

DIFFERENTLY-ABLED PERSONS TO GET REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL BODIES THROUGH NOMINATION: STALIN

Chennai, 17 April 2025: Chief Minister Stalin announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly that persons with disabilities will be given representation in urban local bodies through nomination rather than direct elections. The state government has introduced amendment bills to this effect, marking a significant step towards inclusive governance.

Speaking in the Assembly, the Chief Minister Stalin said, "I take great pride in introducing these historic legislative amendments that will enable persons with

disabilities to be appointed as members of urban local bodies without contesting elections."

"This Dravidian Model government is driven by an inclusive spirit and an open mind. Whatever the scheme, it must touch people's hearts and bring smiles to their faces. My vision is rooted in the principles of development for every sector, every district, every community, and every citizen."

He emphasized that the government acts as the "voice of the voiceless," including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes,

Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, women, marginalized communities, persons with disabilities, and transgender individuals.

"Every signature of mine should contribute to their progress and upliftment. In that sense, today marks a historically significant day."

He added that the Dravidian Model government, since taking office, has taken several pioneering measures for the welfare of persons with disabilities.

"Before we came to power, the budget

allocated for this sector was Rs. 667 crore. We have now doubled it to Rs.1,432 crore in the current financial year. Today, the demand for grants for the welfare of persons with disabilities is being discussed in the Assembly."

Chief Minister Stalin stressed that the government does not implement schemes for persons with disabilities out of sympathy, but based on their rights.

"Tamil Nadu provides monthly financial assistance to the highest number of persons with disabilities in the country."

TRUMP HYPOCRISY: MAGA HATS MADE IN CHINA

Chennai, 17 April 2025: The China-United States relationship has always been complex. Despite tensions, both nations have maintained significant economic ties and cooperation in sectors like trade and climate. US President Donald Trump has always taken a tough public stance on China, however, Washington's dependence on Beijing has been an open secret.

Since 2016, the US has been caught up in rumours that Trump's mighty 'Make America

Great Again' hats are made in China.

Once again the MAGA hats have become a hot topic of discussion with a Chinese state media outlet releasing a video of MAGA hats being made in a factory in the country.

The video, which has gone viral, is contradictory to Trump's calls to 'Buy American, Hire American'.

According to China 24 news channel, the MAGA hats made by Jiahao Flat Company in China's Anhui

province are priced around \$1 dollar.

The video shows workers busy making the hats in sewing machines and producing banners that boldly declare Trump's re-election slogan.

A factory worker holds up a nearly finished Trump banner and says, "Every day we must produce over 1,000 of this."

Notably, the video has emerged at a time when both nations are engaged in a tariff war. China has retaliated by imposing a 125 per cent tariff on US

imports against Trump's 145 per cent reciprocal tariffs on Chinese goods. China's Ministry of Commerce called it "unfair" and urged the US to "completely cancel" its tariffs levied against Beijing.

As the MAGA hats issue is raging, Chinese content creators have also taken to TikTok and other social platforms to "expose" the reality behind global manufacturing.

The Chinese producers have also stepped in to claim how much the world relies on their factories.

ISRO'S STATE-OF-ART RLV TESTING FACILITY IN KERALA

Chennai, 17 April 2025: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has commissioned a state-of-the-art Landing Gear Drop Test Facility at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, towards testing and qualification of the deployable Landing Gear system for ISRO's winged body Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) - Pushpak.

ISRO is developing Pushpak with a deployable Landing Gear towards the RLV-Orbital Re-entry Experiment (RLV-OREX), wherein the Pushpak vehicle will be launched to orbit in an ascent vehicle.

Subsequently, after a few orbits, Pushpak

will re-enter the atmosphere and land on a runway using the deployable Landing Gear system, ISRO said on Tuesday in an update.

The Landing Gear Drop Test facility was inaugurated by ISRO Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan in the presence of VSSC director Unnikrishnan Nair, Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR) director Rajarajan and ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU) director Padmakumar.

The Landing Gear Drop facility has the capability to test various types of landing gears, such as telescopic, articulated and semi-articulated types and has several key features such as an

adjustable drop mass up to 2000 kg to simulate various aircraft and airport altitudes and adjustable drop height.

ISRO said the test rig is capable of simulating landing velocities up to 360 km/hr (100 m/s) with adjustable wheel spin speeds up to 5000 rpm.

The test set up also allows simulation of various landing sink rates, up to 4.8 m/s.

Different runway conditions such as asphalt, concrete, dry, wet and icy surfaces can also be simulated, it said.

A comprehensive sensor suite is also part of the facility in order to measure the various parameters at the touch down point such as

accelerometers to sense acceleration and velocity, high resolution displacement sensors such as LVDTs and LiDARs to sense the vertical motion and tri-axial load cells and strain gauges to sense landing forces, strain and moments experienced by the Landing Gear.

This facility also integrates multiple safety features, such as a platform impact protector and a self-lock mechanism for the drop release actuator, ensuring protection for both personnel and test articles.

This facility has the potential to accelerate the development and qualification of advanced RLVs and aircraft technologies in India.

OVER 1.3 CRORE PERSONS INSURED THROUGH GEM IN FY 2024-25

Chennai, 17 April 2025: Government e Marketplace (GeM), India's largest e-marketplace for public procurement, sets yet another milestone in services delivery in the FY 24-25. Apart from facilitating hiring of 1 million manpower resources in FY 24-25, GeM has successfully facilitated insurance of more than 1.3 crore individuals covering Health, Life and Personal Accident Insurance policies.

