

# Minister T Mano Thangaraj presided the Stella Maris College Tamil Nadu SDG Girls Championship 2022

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: The Stella Maris Sustainable Development (SMSD) Students Hub inaugurated its largest initiative "The TN SDG Girls' Championship" in collaboration with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) Students Program and United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network Youth (UNSDSN) on campus to accelerate solutions for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals modelled by the United Nations.

This event was ideated as a tool to amplify the tremendous energy and capabilities of young girls in generating broader buy-in for the SDGs, in continuation of the SMSD Students Hub

that was launched on 13 September 2022 on campus.

The Championship was conceptualized by the collaborative efforts of the UN SDSN Youth, UNSDG Students Program, Stella Maris College, and the Stella Maris Sustainable Development Students Hub (SMSD) Students Hub. With the tagline, 'The Changemakers' Conference', the Championship provides a platform for young women who can meet the world's need for synergetic endeavours and envision a better tomorrow.

The Championship Launch was presided over by the Chief Guest, Thiru T Mano Thangaraj, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services Department, Government of Tamil



Nadu, who was received and greeted by the Principal, Dr. Sr. Rosy Joseph and the Secretary, Sr. Judith Anita Gonsalvez. The Hon'ble Minister in his address highlighted the changes in the kind of questions we ask about sustainability as time progress and the impact of culture on environmental preservation.

The Guest of Honour,

Mr Josh Foulger, Country Head and Managing Director of Bharat FIH Limited in his address emphasized on the crucial role of women in the industry and the prominence of Tamil Nadu state in the Indian manufacturing landscape.

Dr. Sulthan Khalifa Haroon Al Rashid, SDG Students Program Regional Officer for Asia Pacific, UN SDSN

Youth expressed his support for the SMSD Students Hub and its efforts to spotlight women in socio-economic development. Dr. Ellen Dixon, Project Lead, SDG Students Program, UN SDSN Youth participated in the event.

The Championship considers the State under eight zones in order to extend outreach to diverse

changemakers. The representatives of the eight zonal collaborative partners Ethiraj College for Women, Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science, Lady Doak College, Thassim Beevi Abdul Kader College for Women, Bon Secours College for Women, Bishop Heber College, Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College and Auxilium College also partook in the launch ceremony.

The Championship launch also brought collective commitment to the foreground with a group resolution towards upholding the SDGs. Dr. Rebecca Devaprasad, Stella Maris Sustainable

Development Students Hub (SMSDSH) Faculty Advisor stated, "With the support of numerous zonal collaborative

partners, this Championship aims to create student-inspired pioneering solutions by connecting local action with global advocacy. The entire event is to be executed in an environmentally conscious manner; the TN SDG Girls Championship will be a paperless event. It is an initiative to reach nearly 200+ colleges and impact 10,000+ students. Over a period of 3 months, the Championship will progress in phases orientation, zonal level, college level, and the Grand Finale at the state level, held at Stella Maris College, Chennai."

The SMSD Students Hub has also debuted successful sustainability projects including Project C a clothing drive followed by setting

up a day's boutique in Semmenjeri; Know your SDGs series featuring breake-time presentations including awareness videos and demonstrations across the campus; a Mental Health Awareness Week and The Climate Change Outreach Program which aims to mould Climate Warriors to carry the cause of climate change literacy forward. The Championship will thus buttress the SMSD Students Hub's continuing efforts to advocate for a cleaner, brighter tomorrow with the support of state-wide zonal collaborative partners.

The event was overseen by the SMSDSH Faculty Advisors, Dr. Rebecca Devaprasad and Ms. Jumie George.

## General Manager reviews the ongoing rail infrastructural works in Rameswaram - Pamban - Dhanushkodi section

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: R.N.Singh, General Manager, Southern Railway conducted inspection in Rameswaram - Pamban - Dhanushkodi section today, 9th December 2022 and reviewed the status of the ongoing rail infrastructural works. Shri Rajendra Prasad Jingar, Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, Southern Railway, Shri Padmanabhan Ananth, Divisional Railway Manager, Madurai, Shri B. Kamalakara Reddy, Chief Project Manager,

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) accompanied the General Manager.

**At Rameswaram station**

Shri R.N.Singh, General Manager, Southern Railway inspected Rameswaram station and conducted a detailed review of the proposed Station Redevelopment plans. Following a thorough examination of the sketches, the General Manager recommended improvements and urged officials to take



concerted efforts to complete redevelopment works on schedule.

Addressing the media at Rameswaram, the General Manager stated that a tender has

been awarded for Rameswaram station redevelopment and that the work would commence in the next two months. He informed that the revamped Rameswaram

station will house dedicated arrival and departure terminals to handle the large number of tourists visiting Rameswaram. Besides spacious Parking lots, the two-storey station

building will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for passengers, he added. He cited that the new Pamban Bridge works will be completed by March 2023 and the tender would be floated for Rameswaram - Dhanushkodi new line works once the land acquisition is complete.

On the electrification of lines upto Rameswaram from Ramanathapuram, the General Manager remarked that Railways will take up the project

once the track diversion work gets completed between Valantaravai and Uchippuli as requested by Indian Navy.

