

STALIN ANNOUNCES 9 WELFARE MEASURES FOR GOVT EMPLOYEES

Chennai, 29 April 2025: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday made nine key announcements in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly aimed at improving the welfare of State government staff.

During his address, Stalin emphasized that government employees are the pillars of administration and vital arms of the government. Highlighting Tamil Nadu's top position among Indian states in various sectors, he credited the hard work and dedication of government employees and teachers as a major factor behind the success.

"On behalf of the Tamil Nadu government, I appreciate all the government employees who are working tirelessly to ensure that no one is left out of the government's schemes," he said.

Earned leave: The first announcement is the earned leave surrender, starting from October 1, up to 15 days of earned leave can be surrendered for a cash benefit. Approximately 8 lakh government employees and teachers will benefit. To implement this, the government will allocate an additional



Rs 3,561 crore per year.

Dearness allowance: Based on the Central Government's decision to increase DA by 2 per cent from January 2025, the State Government will also increase the DA by 2% from the same date for state government employees. This will benefit about 16 lakh employees, including teachers, pensioners, and family pensioners. This hike will cost the government an additional RS 1,252 crore per year.

Festival Allowance : The third one is to help government employees and teachers celebrate festivals with their families, the existing festival advance of Rs 10,000 will now be increased to Rs 20,000.

Higher Education advance: The fourth one is the higher

education of employees' children. From this year, for vocational education, the education advance will be increased to Rs 1,00,000. For arts, science, and polytechnic, it will be increased to Rs 50,000.

Marriage advance : Until now, women employees received Rs 10,000 and male employees Rs 6,000 as marriage advance. This will now be increased to Rs 5,00,000 for all employees, regardless of gender, in the fifth announcement.

Pongal bonus: The sixth announcement is the Pongal festival bonus given annually by the Tamil Nadu Government to retired C & D category staff, all types of individual pensioners, and family pensioners will be increased from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000. This will benefit about 4.71 lakh pensioners and family

pensioners, costing the government an additional Rs 24 crore.

The seventh announcement is to help pensioners celebrate festivals with their families; the existing festival advance of Rs 4,000 will be increased to Rs 6,000. This will benefit about 52,000 pensioners, and cost the government an additional Rs 10 crore.

Review of pension schemes : The committee has been formed to thoroughly study the Old Pension Scheme, the Contributory Pension Scheme, and the Integrated Pension Scheme. Based on the demands from various employee and teacher associations, this committee is instructed to submit its report and recommendations by September 30, the eighth announcement.

Maternity leave: Maternity leave was extended from nine months to one year with pay from July 2021.

However, currently, this leave is not counted towards the probation period, affecting promotion and seniority of many young female employees. To protect their service rights, the government has decided that maternity leave will now be counted towards the probation period, the ninth announcement.

JK ASSEMBLY MOVES RESOLUTION CONDEMNING PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

Chennai, 29 April 2025: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly moved a resolution on Monday expressing shock and anguish over the barbaric terrorist attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people and resolved to fight resolutely in defeating the nefarious designs of disturbing communal harmony and hindering progress. The resolution was moved by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary during a special session of the Assembly which began with the members observing a two-

minute silence to pay homage to those killed in the tragedy last week.

"The Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir reaffirms its unwavering commitment to foster an environment of peace, development, and inclusive prosperity for all its citizens, and to resolutely defeat the nefarious designs of those who seek to disturb the communal harmony and progress of the nation and of Jammu and Kashmir," the resolution stated.

The deputy chief minister said, "This

House expresses its profound shock and anguish over the barbaric and inhumane attack perpetrated on innocent civilians at Pahalgam on April 22."

"This House expresses its profound shock and anguish over the barbaric and inhumane attack perpetrated on innocent civilians at Pahalgam on April 22." This House unequivocally condemns the heinous, cowardly act that resulted in the loss of innocent lives, he said.

Quoting the resolution, Choudhary said, "Such acts of

terror are a direct assault on the ethos of Kashmiriyat, the values enshrined in our Constitution, and the spirit of unity, peace, and harmony that have long characterized Jammu and Kashmir and our nation."

This House stands in full solidarity with the victims and their families, the document stated.

"We extend our deepest condolences to those who have suffered irreparable loss and affirm our collective resolve to share in their grief and support them in their hour of need."

PM TO PARTICIPATE IN YUGM CONCLAVE ON 29TH APRIL

Chennai, 29 April 2025: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will participate in YUGM Conclave on 29th April, at around 11 AM, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. He will also address the gathering on the occasion.