The Insurance Services category was introduced on GeM in January 2022 to bring greater efficiency, transparency and cost-effectiveness in procuring insurance policies. By ensuring that only Insurance

Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) -approved service providers are onboarded. GeM has established a reliable and trusted mechanism for availing insurance services. Through this platform, buyer organizations can seamlessly procure Group Mediclaim, Personal Accident and Term Insurance policies, thereby offering financial security to a vast number of beneficiaries.

While commenting on this milestone, CEO-GeM Shri Ajay Bhadoo said, "GeM remains committed to continuously enhancing its platform to provide seamless,

secure and cost-effective procurement solutions. The milestone of 1.3 crore insured persons reflects the growing confidence of government organizations in leveraging GeM for their insurance needs, reaffirming its role as a transformative force in public procurement."

A key advantage of GeM's insurance services is that it facilitates direct transactions between government buyers and insurance providers without intermediaries. This streamlined approach has significantly expedited the process while also reducing insurance premiums thereby ensuring cost savings

for government organisations.

Beyond Life and Health insurance, the platform has expanded its insurance offerings to include a comprehensive range of insurance services such as Asset Insurance, Transit and Marine Insurance, Liability Insurance, Livestock Insurance, Motor Insurance, Crop Insurance and Cyber Insurance.

Such broad spectrum of services ensures that various insurance needs are met through a single, transparent and efficient platform to enhance accessibility and cost-effectiveness in availing Insurance services by Government Buyers.

COMMEMORATION OF BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE MARSHAL OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE ARJAN SINGH PADMA VIBHUSHAN, DFC

Chennai, 17 April 2025: On 15 April 2025, to commemorate the 106th Birth Anniversary of the Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh Padma Vibhushan, DFC, a bust was unveiled at Astha, Senior Citizen Home, Tughlakabad, Delhi by Air Mshl Vijay Kumar Garg, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Maintenance Command and Air Mshl Jagjeet Singh (Retd) Senior Vice President Air Force Association. The event was attended by Mrs Ritu Garg, President AFFWA (R), IAF veterans and Personnel of Air Force Station, Tughlakabad



The event was a tribute casted in the form of unveiling of the Marshal's bust, symbolising his enduring courage, visionary leadership and selfless service to the nation. The audience was reminded of his strategic brilliance and

unflinching resolve shown as the Chief of the Air Staff during 1965 war. Under his leadership, the Indian Air Force provided the decisive close air support to pulverise the Pakistani Armoured thrust in the Akhnoor sector which changed the course of the war in

India's favour. He is the only Five-star officer of the IAF, who is an institution by himself and shall remain a guiding beacon to follow for generations to come.

During the event, the AOC-in-C, Maintenance Command and President AFFWA (R) also interacted with the senior citizens and enquired about their wellbeing.

The Air Force personnel also had the opportunity to interact with veterans who had served with the Marshal. Their real life narrative revived the heroic life of the legend.

IN A FIRST, ECI TRAINS BOOTH LEVEL AGENTS (BLAS) TO STRENGTHEN GRASSROOT PARTICIPATION BY POLITICAL PARTIES

Chennai, 17 April 2025: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has commenced the training of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) from Bihar in view of the forthcoming elections in the State. Around 280 BLAs from the State associated with 10 recognised political parties are taking part in the 2-day training programme being organised at the India International Institute for Democracy and Election Management, IIIDEM, New Delhi.

Chief Election

Commissioner Shri Gyanesh Kumar along with Election Commissioners Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi addressed the BLAs in a first of its kind training programme. The training was conceptualised during the Chief Electoral Officers (CEO) conference held on the 4th of March, 2025. The Commission underscored the importance of BLAs in the election processes and asserted that the training programme would help them fulfil their responsibilities as

delineated in the Representation of People act, 1950 and 1951, Registration of Elector Rules 1960, Conduct of Election Rules 1961 and the manuals, guidelines and instructions issued by ECI from time to time.

The BLAs were given an overview of their appointment, roles, and responsibilities as per the legal framework. The training programme familiarised them with various aspects of the election processes

including the preparation, updation and revision of electoral rolls and the associated forms and formats associated. BLAs are appointed by recognised political parties and play an important role in ensuring error-free electoral rolls as per the provisions of the RP act, 1950. The BLAs were also trained in the use of the provision of first and second appeals under sections 24(a) and 24(b) of the RP Act 1950 in case they are aggrieved of the final electoral rolls as published.

STAY COOL, SHOP SMART: FLIPKART ANNOUNCES 7TH EDITION OF SUPER COOLING DAYS WITH EXCITING DEALS

Bengaluru, 17 April 2025: As the country braces for summer, Flipkart, India’s homegrown e-commerce marketplace, is back with the 7th edition of Super Cooling Days, an annual sale event that gives customers access to a wide range of cooling appliances at affordable prices. Scheduled from April 16 to April 24, 2025, it brings together top appliance brands, exciting deals, and a seamless shopping experience, making it the perfect opportunity for consumers to upgrade their essential cooling appliances this season.

Flipkart Super Cooling Days is designed to meet the diverse needs and budgets of consumers amid the rising demand for cooling appliances across India, offering a combination of quality, choice, and value. During the sale, customers can choose from a variety of affordable financing options such as no-cost EMI, pre-approved offers from leading banks, and Supercoin redemptions.

