

PM to inaugurate Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 on 17th January

Chennai, 17 January 2025: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, the largest mobility expo in India, on 17th January, 2025 at 10:30 AM at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The Expo will be held from 17-22 January, 2025 across three separate venues: Bharat Mandapam & Yashobhoomi in New Delhi and India Expo Center & Mart, Greater Noida. Expo will host



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MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
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over 9 concurrent shows, 20+ conferences and pavilions. In addition, the Expo will also feature states sessions to showcase policies and initiatives in the mobility sector to enable collaboration between industry and regional levels.

Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 aims to unite the entire mobility value chain under one umbrella. This year's expo will have a special emphasis on the global significance with participation from across the globe as

exhibitors and visitors. It is an industry-led and government-supported initiative and is being coordinated by Engineering Export Promotion Council of India with the joint support of various industry bodies and partner organizations.

Youth tame raging bulls at Palamedu Jallikattu

Chennai, 17 January 2025: In Palamedu, Madurai, Jallikattu was conducted yesterday as part of the Pongal festival celebrations. Following the grand Jallikattu event in Avaniyapuram on January 14, the Palamedu event took place yesterday, and today, the famous Alanganallur Jallikattu is being held.



The Palamedu event comprised 10 rounds, with a total of 930 bulls released. Over 1,000 participants competed to tame the bulls.

Kuruvithurai received 11 bulls, received an agricultural rotavator.

Town Panchayat also attended the event.

The renowned Jallikattu event held at Palamedu in Madurai passed off largely incident-free, barring injuries to 52 persons, including 24 tamers, 15 bull owners and 13 spectators.

Winners and Prizes:

- Bull owners:** • First Prize: Vijay Thangapandi from Sathirappatti received a tractor on behalf of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- Second Prize: Karthik from Chinnappatti was awarded a cow and calf.
- Third Prize: Pavithran from

Best Bull tamers:
 First Prize: Parthiban from Natham, who tamed 14 bulls, was awarded a car on behalf of the Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

• Second Prize: Thulasiram from Manjampatti, who tamed 12 bulls, received a motorbike.

• Third Prize: Prabhakaran from Pothumbu, who tamed

The prizes were distributed by Tamil Nadu Ministers P. Moorthi (Minister of Commercial Taxes and Registration) and Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan (Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services). The District Collector, Member of Parliament from Theni, MLAs from Cholvandan and Madurai South, and officials from Palamedu

Seven critically injured persons were admitted to Government Rajaji Hospital (GRH) at Madurai for treatment.

Secretary (Labour & Employment) monitors progress of integration of Platform Aggregators and Registration of Gig Workers on eShram Portal in New Delhi

Chennai, 17 January 2025: Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, Ms. Sumita Dawra chaired a meeting today in New Delhi with platform aggregators to monitor the progress of integration of platform aggregators through API and registration of platform workers on eShram portal. Representatives from major platform aggregators across sectors including ride sharing, food & grocery delivery, logistics, health care, etc., along

with officials from Labour Bureau, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and Knowledge Partners, participated in the meeting. During her opening remarks, Secretary, MoLE highlighted that the Government is working on options for providing social security benefits to platform workers across the country, and is developing a comprehensive framework for them, on a mission mode. Onboarding of aggregators and

platform workers is a critical prerequisite of seamless and comprehensive delivery of the social security benefits envisaged under the Code on Social Security, 2020. For this, the Government had launched an aggregator module on eShram portal in December 2024 and requested all platform aggregators to onboard platform workers. The Ministry has been regularly monitoring the progress of integration of platform aggregators and registration of

platform workers on eShram portal, she added.

During the meeting, Ms. Dawra emphasised on the critical role played by platform aggregators in the success of this initiative and urged them to take ownership of completing the onboarding process on eShram, in a time bound manner. It was directed that the progress would be monitored on a daily basis to ensure that this initiative can go-live and social security benefits can be accessed effectively.

Vadnagar Inaugurates a World-Class Archaeological Experiential Museum

Chennai, 17 January 2025: A momentous occasion unfolded today as the Union Ministry of Culture and State Government of Gujarat, inaugurated a state-of-the-art museum and archaeological interpretation centre in Vadnagar. The event was presided over by Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, and graced by the presence of Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat, and Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, along with senior officials from the Union Government and the Government of Gujarat.