YUGM (meaning "confluence" in Sanskrit) is a first-of-its-kind strategic conclave convening leaders from government, academia, industry, and the innovation ecosystem. It will contribute to India's innovation journey, driven by a collaborative project of

around Rs 1,400 crore with joint investment from the Wadhvani Foundation and Government Institutions.

In line with Prime Minister's vision of a self-reliant and innovation-led India, various key projects will be initiated during the conclave. They include Superhubs at IIT Kanpur (AI & Intelligent Systems) and IIT Bombay (Biosciences, Biotechnology, Health & Medicine); Wadhvani Innovation Network (WIN) Centers at top research institutions to drive research

commercialization; and partnership with Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) for jointly funding late-stage translation projects and promoting research and innovation.

The conclave will also include High-level Roundtables and Panel Discussions involving government officials, top industry and academic leaders; action-oriented dialogue on enabling fast-track translation of research into impact; a Deep Tech Startup Showcase featuring cutting-edge innovations from across India; and

exclusive networking opportunities across sectors to spark collaborations and partnerships.

The Conclave aims to catalyze large-scale private investment in India's innovation ecosystem; accelerate research-to-commercialization pipelines in frontier tech; strengthen academia-industry-government partnerships; advance national initiatives like ANRF and AICTE Innovation; democratize innovation access across institutions; and foster a national innovation alignment toward Viksit Bharat@2047.

ACQUISITION OF THE PRIVATE PAPER COLLECTION OF DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

Chennai, 29 April 2025: The National Archives of India (NAI) is the custodian of the non-current records of the Government of India and holds them in trust for the use of administrators and researchers, as per the provisions of the Public Records Act, 1993.

As a premier archival institution, the National Archives of India plays a key role in guiding and shaping archival consciousness in the country.

Apart from its vast collection of public records, the NAI also houses a rich and ever-growing collection of private papers of eminent Indians from all walks of life, who have made significant contributions to the nation.

Taking the legacy forward, the National Archives of India (NAI) today acquired the private papers of Late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, comprising original correspondences, Passport, Aadhar card, Pan card, tour reports, and the lecture delivered by Dr. Kalam in various universities as well as organizations.

The collection also comprises several original photographs. The collection was donated by Dr. APJM

Nazema Maraikayar, niece of Dr. Kalam, Shri APJMJ Sheik Salem, Grand Nephew of Dr. Kalam to National Archives of India. Shri. Arun Singhal (IAS), Director General, National Archives signed an agreement with Dr. APJM Nazema Maraikayar. The ceremony was also attended by Shri APJM Jainulabudeen, nephew of Dr. Kalam and Shri APJMJ Sheik Dawood, grand nephew of Dr. Kalam.

Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam(1931–2015), widely known as the "Missile Man of India," was an eminent scientist and the 11th President of India (2002–2007).

Born on 15 October 1931 in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, into a humble family, Kalam rose through sheer hard work and determination.

After studying physics and aerospace engineering, he contributed significantly to India's missile development programs and played a pivotal role in the Pokhran-II nuclear tests of 1998.

Working with organizations like DRDO and ISRO, he helped strengthen India's defense and space capabilities. His achievements earned



him numerous honors, including the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.

Beyond his scientific contributions, Dr. Kalam was deeply passionate about inspiring the youth of India.

He authored several influential books such as "Wings of Fire," "Ignited Minds," and "India 2020," all centered around dreaming big and building a stronger nation.

Known as the "People's President" for his humble and approachable nature, Kalam dedicated his post-presidency years to education and mentoring young minds.

His life remains a symbol of simplicity, perseverance, and visionary leadership. Dr. Kalam passed away on 27 July 2015, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire generations.

INDIAN LIFE INSURERS REGISTER A RECDR NEW BUSINESS IN THE FY 2024-25;
PREMIUM COLLECTION GREW BY 5.13%; LIFE INSURERS ADDED MORE THAN
11,15,661 NEW INDIVIDUAL LIFE INSURANCE AGENTS, WITH AN OVERALL 7.88% GROWTH

Chennai, 29 April 2025: Life Insurance Council has released the business figures of the life industry for the financial year 2024-25. Total new business premium of the industry grew by 5.13% with individual new business premiums registering a growth of 11.17%.

The industry collected at total of Rs. 3,97,336.78 crore for the year 2024-25 as compared to 3,77,960.34 crore for the pervious financial year. The individual new business premium collected in the year

2024-25 stood at Rs. 1,66,590.81 crore as compared to Rs. 1,49,851.67 for the pervious financial year.

This strong performance is attributed to life insurers' focus on encouraging first-time buyers to secure comprehensive financial protection, resulting in a 4.47% growth in combined individual premium collections for March 2025 and an 11.17% year-to-date increase.

