

India-Australia trade pact will raise bilateral trade from the present \$26-27 billion to \$100 billion by 2030, much faster than initial expectation of rising to \$50 billion in five years, - Piyush Goyal

Chennai, April 07 2022: The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal has said the India-Australia trade pact will raise bilateral trade from the present \$26-27 billion to \$100 billion by 2030, much faster than initial expectation of rising to \$50 billion in five years. The excitement generated by the agreement has increased business optimism on both sides, he said while addressing the University of Melbourne along with Mr. Dan Tehan, Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment in Melbourne today.

“Together this marriage can truly have far reaching dimensions for both our economies and, if I dare say, for the rest of the world also where we can collectively engage and have an outreach to other parts of the world,” he said.

The minister invited Australian businesses to invest in India. “We offer you transparency. We offer you our trust, rule

of law. We are two democratic nations, two people who love sports, both are members of the Commonwealth,” he said.

The minister also addressed members of the business community from both countries at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Shri Goyal said India and Australia have complementarities that can benefit both countries, - India’s huge market and Australia’s investible surplus. He said the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) will unlock the huge market of almost 1.4 billion consumers in India to Australian industries.

“We are now One, that’s what the Unity Agreement is all about. And at this watershed moment in our relations, I think it’s only appropriate that we break every barrier between the two countries whether it’s movement of goods, services, people, technology, education, science, medical knowledge, we break all these barriers, see how we can work together as

true brothers,” said Shri Goyal.

Shri Goyal said there is huge potential in areas like textiles, pharma, hospitality, gems and jewellery, IT, Startups etc. and Accountancy in Services, that will create huge employment in both countries.

“Let’s see some more Tasmania lobsters in New Delhi possibly, or wine from South Australia coming down into Indian shelves, we’ll probably have a lot more Bangaloreans coming down to Melbourne to serve you in your IT space, we’ll have a lot more jewellers from Prime Minister’s home state of Gujarat, from Surat coming down to sell their wares in the stores in Australia, lots to do together, lot of potential in different areas. I hope this partnership will grow and we will all grow along with this partnership,” he added.

Shri Goyal said there is huge scope for trade in Services. While Australia is a preferred destination for Higher Education for most Indians, the IndAus ECTA paved the way for



resolution of a big obstacle for India’s IT sector to grow in Australia.

“I am delighted that we have been able to resolve a long pending issue about taxation of the IT industry that was kind of holding back greater business with Australia. That being behind us, there’s huge potential,” he said.

Shri Goyal observed that many thousand years ago, Australia and India were part of same supercontinent and then the brothers were separated due to continental break-up. Today, our governments are trying to bring them together with increasing partnership on political, economic, security and sporting front. Our relations are as strong and resilient as the

mighty Pacific Ocean, he said.

“Well, as they say, there’s a saying in Hindi, ‘dair aaye, durrast aaye’, - Even though you may be late, but it’s good that you are there. And I think that’s the sentiment that the Indus-Ekta Agreement has for all of us,” he said.

Later, delivering the keynote address at Lunch with Business Leaders, organised by the Australia India Chamber of Commerce (AICC) in Melbourne, Shri Goyal termed the IndAus ECTA as an important milestone that will contribute to widespread development of multi-sectoral economic value chains. Shri Goyal said it will have a positive economic multiplier effect in both

economies.

“I believe that here is a partnership between two countries which don’t compete with each other at all, they actually complement each other,” said Shri Goyal. “The focus that we are putting on Make in India dovetails so beautifully into the strengths of Australia, the natural bounty that you are all endowed with,” he said.

Shri Goyal said that India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken several bold initiatives since 2014 towards Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business to ensure a better quality of life for all.

“We believe when the people of India have a better quality of basic necessities, they will be able to contribute much more to the Indian economy, to the society, be better citizens of the country. And the next stage, obviously, as the demand, as the expectations of our people increase, we will be needing to provide economic growth, we will be needing to provide jobs. There will

be millions, hundreds of millions who will own their first automobile, there will be hundreds of millions who want to buy a dishwasher, a washing machine, there will be hundreds of millions who will be looking for better nutrition, better quality of healthcare, better quality of education,” said Shri Goyal.

