

President of India addresses probationers of 74th Batch of Indian Police Service at SVPNPA Police Officers should keep in mind and demonstrate through action, the five fundamental attributes of integrity, impartiality, courage, competence and sensitivity: President Murmu

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu addressed the probationers of the 74th Batch of the Indian Police Service at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad today (December 27, 2022).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that when the country is celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the nation acknowledges the rich contribution of our police force in sustaining and strengthening the world's largest and most vibrant democracy. The Indian Police has also made its huge contribution in preserving the unity of the country. Thousands of brave police personnel

have laid down their lives for the cause of India's internal security. She paid her respects to the IPS officers who sacrificed their lives at the altar of duty.

Addressing the IPS probationers, the President said that police is the most visible organ of the government. When the police force commands trust of the people, it enhances the image of the government. The police would command respect and trust only when the entire force under them, to the last constable, displays alertness, sensitivity and honesty. She said that right since the beginning of their career, IPS probationers would be in leadership positions. The quality of



their leadership would determine the effectiveness and morale of the force led by them. She advised them to keep in mind and

demonstrate through action, the five fundamental attributes of Integrity, Impartiality, Courage, Competence and

Sensitivity.

The President said that police forces have to be partners in progress of the country and

transformation of the society. Police officers are going to play the roles of change-agents in India's achieving greater

prosperity while ensuring sustainable development, especially inclusion. Inclusion means - inclusion of that last person, the most deprived person, the most vulnerable person. That person should be at the centre of their concerns. She advised them to be sensitive to the plight of the voiceless. She said that Police officers have to ensure that an illiterate poor man living in a remote corner of the country, gets sympathetic support at the local police post. The criminals should tremble with fear at the very thought of the police. But, at the same time, the common citizen should look at the police as a friend and saviour.

The President said that

in line with our stated national priorities, Nari Shakti has to play a major role in achieving the targets we have set for ourselves during the 'Amrit Kaal'. A truly 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', pre-supposes 'Atmanirbhar Nari'. She said that larger participation of women results in better overall development. We should quickly move ahead from the phase of empowering women to the stage of women led development. She urged lady police officers to always help other women, especially the vulnerable. She said that if every woman stands up for the weaker ones among them, the society would experience a great transformation.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme for Indian Railways

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: Ministry of Railways has formulated a new policy for modernization of stations named "Amrit Bharat Station" scheme. Amrit Bharat Station scheme envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long term vision. It is based on Master Planning for long term and implementation of the elements of Master Plan as per the needs and patronage of the station.

Broad objectives:

The scheme aims at preparation of Master Plans of the Railway stations and implementation of the Master Plan in phases to enhance the facilities including and beyond the Minimum Essential Amenities (MEA) and aiming for creation of Roof Plazas and city centres at the station in long run.

The scheme shall aim to meet the needs of the stakeholders, station usage studies as far as possible based on availability of funds and inter-se priority.

The scheme shall cater for introduction of new amenities as well as upgradation and replacement of existing amenities.

This scheme will also cover the stations where detailed techno-economic feasibility studies have been conducted or are being conducted but the work for construction of Roof Plazas has not been taken up yet, ensuring the phasing of Master Plan being suitably implemented and relocation of structures and utilities being given

more emphasis in the phasing plans.

To meet the above objectives, following broad scope of work is envisaged for stations selected under the Amrit Bharat Station scheme:

The Master Plans to have elementary details of the most appropriate location of Roof Plaza to be created in future.

The scheme envisages cost efficient improvement to facades, provision of wide, well lit aesthetically pleasing entrance porches.

Existing building usage shall be reviewed and space should be released in favour of passengers near the station entrances and the Railway offices should be suitably relocated.

The scheme aims to relocate redundant/old buildings in a cost efficient manner so that space is released for higher priority passenger related activities and future development may be carried out smoothly. Creation of new buildings should generally be avoided other than those required for relocation of old structures or relocation of structures to improve circulation or provision of structures to improve the size of waiting halls.

Attempts shall be made to club different grades/types of waiting halls and provide good cafeteria/retail facilities as far as possible. Suitable low level partitions may be done in waiting halls.

Provision for minimum two stalls for One Station One Product shall be made.

Space shall also be



created for Executive Lounges and places for small business meetings.