This landmark project brings to life the vibrant history of Vadnagar, a town steeped in antiquity, dating back an impressive 2,500 years. Its strategic location on ancient trade routes fostered a cosmopolitan society, evident in the town's architectural legacy, including the Kirti Toran, Hatkeshwar Mahadev Temple, and Sharmistha Lake, and the presence of various religious traditions.

The Vadnagar Archaeological Experiential Museum, a testament to modern museology, offers a

captivating journey through time. The museum complex will feature three main structures:

The Main Museum Building: Housing a comprehensive collection of artifacts and interactive exhibits.

A 50-meter Connecting Bridge: Linking the museum building to the excavation site.

A Permanent Structure over the Excavation Site: Providing visitors with a safe and informative view of the archaeological remains.

The museum complex, spanning 12,500 sq. m., houses nine thematic galleries and features a 4,000 sq. m. excavation site with remains visible up to 16-

18 meters deep. With an investment of Rs. 298 Crore, the project ensures long-term sustainability, encompassing capital costs and five years of operations and maintenance.

Visitors will be enthralled by a unique blend of physical exhibits and immersive digital experiences, showcasing over 5,000 artifacts that tell the story of Vadnagar's evolution. It displays a wide range of items such as ceramic assemblages, shell manufacturing (products and raw materials), coins, ornaments, weapons and tools, sculptures, play objects, as well as organic materials like food grains, DNA, and skeletal remains.

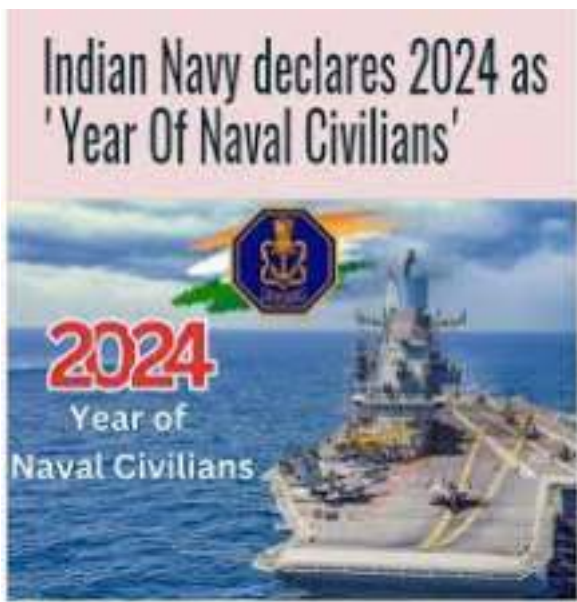
A key highlight is the

integration of the museum with the actual excavation site. A walkway allows visitors to engage with the archaeological remains firsthand, offering a unique and immersive understanding of the town's past.

The project encompasses a series of complementary initiatives - an International Conference of leading scholars and researchers to delve deeper into the archaeology of Vadnagar; a Television Series by Discovery Channel to showcase the town's rich history to a wider audience; and the Prerna School, a unique educational program to inspire young minds and foster leaders of tomorrow for India's heritage, among others.

CELEBRATION OF 'YEAR OF NAVAL CIVILIANS'

Chennai Jan 17 2025: The Indian Navy is proudly celebrating the 'Year of Naval Civilians' on 17 Jan 25 at Dr DS Kothari Auditorium, DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi. The event will be graced by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri as the Chief Guest.



The ceremony will showcase the remarkable achievements and contributions of Naval Civilians through an inspiring agenda including a curated exhibition featuring photographs and paintings highlighting the work, lives and stories of Naval Civilians. This will offer a glimpse into their pivotal roles and achievements in various facets of Naval support operations.

The Chief Guest will be introduced to

recipients of the Prime Minister's Shram Awards who have demonstrated exceptional skills, dedication and innovation in their respective fields. This will be followed by address by the Chief of the Naval Staff highlighting the integral role of Naval Civilians in the Navy's mission and celebrating their achievements throughout the year. A

commemorative short movie capturing the spirit, dedication and contributions of the Civilian workforce will be screened during the event. This movie would provide a deeper appreciation for the work and contribution of Naval Civilians.

An exclusive Naval Civilians Song 'Jee Jaan Lagan Se' has been composed. The beauty of this song lies

in the fact that the lyricist, music composer and singers are all Naval Civilian employees. The instruments have been played by musicians from Naval Central Band. The entire team has been mentored by Cdr Satish Champion, Director of Music (Navy). This is a remarkable example of seamless integration of Naval Civilians with Uniformed Service. The song would be performed live by all the Singers during the celebration of 'Year of Naval Civilians'.