**Inspection of Pamban Bridge and Dhanushkodi**

The General Manager inspected the existing Pamban Bridge and took stock of the safety and maintenance aspects. At Chatrakudi village enroute, the General Manager inspected the upcoming structure to accommodate the new

vertical lift Pamban bridge. Later, he visited Dhanushkodi and inspected the 1964 cyclone ravaged areas. He held discussions with Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and reviewed the status of new Pamban Bridge works.

After completion of inspection in Rameswaram - Dhanushkodi section, the General Manager proceeded on a window trailing inspection from Rameswaram to Dindigul via Madurai.

## General Manager conducts a comprehensive review of Madurai Junction Station Redevelopment works

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: R.N.Singh, General Manager, Southern Railway conducted inspection of Madurai Division today, 8th December 2022. Shri Rajendra Prasad Jingar, Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, Southern Railway, Shri Padmanabhan Ananth, Divisional Railway Manager, Madurai, Shri B. Kamalakara Reddy, Chief Project Manager, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) accompanied the General Manager.



At Madurai Junction In the morning, Shri R.N.Singh, General Manager visited Madurai Junction. He held a comprehensive review of Madurai

Junction station redevelopment plans by scrutinizing the sketches and suggested improvements. He also instructed the officials to expedite the redevelopment work within the time frame. Speaking to the media persons at the station

venue, the General Manager informed that Madurai Junction redevelopment works will be completed in 36 months. He added that the preliminary works (like soil investigation) are nearing completion and the redevelopment works will commence in

full swing in the next two-three months. The new structure would be a blend of modernity with heritage, he mentioned. He assured that efforts would be taken in coordination with civic authorities to check the waterlogging in front of Madurai Junction.

Review meeting with DRM/Madurai and Senior Officials

Later, the General Manager conducted a review meeting with the Officers. The General Manager emphasized the importance of Safety, Punctuality, and

Cleanliness and encouraged officials to work together as a team. The General Manager commended the performance of Madurai Division in various aspects of functioning and suggested novel ways to improve goods

traffic.

Window trailing inspection in Madurai - Nagercoil section

After the review meeting, the General Manager proceeded on a window trailing inspection in Madurai - Nagercoil section. He

took stock of the progress of doubling works in the section.

The General Manager will conduct inspections at Rameswaram, Pamban Bridge and Dhanushkodi.

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## Aparajitha is set for its acquisition journey of consolidating robust compliance platforms

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: Aparajitha, India's largest compliance service provider, is all set to expand its growth and business outlook with the newer acquisitions and consolidating future tech-enabled compliance platforms. The company has set expansion goals in the coming years, envisioning to become the leading player in the compliance segment in India.

Focussing on the Labour, Employee, and Industrial (LEI) and Environment Health and Safety (EHS) related compliance services, Aparajitha presently has strong Pan India domain expertise in Central and State laws pertaining to employees, Labour, Industrial, and EHS regulations. Aparajitha has over 1,700 employees on its rolls and a presence in 25 Indian States, with over 1,750 clients ranging from Fortune 500

companies to MSMEs.

Aparajitha has recently acquired a strategic 76% equity stake in Simpliance Technologies, a subsidiary of Qess Corp. With the acquisition, Aparajitha consolidates all their tech products under the brand name 'Simpliance', rebranding 'Compfie' to 'Simpliance'. This enables combined operations, facilitating a more powerful and automated compliance knowledge platform for all the tech and services offering by Aparajitha across the country. This is the second acquisition by Aparajitha in four months, after the acquisition of the business / select assets of Comply India Tech Services Private Limited in June 2022.

Speaking on the company's vision, growth, and expansion plans, Mr. Nagaraj

Krishnan, Managing Director of Aparajitha said, "As Aparajitha consolidates with futuristic business and newer compliance platforms, we assure to create the country's largest regulatory and efficient Compliance Solutions with quality and integrity. We are glad and excited to announce our recent acquisition with Simpliance, where we believe to bring the best of the services from both companies with world-class digital solutions to the clients combined with high-quality full assurance compliance services on the ground."

"We are glad to be part of Aparajitha's expansion and to associate with them in the rebranding of their promising product Compfie to Simpliance GRC. With the acquisition, we offer comprehensive technology and data-oriented compliance

solution with digital tools. We believe that Aparajitha-Simpliance can emerge as an undisputed leader in the compliance segment with strong regulatory domain expertise in India and other regions," commented Lt Cdr Anil Prem D'Souza, Chief Executive Officer of Simpliance Technologies Pvt Ltd.

Promoted by Dr. Bharath Krishna Shankar and Mr. Nagaraj Krishnan, Aparajitha is part of Xcelerate Pte Ltd, a Singapore-headquartered GRC / ESG operating and investment platform. Xcelerate has a clearly defined roll-up strategy to bring together world-class management teams, cutting-edge technologies, and domain experts to offer comprehensive solutions on a regional basis in the GRC / ESG segment.