Additionally, customers can take advantage of the Exchange Program, which offers benefits of up to ₹8,000/- on select purchases, making it even more



rewarding to upgrade their appliances this season. Flipkart’s service arm, Jeeves, will ensure a hassle-free experience from purchase to use by providing convenient, reliable, and cost-effective after-sales services, including installations performed by trained technicians.

Air Conditioners: Customers can expect exciting deals with offers of up to 55% off on top-rated models from leading brands like Voltas, LG and Blue Star. Starting at just ₹26,490/-, these ACs are equipped with advanced features such as inverter technology, energy efficiency, smart connectivity, and anti-bacterial filters, making them ideal for both budget-conscious shoppers and premium buyers seeking enhanced performance and comfort.

Some of the top deals include the Voltas 1.5 Ton 3 Star AC at ₹30,490/-, Panasonic 1.5 Ton 3 Star AC at ₹33,990/-, and LG 1.5 Ton 3 Star AC at ₹34,690/-.

Air Coolers: Flipkart offers a wide

range of air coolers, including personal, desert, and tower models from top brands like Bajaj, Kenstar and Hindware. With prices starting at ₹3,999/- for personal coolers and ₹4,999/- for desert coolers, they are ideal for dry-heat regions and value-conscious shoppers looking for efficient home cooling. Top personal cooler deals features the Kenstar 45L at ₹4,999/-, Crompton 45L at ₹5,499/-, Voltas 36L at ₹5,499/-, and Sansui 37L at ₹4,499/-. Standout dessert cooler deals for those needing more power include Kenstar 90L at ₹7,999/-, Crompton 75L at ₹9,299/-, Bajaj 90L at ₹10,999/-, and Hindware 85L at ₹8,499/-.

Flipkart has also observed growing demand for high capacity desert coolers, especially popular across Tier 2 cities, where Flipkart’s logistics and seller network continue to ensure deep reach and faster service.

Refrigerators: Refrigerators are a year-round essential,

and during Super Cooling Days, customers can upgrade their kitchens with the latest models at great prices with brands offering up to 60% off. From compact single-door fridges to spacious double-door and side-by-side options, Flipkart’s selection meets a wide range of household needs, with prices ranging from ₹9,990/- to ₹1,07,990/-. Equipped with inverter compressors, convertible storage, and rapid cooling features, shoppers can explore top deals such as the Samsung 350L 3-Star model at just ₹36,740/-, Whirlpool 235L Triple Door at ₹23,740/-, and the Haier 596L Side-by-Side refrigerator at ₹52,740/-.

To ensure a seamless and trusted shopping experience, leading brands such as Samsung, Whirlpool, and Haier are offering extended 5-year comprehensive warranties, reinforcing customer confidence in both product quality and after-sales support.

To make the shopping experience more immersive and enjoyable, Flipkart will offer an on-demand video assistance feature, where expert agents will guide them throughout their purchase journey.

WAVEX 2025 BROADENS ELIGIBILITY, EXTENDS APPLICATION DEADLINE TO APRIL 21

Chennai, 17 April 2025: The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB), in collaboration with the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), has announced two major updates for WAVEX 2025, India’s premier platform for startups in the media and entertainment technology space. In a bid to foster wider participation and amplify innovation, the eligibility criteria have been expanded, and the application deadline has been extended.

Startups incorporated from 2016 onwards are now eligible to apply for WAVEX 2025. This marks a significant shift from the earlier criteria, which restricted entry to startups founded in 2020 or later. The move is expected to attract a broader pool of participants, particularly those with a track record of resilience, growth, and

impact in the media-tech sector. In response to strong interest and requests from entrepreneurs across the country, the application deadline has also been pushed to April 21, 2025. The extension gives aspiring media-tech innovators additional time to submit their proposals and secure a chance to feature on a national stage.

WAVEX 2025 Investment pitches will take place on May 2nd and May 3rd at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai during the Waves 2025 summit. A flagship segment of the World Audio-Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES), WAVEX is positioned as a high-stakes launchpad for startups working in areas such as gaming, animation, XR, metaverse, generative AI, and content technologies.

Selected startups

will participate in closed room pitching sessions and gain visibility among top venture capital firms and high-profile angel investors. They will also benefit from mentorship by leading industry experts, exposure to global stakeholders, and opportunities to collaborate with prominent technology and media companies.

WAVEX 2025 is designed not merely as a showcase of emerging ideas, but as a strategic platform to accelerate how content is created, delivered, and monetized in the digital era. Applications can be submitted through the official WAVEX portal at <https://wavex.wavesbazaar.com>.

About WAVES : The first World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), a milestone event for the Media & Entertainment (M&E)

sector, will be hosted by the Government of India in Mumbai, Maharashtra, from May 1 to 4, 2025. Whether you're an industry professional, investor, creator, or innovator, the Summit offers the ultimate global platform to connect, collaborate, innovate and contribute to the M&E landscape.

WAVES is set to magnify India’s creative strength, amplifying its position as a hub for content creation, intellectual property, and technological innovation. Industries and sectors in focus include Broadcasting, Print Media, Television, Radio, Films, Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, Sound and Music, Advertising, Digital Media, Social Media Platforms, Generative AI, Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and Extended Reality (XR).