“And that’s where the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement can actually make a significant impact on the lives of the people of India and similarly provide huge opportunities for the people of Australia, working together, to meet the needs and aspirations of this billion plus people,” he added.

Complimenting the leadership of Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Scott Morrison, Shri Goyal said the role of the former Australian Prime Minister and Australian PM’s Special Envoy on Trade, Mr. Tony Abbott and Australia’s Trade Minister, Mr. Dan Tehan were instrumental in capping the long

pending trade pact between the two nations.

“The world is going through tumultuous times, we’ve been grappling with Covid and other situations which are a cause of serious concern for all of us, but within those boundaries of problems, I think, (the fact that) India and Australia have demonstrated a unity of mind, a unity of purpose and a shared commitment to come together, expand our people to people relations, expand our business to business relations, strengthen the political partnership of our two leaders and two governments,” he said.

Earlier, paying his tributes to the veteran cricketer, late Shane Warne who hailed from Melbourne, the Minister said that he had his admirers in India as well and that millions of cricket fans mourned over the sudden demise of the ‘King of Spin’.

“He was unique in more ways than one,” said Shri Goyal, conveying his deepest condolences to the cricketer’s family and friends.

India’s Agriculture Exports touch a historic high of USD 50 billion

Chennai, April 07 2022: Exports of agricultural products (including marine and plantation products) for the year 2021-22 have crossed USD 50 billion, highest level ever achieved for agriculture exports. As per the provisional figures released by DGCI&S, the agricultural exports have grown by 19.92% during 2021-22 to touch \$50.21 billion. The growth rate is remarkable as it is over and above the growth of 17.66%, at \$41.87 billion, achieved in 2020-21 and has been achieved in spite of unprecedented logistical

challenges in the form of high freight rates, container shortages etc. This achievement over past two years will go a long way in realising the Prime Minister’s vision of improving farmers’ income.

Highest ever exports have been achieved for staples like rice (USD 9.65 billion), wheat (USD 2.19 billion), sugar (USD 4.6 billion) and other cereals (USD 1.08 billion). Wheat has recorded an unprecedented growth of more than 273%, jumping nearly four-fold from \$568 million in 2020-21 to touch close to \$2119 million in

2021-22. Increase in exports of these products has benefitted farmers in states like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra etc. India has captured nearly 50% of the world market for rice.

Export of marine products, at USD 7.71 billion, is also the highest ever, benefitting farmers in the coastal states of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Spices exports



has touched USD 4 billion for second year in a row. Despite facing tremendous supply side issues, coffee exports have crossed USD 1 billion for the first time, which has improved realisations for coffee growers in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

This achievement is

the result of sustained efforts on the part of the Department of Commerce and its various export promotion agencies like APEDA, MPEDA and various commodity boards. The Department has made special efforts to engage State Governments and district administrations

in promoting agriculture exports. In order to ensure that the farmers benefit from exports, Department of Commerce has made special efforts to provide export market linkage directly to farmers and FPOs. A Farmer Connect Portal has been set up for providing a platform for farmers, FPOs/FPCs, cooperatives to interact with exporters. This approach has resulted in agriculture exports taking place from hitherto unexplored areas. Exports have taken place from clusters like Varanasi (fresh vegetables, mangoes), Ananthpur (banana),

Nagpur (orange), Lucknow (mango), Theni (banana), Solapur (pomegranate), Krishna & Chittoor (mango) etc. Initiatives like ‘Happy Banana’ train, an exclusive train with reefer containers to transport bananas from Anantapur to JNPT, Mumbai have been taken to boost exports from unconventional areas.

Outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic during first quarter of 2020 resulted in increased demand for staples, which provided an opportunity for increasing agriculture exports. Because of the institutional framework,

already in place at State and district levels, and special efforts made to overcome the pandemic-induced bottlenecks, India was able to rise to the occasion and emerge as a reliable supplier of food. Even during the current crisis due to Russia-Ukraine war, the world is looking at India for supplies of wheat and other food grains.

Department of Commerce is continuing efforts to promote agriculture export so that the momentum gained over the past two years is sustained and agriculture exports touch new highs over the coming years.

