

**PM TO VISIT ODISHA AND UTTARAKHAND ON 28TH JANUARY**

Chennai, 28 January 2025: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Odisha and Uttarakhand on 28th January. At around 11 AM, he will inaugurate the Utkarsh Odisha – Make in Odisha Conclave 2025 at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar. Thereafter, he will travel to Dehradun in Uttarakhand and at around 6 PM, he will inaugurate the 38th National Games.



India.

Prime Minister will also inaugurate the Make in Odisha Exhibition that highlights achievements of the state in developing a vibrant industrial ecosystem. The two day conclave will be held from 28th to 29th January.

It will serve as a platform for industry leaders, investors, and policymakers to converge and discuss the opportunities Odisha offers as a preferred investment destination. The conclave will host

CEOs and Leaders' Roundtables, Sectoral Sessions, B2B meetings, and Policy Discussions, ensuring targeted engagement with investors across the globe.

PM in Uttarakhand Prime Minister will inaugurate the 38th National Games in Dehradun. It is being hosted in Uttarakhand during its Silver Jubilee year and will be held in 11 cities across 8 districts of Uttarakhand from 28th January to 14th February.

36 states and one union territory will

participate in the National Games. Over 17 days, competitions for 35 sports disciplines will be held. Among these, medals will be awarded for 33 sports, while two will be exhibition sports. Yoga and Mallakhamb have been included in the National Games for the first time. More than 10,000 athletes from across the country will participate in the event.

With a focus on sustainability, the theme for the National Games this year is "Green Games." A special park, called the Sports Forest, will be developed near the venue, where more than 10,000 saplings will be planted by athletes and guests. The medals and certificates for the athletes will be made from environmentally friendly and biodegradable materials.

**FIRST SUSPECTED GBS DEATH REPORTED IN SOLAPUR, CASE COUNT SURGES TO 101**

Chennai, 28 January 2025: A suspected case of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) has resulted in the death of an individual in Solapur, Maharashtra, as confirmed by the state's Health Department.



The deceased, who worked in Pune, had recently traveled to his native district, Solapur.

As of January 26, Maharashtra's Pune district has reported 101 cases of GBS, according to an official statement from the state's Public Health Department.

Among these cases, 81 are from the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), 14 from Pimpri Chinchwad, and 6 from other areas in the

district. The affected individuals include 68 males and 33 females, with 16 patients currently on ventilators.

The Health Department has issued guidelines to residents, emphasizing the importance of maintaining water quality by drinking boiled water, consuming fresh and clean food, and avoiding cross-contamination of cooked and uncooked

food. Citizens have been urged not to panic and to seek medical attention at government hospitals if symptoms arise.

Officials have highlighted common symptoms of GBS, including sudden weakness or paralysis in the limbs, difficulty walking, and prolonged diarrhea.

The state government has implemented several

measures to address the situation. A state-level rapid response team has visited the affected areas, and authorities in both urban and rural parts of Pune have been directed to enhance surveillance activities.

Water samples from various locations are being analyzed for chemical and biological contaminants at the Public Health Laboratory. Additionally, intensified house-to-house surveys have covered 25,578 households across the district.

The Health Department reassures the public that proactive steps are being taken to contain the situation and safeguard public health.

**IFAD ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT SHRI DONAL BROWN MEETS AGRICULTURE SECRETARY SHRI DEVESH CHATURVEDI**

Chennai, 28 January 2025: Mr. Donal Brown, Associate Vice President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), called on Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary of Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi today.

During the meeting, Mr Brown appreciated India's role as a founding member of IFAD, and longstanding and productive partnership with IFAD.

Mr. Brown briefed the Secretary about IFAD's collaborative projects with state governments, particularly in the North Eastern and Himalayan regions, focusing on building

climate-resilient agricultural value chains; empowering women, youth, tribal communities; supporting marginalized farmers; and strengthening rural infrastructure.

During the meeting Agriculture Secretary Shri Devesh Chaturvedi highlighted the Ministry's key priorities, including food and nutritional security, climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable farming practices, and improving farmer incomes.

He also stressed the importance of ensuring the sustainability of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), utilizing Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to support agriculture, promoting integrated farming systems, and



fostering agricultural entrepreneurship through scaling up innovative, cost-effective solutions. He also noted IFAD's continued support for integrated farming models, FPO engagement, entrepreneurship development and co-financing initiatives.

Discussion were held to identify further area of collaboration based on Ministry's key priorities to prepare the Country Strategy Plan of IFAD.

The IFAD

delegation included Ms. Pieterneel Marianne Boogaard, Managing Director, Office of Technical Delivery; Mr. Abdelkarim Sma, Country Director, Ms. Meera Mishra, Country Programme Coordinator; and Ms. Elisabeth Steinmayr, Programme Officer.

