

ISRO SUCCESSFULLY DOCKS 2 SMALL SATELLITES, PM, LEADERS HAIL ACHIEVEMENT

Chennai, 18 January 2025: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge hailed the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for its groundbreaking achievement in successfully demonstrating the docking of two small satellites under the SpaDex Mission.



This accomplishment positions India among the few nations capable of such advanced space technology and marks a critical step forward for the nation's ambitious space endeavours.

Congratulating the scientists, Prime Minister Modi Xed, "Congratulations to our scientists at ISRO and the entire space fraternity for the successful demonstration of space docking of satellites. It is

a significant stepping stone for India's ambitious space missions in the years to come." Echoing these sentiments, Kharge commended ISRO's work, stating, "This significant milestone marks a pivotal step for the future of India's space program, which has been built over years and is a collective achievement for the nation."

Former ISRO scientist Dr Mylswamy

Annadurai expressed his delight over the achievement, describing it as a "truly great work" and a demonstration of India's advancing capabilities in space technology.

"Two small satellites docking together is something great, truly great work. This docking shows we are moving forward. It opens up immense possibilities for missions such as Chandrayaan-4, space

stations, satellite repair, and debris removal," he told reporters.

India's space programme has seen exponential growth in recent years, with successful missions to the Moon and Mars. With the satellite docking, ISRO has added a new dimension to its repertoire, paving the way for future initiatives, including manned space missions and advanced space station projects.

Prime Minister pays homage to M G Ramachandran on his Birth Anniversary

Chennai, 18 January 2025: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid homage to Thiru M G Ramachandran on his birth anniversary by yesterday. Shri Modi remarked that we are greatly inspired by his efforts to empower the



poor and build a better society.

The Prime Minister posted on X: "I pay homage to Thiru MGR on his birth anniversary. We are greatly inspired by his efforts to empower the poor and build a better society."

PRESIDENT OF INDIA HOSTS PRESIDENT OF SINGAPORE

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS A MILESTONE FOR BOTH SIDES: PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU

Chennai, 18 January 2025: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu received H.E. Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore at Rashtrapati Bhavan on January 16, 2025. She also hosted a banquet in his honour.



Welcoming President Shanmugaratnam and his delegation to Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President said that with a shared history, long tradition of friendship based on trust and mutual respect, and extensive cooperation across a wide range of areas, India-Singapore cooperation has gained further momentum in recent years.

The President was happy to note that the

two countries have recently elevated the bilateral relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and have also established a unique Ministerial Roundtable dialogue mechanism covering diverse sectors of cooperation, including Advanced Manufacturing, Connectivity,

Digitalization, Healthcare & Medicine, Skills Development and Sustainability.

The President noted that Singapore is a key pillar of India's Act East policy and our vision of the Indo-Pacific. Our shared belief in democratic values also connects us with each other. Both leaders agreed that as India

steadily moves towards becoming the world's third largest economy, the growing India-Singapore partnership will bring immense benefits to the people of both countries.

The two leaders also jointly launched a logo commemorating the 60th Anniversary of India-Singapore bilateral relations.

IIT Madras & CMC Vellore Develop Affordable Indigenous Robot for Hand Rehabilitation

Chennai, 18 January 2025: Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) and Christian Medical College, Vellore (CMC Vellore) researchers have developed a cost-effective and portable plug-and-train robot for hand rehabilitation.

Called 'PLUTO' (Plug and Train Robot), this device technology was licensed through Technology Transfer Office-TTO ICSR and commercialized by Thryv Rehab Solutions. It addresses a significant gap in the current rehabilitation market. This innovative device is well-positioned to meet the growing demand for affordable and adaptable rehabilitation solutions in clinical and home settings.

PLUTO is also the first and only indigenous robot to have been tested in Indian homes, demonstrating that PLUTO can deliver intense therapy and make therapy accessible. PLUTO has already benefitted more than 1,000 Patients in the last four years.

This product is a great example of academic research successfully translating into a product that reached the common man and is poised to benefit thousands of patients.

The device inventors are Prof. Sujatha Srinivasan (Principal Investigator), Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras, Dr. Aravind Nehrujee, (PhD Scholar) of Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras and Dept. of Bioengineering, CMC Vellore and Prof. Sivakumar Balasubramanian, Department of Bioengineering, CMC Vellore.

Elaborating further, Prof. Sivakumar Balasubramanian, Department of Bioengineering, CMC Vellore, said, "As part of research and development by CMC Vellore and IIT Madras, PLUTO has been set up for routine clinical use across 11 different clinics across India. Over 1,000 patients with hand impairments have

of Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research (IC&SR), IIT Madras, facilitated the technology transfer and commercialization.

This patented technology offers precise therapeutic movements and real-time feedback, ensuring better outcomes for patients with conditions such as stroke, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and post hand-surgery, among others.

