

PM attends farewell function of Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu at Balayogi Auditorium
"Venkaiah ji's quality of always staying active and engaged will keep him connected to public life for a long time to come"

Chennai, Aug 09 2022: The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended a farewell function for the Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu at GMC Balayogi Auditorium here today.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister pointed out the quality of Shri Venkaiah Naidu of always staying active and engaged, a quality that will always keep him connected with the activities of public life. Shri Modi recalled his long association with Shri Venkaiah Naidu and remembered Shri Naidu's preference for Rural Development as portfolio when he was to be picked up as a Minister in the Vajpayee government. A portfolio that he served with distinction. The Prime Minister also pointed out that Shri Naidu has overseen both the

portfolios - Rural Development as well as Urban development. The Prime Minister also mentioned the rare distinction of the Vice President to be the first member of the Rajya Sabha to be its Chairman and the Vice President. This and the experience of Parliamentary Affairs Minister helped him run the House with great command and ease, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister also appreciated Shri Naidu's quest to empower and enhance the capabilities of the House, members, and the Committees. The Prime Minister said that it is important that we should always try to fulfil the expectations that he has from all the Parliamentarians.

Praising Shri Naidu's



discipline of time-management, the Prime Minister also remembered that how during the time of Corona restrictions, the Vice President did 'tele-yatras' that is getting in touch with people who figured in his long public life over the phone, giving solace and encouragements during the difficult times. Similarly he stayed in touch with all the MPs during the pandemic. The Prime Minister also remembered the incident when during a visit to Bihar, Shri Naidu's helicopter had to be force landed and a farmer helped him. The Prime Minister said that Shri Naidu has maintained contact with the farmer and his family till today. The Prime Minister expressed the hope that he will continue to guide the people in public life with the same

dedication and wisdom for a very long time to come.

Acknowledging the Shri Naidu's regard for the mother tongue, the Prime Minister mentioned Bhashini - National Public Digital Platform for languages to develop services and products for citizens by leveraging the power of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. He asked the members of both houses to take a look. He also asked the Speaker and Dy Chairman Rajya Sabha to collect good new words that have emerged due to debates in mother tongue and add them to enrich the languages of the country. By starting the annual tradition of releasing a collection of good words, we will take forward Venkaiah ji's legacy of love for the mother tongue, he said.

Union Agriculture Minister lays the foundation stone for Indo-Israel Center of Excellence for Vegetables through video conferencing

Chennai, Aug 09 2022: The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, laid the foundation stone of the Indo-Israel Center of Excellence for Vegetables in Chandauli (Uttar Pradesh) through video conferencing. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Tomar said that the Central and State Governments are working together all-round to upgrade Agriculture. "It is necessary for the educated youth to be oriented towards this in order to move forward the

Agriculture sector more rapidly in the future," he said.

Shri Tomar expressed happiness that under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, progress is being made in various sectors, including Agriculture, in Uttar Pradesh and the State is also contributing better in the development of the country. He also expressed happiness that the schemes of the Central Government are being implemented in Uttar Pradesh and the State has also made rapid strides in organic and natural

farming. Expressing hope, the Union Agriculture Minister said that UP, in the coming times, will achieve a new dimension in the field of Agriculture. The way UP has been leading the way in the fields of cultural heritage and scientific knowledge, in the same way it will take the country further in the development of agriculture, he said.

Shri Tomar said that today is a historic day for the Chandauli region. "A new dimension is being added on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.



This Center is the result of the efforts of the State Government. Its establishment will play an important role in the development of the district. Also, it will prove to be a revolutionary step in the field of Agriculture in the

adjoining districts and districts of Bihar border also. Many new opportunities will be created for progress through Agriculture. Farmers will be able to get better yields by using the latest methods of farming,"

he said.

Shri Tomar said that Agriculture should move forward continuously and the quality of production should be at par with the global standards. "In this direction, technology application has to move forward. To attract future generations towards farming, Agriculture has to be rejuvenated. We all need to work seriously on moving towards remunerative crops, use of technology, Digital Agriculture Mission, taking advantage of FPOs and adopting natural and

organic farming. Together we will move towards fulfilling our priority and obligations," he said.

