

Union Minister of State for Health Family Welfare Dr. Bharti Pravin Pawar virtually inaugurates WORLD AIDS Day with the theme “Equalize”, a Call to Action for an inclusive agenda

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar virtually inaugurated the World AIDS Day celebrations at Talkatora stadium today. The event was attended by more than 3000 people cutting across states, people living with HIV (PLHIV) communities, NGOs, CSOs, development partners and youth. Special Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Shri S. Gopalakrishnan was also present at the event.

At the outset, Dr. Bharti Pravin Pawar through her video message said that “World AIDS Day which is globally observed on 1st December since 1988, is an opportunity to show the solidarity with people living with HIV (PLHIV) and create awareness for the same.” “The theme of this year’s World AIDS Day is “Equalize”, which is a slogan for a call to action for all connected with this crusade. It calls for taking practical actions needed for

addressing inequalities in the HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Viruses) infected and affected populations across the country and also help in ending AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)”, she added.

Dr. Pawar focused on increasing social inclusivity and using a multisectoral approach to tackle HIV. She said that creativity through efforts of Civil Society Organizations, youth communities established in the colleges and universities must be harnessed. Red ribbon clubs are playing an important role too and with more than 12,500 such clubs they can be used to create massive awareness.” She reiterated the commitment of the government under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister towards strengthening HIV/AIDS and STD (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) response. Some steps being National AIDS toll-free helpline, lifetime free



ART services and regular viral load monitoring for PLHIV. Dr. Pawar also highlighted the need to reduce discrimination against the affected population. Government in this regard has notified “HIV & AIDS policy for establishments 2022”.

Several reports were released at the event:

4th edition of Sankalak (2022): Flagship report of NACP

which shows the status of National AIDS response in the country. It contains programmatic and epidemic data and factsheets at both National and State/UT level.

Three Surveillance & Epidemiology Reports: These are technical reports made in line with globally accepted model-based estimation methodology and processes. HIV Sentinel

Surveillance Plus 2021- Antenatal Clinic Attendees

HIV Sentinel Surveillance Plus 2021- Central Prison Sites

India HIV Estimates – 2021

White paper on Transgender Health: intends to strengthen promotion of comprehensive health services for Transgender persons along with

providing enabling environment.

Release of Prevention Progress Report 2021-22: an update report on progress and important activities for provision of services to High-Risk Groups (HRGs), Bridge populations and other vulnerable populations under NACP.

National Digital Repository: It is a digital hub where all IEC

resource materials related to HIV and AIDS will be available for common public.

National Data Hub of NACO: A central digital repository for key reports, documents and all approved data of NACO for internal use.

Campaign on Stigma and Discrimination: A countrywide campaign (#AbNahiChalega) is being launched for elimination of HIV-related Stigma and discrimination among people.

Special Secretary Shri S. Gopalakrishnan inaugurated the exhibition showcasing achievements of National AIDS Control Program (NACP) and important activities undertaken during the year. Speaking at the event, Special Secretary emphasized on accurate detection and treatment, ensuring care services reach to remotest part of the country.

Ms Hekali Zhimomi, Additional Secretary & D G N A C O congratulated the

country for an exceptional response in reducing HIV burden in the country. She said that “annual new HIV infections have declined by 46% between 2010-2021 against the global average of 32%. AIDS related mortality has also declined by 76% against the global average of 52%.”

Event also saw the cultural performances by folk groups from around the country and a Hunar Haat set up by community members from states. Re-emphasizing empowerment and inclusivity, Hunar Haat represented the idea of upskilling of community members so that they get better employment opportunities in the future and will therefore be more empowered.

Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani, Director, NACO, Dr. Roderico H. Ofrin, WHO Representative to India, Mr. David Bridger, Country Director UNAIDS were also present at the event along with other dignitaries.

The biggest tranche of 141 mines covering the eleven coal-bearing states are being offered in the sixth round of commercial coal auctions

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: Ministry of Coal has offered 13 coal blocks from the state of Maharashtra for auction. Out of these, 5 are fully explored and 8 are partially explored mines, informed Union Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Minister Prahlad Joshi at an investor conclave in Mumbai today.

After the successful auction of 64 coal mines in the first five tranches, Ministry of Coal had launched the process for auction of 133 coal mines under 6th round of commercial auctions of which 71 coal mines are new coal mines and 62 coal mines are rolling over from earlier tranches of commercial auctions held in November 2022. Additionally, eight coal mines under 2nd attempt of 5th round of commercial auctions were also launched where single bids were received in the first attempt. Hence, the biggest tranche of 141 mines covering the eleven coal-bearing states are being offered this time.

Union Minister Prahlad Joshi explained, “Our requirement for coal is increasing, our total dispatch in 2013-14 was 572 million tons, last year it was 817 million tons, this year it will be 900 million tons. Despite this, domestic production will not be able to fulfill full coal demand”.

While the total domestic coal production will be 1 billion tons, the total demand would be 1,300 - 1,400 million tons, he added. As the country is aiming to become self-reliant in coal sector, deliberations are in progress on how the country can perform sustainable coal mining, said Coal Minister.