In the group policy segment, single premiums reached

₹33,543.21 crore, with the category registering a 0.46% growth in premiums collected during March 2025.

The industry's efforts to expand access to insurance have been complemented by significant agent additions—over 11,15,661 new individual life insurance agents added in the fiscal year 2024-25—leading to a 7.88% growth in the cumulative agent count.

The rapid pace of

digitisation across the sector is further expected to drive insurance penetration, setting the stage for continued growth in new business premiums in FY25 and beyond.

Overall, the Indian life insurance industry continues to make significant progress, reaching new milestones in premium collections and expanding its reach to previously underserved segments of the population, positioning itself for sustained future growth.

SAATVIK GREEN ENERGY LIMITED SHOWCASES ADVANCED SOLAR
MANUFACTURING SOLUTIONS AT RENEWX 2025 IN CHENNAI

Chennai, 29 April 2025: Saatvik Green Energy Limited (SGEL), one of India's fastest growing module manufacturing companies, participated in RenewX 2025 from April 23-25 at the Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam.

The Company is one of the fastest growing module manufacturing companies in India and has established itself as one of the key players in India's solar energy market.

The Company offers modules based on polycrystalline cell technology, monocrystalline cell technology, bifacial technology, M12 technology and advanced Tunnel Oxide Passivated Contact ("TopCon") technology which helps reduce energy loss and enhances overall efficiency.

At Renew X, Saatvik showcased its N-TopCon and N-TopCon G12R solar modules, available in monofacial and bifacial options, suited for residential, commercial, and utility-scale projects.

The company also highlighted its turnkey EPC capabilities, which include engineering, procurement, construction, and operations & maintenance services for ground-mounted and rooftop solar installations.

Saatvik Solar is one of India's leading module manufacturers, in terms of operational

solar PV module manufacturing capacity, with an operational capacity of approximately 3.8 GW modules as of February 28, 2025.

The Company currently operates three module manufacturing facilities in Ambala, Haryana spread across a total land area of 724,225 square feet, which together form one of the largest single location module manufacturing facilities in India.

Speaking on the company's participation, Mr. Prashant Mathur, CEO, Saatvik Green Energy Limited, said, "RenewX offered a vital platform to engage with the fast-growing South Indian solar market.

As Tamil Nadu continues to lead in renewable energy adoption, Saatvik was excited to showcase its solar modules and EPC strength."

The Company has one of the most diversified client bases in the industry with presence in various segments (large utility, commercial and industrial, Open access, residential rooftop, solar pump) and across geographies (selling in all parts of India, North America, Africa and South Asia).

Saatvik's Participation Highlights:

Presented N-TopCon modules for diverse applications.

Displaying Saatvik's expertise in executing EPC projects

Engaged with EPC players, industrial buyers, and developers across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala, and Telangana.

The Company is one of the early adopters of new technology like N-type Topcon and Mono PERC in India.

The Company recently launched G12R based Topcon modules and has started commercial production from January 2024. The Company is one of the first movers in the industry.

The Company also offers end-to-end solutions through its Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) arm. The Company is one of the leading EPC companies in India with 69.12 MW of installed EPC base in Fiscal 2024.

The Company is one of the few integrated players with capabilities in O&M, EPC, module manufacturing and is now planning to set up a cell manufacturing facility and solar pump manufacturing facility.

The Company is one of the largest module manufacturers in North India, which is a lucrative market having high solar incidence area and proximity to states like Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

The Company had one of the highest capacity utilisation in Fiscal 2024 (more than 80%) whereas the normal industry

utilization was around 60%.

The Company commissioned a 61.42 MW floating solar power project at Ramagundam, Telangana in Fiscal 2023, which was one of India's largest floating solar power plants.

The Company also commissioned a 12 MW installation for the Jindal Group under its EPC wing in Fiscal 2024, which was one of the largest single rooftop solar projects.

About Saatvik Green Energy Limited : Headquartered in Gurugram, Saatvik is one of India's leading module manufacturers, in terms of operational solar PV module manufacturing capacity, with an operational capacity of approximately 3.8 GW modules as of February 28, 2025.

The company offers Mono PERC and N-TopCon modules, robust EPC services, and O&M capabilities. Its products cater to residential, commercial, industrial, and utility-scale segments with a focus on sustainability, reliability, and performance.

Saatvik Green Energy Limited is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, an initial public offering of its equity shares and has filed a draft red herring prospectus dated March 13, 2025 ("DRHP") with the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI").