## Iodine, the most significant nutrient for women

Dr. Vaibhav Suresh, Preventive Health Specialist Fortis Hospital, Vadapalani

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: Iodine is an essential micronutrient that is required to produce thyroid hormones. These thyroid hormones are responsible for normal thyroid function, growth, and development. Iodine Deficiency can lead to multiple health and developmental consequences primarily known as Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD). Iodine deficiency is especially damaging during pregnancy and in early childhood.

World Health Organization (WHO) says, a population of school-age children should have a median urinary iodine concentration of at least 100ug/L, with less than 20% of values being lesser than 50ug/L. For pregnant women, the median urinary iodine should be between 150ug/L and 249ug/L.

### Consequences of Iodine Deficiency

In its severe forms, IDD can result in stillbirth, spontaneous abortion and congenital abnormalities such as cretinism - a grave, irreversible form of mental retardation that affects people living in iodine-deficient. Of even greater significance is the less visible, yet pervasive, mental impairment that reduces intellectual capacity that reduces the loss of learning abilities. Among children, Iodine-deficiency disorders can start before birth; risk their mental health and often their very survival. During the neonatal period, childhood and adolescence, iodine-deficiency disorders can



lead to hypothyroidism.

### Iodine for Women's Health: Fertility, Pregnancy and Lactation

Iodine is absolutely essential for baby's development in utero, as well as development in the early years of life. Women with lower iodine status take a longer time to conceive. Severe iodine deficiency in utero is also associated with increased risk of miscarriage, stillbirth, congenital abnormalities and low birth weight. Iodine is very important for thyroid development and brain development. Even mild iodine deficiency during pregnancy is associated with neurological and cognitive impairments in children.

Iodine deficiency also triggers the risk of breast cancer. Iodine deficiency is also associated with increased risk of

fibrocystic breast disease; a condition characterised by lumpiness in one or both breasts.

### Women Reproductive System

Iodine plays many important roles in women's reproductive health, being required for ovulation, progesterone production and oestrogen metabolism. Clinically-speaking, iodine is particularly helpful for some women who experience unpleasant symptoms in the second half of their menstrual cycle, such as premenstrual breast tenderness, low progesterone and PMS.

### Iodine and Thyroid

The thyroid contains the highest concentration of iodine of any tissue in the body (in both men and women), accounting for 70-80% of the body's iodine stores. In fact, more than half of our

daily recommended intake of iodine is used solely for the production of thyroid hormone. Without sufficient iodine, the thyroid can swell in an effort to trap more iodine from the blood, potentially causing discomfort, hoarseness or difficulties swallowing. When inadequate iodine intake persists, the production of thyroid hormone will start to decline, potentially leading to symptoms of hypothyroidism such as fatigue, weight gain, constipation, menstrual irregularities and hair loss.

### Treatment for Iodine Deficiency

It is usually treated through eating more foods containing iodine, using iodised salt and taking iodine supplements. People with hypothyroidism are usually treated with a synthetic form of the thyroid hormone, which they will need to take for the rest of their lives.

Most people can get enough iodine from eating iodine rich foods like the seafood. You can use small amounts of iodised salt and eat packaged bread to increase the amount of iodine in your diet.

It is advised for those women who are planning pregnancy to ensure they consult with their Gynaecologist / General Physician before taking any iodine supplement, as taking iodine more than what is required by the body may also cause thyroid problems or have severe side effects. Hence consuming iodine within the prescribed limits is highly recommended.

## UPI transactions witnesses 650% rise at semi-urban and rural stores: PayNearby

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: PayNearby, India's largest branchless banking and digital network, today said that there was a growth of 25% and 14% in value and volume respectively, in assisted financial transactions across semi-urban and rural retail counters in India in 2022. This indicates a behavioural shift in these regions, with more citizens adopting assisted digital means for their banking and lifestyle requirements and getting incorporated into the formal economy.

The growth figures have been observed across different product offerings of PayNearby, including Unified Payments Interface (UPI), cash withdrawal, MSME credit, utility payment, cash management, assisted e-commerce and more. They were availed by citizens through local retail counters like kirana stores, mobile recharge stores, medical shops, customer service points (CSPs), travel agents, etc.

As per the report, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions saw a whopping 650% and 500% increase in value and volume across PayNearby retail counters, representing the growing adoption of UPI beyond Tier II regions in the country. This also highlights the pivotal role UPI can play in promoting digital financial inclusion.

The insight was shared as part of the second edition of the pan-India report titled 'Retail-O-Nomics', released by PayNearby. The report has been prepared basis transactions across a million plus retail touchpoints throughout the country. The findings of the report are based on a business data collected for

a comparison period, ranging from January to October 2022 vis-à-vis the same period during 2021.

In a key insight, the report states that the mPOS business has seen more than 100% growth, along with over 25% increase in demand for micro ATMs and mPOS instruments. The upswing in demand for digital payment options at retail outlets underlines the critical role played by small retail stores in bridging the infrastructure gap and driving financial inclusion at the last mile.

Cash withdrawal business through micro ATMs and AePS, which continues to be one of the major income drivers for semi urban and rural digital counters, has seen an overall growth of 8% in value and 9% in volume respectively. Cash withdrawals through micro ATM has witnessed a 25% increase in value and 28% increase in volume as compared to the same period last year. This growth figure shows the growing role played by this portable digital device in ensuring easy accessibility of bank accounts, while helping merchants use cash-at-store more effectively and augment their income. However, there has been a slight dip in the average cash withdrawal per transaction from INR 2620 in 2021 to INR 2595 in 2022.