At least one aesthetically designed hoarding (signage) on each side of the circulating area at a prominent location shall be erected for display of important information etc. The size of such hoarding shall not be less than 10mx20m. Station approaches would be improved to ensure smooth access by widening of roads, removal of unwanted structures, properly designed signages, dedicated pedestrian pathways, well planned parking areas, improved lighting etc. Necessary liaison should be established with local authorities for necessary improvements to be carried out by local authorities in their areas. Elements of landscaping, green patches and local art and culture should be used to create a pleasant experience for the station users. This should be done with the help of suitable professionals.

High level platforms (760-840 mm) shall be provided at all categories of stations. Length of the platforms shall generally be 600m.

Length, location and phasing of Platform shelters shall be decided based on usage of the station.

Ballastless tracks would be provided on platform lines and lines with train maintenance facilities.

Drainage of platform areas is of utmost importance. Special emphasis shall be given to achieve self cleansing of drains as far as possible. Suitable cross

Second Entry Station

Building and circulating area shall be improved as per the needs of the station. Wherever second entry building is not being provided presently, space for circulating area will be well planned and a liaison shall be established with the local bodies so that approach roads for second entry are kept in the city's Master Plan and development around the station is suitably controlled.

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drains, sump and pump arrangement may be provided where natural slopes are not adequate. Drains may be covered with aesthetically designed theft resistant covers.

Cables should be covered in aesthetically designed duct and should have provision for future cables as well.

The Master Plan shall mark the space for Parcel handling spurs, storage and handling facilities etc. Works should also be proposed and executed in suitable phases.

Provisions may be made such that as far as possible the station provides free WiFi access to its users. The Master Plan should have suitable spaces earmarked for 5G towers.

Material finishes of elements, such as flooring, walls, structures, furniture, sanitary fittings, etc. within the public areas of the station where surfaces either come in direct physical contact of passengers or are visible to them should be highly durable (preferably

washable), generally dustproof and need low maintenance.

The furniture available on Waiting halls, Platforms, Retiring Rooms, Offices shall be reviewed and intervention planned for more comfortable and durable furniture suitable to the Railway Stations of that area. In a phased manner, it shall be planned to eliminate multi-design furniture.

Signages should be well designed for intuitive way finding, should have good visibility and be aesthetically pleasing. Quality of public announcement systems should be improved. Escalators may be provided at NSG/1-4 and SG/1-2 category stations irrespective of footfall.

Amenities for Divyangjan at stations shall be as per guidelines issued by Railway Board from time to time.

Ceremonial flags may be provided at appropriate space in the station.

At least two station name boards should be

LED based with good visibility for the passengers of trains passing through the station.

Circulating area boundary wall normally should not block the view of the station from outside. Access may be controlled by iron/steel grill fencing.

Sufficient number of toilets shall be provided at all categories of stations with separate provisions for women and Divyangjan. Location of toilets should be appropriate to station usage, easily visible and accessible.

Gradual shift to sustainable and environmental friendly solutions as per availability of funds and condition of existing assets.

Scale of amenities and facilities to be provided shall be finalized based on the broad guiding principles given above, footfall at the station, stakeholder consultations including users, different departments and local authorities and with approval of DRM.

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Secretary, Additional Secretary & Horticulture commissioner of Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GOI, visited the Sahyadri Farmers Producer Company Limited & National Horticulture Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF), Nashik, Maharashtra

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: Manoj Ahuja, Secretary accompanied by Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Additional Secretary, & Shri. Prabhat Kumar Horticulture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, visited Sahyadri Farmers Producer Company Limited village: Mohadi, taluka: Dindori and National Horticulture Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) Chittagaon, Nashik District of Maharashtra today and also interacted with farmers. Nashik has been selected as one amongst 12 clusters for the grapes as the pilot of the Cluster Development Programme initiated by Government of India. The senior officers from the Ministry visited Grapes farms of the farmer member of Sahyadri Farmers Producer Company Ltd. and interacted with the farmer to understand the practices and key factors responsible for production of quality grapes. The farmer shared his experience regarding production of quality grapes and also shared problems being faced with respect to weather vagaries. Maharashtra is the highest producer of grapes in India and Nashik is the highest producer in Maharashtra.