Coal Minister Prahlad Joshi informed that power demand will become double by 2040. Stating that the country’s energy security is quite important, he said, “Even if we produce 50% of that from renewable sources, we would need around 1.5 billion tons of coal, hence there is no need to worry about future of coal”. The Union Minister stated that the country’s target is 100 million tons of gasification by 2030. Towards achieving this end of sustainable coal mining, 50% rebate in commercial coal mining for minimum 10% use in gasification has been given, he added. Also, Rs. 6,000 crore has been earmarked under PLI scheme, coal gasification has been incentivized and removal of entry barriers has attracted new players to the industry, stated Prahlad Joshi.

Union Minister Prahlad Joshi further stated that process of approval of mine plant and geological



reports have been simplified and single window clearance has been implemented to speed up operation of allotted coal blocks. The Coal Ministry handles Project Monitoring Unit and have removed entry barriers, he added.

Citing the example of progress in coal mining at Odisha, Coal Minister informed that the state’s revenue from mining was around Rs. 5,000 crores in 2014-15 and it has now gone up to Rs. 50,000 crores after setting in the major changes in mining sector in 2020-21.

Invoking the spirit of cooperative federalism, the Centre and states will together make a big transformation to the coal and mining sector and contribute positively to the economy, said Union Coal Minister.

Union MoS for Railways, Coal and Mines Raosaheb Patil Danve said that coal sector has the responsibility to not only produce power, but also protect the environment. “It is our responsibility to rehabilitate farmers whose land has been taken for coal or mining blocks, I am confident that together we

will fulfill this responsibility”, he added. Raosaheb Danve Patil further stated, “By 2030, we will attain coal production of 1.5 billion tonnes”.

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde said that the State Government is focused on making Maharashtra mining intensive investor-friendly hub in Vidarbha and Konkan regions. It will encourage mineral-friendly industries in these regions, he added. “With right policy measures, we can explore untapped mineral potential for economic, social and industrial development”, further stated Maharashtra CM. He urged the Union Coal Ministry to start a coal research institute in

Maharashtra in similar lines to the one started in Jharkhand. He also said that re-starting of 20 closed mines in Maharashtra by the Centre has created job opportunities in the region.

Coal Secretary Amrit Lal Meena said that investment in coal provides long-term returns, high rate and assured demand for coal in the times to come.

Maharashtra’s Mining Minister Dadaji Bhuse also participated in the deliberations.

Earlier in the day, the Union Coal Minister and MoS (Coal) held a review meeting with power generation companies, including the state’s MAHAGENCO, and ensured adequate supply of coal to them.

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Two-day Regional Workshop on BIOSTATISTICAL TOOLS USING MS EXCEL

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: Loyola Institute of Frontier Energy (LIFE) Loyola College, INAUGURATED the Two-day Regional Workshop on BIOSTATISTICAL TOOLS USING MS EXCEL (BST2022) on 29th November. Invocation Welcome Address by Dr. M. Selvanayagam Director LIFE - Loyola College. Felicitation Dynamics of the Workshop by Dr. I. Jaquiline Chinna Rani (Convener-BST2022) Dept of Plant Biology and Biotechnology LIFE - Loyola College. Inaugural Address by



Rev. Dr. A. Thomas, S.J. Principal Loyola College Vote of Thanks by Ms. Lorraine Rocha Research Scholar Dept of Plant Biology and Biotechnology LIFE - Loyola College.

CARA organises 200 special Social media campaigns, 10 State Orientation Programmes, and Interactive meets with more than 700 Prospective Adoptive Parents and Adoptive Parents

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: As part of the 'Adoption Awareness Month', Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) organised 10 State orientation programmes, ran 200 special social media campaigns, held interactive meets with more than 700 Prospective Adoptive Parents and Adoptive Parents in November, 2022. The key features of the new Adoption Regulations, 2022 notified by the Central Government on September 23, 2022 were also shared with them. CARA engaged with the adoption community by offering in-depth knowledge and resources for families.

Awareness Month was celebrated in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Daman & Diu, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Adoption Awareness Month is about spreading adoption awareness amongst the stakeholders and the waiting families desiring to adopt. Through the adoption process, CARA is dedicated to ensuring the long-term rehabilitation of children.

Following the notification of the Adoption Regulations, 2022, CARA is reviewing all adoption cases, long pending in the courts and ensuring that they are quickly

transferred to the office of the District Magistrate and concluded by issuance of Adoption Order by the District Magistrate within two months. New Regulations also stipulate children to be placed in their own socio-cultural environment so that both the child and the family quickly adjust with each other. Children with mental and physical disabilities are now being identified and cared for by the CMO in every district. Revamped Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System (CARINGS) has introduced new online modules for online registration of inter-country adoption cases

under Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA), modules for the District Magistrate to issue online Adoption Orders and for CMO to certify disabilities. Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of the Ministry of Women and Child Development under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, mandated to undertake the promotion of in-country adoptions and to facilitate inter-state adoptions in accordance with the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of inter-country adoption.

Joint Exercise Agni Warrior with Singapore Armed Forces Concludes at Devlali

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: The 12th Edition of Exercise Agni Warrior, a bilateral exercise between the Singapore & Indian Army, which had commenced on 13 November 2022 concluded at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali (Maharashtra) on 30 November 2022. Exercise Agni Warrior, involved showcasing joint firepower planning, execution and use of New Generation Equipment by the Artillery arm of both armies.



manufactured Artillery guns and howitzers also participated during the final phase of the exercise.