The Indian side included Ms. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Additional Secretary (DA&FW), the Joint Secretary (IC), Joint Secretary (Marketing) and representatives from NABARD.

**APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR CREATION/EXPANSION OF FOOD PROCESSING UNITS UNDER PMKSY**

Chennai, 28 January 2025: Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, invites applications under scheme for Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities (CEFPPC) of PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMPADAYOJANA (PMKSY)

from prospective entrepreneurs belonging to General category for setting up of food processing units outside Mega Food Parks and outside Agro Processing Clusters.

The guidelines dated 22.01.2025 and other details are available on www.mofpi.gov.in. □



Only online applications submitted at [mofpi.gov.in/](https://sampada-mofpi.gov.in/) shall be accepted. <https://sampada->

**PRAYAGRAJ AIRPORT SETS NEW BENCHMARKS AS THE GATEWAY TO MAHAKUMBH**

Chennai, 28 January 2025: Under the leadership of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Civil Aviation Minister Shri Ram Mohan Naidu, Prayagraj Airport has transformed into a modern gateway to the city of devotion, culture and the grand Maha Kumbh Mahotsav. Major expansion efforts were undertaken to accommodate the influx of devotees from January 13 to February 26, 2025.

The efficient operations at Prayagraj Airport result from meticulous planning and coordination. On December 8, 2024, Shri Ram Mohan Naidu reviewed terminal expansion, construction progress and traveler amenities, and issuing time-bound directives. Regular inspections and review meetings with state authorities, DGCA, BCAS, and AAI ensured timely completion of projects. On January 9, 2025, Minister of State Shri Murlidhar Mohol reviewed the work progress at Prayagraj airport.

To facilitate the sacred journey, 81 additional new flights were introduced into schedule in January 2025. Currently, there are 132 flights operating with approximately 80000

monthly seats to Prayagraj from across India. Presently, Prayagraj is connected directly with 17 cities across India as against 08 cities in December 2024. With direct and connecting flights reaching to 26 cities, including Srinagar and Visakhapatnam; Prayagraj is now a well-connected hub for devotees.

As per directions of Union Minister of Civil Aviation Minister Shri Ram Mohan Naidu to ensure that airfares remain in check as the festival's peak days approach, especially during the forthcoming Shahi Sanan on January 29th, February 3rd, and other important Sanan on February 4th, February 12th, and February 26th, 2025; DGCA has advised airlines to ensure sufficient capacity to accommodate passengers. Accordingly:

1. Akasa Air will begin operating flights on January 28th and 29th, connecting Ahmedabad and in February plans to operate 09 flight from Ahmedabad and 12 flight from Bangalore to Prayagraj adding approximately 4000 seats.

2. SpiceJet is set to launch flight services between Delhi, Chennai, Guwahati,

Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Jaipur and Hyderabad to Prayagraj, adding approximately 43000 seats in February 2025.

These new flights are part of the ongoing efforts to ensure regional connectivity and accommodate the influx of travelers to Prayagraj during the Maha Kumbh period. The addition of these flights is expected to ease the pressure on airfares and improve overall accessibility for devotees and tourists.

During Maha Kumbh, the airport witnessed 30,172 passengers and operated 226 flights in just one week, surpassing 5,000 passengers in a single day for the first time. Night flights were also introduced, enabling 24/7 connectivity for the first time in 106 years.

The airport's modernization included expanding the terminal area from 6,700 sq. m. to 25,500 sq. m., reconfiguring the old terminal to handle 1,080 peak-hour passengers (up from 540) and operationalizing a new terminal for 1,620 passengers. Parking capacity increased from 200 to 600 vehicles, while check-in counters rose from 8 to 42, and XBIS- HB machines increased to

10 from 4. Aircraft movement efficiency was enhanced with an additional taxi track, parking bays increased from 4 to 15, conveyor belts from 2 to 5 and airport gates from 4 to 11. Additional aerobridge and more security infrastructure, including door-framed metal detectors were added.

Passenger comfort saw notable improvements with the addition of lounges, a child care room, and boarding bridges (increased from 2 to 6). F&B counters were increased, complemented by the UDAN Yatri Cafe for affordable food. New services include meet-and-greet assistance for differently-abled individuals, prepaid taxi counters, and a city bus service in collaboration with the UP Government. Medical facilities were bolstered with ambulance deployment and air ambulance services; while arriving pilgrims receive floral welcomes for a warm start to their journey.

This transformation underscores the government's commitment to delivering world-class infrastructure, ensuring seamless connectivity and unmatched travel experiences for all devotees visiting Maha Kumbh 2025.