The event would honour select Naval Civilians wherein Hon'ble Raksha Mantri would confer meritorious and cash awards for their exemplary service, recognising their pivotal contributions to the Navy's success in six categories.

Swiggy Instamart Adds a Modern Twist to Pongal Traditions in Chennai with an Interactive Life-Sized Festive Pot

Chennai, 17 January 2025: This Pongal, Swiggy Instamart is bringing a unique celebration to Chennai with an interactive installation at the iconic Express Avenue Mall. From January 14th to 17th, visitors can experience a life-sized Pongal pot that blends tradition with technology in an engaging way.



the joy.

Inspired by the beloved custom of milk overflowing as a sign of prosperity, Swiggy brings that overflowing spirit into the future with a voice-activated installation. Here's the fun part: just shout "Pongalo Pongal!" and watch it come to life, dispensing a surprise gift! Gone are the days of waiting for milk to spill over this time, it's your voice that unlocks

Each interaction is unique, as the pot dispenses one gift per shout, ensuring a fresh burst of excitement for every participant. Every time a visitor says "Pongalo Pongal," the audio detector on the pot will pick up the festive shout and trigger the dispensing system, giving a gift on the spot. The clay pot, a key element of Pongal festivities, has been reimagined to create moments of joy and excitement for attendees of all ages. The

installation is more than just a celebration of tradition; it's a delightful fusion of festivity, technology, and surprise, making it the perfect spot for friends and families to share in the Pongal spirit. The installation has already sparked conversations on social media, with visitors sharing their excitement and praising Swiggy for creatively connecting with cultural traditions in such an innovative way.



About Swiggy Instamart currently caters to millions of consumers each month.

Indian Life insurers register record new business figures in December'24; premium collection swell by 9.91%

Chennai, 17 January 2025: Life Insurance Council has released updated industry business numbers for the month of December 2024. Indian Life insurers register record new business figures in December'24; premium collection swell by 9.91%.

to close at ₹ 4633.12 Crs for Dec'24 while YTD growth stood at 13.68%. Individual non-single premiums came in at ₹ 12467.51 Crs and grew by 4.53% in Dec'24, even as YTD collections settled at 14.53% higher than the corresponding period last year.

buy essential life insurance solutions, contributing to the 6.82% growth in combined individual premium collections for the month of Dec'24 and 14.26% growth on a YTD basis.

The life insurance industry in India has been making significant strides forward by expanding access to insurance and making an effort to reach out to areas and segments of the country's population that were previously

underserved when it comes to their insurance needs. Towards this end, life insurers added more than 757236 individual life insurance agents, with an overall 3.46% growth in cumulative agent count. Still, the sustained pace of agent addition is being complimented by the high speed of digitisation by life insurers, paving the way for additional gains in insurance penetration that should provide a significant boost to new business premiums in

This strong performance can be ascribed to the fact that life insurers are increasingly focusing on encouraging first-time life insurance buyers to

Celebrity Hair Stylist Mr IBRAHIM honoured Indian Awards 2024 presented by Actress Amritha Iyer

Chennai, 17 January 2025: Celebrity Hair Stylist Mr IBRAHIM Founder of LSD haircreation received Leading Hairstylist of the Year award from Actress Amritha Iyer at the Grand Indian Awards 2024 presented & Organised by Indian Media Works*



by Indian Media Works was held at Quality in Sabari Hotel in T. Nagar, Chennai.

The event was attended by Indian Media Works MD John Amalan and Mr. Jayaseelan, IDAS - Controller of Defence Accounts (Ministry of Defence) as special guest and a Indian Awards 2024 recipients.

The Indian Awards 2024 awards were

presented to those who are an inspiration in various fields including cinema, television, politics, social service, fashion entrepreneurs, business leaders etc.

Indian Media Works MD John Amalan said that The Indian Awards 2024 ceremony was very successful this year. He also said budding entrepreneurs were also motivated & honoured at Indian Awards 2024.

Indian Awards 2024 honouring Cinema Celebrities, Politicians & Entrepreneurs,

Doctors, Fashion entrepreneurs & business leaders etc Indian Awards 2024

Vice-President to visit Lakshadweep on January 17-19, 2025 Vice-President to Attend Public Function, Inaugurate Public Projects and Interact with SHG Members and Beneficiaries on his Maiden Visit to Lakshadweep

Chennai, 17 January 2025: The Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, will embark on a three-day visit to Lakshadweep from January 17 to 19,

This will be his maiden visit to the Union Territory since assuming office. During his visit, Shri Dhankhar is scheduled to attend a public function and

inaugurate various public projects on January 17, 2025. Furthermore, he will interact with members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and



beneficiaries on January 19, 2025.