As per the report, semi urban and rural India were an equal participant to this double-digit growth in assisted financial transactions, and the rate of adoption was comparable between urban and rural underserved demographics.

The report also indicates a sharp growth of over 200% in the cash collection business (including EMIs) with a monthly average of INR

1400 crores, indicating demand for lending and other financing solutions, bouncing back to the pre-pandemic levels. Increased demand was witnessed across most cash collection processes, including collection from logistics and e-commerce companies, which saw a leap of over 89% in volumes. Insurance premiums at retail stores, too, saw a massive 370% in growth and 365% increase in customers during the survey time-period.

Commenting on the report findings, Anand Kumar Bajaj, Founder, MD & CEO, PayNearby, said, "The findings in the report are inspiring and emphasise the fact that Bharat is gearing to walk hand-in-hand with India. Bharat is aspirational, and the increased offtake of green shoot services like assisted commerce, OTT subscription, micro-lending validates our commitment to make these services easily available at a store nearby.

We have serviced close to INR 70,000 crores of digital services in the first 10 months of this calendar year and the steady growth of cash withdrawal business, together with the fast track adoption of some of these green shoot services indicate a steady recovery of our economy post the devastating impact of the pandemic. We will continue to strengthen our efforts to simplify high end technology, so that most services can be democratised and made available to all through our well entrenched Distribution-as-a-Service network.

It is also heartening to see an accelerated demand within the retail community to make assisted financial transactions available at a store nearby. This is not

only a great income generator for the merchant, but also helps build the nation grounds up and bridge the gap between Bharat and India. PayNearby, Zidd Aage Badhne Ki."

Subscription-based digital services, such as OTTs, online education, online gaming have also seen positive growth. Even though the numbers are small, it validates a latent demand for such services and the growing affinity of digital products in a post pandemic Bharat.

The bill payments service at local stores witnessed an increase of 12% in value and 10% in volume. Mobile recharges grew by 18% over last year. Travel bookings saw a rise of 8% in flight and 6% in rail bookings this festival season, compared to the same period last year, driven largely by visiting friends and family, traveling to their natives for the festival. The report also highlights an 88% uptick in Pan Card issuance quarter on quarter. All of these indicate that the local kirana store has evolved into a multi-utility point for consumers for meeting most of their financial and digital needs.

Micro-credit for MSMEs, also saw a growth of 263% during this period; indicating a huge latent demand for viable credit in this segment that needs to be addressed for India to transition to the next stage of development.

In another interesting observation, around 32% of the banking transactions were registered during the non-banking hours between 6.00 pm to 12.00 am. This underlines the crucial role retail outlets play in serving the masses with their banking and digital needs.

## Passenger-friendly approach: 118 Lifts and 134 escalators provide ease of access for passengers at railway stations

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: Southern Railway consistently improves passenger amenities at various railway stations. In view of the ever increasing passenger volumes, the zone emphasises the proliferation of lifts and escalators at major stations for safe and convenient entry and exit for passengers, as well as for ease of cross-navigation within the railway facilities. Lifts and escalators installed at vantage points inside railway stations facilitate safe mobility for the elderly, the differently-abled and those in need of medical care.

Provision of Lift facility

Southern Railway has provided a total of 118 lifts at various railway stations (till November 2022). As for the division-wise numbers, 50 lifts at 24 stations in Chennai Division, 24 lifts

at 11 stations in Palakkad Division, 21 lifts at 11 stations in Thiruvananthapuram Division, 11 lifts at 5 stations in Salem Division, 9 lifts at 3 stations in Madurai Division and 3 lifts at Tiruchchirappalli Junction in Tiruchchirappalli Division, have been provided.

Presently, 75 lifts are functional at various stations in Tamil Nadu, 39 lifts in Kerala stations and 4 lifts in Southern Railway jurisdiction over Karnataka.

During the current financial year upto November 2022, ten (10) lifts have been commissioned which include 3 Nos. of lifts at Chennai Egmore, 3 Nos. at Basin Bridge, 3 Nos. at Tiruchchirappalli Jn and 1 No. at Kayankulam Jn. In addition, erection of lifts is in progress at 31 railway stations and are

planned to be commissioned by the end of the financial year 2022-23. Most of the lift works are in the final stages of completion. Further, it is proposed to provide 122 lifts during 2023-24.

The approximate cost of providing one unit of lift facility is Rs 50 lakhs.

### Commissioning of Escalators

Southern Railway has a total of 134 escalators functional at various railway stations (till November 2022). There are 62 escalators at 21 stations in Chennai Division, 30 escalators at 12 stations in Thiruvananthapuram Division, 13 escalators at 6 stations in Palakkad Division, 12 escalators at 4 stations in Salem Division, 9 escalators at 2 stations in Tiruchchirappalli Division and 8 escalators at 2 stations in Madurai

Division. Presently, 93 escalators in Tamil Nadu stations, 39 escalators in Kerala stations are available for the use of passengers while 2 escalators are available at Karnataka region of Southern Railway.