Shri Tomar hoped the establishment of the Indo-Israel Center of Excellence for Vegetables will play an important role in the development of Chandauli district as well as Purvanchal region. "Here seeds and plants of improved vegetables will be cultivated and distributed to the farmers. Farmers can also sponsor the development of plants for themselves. Farmers

will get a lot of benefit in increasing the production of vegetables. By using the latest methods of farming, farmers will be able to get better yield and also export vegetables. Nursery of other agricultural produce including vegetables will be prepared at this Center of excellence to promote the Agriculture sector globally. This will not only benefit the farmers here, but will help the district be known globally in the field of vegetables and agriculture," he said.

Hand Held Terminals for TTEs : Leveraging Technology for eco-friendly Railways and Digital India
Southern Railway gets 857 Hand Held Terminals for Onboard Ticket Checking Staff (TTEs) of six SR divisions
800 HHTs have been deployed in about 185 trains in SR Hand Held Terminals (HHTs) will enable quick, real-time and effective means of Ticket Checking

Chennai, Aug 09 2022: Aimed at simplifying on-board ticket checking, Hand Held Terminals (HHTs) were launched as a pilot project in Southern Railway on 31st December 2018. A novel initiative introduced as part of Hon'ble Prime Minister's Digital India Mission, HHTs were put to use on an experimental basis on two train services in Southern Railway, in the first phase. The equipment was initially deployed in Train No. 12007/12008 Chennai - Mysuru - Chennai Shatabdi and Train No.12243/12244 Chennai - Coimbatore - Chennai Shatabdi Express trains.

Presently, Southern Railway has been allotted a total of 857 Hand Held Terminals. The distribution to divisions are; 246 HHTs to Chennai Division, 101 to Tiruchchirappalli Division, 98 to Madurai Division, 148 to Thiruvananthapuram

Division, 140 to Palakkad Division and 124 to Salem Division. Of these, over 800 have been deployed for on-board ticket checking in about 185 trains running in the zone. Hand Held Terminals will be proliferated and introduced in many other trains in a phased manner.

T r a i n
 No.22672/22671 Madurai - Chennai Egmore - Chennai Tejas Express, Train No.12653/12654 Chennai Egmore - Tiruchchirappalli - Chennai Egmore Rockfort Express, Train No.12673/12674 Dr MGR Chennai Central - Coimbatore Jn - Dr MGR Chennai Central Chera Express, Train No.22153/22154 Chennai Egmore - Salem - Chennai Egmore Superfast Express are some of the popular trains in which Hand Held Terminals have been used by TTEs for ticket checking.

With the deployment of this modern equipment in ticket checking, passengers will benefit from prompt allotment of vacant berths in the course of journey and will ensure greater transparency in allotment of berths. Doing away the manual procedure, this paperless facility will help TTEs to get real-time information about accommodation falling vacant enroute and enable them to book tickets online, in trains that have remote location facility. Remote location facility in a train refers to an arrangement where portion of the seats are earmarked for intermediate stoppages/stations falling in the route of the train.

Advantages of Hand Held Terminals

- An eco-friendly move, the Hand Held Terminals will replace paper charts presently used by TTEs on-board.
- Ease of ticket-checking as HHTs are



synced with Passenger Reservation System enabling downloading of charts and uploading of modified charts after checking.

- The offline application enables TTEs to work with the downloaded chart even in the absence of network connectivity.

- The TTEs can easily check the tickets of passengers, mark Turned Up/ Not turned up passengers and expedite allotment of fresh/alternate berths or seats. Besides, Upgrading/downgrading accommodation, calculation of occupancy



for food and bedrolls can be made swiftly.

- Faster Refund process as real-time data of vacancy position and occupancy is synced with

PRS software.

- Passengers will get real-time information about vacant berths at stations enroute.

- As the after chart



cancellations are sent on an hourly basis to the Hand Held Terminal,

fraudulent travel can be easily detected.

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

TTK Prestige's range of electric grills provides oil-free cooking for the health conscious

Chennai, Aug 09 2022: TTK Prestige has launched a new range of electric grills, perfect for the health conscious person or individuals who want to enjoy great tasting food with less oil. Now, it really is that simple to cook an assortment of delicacies that include juicy steaks, sandwiches or mouth-watering sizzlers.