The device is well-suited for use in rehabilitation centres, clinics, hospitals, and even patients' homes, bridging the gap in accessibility to effective, affordable hand rehabilitation solutions. The innovation's cost-effectiveness and portability make it a transformative tool in the healthcare industry.

Elaborating on the need for such affordable devices in assistive technologies, Prof. Sujatha Srinivasan, who is also the Head of TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development at IIT Madras, said, "PLUTO revolutionises hand rehabilitation by providing an affordable and accessible solution for patients with post-stroke conditions. Its portability enables timely and consistent therapy at home or bedside, improving recovery outcomes and reducing dependency on caregivers."

Further, the inventor Dr. Aravind Nehrujee, who developed PULTO over the course of his joint PhD with IIT Madras and CMC Vellore, said, "In the present era, conventional rehabilitation robots for hand therapy are either complex and expensive systems capable of training multiple hand functions or simple and singular-function devices requiring multiple units for comprehensive therapy.



CMC-Vellore and IIT-Madras Jointly Develop Portable, Affordable Robotic Device for Stroke Survivors

used the device for therapy; at least 15 patients per week use PLUTO for routine hand therapy at CMC Vellore. PLUTO was also the first and only indigenous robot to have been tested in Indian homes, demonstrating that PLUTO can deliver intense therapy and make therapy accessible."

This cost-effective device minimises production costs while delivering high functionality, making advanced rehabilitation accessible to a broader audience. Its affordability reduces financial strain on healthcare systems and patients, promoting widespread adoption.

The robot's modular design uses recyclable materials and energy-efficient processes, reducing waste and environmental impact. Its adaptability eliminates the need for multiple devices, supporting sustainable healthcare innovation

Further, the inventor Dr. Aravind Nehrujee, who developed PULTO over the course of his joint PhD with IIT Madras and CMC Vellore, said, "In the present era, conventional rehabilitation robots for hand therapy are either complex and expensive systems capable of training multiple hand functions or simple and singular-function devices requiring multiple units for comprehensive therapy.

These systems lack portability and adaptability, making them unsuitable for bedside, wheelchair-based, and home-based use. The high cost, bulkiness, and lack of modularity limit their adoption in most Indian clinical settings and home-based rehabilitation. Hence, there is a need for an efficient and cost-effective solution."

PLUTO is a modular, portable robot that facilitates advanced hand rehabilitation therapy with adaptive assistance and therapeutic gaming. The device provides targeted therapy for wrist and hand movements using a single actuator and a set of interchangeable mechanical handles. The modular design ensures versatility, allowing training of various functions such as wrist flexion/extension, forearm pronation/supination, and hand opening-closing.

Welcoming such collaboration, Prof. Manu Santhanam, Dean (ICSR), IIT Madras, said, "The collaboration between IIT Madras and CMC Vellore will pave the way for many more interesting innovations with respect to assistive devices. With technology commercialization and industry implementation being one of the key directives of IIT Madras, we will aim to work towards more such technology adaptations."

Indian men in last 8 of Kho Kho World Cup

Chennai, 18 January 2025: The India men's Kho Kho team secured their place in the quarterfinals of the ongoing tournament with an emphatic 70-38 victory over Peru at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here on Wednesday. The men in Blue continued their impressive form, delivering a commanding

performance that left little doubt about their title aspirations. India's tactical brilliance and athletic superiority were evident from the start as they dominated Turn 1, setting an early lead. While Peru showed moments of resilience in Turn 2, India's control was unquestionable. Under the leadership of Wazir Pratik Waikar, India closed out the first

round with a strong 36 points. The momentum continued to build as Aditya Pote, Siva Reddy, and Sachin Bhargo delivered standout performances in Turn 2, pushing India's total further. By Turn 4, the score had reached 70 points, marking a decisive 32-point victory. This dominant showing not only secured a spot in the



quarterfinals but also demonstrated India's championship credentials.

82% of Professionals in India are Looking for a New Job in 2025, But the Search is Tougher than ever

Chennai, 18 January 2025: Over 4 in 5 (82%) professionals in India plan to look for a new job this year, yet more than half (55%) say the job search has become harder in the last year, according to new research from LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network. More than two-thirds (69%) of Indian HR

professionals feel it has become more challenging to find qualified talent for a role, signalling a necessary shift in the way professionals will need to apply for – and land – a job in 2025.

Steady optimism in challenging job market – Job seekers in 2024 faced a sluggish labour market, with little movement. As 2025 begins, one in five (15%) working professionals who were looking for a new job in 2024 are still looking for new opportunities. The tough market has held some back, with 37% saying they don't plan to look for a job in 2025. But, there's also growing confidence among many as 58% believe the job market will improve and they are optimistic about getting a new job in 2025.