FLEXI CAP FUNDS COULD BE A SMART CHOICE
FOR RETAIL INVESTORS IN TODAY'S MARKET

Chennai, 29 April 2025: India's stock market, of late, stands at an exciting crossroads. Fuelled by global tariff wars and macroeconomic challenges, markets globally have been extremely volatile and India hasn't been an exception. The India VIX (Volatility Index), a measure of volatility, currently at 15.47 (as of April 17, 2025), indicating that investors should brace for significant price swings in the near term.

In such an environment, retail investors can look for strategies that combine growth with diversification. Flexi cap funds are emerging as a compelling solution. T

These unique equity mutual funds invest across large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap companies without restriction. This built-



in agility allows fund managers to dynamically allocate assets depending on market cycles, macroeconomic signals, and sector developments.

When stability is needed, they can shift to large caps. When risk-reward is favourable, they can tilt toward high-growth mid- and small-caps.

This built-in agility helps portfolios remain resilient even when specific market segments underperform. Tata Flexi Cap Fund, has

seen inflows worth Rs. 781 crore from Chennai in FY25.

(Source: Tata MF data) Overall, the category saw its assets under management rise from Rs. 4,06,429.75 crore in February 2025 to Rs. 4,35,508.97 crore in March 2025, reflecting a 7% monthly jump. (Source: AMFI).

"Given the current situation, where valuation comfort varies significantly across large-caps, mid-caps and small-caps, investing in flexi caps could be more sensible choice. For retail investors navigating uncertain markets, flexi cap funds could offer a compelling blend of

diversification and agility. In times of uncertainty, flexibility isn't just a virtue—it could be a strategy in itself," said Rahul

Singh, CIO-Equities, Tata Asset Management "Tata's Flexi Cap Fund follows a dual investment philosophy: sector rotation, where we look to buy undervalued sectors and sell those that are overvalued and a bottom-up approach focused on selecting companies with high growth potential, sustainable business models, and low debt. By combining these strategies, our aim is to optimise risk-adjusted returns", added Rahul.

The mix of large-cap stability with mid- and small-cap growth opportunities creates a balanced, risk-adjusted return profile could be an ideal choice for investors seeking both resilience and upside. In a volatile environment, flexi cap funds can serve as a one-stop solution where adaptability is the key.

EPIC TASTE AND EPIC SAVINGS
WITH KFC'S NEW VALUE OFFER

Chennai, 29 April 2025: Calling all chicken lovers – KFC is here with an EPIC offer! Fans across Tamil Nadu can feast on their KFC favourites with the all-new EPIC SAVERS.

Enjoy 9 pieces of finger lickin' good chicken at ₹299/- only. Get 7 droolworthy Boneless Chicken Strips, and 2 crunchy, juicy pieces of Hot & Crispy Chicken at an unbelievable price.

Because why choose between EPIC taste and EPIC savings when you can have both?

So, what are you waiting for? Gather your friends and family and get together for an EPIC time at your nearest KFC.

Limited time offer valid for dine-in across all 120+ KFC restaurants in Tamil Nadu.

About KFC : KFC, a subsidiary of Yum! Brands, Inc. (NYSE: YUM.), is a global chicken restaurant brand with a rich, decades-long history of success and innovation. It all started with one cook, Colonel Harland Sanders, who created a finger lickin' good



recipe more than 80 years ago, a list of secret herbs and spices scratched out on the back of the door to his kitchen. Today we still follow his formula for success, with real

cooks breeding and freshly preparing our delicious chicken by hand in more than 26,000 restaurants in over 145 countries and territories around the world.

14% REDUCTION IN ROAD ACCIDENT
FATALITIES IN CHENNAI.

Chennai, 29 April 2025: GCTP has undertaken various steps and remedial measures to reduce road accidents and enhance road safety across the city through increased enforcement, patrolling, and awareness activities. Also, GCTP creates impactful awareness among the road users by insisting the public to maintain road discipline, follow safety guidelines, use protective gear and educate themselves on road safety. In coordination with the experts, GCTP has

facilitated many training programs for police. Personnel towards technological approaches for accident reductions and through workshops and safety education programs for schoolchildren, bus drivers, and delivery agents etc. In addition to awareness campaigns, GCTP has strengthened its enforcement strategy by booking more number of cases against over speeding, drunken driving, speeding, and riding without helmet through manual checks and technological



initiatives like ANPR cameras, 2D. Speed Radar System and Vehicle interceptor system throughout Chennai City. Furthermore, GCTP identifies and fixes accident-prone spots by improving road conditions, signage, and lighting. These collective efforts have led to a significant reduction in fatal deaths when compared

to last year in Chennai city.