Prestige's Electric Grill (PEG) comes in three attractive models. These include the 1.0, 5.0 and the 6.0 editions. The grill is designed with a robust non-stick coating which prevents food from sticking to the surface. As a result, the food is evenly heated and the non-stick component ensures that the food is healthy due to minimum usage of oil.

The PEG is designed to be easy to clean and is low maintenance. All three models are equipped with large handles, which makes it easier to open and close the device. All three models of the PEG come with a detachable oil



collector, which collects excess oil or grease and crumbs. This simplifies the cleaning process and makes it hassle free.

The 1.0 model has large plates which can easily accommodate four sandwiches. The temperature knobs provide precise and convenient temperature control for perfect grilling, whilst the indicator lights alert you when the sandwich is ready. The floating hinge

design in this model makes it possible to close the grill even whilst preparing thicker sandwiches or steaks. The PEG 1.0 is rated 1500W.

The PEG 5.0 model has wide plates that are big enough for two large sandwiches to be grilled at the same time. It is rated 800W. The compact and portable design adds to home-cook's convenience.

The 6.0 model is

portable. Home-cooks can comfortably grill two large sandwiches in this model. The PEG 6.0 is rated 1000W.

Over the last 66 years, TTK Prestige has emerged into the go-to kitchen appliances brand for home-cooks across the country. The brand operates on the pillars of trust, safety and innovation, which forms the basis of every TTK Prestige product. Right from inception, the brand has addressed the pain points of home-cooks across the country. The PEG is the perfect solution for oil-free and healthy cooking.

The PEG 1.0 edition costs INR 6495, whilst the 5.0 model retails for INR 2995 and the 6.0 model is available for INR 2795. All three models can be purchased at Prestige Xclusive stores, select dealer outlets, the exclusive e store <https://shop.ttkprestige.com/> and other leading e-commerce sites.

Minda Corporation Limited clocks highest ever Quarterly Operating Revenue in Q1 of FY 2022-23

Chennai, Aug 09 2022: Minda Corporation Limited (referred to as "Minda Corp" or the "Company"; NSE: MINDACORP, BSE: 538962), the flagship company of Spark Minda today announced its financial results for the first quarter ended June 30, 2022. Continuing the growth momentum, the company delivered highest ever Quarterly Operating Revenue and double-digit EBITDA Margins in the first quarter of current financial year.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Ashok Minda, Chairman and Group CEO said:

"The first quarter of FY23 started on an optimistic note with the overall demand in most of the vehicle segments growing on both year-on-year and sequential basis. The growth was primarily driven by economic recovery from adverse impact of the pandemic and through continuous support from the Government to ease inflationary pressure. The other challenges include shortage of semiconductors, upward movement in commodity prices and ongoing global geopolitical tensions.



Amidst these headwinds and tailwinds, I am pleased to report that Minda Corporation continues to deliver a stellar performance with reported Revenue from Operations at Rs. 10,102 million during the quarter, robust growth of 80.8% on Y-o-Y basis.

The growth was driven by better revenue visibility in both business verticals, increasing share of business from existing customers and increase in content per vehicle. Our order book

remains healthy with EV segment contributing more than 20% of our lifetime order won during the quarter.

EBITDA for the quarter stood at Rs. 1,066 million with EBITDA margin of 10.6%, owing to higher operational efficiencies. The robust performance is a testimony to company's commitment to manufacturing excellence and cost leadership. We are constantly evolving to address the demands of automotive market of the

future by continuously investing in R&D and innovation.

During the quarter, we remained focussed on enhancing our core capabilities through technological upgradation via inhouse R&D and achieving operational excellence through cost leadership and digitalisation of processes.

Going Forward, we expect demand to remain strong despite inflationary pressure and geopolitical risks while the supply situation is expected to improve further. Moreover, stabilization of commodity prices is expected to aid improvement in underlying margins. We will continue to focus on steady improvement in market share, basis our strong product portfolio and will continue to invest aggressively in future technologies and business models. With the overarching vision to become a complete solution provider for OEMs, we'll continue to build on the growth momentum by enhancing and strengthening our core business with consistent focus on innovation and technology.