Professionals need to adapt their job search to break through – Many professionals are applying to as many jobs as possible, but this strategy isn't effective. In fact, 49% of job seekers are applying to more jobs than ever, but are hearing back less. Hirers are also finding the process increasingly challenging. Over one-fourth (27%) of HR professionals spend between 3-5 hours a day reviewing applications and 55% say that less than half the job applications they receive meet all the criteria.

Nirajita Banerjee,

Career Expert and Sr. Managing Editor for LinkedIn India says “The job market is tough, but it's a reminder for Indians to take a more thoughtful approach to their job search. Building the right skills is key, but so is keeping your LinkedIn profile updated and focusing on roles that truly match with your skills. Being more strategic and deliberate can reward you with new opportunities and meaningful career growth even in a challenging job market.”

LinkedIn introduces new ‘job match’ feature for job seekers to assess their role-fit – To help job seekers adapt their approach and stand out, LinkedIn is rolling out a new job match feature that shows how their skills and experience line up with open positions, helping them better focus their search on the opportunities where they're more likely to hear back. With one click, job seekers get detailed insights into which qualifications they meet and which ones they might be missing so they can decide if they should apply.

Premium subscribers will also see a categorical rating that indicates if they are a high, medium or low match and if they have a higher chance of hearing back from the hirer as a Top Applicant. Additionally, Premium subscribers will have the option to tap LinkedIn's AI-powered tools to improve their cover letter and resume.

As majority look for new jobs, LinkedIn's Jobs on the Rise shows where to look next – Three out of 5 (60%) professionals in India say they're open to a role in a new industry or area, and 39% plan to learn

new skills this year to open up opportunities. In fact, there's been a 140% increase in the pace at which LinkedIn members add new skills to their profile since 2022. AI will continue to drive up the value of skills as it becomes relevant to every job in the future and woven into most tasks, according to

LinkedIn's just-released Work Change report. Those looking to make a job change and explore new opportunities can look to LinkedIn's India Jobs on the Rise report for insights on the fastest-growing jobs over the past three years. Almost two-thirds (65%) of this year's Jobs on the Rise roles are new to the India list and half (50%) of these roles didn't exist 25 years ago. Aircraft Maintenance Engineer, Robotics Technician, and Closing Manager are the top three fastest-growing jobs in India. This year's ranking also spotlights an uptick in roles for security-focused engineering, travel and in-person service sector roles, as business-as-usual returns in many parts of India following pandemic shifts.

Helpful tips and tools for job seekers in the year ahead – As professionals look to break through the job search in 2025, LinkedIn can help job seekers stand out, find the right job and gain insights to explore their job potential.

LinkedIn Career Expert tips for adapting your job search and standing out in 2025:

- Adopt an adaptability mindset: Navigating the current job market is hard, but with a willingness to adapt, there is more opportunity for career growth. Be sure to highlight your soft

skills, like adaptability and communication, during the hiring process, and spend time building these skills. You can upskill with LinkedIn Learning Courses, like Building Career Agility and Resilience in the Age of AI and Landing a Job as a Skills-First Candidate, all free until March 31, 2025.

- Keep your LinkedIn profile up to date. More than ever, it's important to keep your LinkedIn profile current, especially in today's job market, as it's often the first place hirers look to discover talent and learn more about candidates. To stand out, be sure to highlight your skills in the experience section those who list five or more skills on their profile receive up to 5.6x more profile views from recruiters and 24x recruiter InMails.

- Make your match: Quickly understand how your skills and qualifications match any job postings in seconds using LinkedIn's new job match feature. This helps you to more easily identify which roles you're best suited for and where to focus your time and effort.

- Search safely: To give you peace of mind and confidence when looking for your next opportunity, you'll also see a verification badge on job postings that have been verified, which now make up about half of the jobs on LinkedIn.

- Discover new opportunities: Explore emerging roles in LinkedIn's Jobs on the Rise, with actionable insights like current open positions, remote work availability, most common skills for each role, top cities hiring, and more to help professionals land their next role.

Indian Film Festival Germany 2025: A Grand Showcase of Diversity and Art

Chennai 18 January 2025: The Embassy of India in Berlin, in collaboration with the Tagore Centre, hosted an Indian Film Festival in Germany from January 10 to 12. This edition featured 40 screenings of over 20 films in more than 10 languages, captivating audiences across multiple cities including Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich, and Berlin.

The festival opened on an enchanting note with the premiere of The Mehta Boys, kicking off the Gala evening in Berlin. The event was graced by celebrated directors, actors, and filmmakers such as Shekhar Kapur, Boman Irani, Aparshakti Khurana, Puja Sarup, Avinash Tiwary, Rahul Chittella, Kanu Behl,



Lakshmi Priya Devi, and Atul Sabharwal. Among the headlining films were the National Award-winning Gulmohar and Manoj Bajpayee-starrer Despatch. Ambassador Ajit Gupte and Mrs. Priti Gupte welcomed Indian and German dignitaries to the grand event.