The main objectives of the visit were: To understand the functions of Sahyadri Farmers Producer Company Limited, a leading FPO of Maharashtra, India and No.1 grape exporter. To interact with the farmers to enhance income through cluster-specific interventions. To Address concerns of the horticulture value chain, from pre-production, production, post-harvest management and value addition to logistics, marketing and branding, in an integrated manner to accelerate competitiveness in the domestic and export markets. Reduce harvest and post-harvest losses by developing/expanding/upgrading infrastructure for post-harvest handling of produce, value addition and market linkages. Facilitate the introduction of innovative technologies and practices to enhance the global competitiveness of focus cluster crops. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers

Welfare, Government of India, has launched the Cluster Development Programme (CDP). It is a central sector programme implemented by the National Horticulture Board (NHB). The programme aims to enable holistic growth and development of identified horticulture clusters to make them globally competitive and entrench them into national and global value chains. CDP will benefit about 10 lakh farmers and related stakeholders of the value chain. Aim of this programme is to improve exports of the targeted crops by approx. 20% and create cluster-specific brands to enhance competitiveness of cluster crops. CDP is expected to attract an estimated investment of INR 10,000 crore when implemented in all the 53 clusters. The programme is expected to converge with other initiatives of the Government such as Agriculture Infrastructure Fund which is a medium-long term financing facility for investment in projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets and will leverage the central sector scheme of the Ministry for Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs).

The officers visited Sahyadri Farmers Producer Farmer Facility Center which provides all farming inputs to its farmers, such as fertilizers, pesticides, machinery, testing lab facility for Soil, water & petiole etc. The FPO is also testing pesticides residues in various fruits being grown FPO cluster. This is one of the important center which gives one stop solution and advisory to the farmers. Further officers also saw initiatives for value chain in cotton growers, under which manufacturing unit for cloth making from cotton is being run by FPO. They interacted with the workers of

manufacturing unit who shared experiences of their livelihood from FPO.

The officers then visited the R&D farms of Sahyadri Farmers Producer Company to see the performance of various imported varieties of the grapes being grown in R&D farm for further assessment and interacted with the owner and workers of Samagri company who in turn shared information about the export potential of Pomegranate arils and packaging.

Sahyadri Farmers Producer Company is also involved in training to support various FPO in the region through incubation center which gives end to end solution Capacity building and Development program for FPC. The officers of the Ministry interacted with Board of Directors of Sahyadri Farmers Producer Company Limited to understand the functioning of FPO through presentation given by Shri. Vilas Vishnu Shinde, Chairman and MD of Sahyadri Farmers Producer Company. The farmer's member gave the insights of success through complete solution given by FPO to farmer members for technological and financial support.

The start-up namely Godam, Sensartics and Vasatogo working on scientific storage of onion, information related to weather and soil with the help of sensors and also on logistics involved in horticulture sectors from Nashik region who closely work with Sahyadri Farmer Producer Company shared their experiences and success stories. "Karta Shetkari" (Empowered Farmer) a unique program was also discussed. The main objective of this program is to develop entrepreneur mindset within farming community.

Secretary, MoA & FW interacted with the start-up and encouraged them to be part of ICAR projects. Further

scientists from ICAR discussed the challenges in pomegranate cultivation and also emphasized on developing varieties suitable for adverse climatic condition and also boosting up export. Additional Secretary suggested farmers to undertake beekeeping projects.

Later on all the officers also visited NHRDF, Chitegaon, Nashik to see the research activities on Onion & Garlic and NABL accredited Pesticide Residue Analysis laboratory along with other dignitaries of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra. They inspected different trials in research field, maintenance of 83 Onion germplasm, Nucleus and Breeder's Seed Production, different types of onion storage at the campus including trials under All India Network Research Project on Onion & Garlic (AINRPOG). They also visited the NABL laboratories viz. Pesticide residue analysis (PRA), Wine testing, Soil & Plant Analysis, Plant Physiology, Bio-control laboratory as well as interacted with scientists.

Secretary, MoA&FW appreciated the contribution of NHRDF for giving 14 varieties of onion and 18 varieties of garlic namely Agrifound Dark Red, Agrifound Light Red, NHRDF Red, NHRDF Red-2, NHRDF Red-4, NHRDF Fursungi & different series of garlic till Yamuna Purple 10. NHRDF is the only agency to maintain the seed chain of Onion & Garlic. NHRDF contributed in organized Onion production of 80% and Garlic seed bulb production of 100%. NHRDF is producing Bio agents around 25-30 metric tonnes annually and distributing to farmers in different schemes. Certificate of Pesticide residue analysis is valid internationally because Pesticide Residue Analysis Lab is accredited by NABL, ICAR, NRC-Pune, APEDA, DMI, Govt. of India. Dr. P.K. Gupta, Director presented the achievements as well as the contribution of NHRDF in the country to the farming sector. Sh. Sanjay Holkar, member of NHRDF Management Committee welcomed all the dignitaries & Dr. R. C. Gupta, Incharge, NHRDF, Nashik expressed vote of thanks to the dignitaries.