Head, Godrej Körber stated, "Godrej Körber is a system integrator and provides a broad array of automation solutions, including stacker cranes and shuttle based AS/RS solutions that let you fully control the storage of all palletized commodities without the need for manual handling, conveyors, and rail-guided vehicle systems that quickly and efficiently link even far-off places in the warehouses, autonomous robotics based solutions and IT solutions like WCS & WMS to run these systems for delivering best performance. By offering an unmatched depth and breadth of technologies and expertise, we aim to conquer supply chain complexity across sectors in India."

Suнил Dabral, Senior Vice President & Business

Sharp Workspace Procat photocatalyst found effective against SARS-CoV-2

Chennai, Aug 09 2022: SHARP Business Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd, a wholly owned Indian subsidiary of SHARP Corporation Japan, known worldwide for its unique technology products and solutions, today announced a significant breakthrough achieved by Sharp's Workspace Procat, a disinfect coating solution. Sharp's new offering has been found effective against SARS-CoV-2 (Omicron variant), reducing the virus count to a non-detectable level within eight hours of exposure to visible light. Launched in 2022, Sharp's Photocatalytic environment hygiene solution today serves the workspace protection and hygiene needs, utilized across a diverse set of Corporates and institutions.

As per the test conducted by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, the virucidal activity of Sharp Workspace Procat photocatalyst solution was measured by plaque assay in a BSL3 Lab setup at the Centre for Infectious Disease and Biosafety Lab. Following the scientific methodology, a reduction in Omicron virus titer by 95.86% was witnessed when exposed to a tungsten trioxide-coated plate kept under ~1000 LUX LED illumination



for 4 hours. Subsequently, the virus exposure to the tungsten trioxide-coated plates was measured across various timeframes, i.e., for 8, 12, and 24 hours, wherein the viral titer was reduced to non-detectable levels. The maximum reduction in viral titer was observed when the Omicron virus was exposed for at least 8 hours over a tungsten trioxide-coated plate kept under LED illumination. Moreover, the solution has been proven not harmful when it comes in contact with the human body as per the cytotoxicity test conducted on Tungsten trioxide coating on the glass.

In addition, Sharp Photocatalyst has won an iF Design Award 2022 under the Product Concept category for using the slightest of light to improve environment hygiene across workspaces. The iF Design Awards are one of the world's esteemed design awards that recognize excellence in the design of industrial products from across the globe.

Commenting on the results, Shinji Minatogawa, Managing Director, SHARP Business Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd said, "Sharp is dedicated to promoting business continuity in India by establishing stress-free, healthy, safe, and environmentally protected offices that adhere to new standards for simply better business. Our goal with Sharp Workspace Procat disinfect coating service is to provide a safer office environment that ensures effective protection against viruses, bacteria, mold, and odor. Workspace Procat is already being used across leading workplaces, and with this new certification, we're confident that more enterprises will use these solutions and continue working from their workplace more confidently.

We are immensely proud to receive recognition from the iF Design Awards for our Sharp Workspace Procat. The award acknowledges our dedication to improving workspace protection and

environmental hygiene, and such achievements motivate us to work towards our goal of helping the world ensure business continuity."

Workspace Procat is a photocatalyst liquid sprayed to disinfect surfaces and walls. When the photocatalytic coating is exposed to light energy from natural sunlight or visible light, including LED and fluorescent, it generates strong oxidation & decomposition power to deactivate viruses, bacteria, and mold and remove odor and other harmful substances. The solution also contains anti-viral, anti-fungal, anti-bacterial, and anti-fouling properties and provides round-the-clock protection for 365 days.

