some districts.

As per the results declared on November 20, the Congress had a majority in 23 of 37 Zila Parishads, the BJP in five, and the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) in one.

However, the Congress managed to add only one more to its tally. Among the 23 districts where it had a majority, the Congress failed to get its Pramukh elected only in Churu, where former BJP cabinet minister Rajendra Rathore 's daughter-in-law, Kanika Singh, was elected. The move came as a major setback to the Congress party, which was hopeful of putting up a united show in the district and winning the Pramukh polls across the state without a blemish. For the



embattled BJP veteran, a former seven-term MLA, the news came as a much-needed respite. During the polls, Rathore had recited an Islamic kalma while campaigning for his son Parakram and Parakram's wife Kanika, both of whom went on to win.

Govt. Stanley Hospital's vascular surgeons perform complex surgeries on two patients under CMCHIS

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Vascular surgeons at the Government Stanley Medical College Hospital (SMCH) performed two high-risk, complex surgeries on a 60-year-old man from Coimbatore, who had an aneurysm of the aortic arch, and a 19-year-old woman from Villupuram, who had an aneurysm of the superior mesenteric artery, a major blood vessel supplying blood to the intestines.

K. Elancheralathan, professor and head, Department of Vascular Surgery, SMCH said that the man was diagnosed with a saccular aneurysm in the arch of the aorta, the major blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body. The aneurysm was located at a critical anatomical site, from which blood vessels supplying to both sides of the brain and the upper limbs arise. An aneurysm is an abnormal bulge in the wall of a blood vessel and can be life-threatening if it ruptures, he told reporters on Wednesday.

"The patient had back pain and had also undergone radiation treatment for oral cancer (leading to



hostile plastered neck and it was avoided for bypass procedure). He had consulted various private hospitals in Coimbatore and finally came to SMCH.

"Signal at 11.30 is a film that is made for the theatrical experience for audience to enjoy, and experience something new" - Actress Bhavya Trikha

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Any actress would always aspire to experiment with unique roles, and explore their potentials. For Bhavya Trikha, she feels her journey in Tamil film industry has offered diversified roles and story premises. While she has become the favourite of universal crowds, her upcoming film 'Signal at 11.30', starring Santhosh Prathap and Pujita Ponnada alongside her in the lead roles offers a challenging character. With this film, directed by Malarvizhi Natesan scheduled for worldwide theatrical release on this Friday (November 27), the actress shares her experience working on this project. Speaking about what drew her to the project, Bhavya says, "It began with Malar Ma'am's vision. The concept of Signal at 11.30 pulled me in, and when I learnt that a woman filmmaker was leading it, I was even more excited. I would love to see more women directing films as a matter of course, with the conversation always being about the filmmaker and her work. On set, Malar Ma'am was gentle and caring with every artiste, and that warmth made it easy to give my best.

Jayaprakash Sir is such a generous and approachable actor, and sharing scenes with him was a joy. Santhosh Prathap, whom I first worked with in my debut film, was wonderful again. Poojitha is sweet and easy to work with. Because the team felt so familiar, there was a lovely understanding on the set, and that positive atmosphere stayed with us throughout the shoot."

Totting up about her experience, Bhavya Trikha adds that few sequences gave her a never-before experience, and she was able to perform them with the great support of her co-stars and technical team. "Signal at 11.30 is a film that is made for the theatrical experience for audience to enjoy, and experience something new," signs off Bhavya.

Directed by Malarvizhi



Natesan, Signal at 11.30 stars Santhosh Prathap and Bhavya Trikha, with Pujita Ponnada, Jayaprakash, Munishkanth and others in the cast. It is presented by Malarvizhi Natesan and Dr. Shivani Subramani under the Alar Studios banner. The technical team includes D. Imman (music), Raja Bhattacharjee (cinematography), R. Kalaivanan (editing) and Sherif (choreography).

U.S. announces new 25% tariffs on India, second-highest among 14 countries against whom action was taken

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 The U.S. government on Wednesday (November 25, 2026) announced a tariff of 25% on goods imported from India in response to India's "unreasonable acts, policies, and practices" that "burden or restrict U.S. commerce". This is the second-highest tariff among the 14 economies on which the latest action has been taken, second only to the 35% tariff levied on Vietnam.

However, the order by the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) also said that, should the U.S. and India reach an Agreement on Reciprocal Trade, the tariff on India could drop to 17%.

Further, while it says that the 25% tariffs would be net of existing tariffs levied on India, meaning they will not add to the 10% already in effect, the order also said that it remained for the USTR to decide whether these new tariffs will be adjusted keeping in mind those other tariffs.

The USTR had in March launched two separate



investigations into American trade partners, including India, under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act. The first investigation related to forced labour resulted in a tariff of 10% on India.

Phala Phala farm theft: South Africa's Ramaphosa wins court battle over impeachment threat



CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has won a legal battle to overturn a report that found he may have a case to answer over the theft of large sums of cash from his private farm.

In 2022, an independent panel said Ramaphosa may have committed serious misconduct relating to the theft of $580,000 (£443,000), hidden in a sofa, at his Phala Phala game farm in the Limpopo province. He denied any wrongdoing.

Ramaphosa challenged the findings of the report in court after the Constitutional Court ruled that parliament had violated the constitution by blocking moves to impeach him.

The Western Cape high court ruled that the panel's report was unlawful and set it aside "in its entirety".

In its judgment, the court said the panel, appointed by parliament to investigate the allegations against Ramaphosa, had "misconstrued its function, the nature of the inquiry it was to conduct and the recommendation it was required to make".

The court also declared unlawful the steps taken by parliament in relation to the report.

Political analyst Khanyi Magubane said the court ruling was a victory for Ramaphosa as it gave him "political and constitutional credibility".



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Maestro Isaignani Ilaiyaraaja is composing the music for Dhaayan

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 *A Hollywood-Style Supernatural Mystery Thriller 'Dhaayan' is releasing soon!*



'Dhaayan', an upcoming supernatural mystery thriller being made on a grand scale with a Hollywood-style approach, is produced by Tatiana Babenko and Prakshai Babu under the banner of Skaska Film Creations.

The film is written and directed by B. Sadam.

Featuring an entirely fresh ensemble of actors, the film also has Radhika Vairavelavan, popularly known as Charubala from the hit television serial 'Ethirneechal', playing a pivotal role. Adding an international dimension to the project, actors from Russia, China and Zimbabwe are also part of the cast.

Adding further prestige to the film, the legendary maestro Isaignani Ilaiyaraaja is composing the music. In a special highlight, Ilaiyaraaja has also penned the lyrics for a song in the film.

The cinematography is handled by Kishore Kumar Ramachandran, with P. Sathish Kumar and Kalaiarasan serving as associate cinematographers. C.S. Martin Paul is in charge of editing.

Director B. Sadam on 'Dhaayan'

Speaking about the film, director B. Sadam said:

"We are familiar with the game of dice, and many of us might have played it too. But 'Dhaayan' can be interpreted as someone who has manifested extraordinary powers. Audiences can experience and enjoy the supernatural abilities of Dhaayan through this film.

'Dhaayan' will certainly be a treat for those who enjoy supernatural mystery thrillers.

In Hollywood films, we often see actors from different countries coming together as part of a single project. With the same vision, we began this film with the philosophy of 'Yaadhum Oore, Yaavarum Kelir'

Interestingly, we have deliberately kept the world of 'Dhaayan' mysterious. We have not revealed where the story takes place or which language the characters speak. For the audience, these elements will remain part of an intriguing suspense-filled experience.

The screenplay of 'Dhaayan' has been jointly written by four writers – myself, Sathish Kumar Kulamanthai, Ragini Kannan and Yuri from Russia.

One of the biggest strengths of our film is having Isaignani Ilaiyaraaja compose the music. His compositions will elevate the visual experience and add immense value to the film.

He has also written the lyrics for a song. We are confident that 'Dhaayan' will be a film that audiences across all sections will enjoy."

The film is currently in its final stages of post-production, and the team is working towards bringing it to theatres soon.

CAST

Radhika Vairavelavan (Charubala – Ethirneechal), Yuri Filippov, Sathish Kumar Kulamanthai, Alexey Shevchenko, Nailiya, Immanuel, Javed Abbas, Sergei and Nivash.