## GLOBAL GOALS CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY 2025 (HOSTING PARTNER- SRMIST) DAY 3 RESULTS

Chennai, 28 January 2025: Global Goals Championship Trophy 2025 a landmark event celebrating the intersection of sports and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Hosting Partner SRMIST,

Kattankulathur. DAY 3 Match Results:

Match 10 Women - Jeppiaar University Beat Queen Mary's College - Score: 8-0.

Match 11 Men - Rathinam College Beat Jeppiaar University - Score: 6-1



## SOUTHERN RAILWAY CELEBRATES 76TH REPUBLIC DAY

Chennai, 28 January 2025: Southern Railway celebrated the 76th Republic Day today (26.01.2025) at the Railway Stadium, Perambur, Chennai. Shri R.N. Singh, General Manager, Southern Railway unfurled the National Flag in the presence of Shri G.M.Eswara Rao, Principal Chief Security Commissioner, RPF, and took the salute at the RPF parade consisting of RPF contingents including Women Platoons and St John's Ambulance Brigade.



special mention of the Golden Rock Workshop for receiving the Best Workshop Rolling Stock Shield. The General Manager also highlighted Southern Railway's exceptional achievements during 2024-25 in revenue growth, freight loading, passenger amenities, infrastructure development, safety, and security.

The program was attended by Shri Kaushal Kishore, Additional General Manager, Principal Heads of Departments of Southern Railway, Shri B. Viswanath Eerya, Divisional Railway Manager/Chennai, Smt Sonia Singh, President of Southern Railway Women's Headquarters Organisation, Officers & Staff and their family members, and Representatives of Labour Unions and Associations of Southern Railway.

Addressing the gathering, the General Manager commended the dedication of the workforce and reaffirmed Southern Railway's commitment to modernization and sustainability. He expressed pride in the Zone's outstanding performance, including winning All India Shields for excellence in Civil Engineering, Security, and Healthcare, with a

Excerpts from General Manager's speech: (Performance of SR during the

besides station upgradation works are in full swing at 95 stations and expected to be completed by March' 25. During 2024-25 (up to Dec-2024), We have completed the work of 11 Foot Over Bridges and raised 22 platforms till during current year and also commissioned 71 Lifts and 12 Escalators making a total of 263 Lifts and 145 Escalators.

**Infrastructure Development:** Completed doubling of the Kanyakumari-Nagercoil Town section, achieving double-line connectivity between Chennai Egmore and Nagercoil Junction.

**Green Energy Initiatives:** Installed 255 kW of rooftop solar plants, taking the total capacity to 5.84 MW, and set up windmill plants with a 10.5 MW capacity.

**Safety Enhancements:** Interlocked 8 level crossing gates, installed 135 emergency sliding booms, and introduced 82 electrically operated lifting barriers.

**Security Achievements:** Arrested 604 offenders for railway property theft and rescued 1,752 runaway children, showcasing stellar RPF efforts.

**Healthcare Advancements:** Commissioned a new modular operation theatre and ICU complex at the New Railway Hospital, Perambur.

current FY 2024-25 till date)

**Revenue Growth:** Southern Railway earned gross revenue of ₹9,170 crores in 2024-25, reflecting a 5% increase from the previous year.

**Punctuality:** Southern Railway achieved a punctuality rate of 91.1%, handling 545 million passengers compared to 528 million the previous year.

**Special Train Services:** The zone Operated 2,329 trips of special trains, approximately 2.8 times higher than the previous year, to meet festive and vacation demands.

**Modernization of Trains:** SR Introduced LHB coaches to 11 train pairs, enabling speeds of up to 130 km/h, with three more pairs planned by March 2025.

**Speed Enhancement:** Speed was raised on 300 route kilometers, removed/relaxed 60 permanent speed restrictions

**Passenger Amenities:** The ambitious project of Major Redevelopment of important stations to world class standards, has been progressing at fast pace at 13 stations

## SRM TAMIL PERAYAM CONDUCTS 'SOL TAMIZHA SOL 2025' IN CHENNAI

Chennai, 28 January 2025: The Tamil Perayam at SRM Institute of Science and Technology is organising a massive speech competition, titled 'Sol Tamizha Sol 2025', to be held in 9 zones in Tamilnadu and Puducherry at various college campuses.

The forum successfully completed the speech contests in the first zone, namely Chennai, at the SRM College of Science and Technology campus, Kattankulathur.

The event saw more than 500 students and 15 judges participate, making the Chennai Zone competitions a grand success. The following were the winners: First Prize – Rs. 1,00,000 – S. Pandi



Ganesh, Madras Christian College.

Second Prize – Rs. 75,000 – L. Sanjana, St. Joseph College of Engineering.

Third Prize – Rs. 50,000 – S. Satish Kumar, University of Madras.