The main component in Sharp's photocatalytic material is tungsten trioxide. Sharp's photocatalytic material reacts to a broader spectrum of light, unlike titanium oxide, which is one of the other photocatalytic materials. As a result, it produces highly oxidative effects when exposed to LEDs, fluorescent light, and different indoor lighting in addition to sunlight, which includes ultraviolet light. SHARP's Workspace Procat surface disinfect service comes with an effective cost of covering an office space with 1000 sqft of surface area at

CSR arm of Adityaram Group helps deserving bodybuilders to achieve their dream

Chennai, Aug 09 2022: Adityaram Helping Hands, the CSR arm of real estate major Adityaram Group of Companies, is lending out a helping hand to deserving people from various fields. Recently, Adityaram Group of Companies Chairman and Managing Director Adityaram helped two aspiring bodybuilders - K Suresh and Eshwar Karthik, from Tamil Nadu to realise their dreams. K Suresh, a differently-abled hailing from Thoothukudi was working as a coolie in Koyambedu market. He has competed in various body building competitions for the differently-abled including Mr. Tamil Nadu and Mr. India and won gold medals. Suresh wanted to compete in Asian Body Building and Physique Sports Championship - 2022. At one point in time, he lost all his hopes due to lack of support and later approached Adityaram, who helped him not just financially but morally as well. With Adityaram's



support Suresh was able to realise his dream and won gold medal under the Para Body Building Category in the 54th Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship - 2022. Eshwar Karthik from Pattukottai wanted to become a body builder from his college days. Despite his poverty, Eshwar won gold medals at the Mr. Chennai competition. However, Eshwar Karthik was not able to proceed further towards his dream due to financial situation. He wanted to participate in

the Asian Body Building Competition - 2022. Following this, he approached Adityaram, who recognised Eshwar Karthik's potential and backed him. Eshwar Karthik took part in the Asian Body Building Competition - 2022 held in Maldives and won gold medal in Senior Men Body Building Championship (100 kg category). Speaking about the initiative, Adityaram said that he feels proud because of the achievements of Eshwar and Suresh. "I feel that it is our duty to identify such talents and

extend our support to them. People like Eshwar Karthik and Suresh bring laurels to our country. Such incredible talents can be spotted in nook and corner of our country. It is the responsibility of every citizen to support these people as much as they can." Both Suresh and Eshwar Karthik have expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Adityaram Group of Companies Chairman and Managing Director Adityaram and said his supported helped them immensely to realise their longtime dreams.

Godrej & Boyce scales up its automated supply chain solutions in partnership with German based joint venture partner Körber Supply Chain

Chennai, Aug 09 2022: The global warehouse automation market is expected to grow to \$19.5 billion by FY25 and the pandemic has further underscored the significance of the segment. To address this growing market, a joint venture between Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group, and Germany-based Körber Supply Chain has pioneered the role of intralogistics across different sectors by offering differentiated automation solutions. Godrej Körber exceeded order intake targets with order books full in FY22 and the business further eyes 18% growth in the next 5 years owing to its successful coalition with global player

Körber Supply Chain. Since the pandemic, the industry has witnessed a major shift towards adoption of automation. This, in addition to Asia emerging as a development engine for supply chain automation, Körber Supply Chain intends to increase investments in India through its Indian subsidiary, Godrej Körber in FY23.

Godrej Körber Supply Chain has achieved market growth with increased market share as a result of their strong collaboration and response to the Make-in-India policies by the government. The targeted ambitious market share is 25% by FY2025. Due to the growth of the manufacturing sector, development of

organised 3PLs, Pharma, retail, e-commerce, and food service businesses, as well as shifting consumption patterns, the government is investing in cold chain and cold storage facilities. Considering this, Godrej Körber is focussing on bulk handling in the automation industry, for leading private players as well as public-private partnership projects. Godrej & Boyce and Körber Supply Chain shared their ambitious plan to engineer automated solutions and build a self-reliant intralogistics sector in India. The business dominates a market size worth 4000 Crores.

Suнил Dabral, Senior Vice President & Business

Superseding China, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance breaks GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title at Plankathon

Chennai, Aug 09 2022: Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, one of India's leading private life insurers, created history by breaking the Guinness World Records title for 'Most number of people holding the abdominal plank position. 4,454 people held the plank for a minute together at the Bajaj Allianz Life Plankathon event held in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Delhi today. The company achieved this feat by beating the earlier record of 3,118 held by China.



India's life goals."

Chandramohan Mehra, Chief Marketing Officer, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, on the world record, said, "The Plankathon initiative reflects our commitment to enable good health and holistic fitness. #PlankToThank movement anchored and conceived to express gratitude towards the Armed Forces – our real heroes. I look forward to many joining the Plank movement and embracing holistic fitness for oneself, their loved ones and India."