Coal Gasification Pilot Projects & Advantages

Chennai, April 07 2022: Government has initiated steps to execute the four pilot coal gasification projects announced in Budget 2022-23. Details of the four projects, including location, budget allocation, source of coal, etc.

For execution of 4th pilot coal gasification projects, CIL & BHEL are jointly exploring a high ash coal (> 40%) based surface coal gasification project for production of ammonium nitrate using BHEL’s indigenously developed technology. The location is

under finalisation and the PFR is currently under preparation.

Gasification of coal in the above projects would result in production of Syngas which is further processed to produce different chemicals.

As the above products, produced through coal gasification, will not be used for power generation, no such study has been undertaken. However, the scientific literature on coal gasification enumerate the following:

The SOx and NOx emission is lower compared

to regular combustion of in coal-fired boilers in thermal power plants;

(ii) It is technically amenable for CCUS (Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage) when gasification is done using pure oxygen compared to regular combustion using atmospheric air; and,

The CO2 emission footprint is comparatively lower for some chemicals produced through coal gasification route.

Coal gasification projects at CIL are being undertaken

to promote an alternate and comparatively cleaner use of coal. These projects are envisaged as pilot projects and on achievement of techno-commercial viability, the projects would serve as foundation to further setting up of such plants and will thereby help in ensuring relevance of coal in view of the COP26 pledges.

This information was given by the Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi in a written reply in Lok Sabha today.

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1.97 lakh crore (over US\$ 26 billion) has been announced in Union Budget 2021-22 for PLI schemes for 14 key sectors of manufacturing

Chennai, April 07 2022: The 'Make in India' initiative was launched on 25th September, 2014 to facilitate investment, foster innovation, build best in class infrastructure, and make India a hub for manufacturing, design, and innovation. It is one of the unique 'Vocal for Local' initiatives that promoted India's manufacturing domain to the world.

'Make in India' initiative has significant achievements and presently focuses on 27 sectors under Make in India 2.0. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) coordinates action plans for 15 manufacturing sectors, while Department of Commerce coordinates 12 service sector plans. Investment outreach activities are done through Ministries, State Governments and Indian Missions abroad for enhancing International co-operation and promoting both domestic and foreign investment in the country.

In addition to ongoing schemes of various Departments and Ministries, Government has taken various steps to boost domestic and foreign investments in India. These include the introduction of Goods and Services Tax, reduction in Corporate taxes, financial



market reforms, consolidation of public sector banks, enactment of four labour codes, improving ease of doing business, FDI policy reforms, other sectoral reforms, reduction in compliance burden, policy measures to boost domestic manufacturing through public procurement orders, Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP), to name a few.

The series of measures taken by the Government to improve the economic situation and convert the disruption caused by COVID 19 into an opportunity for growth includes Atmanirbhar packages, introduction of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme in various Ministries, National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), Public Sector Enterprise Policy, India Industrial Land Bank (IILB), Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS), soft launch of the National Single Window System (NSWS), etc.

Keeping in view

India's vision of becoming 'Atmanirbhar' and to enhance India's Manufacturing capabilities and Exports, an outlay of INR 1.97 lakh crore (over US\$ 26 billion) has been announced in Union Budget 2021-22 for PLI schemes for 14 key sectors of manufacturing, starting from fiscal year (FY) 2021-22. With the announcement of PLI Schemes, significant creation of production, employment, economic growth and exports is expected over the next five years and more.

The reforms taken by Government have resulted in increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in the country. FDI policy provisions have been progressively liberalized and simplified across various sectors in the recent past to make India an attractive investment destination. FDI inflows in India stood at US \$ 45.15 billion in 2014-2015 and have continuously increased since then. India registered its highest ever annual FDI inflow of US\$ 81.97 billion (provisional figures) in the financial

year 2020-21. These trends in India's FDI are an endorsement of its status as a preferred investment destination amongst global investors.

In the last seven financial years (2014-21), India has received FDI inflow worth US\$ 440.27 billion which is nearly 58 percent of the FDI reported in the last 21 years (US\$ 763.83 billion).

As per Economic Survey 2021-22, in spite of Covid related disruptions there is trend of positive overall growth of Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing sector. The total employment in this sector has increased from 57 million in the year 2017-18 to 62.4 million in the year 2019-20.