The fatalities have decreased by 14% in 2025 when compared to 2024 as on 25.04.2025. 173 fatal deaths had happened during last year till 25.04.2024. This has been brought down to 149 fatal deaths. GCTP will continue its efforts to reduce accidents and ensure road safety as its maximum priority.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT INKED WITH FRANCE FOR 26 RAFALE-MARINE AIRCRAFT FOR INDIAN NAVY

Chennai, 29 April 2025 : The Governments of India and France have signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for the procurement of 26 Rafale Aircraft (22 Single-Seater and four Twin-Seater) for the Indian Navy. It includes Training, Simulator, Associated Equipment, Weapons and Performance-Based Logistics. It also includes additional equipment for the existing Rafale fleet of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The IGA has been signed by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Minister of Armed Forces of France Mr Sebastien Lecornu. The signed copies of the agreement, aircraft package supply



protocol and weapons package supply protocol were exchanged by Indian and French officials in the presence of Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh at Nausena Bhawan, New Delhi on April 28, 2025.

In line with the Government's thrust on Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the agreement includes Transfer of Technology for integration of indigenous weapons in India. It also includes

setting up of production facility for Rafale Fuselage as well as Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facilities for aircraft engine, sensors and weapons in India. The deal is expected to generate thousands of jobs and revenue for a large number of MSMEs in setting up, production and running of these facilities.

Manufactured by France's Dassault Aviation, the Rafale-

Marine is a carrier-borne combat-ready aircraft with proven operational capabilities in maritime environment. The delivery of these aircraft would be completed by 2030, with the crew undergoing training in France and India.

Rafale-Marine has commonality with the Rafale being operated by IAF. Its procurement will substantially enhance joint operational capability, besides optimising training and logistics for the aircraft for both Indian Navy and IAF. The induction would lead to the addition of a potent force multiplier to the Indian Navy's aircraft carriers, substantially boosting the nation's air power at sea.

IN-SPACE TO HELP PRIVATE PLAYERS MAKE SAT BUS

Chennai, 29 April 2025: The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), an autonomous agency attached to the Department of Space (DOS), will aide private industries in satellite bus manufacturing.

It has released An Announcement of Opportunity (AO) inviting NGEi to indigenously design, develop and realise small satellite bus for providing hosted payload services.

In its website, IN-SPACe said it has hence taken an initiative to aide private industries to undertake satellite bus manufacturing in India

catering to hosted payload services and eventually become global spacecraft bus provider.

In this endeavor, IN-SPACe proposes to realise "Satellite Bus as a Service" in two phases; viz., Phase 1 - Develop the small satellite bus which can be used for hosted payload service (upto four NGEi shortlisted through this AO) and Phase 2 - Enabling hosted payload services by supporting up to two hosted payload missions (one/two NGEi selected through separate bidding process).

IN-SPACe functions as a single-window nodal agency for promoting,

enabling, authorizing and supervising space-related activities by Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs) in India.

As an enabler of the Indian space sector, IN-SPACe is mandated to foster the private sector by closely collaborating with the industry involved in space endeavours.

The Space reforms brought in by the Union Government has attracted significant number of start-ups as well as established players to participate in end-to-end space activities.

A few of the Indian NGE have already initiated the development of space systems.

These NGE need reliable and affordable access to space to provide commercial services and technology demonstration. By getting in-flight experience, the NGEs eventually will be able to increase the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of their systems.

Hosted payload service is an innovative solution, providing a cost-effective and efficient way for NGEs (including startups, MSME, large industries, academic institutions and government agencies) to access space. These services allow multiple users to share a single platform by integrating different payloads into one spacecraft.

CHINA LAUNCHES DATA RELAY SAT

Chennai, 29 April 2025 : China successfully sent a new data relay satellite into orbit from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province on Sunday.

The Tianlian II-05 satellite was launched at 11:54 p.m. (Beijing Time) aboard a Long March-3B carrier rocket and entered its

planned orbit.

Tianlian II-05 is China's second-generation geosynchronous orbit data-relay satellite.

It will provide data relay and TT&C (telemetry, tracking and command) services for manned spacecraft such as spaceships and space stations, for medium and low-earth-orbit



resource satellites, and TT&C support for spacecraft launches.

This was the 572nd flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

AADHAAR AUTHENTICATION SURGES PAST 2,707 CRORE IN 2024-25; UIDAI'S FACE AUTHENTICATION GAINS MOMENTUM

Chennai, 29 April 2025: In a clear sign of its growing adoption and utility, Aadhaar number holders carried out more than 2,707 crore authentication transactions in 2024-25 including 247 crore such transactions in March alone.

Aadhaar has been an enabler of digital economy and the increasing adoption shows its growing role across sector including banking, finance, telecom, and for the smooth delivery of benefits under various government schemes and services.