Kapil Dev, Captain of India's first ODI world cup winning team, said, "I congratulate Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance for taking up the initiative to encourage fitness and, uniquely, leverage the platform to demonstrate gratitude for our real heroes. I look forward to many joining the Plank movement and embracing holistic fitness for oneself, their loved ones and India."

The new world record

set at the current third edition of Plankathon event is part of company's #PlankToThank initiative that commenced on 1 July, 2022. On occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, to demonstrate gratitude for Indian Armed Forces, the company invited sharing of planking videos or pictures on social media platforms. The company made monetary contribution towards facilitating entrepreneurship

amongst ex-servicemen. The implementation of reskilling program, which encompasses providing technical skills, business mentoring and access to capital, will be done in collaboration with iCreate India.

To promote fitness, the company has been conducting the unique, high-engaging Plank initiative since 2018, also contributing towards societal causes in collaboration with relevant partners. The first edition, #36SecPlankChallenge was linked to curing heart disorders amongst economically disadvantaged kids in association with Hrudaya Foundation. The first edition of Plankathon was conducted in Pune on November 2018, with Shilpa Shetty as its event ambassador. The second edition, #PlankForIndia, supported the young Indian Olympians in association with OGQ. The second edition was conducted on 26th January, 2020 in Mumbai, which had Anil Kapoor as its event ambassador.

Mr Miss & Mrs Thamizhagam and Indian Awards 2022 - An Initiative by John Amalan, Indian Media Works, The Fund Raised will be donated to the welfare of the Indian Army

Chennai, Aug 09 2022: Indian Awards 2022 and Mr Miss & Mrs Thamizhagam 2022 – are grand initiatives by Mr. John Amalan, MD of Indian Media Works, presented by Vasanth and Co. The funds raised will be contributed towards the family welfare of the brave martyred Indian Army soldiers as well as women empowerment projects.



Celebrities from the South Indian Film Industry will be gracing the prestigious Indian Awards 2022 - the most ceremonial event of the year that honours the Film stars along with other Indian and Foreign dignitaries like high Govt officials and Consulate Generals of eleven countries. The Grand Indian Awards 2022 is a wide platform that also identifies and recognizes the efforts of common individuals and

organizations, who have indeed brought a difference in the lives of people. We call them the unsung heroes of our society. The debut edition of the Indian Awards saw as many as 60 go home with the golden statue. This year a whopping 100 awardees will be celebrated for their excellence.

Mr Miss & Mrs Thamizhagam 2022 is a glamorous competition that not only focuses on

judging the physical attributes of the contestants - but also incorporates ranking of personality, intelligence, talent and confidence. The first edition Mr Miss & Mrs Thamizhagam 2021, saw its massive success with rise of its most deserving winners, who stood out spectacularly among numerous contestants from across Tamil Nadu. This year the grandeur is colossal.

The prestigious Indian

Awards 2022 and the Grand Finale of Mr Miss & Mrs Thamizhagam 2022, organized by Indian Media Works are one of the most magnificent events of Tamil Nadu, scheduled to be held this year on August 16 at the ITC Grand Chola, Chennai.

The winners of the Mr Miss & Mrs Thamizhagam 2022 will be dignified with crowns along with attractive cash prizes. Also, the winners of each category will participate in International beauty pageant, representing India, at Dubai and Paris, among 18 other countries.

The Grand Announcement of Indian Awards 2022 and Mr Miss & Mrs Thamizhagam 2022 was presented by John Amalan, Avmk Shanmugam, Aravind Balaji, Yokesh, Periasamy, Simu George, Vinoth and Pradeepkumar.

U.S. Navy dry cargo ship USNS Charles Drew visits Chennai

Chennai, Aug 09 2022: USNS Charles Drew Master Capt William Hartman, Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral S.N. Ghormade, U.S. Consul General in Chennai Judith Ravin, Indian Defense Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar, Member of the Executive Council and Advisor to CEO of L&T for Defense and Smart Technologies J.D. Patil, Additional Secretary to Indian Ministry of Defense Sanjay Jaju, Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi Rear Admiral Michael Baker visited USNS Charles Drew at Kattupalli near Chennai on Sunday, August 7.