The final round was judged by Professor Aranga Ramalingam and Prof. Vimala Annadurai, who also declared the winners. Certificates for the winners were

T. R. Paarivendhar in the year 2010. Ever since its inception, the forum continues to make impressive contributions to the growth of Tamil language.

In addition to special courses like the Tamil Arutchunainjar Certificate course and Vallalar Certificate course, the Perayam, among its other activities, gives Tamil research awards worth Lakhs of Rupees, publishes rare literary works, and conducts national and international seminars.

The Parivendhar Students Tamil Club gives opportunities for thousands of student members of the Tamil Perayam to express their talents.

The prizes shall be given during the state level finale. Vellore Zone shall be next, with contests to be held on February 02, 2025 at Tirupattur Sacred Hearts College.

The Tamil Perayam, was launched by SRMIST & #39;s founder chancellor, Dr.

## ERAAYA LIFESPACES LTD. ANNOUNCES STELLAR PERFORMANCE OF ITS INDIAN SUBSIDIARY EBIXCASH'S TRAVEL DIVISION, ACHIEVES GMV OF INR 10,030 MN AND AN EBITDA OF INR 75 MILLION

Chennai, 28 January 2025: Eraaya Lifespaces Limited is excited to announce a significant milestone achieved by its Indian subsidiary, EbixCash, marking a key advancement in the company's growth journey. The travel division of EbixCash, Ebix Travels Pvt. Ltd. (ETPL), has delivered remarkable results for the quarter ending December 2024.

Achieving a GMV (Gross Merchandise Value) of INR 10,030 million (1003 Cr), Net revenue of INR 1,110 million (111 Cr), and a Healthy EBITDA of INR 75 million (7.5 Cr).

Among its key segments, the Mercury division, which includes corporate travel, MICE

(Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions), luxury trains, and Swiss travel, generated INR 585.3 million (58.53 Cr) in revenue and an EBITDA of INR 23.7 million (2.37 Cr).

This success was driven by strong corporate and MICE bookings, highlighting the robust demand in these areas.

In the luxury train sector, Deccan Odyssey contributed INR 112.3 million (11.23Cr) in revenue, though margins were impacted by seasonality. Additionally, other luxury train services, along with the Swiss Travel Bureau GmbH targeting high-end American clients, also contributed positively with INR 53.7 million



(5.37Cr) in revenue.

The online travel agency, via.com, demonstrated mixed regional performance, with particularly strong profitability from Indonesia and the Philippines, which generated INR 86.8 million (8.68 Cr). Singapore is poised to generate positive EBITDA in the next quarter, further strengthening EbixCash's presence in the ASEAN region.

India, the Philippines, and Indonesia collectively contributed INR

8,117.40 million (811.74 Cr) in GMV, emphasizing the company's significant regional footprint.

EbixCash's continued success is also marked by the addition of nine new corporate clients, who are expected to contribute an annualized INR 580 million (58 Cr), as well as nearing contract renewals with five large corporate clients.

These new developments highlight the growing strength and trust in EbixCash's offerings.

## GLOBAL GOALS CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY 2025 (HOSTING PARTNER- SRMIST) DAY 4 LEAGUE MATCH RESULTS

Chennai, 28 January 2025: 1st ever in INDIA Global Goals Championship Trophy 2025 a landmark event celebrating the intersection of sports and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Hosting Partner SRMIST, Kattankulathur initiative by Sustainable Development Council of India.

Match Results: Match 12 (Men) - SRM IST Beat Nazareth College - Score: 2-1.

Match 13 (Men) - Jeppiaar, College (vs) Nazareth College - Score: 0-0 (Draw).

Match 14 (Women) - Jeppiaar College (vs) M.O.P, Vaishnav College. Score: 0 - 0 (Draw).

Match 15 (Men) - SRMIST Rathinam College - Score: 1-0.



Standings: Winner: Men's Final Jeppiaar, College. Standings: Winner: SRMIST.

Runner: M.O.P Vaishnav, College. Runner: Rathinam College.

Third Place: SDNB, Vaishnava, College. Third Place: Nazareth College

Day 4 League

Women's Final

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## SRMIST HOCKEY WOMEN WON GOLD MEDAL

Chennai, 28 January 2025: Our SRMIST Hockey Women team won gold medal in the State Level 1st Anbu Memorial one day Hockey Tournament held at MRK Stadium, Egmore on 25th January 2025.

Results: Match 1 - SRM IST Beat Vellore

District Team - Score: 2 - 0.

Match 2 - SRM IST Beat Sports Hostel excellence, Chennai. Score: 4 - 3.