TECHNICAL CREW

Production: Tatiana Babenko & Prakshai Babu

Banner: Skaska Film Creations

Written & Directed by: B. Sadam

Music: Isaignani Ilaiyaraaja

Cinematography: Kishore Kumar Ramachandran

Associate Cinematographers: P. Sathish Kumar & Kalaiarasan

Editing: C.S. Martin Paul

Art Direction: S.J. Ram

Screenplay: B. Sadam, Yuri Filippov, Sathish Kumar Kulamanthai & Ragini Kannan

Production Supervisor: K. Selvam Shankar

PRO: A. John

இ-சேவை மையம்
ஸ்டார் ரெயின்போ சர்வீசஸ்

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Maa Kauvery Chennai Saves Lung of Two-Month-Old Baby from Bangladesh Through Complex Keyhole Surgery

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 A two-month-old baby boy suffering from a severe chest infection that had trapped and collapsed a lung has been successfully treated at Maa Kauvery Hospital, Chennai, through a complex minimally invasive keyhole procedure. The surgery helped preserve the affected lung while draining the abscesses in the lung and diaphragm, avoiding the need for conventional open-chest surgery or removal of a lung lobe. The infant began breathing without respiratory support on the first day after surgery.

The baby boy was diagnosed with severe empyema thoracis, a serious condition in which pus accumulates in the space between the lung and chest wall. As the infection progressed, a thick layer of inflamed tissue formed around the lung, restricting its movement and preventing normal expansion. The infection had also resulted in a lung abscess, involving the formation of a collection of pus within the lung tissue itself. The situation was further complicated by a rare abscess involving the diaphragm, the muscle separating the chest and abdomen, with the infection causing pressure towards the liver.

Before reaching Maa Kauvery Hospital, the family from Bangladesh had been advised that the infant might require a thoracotomy (open-chest surgery) and lower lobectomy (removal of a lung lobe). The presence of a lung abscess, which had severely affected the lung tissue, was a key reason why removal of the affected lobe had been considered. Given the baby's young age, the surgical team carefully assessed whether the infection could be treated while retaining as much functioning lung tissue as possible. The multidisciplinary team decided to pursue a minimally invasive thoracoscopic approach.

During the keyhole procedure, the surgeons carefully released the adhesions that had trapped the lung, removed the thick infected tissue restricting its expansion and drained the abscess involving the diaphragm. The team also successfully drained the lung abscess, clearing the collection of pus within the lung without complications and avoiding the need to remove the affected lung lobe. The approach allowed the affected lung to expand again while avoiding a major open-chest operation and lung resection. Addressing the diaphragmatic abscess was also important to control the infection and reduce the risk of its spread towards the abdomen.

The procedure was performed by Dr. Raghul M, Clinical Lead, Paediatric Surgery, Maa Kauvery – Radial Road, with anaesthesia support from Dr. T. Mohana Rangam, Clinical Lead & Senior Consultant, Anaesthesiology.

Following surgery, the baby received specialised care in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), managed by Dr. N. Saravanapandian, Senior Consultant, Paediatric Intensive Care, Kauvery Hospital, Radial Road, and his team. The infant responded well to treatment, and the affected lung re-expanded. The baby was breathing independently without respiratory support from the first postoperative day.

Dr. Raghul M, Clinical Lead, Paediatric Surgery, Maa Kauvery – Radial Road, said, "This was an unusually complex infection in a very young infant. The infection had trapped the lung, affected its tissue and caused a lung abscess as well as a rare abscess involving the diaphragm. Our priority was not only to treat the infection but also to give the baby the best possible chance of retaining healthy lung tissue. Through a minimally invasive keyhole approach, we were able to release the trapped lung, clear the infected tissue and drain the lung and diaphragmatic abscesses without complications, without removing a lung lobe. Seeing the lung expand again and the baby breathe independently soon after surgery was especially encouraging."

Dr.D. Senguttuvan Duraisamy, Co-founder & Executive Director, Maa Kauvery, said, "Treating a severe infection of this nature in a very young baby requires not only advanced surgical skills but also meticulous anaesthesia and intensive care support. We are proud of our team's ability to manage this challenging procedure through a minimally invasive approach, preserve the affected lung and achieve an excellent recovery. This reflects our commitment to bringing advanced, child-focused medical care to patients, even in the most challenging circumstances."

Thirupparankundram 'deepathoon' row: a timeline of events

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Detentions and protests marked this year's Karthigai festival on November 24, 2026 in Thirupparankundram, the sacred hill known for its tradition of lighting the Karthigai lamp in Tamil Nadu every year. The police detained several senior leaders of the BJP, including State president Nainar Nagenthran. Protesters at the foothills were also detained.

The crux of these tensions is the ongoing issue of where the lamp is to be lit.

Over the last year, the Madras High Court and the Supreme Court have heard petitions for lighting the lamp at a pillar near a dargah at the summit of the Thirupparankundram hill. Usually, the lamp is lit at a lower point. It was the case this year, too, notwithstanding a Supreme Court order that ordered the lamp to be lit at the pillar near the dargah.

This year's festival might be over, but the long-standing issue is far from resolved. Disagreements over the



use of the hill by the Muslim and Hindu communities, its ownership and traditional practices have existed since 1915. Now, with the apex Court's order being a temporary arrangement, legal closure is yet to come.

Upload all pending quarterly progress reports: TNRERA instructs promoters of real estate projects in Tamil Nadu

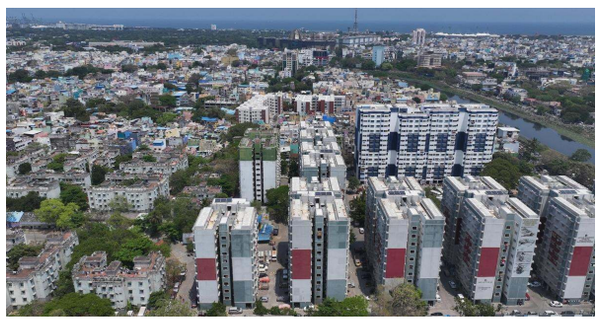
CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 The Tamil Nadu Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TNRERA) has instructed promoters of real estate projects registered with it to upload all pending quarterly progress reports (QPRs) without fail.

It cautioned that failure to comply with the statutory requirements would render the promoter liable for penal action under Section 61 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 and the rules and regulations made thereunder.

The TNRERA's circular issued earlier this month followed instances of certain promoters of real estate building projects registered with it, having not been regularly uploading their quarterly progress reports in TNRERA portal.

As per Section 11 (1) of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 every promoter is required to maintain and update the quarterly progress report in the TNRERA's website for public viewing.

The submission of QPRs is an important statutory compliance intended to ensure transparency in the real estate sector and to



enable prospective home buyers and existing allottees to access updated information regarding the progress and status of registered projects. Failure to upload such reports deprives the public of essential information and defeats the objective of the Act, the circular noted

Shipway by Unicommerce launches Weight Management Suite; introduces Zero Weight Plan to help e-commerce sellers avoid weight discrepancy costs

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 New Delhi, 26th November 2026: Weight discrepancies are a recurring challenge for e-commerce sellers, often leading to unexpected shipping charges, post-dispatch adjustments, and reduced profit margins. For small and growing D2C businesses, these additional costs can make shipping expenses difficult to predict and manage. To counter this, Shipway by Unicommerce, an e-commerce shipping and logistics technology platform, has launched its Weight Management Suite, designed to help sellers identify and prevent shipment weight discrepancies before orders are dispatched. The launch is part of Shipway's 'Weight Ki Baat' initiative, which aims to educate sellers on smarter packaging practices and help them manage shipment weights more effectively.

The Weight Management Suite brings together three key capabilities:

Pack Smart with AI: It helps sellers choose the right packaging for their products by recommending suitable box or flyer types, along with weight and dimensions. Using product images, order SKUs and historical data of similar products processed on Shipway, the AI engine generates recommendations with up to 90% accuracy in approximately two seconds. These recommendations are available on the merchant panel during order creation and editing, and through an AI Recommended Weight tag on order listing and detail pages.