Takeda Expands Presence in India with Launch of Global Innovation Capability Center in Bengaluru

Takeda Innovation Capability Center to Fill Upwards of 750 Roles, Strengthening Bengaluru's Global Innovation Landscape

Chennai Jan 17 2025: The following Special Takeda (TSE:4502/NYSE:TAK), a global leader in biopharmaceutical innovation, today announced the official opening of its Innovation Capability Center (ICC) in Bengaluru, India, a center where digital solutions will be built as part of Takeda's global digital transformation, which includes insourcing capabilities. This marks Takeda's first ICC in Asia, following successful establishments in Slovakia and Mexico. The ICC help support the company's dedication to advancing healthcare through innovative solutions. These cutting-edge solutions will help advance our operations and have an impact on Takeda's workforce, the patients that we serve and the planet for years to come.



Karnataka's vibrant ecosystem of innovation to serve patient needs.

"The launch of our Bengaluru ICC is a pivotal moment for Takeda's digital transformation journey," said Gabriele Ricci, Chief Data and Technology Officer at Takeda. "Tapping into local talent is vital in our quest to create better health for people and a brighter future for the communities we serve. Investing in India's remarkable talent and technological expertise underscores Takeda's commitment leveraging local expertise to deliver innovative, data-driven solutions and sustainable growth."

The launch of ICC India represents Takeda's strategic commitment to apply data and new digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence, having the potential to accelerate research and development with the ultimate goal of transforming the lives of patients. Takeda is focused on creating better health for people and a brighter future for the world, with a steadfast commitment to its core values: Integrity, Fairness, Honesty and Perseverance. With a rich history that dates back to 1781 in Osaka, Japan, Takeda has grown into a global biopharmaceutical leader, operating in approximately 80 countries, including in India for more than 13 years. The company's mission in India focuses on ensuring sustainable access to healthcare, bolstered by strategic partnerships. Takeda's diverse therapeutic portfolio addresses gastrointestinal disorders, rare diseases, immunology, oncology and vaccines, underscoring its commitment to data-driven innovation and transforming treatments.

The establishment of this capability center underlines Takeda's ambition to transform into one of the most trusted, values-based, R & D - driven biopharmaceutical companies, tapping into

and business areas, including gastrointestinal and inflammation, rare diseases, plasma-derived therapies, oncology, neuroscience and vaccines. Together with our partners, we aim to improve the patient experience and advance a new frontier of treatment options through our dynamic and diverse pipeline. As a leading values-based, R & D - driven biopharmaceutical company headquartered in Japan, we are guided by our commitment to patients, our people and the planet. Our employees in approximately 80 countries and regions are driven by our purpose and are grounded in the values that have defined us for more than two centuries. For more information, visit www.takeda.com.

The ICC in India will develop key technology capabilities to fuel innovation by embracing data and digital solutions using an agile, patient-centric and solution focused approach. The ICC will concentrate on pioneering advancements across domains including:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and GenAI to enhance efficiency and predictive analytics in healthcare

- Device Engineering and Application Virtualization to drive innovation in product development and patient-centric solutions

- Data Science and Visualization to enable data-driven decision-making for improved patient outcomes

"India was a natural choice for Takeda's first ICC in Asia," said Tilak Banerjee, Head of Takeda ICC India. "This strategic commitment will generate new jobs and further the company's global mission of delivering life-transforming treatments to patients."

About Takeda - Takeda is focused on creating better health for people and a brighter future for the world. We aim to discover and deliver life-transforming treatments in our core therapeutic

and will soon introduce its oncology portfolio in India. With a skilled and committed workforce, Takeda in India is focused on developing a strong pipeline of innovative bio-pharma products to serve patients effectively.

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The companies in which Takeda directly and indirectly owns investments are separate entities. In this press release, "Takeda" is sometimes used for convenience where references are made to Takeda and its subsidiaries in general. Likewise, the words "we", "us" and "our" are also used to refer to subsidiaries in general or to those who work for them. These expressions are also used where no useful purpose is served by identifying the particular company or companies.