HP LAUNCHES OMEN MAX 16, ITS MOST POWERFUL GAMING LAPTOP WITH AI ENHANCEMENTS IN INDIA EQUIPPED WITH INDUSTRY FIRST NVIDIA RTX 5000 SERIES WITH BLACKWELL TECHNOLOGY

Chennai, 17 April 2025: Today, HP unveiled the OMEN MAX 16 laptop in India, a gaming powerhouse designed to deliver unrivaled performance, personalized aesthetics, and seamless connectivity. It is equipped with Intel’s 24-core Ultra 9-275HX processor and NVIDIA’s RTX 5080 GPU.

It comes with 32GB of DDR5 RAM (5600MT/s) and a 1TB PCIe 5.0 SSD. Built for India’s rapidly growing gaming community, this latest addition to the OMEN lineup combines AI-powered optimizations with superior hardware, setting a new benchmark for immersive gaming experiences.

Gamers need unleashed performance, personalized design, uninterrupted gameplay and a strong cooling mechanism from their PCs. The all-new OMEN MAX 16, powered by OMEN AI technology, intelligently optimizes performance and thermals in real time.

With advanced cooling, ultra-low latency connectivity, and AI-driven enhancements, it ensures fluid, high-performance gameplay, keeping gamers at their peak without interruptions. HP claims a combined CPU and GPU power draw of over 250W (75W CPU + 175W GPU), supported by a dual fan cooling system.

The thermal setup includes heat pipes, a vapor chamber covering 61% of the motherboard, and a hybrid liquid metal compound, which improves heat transfer compared to traditional thermal paste.

“India’s gaming industry is evolving rapidly, with players demanding high-performance and personalized experiences.

At HP, we are committed to empowering the gaming community with unmatched innovation.

The OMEN MAX 16 delivers elite performance and security, AI-driven optimization, and seamless customization—pushing the boundaries of



immersive gaming and ensuring players stay ahead with technology designed for speed, efficiency, and precision,” said Vineet Gehani – Senior Director (Personal Systems), HP India.

The OMEN MAX 16 offers personalization through the OMEN Gaming Hub, enabling gamers to fine-tune system settings, power modes, and cooling preferences for a tailored experience. With customizable per-key RGB lighting and an optional RGB light bar, both fully adjustable via OMEN Light Studio, players can synchronize their device’s aesthetics with their unique gaming style.

Additionally, for security, the OMEN MAX 16 has a Full HD IR camera for Windows Hello login, along with a physical privacy shutter.

OMEN AI: The Future of Intelligent Gaming Optimization

OMEN AI Beta introduces a revolutionary AI-driven solution for optimizing gaming performance effortlessly. Instead of spending hours tweaking settings, gamers can now rely on AI to automatically fine-tune their system for the best frame rates and smoothest gameplay.

OMEN AI eliminates trial and error by offering a personalized, one-click solution tailored to each game.

It continuously adapts, learning from gameplay patterns to refine OS, hardware, and in-game settings for peak efficiency.

As the first AI-powered game learning application[ii], OMEN AI evolves over time, ensuring optimal performance across a growing list of supported titles, starting with Counter-Strike 2.

By removing the guesswork from gaming optimization, it allows players to focus on what truly matters – winning and enjoyment.

OMEN MAX 16: Pushing Gaming Performance to New Heights

Performance is paramount for gamers, and the OMEN MAX 16 delivers what they want and need to perform at their best. It ensures smoother gameplay and heightened responsiveness, empowering players to excel in AAA titles.

Power-Packed Performance: Runs on up to an Intel® Core™ Ultra 9 processor[iii] with up to 64GB DDR5 RAM for effortless handling of intensive gaming.

Unleashed Mode in OMEN Gaming Hub enables users to optimize power settings for peak performance or efficiency.

Next-Gen Graphics: Powered by NVIDIA Blackwell, GeForce RTX™ 50 Series Laptop GPUs deliver advanced AI performance, stunning graphics, and enhanced creativity with NVIDIA DLSS 4 and Studio.

Unlock new possibilities with NIM Microservices for AI-powered assistants, agents, and workflows.

Advanced Cooling System: Featuring OMEN Cryo Compound, which blends liquid metal and thermal grease for superior heat dissipation.

The OMEN Tempest Cooling Pro architecture ensures optimal airflow, while Fan Cleaner Technology reverses fan direction to prevent dust accumulation, extending longevity and maintaining peak performance.

Tailored Aesthetics: Built with a sleek metal chassis in Ceramic White or Shadow Black, it features an optional RGB light bar and a HyperX-inspired per-key RGB keyboard—both fully customizable via OMEN Light Studio.

Lag-free Connectivity: The OMEN MAX 16 integrates seamlessly with HyperX peripherals, enhancing HP’s gaming ecosystem.

With Ultra Low Latency Gen 3 technology, gamers can connect up to three HyperX devices instantly. A new ULL radio frequency design and optimized antenna placement provide fast, reliable responsiveness for an uninterrupted experience.

Immersive visuals: Featuring a 16-inch 2560×1600 IPS panel with a 240Hz refresh rate, 500 nits peak brightness, and full sRGB coverage.

It also supports a variable refresh rate (VRR) to minimize screen tearing during gameplay.

Sharp Interaction: HP True Vision 1080p FHD IR camera with temporal noise reduction and dual-array digital microphones ensure crystal-clear video calls, improved low-light performance, and seamless facial recognition.

Keeping up with its goal towards a sustainable future, the HP OMEN MAX 16 is made with ocean-bound plastics, recycled metals, and post-consumer recycled materials, it reduces environmental impact.

Sustainable packaging further supports HP’s commitment to minimizing e-waste, while ENERGY STAR® certification and EPEAT® Gold registration reinforce its vision for greener technology.