ROTARY CLUB OF CHENNAI INFOCITY RELEASES FINDINGS ON REALITIES OF SUICIDES IN TAMIL NADU

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: Rotary Club of Chennai Infocity (Rotary International District 3232) today announced the findings on the major causes behind increasing instances of suicide related deaths in the state of Tamil Nadu. This initiative has been created under the aegis of the Rotary Rainbow Project, an initiative to support the continued education of children from the families of suicide victims. Rtn. Sridhar, Chairman - (Advisor-Rotary; Founder - Rotary Frontier Health Economy and Literacy Projects [ROFHELP]) & Ms. Eshita, Founder, Black & White Enterprise handed over cheques as monetary support to help with the educational expenses of the kids of the deceased.

Tamil Nadu ranked second in the country in terms of the number of suicides reported in 2021, as per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, with the state recording 18,925 suicides, behind Maharashtra with 22,207 such cases. According to the NCRB data, Tamil Nadu contributed 11.5 percent to the total number of suicides registered across the country last year.

Commenting on the findings, Rtn. Sridhar, (Advisor- Rotary; Founder



- Rotary Frontier Health Economy and Literacy Projects [ROFHELP]) said, "In many cases, the family members of those who have lost a dear one to suicide, especially the spouses, also tend to commit suicide due to the lack of emotional guidance and support needed to help them to cope with the aftermath of the sudden upheaval in their lives. And to provide the required support, it's important to know from the family as to what exactly led to their dear one take the extreme step. Many a time there is a huge gap between the perception and the reality, which only the closest family members know about. This helps us to work around that real reason, so that no one else from the family follows the deceased member's footsteps for the same reason."

As part of the Rainbow project, Rotary Club of

Chennai Infocity has identified many such families who are in dire need of assistance to educate a child, post a family member (in most cases the breadwinner) committing suicide. The team have visited these families in person to understand the root cause of the suicides and their present situation.

During the course of conversations with these families, the team came across some startling revelations. In a case, a mother of a young school going child committed suicide. The real reason behind it was the money that she had saved to support her child's education, by working as a domestic help, was taken away by the alcoholic husband instead of rummy.

The Rotary Rainbow Project has been supporting this family of the deceased victims.

"Death of a dear one is never easy to cope with. However much we do cannot suffice for the personal loss of the family. As part of the Rainbow project, we try to find out the actual reason(s) that led to a suicide and to help the families of suicide victims with the required emotional and monetary support till the time they become self-reliant. Also, as part of our Literacy mission, we ensure that children of those who committed suicide don't discontinue their education for lack of money and mentorship & guidance," adds Ms. Eshita, Founder, Black & White Enterprise.

Moreover, mental health and death by suicide are extremely complex and sensitive subjects. Suicide is rarely caused by a single circumstance or event and is an outcome of a combination of multiple factors. The matter requires in-depth research, and a genuine attempt to arrive at the root cause, rather than simplistic and sensational attribution.

Under the Rainbow Project, families of suicide victims are regularly guided through counselling sessions and also employment opportunities for the spouses of the deceased to sustain a secure future.

ECI initiates delimitation of Assembly & Parliamentary Constituencies in the State of Assam as per Section 8A of the RP Act 1950

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: In pursuance to the request received from Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India, Election Commission of India has decided to initiate the delimitation exercise of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the State of Assam as per Section 8A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

The Commission led by Chief Election Commissioner Shri Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Shri Anup Chandra Pandey and Shri Arun Goel has directed the Chief Electoral Officer of Assam to take up the matter with State Government to issue complete ban on creation of new administrative units w.e.f. 1st January,



2023 till the completion of delimitation exercise in the State. As mandated under Article 170 of the Constitution, census figures (2001) shall be used for the purpose of readjustment of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in the State. Reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be provided as per Articles 330 & 332 of the Constitution of India.

The Commission will design and finalize its own guidelines & methodology for the purpose of delimiting the constituencies. During

the delimitation exercise, the Commission will keep in mind the physical features, existing boundaries of administrative units, facility of communication, public convenience and as far as practicable, the constituencies will be kept as geographically compact area.