The exercise achieved its aim of enhancing mutual understanding of drills & procedures and improving interoperability between the two armies. The closing event was witnessed by Mr Wong Wie Kuen, High Commissioner of Singapore to India & Lieutenant General S Harimohan Iyer,



Commandant, School of Artillery along with other dignitaries from Singapore & serving officers from both armies.

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy chaired a review Meeting for Respective Ministries & Inter-Ministerial Co-ordination Ahead of G-20 Meetings

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: G. Kishan Reddy, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Government of India, chaired a review meeting for all three Ministries ahead of G-20 meetings with Senior Officers from DoNER, Tourism, Culture & Chief Secretaries and Senior officers from all 8 North Eastern States. A total of 11 Meetings, starting from January, 2023 (one in each State and four in Guwahati) on different themes under G-20 are



to be held in NER. The deliberations focused on the key aspects for making the events impactful in the North Eastern Region. Minister desired the full readiness of the systems both at the Central and State level for organizing the events.

He desired that the bounties of nature in North East must be showcased to the world.

Today, on 1st December, 2022, our Country formally assumed the G20 Presidency with the ethos of ancient culture & oneness with the

message of 'G-20 promotes the vision of Oneness. Hence the theme: 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' is adopted.

The G20 Heads of State and Government Summit will take place on 9-10 September 2023 in J&K. There will be about 200 Meetings under G20 which have been planned in different cities across the Country to provide an enriching experience of India's amazing diversity, inclusive traditions and cultural richness to our guests across the world.

Investor conclave for Opportunities in Coal Sector

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: The Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Mines jointly organized investor conclave on December 01, 2022, in Mumbai where Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi was the Chair, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Eknath Shinde was the Chief Guest, Minister of State for Coal, Mines and Railways, Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve and Minister of Mining for Maharashtra, Shri Dadaji Bhuse were the Guests of Honour for the event.

started coal production under commercial mining.

Shri Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, Mines welcomed all the investors and emphasized on exploration and production of minerals beyond iron ore, coal, bauxite and limestone. He emphasized on exploration of critical minerals such as palladium, tantalum and lithium etc., which are used in electronics, telecommunication and green energy.

Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve stated that the Ministry of Coal has transformed the entire auction process of coal mines under the guidance of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and informed that while ~70% of the power is generated through coal in India, the ministry has also taken various initiatives to reduce carbon footprint considering the environmental impact of coal mining. Shri Pralhad Joshi reaffirmed that the usage of coal is going to stay at least for the next 25-30 years and that India is currently having very low per capita consumption of power as compared to some of the other developed economies in the world and it is estimated that the per capita consumption is going to double by 2040 for which coal is the necessity. The focus of the present government under the guidance of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi is to become net zero carbon emission country by adopting better technological processes. Shri Eknath Shinde ensured that the Government of Maharashtra will actively participate in ensuring timely exploration, auction and operationalisation of the

coal mines and ensured full cooperation from the Government of Maharashtra in expanding coal mining related activities in the state.

Mr. Manoj Kumar, CMD, CMPDIL gave a presentation on the technical details of the coal blocks being offered in the largest ever auction process. Mr. Chiranjib Patra, GM, CMPDIL presented on the investment opportunities in the MDO sector and Mr. Shubham Goel, Vice President, SBI Capital Markets delivered a presentation on the terms and conditions of the auction process.

Key features of the auction process include reduction in upfront amount and bid security amount, permission to relinquish part of the coal mine in case of partially explored coal mines, introduction of National Coal Index and National Lignite Index, ease of participation with no entry barriers, full flexibility in coal utilisation, optimized payment structures, efficiency promotion through incentives for early production and use of clean coal technology.

The sale of tender document commenced on November 03, 2022. Details of the mines, auction terms, timelines etc. can be accessed on MSTC auction platform. The auction shall be held online through a transparent 2 stage process, on the basis of Percentage Revenue Share.

SBI Capital Markets Limited, the sole Transaction Advisor to Ministry of Coal for the commercial coal mine auctions, is assisting the Ministry of Coal in conduct of the auction.

Subsequently, Dr. Veena Kumari Dermal, Joint Secretary, Ministry

of Mines gave a brief presentation on reforms in mineral sector which has brought in ease of doing business and transparency that helped in increase in mineral production and revenue generation to States. Further, she has informed that India is a 5th largest economy in the world whereas contribution of mineral sector in the GDP of India is only 2.67%. She also informed that 6.88 Lakh sq. Km OGP area has been covered as of 2020. India is currently producing 95 minerals and is second largest producer of coal and crude steel and 4th largest producer of iron ore.

She has informed about the major mining reforms that has been brought in MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 that mandates grant of mineral concession through e-auction to improve transparency and setting up of DMF and contribution to NMET. She also informed about the major reforms brought through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2021, that, inter-alia, includes auction of mineral blocks without end use restrictions and allowed transfer of all ML & CL without any charges and transfer of valid clearances.

Further, She has informed that so far, total 216 major mineral blocks including 168 MLs and 48 CL have been auctioned in 10 States, since introduction of auction regime in 2015. Currently, 68 NITs for different minerals are at different stages of auction in various states.