The activities under Make in India initiative are also being undertaken by several Central Government Ministries/Departments and various State Governments. Ministries formulate action plans, programmes, schemes and policies for the sectors being dealt by them, while States also have their own schemes for attracting investments.

This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Parkash, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

Government has accorded 'In-Principle' approval for 5 new sites for locating nuclear power plants - Dr Jitendra Singh

Chennai, April 07 2022: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Government has accorded 'In-Principle' approval for five new sites for locating nuclear power plants in future.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha today, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Government has accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for construction of 10 indigenous 700 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) to be set up in fleet mode. He



said, on progressive completion of the projects under construction and accorded sanction, the nuclear capacity is expected to reach 22480 MW by 2031.

The Minister informed that there are presently 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6780 MW in operation and one reactor, KAPP-3 (700 MW) has been connected to the grid on January 10,

2021. In addition, there are 10 reactors (Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) 3&4, KKNPP 5&6 - 4x1000 = 4000 MW, 5 indigenous PHWR of 700 MW - 3500 MW, 500 MW PFBR) which are various stages of construction, which will add a total capacity of 8000 MW.

Further in order to produce fuel for all indigenous PHWRs, Fuel

fabrication capacity is augmented in the facilities available at Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad and the upcoming facilities at Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Kota, Rajasthan in order to match with the requirement of existing PHWRs and upcoming PHWRs. The requirement of uranium for domestic safeguarded nuclear reactors are met by indigenously mined and produced uranium. Moreover, Natural Uranium Ore Concentrate (UOC) is being procured from countries having Inter Governmental Agreement for supply of nuclear fuel. Efforts have been made to procure nuclear fuel from Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Canada.

INDovation program to incubate and commercialise Indian healthcare start-ups launched

Program supported by Pfizer Limited ("Pfizer"), Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, Social Alpha, Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT-Delhi and AGNI; with UN Health Innovation Exchange (UNHIE) as knowledge partner. First year focus on Oncology and Digital Health Customised incubation support across technology incubation centers like the IITs and other major technology institutes across India; grant upto Rs. 65 lacs per selected start-up

Chennai, April 07 2022: Ahead of the World Health Day, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, AGNI, Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT-Delhi, Pfizer and Social Alpha have come together to launch the Pfizer INDovation Program to support breakthrough healthcare innovations by start-ups in India. Social Alpha is the core implementation partner responsible for executing the program.

This is Version 2.0 of the Pfizer IIT-Delhi Innovation and IP Program and is one of Pfizer's CSR initiatives. In Version 1, Pfizer successfully incubated 9 healthcare innovators and supported 19 IP filings. Now, in the first year of Version 2.0, three winning start-ups each in the areas of Oncology and Digital Health, will receive a grant of up to INR 65 lakh each for product trials, pilot studies, and product market launches to accelerate the lab-to-market journey of their innovation. This is one of the largest such programs, both by grant value and partnerships, to focus on incubating and commercialising healthcare start-ups in the country.

AIM and NITI Aayog will provide the startups with access to their entire network of incubators and facilities via co-incubation and will also provide technical and strategic advisory to support to both the program and the startups. The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT Delhi), will be the principal incubation partner while customised incubation support will be provided across technology incubation centers such as the IITs, other major technology institutes and incubation network of Atal Innovation Mission across India. Social Alpha, as the implementation partner, will support start-ups to accelerate their lab-to-market journey.

The program is also being supported by AGNI, PATH, AHPI, St Johns Research Institute, HCG Hospitals, Cytecare Hospitals, FICCI, UNHIE, Google for Startups, Design Alpha, HIMSS, Marico Innovation Foundation, and TenX2.

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A nationwide call for applications in a grand challenge format will be announced to invite Digital Health and Oncology start-ups working on the identified priority problem statements. Eligible participants include:

Medical devices and diagnostics start-ups and companies with product stage of Technological Readiness Level (TRL) 4 or above

Start-ups or companies in artificial intelligence, big data analysis, IoTs, software development and bioinformatics at TRL level 5 or above.

The program offers support towards:

Commenting on the value of such a program, Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, said, "India has proven itself to be a healthcare innovation powerhouse in the world. We expect this program to help start-ups and young innovators to bring healthcare solutions that will address unmet needs in the priority areas of Oncology and Digital Health for not just India, but the world."

Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Managing Director, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, said, "The need of the hour is to focus on the high burden of diseases the country is experiencing. It is through innovations in screening, pathology and disease management, mortality rates and costs of terminal care, can be effectively targeted. I appeal to all the startups focusing

on Digital Health and Oncology to contribute towards the National Digital Health Mission and to help India come out of the cancer epidemic."

Dr. Pankaj Chaturvedi, Deputy Director, Center for Cancer Epidemiology, Tata Memorial Center and member National Cancer Grid stressed on the fact that technology enabled, prevention, early detection and standardized cancer care delivery will reduce significant cancer burden in India and more programs like INDovation that focus on accelerating adoption of disruptive technologies are needed to change the cancer care landscape.

Speaking about this program, Mr S. Sridhar, Managing Director, Pfizer Limited, said, "Worldwide and in India, Pfizer stands for innovations and breakthroughs that change patients' lives. With the success of our earlier collaboration with IIT-Delhi, we are confident that we can scale up our Industry-Academia-Government partnership to support India's brilliant young healthcare start-ups to become solution providers to the world and commercial success stories in the process. With this program, we are looking to address the challenges start-ups face after crossing the early-stage product development so that many of these unique ideas and solutions can become commercially successful products."

"Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) at IIT Delhi and Pfizer created India's Pioneering healthcare-focused industry-academia collaborative program in 2015. This program has already incubated 9 startups and supported IP filing by 19 innovators. The INDovation initiative takes this program to a next level. As one of the country's foremost healthcare incubators, FITT IIT-Delhi will provide

access to resources and the knowledge to help start-ups create sustainable healthcare solutions," said Dr Anil Wali, Managing Director, FITT.

Social Alpha and IIT Delhi together will provide support and guidance for 24 months to facilitate the journey of the startups to market launch; help refine the business model; navigate the regulatory landscape; and provide an understanding of national and global market dynamics. Mr. Manoj Kumar, Founder and CEO, Social Alpha, said, "Quality universal health coverage needs to be affordable to improve access and experience for all. At Social Alpha, we search for breakthrough innovations that have the potential to revolutionise patient care and help promising start-ups with clinical and regulatory pathways as well as funding and market access. Our association with Pfizer will allow us to sharpen our focus on Oncology and Digital Health innovations, two high priority areas with large impact potential."

The two focus areas of Oncology and Digital Health in the first year of the program have been chosen due to the increasing burden of cancer in India coupled with late intervention, and the emerging use of digital health as a solution to ensure better outcomes. Innovations in screening, early detection, better cancer management, and palliative care solutions can help reduce the mortality and morbidity of the disease and lower the cost of terminal care. The focus on digital health is closely aligned with the National Digital Health Mission that forms the backbone of the integrated digital health infrastructure of India. Digital healthcare can enable and improve care delivery, making quality healthcare accessible and affordable.

No shortage of coal in the country Varied Measures to Enhance Coal Availability

Chennai, April 07 2022: There is no shortage of coal in the country. Due to increased demand of power, less power generation by imported coal based power plants and some interruption in supply of coal due to heavy rains, the coal stock at the power plants depleted to 7.2 Million Tonnes (MT) as on 8th October, 2021. Subsequently with increased coal supplies, the coal stock has started increasing and has now reached 24.04 MT as on 01.04.2022 with respect to the plants based on domestic coal. During 2021-22, total raw coal production was 777.325 MT (provisional) against 716.08 MT during the same period of the last year. In addition, coal stock at Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) pithead as on 01.04.2022 is 60.77 MT and 4.71 MT respectively.



The following action has been taken by Government to further enhance the production and supply of coal in the country:

Commercial Auction of coal on revenue share mechanism: Auction of commercial mining on Revenue Sharing Mechanism was launched on 18.06.2020 by Hon'ble Prime Minister. Under this scheme, total of 2 tranches have been successfully completed and third Tranche is currently under process.

New mines, if any, identified by Ministry of Coal.

In the current III tranche of commercial auction, total of 48 coal mines have been rolled over from the II tranche of mines.