The total number of authentication transactions in March

2025 (246.75 Cr) is higher than the transactions clocked during the same period last year as well as in February 2025. Since inception, the cumulative number of authentication transactions have crossed over 14,800 crore.

The AI/ML based Aadhaar Face Authentication solutions developed in house by UIDAI has been witnessing significant growth. In March more than 15 crore such transactions took place, indicative of the growing usage, adoption of this authentication modality and how it is

benefiting Aadhaar number holders seamlessly. More than 100 entities both in government and private sector are using face authentication for smooth delivery of benefits and services.

On 21 April, UIDAI received the prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration. This was presented under the Innovation category for UIDAI's Face Authentication modality.

Aadhaar e-KYC service continues to play a crucial role in improving customer experience and adding ease of doing business

in sectors including banking and non-banking financial services.

The total number of eKYC transactions (44.63 Cr) carried out during March 2025 is over 6% more than the numbers during the same period last year. The cumulative number of e-KYC transactions has touched 2356 crore as on 31 March 2025.

Similarly, 20 lakh new Aadhaar numbers were generated in March 2025 and over 1.91 crore Aadhaars were updated successfully following submissions from Aadhaar number holders.

TALIBAN URGES INDIA TO GIVE VISAS FOR AFGHANS

Chennai, 29 April 2025: Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi met with top Indian official Anand Prakash in Kabul on Sunday and called on New Delhi to resume issuing visas for Afghan traders, students, and patients, according to a Taliban statement.

Prakash, who is Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran Division) in the MEA, met with Muttaqi, according to a statement released by the Taliban's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, Muttaqi emphasised the need to expand diplomatic and economic relations between the two sides, highlighting new opportunities for investment in Afghanistan.

He urged Indian investors to take advantage of emerging projects and encouraged both countries to facilitate travel by restoring normal visa issuance procedures, especially for businesspeople, patients, and students.

The two sides also discussed bilateral political ties, trade, transit issues, and recent regional political developments, according to the Taliban statement.

In response, Prakash is reported to have said that relations with Afghanistan remain important for India and expressed hope that cooperation between the two countries would expand across multiple sectors.

He also reiterated India's willingness to

continue humanitarian and development assistance, including the revival of some infrastructure projects that had been paused after the Taliban's return to power.

The visit of India's Special Envoy to Kabul comes at a time when, due to escalating security tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad, the Attari-Wagah border crossing for Afghan commercial goods bound for India has been closed.

The meeting between the two sides also comes a few days after India sent a consignment of medicines to Kabul, as part of its development assistance.

Earlier this year, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had met with the Taliban Foreign

Minister in Dubai, in what was the highest level meeting between the two sides. While India has not formally recognised the Taliban regime, New Delhi continues to send assistance in the form of vaccines, food, medicines, and other needful material.

Ties between India and the Taliban regime in Kabul are marked by warmth, and mutual regard, in contrast to the worsening and fraught ties between Kabul and Islamabad. Pakistan blames Afghanistan for allowing the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan terror group to shelter in the border areas and launch attacks on the Pakistani armed forces.

India maintains a diplomatic presence through a technical mission in Kabul, and has not formally reopened its Embassy.

PASSPORT | MSME | PAN | AADHAAR
FSSAI | PATTA | LEGALHEIR
2,4 WHEELER INSURANCE
PROPERTY TAX, EB - NAME TRANSFER
STATE AND CENTRAL GOVT
AUTHORISED FRANCHISEE
ALL ONLINE SERVICES

இ-சேவை மையம்
ஸ்டார் ரெயின்போ சர்வீசஸ்
11, SOUTH PERUMAL KOIL STREET, VADAPALANI, CHENNAI - 600 026.
8148231942 / 8144337349
வாது இ-சேவை மையம்

‘INDIAN BUSINESSES EMBRACING AI TO TRANSFORM CORE BUSINESS FUNCTIONS’

Chennai, 29 April 2025: At the SAP NOW AI Tour in Mumbai, SAP India today revealed new analysis into how Indian businesses are benefiting from artificial intelligence (AI). Moving from AI hype to real-world impact, India enterprises are adopting AI solutions across business operations, making 2025 the year of measurable AI outcomes.

SAP, a leader in enterprise applications and business AI, became Europe’s

largest company by market capitalisation this year. Since its inception in 1996, SAP Indian operations have played a significant role in supporting growth and innovation across sectors.

By partnering with leading organizations such as Mahindra & Mahindra, Asian Paints, Wipro Limited, Infosys Limited, Vahdam Teas, Ola, Wakefit, DeHaat, Jaquar, and many others, it has helped drive substantial economic impact nationwide.