During the discussions, Secretary (Mines) assured the investors that the Ministry of Mines will provide all the possible support and cooperation.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: On 25th November 2022, to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, The Women Development Cell (Guru Shakthi) of Guru Nanak College in association with Penn's Udayal Padai conducted a one-day Workshop on Awareness of Law and Police Support for Women. The invited Chief Guest of the day was Thiru. K. Vannia Perumal, IPS, Additional DGP, Women & Child Safety, Government of Tamil Nadu and the Guest of Honour was Mrs. Pushkala Sivakumar, Advocate, Madras High



Court. The Principal, Dr. M. G. Rangunathan delivered the Welcome Address. The Guests were introduced to the audience by the Co-ordinator, Udayal Padai, Dr. K. Umadevi. Mr. Sridhar, Founder, PENN Trust highlighted the significance of the day's

Workshop. Veteran Singer and Advisory Board Member, PENN Trust, Thiru. Unnikrishnan, shared his video message, greeting the Workshop for a grand success, which was displayed for the audience. 1100 girl students of the college and the Staff members

attended the event. Mrs. Pushkala Sivakumar, Advocate, in her presentation emphasized the legal support available for women regarding abuse in any form is concerned. It was an eye-opening session for the audience presented in the workshop. Thiru. K. Vannia Perumal, IPS in his special address highlighted the Police Support Services which is extended to the civilians. There was an overwhelming response from the audience for both the sessions. Vote of thanks was rendered by Dr. R. Tamilselvi, one of the members of Women Development Cell.

Flipkart's Shopsy App gets honored with Google Play Best of Users' Choice Award

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: Shopsy by Flipkart, Bharat's fastest growing hyper-value e-commerce platform, has been awarded Google Play Best of Users' Choice Award. Users from across the country voted for Shopsy as the winner. The unique value shopping features, never before seen experiences, and personalization are some of the key reasons for Shopsy to be chosen as the winner in this category.

Launched in July 2021, Shopsy was conceptualized with the vision to make online shopping convenient and affordable for customers who are looking for budget-friendly products. Given India's rich diversity, Shopsy customizes its product

range as per seasons and occasions ensuring a fulfilling shopping experience for each customer. Today, the platform enables access to 150 million products across 800+ categories for customers across India. Given its growing popularity, the platform recently crossed a milestone of 100 million users in September 2022 much ahead of its original timeline of 2023. The hypervalue platform also recorded a six fold growth in its customer base during The Big Billion Days sale and topped the charts as the most downloaded app on playstore. Shopsy has also become a platform of choice among sellers as it offers a zero commission marketplace for entrepreneurs.

Adarsh Menon, Senior Vice President & Head - New Businesses, Flipkart said, "We are honored to receive Google Play Best of Users' Choice Award. Our vision for Shopsy has been to enable Bharat, and bring the untapped T2+ consumers online. The dream is liberating, as today a consumer sitting in a small town has equal access and shopping experience to the products that consumers in the metro cities have. Shopsy has been designed to provide value to this cohort which desires a budget friendly shopping experience. We are delighted and humbled by the overwhelming response from our users and this only motivates us to work harder towards delivering value to our

customers and sellers." Shopsy aims to continue working towards its vision to offer a wide-range of engaging products for customers at affordable prices, while being a value-based and reliable platform. It has strived to deliver on its commitment of building a community that truly levels the playing field of commerce in the country. Since its launch in July 2021, Shopsy's aim has been to make digital commerce accessible across India through a zero-commission marketplace. Today, the platform has over 11 lakh sellers (including Flipkart) on the platform who provide 150 million products across 800+ categories for customers across India.

Express Avenue inaugurated The Beautiful Christmas village and the famous Express Train

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: Express Avenue inaugurated The Beautiful Christmas village and the famous Express Train also as a social awareness programme for women empowerment (Part of CSR) handing over of 2 Auto to lady auto drivers in presence of Mrs. Saroj Goenka Ji (Chairperson - EIPL/ENP), Mrs. Kavita Singhania (MD-EIPL / Express Avenue), Mr. Paul Dryden-Head of Mission and Acting Deputy High Commissioner - British High Commission, Shrimati Priya Ravichandran - Joint Director TNFRS



The "THE BEAUTIFUL there for 1 month and will attract the people from across the globe. The Village will have Santa Claus, Pond, Pole star, Christmas tree, snow white décor, Small mountains, huts and house, Tunnel under which the train will go through and the Christmas music all around which give a feeling of the of north pole and Santa Claus Home. Children will love to ride on the train and will have fun.

"THE BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS SNOW VILLAGE & EXPRESS TRAIN" Setup will be one of the largest and the best Christmas Décor in India and attracts huge crowd and

is mesmerizing Papa Santa will visit Express Avenue from 23th to 25" Dec-2022 and sit on his Santa Chair and say "HO HO HO!!! Merry Christmas" to all and distribute goodies.

Mrs. Saroj Goenka (Chairperson - EIPL/ENP) Said: This year it is the "beautiful Christmas snow village and the comeback of the most famous express train" this setup which is truly an amusing factor for all the customers of Express Avenue. IT TAKES MINIMUM OF 15 MINUTES TO ADMIRE THE ENTIRE SETUP & THE EXPRESS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A

JOYOUS RIDE FOR ALL AGE GROUP. Christmas is a festival of love, hope and joy. It guides us to celebrate every moment of our life and share the best of us with others.

Mrs. Kavita Singhania (MD EIPL / EXPRESS AVENUE) Said: Thanked all the guests, press and media and was very happy to announce the Launch of the beautiful Christmas Snow Village and Express Train and may this Christmas joy and happiness to all, she ended the speech by wishing all a merry Christmas and happy new year.