Single Window Clearance: The Union government has already launched Single Window

From these two tranches total of 28 coal mines have been successfully auctioned for which Vesting order have in signed for 27 coal mines.

Rolling auction: In order to expedite the process for conducting auction and to carryout more rounds of auction in a year, a mechanism of rolling auctions of coal mines has been planned. Under this mechanism, upon completion of the electronic auction process of a tranche, the next tranche of auction would be launched for following mines:

Mines where no bid or only single bid was received in the previous tranche of auction (except for those mines where Ministry of Coal decides to go for second attempt of auction)

New mines, if any, identified by Ministry of Coal.

In the current III tranche of commercial auction, total of 48 coal mines have been rolled over from the II tranche of mines.

Single Window Clearance: The Union government has already launched Single Window

Clearance portal on 11.01.2021 for the coal sector to speed up the operationalisation of coal mines. It is a unified platform that facilitates grant of clearances and approvals required for starting a coal mine in India. Now, the complete process shall be facilitated through Single Window Clearance Portal, which will map not only the relevant application formats, but also process flow for grant of approval or clearances.

Project Management Unit (PMU): Project Management Unit has been appointed by Ministry for handholding of coal block allottees for obtaining various approvals / clearances for early operationalisation of coal mines.

Considering the increased demand as projected by the Ministry of Power, Coal India Limited (CIL) has already taken steps to augment the dispatch & build-up stock at power plants end which is as under:

CIL has already additionally allocated 11.2 Mill. Tonnes of coal from its high stock mines

through RCR mode which is to be lifted from different Goods Shed/Private Washeries to build up stock at the plant end.

Railways are regularly being requested to give priority in supply of rakes to the power generators.

CIL has already started building stock at its railway sidings to facilitate adequate rake loading for power sector.

In addition to ACQ, coal has been offered under RCR mode on 'as is where is basis' to build up stock at Power house end.

Additional coal of 5.18 Million tonnes was offered during Round -1 in October '21 through private washery /Good shed sidings. Again, additional offer of 6 Million tonnes was done in Round 2 offer in December 2021.

The Ministry of Coal has amended Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 with a view to allowing sale of coal or lignite, on payment of additional amount, by the lessee of a captive mine up to 50 percent of the total coal or lignite produced in a financial year, after meeting the requirement of the end use plant linked with the mine. In March, 2021, The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act had been amended in 2021 to this effect. This is applicable for both the private and public sector captive mines.

Registration Open for 3rd Edition of HCL Jigsaw - India's Premier Critical Reasoning Platform to Assess Problem Solving Skills Among School Students

Total Prize purse of Rs. 12 lakhs for winners and finalists learning opportunity at HCL Innovation Lab
A one-of-a-kind Olympiad to identify India's Top Young Problem Solvers and Problem-Solving Schools

Chennai, April 07 2022: HCL, a US \$11.2 billion global conglomerate, today announced that registrations are now open for the third edition of HCL Jigsaw - India's premier critical reasoning platform. The virtual, Pan-India program is aimed at building a community of young problem-solvers by identifying and awarding India's Top Young Problem Solvers through a multi-layered evaluation process. HCL Jigsaw assesses school students in grades 6 to 9 on key 21st-century skills including research, critical thinking, and communication, and helps them apply these to solve real-world challenges. Interested students or schools can register at www.hcljigsaw.com, by July 31st, 2022 to participate in the competition. The total prize purse for HCL Jigsaw 3.0 is Rs 12 lakhs and winners and finalists will also get a learning opportunity at HCL Engineering and Innovation labs.

Commenting on the initiative, Sundar Mahalingam, President Strategy at HCL Corporation said, "At HCL, we believe in multiplying the potential of not just an individual



but communities at large. Nurturing critical-thinking skills is essential to help young minds thrive in a rapidly evolving world, and teachers and schools play an important role in this journey. HCL Jigsaw is designed to expose students to situations that require them to exercise their problem-solving and critical thinking capabilities. Jigsaw 3.0 will present real-world case studies and encourage the participants to come up with innovative solutions to win exciting rewards."