Final - SRM IST Beat Erode District Team. Score: 4 - 3. Results:- Winner :- SRM IST. Runner :- Erode District Team



## STRENGTHENING MARITIME TIES - INDIAN NAVY HOSTS INDONESIA NAVY DELEGATION

Chennai Jan 28, 2025: Admiral Muhammad Ali, Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Navy, is on an official visit to India as part of the high-level delegation accompanying his Excellency President Prabowo Subianto, the Chief Guest for the Republic Day Parade 2025.

During his visit, Adm Muhammad Ali and Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, held bilateral interactions to deepen maritime cooperation and strengthen ties between the two-close maritime neighbours.

The Key areas of discussion between the



two naval leaders included advancing joint initiatives like Exercise Samudra Shakti, strengthening operational collaboration, and addressing shared maritime challenges, including piracy and other illegal activities at sea.

The visit also includes engagements at key maritime establishments such as the Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) and the Weapons and Electronics Systems and Engineering

Establishment (WESEE), focusing on enhancing regional collaboration and maritime domain awareness. Adm Muhammad Ali also visited the BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) and exchanged ideas and insights on further strengthening bilateral cooperation in the area of defence and strategy.

Adm Muhammad Ali's engagements with the Indian Navy and defence stakeholders reflect a shared commitment to fostering regional cooperation and ensuring a secure and peaceful maritime environment.

## 14th Convocation held at B.S.Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology

Chennai Jan 28, 2025: B. S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology held its 14th Convocation at its campus today. A total of 2518 graduands including 59 Ph.D., 708 PG and 1751 UG received their degree at the Convocation ceremony.

65 Students were awarded Gold Medals for securing top ranks. Of this 38 students were from UG and 27 students were from PG. Based on the restrictions 687 students received their degrees in person and 1830 students attended the convocation online. The degrees were handed over to the students by Mr. M. Vellaipandi, Director General, STQC Directorate, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

Also present on the occasion were dignitaries including BSACIST Chancellor Mrs. Qurrath Jameela, Pro Chancellor Mr. Abdul Qadir A. Rahman Buhari, Vice Chancellor Dr. T. Murugesan, Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. N. Thajuddin, Registrar Dr. N. Raja Hussain & Members of the Executive Council.

Chief Guest

Convocation Address by Chief Guest Mr. M. Vellaipandi Director General, STQC Directorate, Ministry of



Electronics and IT, Govt. of India

In a momentous convocation ceremony, Mr. M. Vellaipandi, the Director General of the STQC Directorate, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking address to the graduating class. His words resonated deeply with the graduands, offering them invaluable reflections that will guide them as they navigate their professional journeys.

Mr. Vellaipandi's address highlighted the importance of embracing the unexpected, noting that the inevitable challenges and changes in life should be viewed as opportunities for growth. He urged the graduands to cultivate a growth mindset and remain resilient in the face of uncertainties.

He further encouraged the students to discover their "north

star," a guiding purpose and set of principles that will shape their decisions and drive their ambitions. By focusing on their personal and professional goals with clarity, they will be better equipped to face the world's challenges and create meaningful change.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Vellaipandi shared a powerful message: "Build bridges, not walls." He emphasized the significance of collaboration and collective effort, urging the graduands to contribute to solutions that benefit society and elevate those around them. He reminded the graduates that continuous learning and development are key to reaching new heights in their careers, urging them to never stop learning and growing.

The ceremony concluded with a sense of hope and enthusiasm, as the graduands left inspired to contribute to

the world with a sense of purpose, collaboration, and lifelong learning.

Guests of Honour:

Mr. Rangarajan Raghavan, Former MD of HCL Infosystems Ltd.,

The 14th Convocation of BSA Crescent Institute of Science and Technology was honored by the presence of Mr Rangarajan Raghavan, Former Managing Director of HCL Infosystems Ltd., who delivered a Visionary & insightful address on Emerging Technologies and Future Trends

In his speech, Mr Raghavan highlighted the immense opportunities that lie ahead for India's young minds in the ever-evolving technological landscape. He underscored India's leadership in driving global technological advancements and emphasized that the next generation is uniquely positioned to capitalize on these opportunities.

## SECL'S OBR CROSSES 281 MCUM, ACHIEVING 105% OF PRO-RATA TARGET

Chennai Jan 28, 2025: Coal India Subsidiary, South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)'s overburden removal (OBR) has crossed 281 million cubic metres (MCuM) (From April, 2024 to till date), achieving 105% of its pro-rata target and recording 19.82 McuM (7.58%) increase compared to the same period last year.

OBR is a crucial pre-coal extraction process that involves clearing soil and rock layers to access coal reserves.