On the occasion of the Inauguration, Mrs. Kavita Singhania and Mrs. Saroj Goenka handed over Keys to 2 Lady Auto drivers (Mrs. Mala and Mrs. Alagammal) Single mothers and bread winner of their families, as a part of the CSR by Express Infrastructure Pvt Ltd, Mrs. Kavita Singhania supports women empowerment and women entrepreneurship, by donation and handing over the ownership of the 2 Autos to trained Lady Auto drivers she wished all the best and supports women empowerment.

DOPPW's Nationwide Campaign for Submission of Digital Life Certificates by Pensioners successfully completed all over the country

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: The Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India this year has launched a nation-wide campaign for promotion of Digital Life Certificate for Central Government pensioners. The objective of this Nation-wide campaign is to promote the use of Face Authentication technology and DLC thereby ensuring transparency and Ease of Usage. All the registered Pensioners' Associations, Pension Disbursing Banks, Ministries of Government of India and CGHS Centers had been directed to promote the Digital Life Certificate/Face Authentication Technique for giving Life Certificate by organizing special camps for 'Ease of Living' of pensioners.

Due to increasing awareness, the popularity of Face authentication is gaining popularity and has been able to provide a huge relief especially to the aged and infirm elderly population. Till 30th November, 2022, a total of 30.34 lakh central government pensioners has been used DLC successfully, in which 2.82 lakh DLC has been created through Face authentication.

To promote the campaign, State Bank of India and in certain cities the Punjab National Bank joined hands with the Department and provided the Camp venues in different cities. Different officials of DoPPW have been nominated at different cities to oversee the progress of the Campaign. During 1-30 November, 2022, special awareness camps have been organized in different cities all over India from Srinagar in the North to Nagercoil (Kanyakumari District) in the South and from Guwahati in the East to Ahmedabad in the West. Specific cities covered in this Campaign are Delhi (Hauz khas, Pankha Road,

Chanakyapuri, Jangpura), Noida, Chandigarh, Mohali, Srinagar (J&K), Nagpur, Pune (Maharashtra), Allahabad, Jammu, Jalandhar, Gwalior (MP), Thrissur (Kerala), Madurai, Nagercoil, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Guwahati (Assam), Hyderabad, Ambernath, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar, Balasore, Cuttack (Orissa), Thiruvanthapuram, Jaipur, Chennai, Karaikal, Puducherry, Dehradun, Jagadari (Haryana), Hoogly, Howrah, Kolkata, Ranchi, Bangalore, Gulbarga, Mysuru. The nation-wide campaign was conducted by the officials of DoPPW with the help of State Bank of India (SBI) & Punjab National Bank (PNB), who sponsored the campaign sites. The campaign saw the active participation of registered Central Government Pensioner Associations, the representatives of IPPB, UIDAI, NIC as well as CGDA in every city.

In order to overcome the challenge of certain pensioners not being able to give DLC due to fading bio-metrics the Department of Pension engaged with MeITY to develop a face-recognition technology system based on Aadhaar database whereby it is possible to give LC from any Android based smart phone. As per this facility, the identity of a person is established through face recognition technique and DLC gets generated. This breakthrough technology, launched in November 2021, reduced the dependence of pensioners on external bio-metric devices and made the process more accessible and affordable to masses by leveraging smart phone-based technology. This was a milestone achievement in ensuring 'Ease of Living' of the elderly. The Face Authentication Technology was launched in November 2021 after extensive pilot runs by Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State (PP) of the Ministry of

Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. Based on the feedback received of the Face Authentication App developed for this purpose, NIC was quick to respond and incorporate the same. For example, the life certificate could be opened in the App after receiving an OTP and downloading the same. But because of feedback received from pensioners, the Life Certificate can be accessed immediately after entering the OTP. The State Bank of India officials at all locations came out in full strength to promote the campaign and their officials were seen enthusiastically participated even on holidays. Similarly, the participation by the Registered Pensioners' Associations was exemplary and their representatives helped in spreading awareness about the Face Authentication technique of LC.

The campaign was widely appreciated by the pensioners residing in different parts of country. The campaign was widely covered by the newspapers and Doordarshan all over the country. During 1-30 November, 2022, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has disseminated 532 tweets from its Twitter account during the period. Beside this other stakeholder of this campaign have re-tweeted 605 tweets during the period. Five videos were uploaded by the Department on its YouTube page. Two videos in Hindi and English have been uploaded on the official youtube channel of the department - DOPPW_INDIA OFFICIAL explaining the process of submitting the Life Certificate through Face Authentication Technique in simple language.

Submission of Life Certificates is an important activity to be carried out by pensioners every year in the month of November (with special

provision for pensioners aged 80 years and above to submit their Life Certificates in the month of October) to ensure continuity of their pension. In the traditional mode, pensioners had to present themselves before the Pension Disbursing Authority for physical submission of their Life Certificate which entailed waiting at the bank branches in queues for this purpose. This was found inconvenient for the old, ailing and infirm pensioners. Further, there was no mechanism for the pensioners to get a status regarding updation of their Life Certificates in the records of the Pension Disbursing Authority.