Based on analysis of SAP customers in India over a 12-month period from March 2024 to March 2025, the most popular AI use cases in India are:

AI-generated visual insights, summaries, and translations, AI-assisted process analysis, Creating sales orders from unstructured data, Predictive forecasting, Natural language queries.

“In any organisation, it is the profound insights derived from data that fuel mission-critical

operations across finance, procurement, supply chain, workforce and beyond,” said Manish Prasad, President and Managing Director, SAP Indian Sub continent. “We are empowering our customers as they evolve into intelligent, optimized businesses by embedding AI agents into all aspects of business operations.

We are redefining how individuals work and changing the way businesses are run, all developing in India for the benefit of the world.”

PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU PRESENTS PADMA BHUSHAN IN THE FIELD OF ART TO S. AJITH KUMAR

Chennai, 29 April 2025: President Droupadi Murmu presents Padma Bhushan in the field of Art to S. Ajith Kumar.

cemented his reputation as one of the most versatile actors in the industry.

His influence stretches far beyond the confines of cinema. He is involved in charitable activities, lending support to various causes without seeking public attention.



TOWARDS A NEW APPROACH FOR GREEN HYDROGEN PRODUCTION

Chennai, 29 April 2025: Researcher have developed fresh insights into proton adsorption behaviour at the surface of catalysts, which can help construct electro catalysts useful for producing green hydrogen.

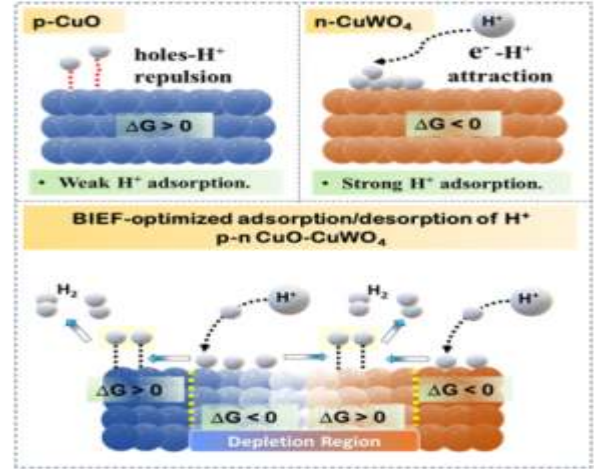
Plethora of heterostructures have been studied for green hydrogen generation with the effect of built-in electric field (BIEF). However, the metal-oxide-semiconductor (MOS) based p-n heterojunction can be considered as a promising material to have robust BIEF due to asymmetric electronic environment.

Recent research is focused on leveraging BIEFs at the interface of different electronic environments to improve hydrogen production. Therefore, analysing and correlating parameters such as the work function, BIEF, and Gibbs free energy (a thermodynamic potential that can be used to calculate the maximum amount of work) is crucial for understanding the reaction mechanism. The difference in work functions between two

materials is what drives the initial charge redistribution, which in turn sets up the built-in potential across the junction. BIEF directly affects the dynamics of proton adsorption/desorption, which was evaluated by Gibbs free energy of adsorption.

Scientists of Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, grew CuWO4 (Copper tungsten oxide) nano-particles precursor over Cu(OH)2 (Copper hydroxide) and fabricated CuWO4-CuO hetero-structure and studied its physical and electrochemical properties. They examined the Gibbs free energy profile for proton adsorption of different regions and found that near the depletion region and along the interface, the proton adsorption energy shows contrasting behaviour as compared with bulk area. This induces a gradient in Gibbs free energy across and near the depletion region, thereby promoting an improved hydrogen adsorption and desorption.

Interestingly,



Scientists from INST, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), demonstrated that the interplay between the built-in electric field (BIEF) and Gibbs free energy in the proposed catalyst gives rise to a favourable regime, where hydrogen bonding to the catalyst is optimized, facilitating efficient hydrogen evolution. They also found that along the hetero junction interface, the ΔG indicates high adsorption affinity of protons toward the CuO phase and significant desorption at the CuWO4 phase. The CuO-CuWO4 catalyst unveils an excellent example of 'negative cooperativity,' in which the binding of one

molecule decreases the affinity of other binding sites for additional molecules. With more and more proton coverage, the affinity of the catalyst’s surface towards the proton adsorption decreases, and promotes alkaline Hydrogen Evolution Reaction by enhancing desorption. This research published in Adv. Energy Mater. 2025 helped understand the typical proton adsorption behaviour at the surface of the catalyst, which can help others to design and construct similar electrocatalyst which can give robust activity to produce green hydrogen. Improving in electrocatalytic hydrogen production can lead to sustainable environment with advance green technologies.