The Chhattisgarh-based Coal India subsidiary is removing over 1.3 million cubic metres of overburden daily, setting an unprecedented pace in its operations. With this momentum, SECL is



confident of surpassing its annual target and achieving an additional 40-45 million cubic metres of OBR, marking the highest-ever in the company's history.

Dr. Prem Sagar Mishra, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of SECL, expressed his optimism, stating, "Despite various challenges, we are confident that our dedicated efforts will not only help us meet the OBR target but also

surpass it, setting new benchmarks in SECL's journey."

SECL has deployed the vertical ripper technique, an environmentally friendly, blast-free method for overburden removal in its megaprojects.

This approach ensures minimal environmental impact while maintaining high efficiency in operations.

Further, SECL has accelerated its land

acquisition process to support its expanding operations. In the calendar year 2024 alone, more than 880 employment opportunities have been provided to landowners whose lands were acquired, reinforcing the company's commitment to community development and welfare.

SECL's focus on overburden removal not only facilitates coal production but also reflects its commitment to operational excellence and environmental sustainability.

With these achievements, SECL continues to demonstrate its leadership in the mining sector.

## 76TH REPUBLIC DAY: MINISTER SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY HONOURS 100 ENTREPRENEURS; HIGHLIGHTS GLOBAL DEMAND FOR SKILLED WORKFORCE

Chennai Jan 28, 2025: On the occasion of the 76th Republic Day, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Minister of State for the Ministry of Education, celebrated the achievements of 100 distinguished entrepreneurs from across the India from the skill ecosystem at a special event hosted at Kaushal Bhawan. These entrepreneurs, invited by the Government of India, were also honoured as special guests at the Republic Day parade, recognizing their pivotal role in driving the nation's growth and innovation under the Skill India Mission.

Returning from the Annual meeting of World Economic Forum - WEF2025 in Davos, Shri Chaudhary shared insights from his interactions with global business leaders. "India's skilled workforce is gaining immense global recognition, with our talent pool being widely appreciated.

Our emergence as a global skill capital is a testament to our commitment to excellence," he said. Discussions at Davos revolved around sustainability, emerging technologies



like artificial intelligence, and a focus on women-led development.

India's start-up ecosystem is the largest in the world, with 118 unicorns valued at \$354 billion. This success is driven by visionary policies, effective execution, and the resilience of entrepreneurs. The critical role of the MSME sector was also underscored, comprising 63 million enterprises, employing over 11 crore people, and contributing 30% to the GDP and 45% to exports.

Additionally, the transformative impact of the Skill India Mission was noted, emphasizing its role in empowering youth and fostering self-reliance (AtmaNirbhar Bharat)

Shri Jayant Chaudhary commended the entrepreneurs present for elevating India's reputation as a source of skilled talent. "The participation of 100 entrepreneurs at this national celebration underscores the impact of our skilling

initiatives. These programs have empowered individuals nationwide, creating sustainable livelihoods and inspiring others to pursue entrepreneurial journeys," he said.

He highlighted the hard work of these entrepreneurs from diverse regions, including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, and the Northeast. Special recognition was given to an entrepreneur named Ritendra Prasad, a resident of Ramgarh, from Jharkhand who graduated in Electricals and Electronics from AVIT Chennai and with a decade long experience in solar energy sector. He underwent an Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) from NIESBUD and then opened his own solar business.

A particularly notable moment of the event was the recognition of 16 trailblazing entrepreneurs from the Northeast, including nine women

entrepreneurs. Among them were Mrs. Namita M. Marak from Dhubri district, Assam, and Mrs. Mandira Baglary from Udalguri district. These remarkable women were celebrated for their resilience and success despite significant challenges. Their stories highlight the transformative power of skill development and entrepreneurship, especially for women in rural and underserved areas.

Honouring the Constitution

The Minister also reflected on the enduring legacy of the Indian Constitution, which continues to serve as the backbone of India's democratic ethos, safeguarding equality, justice, and opportunity.

The event was attended by staff and top officials of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), including Joint Secretary Ms. Hena Usman. Earlier on Saturday, the 100 entrepreneurs also visited the PM Museum.

This celebration was a proud moment for India, showcasing the strength of government initiatives, the achievements of its skilled workforce, and the promise of a brighter, inclusive future driven by entrepreneurship.