To enhance 'Ease of Living' of Central Government pensioners, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has been promoting Digital Life Certificate i.e. Jeevan Pramaan extensively. Initially submission of DLCs using biometrics was commenced. The Department roped in the 50 registered Pensioners' Associations in different cities to promote DLCs. The Department further associated the Indian Post & Payment Bank (IPPB) to include DLC among one of the door-step services provided through the agency of its Gramin Dak Sevaks, numbering more than 1,90,000. Pension disbursing Banks were also asked to adopt the methodology of video based KYV method of Life Certification and a consortium of 12 Banks asked to provide door-step service for DLC. In order to prevent super senior pensioners aged 80 years and above, DoPPW issued orders permitting this age group to give their LC from October 1 itself in order to provide them an exclusive window and avoid rush at various pension disbursing bank branches. Indian Embassies/Consulates were advised to assist Pensioners living overseas who can now also give a DLC by receiving an OTP on their email.

NADA India to host Inclusion Conclave to sharpen focus on athletes with disabilities on 2nd December 2022

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA India) will break ground on 2nd December 2022 when it hosts an Inclusion Conclave for the first time to sharpen the focus on anti-doping education and processes for athletes with disabilities. Secretary Department Sports Smt. Sujata Chaturvedi, UN Resident Coordinator Shombi Sharp and WADA Asia-Oceania Regional Office Manager, Kenny Lee will address the conclave.

NADA India has already developed comprehensive modules on anti-doping education & awareness in Universal Design of Learning (UDL) for athletes with disabilities. UDL is a multi-modal framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all persons using sign language visual representation, transcribed subtitles and



content audio. Some material, usually available in print only, has now been produced in Braille and audio formats as well. Besides, NADA India has conducted sensitisation workshops for Dope Control Officers (DCO) who collect samples from athletes with disabilities and has upgraded the DCO kit for such athletes.

In a further step towards building an inclusive anti-doping landscape in India, the Conclave will take a holistic view, including sessions on policy landscape and legal framework, challenges faced by such athletes, education of and engagement with such athletes and Doping Control processes for athletes with disabilities. Besides Deepa Malik, G Mahanteesh, Kavitha Suresh and Suresh Kumar who head federations for sport for athletes with disabilities, the participation of para-athletes like Singhraj Adhana and Sharad Kumar as well as coach Maha Singh Rao in the discussions will sharpen

the focus on anti-doping matters in sport for athletes with disabilities.

Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations (INADO) CEO Jorge Leyva, Asian Paralympic Committee, Anti-Doping Sub-Committee Chairman Dr. Badrul Rashid, University of Birmingham's Prof. Ian Bradley and International Inclusion and Para Sports expert Dr. Halim Jebali headline the panelists from overseas who will join an array of Indian experts.

The Conclave will be followed by a two-hour long inclusive anti-doping education workshop for Athletes with Disabilities with focus on Therapeutic Use Exemption, Doping Control Process, Anti-Doping Rule Violations as well rights and responsibilities of athletes with disabilities and support personnel.

ICICI Bank launches STACK for companies in real estate sector

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: ICICI Bank today announced the launch of a STACK for companies in real estate sector to offer solutions to their banking requirements on one platform. The STACK, which is a combination of digital and phygital solutions, enables participants of the real estate sector namely builders, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs) to undertake banking transactions expeditiously. This initiative is an extension of the 'ICICI STACK for Corporates' which the Bank launched last year to provide a customised set of banking solutions for corporates and their entire ecosystem.

The first-of-its kind

initiative offers builders, banking solutions such as digital opening of bank accounts, instant generation of account number for RERA registration*, construction finance, inventory funding, and lease rental discounting to cater to their financial needs, depending on the life cycle stage of a project. In addition, it enables them to manage their payment obligations to vendors, employees, utility providers and statutory payments efficiently.

The STACK also provides REITs and AIFs with services for digital collection, reconciliation, surplus distribution and custodial services. REITs are trusts that manage high quality real estate property

portfolios, collect rent through lease income and distribute the surplus to the investors. AIFs invest privately pooled funds in various asset classes including the real estate sector. Both REITs and AIFs require robust collection, reconciliation and surplus distribution services digitally.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Anup Bagchi, Executive Director, ICICI Bank said, "The real estate sector is the second largest employment generator in our country and is also one of the fastest growing sector in the economy. The sector's contribution to GDP is likely to go up to 13% by 2025 from 7% now. The main participants in the real estate sector like builders, REITs and AIFs

are poised to play a significant role in this expansion. Therefore, they require a banking partner which will serve their needs as well as provide solutions for their entire ecosystem.

Our research shows that this segment requires availability of finance, solutions for digital collection and bulk payment options throughout their lifecycle - from construction to leasing and selling the property-- as well as services for their customers, employees and vendors. Armed with these insights, we are delighted to introduce a one-stop shop for the companies in the real estate sector. This will enable them to carry out their business more efficiently."

43 companies in the 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 are based in Tamil Nadu

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: Burgundy Private, Axis Bank's Private Banking Business and Hurun India launched the '2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500'. This is the second edition of the list of the 500 most valuable companies in India. These companies are ranked according to their value, defined as market capitalization for listed companies and valuations for non-listed companies. Hurun Report India and Burgundy Private launched a further analysis of most valuable non-state-controlled companies from Tamil Nadu in the 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 List. The cut-off date to arrive at this list was 30th October 2022. This list refers to companies headquartered in India only; state-owned companies and subsidiaries of foreign as well as Indian companies are not included.