Screenings took place at state-of-the-art venues, including CinemaxX at Potsdamer Platz in Berlin. Highlights of the festival included post-screening

Q&A sessions. Kanu Behl, director of Despatch, engaged with audiences in a discussion moderated by Maithreyi Naidu, Second Secretary of the Indian Embassy in Berlin. Additionally, veteran filmmaker Shekhar Kapur held an insightful Q&A session after the screening of his classic film Masoom.

The Indian Embassy in Berlin shared their excitement on social media platform X, stating, “IIF Germany

received a tremendous response with 5,000+ viewers attending fully sold-out shows.” The festival concluded with screenings of the closing film ‘Gulmohar’, alongside encore presentations of ‘The Sabarmati Report’ and ‘Masoom’. Audiences also had pleasant Q&A sessions with ‘Gulmohar’ director Rahul Chittella and veteran Shekhar Kapur.

Events such as these play a vital role in enabling cultural exchange, strengthening ties between nations through the universal language of art and cinema.

The Indian Embassy expressed heartfelt gratitude to German audiences for their enthusiastic participation and support.

94% of Teachers & 69% of Parents Recognise EdTech is Bridging Geographical Divide: IMAI-GT Report

Chennai 18 January 2025: The Indian EdTech sector is actively bridging the geographical divide in education and making quality learning accessible to millions. According to a report produced jointly by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IMAI) and Grant Thornton Bharat, 98% of teachers and 69% of parents recognize its role in overcoming geographical barriers. The report, titled ‘Impact Study of EdTech in India: Driving Innovation & Creating Opportunities’, was released today at the India Digital Summit (IDS). The report is supported by Leadsquared and Infinity Learn.

The report underlines that EdTech platforms provide access to high-quality education services, resources, and courses that may not be available locally. This includes video lectures, interactive modules, and virtual classrooms, ensuring that students from diverse backgrounds can receive quality education regardless of their geographic location.

The report also highlights that 94% of students and 84% of teachers find EdTech content engaging, and the platforms are bridging the gap between academic knowledge and industry demands. This alignment is fostering employability across fields, supporting India's vision for an

inclusive, future-ready education system.

According to the report, 85% of students credit EdTech with improving learning outcomes. Additionally, 86% of users highlight the economic accessibility of EdTech courses, and 87% of students value its contribution to real-world skills like coding and AI, underscoring its relevance in workforce development.

The report points out that by leveraging the 4A Framework: Academic Quality, Accessibility, Affordability, and Advancing Employment, the Indian EdTech sector has addressed key gaps in traditional education systems. EdTech's commitment to accessibility is particularly evident in rural and underserved regions, where it plays a key role in increasing student participation.

The report highlights that 98% of teachers recognize EdTech's contribution in extending quality education to learners from rural and marginalised backgrounds, and 61% of students acknowledge the availability of content in regional languages.

However, challenges such as connectivity issues and insufficient accommodations for learners with special needs persist, creating opportunities for further growth and innovation.

As adoption surges and innovation thrives,



the EdTech sector has also emerged as a critical enabler of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The NEP emphasizes personalized, multidisciplinary learning and seamless integration of technology. Through interactive content and flexible learning modules, EdTech platforms are translating these principles into actionable outcomes.

Aligned with NEP 2020, the EdTech sector's evolution underscores its potential to address challenges while capitalizing on emerging opportunities. The report also contains key recommendations from the industry for stakeholders. It has been suggested that the 18% GST on EdTech services be revised to improve affordability, targeted subsidies be introduced, and public-private collaborations be promoted. Service providers need to adopt

hybrid learning models, offer skill-based courses in high-demand fields such as AI and data analytics, and ensure transparency in operations. It is also important for the ecosystem to prioritize last-mile solutions, such as offline access and regional language content, while championing responsible technology use, ethical AI practices, and enhanced cybersecurity. These measures will enhance the sector's ability to scale and drive long-term impact. “Technology is vital to education delivery, but effective outcomes need supportive environments. India's EdTech sector is transforming education delivery, enhancing accessibility, and empowering learners and educators, fostering a more equitable knowledge economy,” said Mr. Dharmender Jhamb, Partner, Grant Thornton Bharat.



A.M. Jain College student Gopi Ananth won two silver medals in the pair and fours events at the 81st ARAE-FEARA Rowing Championship held at ARAE Boat House, Chennai, competing against participants from 8 boat clubs across India and Colombo, Sri Lanka.