Once a draft proposal of delimitation of constituencies in the State of Assam is finalized by the Commission, it shall be published in the Central and State Gazettes for inviting suggestions/objections

from the general public. In this regard, a Notice will also be published in two vernacular newspapers of the State specifying the date and venue for public sittings to be held in the State.

The Election Commission of India has been requested by the Ministry of Law & Justice to conduct the delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in the State of Assam vide letter No. H-11019/06/2022-Leg.II dated 15th November, 2022. Under the provisions of Delimitation Act, 1972, the last delimitation of constituencies in the State of Assam was done on the basis of census figures, 1971 by the then Delimitation Commission in 1976.

Transfer of technology 'Inactivated low pathogenic avian influenza (H9N2) vaccine for chickens' developed by ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: Inactivated low pathogenic avian influenza (H9N2) vaccine for chickens, developed by the scientists of ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal was transferred to M/s Globion India Pvt. Ltd., Secunderabad, M/s Venkateshwar Hatcheries Pvt. Ltd., Pune, M/s Indovax Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon and M/s Hester Biosciences Ltd., Ahmedabad today, facilitated by M/s. Agrinnovate India Ltd.



(AgIn) at NASC, New Delhi. The event was graced by Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) and Chairman, AgIn, Dr. B.N. Tripathi, DDG (Animal Science), Dr. Praveen Malik, CEO, Agrinnovate India Ltd., Dr. Aniket

Sanyal, Director ICAR-NIHSAD, representatives of commercial firms, other officials from ICAR and AgIn.

Dr. Himanshu Pathak appreciated the sincere efforts of the ICAR-NIHSAD scientists in

development of the first indigenous vaccine for H9N2 virus and commended the Agrinnovate India limited (AgIn) for the efforts in the transfer of the technology to industry. DDG (AS) asserted that the vaccine will meet the standard of the market both in India and abroad. The vaccine will contribute significantly to increasing the income of poultry farmers by reducing the economic loss due to the disease.

JK Paints and Coatings Enters into a Definitive Agreement to Acquire 60% Stake in Acro Paints for Rs 153 crore

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: JK Paints and Coatings Ltd., (wholly owned subsidiary of JK Cement Ltd.) has entered into a share purchase agreement with Acro Paints Ltd. and its shareholders to acquire 60% controlling stake in the company. Acro Paints is a leading manufacturer in Northern India, of Architectural and High-performance paints and coatings. This acquisition is a step towards fast-tracking JK Cement's entry into the paints business, expanding its product offerings and potentially foray into new markets.

The acquisition of Acro Paints brings strong manufacturing capabilities and comprehensive product formulations, which will scale up to meet the business plan objectives for JK Paints and Coatings over the next few years.

Commenting on this development, Dr. Raghavpat Singhania, Managing Director - JK Cement Ltd. said "We are excited about this acquisition as we believe it will create adjacencies that will act as a key driver of our growth. We are pleased with continued association of Acro's promoters - Mr. Charanjeet Gaiind & Mr. Ashok Gaiind for the next one year which will provide an opportunity for us to gain from their rich experience. Both are considered pioneers in the Indian Paint Industry. They will also continue to remain on



the board of Acro Paints Ltd. and will contribute towards a shared vision. We are committed to ensuring a smooth and successful integration of our businesses and are excited to bring our combined expertise and experience to the table. The current capacity is undergoing expansion and is expected to be completed in the second quarter of FY24."

JK Cement is the leading manufacturer of wall putty in India and this segment has a significant overlap with the Paint Industry. Acquiring a financially strong company like Acro with zero debt and healthy margins is a strategic move for JK Cement to leverage the strengths of its putty distribution network, thereby utilizing the synergies created thereof. The pan India distribution network of JK Cement comprising of 1,00,000 dealers, 75,000 influencers & 1,500 distributors bolstered with Acro's distribution network will enable the company to reach a wider market ensuring ready HHHaccessibility to customers in the region.

Adding to the announcement, Mr. Madhav Krishna Singhania, Dy.MD and

CEO, JK Cement Ltd. said "We have a focused launch plan to gradually deepen our presence in our strong markets over the next few years, and have identified specific geographic, product, and channel niches where we will dominate. We will leverage the strengths of both our brands as we expand our presence in the Paint Industry. We believe Acro is synergistic with our portfolio and will help us comprehensively address the fastest-growing paint and putty segment".