Takeda Biopharma (Takeda Innovations India Private Ltd), is a part of Takeda's Data, Digital & Technology (DD&T) organization, and is providing services related to the creation and development of platforms, systems, software, applications, artificial intelligence-based technology, digital capabilities and any other technology that is meant to advance the use, evaluation and analysis of medical, clinical, commercial, scientific, technical data and information, and allowing the creation of innovative, state-of-the-art solutions to Takeda Group of companies.

Taiwan Excellence to Unveil Revolutionary Metal Processing Solutions at IMTEX 2025

Chennai Jan 17, 2025: Taiwan Excellence (TE), a globally recognized symbol of innovation and quality, is gearing up to make a lasting impression at IMTEX 2025, South and South-East Asia's premier exhibition for machine tools and manufacturing technology. Scheduled to take place from January 23rd to 29th, 2025, at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), the Taiwan Excellence Pavilion is set to debut with the participation of 13 leading Taiwanese companies, showcasing 17 cutting-edge technologies poised to transform India's manufacturing sector.

This much-anticipated debut is more than just a showcase of innovative solutions, it is a testament to Taiwan Excellence's commitment to building strong partnerships with



India's manufacturing sector. By introducing state-of-the-art metal processing solutions, Taiwan Excellence aims to equip Indian manufacturers with the tools they need to excel in precision, efficiency, and sustainability. It is a step toward a shared future of innovation and growth for both nations.

The opening day of the exhibition will feature Taiwan Excellence's product launch session "Crafting Excellence for a Progressive Tomorrow," unveiling advanced metal processing technologies from top

Taiwanese brands like Chmer, Quaser, Palmay, Syntec, and Hiwin. Key products include the Intelligent 4.0 Guideway, Underwater Direct Drive Rotary Table, Multi-Program Mill-Turn, CNC Grinder, and CNC Machining Center.

Attendees, including industry associations, companies, dealers, distributors, and visitors, can look forward to engaging in live demonstrations showcasing how Taiwanese innovations are poised to revolutionize India's manufacturing landscape.

The TE Pavilion will feature the latest innovations from esteemed brands such as CHMER, KANFON, AXISCO, Honor Seiki, PALMARY, QUASER, OSCARMAX, HIWIN, INNGRIT, SYNTEC, AutoGrip, TBI Motion, and Mecom.

Through its participation in IMTEX 2025, Taiwan Excellence aims to reaffirm its position as a global innovation leader and strengthen its commitment to supporting India's thriving manufacturing ecosystem.

DP WORLD COCHIN ACHIEVES RECORD BREAKING PERFORMANCE WITH MORE THAN 8, 00,000 TEUS HANDLED IN 2024

Chennai Jan 17, 2025: DP World, a leading global provider of smart end-to-end supply chain solutions, has registered a growth of 17% in 2024 compared to the previous year at its International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) at Cochin. DP World Cochin has achieved its all-time high volume in 2024 by handling 840,564 TEUs.

DP World Cochin introduced new STS Ship-to-Shore cranes, e-RTGs, and expanded yard space, boosting the terminal's total capacity to approximately 1.4 million TEUs a year in 2024, positioning it as one of the largest terminals in South & East India. This, backed by upgraded power infrastructure, ensures reliable and more productive operations even during peak demand. The electrification of all yard equipment minimizes the carbon footprint of cargo movement through the terminal, giving customers a competitive edge on sustainability in their supply chain.

In 2024, the terminal showcased its impressive capabilities by handling approximately 657 vessel calls, ranking among the highest in South and East India. Additionally, it managed its largest-ever

single vessel exchange of 6,157 TEUs with the MSC Aurora. It also handled multiple ULCVs (Ultra Large Container Vessels) of over 365 meters in length during the year. These milestones highlight the terminal's increased capability to handle larger vessels and volumes, further reinforcing its role in driving the growth of trade in the region.

Speaking on this occasion, Praveen Joseph, CEO, DP World Ports & Terminals, Cochin, said, "As we conclude an eventful 2024, I am deeply grateful to our customers, the Cochin Port Authority and partners for their continued support. This success reflects DP World's commitment to invest in world-class infrastructure to meet customer demands, operational efficiency,

ongoing innovation and the expertise of a skilled and dedicated workforce. DP World Cochin will remain a crucial hub for regional trade, driving economic growth and strengthening global market connections. We look forward to building on this success and achieving even greater milestones in the years ahead."