Pricing and Availability

The OMEN MAX 16 Gaming Laptop is available now on HP online store and Amazon.

The OMEN MAX 16 Gaming Laptop is available for starting price of Rs. 3,09,999 in Shadow Black color.

OMEN AI Beta is available world-wide.

MAKE YOUR CHILD’S DREAM WEDDING A REALITY—WITHOUT FINANCIAL STRESS! BY SUJEET KOTHARE. EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT - MARKETING, PRODUCTS AND PROPOSITIONS, TATA AIA LIFE INSURANCE

Chennai, 17 April 2025: An Indian wedding is not just an event; it’s an emotional and cultural milestone—a time when families unite, traditions come alive, and memories are created for a lifetime. But while weddings symbolize love and happiness, they often come with an unspoken burden: financial stress.

With over 80 lakh weddings celebrated in 2024, amounting to an astounding INR 10.7 lakh crore, India is the world’s second-largest wedding market, according to a Jefferies report. The rising cost of weddings has made financial planning more important than ever.

The Cost of Grand Celebrations: A Reality Check

Scenario 1: The Unplanned Expenses Dilemma Amit and Meera had set aside INR 20 lakh for their son’s wedding, thinking it would be more than enough. However, as the planning unfolded, they realized the actual costs were spiralling—venue rates had increased, additional guests had to be accommodated and other expenses which was not accounted for earlier.

The absence of a detailed budget and failure to factor in potential price increases led to them taking a loan, stretching their finances for years after the wedding. Had they planned strategically, they could have avoided this financial strain.

Scenario 2: Smart Planning Pays Off

On the other hand, Neha’s parents started planning for her wedding when she was just 10 years old. They invested a fixed amount monthly in a goal-based savings plan. Twenty years later, they had a well-prepared wedding fund, allowing them to give their daughter a dream wedding without compromising their financial stability.



Which scenario would you prefer for your child?

Why Financial Planning is Essential for Weddings

For most Indian families, a wedding is not just a social event—it’s a lifelong dream.

However, with wedding costs increasing by 7% annually (as per WedMeGood), the average wedding budget in 2024 stands at INR 36.5 lakh, with luxury weddings exceeding INR 1 crore. Without proper financial planning, these escalating wedding expenses can compromise other significant life goals.

A wedding may coincide with other major milestones, such as:

Buying a home, Funding higher education for children, Building retirement savings, Starting or growing a business, Taking care of medical or emergency needs.

Without a structured financial plan, these goals can be sidelined, causing long-term stress and a strain on your finances. Goal-based savings allow you to prioritize and allocate resources for each of these objectives, ensuring that your child’s wedding is grand yet does not come at the expense of your other life goals. By planning ahead, you can enjoy a fulfilling and financially secure future while also making the wedding of your dreams a reality.

The Advantage of Life Insurance for Wedding Planning

Traditionally, families relied on gold savings or fixed deposits for wedding funds.

However, modern financial tools, such as goal-based life insurance policies, offer greater benefits:

Disciplined Savings: Helps build a wedding corpus over time.

Inflation-Proof Growth: Ensures your savings grow along with rising costs.

Financial Security: Provides a safety net in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Additionally, beyond these advantages, some life insurance policies provide not only a way to save for the wedding but also the peace of mind that your loved ones will be financially supported in case of any unfortunate events, with important benefits like:

Exclusive Protection under the MWPA: If you have an ongoing home loan or business debt, creditors may try to claim the policy proceeds. However, by purchasing a policy under the Married Women’s Property Act (MWPA) of 1874, you can ensure that the benefits are directed to your wife and children, preventing creditors from making claims. This feature makes life insurance a powerful tool for long-term wedding savings.

Cover Continuation Benefit: Life insurance policies generally end upon the policyholder’s death, meaning the benefits cease. However, the Benefit Protection Rider allows your policy’s benefits to continue in the event of

death, terminal illness, or permanent disability. Some insurers even offer in-built cover continuance benefits, ensuring that your financial goals remain achievable even in your absence.

How Goal-Based Financial Planning Works

By starting early, parents can systematically build a wedding fund without last-minute borrowing. Let’s break it down:

Current average wedding cost: INR 36.5 lakh, Projected cost in 20 years (assuming 6% inflation): INR 1.17 crore, Monthly savings required (assuming 8% return): INR 45,000, Final corpus in 20 years: INR 117,13,871.

Imagine This:

You have a ready fund, giving you complete control over your child’s big day. No financial stress, no compromises—just a beautiful celebration.

Who Should Consider Goal-Based Financial Planning?

Young Parents: Start early to build a substantial wedding fund over time. Newlywed Couples: Secure your future together without last-minute financial Stress. Individuals in Their 30s: A structured savings plan helps prevent financial burdens later in life.

Planning today ensures that when the big day arrives, it’s filled with joy—not financial Worries.

Final Thought: Make the Right Choice Today!

A wedding is a cherished milestone, and it should be about love, laughter, and traditions—not financial pressure. By taking small steps today, you can ensure a grand, stress-free celebration tomorrow.

Would you rather take a last-minute loan or plan ahead for a worry-free wedding? The choice is yours!