During the current financial year 2022-23, it is proposed to commission 3 Nos. Of escalators at various stations. Further, it is proposed to provide 7 escalators during 2023-24.

The approximate cost of commissioning one unit of escalator is Rs. 1.1 Crores and these escalators are equipped to handle 100 passengers/minute safely.

Southern Railway reiterates its commitment to the service of passengers by consistently providing improved amenities at railway stations.



## Love Today' team thanks press and media for their support



Chennai, Dec 10 2022: Love Today directed by Pradeep Ranganathan and bankrolled by AGS Entertainment's Kalpathi S Aghoram, Kalpathi S Ganesh, and Kalpathi S Suresh is having a great run in theatres and has got a terrific response for the OTT release as well. The team of Love Today today organised a thanks giving meet for the press and media. Director Pradeep Ranganathan, AGS Entertainment Creative Producer Archana Kalpathi, CFO Rangarajan and Executive Producer Venkat Manickam were among those present. Speaking at the event, AGS Entertainment CFO Rangarajan said, "I always believe that content is king. With a good narration, script and story audience will definitely come to theatre. Love Today has proved it now. All the credits belong to director and actor Pradeep Ranganathan. I thank him for this on behalf of the Kalpathi



family. Press and media have been giving unconditional support for AGS right from the beginning. I hope this continues in the future as well. I thank all the distributors, theatre owners and film fraternity for their continued support.

"AGS Entertainment Creative Producer Archana Kalpathi said that AGS Entertainment puts in the same efforts for every movie whether big or small." Promotion for a big movie happens in an easy manner compared to that of a small movie. I thank all the press and media for the unanimous support

for Love Today. Small movies are very important. They have produced superstars and we have witnessed it. The support of press is important for such small movies. When the media reports good things about a movie, audience automatically get interested to watch it," she added.

Director Pradeep Ranganathan said he was confident of good opening for the movie. "This confidence was 50 per cent because of me and the rest is the faith I have on media. Right from first look of Love Today, we got surreal support. Following the

release of the trailer, you all believed that the movie will be good. We got a good opening because of that. The reviews that you gave has made Love Today one among the top 10 movies of this year. I got your support for Comaali, and now for Love Today. I hope that it continues in the future as well. I will also try to make movies that you can support. I thank AGS for being the backbone of this movie," he added. AGS Entertainment Executive Producer Venkat Manickam also thanked the press and media during the event.

## PNB Housing Finance expands its reach in affordable housing loans in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and beyond

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: In line with PNB Housing Finance's long-term vision of empowering and supporting an individual's dream of owning a home, the company recently introduced an affordable home loan scheme - Roshni. Under this initiative, individuals can apply for loans ranging from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 30 lakh.

Making inroads in the country, today the Company inaugurated Roshni- focused branch locations at Chennai, Coimbatore, Ghaziabad, Hyderabad, Indore/Ujjain, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Rajkot and Varanasi.

The scheme offers various loans for purchase of house property, self-construction, home extension/renovation, plot purchase plus construction, loan against property etc. Therefore, whether loan applicants are new to



credit, self-employed without formal income and salaried from a low-income group with a household income as low as Rs.10,000 to middle-income group category shall be considered.

PNB Housing Finance MD and CEO, Girish Kousgi, said, "With Roshni, we continue to augment our affordable housing portfolio. At PNB Housing Finance, we strive to stay closer to

customers. Therefore, we are focused on building our presence across the country in tier 2 & 3 cities to address the growing needs of prospective homeowners. Through Roshni, we have renewed our commitment towards the 'Housing for All' mission of the Central Government and are well positioned to catalyse growth in the real estate industry.

With more than 30 years of industry presence and customer trust, a pan-India branch network and a robust service delivery model, PNB Housing Finance serve home loan seekers across the country. PNB Housing Finance intends to grow in 15 states, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Delhi-NCR.

## ViewSonic India Launches Limited-Edition Monitors to Celebrate "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" for the New India

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: ViewSonic, a leading global provider of visual solutions, today announced the launch limited edition monitors series for "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". With India leading the digital transformation for visual solutions, display monitors have been one of the crucial factors in adding that extra edge to the technology sector and taking innovation a notch higher while progressing/supporting the country's digital transformation.

Celebrating 75 years of India's independence, the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, an initiative/campaign started by our honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, recognizes the best of nation's achievements in the digital space while

laying down the roadmap for the future. Digital advancements have played an essential role in the nation's development across sectors by positively impacting the socio-cultural, political, and economic identity.

Celebrating the same spirit, ViewSonic is introducing four new work and business monitors variants in full HD in 22", 24, and 27"-inches. The monitors are targeted to allure users giving them the best experience of the latest features and technology. VA1903H-2-IN1 (19"), VA2215-H-IN1 (22"), VA2432-MH-IN1 (24") and VA2732-MH-IN1 (27") come equipped with attractive features like clear and stunning images, a wide range of viewing angles, setup flexibility and eye care technology to ensure

that the customers get the unique combination of tech and comfort. The monitors are designed to ensure the productivity and efficiency of the customers increases through a set of advanced technology. Adding to the list of benefits, the monitor range also takes care of the consumer health by providing eye-care technology to reduce the strain on eyes during the screen-time.