Discrepancy Risk Prediction: Shipway's Discrepancy Risk Engine checks seller-entered weight and dimensions in real time against verified, frozen SKU-level weight data. For eligible single-SKU, single-quantity orders, any weight entered above the frozen weight triggers a high-risk alert, along with a recommendation to use the previously verified weight. This helps sellers identify and address potential discrepancies before assigning a courier, avoiding unexpected charges later.

Weight Freeze: Sellers can establish a reference weight for their products using reliable historical shipment data. This helps maintain consistency in weight declarations across repeat shipments and reduces the chances of recurring discrepancies.

By combining advance weight freezing with discrepancy risk alerts against potential additional charges on covered shipments, Shipway's new launch, Zero Weight Plan aims to give sellers greater control over shipping costs and greater certainty while fulfilling orders. The offering allows sellers to freeze product weights in advance, protecting eligible shipments from additional weight discrepancy charges, subject to the plan's applicable terms and conditions. The proposition is particularly relevant for small and growing D2C businesses that often face unexpected shipping cost adjustments, which can impact margins and profitability.

Speaking about the launch, Kapil Makhija, CEO and MD of Unicommece, said, "For e-commerce sellers, shipping costs have a direct impact on business margins, and weight discrepancies often lead to unexpected expenses that are difficult to anticipate. At Shipway, we believe this is a problem that needs to be addressed at the source, rather than after a shipment has been dispatched. Our Weight Management Suite is a one-of-its-kind solution that brings together AI-led packaging recommendations, predictive alerts and historical shipment intelligence to help sellers identify and prevent weight discrepancies.

With the Zero Weight Plan, we are taking this a step further by offering sellers the assurance of no additional weight discrepancy charges on eligible shipments. Ultimately, this is about giving sellers greater control over their shipping costs, eliminating avoidable expenses and making the shipping process more predictable. We want to ensure that small and growing businesses have the right tools and support to manage this challenge as they scale."

Through the Weight Management Suite and Zero Weight Plan, Shipway aims to make weight management a more proactive part of e-commerce shipping, helping sellers make informed packaging decisions, identify potential discrepancies before dispatch and manage shipping costs with greater confidence.

"Signal At 11.30 has surprises, emotions and entertainment with equal dose" - Filmmaker Malarvizhi Natesan As Signal at 11.30 heads to theatres this Friday, November 27



CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Malarvizhi Natesan is turning the spotlight away from herself and toward the people who made the film what it is. A romantic thriller with unexpected twists and emotional moments, it was shaped, she says, by cast and crew who gave every frame their full effort. "A script is only a vision on paper," she says. "It becomes a film because of the people who believe in it. The technical team gave my vision a life I had imagined but could not have created alone, and the way cinematographer Raja Bhattacharjee framed each moment made the story feel closer and more intense." She equally praises the musical score stating, "D. Imman's music added the soul. In a story with this many emotions and twists, the background score and the songs decide how an audience feels in a moment, and his work gave every scene its heartbeat." On the performances, she says the script called for emotional depth and screen presence, and the cast met that standard. Santhosh Prathap, she says, was one of the very few actors who could balance both, and his sincerity and commitment lifted the character. Bhavya Trikha and Poojitha Ponnada also performed with remarkable conviction. She adds a word for the rest of the team. "Editor R. Kalaivanan's rhythm and choreographer Sherif's work with the songs gave the film its pace and energy. Every artist and technician became part of this journey, and I am grateful to each of them." "We have made this film with complete honesty, and I hope audiences enjoy every twist, every emotion and every surprise it has to offer, best of all in a theatre." One thing the director is still keeping to herself is the meaning of the title. She says it is deeply connected to the soul of the story and that revealing it now would give away one of the film's biggest surprises. Signal at 11.30 stars Santhosh Prathap and Bhavya Trikha, with Pujita Ponnada, Jayaprakash, Munishkanth and others in the cast. The film is presented by Malarvizhi Natesan and Dr. Shivani Subramani under the Alar Studios banner. The technical team includes D. Imman (music), Raja Bhattacharjee (cinematography), R. Kalaivanan (editing) and Sherif (choreography).

TNPDCL to introduce mobile app for electricity meter reading

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 The Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation limited (TNPDCL) is developing a mobile application in which domestic consumers could themselves assess the readings of the digital meters with the details of units consumed automatically getting captured in the servers of the individual consumers.

As the TNPDCL is facing manpower shortages on all fronts, including helpers, gangmen, wiremen and supervisors, the shortage of assessors for meter readings have become a big headache.

The domestic consumers in the city have been complaining about assessors not undertaking door to door bi-monthly readings within a particular cycle properly. In some cases, the problem of assessors involved in table reading (where units are randomly uploaded by the assessors without visiting the homes) have also been identified.

Social activist S. Kumararaja said self assessment of meters was allowed previously but the system was stopped. This self assessment of the meter system would help pave the way for preventing consumers from overpaying their electricity bills.



Baapya Explores Acceptance, Understanding and Relationships: Director Samir Tewari

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 In his opening remarks, Samir Tewari emphasised that the film does not aim to preach or offer lessons to society, but simply tells a story about acceptance, understanding and relationships. "It's just a story about somebody wanting to become who they want to be, and people around them accepting them the way they are." he said.

Explaining his decision to make the film in Marathi, Tewari said he wanted to make an honest film rooted in a genuine script rather than one designed around an actor.

Recalling the challenges during production, Tewari said securing financial backing for the project was difficult, as potential investors considered its subject risky despite appreciating the script. Casting the lead character, Baapya, was another major challenge, as several actresses were hesitant about portraying a character whose gender identity differed from their own. He credited actress Rajashri Deshpande for taking up the role fearlessly and approaching it as a demanding creative challenge.

Reflecting on changing gender perceptions, Tewari said society is gradually moving towards blurring conventional distinctions between men and women. He observed that individual choices in clothing, behaviour and identity should not invite judgement or discrimination. " Within every man there is a woman and within every woman there is a man. The faster a society progresses, the more the lines will blur between gender," he remarked, emphasising the need to move beyond rigid social notions.

Actor Girish Kulkarni highlighted the importance of treating every individual with dignity and without prejudice. Drawing an analogy from nature, he said people accept the diversity of trees and plants without judging their forms, and the same spirit should guide human relationships.



Observing that art can play a significant role in shaping society, Kulkarni said cinema and other art forms serve not only as mirrors of contemporary realities but also as guides for social progress. He added that Baapya seeks to reinterpret traditions in the light of changing times without abandoning cultural roots. " We aren't forgetting our tradition; we are bringing it forward by interpreting it in a new way, and while strengthening our own roots, we are also thinking ahead. And then we have this immense love coming out of that process," he pointed out.

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Your Music, Your Pace: Spotify Launches Running Mode in India, Turning Every Run Into a Soundtrack Made for You

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Sometimes the difference between a good run and a great one is the right song at the right moment. Starting today, Spotify is bringing Running Mode to Premium Standard and Platinum users in India, a personalised running experience that turns your music into guided runs shaped around your goals, your taste and your pace.

Whether it's an early-morning jog, a weekend long run or a brisk evening walk after work, Running Mode means less time searching for the right playlist and more time moving.

Built around the way you run

Since launching in July, millions of listeners have embraced Running Mode, using music to power everything from quick weekday runs to weekend workouts. India is one of 11 new markets where the experience is now rolling out, more than doubling its global footprint.

Around the world, runners are already making it their own:

Every runner has their own rhythm: From hip-hop and house to classical and everything in between, nearly one in three Running Mode sessions features a customised playlist.

Going the distance: More than a quarter of sessions last 30 minutes or longer.

Tuesday motivation: Tuesday is the most popular day for Running Mode, with listening peaking between 5 pm and 7 pm.

How to find your rhythm

To find Running Mode, head to the Fitness Hub in the Spotify app, or simply search for "Running Mode" to go straight to its Browse Hub.