Chennai, 17 April 2025: Nissan today announced it will launch its next generation ProPILOT technology from fiscal year 2027. The system, featuring Nissan Ground Truth Perception technology with next-generation Lidar and Wayve AI Driver software, will set a new standard for autonomous driving

NISSAN TO LAUNCH NEXT GENERATION OF AUTONOMOUS DRIVING TECHNOLOGY IN FY2027

Chennai, 17 April 2025: Nissan today announced it will launch its next generation ProPILOT technology from fiscal year 2027. The system, featuring Nissan Ground Truth Perception technology with next-generation Lidar and Wayve AI Driver software, will set a new standard for autonomous driving

with advanced collision avoidance capability.

Wayve AI Driver software, built on Wayve’s embodied AI foundation model, is designed to handle highly complex real-world driving conditions in a human-like manner. The technology’s ability to efficiently and rapidly

learn from vast amounts of data ensures continuous advantage to Nissan vehicles for the future.

Wayve overview

Wayve is a global AI company that’s pioneering embodied AI for driving. Its embodied AI foundation model is trained on vast amounts of real-world

experience using custom GenAI technology to enable point-to-point driving across urban and highway environments with greater safety and reliability. The foundation model excels at adapting to new scenarios and platforms to accelerate wide deployment of its autonomous driving technology.

“AI FOR OCEAN IS NOT JUST A RESEARCH THEME, IT’S A MISSION FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY”: DR. V. KAMAKOTI, DIRECTOR - I T MADRAS, AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AI FOR THE OCEANS 2025

Chennai, 17 April 2025: “Artificial Intelligence is not a challenge—it is a catalyst for change,” said Dr. Balaji Ramakrishnan, Director of the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), setting the tone for the launch of the International Conference on AI for the Oceans 2025 (ICAIO 2025) at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur.

The conference was organised in collaboration with the Marine Technology Society (MTS) India Section, the three-day conference brings together over 250 delegates including scientists, policy makers, academicians, and industry experts to explore more depth on AI-driven solutions for environmental challenges.

ICAIO 2025 builds on the momentum of the 2023 MTS TechSurge “AI for the Oceans.” This year’s conference spans 12



thematic tracks, covering areas such as marine conservation, autonomous systems, deep-sea exploration, and global climate solutions.

The release of the Conference Proceedings and a special IEEE CSI issue highlighted recent research and international collaboration in marine technology and AI.

During the occasion, Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, stated, “The ocean is not just a source of resources—it holds solutions.

Science, technology, and innovation must come

together to tackle challenges and create sustainable outcomes in food, energy, and health.”

Delivering the Special Address, Dr. Balaji Ramakrishnan stated, “AI is unlocking new frontiers—from redefining job roles to exploring the deep sea. With nations investing in AI-driven ocean technologies, SRMIST’s initiative comes at a critical time.”

In his Presidential Address, Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan, Vice Chancellor of SRMIST, said, “At SRMIST, we are moving towards an integrated model of education that combines AI-based

learning, research, innovation, industry partnerships, and community service. Our focus is on addressing real-world issues in water, energy, environment, and healthcare.”

Bringing global insights to the forum, Mr. Hans Van Sumeren, Senior Director, Ocean Enterprise Initiative, MTS, and Dr. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, also addressed the gathering.

Dr. Kamakoti emphasised, “AI amplifies our ability to understand and engage with the oceans. It helps us access unexplored regions and build sustainable coastal systems. Interdisciplinary collaboration will be key to long-term impact.”

A highlight of the event was the MTS India Section’s Lifetime Achievement Award ceremony, which honoured outstanding contributions in the marine field.

AMERICAN CENTER CHENNAI LAUNCHES FREE SUMMER STEM ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS. INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS AND HANDS-ON LEARNING FROM APRIL 21 TO MAY 30

Chennai, 17 April 2025: The American Center at the U.S. Consulate General Chennai invites school students to attend free summer activities focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) from April 21 through May 30, 2025.

The program for students in classes 8 through 12 includes immersive and hands-on learning activities and will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays, with movie screenings scheduled

for Fridays at 10 a.m. Space is limited and all participants must register in advance for their daily slots via email ChennaiAMCenter@State.Gov or WhatsApp 73056-76662.

STEM learning tools including coding kits such as MicroBits and Snap Circuits, Merge Cube augmented reality experiences, virtual reality goggles, a 3D printer, and NASA-themed LEGO sets are available for participants to immerse in this environment of hands-

on enrichment.

Students can also participate in a fun and educational quiz daily for a chance to win prizes, including 3D printed keepsakes and NASA stickers.

Speaking about the initiative, U.S. Consulate General Chennai Public Diplomacy Officer Eric Atkins said, “The American Center is honoring American excellence in STEM through summer sessions that will be a gateway to imagination, discovery, and meaningful learning.

We are proud to offer this free program to help cultivate the next generation of innovators.” The American Center in Chennai, housed within the U.S. Consulate General, is a cornerstone for learning, dialogue, and inspiration, strengthening the relationship between the United States and India for more than seven decades. With a library of over 15,000 books and a wealth of multimedia and digital resources, the Center is open to the public each day between 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

OUR SRM IST CYCLING STUDENT MS.DHANYADHA OF I BBA- WON A GOLD MEDAL IN THE ALL INDIA INTER-UNIVERSITY CYCLING WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

Chennai, 17 April 2025: Our SRM IST cycling student Ms. Dhanyadha of I BBA- won a Gold medal in the All India Inter-University Cycling Women's Tournament at Maharaja Ganga

Singh University, held at Bikaner, Rajasthan on 10th April 2025.

She excelled in the 40-kilometer Individual Event, showcasing exceptional skill and determination.