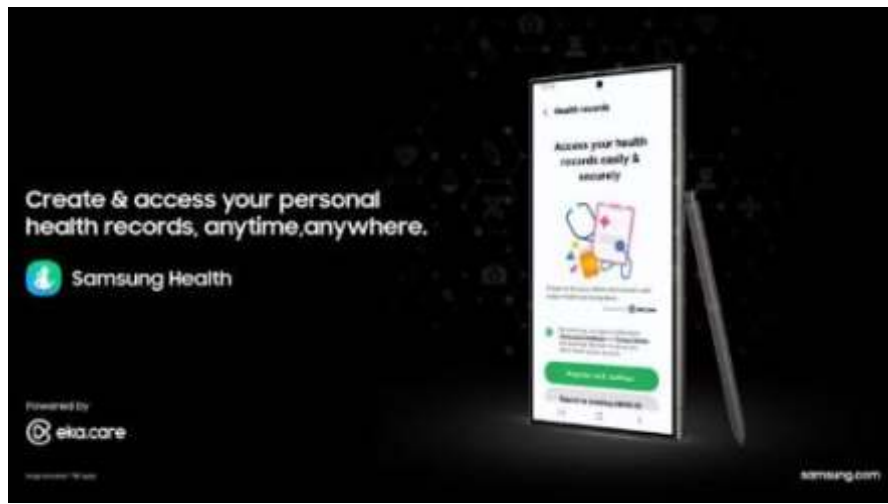
Samsung introduces personal Health Records feature on Samsung Health app in India

Chennai Jan 18, 2025: India's largest consumer electronics brand, Samsung announced that it has added the Health Records feature to the Samsung Health app to help users manage their health more comprehensively.

The Health Records feature enables users to create and access their Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) directly through the Samsung Health Mobile App. Users can now effortlessly manage their health data generated by healthcare providers across India, transforming the way individuals take charge of their personal health records.

Samsung's new initiative to empower its users by providing seamless and secure integration with the country's digital health ecosystem is aligned with the Indian government's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) project.

"Samsung prioritizes customer needs and continually enhances products and services to enhance their everyday experiences. The introduction of the Health Records



feature for India within the Samsung Health app signifies our dedication to provide convenient access to Digital Health records, laboratory results, hospital visits, and more — all securely linked to their unique ABHAIDs.

"At Eka Care, we are thrilled about this partnership with Samsung, as it will significantly accelerate the adoption of ABDM across India. This collaboration is a key step toward building a more connected and efficient healthcare ecosystem in the country," said Deepak Tuli, co-founder, Eka Care.

Samsung aims to revolutionize how Indians approach personal healthcare management, by leveraging the power of digitization. Users can now safely store their health records in the ABDM-certified secure health lockers

and not be burdened by cumbersome paper trails.

In addition, during OPD visits at ABDM-compliant hospitals and clinics, users can simply scan the QR code via the Samsung Health app to obtain a virtual queue token and minimize wait times.

Samsung Health app offers comprehensive health services including medication management, sleep monitoring, mindfulness programs, and irregular heartbeat notifications. All Samsung Health user data on Samsung devices is secured by defense-grade Knox Security Platform.

Indian users can experience the new Health Records feature via Samsung Health's latest app updates on Samsung Galaxy store and Google play store.

ultimately succumbed 20-22, 21-16, 21-11 in a hard-fought contest lasting over an hour.

Priyanshu Rajawat displayed remarkable resilience against 2023 World Championships silver medallist Kodai Naraoka, saving a match point to force a decider. Despite his determined effort, Rajawat lost 21-16, 22-20, 21-13 in a thrilling match spanning an hour and 22 minutes.

In an all-Indian women's singles clash, Anupama Upadhyaya defeated Rakshitha Sree Santosh Ramraj in straight games, employing patient and tactical play to win 21-17, 21-18.

Sharma. The Panda sisters, Rutuparna and Swetaparna, also progressed with a come-from-behind 7-21, 21-19, 21-14 win against Thailand's Phattarin Aiamvareesrisakul and Sarisa Janpeng.

In doubles action, the women's seventh-seeded duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto secured a commanding 21-11, 21-12 victory over compatriots Kavya Gupta and Radhika

to the next round.

AIADMK Celebrates MGR's 108th Birth Anniversary, Modi Pays Tribute

Chennai Jan 18, 2025: Prime Ministry Modi, leaders of various political parties paid tributes to AIADMK founder and former Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran on his 108th birth anniversary. In a post on X, PM Modi wrote 'I pay homage to Thiru MGR on his birth anniversary. We are greatly inspired by his efforts to empower the poor and build a better society.' Along with the post he posted a short video in honour of AIADMK's founder, depicting his political journey.

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami garlanded the statue of MGR at the party's headquarters in Chennai. He also garlanded the statue of former Chief Minister Jayalalitha and hoisted the party's flag.