Commenting on the special edition monitor launch Mr. Sanjoy Bhattacharya, Director Sales and Marketing IT Business, ViewSonic India, said, "ViewSonic is very excited to introduce these limited edition Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav monitors to the Indian audience. Through this launch, we aim to contribute and

transform India into a digitally empowered country and a knowledge-based economy. Each monitor in this category is embedded with the latest technology. Being the proud citizens of this nation, we are ecstatic to serve the best to our consumers and expand our portfolio dedicated to India. This launch will also help us to contribute our bit to the Indian economy and celebrate the spirit of nationalism."

The ViewSonic special edition monitors comes with latest tech/features in the market, cementing brand's position as a pioneer for the new India. The launch aims to digitally connect the target audience while enhancing productivity.

## The Hinduja Group backed unicorn, MindMaze, Partners with Vibra Healthcare to deepen its penetration in the US market

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: MindMaze, the Hinduja Group backed Unicorn, founded by a neuroscientist of Indian origin, is a global pioneer in the development of AI-driven neurotechnology. MindMaze announced it has partnered with Vibra Healthcare of the US, a leader in post-acute hospital patient care, to deploy MindMaze's digital health technology platforms (MindPod® and MindMotion®GO) in-clinic and at-home for patients within select Vibra hospitals. Vibra Healthcare operates over 90 specialty hospitals as well as transitional care units/facilities across 19 states in the US. Nearly 100 million Americans are afflicted by a neurological disease.

MindMaze delivers novel software-based interventions and assessments for neurological diseases like Stroke/ Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, and Parkinson's disease, etc. as well as capabilities that monitor and measure patient function during the long-term management of chronic diseases. The use of game-based digital therapies makes rehabilitating more engaging with vastly improved outcomes over traditional/current protocols (for example - some patients who were wheelchair-bound and struggling to regain mobility are now walking and leading (near) normal lives thanks to MindMaze. As of now, MindMaze technology is deployed

at more than 130 top medical centres across the world. In India, it is deployed in more than a dozen institutions including the apex government hospital AIIMS, New Delhi through wholly owned subsidiary, Mindmaze India.

"MindMaze is committed to redefining neuro recovery across the continuum of care through the development of evidence-driven solutions for patients with serious neurological conditions," said Dr. Tej Tadi, Founder, Chairman & CEO of MindMaze. "We are focused on providing clinicians with powerful, digitally-enabled, cutting-edge tools, while also

empowering patients and their families with easy-to-use, engaging and accessible solutions. In Vibra, we have found a world-class partner with both the commitment and true capability to deliver a step-change in brain health as well as meaningful improvements in patient outcomes."

"MindMaze has impressed our team not just with the power of their technological capabilities, but also with their experience in deploying real-world care pathways for patients with Stroke and other neurological conditions in countries around the world," said Brad Hollinger, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Vibra Healthcare.

## Gross premium underwritten by standalone private health insurers' revenue rose 5% - Quote from Prasun Sikdar, MD & CEO, ManipalCigna Health Insurance

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: Mr. Prasun Sikdar, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, ManipalCigna Health Insurance Company Limited Mr. Prasun Sikdar is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of ManipalCigna Health Insurance Company Limited. Prasun will be responsible for building upon the company's already strong position in India, focus on delivering innovative products and services to the company's growing customer base, and further expand the company's

distribution channels, while enhancing the brand and creating long-term value for the organization and its customers.

Prasun brings more than 22 years of leadership experience in financial services and deep insurance knowledge to ManipalCigna. Before joining ManipalCigna, Prasun was Group President and Global Head at Yes Bank, where he managed and grew key bancassurance and mutual fund alliances and partnerships. Prior to this he was a founding member and Senior General

Manager Chief Sales & Distribution at ICICI Prudential Life Insurance. During his 17 years with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, he worked across several portfolios including Operations & Underwriting, Bancassurance, Agency, Alternate Distribution, Health Business and Sales Strategy. Before ICICI Prudential Life, he has been associated with GE Capital (SBI Cards) and Citicorp.

Prasun holds a master's degree in economics from the Kolkata University, and comes with a



substantial experience in the field of financial services & insurance industry along with on-the-job cross functional and cross industry experience. He is a passionate runner, having run the Ladakh Marathon; the world's highest and amongst the toughest marathons.



## Axis My India, Chairman and MD Pradeep Gupta's views on the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh election predictions

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: **Gujarat Quote** On predications Pradeep Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director, Axis My India said "We saw a pro-incumbency wave for the Narendra Modi-led BJP which combined with a substantial divide in opposition votes between Congress and AAP led to an historic victory for BJP as was predicted in our exit polls too. The party's strategy of introducing fresh faces by replacing the chief minister and all other ministers, as well as denying tickets to up to 45 incumbent MLAs worked wonders for them.

The majority of votes to the saffron party came from Patels, OBCs, and upper castes. As many as 41% of voters chose the party based on the

development it brought to the state, while 19% chose it because of the "Modi factor".