ALLIANCE WITH BJP NOT FOR COALITION GOVT: PALANISWAMI

Chennai, 17 April 2025: AIADMK General Secretary and Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami clarified on Wednesday that the party's alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is strictly for the 2026 Assembly elections and does not imply any intent to form a coalition government.

Speaking to the media after AIADMK

staged a walkout from the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Palaniswami emphasized, "He (Amit Shah) never spoke about a coalition government. We are only forming an electoral alliance with the BJP not a coalition government."

His statement came in response to repeated media questions about Union Home Minister Amit Shah's comments on April 11, during

which he spoke of forming a "coalition government" in Tamil Nadu while announcing the BJP-AIADMK alliance.

Dismissing speculation, Palaniswami said the narrative of a coalition was being driven by the media.

"Amit Shah clearly stated that Narendra Modi would lead the NDA nationally, and

that I would lead the alliance in Tamil Nadu. That's all. It's simple," he said, firmly reiterating that the AIADMK-BJP partnership is purely an electoral understanding.

The AIADMK's alliance with the BJP was formally announced on April 11, with both parties aiming to unseat the DMK in the 2026 Assembly polls.

AIADMK WALKS OUT OF ASSEMBLY, ACCUSES DMK OF SUPPRESSING DISSENT

Chennai, 17 April 2025: Members of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) staged a walkout from the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday, protesting against the DMK-led state government.

The protest was triggered by the Speaker's refusal to permit a no-confidence motion against state ministers K Ponmudy, K N Nehru, and V Senthil Balaji.

AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) stated that the party had submitted a no-confidence motion under Assembly Rule 72, but Speaker M Appavu denied them an opportunity to speak on the matter.

As they exited the Assembly, AIADMK

leaders raised slogans such as, "Where is democracy? No permission to raise people's issues."

EPS explained that the party had lost confidence in the ministers due to various controversies and ongoing investigations.

"We submitted the motion as per Rule 72. K.N. Nehru and his son were subjected to ED searches on April 7. Minister K Ponmudy made derogatory remarks about women and Hindus, and V. Senthil Balaji's TASMAT office was also raided by the ED."

We submitted the no-confidence motion to the Speaker in his chamber, but he refused to allow it," Palaniswami told reporters after the

walkout.

He emphasized that the issue warranted serious discussion. "In the past, such motions have been accepted for debate. This is a crucial matter," he added.

K Ponmudy, who faced backlash for his remarks against sections of Hinduism and women during an event hosted by the Thanthai Periyar Dravidar Kazhagam, was removed from his role as DMK's General Secretary. He later issued a public apology on April 12.

"I sincerely apologise for the inappropriate words I used during the event. I felt immediate regret and take full responsibility for my lapse in judgment," Ponmudy said. EPS also touched upon the

AIADMK's renewed alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

"Elections will determine the strength of our alliance. We are working to unite like-minded parties to defeat the DMK," he said, adding that more parties are expected to join the AIADMK-BJP coalition.

"First the BJP joined us. Many more will follow soon," he claimed.

The AIADMK-BJP alliance was officially announced on April 11, with EPS leading the campaign. He called the development a "pivotal moment" and expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his support.

DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA TO INAUGURATE NEWLY DEVELOPED 220-BEDDED ESIC HOSPITAL IN RANCHI, JHARKHAND TOMORROW

Chennai, 17 April 2025: Union Minister of Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, will inaugurate the newly developed 220-bedded ESIC Hospital at Namkum, Ranchi, Jharkhand on 17th April 2025. This state-of-the-art facility marks a significant milestone in strengthening healthcare delivery under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme in the state of Jharkhand.

Union Minister of State for Defence, Shri Sanjay Seth along with Shri Pradip Verma, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Shri Rajesh Kachhap, MLA, Khijri, Ranchi and senior officers of ESIC will also be present on the occasion.

During the programme, Dr. Mandaviya will

felicitate and give Cash Benefits Certificates/Sanction Letters to ESI beneficiaries. He will also felicitate construction workers who were involved in the construction of hospital.

Originally established in 1987, the ESIC Hospital in Namkum was founded with the primary objective of providing accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare services to insured workers and their families.

For over four decades, it has played a vital role in serving the healthcare needs of industrial workers in Ranchi and the surrounding areas.

To further enhance healthcare services in the region, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) approved the construction of a 200-bed hospital in June

2018. Construction commenced on 31st May 2018 and has since been completed, with the facility now upgraded to a 220-bedded hospital. In a significant development, ESIC Corporation also approved the establishment of a Medical College with 50 MBBS seats in October 2024, with operations set to begin in near future.

The hospital is well-equipped with essential departments such as General Medicine, Surgery, Gynaecology, Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology (Eye), and Dental, along with various support services. It offers both Outpatient (OPD) and Inpatient (IPD) care, effectively meeting the medical needs of ESI beneficiaries.

The upgraded hospital will now also offer speciality and super-speciality treatments, greatly

improving access to advanced healthcare services for residents of Ranchi and neighbouring districts.

The modernised facility is expected to benefit over 5 lakh Insured Persons (IPs) and their dependents, offering improved infrastructure and a broader range of medical services. The hospital complex features a Basement, Ground Floor, and four additional floors, spread across a 7.9-acre campus.

New building has been constructed with a cost of 99.06 crore and spread 17559 sq meter area. It is a 4 storey building equipped with 03 modern Operation Theatres (OTs) and provision for one additional Operation Theatres (OTs). It has 34 wards and 6 isolation wards, 40 OPD rooms and enough space for all doctors, administrative officers and staff.