Choose from curated running presets spanning different workout styles and genres

Make it your own by setting your workout type (interval, steady, pyramid and more), duration, preferred music, tempo matching and optional audio guidance

Press play, and Spotify will guide your run with music that moves with you, matching beats to your chosen tempo and flowing seamlessly from track to track

A coach in your corner

Need a little extra encouragement? Running Mode includes optional audio cues in English, like a supportive friend running alongside you, offering timely motivation without getting in the way of your music. It's designed to make your listening experience better, and works alongside the fitness content you already love on Spotify, from creator-led workouts to fitness podcasts.

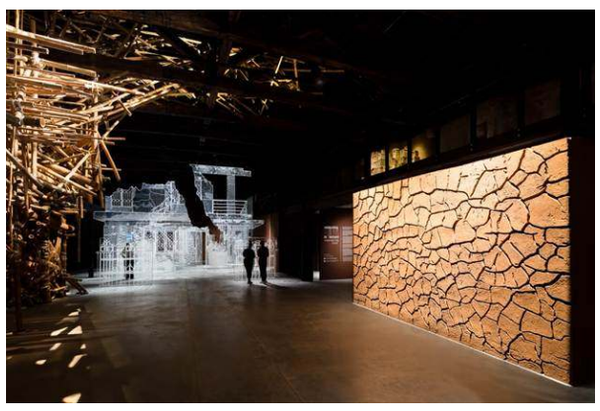
The next step in personalised fitness

Spotify has long been the go-to place for finding the perfect soundtrack for every moment, and fitness is one of the fastest-growing ways people use it. Running Mode is the next step, bringing together personalised music, beat matching and audio guidance so every run feels more energising and more uniquely yours. This is just the beginning, with more workout types and personalisation to come over time.

Shipra Srivastava, Head of Marketing, Spotify India, said, "Running has become one of the fastest-growing parts of India's fitness culture. On Spotify, running-related searches are up 56% YoY, while the number of listeners tuning into running playlists has risen 67%* YoY. More people are lacing up and making running part of their everyday lives, and music is right there with them. With Running Mode, we're giving every runner a soundtrack built just for them, personalized to their taste and matched to their pace, so the music keeps them moving from the first stride to the last. Whether it's a quick jog or a long run, listeners can focus on the road ahead while Spotify takes care of the rest."

Ready to try it? Lace up and tap into Running Mode, rolling out to Spotify Premium Standard and Platinum users in India on iOS and Android starting today.

India wins the Visitors' Lion for Best National Participation at the 61st Venice Art Biennale



CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 India has won the Visitors' Lion for Best National Participation at the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia (Biennale Arte 2026). The Venice Biennale is widely called the Olympics of the art world. La Biennale di Venezia today announced the winners of the Visitors' Lions on the basis of the preferences expressed by the public.

Commenting on the result, Pietrangelo Buttafuoco, President of La Biennale di Venezia, said the audience had used the Visitors' Award to make real Pablo Picasso's idea that "a painting lives only through the person who looks at it."

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat the Union Minister of Culture said that it is a moment of immense pride for the nation. "This global recognition is a testament to the new age Indian artists and the robust contemporary Indian art scene. It is a celebration of how India's timeless artistic traditions can find powerful contemporary expression and resonate with people across the world. The award will inspire generations of Indian artists to engage with the world with verve and confidence."

Secretary Culture Vivek Aggarwal said on this occasion: "India's recognition with the prestigious Visitor's Lion at the Venice Biennale is an immense honour and a moment of national pride. It is a powerful affirmation of India's contemporary artistic expressions, deeply rooted in our civilizational ethos and material traditions, finding resonance with audiences from across the world. India's return to the Venice Biennale after a long hiatus marks a significant moment in our renewed engagement with the global cultural landscape. The Pavilion has been part of global conversations on art since its inauguration, reflected in the overwhelmingly positive reviews, enthusiastic feedback and extraordinary footfall of visitors and art connoisseurs from across the world.This recognition marks an important milestone in India's cultural journey and reaffirms the universal relevance and appeal of our diverse, dynamic and evolving creative expressions."

MSDE partners with Ministry of Jal Shakti to skill one lakh youth under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0



CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 MSDE partners with Ministry of Jal Shakti to skill one lakh youth under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.

In an effort to align vocational training with emerging employment opportunities in the rural water sector, the Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti. The partnership will focus on implementing the Water Supply Operation & Maintenance Skilling Programme (Nal Jal Mitra) under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.

The initiative aims to train and certify at least one lakh candidates, with an estimated financial outlay of ₹111.93 crore, entirely funded by DDWS.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; C. R. Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti; and V. Somanna, Minister of State, Jal Shakti.

Speaking on the occasion, Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, underscored that the initiative represents a significant example of inter-ministerial convergence aimed at addressing the skilled manpower requirements of a key national programme. He highlighted that the country's extensive network of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) offers an effective platform for imparting specialised skills required for rural water supply operations and maintenance.

The 165-hour training programme has been developed by the Central Staff Training and Research Institute (CSTARI) under DGT, in consultation with DDWS. It will be offered as an optional elective to existing and former trainees of the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) Fitter and Plumber trades across ITIs and NSTIs.

The programme combines 120 hours of institutional training with 45 hours of mandatory on-the-job training. Candidates will learn plumbing, water distribution, pump and motor maintenance, basic electrical work and water quality monitoring. Upon successful completion, trainees will receive a National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF)-aligned short-term training certificate from DGT in addition to their National Trade Certificate (NTC).

The National Instructional Media Institute (NIMI), under DGT, will oversee training coordination, assessment, certification and fund disbursement. DDWS will make the details of certified candidates available at the district and Gram Panchayat levels, where they may be engaged for work as per the policies of the respective states.

Celebrating the Joy of Cinema: IFFI Parade Brings Goa's Cultural Extravaganza to the Streets

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Taking the celebrations of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) beyond the cinema halls and festival venues, the spectacular IFFI Parade, themed 'Celebrating the Joy of Cinema', transformed the streets of Panaji into a vibrant showcase of Goa's artistic and cultural heritage today. The parade commenced from the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG) premises and proceeded to Kala Academy, bringing together a display of colourful floats, traditional craftsmanship, folk performances and enthusiastic community participation.

A visual celebration of Goa's rich cultural traditions, the parade featured the award-winning floats from the state's Carnival and Shigmo Utsav celebrations, alongside captivating folk dance performances. Blending the festive spirit of Goa with the universal appeal of cinema, the procession offered visitors, delegates and residents a unique opportunity to experience the state's cultural vibrancy. It also reflected the spirit of IFFI's theme, 'Stories Without Borders', demonstrating how art and cultural expressions transcend linguistic and geographical boundaries.



Inaugurating the parade, Dr. Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa, welcomed the dignitaries, artists and visitors to the festival and reiterated the State Government's commitment to the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. He emphasised the importance of nurturing local talent, preserving cultural traditions and promoting self-reliance through community-led initiatives. Highlighting the Aakash Kandil competition, he appreciated the enthusiastic participation of Goans in showcasing their creativity through handcrafted traditional lanterns. He noted that such initiatives not only celebrate artistic expression but also strengthen community participation and keep age-old traditions alive. Observing that IFFI's theme, 'Stories Without Borders', found a natural reflection in Goa's traditional float parades and folk performances, he said that these cultural expressions enable visitors to appreciate the State's artistic heritage beyond language barriers. He congratulated the participating artists and organisers and described the ongoing edition of IFFI as one of the most successful, extending a warm welcome to visitors on behalf of the Government of Goa.

Over 1,100 Students Complete Five-Day 'Yuva Somnath Yatra' Under Somnath Swabhiman Parv

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 The five-day 'Yuva Somnath Yatra', organised under the Somnath Swabhiman Parv from 20 to 25 November 2026, concluded with the return of more than 1,100 students to Safdarjung Railway Station, New Delhi. During the journey, the participants visited various temples, pilgrimage sites and historical landmarks in Somnath, gaining a closer understanding of India's rich spiritual and cultural heritage.

The journey began on 20 November when Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat flagged off the special train from Safdarjung Railway Station, New Delhi. The train reached Veraval Railway Station in Gujarat on 21 November, where the students received a vibrant traditional welcome with folk dance performances and flower showers.