Acro Paints Ltd., incorporated in 1989, with its complete portfolio of decorative paints is also present in niche product categories of textured paints, construction chemicals and waterproofing products. It has gained significant experience in the industry over the past 30+ years. The company is a strong player in the Paint Industry, offering a wide range of products across all categories, including economy, premium, and luxury. With over 3000+ SKUs at various price points, they are able to serve the needs of customers across the spectrum.

Mr. Charanjeet

Gaiind, MD - Acro Paints Ltd. said "I am delighted with our association with JK Cement and its dynamic management team, who are the epitome of humility and passion, driving the next era of growth,". Dr. Raghavpat Singhania and Mr. Madhav Singhania are highly respected business leaders in India who share a deep commitment to our nation's growth, people, and communities. I would like to thank my colleagues who have played an essential role in the development of our business with their dedication and expertise. I am confident that JK Cement is the perfect home for them, our customers, and for our business to continue to thrive and grow."

Situated in Bhiwadi, Alwar District, in Delhi-NCR region, the company has two state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities with a post-expansion capacity of 60,000 KL in decorative & textured paints & 6,700 KL in construction chemicals. The ongoing capacity expansion is expected to be completed by Q2 FY24.

The acquisition will also provide an opportunity to foray into the growing vertical of construction chemicals & waterproofing products which has a current market size of 5000+ crore, growing at over 10% per annum.

The acquisition is subject to regulatory approvals and conditions.

India, ADB sign \$125 million loan to improve Urban Services in Tamil Nadu

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) today signed a \$125 million loan to develop climate-resilient sewage collection and treatment, and drainage and water supply systems in three cities in the state of Tamil Nadu.

The signatories to the tranche 3 loan for Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program were Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance who signed for the Government of India, and Hoe Yun Jeong, Officer-in-Charge of ADB's India Resident Mission who signed for ADB.

The financing is the third and the last tranche of the \$500 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) for the Program approved by ADB in 2018 to build priority water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure in strategic industrial corridors across 10 cities in the state. The tranche 3 loan covers Coimbatore, Madurai, and Thoothukudi.

After signing the loan agreement, Mr Mishra said that the ADB financing will help ensure universal access to basic water and sanitation services and improve resilience against floods in the project target areas which are also the industrial hubs of Tamil

Nadu.

"Through this project, ADB continues to support developing and improving urban services in the state by deploying new approaches such as build and operate modality, automatic meters for bulk water users, and real-time monitoring through supervisory control and data acquisition systems," said Mr. Jeong. "ADB's urban investments are aligned to support strategic industrial corridor development in Tamil Nadu."

The financing will support the development of two sewage treatment plants in Coimbatore with 529 kilometers (km) of sewage collection

pipelines, install 14 pump and lift stations and build 14 km of sewage pumping mains. In Thoothukudi, climate-resilient stormwater drainage system will be developed.

In Madurai, the project will support the commissioning of 813 km of new water supply distribution pipelines that will connect 163,958 households to 115 newly established district metered area with smart water features to reduce non-revenue water. In Coimbatore and Madurai, two all-female self-help groups will be trained on the benefits of household connection to sewage collection system, water conservation, sanitation, and health and hygiene.

Preetham Upadhyya from Barclays, Chennai, emerges as winner at the Cluster 5 Finals, of the Tata Crucible Corporate Quiz 2022

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: Preetham Upadhyya from Barclays, Chennai, emerged as winner at the Cluster 5 Finals of Tata Crucible Corporate Quiz 2022, the 19th edition of India's most prestigious business quiz.

The Cluster 5 Finals witnessed some power-packed quizzing. Ms. S. Sukanya, Senior Vice President & Delivery Head for Business Transformation Group, Tata Consultancy Services was the Chief Guest at the event and gave away the prizes in a virtual prize distribution ceremony. The winner took home a cash prize of Rs. 35, 000/-* and will now compete in the semi-final round to



qualify for the National Finals. Jayakanthan R from TCS, Chennai was announced as the runner-up, winning a cash prize of Rs. 18, 000/-.*

In continuation of the online format from the last two years, Tata Crucible this year too was held online. The country has been

divided into 12 clusters. After two levels of online prelims, the top 12 finalists from each of the 12 clusters have been shortlisted for wild card finals out of which top 6 finalists will compete in the 12 online cluster finals. The winner from each of the 12 cluster finals will compete in the semi-finals and finally six winners will

qualify for the national final event scheduled to be held in January 2023. The winner of the National Final will receive a grand prize of Rs. 2.5 lakhs* along with the coveted Tata Crucible Trophy. The brand partners for the quiz for this edition of are Tata Play Binge, Tata Motors Nexon, Tata 1mg, Mia by Tanishq and Tata Cliq. All finals are being streamed on a deferred basis on Tata Crucible Facebook, Twitter and You Tube channels.