Later, Edappadi K. Palaniswami cut a 108-kilogram cake prepared by the MGR Manram. The cake was distributed



to party members, supporters, and journalists. Palaniswami also extended welfare assistance to women, expressing his best wishes. The event was meticulously organized by the International MGR Forum. Former Chief Minister Palaniswami participated in an event organized by party coordinator Adhirajaram, the South Chennai North (East) District Secretary. He distributed welfare aid, including sarees, to women and inaugurated a community meal initiative on behalf of the Thiruvallikeni West Unit,

119 East District. The day's celebrations saw a large turnout of district secretaries, AIADMK MPs, MLAs, former ministers, former MPs and MLAs, and deputy administrators from the party's affiliated organizations. Representatives from the MGR Forum, Amma Peravai, MGR Youth Wing, Women's Wing, Student Wing, Anna Trade Union, Advocates Wing, Minority Welfare Wing, Agriculture Wing, Fishermen's Wing, Medical Wing, Literary Wing, and others also actively participated. The

AIADMK headquarters adorned with party flags, festoons, and welcome banners. The celebrations were accompanied by traditional music from chenda melam troupes, and cadres enthusiastically waved party flags as they gave Edappadi K. Palaniswami a rousing welcome.

On the MGR's 108th birth anniversary, Ministers T.M. Anbarasan, P.K. Sekarbabu, Mayor R. Priya paid floral tributes to MGR's portrait placed under his statue in Tamil University campus.

ONE POINT ONE SOLUTIONS LIMITED SIGNS TERM SHEET TO ACQUIRE US-BASED HEALTHCARE COMPANY FOR \$45 MILLION

Chennai Jan 18, 2025: In a strategic step toward expanding its global footprint and service offerings, One Point One Solutions Limited (OPO) today announced the signing of a term sheet to acquire US based Healthcare Company in Revenue Cycle Management (RCM) for \$45 million including earnouts. This potential acquisition aligns with One Point One's strategy to become a global leader in business process management (BPM) and technology-driven solutions.

Through this potential acquisition, the combined entity plans to leverage cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning to optimize efficiency and innovation in service delivery. This complements One Point One's strategy to broaden its worldwide delivery model, creating value for clients across industries such as healthcare, finance and telecommunications.

Commenting on the acquisition, Mr. Akshay Chhabra, Chairman and Managing Director of One Point One Solutions Limited said, "The signing of this term sheet marks a significant step in our journey to redefine



global outsourcing standards. The target company brings a wealth of expertise, with a talented workforce who are veterans in the healthcare industry having over 100+ years of combined experience will play a crucial role in driving our growth strategy." The signing of the term sheet is poised to strengthen One Point One's capabilities to become a key player in the \$410 billion global BPM market in the healthcare vertical. OPO already has a widespread geographic presence, this acquisition will add nearshore delivery locations in Uruguay and the Dominican Republic, and offshore centers in the Philippines.

The completion of this acquisition is subject to due diligence, regulatory clearances, and the finalization of definitive agreements. The entire process of integration is expected to be achieved by Q3 2025.

ABOUT ONE POINT

ITCube Solutions has already strengthened its presence in England, Netherlands, Germany, Kuwait Oman, UAE, Qatar, India, Singapore and Australia, apart from the USA.

Led by Founder-Chairman Akshay Chhabra, the company serves a broad spectrum of industries including Banking and Finance, Retail and E-commerce, Consumer Durables & FMCG, Travel & Hospitality, and Insurance & Healthcare. A 5600+ strong team focused on providing efficient services caters to the company's growing clientele.

The company's services include Organisations, Customer Services, Sales, Collections, Construction Bid Management, Medical Record Retrieval and Summarization, Tech Helpdesk, BackOffice, Accounting, Litigation, Recruitment, Design and Development among others. By leveraging next-gen technologies including GenAI and intelligent automation, the organisation has been able to develop and deploy innovative solutions that have delivered considerable value to the company's 50+ clients.

Malvika goes down Fighting in India Open Badminton

Chennai, Jan 18, 2025: Anupama Upadhyaya triumphed in a battle of rising women's singles players, while Malvika Bansod and Priyanshu Rajawat showed commendable grit but fell short against higher-ranked opponents in the opening round of the Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2025 at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall on Wednesday.

Malvika Bansod fought valiantly against women's singles third seed Han Yue of China, saving two game points in the opening game and staging a spirited comeback from 7-14 to level at 16-16 in the second. However, she

ultimately succumbed 20-22, 21-16, 21-11 in a hard-fought contest lasting over an hour.

Priyanshu Rajawat displayed remarkable resilience against 2023 World Championships silver medallist Kodai Naraoka, saving a match point to force a decider. Despite his determined effort, Rajawat lost 21-16, 22-20, 21-13 in a thrilling match spanning an hour and 22 minutes.

In an all-Indian women's singles clash, Anupama Upadhyaya defeated Rakshitha Sree Santosh Ramraj in straight games, employing patient and tactical play to win 21-17, 21-18.

The former national champion will face Japan's sixth seed Tomoka Miyazaki, who overcame Thailand's Pornpicha Choiekeewong 21-7, 22-24, 21-9 in her opening round.