The party additionally garnered more votes from female (48%) and urban voters. AAP's efforts to undermine the BJP's fundamental Hindutva tenet backfired. From a comfortable second spot, three months prior, the party began to lose Muslim-Dalit-Adivasi vote blocs to Congress as the decisive Election Day drew near.

Furthermore, the party gave Congress the Muslim-Dalit vote on a silver platter by remaining silent in the Bilkis Bano convict release case. Elections in a vast and diverse democracy like India are a very complicated process, and they get even more complicated

in a state like Gujarat with so many different castes and regions (SC,ST, OBC, Thakor, Koli, Muslim, Patel community etc). Our exit poll predictions showcase our strength and scale as an expert polling organisation which understands the pulse of Indian voters."

### Himachal Pradesh Quote

On predications Pradeep Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director, Axis My India said "People's dissatisfaction with inflation, an antiquated pension system, and a desire for change were the main factors that led them to vote for the Congress despite the close race between the BJP and Congress. In contrast to Gujarat, our exit polls showed that the hill state saw 45% of

the male population vote for Congress, and the majority of the votes were casted by the labour classes.

Additionally, the party received a significant portion of votes from the Dalit cadre. While a clear preference was witnessed for the BJP amongst the savarna Thakur/Rajput and Brahmin voters, reflecting their support for Narendra Modi, several others expressed clear discontent with the state's chief executive, Jai Ram Thakur, for his underperformance.

All of these factors is likely to remain relevant for the results today! These predictions showcase our strength and scale as an expert polling organisation which understands the pulse of Indian voters."

## G20 Sherpa meeting concludes in Udaipur; delegates take back rich memories and insights of India's development journey and cultural heritage First G20 Sherpa meeting in Udaipur ends

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: The G20 delegation visited the Kumbhalgarh Fort and Ranakpur Jain Temple on Wednesday, the last day of the four-day meeting of G20 Sherpas in the city of lakes, Udaipur. The Kumbhalgarh fort, built by Mewar king Rana Kumbha during the 15th century, is situated amidst Aravali hills in the Kelwada tehsil of Rajsamand district, about 80 kms northwest of Udaipur.

After three days of deliberations on issues of global importance, the excursion to Kumbhalgarh and Ranakpur Temple complex came as a first-hand experience to closely witness India's rich history.

During the Sherpa meet, the delegation of G20 members and invited countries also



enjoyed the spectacular performances of classical and folk dances of India.

The G20 delegates of many countries like the Netherlands were in full praise after the Sherpa meeting, described the entire experience as magical and praised India's culture. The delegate from the International Monetary Fund thanked India and the Government of Rajasthan for their warm welcome and described the amazing cultural experience of the meeting. The Sherpa of South Africa praised

India for bringing in the element of cultural diplomacy to G20. The G20 Sherpa of Argentina described the importance of the immersion of the G20 delegates with the Indian culture, values, spirituality, and identity, while the Indonesian Sherpa highlighted support for the continuation of the development agenda during India's G20 presidency.

The four-day gathering of G20 members, invited countries, and representatives of

international organizations set the stage for critical conversations on the most pressing issues of the present day, including technological change, green growth, and Green Development and Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE). In addition to promoting women-led development, it was agreed to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and focus on facilitating inclusive and resilient growth.

India's G20 Sherpa highlighted focal areas of discussion and stressed the need to reinforce collective action of the G20 nations. The overarching theme of India's Presidency — Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - One Earth. One Family. One Future - resonated throughout the proceedings.

## Southern Railway to operate its 8th trip under Bharat Gaurav scheme between Madurai - Sainagar Shirdi - Madurai (Kudal Nagar)

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: The 8th trip of Bharat Gaurav trains in Southern Railway will be run from Madurai to Sainagar Shirdi and back. The round trip service will be organised by M/s. Travel Times, a registered service provider from Madurai to Sainagar Shirdi via Pandharpur and return trip to Madurai (Kudal Nagar) via Mantralayalam Road. The details of the 8th trip are as follows:

Train No. 06905 / 06906 Madurai -

Sainagar Shirdi - Kudal Nagar Bharat Gaurav Train:

Train No. 06905 Madurai - Sainagar Shirdi Bharat Gaurav Train will commence journey from Madurai at 02.30 hrs on 24th December, 2022 (Saturday) and reach Sainagar Shirdi at 07.30 hrs on 26th December, 2022 (Monday)

Train No. 06906 Sainagar Shirdi - Kudal Nagar Bharat Gaurav Train will commence journey from Sainagar Shirdi at 14.10 hrs on

27th December, 2022 (Tuesday) and reach Kudal Nagar at 08.00 hrs on 29th December, 2022 (Thursday)

The Coach Compositions are 4- AC Three Tier coaches, 6 - Sleeper Class Coaches, 2 -Pantry Cars and 2 - General Second Class & Luggage-cum-Brake Vans (Total - 14 Coaches).

### Bharat Gaurav Trains

With the objective of showcasing India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical

places to the people of India and the world, Indian Railways introduced the "Bharat Gaurav Trains" scheme.

