

31.10.2026 NEWS

WORLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP: MANISHA CREATES HISTORY BY WINNING GOLD

- India's Manisha Bhanwala won the championship title at the World Wrestling Championships held in Kazakhstan.
- She created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal in the history of the competition.
- She also became the second Indian to win a title at the World Championships. Earlier, Sushil Kumar had won a gold medal in the 66 kg category in 2010.
- In the ongoing competition, three Indian women wrestlers, including Manisha, have won medals. Apart from her, Neelam Sirohi (50 kg) and Kajal Dhochhak (76 kg) secured silver medals.

FORMER IAS OFFICER APPOINTED AS CHIEF INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

- Retired IAS officer S. Natarajan has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner of the State Information Commission.
- S. Mahalakshmi, T. K. Rishab, C. P. Meena and journalist P. Mahalingam have been appointed as State Information Commissioners.
- Governor R. N. Ravi made these appointments based on the recommendations of the Tamil Nadu Government.
- They will hold office for three years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- Their salaries and allowances will be provided in accordance with the provisions of the Right to Information Act.
- The Governor will administer the oath of office to the newly appointed officials.

NEARLY 50 CRORE PEOPLE ESCAPED POVERTY IN INDIA OVER 12 YEARS

- The World Bank has praised India for becoming one of the fastest countries in the world to reduce poverty, with approximately 49.6 crore people escaping poverty over the past 12 years.
- The World Bank released its India Poverty and Equity Report for October 2026.
- The report highlights the following findings : India has made significant progress in reducing extreme poverty and poverty associated with the lack of various basic amenities.
- In particular, approximately 49.6 crore people escaped poverty in India between 2011 and 2023.
- As a result, India has emerged as one of the countries achieving the fastest reduction in poverty worldwide.

- However, income inequality continues to remain high in the country.
- The average income of workers belonging to the top 10% income group in India is nearly 13 times higher than that of workers belonging to the bottom 10%.
- Furthermore, several challenges continue to persist, including stagnation in real wages after adjusting for inflation, poor quality of employment and unequal access to economic opportunities.
- Based on 2021 purchasing power parity (PPP), the proportion of people in India living on less than Rs.399 per day was 57.7% in 2011.
- This proportion declined sharply to 16.1% in 2023.

» Poverty Is Higher in Rural Areas

- Although poverty has declined across the country, its impact has not been uniform across all regions.
- Based on the poverty threshold of Rs.399 per day, the rural poverty rate stood at 19.3% in 2023.
- In urban areas, the poverty rate was only 8.6%.
- Between 2017 and 2023, approximately 13.4 crore additional people obtained employment in India.
- This increase was nearly twice the growth in the working-age population.

CHIEF MINISTER'S COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

- The Tamil Nadu Government has increased the annual family income eligibility limit for beneficiaries of the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) from Rs.1.20 lakh to Rs.2.50 lakh.
- This health insurance scheme is implemented in integration with the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- Under this scheme, each eligible beneficiary family receives an annual health insurance coverage of Rs.5 lakh.
- Of this amount : Rs.2 lakh is provided under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme.
- - Rs.3 lakh is provided under the Ayushman Bharat Health Insurance Scheme.
- The Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme is being implemented in more than 2,100 government and private hospitals.
- More than 1.48 crore families have been enrolled under the health insurance scheme.
- These families are eligible to receive medical treatment coverage of up to Rs.5 lakh annually.
- For certain advanced medical treatments, coverage of up to Rs.22 lakh is provided.
- Meanwhile, during a previous session of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister announced that the insurance coverage would be increased from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.25 lakh.
- In this context, the annual family income eligibility limit for beneficiaries of the scheme, which was previously fixed at Rs.1.20 lakh, has now been increased to Rs.2.50 lakh.

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