Noted quizmaster 'Pickbrain' Giri Balasubramaniam hosted the show in his unique quizzing style along with co-host Rashmi Furtado.

Pongal Festival Special Trains to clear extra rush of passengers

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: For the benefit of passengers to clear extra rush of passengers during festive season, following special trains will be operated as follows:

1. Train No.06021 Tambaram - Tirunelveli Pongal Special Fare Special and Train No. 06022 Tirunelveli - Chennai Egmore Pongal Special Fare Specials:

Train No.06021 Tambaram - Tirunelveli Pongal Special Fare Special will leave Tambaram at 21.00 hrs on 12th January, 2023 (Thursday) and reach Tirunelveli Jn at 09.00 hrs, the next day

Stoppages: Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Vridhachalam, Tiruchchirappalli, Pudukottai, Karaikudi, Sivaganga, Manamadurai, Arupukottai, Virudhunagar, Satur, Kovilpatti

Train No. 06022 Tirunelveli - Chennai Egmore Pongal Special Fare Specials will leave Tirunelveli at 13.00 hrs on 13th January, 2023 (Friday) and reach Chennai Egmore at 03.20 hrs, the next day

Stoppages: Kovilpatti, Satur, Virudhunagar, Arupukottai, Manamadurai, Sivaganga, Karaikudi, Pudukottai, Tiruchchirappalli, Vridhachalam, Villupuram, Chengalpattu, Tambaram & Mambalam

Coach Composition: 1 - AC First Class Coach, 2- AC Two Tier Coaches, 6- AC Three Tier Coaches, 3- AC Three Tier Economy Coaches, 6- Sleeper Class Coaches, 2- General Second Class Coaches, 1- General Second Class (Divyangjan Friendly)

2. Train No.06041 Tambaram - Nagercoil



Superfast Pongal Special Fare Special and Train No.06042 Nagercoil - Tambaram Pongal Special Fare Special:

Train No. 06041 Tambaram - Nagercoil Superfast Pongal Special Fare Special will leave Tambaram at 19.30 hrs on 13th January, 2023 (Friday) and reach Nagercoil at 07.10 hrs, the next day

Train No.06042 Nagercoil - Tambaram Pongal Special Fare Special will leave Nagercoil at 17.10 hrs on 16th January, 2023 (Monday) and reach Tambaram at 07.30 hrs, the next day

Coach Composition: 1- First Class AC cum AC Two Tier Coaches, 1- AC Two Tier Coach, 1- AC Three Tier Coach, 13- Sleeper Class Coach, 4- General Second Class Coaches & 2- General Second Class (Divyangjan Friendly)

Stoppages in both Sides: Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Vridhachalam, Tiruchchirappalli, Dindigul, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Satur, Kovilpatti, Tirunelveli & Valliyur

3. Train No. 06044/06043 Kochuveli - Tambaram - Kochuveli Special Fare Specials:

Train No. 06044 Kochuveli - Tambaram Special Fare Special will leave Kochuveli Jn at 11.40 hrs on 17th January, 2023 (Tuesday) and reach Tambaram at 06.20 hrs, the next day (1 Service)

In return direction Train No. 06043

Tambaram - Kochuveli Special Fare Special will leave Tambaram at 10.30 hrs on 18th January, 2023 and reach Kochuveli at 03.20 hrs, the next day (1 Service)

Coach Composition: 16- AC Three Tier Coaches, 2- Sleeper Class Coaches & 2- Luggage cum Brake Vans

Stoppages in both directions: Trivandrum, Kulithurai, Nagercoil Town, Valliyur, Tirunelveli, kovilpatti, Satur, Virudhunagar, Arupukottai, Manamadurai, Sivaganga, karaikudi, Pudukottai, Tiruchchirappalli, Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Mayiladuthurai, Chidambaram, Cuddalore port, Villupuram & Chengalpattu