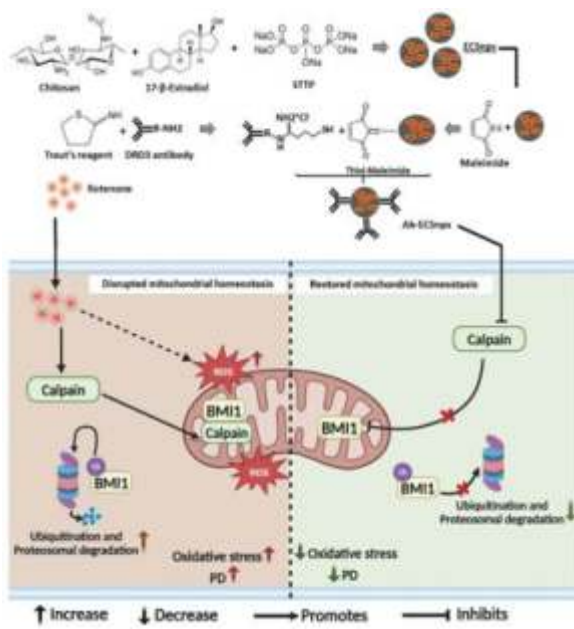
## NEW NANO-FORMULATION MAY HELP BRING SAFER TREATMENT FOR PARKINSON'S PATIENTS

Chennai Jan 28, 2025: Researchers have developed a targeted nano formulation that can help sustained release of a hormone called 17 $\beta$ -Estradiol which is crucial for managing Parkinson's Disease (PD).

Many neurodegenerative and psychiatric malignancies like Parkinson's disease (PD) originate from an imbalance of 17 $\beta$ -Estradiol (E2) in the human brain.

However, the peripheral side effects of the usage of E2 for PD therapy and less understanding of the molecular mechanism hinder establishing its neurotherapeutic potential.

Scientists from Institute of Nano



Science and Technology (INST)

Mohali, an autonomous institute of Department of Science and Technology, used Dopamine Receptor D3 (DRD3) conjugated to 17 $\beta$ -Estradiol-loaded chitosan nanoparticles that led to sustained release of 17 $\beta$ -Estradiol (E2) to the

brain. The targeted nano-formulation inhibited the mitochondrial translocation of calpain, thereby protecting neurons from rotenone-induced mitochondrial damage. Furthermore, the targeted nano delivery system alleviated behavioural

impairments in a rodent model. Additionally, the study reveals for the first time that BMI1, a member of the PRC1 complex that regulates mitochondrial homeostasis, is a substrate of calpain. The targeted nano-formulation restored BMI1 expression by inhibiting its degradation through calpain.

The study Carbohydrate Polymers has helped in understanding the role of hormone (E2) in regulating oxidative stress in PD patients.

With the continued exploration of long-term safety profiles and better-targeted delivery, this can establish itself as a safer drug to improve the lives of Parkinson's patients.

## STALIN URGES CENTRE TO SECURE RELEASE OF ARRESTED FISHERMAN, BOATS

Chennai Jan 28, 2025 : Chief Minister Stalin urged the Union Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar to take necessary urgent action through diplomatic channels to prevent the arrests of our fishermen and to secure the immediate release of all the arrested fishermen and their fishing boats from the Sri Lankan authorities.

In his letter to External Affairs Minister Stalin, "Want to bring to your attention yet another incident involving the apprehension of 34

fishermen (32 from Tamil Nadu and 2 from Kerala) and their fishing boats by the Sri Lankan Navy on 25.01.2025.

These fishermen had ventured for fishing from the Rameswaram fishing harbour in three mechanised fishing boats bearing Registration Nos. IND-TN-10-MM-772, IND-TN-10-MM-702 and IND-TN-10-MM-291.

They were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy while they were fishing near Dhanushkodi on 25.01.2025.



The frequent detentions of our fishermen has put the coastal communities into a perpetual sense of anxiety and apprehension, as their future is made uncertain and bleak.

It is high time concrete diplomatic steps are taken to prevent our fishermen being arrested by the

Sri Lankan Navy.

I therefore request you to take necessary urgent action through diplomatic channels to prevent the arrests of our fishermen and to secure the immediate release of all the arrested fishermen and their fishing boats from the Sri Lankan authorities, Stalin said.

## MODI EXPRESSES GRATITUDE FOR R-DAY WISHES FROM GLOBAL LEADERS

Chennai Jan 28, 2025 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday extended his heartfelt thanks to world leaders for their greetings on the occasion of India's 76th Republic Day.

Responding to Ireland's Prime Minister Micheál Martin's message on X, PM Modi said:

"Thank you, Prime Minister @MichealMartinTD, for your kind wishes. I am confident that the enduring bonds of friendship between India and Ireland,

rooted in shared trust and democratic values, will continue to grow stronger in the future."

In his message, Micheál Martin conveyed:

"On this Republic Day in India, I offer my heartfelt greetings to President @rashtrapatibhvn, Prime Minister @narendramodi, and the people of India. Ireland treasures the strong bonds of friendship and solidarity between our nations."

