

## Chief Minister lays foundation for Mitsubishi Electric's ₹1,891-crore project in Tiruvallur

The factory will come up on 52 acres at Peruvoyal in the Gummidipoondi taluk; it is expected to start production in October 2025 and create around 2,000 jobs; the unit, Mitsubishi's first room air-conditioner manufacturing facility in India, will manufacture 3 lakh ACs and 6.5 lakh compressors

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday laid the foundation for Mitsubishi Electric India's factory in Tiruvallur district, which will make air-conditioners and compressors. Mitsubishi will invest ₹1,891 crore in the project, which is expected to create around 2,000 jobs.

An MoU for a structured package of assistance was signed between the Tamil Nadu government and Mitsubishi Electric India Pvt Ltd., in the presence of Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu, Consul-General of Japan in Chennai Masayuki Taga, senior officials of the Tamil Nadu government and representatives of Mitsubishi.

The factory will be spread over 52 acres at Peruvoyal in the Gummidipoondi taluk. It is expected to start production in October 2025. It will manu-



Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the signing of the MoU in Chennai on Tuesday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

facture three lakh air-conditioners and 6.5 lakh compressors, Mitsubishi Electric said in a statement.

Mr. Stalin said in his speech that Tamil Nadu was at the forefront of welcoming fresh industrial investments, and was mov-

ing towards realising its target of becoming a \$1-trillion economy by 2030.

Mr. Thennarasu said Tamil Nadu was a pioneer in electric vehicles and a leader in the renewable energy sector. It remained the first port of call in India for investments, he added.

He also thanked the Chief Minister for making sure that Tamil Nadu remained a "haven of peace" to attract industrial investments.

Industries Secretary S. Krishnan; Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Guidance Tamil Na-

du V. Vishnu; Managing Director of Mitsubishi Electric India Kazuhiko Tamura; and Group President of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation Yasumichi Tazunoki were present on the occasion.

Mitsubishi Electric India Pvt. Ltd. is a subsidiary of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Japan, and Mitsubishi Electric Asia Private Limited, Singapore. The entire investment of ₹1,891 crore in this project will be made through Foreign Direct Investment. "Since this government took charge, 224 investment commitments worth ₹2.73 lakh crore, providing employment to 4,10,561 people, have been confirmed till date," it said.

**First in India**  
Mitsubishi's factory in Tamil Nadu will be its first room air-conditioner manufacturing facility in India, which will become the seventh country in the

world to produce air-conditioners after Japan, Thailand, China, the U.K., Turkey and Mexico. The unit will also be Mitsubishi Electric's first outside Japan to produce outdoor and indoor units and compressors in the same location.

**Trip to Japan, Singapore**  
On May 23, Mr. Stalin will leave for Japan and Singapore, where a delegation led by him will invite industrialists to take part in the **Global Investors' Meet**, scheduled to be held in Chennai on January 10 and 11, 2024.

During his speech at the MoU-signing event for the Mitsubishi project, the Chief Minister noted that of the 12 Japanese industrial townships in India, three were in Tamil Nadu.

"Moreover, a large number of Japanese live in Tamil Nadu. I will be going to Japan later this month to strengthen this relationship," Mr. Stalin said.

## Are government healthcare workers paid enough to be retained?

The basic pay of front line health workers in the public sector is 1% lower than their private counterparts

### DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

A data blog published by the World Bank argues that the wages given to front line healthcare workers in the public sector are not competitive enough to attract qualified candidates. The problem is more acute in low- and middle-income countries where the governments face rising public debt and are forced to reduce public spending. The blog argues that to strike a balance between these policy goals, reliable data and evidence are needed, considering the workforce-heavy aspect of healthcare services delivery.

About 64% of all paid healthcare workers are employed in the public sector worldwide, with 75% in Europe and Central Asia, and 49% in Latin America and the Caribbean. This can be largely attributed to some historical reasons and the restricted capacity or demand for private healthcare services, particularly in developing nations. Chart 1 shows public sector employees as a share of paid employees in the healthcare industry across select regions.

In healthcare systems worldwide, a greater proportion of employees work in administrative roles compared to direct patient care roles. Over 75% of personnel in Europe and Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa perform administrative tasks rather than attending to patients directly, potentially leading to resource allocation imbalances. Restructuring administrative operations and reducing costs might allow for a more efficient distribution of resources towards patient care. Chart 2 shows the share of medical and non-medical staff in the public healthcare workforce across select regions.

In most countries, public healthcare employees earn a wage premium compared to their private sector equivalents, with an av-

erage basic pay that is 21% higher (Chart 3A). The extent of this premium relies on the job composition and characteristics of public sector health workers. However, if we focus only on front line personnel, this premium turns into a wage penalty. The basic pay of front line health workers in the public sector is 1% lower than their private counterparts (Chart 3B). These charts show that the administrative staff of public health care are paid much higher than their private counterparts, but it is the reverse if only front line health workers in the public sector are considered. This could be due to salary caps and other limitations on earnings, while the private sector may have the capacity to provide higher salaries and bonuses to recruit skilled front line employees such as doctors.