IRAN BLAST DEATH TOLL UP TO 40; 1,000 INJURED

Chennai, 29 April 2025: The death toll from a massive explosion at a port in Iran’s southern province of Hormozgan on Saturday has reached 40, and the Government has announced one day of national mourning, Iran’s IRIB news agency reported on Sunday.

The explosion and the subsequent fire left more than 1,000 people

wounded, of whom 197 were hospitalised, the IRIB quoted Hormozgan’s Governor Mohammad Ashouri Taziani as saying.

The cause of the incident has not been determined yet.

The Iranian Government’s spokeswoman, Fatemeh Mohajerani, in a post on social media platform X, said the administration had declared Monday a day

of national mourning.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian visited the port on Sunday to assess the circumstances of the blast, and visited some of the injured, according to a statement from his office.

Hossein Sajedinia, head of the National Disaster Management Organisation, told the IRIB that firefighting teams from five

provinces were working to contain the fire, predicting that the blaze would be curbed in a few hours. He said some of the containers at the port contained flammable materials, such as pitch, and some others had chemicals in them.

Despite the incident, the port’s wharfs have resumed operations and cargo handling, according to the official news agency IRNA.

GOVT RELAXES NORMS FOR REGULARISATION OF RESIDENTIAL ENCROACHMENTS

Chennai, 29 April 2025: The Tamil Nadu government has eased regulations for the regularisation of residential encroachments in Chennai and its neighboring districts Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, and Tiruvallur.

Similar relaxations have also been extended across the state, including both urban and rural areas. Key Norms Relaxed

The relaxations relate to: The annual income limit for eligible families, The maximum extent of regularisation

permitted, The method for fixing land value. These relaxations were approved at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on April 17.

The corresponding Government Order (G.O.) was issued on April 26.

Earlier, the guidelines for regularisation of residential encroachments were announced on February 21. Increase in Income Limit for Free House Site Patta

As per the G.O., the maximum annual

family income to qualify for a free house site patta under this one-time regularisation scheme has been raised from Rs.3 lakh to Rs.5 lakh.

This revision applies uniformly across Tamil Nadu. Special Provision for Tribal Families

For tribal families unable to provide documentary evidence of occupying land for more than 10 years, the district-level committee will review the proposals and submit its recommendations to the state-level panel for final approval.

Regularisation Norms for Chennai, Tambaram, and Avadi

For families residing within the Chennai, Tambaram, and Avadi Corporations with an annual family income below Rs.5 lakh:

The maximum extent of regularisation is three cents or the actual extent occupied, whichever is lesser.

Out of this, two cents will be regularised free of cost.

An additional extent of up to one cent can be regularised by paying the applicable land value.

INDIA AND BHUTAN HOLD 6TH JOINT GROUP OF CUSTOMS (JGC) MEETING IN THIMPHU, BHUTAN, ON 24TH-25TH APRIL 2025

Chennai, 29 April 2025: The 6th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) Meeting between India and Bhutan was held on 24th-25th April 2025 in Thimphu, Bhutan.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Surjit Bhujabal, Special Secretary and Member (Customs), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Government of India, and Mr. Sonam Jamtsho, Director General, Department of Revenue and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Royal Government of Bhutan.

India is Bhutan’s top trade partner both as an import source and as an export destination accounting for about 80% of Bhutan’s overall trade.

Trade with Bhutan through the land Customs Stations is significant as Bhutan is a land-locked country. The India-

Bhutan Joint Group of Customs meetings are held annually to discuss issues relating to re-defining and re-engineering of Customs procedures, promote Customs cooperation and Cross-border trade facilitation with alignment to global best practices.

There are 10 Land Customs Stations along the India-Bhutan Border in the States of West Bengal (6) and Assam (4).

The 6th JGC meeting discussed a host of bilateral issues for enhancing trade and transit between the two countries.

The automation and digitisation of transit processes, Coordinated Border Management (CBM), pre-arrival exchange of Customs data, Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (CMAA) and movement of transit cargo under Electronic Cargo Tracking



System (ECTS) were discussed, among others.

The meeting concluded on an optimistic note.

Bhutanese side extended their sincere thanks to CBIC for their continued support, especially recognising the capacity-building workshop titled ‘Advancing India Bhutan Trade and Economic Partnership’, held from 29th July to 1st August, 2024, which played a vital role in easing export processes and addressing trade-

related concerns. India proposed extending capacity building programmes in the areas of Risk Management System (RMS), Authorised Economic Operator (AEO), Food Safety Standards besides need-based capacity building for importers and exporters from the Bhutanese side.

Both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening Customs cooperation, enhancing trade facilitation, and ensuring secure and efficient border management.