HCL Jigsaw will assess participating students on 10 parameters under three primary attributes that can be characterized as key components of the problem-solving process. These include: -

Research Skills - this would assess students on how well they are able to define a problem, formulate an investigation/action plan and collect and organize information

Communication Process

- assess the student's ability to structure information in a coherent manner, and understand the context and purpose of any information given to them

Thinking Critically - this attribute will assess if a student is able to interpret the information accurately, evaluate claims and draw conclusions

HCL Jigsaw is a virtual competition and will include three assessment stages:

Qualifiers Round - 40 Minutes Pan-India online Olympiad during August 8 - 14, 2022

Students participating in this will get multiple-choice questions, each attributing to a facet of critical reasoning and problem-solving

The assessment will be adaptive and the questions for the competition have been curated following international best standards to evaluate students within their specific age groups

All students from

this round will receive a personalized skill assessment report of their performance on each skill, giving them a roadmap for improvement and development areas

Semifinals - Collaboration Round on August 20, 2022, post 3 PM

Top 10 percentile from each grade will split into teams of three

Students in each grade will be grouped in teams during this stage and will compete in a virtual mystery room to creatively solve a real-world problem

Finale - Case Study Round, to be held on August 22, 2022

9 students per grade will compete in this stage

Students will be given a real-world case scenario based on different themes and they will present their solution individually in the form of a presentation to an august jury

Top three students from each grade (total of 12 students) will win the title of "India's Top Young Problem Solvers"

Over 11,000 students from 3000+ schools across 35 states and Union Territories participated in the first two editions of HCL Jigsaw.

ONDC is expected to make e-Commerce more inclusive and accessible for consumers

Chennai, April 07 2022: Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is an initiative aiming at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks. ONDC is to be based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.

The foundations of ONDC are to be open protocols for all aspects in the entire chain of activities in exchange of goods and services, similar to hypertext transfer protocol for information exchange over internet, simple mail transfer protocol for exchange of emails and unified payments interface for payments.

These open protocols would be used for establishing public digital infrastructure in the form



of open registries and open network gateways to enable exchange of information between providers and consumers. Providers and consumers would be able to use any compatible application of their choice for exchange of information and carrying out transactions over ONDC.

Thus, ONDC goes beyond the current platform-centric digital commerce model where the buyer and seller have to use the same platform or application to be digitally visible and do a business transaction.

ONDC protocols would standardize operations like cataloguing, inventory management, order management and order fulfilment. Thus, small businesses would be able to use any ONDC compatible applications instead of being governed by specific platform centric policies. This will provide multiple options to small businesses to be discoverable over network and conduct business. It would also encourage easy adoption of digital means by those currently not on digital commerce networks.

This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Parkash, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

ONDC is expected to make e-Commerce more inclusive and accessible for consumers. Consumers can

potentially discover any seller, product or service by using any compatible application or platform, thus increasing freedom of choice for consumers. It will enable the consumers to match demand with the nearest available supply. This would also give consumers the liberty to choose their preferred local businesses. Thus, ONDC would standardize operations, promote inclusion of local suppliers, drive efficiencies in logistics and lead to enhancement of value for consumers.

This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Parkash, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

Treatment may cure the diseases, but prevention can eliminate it

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Chennai, April 07 2022: On 7th April, we observe World health day. Over centuries our planet has become polluted leading to increasing diseases like cancer, asthma, heart disease. WHO estimates that more than 13 million deaths around the world each year are avoidable if we concentrate on clean environment. Every part of our planet, from deep ocean to highest part of mountain is polluted. Processed and unhealthy food driving a wave of obesity, cancer, heart diseases. Mosquitoes have become more powerful than ever. The theme of world health day 2022 is Our planet Our health, to work on a world where clean air, water and food are available to all.

We have done significant progress in handling communicable diseases by various initiatives like vaccination programmes. We are not able to provide safe drinking water to all, more so during flood. However most unattended area is non communicable diseases. Diabetes, hypertension, strokes, heart diseases, lung diseases and kidney diseases are taking millions of life every year in India. There are estimated 72.96 million cases of diabetes in adult population of India. The prevalence in urban areas ranges between 10.9% and 14.2% and prevalence in rural India was 3.0-7.8% among population aged 20



years and above with a much higher prevalence among individuals aged over 50 years. (INDIAB Study-2019)

Overall prevalence for hypertension in India was 29.8%. Significant differences in hypertension prevalence were noted between rural and urban parts, 27.6% and 33.8% respectively. These two factors are playing a major role in increasing the mortality rate in the form of heart disease, strokes and kidney diseases. International Society of Nephrology's Kidney Disease Data Center Study reported a prevalence of chronic kidney diseases at 17%. It appears that even in India, diabetes and hypertension are responsible for 40% to 50% of all cases of chronic renal failure.