In doubles action, the women's seventh-seeded duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto secured a commanding 21-11, 21-12 victory over compatriots Kavya Gupta and Radhika

Sharma. The Panda sisters, Rutuparna and Swetaparna, also progressed with a come-from-behind 7-21, 21-19, 21-14 win against Thailand's Phattarin Aiamvareesrisakul and Sarisa Janpeng.

In mixed doubles, Ashith Surya and Amruta Pramuthesh defeated K Tarun and Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli 21-14, 21-15 to advance to the next round.



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Kadhalikka Neramillai': Heart-warming rom-com

Chennai Jan 18, 2025: Director: Kiruthiga Udhayanidhi

Cast: Jayam Ravi, Nithya Menen, Yogi Babu, Vinay Rai, T.J. Banu, John Kokken, Lal, Lakshmi Ramakrishnan, Singer Mano, Vinothini, Rohaan Singh and others.

Director Kiruthiga Udhayanidhi's Kadhalikka Neramillai offers a delightful and modern exploration of relationships, love, and evolving perspectives on marriage and parenting. Featuring stellar performances by Nithya Menen and Ravi Mohan, this romantic drama skillfully balances emotional depth with a lighthearted and engaging narrative.

The story centers on Siddharth (Ravi Mohan), a structural

engineer staunchly opposed to parenthood, and Shreya (Nithya Menen), a passionate architect who dreams of having a child someday. Despite their clashing views on family life, fate intertwines their paths, leading to a tender and thought-provoking relationship. The film's strength lies in its ability to capture the complexities of human connections, drawing viewers into the protagonists' contrasting worldviews with empathy and nuance.

Kiruthiga Udhayanidhi tackles contemporary themes like the choice to remain child-free, single parenting, and even gay parenting with maturity and sensitivity. A standout moment is a



candid discussion on unconventional parenting styles, showcasing the director's thoughtful approach to relevant societal topics.

The movie's charm is amplified by the exceptional performances of its leads. Nithya Menen embodies Shreya's emotional conflicts with authenticity, while Ravi Mohan portrays Siddharth's inner struggles with sincerity. Their undeniable chemistry enriches the

narrative, making their love story both believable and relatable.

Though the film falters slightly with a predictable love triangle and some repetitive moments in the second half, these flaws are overshadowed by its heartfelt scenes and clever humor. The character of Sethu (Vinay Rai) adds vibrancy to the plot, though his underutilization creates a noticeable gap in the latter half.

SPIHER Conducts Awareness Programme on Human Trafficking

Chennai Jan 18, 2025: An awareness program focused on the pressing issues of Human Trafficking and the Fundamental Human Rights of Indian Citizen was organized at St. Peter's Institute of Higher Education and Research. The event, aimed at educating students and faculty about the alarming rise of human trafficking and the importance of understanding and safeguarding fundamental human rights, garnered an overwhelming response from the attendees.



The program was presided by the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Dr. N. Malmurugan, who emphasized the importance of empowering students with knowledge to combat social evils and uphold the dignity of every individual.

The Resource Person M. J. Riaz Ahmed, Advocate, Supreme Court of

India, spoke passionately about the issue of human trafficking, shedding light on the various forms it takes, from labor trafficking to sex trafficking, both within India and internationally. He highlighted alarming statistics that reveal the scale of the problem, especially in vulnerable communities, and urged society to be

more vigilant and proactive in reporting trafficking activities.

The event was a resounding success, leaving the students and staff members with a heightened sense of awareness about the grave issue of human trafficking and the fundamental human rights that must be safeguarded at all costs. The program concluded with a pledge to stand against human trafficking, to support victims, and to ensure the fundamental rights of every individual are upheld.

Amrita Agri Students Demonstrate Solutions for Coconut, Cattle Care

Chennai Jan 18, 2025: Final-year students from Amrita School of Agricultural Sciences recently conducted a practical demonstration addressing agricultural challenges as part of their Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) program in Vadapudur Panchayat, Kinathukadavu block.



caused the whitefly wings to stick together, leading to their death within an hour. Additionally, they introduced farmers to yellow sticky traps, explaining their role in pest control.

In parallel, under the guidance of Dr. M. Pran, students educated farmers on essential cattle care, emphasizing deworming, vaccination, and tick

control. They also distributed free deworming tablets and mineral mixtures to promote livestock health.

The initiative was led by students Raghul, Meenakshy, Divyadharsini, Shobika, Arya, Paarthika, Dawn, Nikhil, Harinandan, Nethaji, and Prabhjot.

They were guided by College Dean Dr. Sudheesh Manalil,

RAWE Coordinator Dr. Sivaraj P., and faculty members Dr. Sathyapriya E., Dr. M. Iniyakumar, Dr. Manonmani K., and Dr. M. Pran.

This hands-on program highlights practical solutions for pest management and livestock care, offering valuable insights for farmers to improve agricultural productivity and animal health.