Bharat Gaurav scheme also aims to leverage the core strengths of the professionals of the tourism sector to run theme-based trains to tap the vast tourist potential of India. The first service of the theme-based Bharat Gaurav roundtrip train service from Coimbatore North to Sainagar Shirdi was operated on 14.06.2022.

## PVR CINEMAS CELEBRATE superstar Rajinikanth's BIRTHDAY with the Screening of his MOST LOVED Iconic films

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: To celebrate the Birthday of Superstar Rajinikanth, PVR Cinemas, the largest and the most premium film exhibition company in India will screen handpicked iconic films of Thalaivaa from 9th to 15th December in select properties in Chennai and Coimbatore. The films would be showcased as part of a film festival titled, 'Superstar Rajinikanth Birthday Special Film Festival'.

As a countdown to his birthday, starting on 9th December, this 7-day-long festival at PVR will screen 4 superhits iconic, Baba (2002), Sivaji: The Boss (2007), 2.0 (2018) and Darbar (2020) on the big screen across 4 cinemas in 2 South Indian cities.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Gautam Dutta, CEO, PVR Ltd, said, "Rajinikanth Sir is



an icon who has graced the South cinema industry with path-breaking films, and PVR is honored to celebrate his birthday and treat his fans to some of his most memorable and finest films. We welcome our patrons in Chennai and Coimbatore to witness the 7-day Rajinikanth film festival which showcases his journey in the world of cinema. This will provide an incredible opportunity for his fans to relive Thalaivaa's films that are a must-watch on the big screen".

The south Indian

film market continues to dominate the regional language film market in the country as the propensity to consume movies is greater in South than other regions. The appetite for movie viewing among audiences is much higher and hence major Hollywood studios are choosing to dub their movies into South Indian languages to reach a larger section of audiences. South Indian stars are like demigods for the fans and movies featuring them are able to connect with masses and classes. Lately a

changing trend has been witnessed with multilingual content doing well at a national level reflecting the growing acceptability of non-Hindi content among audiences.

Expressing happiness on PVR organizing this festival and releasing the remastered 'Baba', Ms. Latha Rajinikanth, film producer and wife of Rajinikanth said, "Baba was an emotional experience 20 years back and it is even more emotional for me now for the release. This film is something very special in many ways to our family. My heartfelt thanks to all the fans and public for this overwhelming response for 'Baba' again in theatres. I am waiting to join the fans to experience the thrill and joy all over again thanking god for all the grace".

## Mega Power Star Ram Charan received the True Legend - Future of Young India Award

Chennai, Dec 10 2022: Accepting the award, Mega Power Star Ram Charan was quick in letting those in attendance know that while he is on the board of the Chiranjeevi Blood Bank and has undertaken many of its activities, it was the brainchild of his father, Megastar Chiranjeevi and dedicated the award to him. He quipped at how his father had advised him to take care of his support staff rather than his producers and directors when he was off to make his first movie in 2007, always stressing humanitarian values and inculcating those qualities in him. Ram Charan went on to recall the incident that led to his father starting the noble initiative - that back in 1999, despite advancements in medicine and technology, one of his very close relatives had lost his life during surgery due to blood not being available timely. This led his father starting the Chiranjeevi Blood Bank and appealing to his scores of adoring fans to start donating blood. His father further incentivized it by announcing to his fans that they would get a free photograph with him for each unit of blood donated. The event organizers even



recalled Chiranjeevi and Ram Charan helping over 75,000 film workers affected during the Covid pandemic-induced lockdowns. While this further underscores his father's humanitarian and philanthropic values, Ram Charan thanked the film industry without whose support this initiative would not have been possible. Moving on to lighter topics, Ram Charan added on the healthy camaraderie he shared with his father. When SS Rajamouli visited his house to narrate the script of Magadheera to Ram Charan, the director insisted on Chiranjeevi listening in as well. Ram Charan hilariously recalled how his father

listened to the script so intently as though he were starring in the film. Fast forward to the present where Ram Charan has been in the industry for 15 years and is working on his 15th film. Ram Charan used this occasion to thank his father for having come this far - something that he has usually avoided till now being wary of critics starting the nepotism debate - and emphasized on everyone being grateful to their parents and putting differences aside. He is went on to add the example of his father's relationship with his grandfather who was a police officer in Nellore. Needless to say, Chiranjeevi had a very strict upbringing.

The Megastar had told his father that he is going to Chennai to become a Navy Officer while he was actually going there to attend acting school. Ram Charan recalled his father telling him upon his grandfather's passing, that he had regretted not spending enough time with him and didn't want him to have the same regret. Ever since, the father-son duo has been putting their differences aside very quickly, reconciling and ensuring they spend enough time together as a family. Ram Charan said that it was this magnanimous quality of this father which ensures the well-being of his family and his staff, which has been extended to the public at large through the Chiranjeevi Blood Bank. Lastly, on RRR, Ram Charan credited the roaring success of the film to the sincere and honest efforts of all those involved in its making. He likened RRR to films like Dangal and Taare Zameen Par which are well-rooted in India and do not make any attempt whatsoever to copy Hollywood movies. Ram Charan said that RRR has proven to be a gleaming example of a film that stays true to India and that the world is waiting to see more such film.