DP World's ICTT offers direct mainline (mother vessel) connectivity to key regions, including the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Europe/Mediterranean, and Singapore. This enables 50% of the cargo to be transported directly on mother vessels, bypassing congested hubs for faster and more reliable transit times. Additionally, ICTT provides regular connections to major transshipment hubs such

as Singapore, Port Klang, Colombo, Jebel Ali, and Mundra.

DP World also launched the 75,000 sq. ft. Cochin Economic Zone collocated with DP World Cochin terminal. This is Kerala's first FTWZ and India's first economic zone within a major port, to support EXIM trade and enable seamless connectivity with the container terminal, strengthening South India's position as a key trade gateway. This, in true sense, drives port led development for the state by providing geographical and regulatory advantages to businesses, thereby enhancing ease of doing business.

DP World remains steadfast in their mission to lead the industry in safety and innovation, continually striving to provide the best-in-class solutions.



AXIS BANK ANNOUNCES FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

Chennai Jan 17, 2025: The Board of Directors of Axis Bank Limited approved the financial results for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December 2024 at its meeting held in Mumbai on Thursday, 16th January 2025.

Axis Bank launched a slew of initiatives this quarter. A major highlight was the \$500 million climate loan in partnership with IFC, aimed at financing green and blue projects, fostering sustainable growth and creating jobs in India. Expanding its global presence, Axis Bank upgraded its IBU office at GIFT City to offer a comprehensive range of services for its international clients.

The Bank launched ARISE Women's Savings Account, a complete solution designed

exclusively for the financial needs of women, providing personalized investments and healthcare benefits. Reaffirming the Bank's dedication to building a diverse and inclusive workforce, it introduced the Young Bankers Program Women's-Only Cohort in collaboration with the Manipal Academy of BFSI.

Axis Bank achieved the No.1 position as a UPI payment service provider, reinforcing its leadership in digital payments. Further, it collaborated with Alliance Network India in a bid to transform the nations' digital payments and merchants services through easy transactions, innovative technologies and customized solutions.

The Bank received several distinguished awards and recognitions

this quarter. It won the Best Indian Bank at the prestigious Financial Times (FT) Bank of the Year 2024 Awards, which is testimony to the quality and depth of its Banking services across verticals. It received the IBSI Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2024 for Most Innovative use of AI/ML; Best Digital Channel/Platform Innovation and Most Innovative Digital Onboarding Rollout. It also got the CX Asia Excellence Awards 2024 (Honorary Mentions) for Best Use of Intelligent Chatbot and Best Use of Data and Customer Insights. Axis Bank Foundation was awarded the prestigious Gold Award at FICCI's 4th Sustainable Agriculture Summit and Awards 2024.

Amitabh Chaudhry, MD&CEO, Axis Bank

commented, "We closed 2024 on a high, firming up our businesses, our capabilities, our presence across the length and breadth of the country with hundreds of new bank branches. Digital and Rural have been our big drivers, along with Sustainability and Inclusivity. This quarter we also rehashed our brand credo - celebrating our customer first approach through

our new campaign Har Raah Dil Se Open. It's a reminder for us to stand committed to the evolving needs and aspirations of our customers. The Axis team is upbeat and eager to unlock the opportunities of 2025, supporting the ambitions of a resurgent India, as it looks forward to becoming the third largest global economy in the next few years."

IIT Madras to host 3rd Edition of 'InvenTiv' National Expo from 28 Feb

Chennai, Jan 17, 2025: Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) will host 'InvenTiv 2025', a National Expo that will showcase the cutting edge research of leading tech institutes in the country, on 28th February and 1st March 2025. It is organized jointly with the Education Ministry, Government of India

It will feature R&D Projects from all the IITs, NITs, IISc and IISERs besides top Government and private engineering institutes that rank within the top 50 in NIRF. The primary objective is to increase awareness among industry of these technological breakthroughs and achieve better industry-academia collaboration.

The highlight of this year is that a larger number of exhibits from participating institutions (around

300) will be featured in an expo, with a good representation from startups that have been initiated based on the R&D from these institutions.

Special emphasis would be placed on technologies in mature TRL (Technology Readiness Level) stages 7-9, which are ready for commercialization and can be transferred to the industry during the event itself.

InvenTiv 2025 is scheduled to be inaugurated by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Education Minister of the Government of India, at the IIT Madras campus in the presence of marquee personnel from industry and academia, on 28th February 2025.

Welcoming Researchers from all over the country to take part and benefit from the exposure to the industry, Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director,

IIT Madras, said, "InvenTiv is a flagship event of the Ministry of Education, Government of India. This year, we have a lot more institutions taking part, including private institutions. This two-day event is to showcase the inventions and creativity of the institutions. We expect a lot of investors and large industries to take part in this event, which will facilitate Industry-Academia collaboration."