Catamaran announces appointments of Chairman and President

Chennai, Aug 09 2022: Catamaran, a leading investment firm, today announced the appointment of Mr. M.D. Ranganath as its Chairman. As a President of the firm for the last three years, Mr. Ranganath was instrumental in creating a strong foundation for growth of the firm's investments and their performance.

Catamaran also announced the appointment of Mr. Deepak Padaki as its President. He will be responsible for driving the



firm's investment management strategy in its mission to nurture ideas from entrepreneurs into impactful business outcomes. Mr. Padaki has 30

years of experience in the global IT services and software product industry, having played various roles in strategy, M&A, venture funding and risk

management. "I am delighted on the appointment of Mr. Ranganath as Chairman. He has helped the firm grow faster and emerge stronger as a key player in the market over the last few years", said Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy, Founder and Chairman Emeritus. "I am also very pleased to welcome Deepak. Catamaran will benefit from his experience and leadership as it prepares to scale in this next phase of its journey", he added.

The grand launch of South India Schools Cricket Association (SISCA) and official induction ceremony of Mr. John Amalan as its President along with other office bearers under him is to be held in Chennai's most colossal star-studded event

Chennai, Aug 09 2022: INDIA, although the most secular country in the world - binds its people by ONE religion - CRICKET. From revering national and international players to playing in the streets - it is a dream of millions to hit a six for the nation one day. However, many young players find it difficult to enter the sport despite their exceeding talent - the prime reason being lack of proper guidance and knowledge about the procedure to showcase their performance to the next level.

Hence, in an attempt to bring the golden opportunity to every young player, South India Schools Cricket Associations (SISCA) has emerged as a platform to take the talented ones to the next phase and develop their skills to participate in National level



tournaments.

Further, the organization will develop a separate wing for young girls and women with complete provision of special training and guidance, for rapid advancement in the future of women's cricket in India - as mentioned by Mr. John Amalan in press meet.

Mrs. Sneha Nair has been selected as the Honorary

President of SISCA which was created with the aim of encouraging youngsters to shine in the world of cricket at school age.

Pradeepkumar has been selected as the General Secretary and Joshua Edison has been selected as Secretary along with Kudanthai Ashraf as the Treasurer. Also, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's grandson and the Co Founder of Dr. APJ

Abdul Kalam International Foundation - APJMJ Shaikh Saleem, has been chosen as Honorary President of Tamil Nadu School Cricket Federation (affiliated to SISCA). All the selected executives will be officially inducted at the grand launch of South India Schools Cricket Association - to be held on August 16, 2022 at ITC Grand Chola, Chennai.

The ceremonious event will be graced by celebrities of South Indian Film Industry, high Indian Govt officials, eminent political leaders, Consulate Generals of eleven countries and other dignitaries.

The Grand Announcement was presented by Mr. Pradeep Kumar, APJMJ Sheik Saleem, Mr. John Amalan, Mr. Joshua Edison, Mr. Kudanthai Ashraf, Mr. Vignesh Majini.

Effective Consumer Choice key for Indian TV Viewers: BIF-CUTS Survey

Chennai, Aug 09 2022: Broadband India Forum (BIF) and Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International) today released a Report based on a nation-wide survey of over 10,000 TV consumers to gauge consumer perception with respect to the choice enjoyed for TV channel selection and overall satisfaction. The largest independent and neutral study conducted for the first time in India keeping the consumer perception in mind - for a sample size of over 10,000 TV consumers spread over diverse age, income, milieu and gender groups; the study brings to light some interesting findings which go to strengthen the importance and relevance of TV even in today's day and age when digital/OTT media and apps proliferating rapidly.

Key findings of the Study Report:

1. TV is the most preferred mode of video content consumption: It is worth noting that an astounding 70% of the consumers surveyed felt that television offers a value-for-money proposition, as compared to a mere 27% in the case of digital/OTT platforms and barely 3% in the case of TV apps.

2. Consumers prefer bouquets: Another telling find is that 54% of consumers surveyed avail of TV channels via bouquets/packages and another 35% do so via a combination of bouquets and individual channels. With an effective total of 89% of the consumers surveyed preferring bouquets, they become an overwhelmingly preferred choice.