LAUNCH OF THE COMPILATION OF PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES ON CULTURE - 'SANSKRITI KA PAANCHVA ADHYAY' AT IGNCA ON 18TH APRIL 2025

Chennai, 17 April 2025: The compilation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's thoughts and speeches on culture, titled 'Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay', is now being presented to readers in the form of a book. The formal launch ceremony of the book will be held on Friday, April 18, 2025, at 5:00

PM at the Samvet Auditorium, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), located at Janpath, New Delhi.

The book will be formally released by Acharya Mahaman daleshwar Pujya Swami Avdhesanand Giri Maharaj, the head of the Juna Akhara. The event will be presided

over by Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, Chairman of IGNCA, will be present as the Guest of Honour.

'Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay' is a curated collection of speeches by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

delivered on various occasions, highlighting Indian culture, traditions, spiritual values, and cultural heritage. The foreword of the book is written by Shri Ram Bahadur Rai and the compilation has been done by Dr. Prabhat Ojha. The book has been published by Prabhat Prakashan.

INDIAN NAVY HOSTS MEGHAYAN-25. METEOROLOGICAL AND OCEANOLOGICAL SEMINAR

Chennai, 17 April 2025: The 3rd edition of the Indian Navy's Meteorological and Oceanological Symposium - Meghayan 25 - was held on 14 Apr 25, to commemorate the formation of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and celebrating WMO Day 2025. Hosted at the Nausena Bhawan at Delhi, the symposium was virtually inaugurated by Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff. The event brought together an impressive array of distinguished experts, high-ranking naval officers, outstation guests, and key stakeholders from across the meteorological and oceanographic spectrum.

Premier organisations like the India Met Dept (IMD), the Indian Institute for Tropical Meteorology (IITM), the Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), the Indian Air Force, Space Applications Center (SAC), ISRO, Ahmedabad, National Maritime Foundation (NMF) and the Indian Institute of



Technology, Madras (IIT-M) participated in the event. The seminar was organised to align with this year's WMO Day theme - 'Closing the Early Warning Gap Together'.

The technical program was divided into two enriching sessions, each moderated by seasoned Subject Matter Experts. Session I, moderated by RAdm G Rambabu, Principal of the Indian Naval Academy (INA) and the seniormost Met Officer, featured a series of insightful presentations that showcased cutting-edge developments in Marine Meteorology and Oceanology.

Session II, moderated by Cmde SMU Athar, Cmde (NE), shifted focus to Statistical Approaches in Weather Forecasting. Both sessions ended with stimulating Q&A, sessions with active participation from the audience. The event also featured an incisive and thought-provoking Panel Discussion focused on

"Closing the Early Warning Gap Together: Enhancing Maritime Security and Coordination" bringing together experts to deliberate on integrated strategies for maritime safety and preparedness. The discussion was moderated astutely by VAdm Pradeep Chauhan (Retd), the Director General NMF.

The final session was presided over by Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, the Vice Chief of Naval Staff. The event was also attended by Vadm Tarun Sobti, the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, VAdm Lochan Singh Pathania, the Chief Hydrographer to the GoI and veteran Met officers. Dr Nilesh Desai, Director SAC, Ahmedabad graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour, while Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, the Director General IMD and Hony Vice President of the WMO delivered the Keynote Address.

A key highlight of

the event was the felicitation of the pioneer of the Navy's Meteorological specialisation, Cmde PI Oommen (Retd). The 94 years young first Principal Director of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology addressed the gathering and shared a few treasured memories and experiences with the audience.

In keeping with the quest for continuous improvement of meteorological services within the Indian Navy, Meteorological and Oceanographic Satellite Data Archival Centre - Indian Navy (MOSDAC-IN) web services, a joint collaboration between the Directorate of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology (DNOM) and SAC was officially launched by Dr Nilesh Desai. MOSDAC-IN, which provides customised satellite derived weather products with separate log-ins for individual Naval Met Offices.

The symposium also saw the revival of its professional Meteorological and Oceanological journal after a gap of almost 10 years. The 10th edition of "Sagarmanthan" was launched during Meghayan 25.

RJD, CONG TALKS ON BEEFING UP ALLIANCE FOR ASSEMBLY POLLS

Chennai, 17 April 2025: Senior RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi here on Tuesday and discussed on strengthening their alliance and contesting the upcoming Assembly polls in Bihar unitedly with a goal of defeating the NDA.

Talking to media,

Bihar Congress in-charge Krishna Allavaru said that Today's meeting was the beginning and on April 17 another meeting will take place in Patna where both the parties will move forward forming a consensus and with a strong strategy.

During the meeting Kharge said, "This time change is certain in Bihar. Today, we met the former Deputy Chief Minister of

Bihar Tejashwi Yadav and discussed the strengthening of Mahagathbandhan."

He said that in the upcoming election the leaders discussed to give the people of Bihar a strong, positive, just and welfare-oriented option.

The Congress president further said that the the alliance will work to free Bihar from BJP and its opportunistic alliance.

"Youth, farmers, labourers, women, backward, and people of all other sections of the society want the Mahagathbandhan Government in Bihar," Kharge said. Present in the meeting meeting were Congress leader KC Venugopal, Bihar Congress in-charge Krishna Allavaru, Bihar State Congress President Rajesh Kumar, RJD leader Manoj Jha among others.