The thematic areas that would be covered include AI/ML Technologies, Aviation, Defence and Space, Marine Technology, Medical/Healthcare Engineering, Rural Technology, Smart Cities & Infrastructure, Advanced Manufacturing (Industry 4.0+/5.0) and Circularity and Sustainability (Energy & E-mobility).

Further, Prof. Manu

Santhanam, Dean (IC&SR), IIT Madras, said, "InvenTiv 2025 is poised to be a landmark event that will bring about a way forward for industry-academia collaboration, and chart the path for future research efforts at India's premier engineering institutions."

InvenTiv was started in 2022 as an event held at IIT Delhi featuring R&D only from IITs. The second edition of the event with participating institutions from top 50 of NIRF, apart from IITs, NITs, IISc and IISERs, was held at IIT Hyderabad during January 2024. IIT Madras is now hosting the third event in the series.

The format for the event includes an expo with multiple stalls displaying the exhibits from the participating institutions, along with plenary talks and panel discussions on thematic areas.

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Space docking: ISRO achieved the unbelievable, says Union Minister Jitendra Singh

Chennai Jan 17, 2025: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh congratulated ISRO for successfully completing the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX), utilising the indigenous Bharatiya Docking System. This achievement is a significant milestone for future missions like the Bhartiya Antriksh Station, Chandrayaan 4, and Gaganyaan, with PM Narendra Modi's support boosting ISRO's efforts. Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday congratulated ISRO scientists and engineers for accomplishing the space docking experiment and said it would pave the way for future missions, including the Bhartiya Antriksh Station. Singh, also the minister of state in the prime minister's office, took to X to greet

scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

"Congrats ISRO. Finally made it. SpaDeX has accomplished the unbelievable... docking complete... and it is all indigenous 'Bharatiya Docking System'," Singh said.

"This paves the way for smooth conduct of ambitious future missions including the Bhartiya Antriksh Station, Chandrayaan 4 and Gaganyaan," the minister said.

Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's continuous patronage has kept the spirits soaring at ISRO in Bengaluru.

Space agency ISRO successfully performed the docking of satellites as part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX), a crucial step towards several future missions, including setting up of the Bhartiya Antriksh Station.

The historic moment came just days after the space agency, on January 12, brought the



two spacecraft to three metres and then placed them back at a safe distance in its trial attempt to dock the satellites.

The Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission was successfully launched on December 30, 2024.

ISRO shared the docking process of the SpaDeX satellites in a post on X and said that it begins with the completion of a manoeuvre from 15m to 3m hold point.

Then docking is initiated with precision, leading to a successful

spacecraft capture. "Retraction completed smoothly, followed by rigidisation for stability. Docking successfully completed," it said.

Notably, India became the fourth country to achieve this successful space docking after the United States, Russia, and China.

Post docking, the space agency said, the control of two satellites as a single object was also successful. "Undocking and power transfer checks to follow in coming days," said in an ISRO update on the mission.

Merchandise Exports See Marginal Dip of 1% in December 2024; FIEO Urges Supportive Budget for Export Boost

Chennai Jan 17, 2025 : Merchandise exports in December 2024 stood at USD 38.01 billion, reflecting a slight 1% year-on-year decline. FIEO President, Mr Ashwani Kumar, attributed this drop to volatility in commodity and metal prices, along with ongoing international trade disruptions and currency fluctuations. Geopolitical tensions in the Gulf region further exacerbated logistical challenges, affecting export flows

to key markets like Europe, Africa, and the CIS.

Mr Kumar emphasized the urgent need for enhanced support in the upcoming Budget, particularly through an expanded PLI Scheme, to boost manufacturing capacity and include labour-intensive sectors. He also highlighted the persistent issue of trade finance, which continues to hinder the global competitiveness of

MSMEs.

Imports for December rose by 4.8% to USD 59.95 billion, though they fell from the record-high USD 63.86 billion in November 2024, resulting in a reduced trade deficit of USD 21.94 billion for the month. For the period April-December 2024, exports increased by 1.6% to USD 321.71 billion, while imports grew by 5.15% to USD 532.48 billion.

Looking ahead, Mr Kumar stressed the

importance of a focused export strategy targeting key markets, particularly the US, as the tariff war presents new opportunities. He also called for the continuation of the Interest Equalisation Scheme, R & D support, the establishment of a globally recognized Indian shipping line, and resolution of GST-related export challenges in the upcoming Budget to ensure sustained growth.