Annual Russian Dance Fest Brings Indo-Russian Culture to Life in TN till Feb 3

Chennai Jan 18, 2025: The Indo-Russian Cultural and Friendship Society, in collaboration with the Russian House, Chennai, is set to host the 22nd Annual Russian Dance Festival across Tamil Nadu from Jan 17 to Feb 3, 2025. This vibrant celebration showcases the rich cultural heritage of India and Russia, aiming to strengthen the bond between the two nations through mesmerizing dance

performances. The festival will feature a dazzling 45-minute nonstop showcase of Ballet, Folk, Gypsy, Acrobatic, Gymnastic, and Tap dances. Renowned performers from Russia will travel to Tamil Nadu, offering audiences an authentic glimpse into the variety and richness of Russian dance traditions. Each performance promises to be a kaleidoscope of color, rhythm, and

grace, underscoring the cultural ties between the two countries.

Over the past 22 years, the Indo-Russian Cultural and Friendship Society has successfully brought this festival to audiences in schools, colleges, malls, trade fairs, clubs, and associations, fostering deeper connections between the people of India and Russia. The festival has gained wide spread

recognition, drawing diverse audiences and promoting mutual understanding through cultural exchange.

This year's edition promises to continue the tradition of celebrating friendship and cultural collaboration. The organizers invite the public and media to join in this unique celebration, which serves as a testament to the enduring relationship between the two nations.

FSSAI LIFTS BAN ON VITAMIN B12 DERIVATIVES

Chennai Jan 18, 2025: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has provided clarity on the regulatory framework surrounding the use of methylcobalamin, a form of Vitamin B12, in health supplements, medical purpose and nutraceutical products.

The Union Health Ministry's decision to lift the ban on methylcobalamin, a critical vitamin B12 derivative, is yet to be formalized, leaving its regulatory status in limbo despite scientific backing and growing demand for its use in treating conditions such as diabetic neuropathy.

While the Government of India's Scientific Committee approved the molecule's safety in 2019, the necessary gazette notification to officially lift the ban is still pending, raising concerns among health professionals and industry stakeholders.

Dr Sanjay Agrawal, Scientific Advisor of ALKOMEX GBN U.S.A. and Leading Pharmaceutical Consultant and Inventor Ahmedabad, emphasized, "As per the Food Safety and

Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, and Prebiotic and Probiotic Food) Regulations, 2022, the permitted forms of Vitamin B12 currently include cyanocobalamin and hydroxocobalamin. However, methylcobalamin may also be permitted under certain conditions, provided that food business operators notify the Food Authority and submit any additional safety data requested." The regulations also stipulate that the level of Vitamin B12 in products must not exceed one Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) except in specific categories such as Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP) and Food for Special Dietary Use (FSDU). In such cases, prior approval from the Food Authority is required for levels exceeding the RDA.

Most of Indian population is deficient of methylcobalamin due to a number of factors, most important is vegetarian population is more in Indian than



non veg.

Methylcobalamin is frequently available in non veg. than veg sources. Best source is milk and milk products states, Dr Sanjay Agrawal said.

Vitamin B12, a crucial water-soluble vitamin, is integral to DNA synthesis, red blood cell production, and neurological function. It is predominantly found in animal-based foods like meat, fish, and dairy products, with plant-based foods providing little to none. Deficiency in this vitamin can lead to serious health consequences, often requiring supplementation.

"Methylcobalamin, an active form of vitamin B12, is the most bioavailable and therapeutically effective form. Unlike cyanocobalamin, which requires biotransformation, methylcobalamin is readily absorbed and utilized by the body, making it a preferred

choice for supplementation," says Dr Agrawal.

Dr. Agrawal added, "This development highlights Government's focus on balancing innovation in the nutraceutical sector with consumer safety. It is crucial for food business operators to remain compliant and ensure transparency in the use of derivatives and salts of vitamins in their formulations."

The statement comes in response to an official letter issued by the Secretariat of FSSAI's Expert Committee on Nutraceuticals, addressing industry concerns about the inclusion of methylcobalamin under the regulations. This clarification is likely to guide manufacturers and stakeholders in aligning their products with regulatory standards while addressing the growing demand for diverse forms of Vitamin B12 in health supplements.

Gautham Karthik Releases Short Film 'Thamizhum Thanneerum'

Chennai Jan 18, 2025: Tube Light Productions proudly announced that Actor Gautham Karthik released the Award Winning Tamil Short

Film "Thamizhum Thanneerum".

The short film produced by Nawaz and directed by Viveka Rajagopal,

the Cast includes Vijayalakshmi S, Manikandan Rajesh, Sofia Manikandan, Creative Head: Suja Suriya Nila Suja

Suriya Nila, Aryan, Jaideep, music scored by Raghuram Krishnaraj and Cinematography by Raghuram MG