3. Consumers want more from their subscriptions, even though they prefer bouquets: 40% consumers feel their subscriptions cater to the viewing needs of the entire family. Several consumers felt there is room for their

levels of satisfaction to grow, as they want to watch other and new channels that they think they may like. There is need for 'effective choice' to be exercised by consumers.

4. Pricing: Price is the most important factor for choosing TV package subscription for many consumers. Most consumers are subscribed to the basic package offered by the distributors which provide between 100-200 channels. The average charges paid by the consumers are between INR 200 and INR 400 for their subscriptions, on a monthly basis.

5. Lack of awareness on how to select (or delete) channels and dependence on last-mile TV distributors: Several consumers (31%) claimed that they were unaware of the possibility of adding/removing TV channels from their subscription packages, 51% are not inclined towards adding/removing channels themselves, and only 43% of those who add/remove TV channels found the process convenient. A majority of consumers (60%) rely on manual process of adding or removing channels and require direct intervention from distributors.

6. Lack of awareness of TRAI's channel selector app: Around 75% consumers are unaware of the 'channel selector app' launched by TRAI in June 2020 to enhance consumer choice. This reinforces the need to improve efforts at capacity building of consumers on a priority basis.

7. Consumers want better quality of service (QoS) at the last-mile: TRAI introduced QoS Regulations in 2017 that mandate itemized billing, fast and convenience grievance redressal, and assistance with Customer Premises Equipment. However, consumers believe that there is scope for

improvement on these parameters. 1 in 5 consumers perceive decline in grievance redressal, assistance with Set Top Boxes (STBs), freedom to choose channels they want to watch, and an increase in number of advertisements. In fact, 3 out of 10 consumers claim to have never received an itemised bill. These are mandatory under the extant regulatory framework (See FAQs). Non-compliance with this framework is indicative of inadequate enforcement at the last-mile of distribution.

Mr. Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International shared, "The study surveyed over 10,000 subjects across the country to capture the perception of TV consumers with respect to the choice they enjoy when it comes to channel selection and the satisfaction levels with the current choice available. The major findings indicate that there are gaps in the effective exercise of consumer choice as well as channel selection. Efforts to enhance consumer awareness around their rights as well as methods of channel selection are imperative. However, any further regulatory intervention should follow a detailed cost-benefit analysis."

The report deduces that Indian consumers have high expectations from their TV subscriptions and bundles, and there is room for consumer welfare to grow if the next wave of regulatory reforms can narrow focus on how to enable effective consumer choice. The mismatch between consumer preferences and channel subscriptions could be minimised if: (a) there are many more efforts at raising consumer awareness (e.g. capacity building through regional consumer cells), and (b) consumers have greater say in deciding their bouquets.

To ensure that subscriptions reflect consumer choice, the charges

for the 'Network Capacity Fee' (NCF - see FAQs), could be reviewed. Alternatively, a Network Access Fee (NAF) on a per channel basis could be considered in place of a flat charge for NCF. By this method, distributors could be incentivised for aiding consumers by providing suitable channels and bouquets of their individual choice. The regulator could also support credible consumer organisations in generating awareness, building capacity, and acting as watchdogs for compliance with QoS, convenience in channel selection availability, quality of content, as well as viewing experience and quality of service.

Mr. T.V. Ramachandran, President, Broadband India Forum stated, "This independent and operator neutral study is perhaps the first of its kind in India, conducted across such a wide and diverse sample size and spread. There is also no evidence-based study till this, which captures the consumers' perspective and level of satisfaction on TV viewership. In this regard, the study assumes great significance and relevance, especially in the present times, when the general notion is that Digital media & content is impacting the popularity of the legacy and linear TV. The report indicates possible areas for regulatory & policy focus to help in overall improvement of quality of services and consumer satisfaction."

The key findings of the study present an interesting understanding of the attributes of Value, Quality and Overall Satisfaction of TV consumers. Last-mile service providers/Distribution Platform Operators remain the consumer's primary point of contact for TV subscriptions and it is necessary to ensure QoS requirements and prioritise transparency mandates.