Commenting on the launch, Amitabh Chaudhry, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Axis Bank said: "Burgundy Private is delighted to have partnered again with Hurun India in celebrating India's 500 most valuable companies. The 2nd edition of the Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 report, featuring India's 500 most valuable companies, could not have come at a better time. From a rare bright spot, when most world economies are staring at a slowdown, India is slated to be entering its decade of eminence. Indian companies and their leadership deserve great acclamation for their contribution to the

country's unique positioning today, and they will play an even bigger role in making India the world's third largest economy over the next decade."

"Despite global challenges, the companies on the '2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500' list created value to the tune of INR 226 lakh crore (USD 2.7 trillion), for their stakeholders. As India's leading wealth management franchise, Burgundy Private witnessed this value creation from close quarters. The companies on this year's list contributed immensely to nation building. The top line of these 500 companies is equivalent to 29% of India's GDP, and these companies employ up to 1.5% of the country's total workforce. What stood out in the report is that 67 companies on the list are younger than 10 years. These new-age companies will indeed shape the coming decade with their entrepreneurship, technology and digital innovations."

"Axis Bank remains optimistic about the growth opportunities in the Indian economy. Our ability to deliver 'One Axis' as a full-service bank, offering varied solutions across all financial services, is a key area of our distinctiveness, allowing us to bring unique solutions to our customers. As India moves towards its most important decade, we look forward to partnering with the companies on the 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list, as they move towards the next milestone in their growth journey", he

added.

Anas Rahman Junaid, MD and Chief Researcher, Hurun India said: "Hurun India is delighted to partner with Burgundy Private, Axis Bank's Private Banking Business to release the 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500. The 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 is a sanguine representation of the evolution of the economy. Tamil Nadu has a diverse manufacturing sector and leads across several industries like automobiles, auto components, engineering, pharmaceuticals, garments, textile products, leather products, chemicals, plastics, etc., With structural reforms and infrastructural investments being championed by 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 companies in Tamil Nadu such as Ashok Leyland, MRF, TVS Motors, the state is playing a significant role in democratizing mobility and bridging the gap between urban and metro India. Tamil Nadu has the maximum number of factories in India including micro, small and mid-sized units. The state aims to be a trillion-dollar economy by 2030-31 with huge investments in manufacturing of aviation engine parts and defence equipment."

Methodology

The 2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 is a list of the 500 most valuable companies that are headquartered in India. Government/State-owned companies and subsidiaries of foreign as well as Indian companies are excluded.

Although the cut-off date for the list is 30th October 2022, we have taken an exception for Global Health, Bikaji Foods International and Five-Star Business Finance for which we have considered the closing market cap of the listing day. The aforementioned companies were in the process of going public/getting listed during the cut-off date.

Valuing private companies is as much an art as it is a science. Surely, Hurun India may have missed some

companies, but our endeavor is to develop the most comprehensive report of its kind with an objective to

identify and acknowledge India's top businesses. Hurun Report's team of researchers have traveled the length and breadth of the country, cross-checking information with entrepreneurs, industry experts, journalists, bankers and other sources of publicly available data.

For unlisted companies, Hurun Research's valuation is based on a comparison with their listed equivalents

using prevailing industry multiples such as Price to Earnings, Price to Sales, EV to sales, EV to EBITDA. Other methodologies such as Discounted Cash Flow and Tobin's Q are also used. In certain cases of early-stage companies, Hurun used the First Chicago Method for valuation. Financial information used is from the latest available annual reports or audited financial statements.

actyv.ai partners with Axis Bank to offer Supply Chain Finance solutions for MSMEs

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: actyv.ai, an AI-powered Enterprise SaaS platform, today announced its partnership with Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank to offer the Bank's Supply Chain Finance solutions to MSME customers. This partnership will enable corporate anchors, downstream dealers and trading partners to avail the Bank's Supply Chain Finance solutions.

"Small and medium enterprises in India often face challenges in accessing sustainable credit. We at actyv.ai, in partnership with Axis Bank aim to leverage our technology prowess to reach MSME customers. We are certain that our digital platform, access to technology tools and affordable credit will help drive growth for this segment," said Raghu Subramanian, Founder and Global CEO, actyv.ai.

Digital transformation is at the centre of the supply chain ecosystem, with a clear focus on enabling technology, data-driven decision-making and enhanced customer experience. This collaboration between actyv.ai and Axis Bank will help in streamlining the financial needs of MSMEs and their traders.

Speaking on the partnership, Sumit Bali,

Group Executive, Head of Retail Lending and Payments, Axis Bank said, "We firmly believe that the MSME sector will play an integral role in driving the country's economic growth towards becoming a five trillion economy over the next few years. Our partnership with actyv.ai is yet another step in providing credit solutions to a wider base of MSME and contribute to growth in their businesses."

TCI awarded a new grant from Walmart Foundation to enhance its FPO database

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: The Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition (TCI) is embarking on the next phase of its project to support smallholder farmers in India through the promotion of effective farmer producer organization (FPO) models. The centerpiece of this effort is the further development of TCI's Database for Indian FPOs within the FPO hub of its Center of Excellence in New Delhi, a web-based platform that empowers FPOs, researchers and other stakeholders to access comprehensive information on thousands of FPOs launched in 2021 in India.