PM Modi also expressed gratitude to

French President Emmanuel Macron, writing:

"My dear friend, @EmmanuelMacron, your kind greetings on India's 76th Republic Day are deeply appreciated. Your presence last year on this special day marked a significant milestone in our strategic partnership and enduring friendship. Looking forward to seeing you soon at the AI Action Summit in Paris as we collaborate for a brighter future for humanity."

President Macron, in his post on X, shared:

"My congratulations to the Indian people and my dear friend @NarendraModi on this Republic Day. Fond memories of the great moment of friendship we shared in 2024. Looking forward to seeing you in France in February for the Summit on Action for Artificial Intelligence."

The exchanges reflect the growing global recognition of India's leadership and its deepening ties with nations worldwide.

## DIRECTOR GENERAL BIS SHRI PRAMOD KUMAR TIWARI INAUGURATES BRANCH LABORATORY FOR TEXTILES IN HYDERABAD

Chennai Jan 28, 2025 : The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of its new Hyderabad Branch Laboratory dedicated to testing of specialized textile products. The event was graced by Sh. Pramod Kumar Tiwari, IAS, Director General of BIS, who led the proceedings and emphasized the importance of ensuring high standards in the textile sector and the key role played by the testing infrastructure in ensuring this.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior officials of BIS, Smt. Nishat Sultana Haque, Deputy Director General (Laboratories), Dr. Meenakshi Ganesan, Deputy Director General (Southern Region) & Head-Southern Regional Laboratory and Hyderabad Branch Laboratory; Sh. Srikanth Head-Hyderabad Branch Office and other heads of laboratories of BIS from across the country.

Officials from the



BIS, along with other distinguished guests, shared their views on the significance of quality assessment for textile products in India. Sh. Pramod Kumar Tiwari, IAS addressed the gathering and spoke about the ongoing efforts to improve the nation's quality infrastructure.

"The launch of this new laboratory in Hyderabad is another crucial step in strengthening the nation's infrastructure in quality ecosystem. Establishment of the specialized textiles testing laboratory helps a lot in the enforcement of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) issued by the Government of India in the interests of the common consumer, to ensure

that textile products in India meet national standards. Testing facilities for yarn will also be started soon in this new laboratory" said Sh. Pramod Kumar Tiwari, IAS.

He further stressed the need for the industry and consumers to embrace quality and to use ISI-marked goods, which signifies compliance with BIS standards and ensures product safety and durability.

Officials in attendance echoed these sentiments, underlining the vital role played by BIS in creating a transparent and efficient system for regulating product quality in India.

They also highlighted the laboratory's role in supporting manufacturers in

enhancing their product quality by regular testing while contributing to the overall growth of the textile industry. Sh. Tiwari concluded his address with a call to action for the public to prioritize quality by opting for ISI-marked textile products, reinforcing the government's drive to safeguard consumer interests and uphold the nation's reputation for excellence in manufacturing.

The new laboratory is expected to play a pivotal role in advancing the country's textile standards, enabling the BIS to conduct more detailed testing and ensure that products adhere to the prescribed standards for safety and quality. The Bureau of Indian Standards is the national standardization body of India.

BIS formulates and implements quality standards for a wide array of products, ensuring consumer safety, enhancing product reliability, and supporting manufacturers in achieving compliance with Indian standards.

## ALL INDIA INTER NIT KABADDI AND BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

Chennai Jan 28, 2025 : The students of NIT, Tiruchirappalli (NIT-T) emerged as winners in the All India Inter-NIT Kabaddi (Men & Women) and Badminton (Men & Women) tournament.

The students of NIT, Tiruchirappalli (NIT-T) emerged as winners in the All India Inter-NIT Kabaddi (Men & Women) and Badminton (Men & Women) tournament. It began on 24th January 2025 at NIT, Tiruchirappalli. Mr. Arvind Banavath IPS, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Thiruverumbur inaugurated the tournament, in the presence of the Institute's Director, Dr.



G. Aghila. The event was attended by Dr. R. Karvembu, Dean of Students' Welfare, Dr. N. Kumaresan, Dean of Faculty Welfare, and Dr. S. A. Senthil Kumar, Registrar of the Institute Along with Dr A Solomon Raja Senior SAS OFFICER, and Dalleykrishnan SAS Officer.

A total of 25 NITs

from various parts of the country, and

participated in the tournament. NIT-T students performed outstandingly and bagged the trophy in both Kabaddi (Men & Women) and Badminton (Men & Women). Ms. Sandhya (IV year B.Tech. Production Engineering) and Mr.

Raju (III year B.Tech. Civil Engineering) have been honored with the all rounder and best rider awards, respectively, in Kabaddi. Ms. Nithya (IV year B.Arch.) has secured the best player award in Badminton (Women). The runner up position was bagged by SVNIT Surat in kabaddi and VNIT Nagpur in Badminton.