On 22 November, the students visited Ram Temple at Prabhas Patan, Golokdham Tirth and the revered first Jyotirlinga, Somnath Mahadev Temple. They also attended the 'Jai Somnath' Light and Sound Show at the Somnath Temple, which presented the temple's rich history and its enduring significance.

On 23 November, the youngsters visited Baan Ganga, Bhidbhanjan Mahadev Temple, Bhalka Tirth and Ahilyabai Temple. They also visited the museum and the Swadeshi Haat, where they got an opportunity to learn about local culture and indigenous products. The day's activities concluded with students experiencing the divine Aarti at Triveni Ghat.



On 24 November, the students departed from Veraval Railway Station for New Delhi by the special train. The journey concluded on 25 November with their arrival at Safdarjung Railway Station, where they received a warm welcome.

The five-day journey offered students an opportunity to experience the religious and historical significance of Somnath and understand the resilience of India's cultural heritage. Sharing their experiences, participants described the Yatra as more than a spiritual journey, calling it a memorable experience that brought them closer to India's culture, heritage and history.

The Somnath Swabhiman Parv is being organised to mark 1,000 years since the first recorded attack on the Somnath Temple. As part of the celebrations, special journeys are being organised to connect devotees and visitors from different parts of the country with the spiritual and cultural heritage of Somnath. More than 35,000 people have so far visited Somnath Mahadev through these initiatives.

When Words Fall Short, Music Speaks: Singer K.S. Chithra Remembers the Voices of Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle and S. Janaki at the 57th IFFI

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Some voices do more than fill a room with music. They become part of our childhood, accompany us through life's milestones and remain with us long after a song has ended. For celebrated singer K. S. Chithra, the voices of Asha Bhosle, S. Janaki and Lata Mangeshkar have been just that. At a masterclass titled " Lata Mangeshkar Talk: The Voice That Echoes Forever in the Memory of Asha Bhosle and S. Janaki" at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Chithra took the audience on a deeply personal journey through the music and memories of the legendary singers, moderated by actor and filmmaker Suhasini Maniratnam.

The conversation began on a note of warmth and familiarity, with Chithra admitting that she was a little tense but confident that Suhasini would put her at ease. Their shared history soon found its way into the conversation, as Suhasini recalled how songs from films in which Chithra had lent her voice had become an integral part of her own journey. What followed was less a formal discussion and more a meeting of memories, with anecdotes often giving way to melodies.



Looking back at her beginnings, Chithra spoke of growing up in a family with a strong musical environment, participating in competitions and learning classical music. Singing, she said, was the one thing she knew she could do well, although she had never imagined it would take her so far. Her entry into film music seemed almost accidental. She recalled singing film songs at recreational clubs, often beginning with songs made popular by P. Susheela.

Asked about the voices she admired most, Chithra named P. Susheela, S. Janaki and Lata Mangeshkar. She even used to imitate Janaki in her childhood days, laughing as she admitted that the singer's distinctive style was impossible to reproduce.

Speaking of Lata Mangeshkar, Chithra reflected on the emotional depth of her singing, particularly her devotional songs, and shared one of her favourite Lata Mangeshkar melodies with the audience.

Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar, along with B L Verma Launches 'SAMAVESH' and New e-Anudaan Portal to Strengthen Digital Governance and Inclusive Welfare Delivery

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar, along with B L Verma Launches 'SAMAVESH' and New e-Anudaan Portal to Strengthen Digital Governance and Inclusive Welfare Delivery.

In a significant step towards strengthening technology-enabled governance and ensuring accessible, transparent and efficient delivery of social welfare services, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar, along with Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, B. L. Verma, launched SAMAVESH (Single Access Mechanism for All Verticals of Empowerment & Social Harmony) and the new e-Anudaan Portal, at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, in the National Capital here today.

The launch of SAMAVESH and the new e-Anudaan Portal marks a significant milestone in the Department's digital transformation journey. These initiatives seek to make social welfare schemes and services more accessible, reduce procedural difficulties for beneficiaries and implementing organisations, and strengthen transparency, accountability and technology-enabled delivery of social welfare programmes.

Senior officers of the Ministry, representatives of NeGD, NIC, NGOs and other stakeholder organisations were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Virendra Kumar described the launching of SAMAVESH and new e-Anudaan portals as historical and a game changer and highlighted the Department's commitment towards leveraging technology to strengthen the delivery of welfare schemes and services.



The Minister emphasised that SAMAVESH represents an important step towards integrated, transparent and citizen-centric governance by bringing the Department's digital services onto a common platform.

Dr Kumar also underscored the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital integration and data-driven monitoring in improving the accessibility, transparency and effectiveness of welfare delivery.

Speaking on the occasion, B. L. Verma highlighted the importance of making Government schemes more accessible to beneficiaries through simplified digital services. He emphasised that technology-driven initiatives such as SAMAVESH would enable citizens, particularly those belonging to disadvantaged and marginalised sections of society, to access information and services more conveniently while promoting transparency and inclusion.

Sudhansh Pant, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, described the launch as a golden day in the Ministry's history, marking a significant leap in digital governance with the integration of 33 different portals into a single SAMAVESH Portal.

Only Five Days Left to Apply for SHRESHTA (NETS) 2027

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Encourages Eligible Students to Avail Opportunity for Quality Residential Education.

With only five days remaining for the closure of online registration for the National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS) 2027, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, has called upon eligible students across the country to come forward and avail themselves of the opportunity to pursue quality education in reputed private residential schools under the SHRESHTA Scheme.

The Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA), implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, aims to provide quality education to meritorious students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and De-notified Tribes (DNTs) not covered under the SC, ST and OBC categories, thereby creating greater opportunities for academic advancement, social mobility and holistic development.

A Senior Official in the Ministry said the Scheme seeks to bridge educational disparities by enabling meritorious students from targeted communities to access conducive learning environments, pursue academic excellence and realise their full potential. Access to quality school education plays a pivotal role in strengthening academic capabilities and creating opportunities for a brighter and more secure future, the Official said.

With the registration deadline fast approaching, eligible students and their parents have been asked to complete the application process at the earliest and avoid last-minute difficulties, the Official said.



Wider awareness and dissemination of information about the Scheme, particularly in rural, remote and underserved areas, can help ensure that deserving students do not miss this important educational opportunity due to a lack of awareness, he said.

The Official said the online registration process for SHRESHTA (NETS) 2027, being conducted in collaboration with the National Testing Agency (NTA), commenced on November 14, 2026, will remain open until November 30, 2026 (up to 11:50 PM).

The Official said to facilitate candidates in making necessary corrections to their submitted application forms, a correction window will remain operational from December 2 to December 4, 2026.

The National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS) 2027 is scheduled to be conducted on January 10, 2027, he said.

Eligible candidates may submit their online applications through the official National Testing Agency (NTA) portal at https://exams.nta.nic.in/shreshta.

Candidates and their parents have been advised to carefully read the eligibility criteria and application-related instructions available on the official portal before completing the registration process.

Sixth Edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow Celebrates Emerging Filmmaking Talent at IFFI 2026

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 From developing a story to bringing it to the screen, 100 young creative professionals put their filmmaking skills to the test in an intensive 48-hour challenge as the sixth edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT) concluded at the 57 th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa today. The initiative brought together emerging talent from across the country, culminating in the screening of films created by five teams and the presentation of awards across fifteen categories.

The concluding ceremony was attended by Festival Director of the 57 th IFFI and filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker; Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Prabhat; Managing Director of NFDC and Vice-Chancellor of

members of jury. The Great Grand Jury was comprised of Aimee Baruah, Premraj, Madhu Apsara, Rumi Jaffrey, and Medha Kherdekar Reddy.

Winners of CMOT 2026

1. Best Film: One Last Stop, directed by Mohak Gandhi (Red Team), awarded ₹5 lakh.

2. Runner-up Film: A Little Something, directed by Tamanna Thakur (Green Team), awarded ₹3 lakh.

3. Best Director: Tamanna Thakur, A Little Something (Green Team).

4. Best Actor: Siddhi Parkar, Shells (Blue Team).

5. Best Cinematographer: Triasha Manna, One Last Stop (Red Team).

6. Best Editor: Nayan Chotaliya and Manav Agarwal, A Little Something (Green Team).

7. Best Scriptwriter:



Team).