To further scale TCI's efforts, the new funding of \$500,000 from the Walmart Foundation will aid in the understanding, development, and promotion of effective farm-aggregation models. This is in addition to TCI's project on "FPO-Led Small Farm Market Access Models" which received a grant of \$1 million from the Walmart Foundation in 2019.

According to official data, a majority of India's FPOs do not actively submit annual financial information to the relevant authorities. TCI's project aims to rectify this with a data-sharing pipeline with major FPO stakeholders in India to

ensure that all data on the platform is as current and comprehensive as possible as it is the largest centralized source of data on Indian FPOs currently available.

"Strengthening FPO models is crucial to empowering India's small farmers to take advantage of the opportunity posed by rising demand for diverse agricultural products," TCI Director Prabhu Pingali said. "The upgrades that we are making to the Database for Indian FPOs will ensure that it continues to be an invaluable resource for all stakeholders interested in supporting FPOs."

TCI also intends to create an interface through which FPOs can update their own select indicators. The interface could potentially be used to link FPOs with product buyers and service providers.

"By inviting farmer organizations themselves onto the platform to interact with service providers and buyers, we aim to further empower smallholders to commercialize their efforts and improve their livelihoods," Pingali said.

The Database for Indian FPOs features comprehensive information on more than 4,400 FPOs and will soon launch a beta version of the new platform

containing information for over 26,000 producer organizations and FPOs. Stakeholders can use the interactive dashboard to access a wealth of useful information, such as crops produced, founding years, sponsoring agencies, and basic financials. We hope that such information will enable access to finance as well as markets for the FPOs by boosting their discovery. Ultimately, the data will also allow researchers at the Hub to formulate models to boost smallholder farmer income and welfare.

Nearly 90 percent of farms around the world measure less than 2 hectares in size. In India, the average farm is only 1.15 hectares. These small farms are disadvantaged when it comes to accessing markets, credit, and agricultural inputs such as seeds. By joining together in FPOs, farmers work to jointly reduce costs and improve market access, helping to drive higher agricultural productivity, enhanced food security, and livelihood development.

"With the new grant funding to the TCI, we are meaningfully advancing research into Farmer Producer Organizations, which serve as vital infrastructure for promoting market access and

strengthening business and agricultural practices. It aligns well with our efforts in India to support programs that benefit and improve livelihoods by enhancing opportunities for smallholder farmers in the country," said Julie Gehrki, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Walmart Foundation.

TCI's project on "FPO-Led Small Farm Market Access Models" aims to better understand the challenges facing FPO models in India and around the world. In 2021, TCI launched the FPO Hub of its Center of Excellence. The Hub serves as a resource for researchers, philanthropic actors, government, and private entities that promote FPOs to access information, technical help, and guidance for the advancement of FPOs in India.

In 2019, the Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition (TCI) was awarded a \$1 million grant from the Walmart Foundation to assess challenges facing small-farm aggregation models in India and Mexico. The grant is a part of Walmart Foundation's USD \$25 million commitment to India to help farmers generate more income.

Coal Ministry to Organize Investor Conclave in Bengaluru on Commercial Coal Mines Auction

Chennai, Dec 02 2022: To further enhance participation in commercial auction of coal mines, Ministry of Coal is organising an investor conclave in Bengaluru on December 03, 2022. Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pralhad Joshi will chair the function and Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Basavaraj Somappa Bommai will be the Chief Guest. Minister of State for Coal, Mines and Railways, Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve, Minister of Mines & Geology, Shri Halappa Basappa Achar and Minister of Energy, Shri Vasudev Sunil Kumar of Karnataka Government will be the Guests of Honour. Shri Amrit Lal Meena, Secretary, Ministry of Coal and Shri Vivek Bhardwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Mines will also

participate in the Conclave.

The Ministry of Coal plans to conduct a series of investors' conclave at several locations across India and has already organized such conclaves at Indore and Mumbai which saw very good participation from the prospective bidders indicating the enthusiasm among bidders regarding the ongoing commercial coal mines auction.

The Ministry has launched the process for auction of 133 coal mines under 6th round of commercial auctions and eight coal mines under 2nd attempt of 5th tranche of commercial auctions. These 141 coal mines are from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan,

Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal and are having cumulative PRC of ~305 MTPA. The mines have been finalized post detailed deliberations and mines falling under protected areas, wildlife sanctuaries, critical habitats, having forest cover greater than 40%, heavily built-up area etc. have been excluded. The block boundaries of some of the coal mines where there was presence of dense habitation, high green cover or critical infrastructure etc. have been modified basis comments received during stakeholder consultations to enhance bidders' interest and participation in these coal blocks.

Key features of the auction process include reduction in upfront amount and bid security amount, permission to

relinquish part of the coal mine in case of partially explored coal mines, ease of participation with no entry barriers, full flexibility in coal utilisation, optimized payment structures, incentives for early production and on use of clean coal technology.

The sale of tender document commenced on November 03, 2022. Details of the mines, auction terms, timelines etc. can be accessed on MSTC auction platform. The auction shall be held online through a transparent two stage process, on the basis of Percentage Revenue Share.

SBI Capital Markets Limited, the sole Transaction Advisor to Ministry of Coal for the commercial coal mine auctions, is assisting the Ministry of Coal in conduct of the auction.