When focusing on prevention of chronic kidney diseases, the treatment for chronic kidney disease is very costly when it reaches to its end stage (ESRD). ESRD

has very high mortality and morbidity. The disease ruins a family. Hence prevention of kidney disease is the only long-term option, more so in country like India.

Diseases like diabetes and hypertension and chronic kidney diseases need regular and long-term treatment. Early detection, sustained and monitored treatment to ensure strict and sustained control of both diabetes and hypertension can prevent menace of heart diseases, strokes and Chronic Kidney disease. To achieve these, we need to initiate programmes like vaccinations programmes driven at grassroot level.

Awareness and compliance of general population about such non-communicable diseases are poor. We need to ensure active participation of public by spreading awareness than spending huge money to provide health care, like dialysis with little success in terms

of long-term mortality benefit.

In the medical world we used to say that "Health is a blessing in one's life that only the sick person can see". On this world health day, I would like to request all the healthy individual to be more cautious in preventing the disease than addressing it with medicines later. We have many preventive health check-up options that can be availed at frequent intervals to keep the disease at bay when you grow old.

Also, I request the country's backbone, the youngsters, not to take up any bad habits like smoking, alcohol consumption and others. It may be thrilling at young age but, inside the body, it weakens the cells and organs. When you realise it, you would have crossed many stages and reached irrecoverable phase.

Few tips for general population:

□ Healthy life (drink clean water, eat natural healthy food, do physical exercises)

□ Don't shy away from diseases (do yearly screening tests for blood sugar, hypertension)

□ If you have such diseases do not stop medicines until your health guide, say so.

Healthy individual makes a strong country, a clean individual makes a clean planet.

Thalapathy Vijay's 66th Film With Vamshi Paidipally & Dil Raju Launched, Regular Shoot Commenced

Chennai, April 07 2022: Thalpathy Vijay's 66th film to be helmed by National Award-Winning director Vamshi Paidipally and produced by the National-Award winning producer Dil Raju & Shirish of Sri Venkateswara Creations will be mounted on a lavish scale.

The yet to be titled movie has been launched today in grand manner with pooja ceremony in Chennai. The film's regular shoot has also commenced today.

Every announcement regarding this crazy project is only escalating buzz. National Crush Rashmika Mandanna will be playing the leading lady opposite Vijay in the movie that will also feature some stellar cast.

A top-notch craftsmen will be looking after different crafts of the movie. Sensational



composer S Thaman who's in top-form will render soundtracks for the movie. While Vamshi Paidipally penned a first of its kind subject for Vijay, the film is going to be a technical brilliance.

Alongside Vamshi Paidipally, the story and screenplay were penned by Hari and Ashishor Solomon. Karthick Palani will crank the camera, while KL Praveen will take care of editing. Sri Harshith Reddy and Sri Hanshitha are the co-producers of

the film. Sunil Babu & Vaishnavi Reddy are the production designers.

This is going to be one of the highly anticipated films, given the lead actors and core technical team are in success spree and are enjoying top spot in their respective artstries.

More details of the movie will be announced soon.

Cast: Vijay, Rashmika Mandanna Technical Crew: Director: Vamshi Paidipally Story, Screenplay: Vamshi Paidipally, Hari, Ashishor

Solomon Producers: Dil Raju & Shirish Banner: Sri Venkateswara Creations Co-Producers: Sri Harshith Reddy, Sri Hanshitha Music Director: S Thaman DOP: Karthick Palani Editing: KL Praveen Dialogues & Additional Screenplay: Vivek Production Designers: Sunil Babu & Vaishnavi Reddy Ex-Producers: B Sreedhar Rao & R Udayakumar Make-Up: Nagaraju Costumes: Deepali Noor Publicity Designs: Gopi Prasanna PRO: Riaz K Ahmed VFX: Yugandhar.