8. Best Sound Design: Aswin Ashok, Two Sunsets and Zero Sunrises (Yellow Team).

9. Best Playback Singer: Sree Parvati S, Shells (Blue Team).

10. Best Music Composer: Akshay Anmol Katore, Neel Machli (Beige Team).

11. Best Costume Design: Srushti Wagh and Rupalika Paul, One Last Stop (Red Team).

12. Best Hair and Makeup Artist: Kashish Jaiswal, Shells (Blue Team).

13. Best Art Design: Srushti Wagh and Rupalika Paul, One Last Stop (Red Team).

14. Best Animation and VFX Artist: Harsh Sahani and Prakash Kumar Mehta, Neel Machli (Beige Team).

15. Best Voice-over/Dubbing: Sudeksha Sarkar, A Little Something (Green Team).

A bridge to the industry

Congratulating the participants on completing the 48-hour filmmaking challenge, Additional Secretary Prabhat described CMOT as a bridge between emerging talent and the film industry. He said the initiative provides young creators with an opportunity to demonstrate their abilities and connect with industry professionals.

Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation Signs MoU with Directorate General of Training to Skill 1 Lakh Youth under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation Signs MoU with Directorate General of Training to Skill 1 Lakh Youth under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.

In a significant stride towards ensuring long-term sustainability of rural drinking water infrastructure and generating local employment, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), and the Directorate General of Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Water Supply Operation & Maintenance Skilling Programme (Nal Jal Mitra) under the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 (JJM 2.0).

The MoU was signed in the presence of C. R. Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, V. Somanna, Minister of State, Jal Shakti and Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, at the residence office of MoJS, New Delhi.

The agreement was formally executed by Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary, NJJM and Sunil Kumar Gupta, Deputy Director General, DGT. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, MoSDE, Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS, Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NJJM, and senior officials from both Ministries were present during the MoU signing.



The Union Ministers present on the occasion appreciated the initiative, highlighting its significance in strengthening rural water supply systems through a skilled local workforce and creating livelihood opportunities for rural youth. They acknowledged the importance of inter-ministerial collaboration under the 'whole of government' approach in leveraging the country's vocational training infrastructure to support the objectives of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.

Briefing on Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 and the skilling initiative, Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, said that with nearly 16 crore rural households now connected through tap water supply systems, the next priority is establishing a robust operation and maintenance ecosystem capable of supporting these assets over the long term. He stressed that timely technical support should be available within villages and nearby areas so that routine operational issues can be addressed quickly without dependence on external agencies.

India's Bio-Economy Set to Reach 300 million Dollars by 2030

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Singh Urges Industry to Seize Opportunities in Next Biotechnology Revolution.

India's bio-economy is set to reach 300 billion Dollars by 2030, with biotechnology set to drive the next Industrial Revolution, while Biotech Startups in India had already grown from just 50-60 in 2014 to over 11,000 today, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said today, urging industry leaders, Startups and investors to seize emerging opportunities through greater investment and participation in genomics, multi-omics and advanced biotechnology.

Drawing a parallel with the transformative role of Information Technology in the previous industrial revolution, the Minister said that biotechnology is now emerging as a strategic technology platform that will shape the future of healthcare, agriculture and global economic competitiveness. He cautioned that businesses must adapt to the rapidly changing technological landscape, as those failing to embrace emerging technologies risk becoming irrelevant.

Addressing the CII Global Genomics Summit 2026, themed 'Powering the Next Bioeconomy Through Genomics and Multi-omics', at New Delhi, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the summit provided an important platform to bring together the frontiers of science and technology with industry participation, translating scientific discoveries into healthcare solutions, economic opportunities and overall national development. He appreciated CII for bringing together industry representatives, startups and other stakeholders to advance India's biotechnology ecosystem.

Dr. Jitendra Singh



said that the convergence of DNA sequencing, computational biology, Artificial Intelligence and different omics technologies, including metabolomics, transcriptomics and proteomics, would transform the understanding of complex diseases and enable more personalised healthcare. The same disease could require different treatment approaches for different individuals, making genomics an increasingly essential component of future medical practice. He said these technologies were no longer confined to research laboratories but were becoming indispensable for healthcare systems, businesses and nations seeking to remain competitive.

Emphasising India's unique advantage in genomic research, the Minister said the country's extraordinary genetic diversity could become a major global asset for research and development. India's diverse population groups and wide spectrum of diseases provide an extensive knowledge base for generating genomic data and developing solutions relevant to populations across the world. He said greater investment in genomic research would not only strengthen India's scientific capabilities but also create significant industrial and commercial opportunities.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Addresses HealthX Elevate 2026, Highlights India's Growing Healthcare Innovation Ecosystem

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh today highlighted India's expanding StartUp ecosystem, growing capabilities in biotechnology and healthcare innovation, and the increasing role of artificial intelligence (AI), genomics and precision medicine in transforming healthcare, while addressing HealthX Elevate 2026.

The Minister noted that India has emerged as the world's third-largest start-up ecosystem, with more than 60 per cent of StartUps coming from Tier-II and Tier-III cities and smaller towns.

The event, themed around healthcare start-ups and innovation, brought together healthcare leaders, entrepreneurs, investors and experts to discuss the evolving landscape of healthcare innovation in India.

Speaking during a Fire Chat session, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that India's start-up ecosystem has undergone a remarkable transformation, expanding from around 350 start-ups in 2014 to more than 2.5 lakh today. He noted that India has emerged as the world's third-largest start-up ecosystem, with more than 60 per cent of start-ups coming from Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

The Minister said that the growth of start-ups is no longer confined to major metropolitan hubs such as Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai. Digital access and an enabling ecosystem



have made information, resources and opportunities available to aspiring entrepreneurs across the country, allowing talent from smaller cities and towns to participate in the start-up movement.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also highlighted the emergence of entrepreneurship beyond conventional technology and science-led fields. Referring to the growth of agri-based start-ups, he said that entrepreneurial success does not necessarily require a highly advanced academic qualification, but calls for passion, focus and the ability to use technology effectively. He added that the Government is extending technological and financial support to encourage entrepreneurship.

The Minister highlighted the significant expansion of India's biotechnology start-up ecosystem, which, he said, has grown from around 50–60 start-ups in 2014 to nearly 10,000 today. He said that India is increasingly developing solutions not only for diseases prevalent in tropical regions, but also for conditions that were earlier primarily associated with other parts of the world.

India's MSME Growth Story Hits a New High: 10 Crore Registrations, 10 Crore Steps for a Vibrant and Strong Aatmanirbhar Bharat!

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 India's MSME Growth Story Hits a New High: 10 Crore Registrations, 10 Crore Steps for a Vibrant and Strong Aatmanirbhar Bharat!

India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has achieved a milestone, crossing 10 crore registrations on the Udyam Registration Portal and Udyam Assist Platform on 30 October 2026. This achievement marks a defining moment in India's journey towards building a more formalised, inclusive and digitally empowered MSME sector.

A Landmark Achievement in MSME Formalisation.

The combined strength of the Udyam Registration Portal and Udyam Assist Platform has taken India's MSME formalisation journey to a new level. The growth from 1.02 crore registrations in 2020 to over 10 crore in 2026 demonstrates the increasing adoption of digital platforms and the Government's sustained commitment to bringing enterprises into the formal economic framework.

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises launched the Udyam Registration Portal on 1 July 2020, providing enterprises with a simple, transparent, online and paperless platform for registration. This digital initiative has significantly streamlined registration procedures, enhanced ease of doing business and enabled enterprises to become part of India's formal economic ecosystem.

India's MSME registration framework has



evolved significantly over the years, moving from a largely physical and document-intensive process to a technology-driven, entrepreneur-friendly digital ecosystem.

Key milestones in this journey:

1. Entrepreneurs Memorandum (EM-II) – 2006 to 17 September 2015

MSME registration was primarily a physical process, requiring entrepreneurs to submit applications along with the requisite documents for verification by the District Industries Centre (DIC). During this nine-year period, 21.96 lakh MSMEs were registered.

2. Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum (UAM) – 18 September 2015 to 30 June 2020

A significant shift towards digital registration took place with the introduction of the Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum (UAM). Based on Aadhaar, the online system simplified the earlier registration procedure and reduced the compliance burden on entrepreneurs. Around 1.02 crore MSMEs registered during this five-year period.

3. Udyam Registration – From 1 July 2020

A major digital transformation was ushered in with the launch of the Udyam Registration Portal. The registration process became fully online, paperless and based on self-declaration, eliminating the requirement for physical documents or proof uploads.

Cheaper, Safer and Faster Credit for Rural Women: Department of Rural Development and NABARD Join Hands

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 The Department of Rural Development (DoRD) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) today signed an Agreement for Management and Technical Support for the Interest Subvention Scheme for women Self Help Groups and the Women Enterprise Acceleration Fund (WEAF) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). The Agreement was signed by Vipin Kumar, Additional Secretary, DoRD, and Ajay Kumar Sood, Deputy Managing Director, NABARD in the presence of Rohit Kansal, Secretary, Rural Development; Dr. Shaji Krishnan V, Chairman, NABARD. Following the signing, the Secretary and the Chairman jointly launched the Interest Subvention Portal.

Speaking on the occasion, Rohit Kansal, Secretary, Rural Development, said that the SHG movement, having achieved remarkable outreach and scale, is now entering a new phase focused on enterprise development. Over Rs. 14 lakh crore has already been mobilised as formal credit for SHGs, steadily replacing informal sources of credit in rural areas. Over the next five years, the Department aims to facilitate an additional Rs. 10 lakh crore for SHGs and Rs. 1 lakh crore for individual enterprises.

“Interest subvention will make credit more affordable, reimbursement of guarantee fees will make collateral-free credit safer, and the new portal will make the process faster,” the Secretary said. He



called upon DoRD and NABARD to work closely to design customised credit products for SHG members, strengthen enterprise support systems, bridge information gaps on schemes, and build capacities for a robust and sustainable SHG ecosystem.

Under the Agreement, NABARD will serve as the single nodal agency for both schemes, covering Public Sector, Private Sector, Small Finance, Regional Rural and Cooperative Banks, and will provide technical, managerial and implementation support to the Department. Banks will now work with one set of rules, one reconciliation process and one point of accountability.

“This partnership combines NABARD’s institutional strengths with DAY-NRLM’s community network to accelerate the transition of SHG women from livelihoods to viable enterprises,” said Dr. Shaji Krishnan V, Chairman, NABARD. He reaffirmed NABARD’s commitment to deepening its collaboration with the Department to advance financial inclusion and women-led development.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched #NumberSaveKiya? Campaign, released Advisory on 16 Days of activism against gender based violence & signed an inter-ministerial MoU

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 for strengthening services for Women Safety at Nayi Chetna 5.0.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development joined the Ministry of Rural Development for the inauguration of Nayi Chetna 5.0, the National Campaign on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, on 25 November 2026 at the Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium, PUSA, New Delhi. The event coincided with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the start of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

The national event was graced by Annpurna Devi, Union Minister of Women and Child Development, along with Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister of Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.

The Secretaries of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Department of Justice and the Department of Rural Development also attended the event.

Key announcements

Advisory on the 16 Days campaign: The dignitaries released a Joint advisory issued by 10 Ministries and NALSA, guiding



States and Union Territories to spread awareness, open access to support and legal aid, make women's safety everyone's responsibility, with the theme ‘From awareness to action & From access to agency’.

#NumberSaveKiya? Campaign: Built around one simple question, “Number save kiya?” (Have you saved the number?), the campaign video urged every woman, and those around her, to save the Women Helpline 181 and Emergency Response Support System 112 on their phones. Helpline 181 is a 24x7, toll-free service, linking women facing violence to police, One Stop Centres, medical care and legal aid. The campaign will be amplified through the Ministry’s digital platforms and its grassroots network of Anganwadi workers, One Stop Centres and Mission Shakti hubs.

First North-East India-Specific antivenom developed against neglected Pit Vipers species

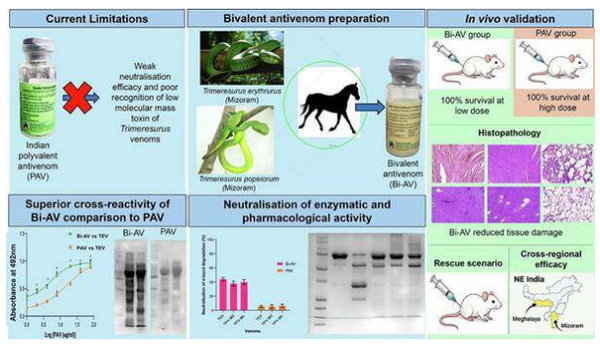
CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 A novel antivenom specifically effective against the venom of two particular pit vipers common in the North Eastern states can help improve treatment for snake bites common in these areas. and Meghalaya states in order to close this gap in snakebite treatment.

Northeast India is home to a wide variety of venomous snakes, making snakebite a major public health concern. However, India's "Big Four" snakes—Russell's viper, spectacled cobra, common krait, and saw-scaled viper—are the main targets of commercially marketed antivenom. The effectiveness of this polyvalent antivenom against a number of medically significant venomous snakes in Northeast India has been shown to be limited.

Snake bites from pit vipers—the Pope's pit viper (Trimeresurus popeiorum) and the red-tailed bamboo pit viper (Trimeresurus erythrurus) found in the North Eastern states are a common medical emergency in these areas. Snakebite is regarded as a neglected tropical disease and a medical emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO). The absence of antivenoms that can effective against venoms of these specific snakes leads to the the antivenom crisis in Northeast India, according to a recent study.

Fig: A schematic diagram depicting the superior neutralizing activity of Bi-AV compared to Indian PAV against pit vipers from North-east India.

A research team led by Prof. Ashis K.



Mukherjee, Director of the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, an Autonomous Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has created a novel equine F(ab)2 bivalent antivenom that is specifically effective against the venom of T. erythrurus and T. popeiorum that were collected from Mizoram and Meghalaya states in order to close this gap in snakebite treatment.

Researchers from IASST, Guwahati, Premium Serums and Vaccines Pvt. Ltd., Pune, Amrita Research Center Delhi-NCR, Mizoram University, and Aaranyak, Guwahati, collaborated on the project to demonstrate academic-industry cooperation.

In laboratory and preclinical investigations, the novel bivalent antivenom showed noticeably superior protection against pit viper envenomation of the NE region as compared to Indian polyvalent antivenom (Figure 1). Pit viper envenomation is characterized by disruptions in blood coagulation and injury to local and organ tissue, both of which are significantly reduced by the novel antivenom.

Monthly Flash Report on Central Sector Infrastructure Projects tracks 1,862 Infrastructure Projects worth ₹38.11 lakh crore as of October 2026

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Monthly Flash Report on Central Sector Infrastructure Projects tracks 1,862 Infrastructure Projects worth ₹38.11 lakh crore as of October 2026.

Some of the Big-Ticket Projects completed

Project – " Transmission Scheme for Integration of Renewable Energy Zone [Phase II] in Koppal II [Phase A&B] and Gadag II [Phase A] in Karnataka [POWERGRID KOPPAL GADAG TRANSMISSION LIMITED]" (₹4,445 crore) of Ministry of Power, commissioned on 16.10.2026.

Project – " Construction of Six lane Elevated Corridor from Km. 508.000 to Km. 513.150 including approaches on NH-66 " (₹641.46 crore) of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways is commissioned on 07.07.2025.

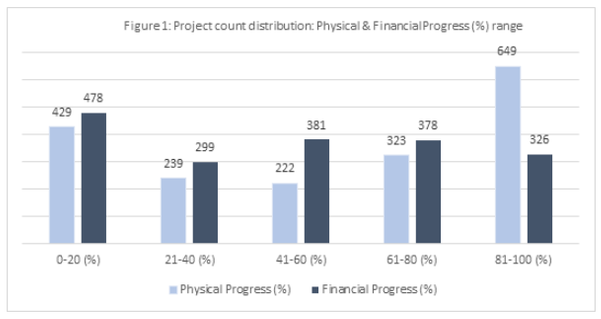
Project – " Rebuilding of Coke Oven Battery No.7 & 8 at Bhilai Steel Plant" (₹884.1 crore) of Ministry of Steel is commissioned on 30.10.2026.