A majority of administrative and medical staff positions in the public sector are held by women (Chart 4A). However, women predominantly occupy lower-level roles. Women comprise nearly 84% of the 28.5 million nurses and midwives worldwide, but they are outnumbered by men when it comes to doctors. Gender stereotypes impact hiring practices, says the blog.

In terms of wage disparities, women in the public sector get a 30% wage premium, on average, compared to all paid employees. However, this premium is 7% if only female healthcare employees of the public sector are considered. Furthermore, this premium falls to just 2% if only female front line workers of the public sector are considered (Chart 4B).

The wage premium for women in the public sector compared to the private sector may indicate a dedication to ensuring equitable wages and benefits. Nevertheless, the smaller premium for female healthcare employees in comparison to all salaried workers suggests that compensation policies may still need improvement.

## Mind the pay gap

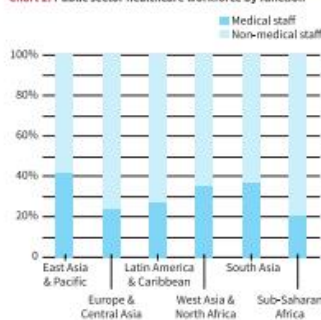
The charts are sourced from the World Bank's data blog titled, 'Data-driven policies to improve management of healthcare workers', published on May 5, 2023.



Chart 1: Public sector employees as a share of paid employees in the healthcare industry



Chart 2: Public sector healthcare workforce by function

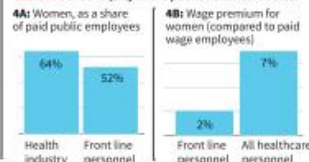


The authors of the blog published in worldbank.org are Zahid Hasnain, Faisal A. Baig, Turkan Mukhtarova and Flavio Sacco Capurro

Chart 3: Public sector wage premium for healthcare



Chart 4: Gender equity in the public healthcare sector



## Murmu presents eight Kirti Chakras, 29 Shaurya Chakras

President Droupadi Murmu gave away eight Kirti Chakras, India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award, to Army and paramilitary personnel, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday. Sudip Sarkar, constable/GD, Border Security Force, Rohit Kumar, sergeant constable, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and one sub-inspector and two head constables of Chhattisgarh have been conferred the Kirti Chakra posthumously, the Defence Minister said. Three personnel, including Major Shubhang, Dogra Regiment, 62nd Battalion, from the Army's Rashtriya Rifles were given the honour. The President also presented 29 Shaurya Chakras, including five, posthumously.



## Third cheetah dies in Kuno; number of adults down to 17

Jacob Koshy  
NEW DELHI

A third cheetah, a female called Daksha, died at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday after it was injured during mating.

Daksha's death brings the total number of adult cheetahs in the park to 17. Sasha died in February and Uday in April.

Since September 2022, 20 animals – eight from Namibia and 12 from South Africa – have been translocated from Africa to restore cheetahs in the Indian wilderness. One of the animals has produced a litter of four cubs, all reportedly well.

"*Prima facie*, the wounds found on the female cheetah Daksha seem to have been caused by a violent interaction with a male, during a courtship/mating attempt. Such violent behaviour by male coalition cheetahs during mating are common. In such a situation, the chances of intervention by the monitoring team are almost non-existent and

**The death comes a day after a panel recommended that five more cheetahs be released from acclimatisation camp**

practically impossible," the Environment Ministry said in a statement.

The cheetah's death comes a day after an expert committee, constituted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, coordinator of Project Cheetah, recommended that five more cheetahs be released from the acclimatisation camps into "free-roaming conditions" before the onset of the monsoon in June.

The decision to release two males into Daksha's enclosure followed a recommendation by this committee, said a press statement by J.S. Chauhan, Chief Conservator of Forests, Madhya Pradesh. The NTCA's Cheetah Action Plan says that an adult mortality of over 15% "would be a matter of concern for management to intervene".

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## IBM, NASA model to gauge climate change

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

IBM in collaboration with NASA unveiled a new geospatial foundation model designed to convert satellite data into high-resolution maps of floods, fires, and other landscape changes to reveal the planet's past and hint at its future.

This geospatial offering is expected to be available for preview in the second half of this year. Potential applications of this platform would include helping estimate climate-related risks to crops, buildings, and other infras-

tructure, valuing and monitoring forests for carbon-offset programmes, and developing predictive models to help enterprises create strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Arvind Krishna, IBM Chairman and CEO said foundation models make deploying AI significantly more scalable, affordable and efficient.

This model would be part of IBM's watsonx.ai, a next generation enterprise studio for AI builders to train, test, tune and deploy both traditional machine learning and new-generation AI capabilities.

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