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Highlights India's Potential to Address Global Workforce Shortages through Skill Initiatives at "Conference on Future of Jobs"

Chennai Jan 17, 2025: The Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE), Government of India, in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), hosted the "Conference on Future of Jobs" themed "Shaping Tomorrow's Workforce: Driving Growth in a Dynamic World" on 15.01.2025 in New Delhi. This pivotal event convened policymakers, industry leaders, and experts to deliberate on the evolving employment landscape and curate strategies for a future-ready workforce in India.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Labour and Employment & Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, stated, "To synergize education and employment, skill development must be at the core of our



highlighted India's potential to address global workforce shortages through initiatives like the Mutual Recognition of Skills and Standards.

By fostering strong industry-academia linkages, we can create a skilling model tailored to India's unique needs. Skilling should go beyond certificates and focus on equipping individuals with practical expertise to meet the dynamic demands of the industry and self-employment sectors. It

excel in the industry.

Smt. Sumita Dawra, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, stated that to thrive in a rapidly evolving landscape, three key questions have emerged: How do we develop a digitally proficient workforce equipped to navigate an increasingly tech-driven job market? What strategies can we employ to build a truly inclusive workforce, where diversity is valued, and everyone is given equal

workforce culture? "A skilled and adaptable workforce is crucial for attracting investments in key sectors such as healthcare, manufacturing, logistics, and green jobs. Strengthening labor-intensive industries ensures equitable opportunities for diverse demographics, including those with limited access to advanced education," she emphasized.

She highlighted India's position as the "GCC Capital of the World," with 1,700 Global Capability Centres (GCCs) employing over two million people—a number projected to grow significantly by 2030.

"In these GCCs, we see the adoption of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, data analytics, robotic process automation, digital commerce, cybersecurity, blockchain, augmented reality, and virtual reality. This serves as evidence of India's exceptional technological talent," she added.



efforts. By fostering innovation, enhancing productivity, and preparing individuals for the workforce, we are creating jobs and building a global talent hub." He also

is time to rethink our approach to skilling—rather than focusing solely on certifications, the goal should be to develop professionals with the actual skills needed to

opportunities? Additionally, as industries prioritize environmental sustainability, how can we integrate eco-friendly practices and values into our

Shri Vineet Joshi assumes charge as Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education

Chennai Jan 17, 2025 : Shri Vineet Joshi assumed charge as Secretary, Department of Higher Education today in Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

Following his assumption of office, Shri Joshi interacted with senior officials of the Ministry.

Before this appointment, he served as the Chief Secretary of Manipur. He has held several prominent positions in



the education sector, including Director-General of the National Testing Agency (NTA), and Chairman of the Central Board of

Secondary Education (CBSE), and Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Education, among others. Shri Joshi holds a degree in

Mechanical Engineering from IIT Kanpur and an MBA from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade.

SAIL supplied entire quantity of special steel for INS Nilgiri

Chennai Jan 17, 2025 : Continuing its resolve to reinforce the spirit and vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India', the Maharatna and largest public sector steelmaker of India, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has supplied the entire 4,000 tonnes of special steel for INS Nilgiri. The formidable vessel was commissioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 15 January, 2025 into the India Navy.

The special steel provided by SAIL includes DMR 249A grade hot-rolled (HR) sheets and plates. This entire supply originated from SAIL's Bokaro, Bhilai, and Rourkela Steel Plants. Specifically, SAIL's Bokaro Steel Plant contributed approximately 2,000 tonnes of HR sheets and plates, with an additional 1,600 tonnes and 400 tonnes of plates supplied by the Bhilai and Rourkela Steel Plants respectively.

INS Nilgiri is India's indigenous lead ship of the Nilgiri-class Project P17A frigates built for the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). P17A ships are guided missile frigates, each of which are 149 meters long, with displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes and a speed of 28 knots. The Navy had placed orders for seven stealth frigates, four of which went to Mazagon Dock Ltd (MDL) and three to GRSE. It is a matter of

pride for SAIL that it has supplied the entire steel for warship construction of P17A Project.

As a steadfast partner in India's defense indigenization efforts, SAIL has provided special steel for various other defence projects and naval ships, including INS Vikrant among others. This underscores SAIL's commitment to being not only a major steelmaker but also the nation's most trusted steel manufacturer.