Some of the Newly Onboarded Projects under the PAIMANA Portal

Project – " 8 lane access-controlled highway from Vadhavan Port to Junction at NH-48" (₹4,464 crore) of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.

Project – " Construction of 4 Laning of Badnawar-Petlawad-Thandla-Timarwani section of NH-752D from Badnawar Bypass Ch. 70400 to Timarwani Interchange of Delhi Mumbai expressway NE-4 Ch. 150850 in the state of Madhya Pradesh on Hybrid Annuity Mode under NHO" (₹3,842.41 crore) of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.

Project – " Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project Phase 2B (GIFT City (excluding) to Shahpur)" (₹1,067.35 crore) of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.



The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) continues to strengthen monitoring of Central Sector infrastructure projects through its PAIMANA platform, enabling improved tracking, timely reviews, and data-driven decision-making across Ministries. The portal tracks 1,862 Infrastructure Projects worth of ₹38.11 lakh crore as of October 2026.

Key Highlights

As of October 2026, 1,862 ongoing infrastructure projects, with a total latest cost of ₹38.11 lakh crore, are being monitored across 17 Central Ministries/Departments . The cumulative expenditure incurred on these projects stands at ₹17.87 lakh crore, accounting for approximately 46.88% of the project cost, indicating steady progress in project implementation.

National Milk Day

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 Milk at the Heart of India's Nutrition and Rural Economy

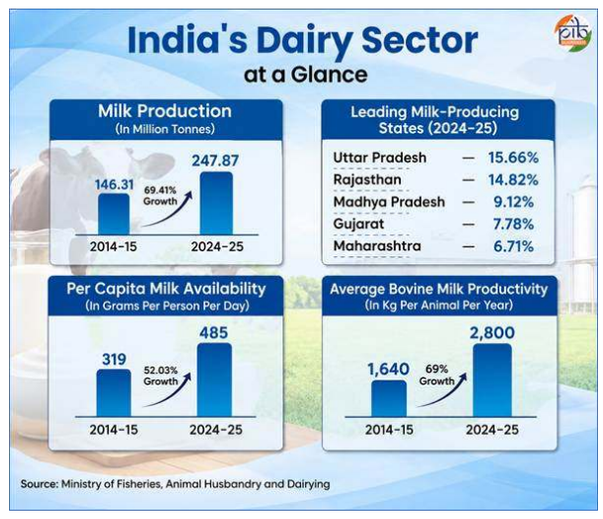
Milk occupies a vital place in India's nutritional landscape. It provides high-quality animal protein and essential nutrients, including calcium, magnesium and potassium, in easily absorbable forms. Often regarded as a near-complete food, milk supports growth, bone health and vitality across all age groups.

India has consistently remained the world's largest milk producer, contributing nearly one-fourth of global milk production. Between 2014-15 and 2024-25, production grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.41 percent, reaching 247.87 million tonnes. This growth also has a significant rural dimension. Dairying provides livelihoods to 8.5 crore rural households, with women playing a central role in milk production and collection. Nearly 70 percent of India's dairy farming workforce comprises women, highlighting their contribution to the sector's growth and its role in promoting inclusive rural development.

Observed every year on 26 November, National Milk Day commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the Father of India's White Revolution. The day recognises his transformative contribution to India's dairy cooperative movement. It honours the millions of dairy farmers whose efforts sustain the country's leadership in milk production.

India's Dairy Sector Records Strong Growth

India has maintained its position as the world's largest milk producer, supported by sustained growth in production and productivity.



Milk production increased by 69.41 percent, rising from 146.31 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 247.87 million tonnes in 2024-25.

Leading milk-producing States were Uttar Pradesh (15.66 percent), Rajasthan (14.82 percent), Madhya Pradesh (9.12 percent), Gujarat (7.78 percent), and Maharashtra (6.71 percent). These five States accounted for 54.09 percent of total Milk production in the country.

Per capita milk availability rose by 52.03 percent, from 319 grams per person per day in 2014-15 to 485 grams in 2024-25.

Average bovine milk productivity increased from 1,640 kilograms per animal per year in 2014-15 to 2,800 kg per animal per year in 2024-25, registering growth of 69 percent.

The Cooperative Strength Behind India's Milk Economy

India's dairy cooperative movement provides an organised platform for milk producers. It connects village-level societies with district milk unions and State federations. These institutions support milk procurement, processing, marketing, and access to dairy services.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam celebrates the longstanding cultural, linguistic and civilisational ties between Tamil Nadu and Kashi (Varanasi), reflecting the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 The fifth edition, scheduled from 28 November to 12 December 2026, will focus on the theme "Thirukkural Payilvom – Thirukkural Abhyas Karen", promoting the timeless teachings of the Thirukkural among young learners. Around 1,400 delegates from Tamil Nadu will visit Varanasi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya. A nationwide Students' Engagement Programme will involve 1,000 Higher Education Institutions, while teachers from Tamil Nadu will introduce the Thirukkural in schools and colleges in Uttar Pradesh. Through academic exchanges, cultural programmes and multilingual outreach, the initiative seeks to deepen mutual understanding, strengthen people-to-people connections and promote India's shared heritage.

About Kashi Tamil Sangamam

Kashi Tamil Sangamam celebrates the age-old civilisational bonds between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, the two ancient seats of learning. Many people from the two states have visited Kashi and Rameswaram as part of their religious traditions, reflecting the cultural bonds between the northern and southern parts of India.

Many people from Tamil Nadu have lived around Hanuman Ghat and Kedar Ghat for generations. Swami Kumaragurupara of Dharmapuram Adheenam came to Kashi from Tamil Nadu



and built the Kedareshwar Temple at Kedar Ghat. The 200-year-old Kumaraswamy Mutt and Markandeya Ashram are situated at the same ghat. Tenkasi in Tamil Nadu is called the Kashi of the South. Banaras Hindu University has a chair dedicated to Mahakavi Subramania Bharati.

The broader objective of the Sangamam, set out when it was announced in 2022, is to bring the two knowledge and cultural traditions closer, create an understanding of shared heritage and deepen the people-to-people bond between the regions.

The first Kashi Tamil Sangamam was held in 2022, during Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Over its four editions, it has facilitated exchanges of knowledge, language, traditions and lived experiences between the two regions. The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has called it a "vibrant programme which deepens the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'".

First Regional Workshop on Implementation of Sixteenth Finance Commission Recommendations for Rural Local Body Grants to be held in Goa tomorrow

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026 The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India, will organize the first Regional Workshop on implementation of the Sixteenth Finance Commission (XVI FC) Recommendations for Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) grants in Goa tomorrow, 26 November 2026. Mukta Shekhar, Joint Secretary, MoPR, will be joined by senior officers from the participating States of Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. The Workshop seeks to build a shared understanding of the 16th Finance Commission's recommendations, the Operational Guidelines and the compliance conditions among the Western Region States, so that the 16th Finance Commission grants reach Panchayats on time and translate into visible improvements in the lives of rural citizens.

The Sixteenth Finance Commission has recommended grants of ₹4,35,236 crore to PRIs (Panchayati Raj Institutions) / RLBs (Rural Local Bodies) across all 28 States for the award period 2026-27 to 2030-31. The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, issued the Operational Guidelines for their implementation on 21 May 2026. The Commission has also recommended that MoPR extend guidance and handholding support to States and



organise Regional Workshops to familiarise them with various aspects of the recommendations. The Goa Workshop is the first in this series.

The Workshop builds on the National Workshop of State Panchayati Raj Ministers held by MoPR on 3 July 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, to discuss implementation of the 16th FC recommendations for PRIs/ RLBs. While the National Workshop set the policy direction, the Regional Workshops carry the dialogue closer to the officers responsible for delivery on the ground.

Reflecting the Ministry's continuing efforts and focus on augmentation of Own Sources of Revenue (OSR), the Workshop also seeks to deliberate on experiences and best practices that enhance the fiscal self-reliance of Panchayats. Elected Representatives and officers from the host State, Goa, are also expected to participate.