4. Train No.06046/06045 Ernakulam - Dr MGR Chennai Central - Ernakulam Jn Pongal Special Fare Specials:

Train No.06046 Ernakulam - Dr MGR Chennai Central Pongal Special Fare Special will leave Ernakulam Jn at 23.20 hrs on 12th January, 2023 (Thursday) and reach Dr MGR Chennai Central at 11.30 hrs, the next day (1 Service)

Stoppages: Aluva, Thrissur, Palakkad, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Jolarpettai, Katpadi, Arakkonam & Perambur

In return direction Train No. 06045 Dr MGR Chennai Central - Ernakulam Jn Pongal Special Fare Special will

leave Dr MGR Chennai Central at 14.50 hrs on 13th January, 2023 (Friday) and reach Ernakulam Jn at 03.10 hrs, the next day (1 Service)

Stoppages: Arakkonam, Katpadi, Jolarpettai, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Palakkad, Thrissur & Aluva

Coach Composition: 1- AC Two Tier Coach, 4- AC Three Tier Coaches, 10- Sleeper Class Coaches, 3- General Second Class Coaches & 2- General Second Class (Divyangjan Friendly)

5. Train No. 06057/06058 Tambaram - Tirunelveli - Tambaram Pongal Special Fare Specials:

Train No. 06057 Tambaram - Tirunelveli Pongal Special Fare Special will leave Tambaram at 22.30 hrs on 16th January, 2023 (Monday) and reach Tirunelveli at 09.00 hrs, the next day

In return direction Train No. 06058 Tirunelveli - Tambaram Pongal Special Fare Special will leave Tirunelveli at 22.30 hrs on 17th January, 2023 (Tuesday) and reach Tambaram at 09.20 hrs, the next day

Coach Composition: 1- AC Two Tier Coach, 4- AC Three Tier Coaches, 10- Sleeper Class Coaches, 3- General Second Class Coaches & 2- General Second Class (Divyangjan Friendly)

Stoppages in both directions: Tambaram, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Vridhachalam, Tiruchchirappalli, Dindigul, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Satur & Kovilpatti

* Advance Reservation for the above Pongal Special Fare Specials will be notified in due course*

Sai Silks (Kalamandir) opens its 52nd store and fourth flagship Kancheepuram VaraMahalakshmi Silks format store in Tamil Nadu

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: Sai Silks (Kalamandir) Limited (Sai Silks or SSKL), one of the leading retailers of ethnic apparel, particularly sarees, in South India in terms of revenue and profit after tax in Fiscal 2019, 2020 and 2021 (as per a Technopak report), launched its 52nd store in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

The new SSKL store, which operates under the brand name 'Kancheepuram VaraMahalakshmi Silks', boasts of an area of more than 12000 sq. ft. across three floors and is located at Pondy Bazaar, T. Nagar, Chennai.

The fourth VaraMahalakshmi store is the fourth such store in Tamil Nadu – the others being located at Mylapore, Chennai and Gandhi Road, Kanchipuram, and Anna Nagar, Chennai. The store offers premium products including a variety of sarees such as Banarasi, Patola, Kota, Kanchipuram, Paithani, Organza, Kuppadam, etc., with major focus on handlooms such as Kanchipuram silk sarees.

SSKL's stores are focussed on spreading India's vibrant culture, traditions and heritage by offering a diverse range of products which includes various types of ultra-premium and premium sarees and ethnic wear, including value fashion products.



The premium ethnic silk sarees and handlooms targets, inter alia, wedding and occasional wear. VaraMahalakshmi sarees retail in the range of approximately Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 250,000.

Mr. Nagakanaka Durga Prasad Chalavadi, Managing Director, Sai Silks (Kalamandir), said, "Sai Silks is continually being recognised as being an ethnic fashion authority with our diverse offerings including ultra-premium and premium sarees as we believe in celebrating all of life's grand moments in style. We are delighted that our fourth Kancheepuram VaraMahalakshmi Silks store is in Tamil Nadu and it showcases our strength of delivering high value experience for our customers. The new store offers our entire range of premium silk sarees and Kanchipuram sarees."

Mr. Chalavadi added, "Our endeavour has been to open stores in the same

city to efficiently manage stores and inventory, and to tap the purchasing power of customers with a cluster-based model. The Kancheepuram VaraMahalakshmi Silks stores provide a unique experience and customer service, which combined with our inventory and variety of SKUs that we offer, it enables us to attract and retain a growing customer base. Our aim is to 25 additional stores across South India in all our four formats over the next two years."

Sai Silks has tapped renowned actress Janhvi Kapoor for the launch of the store. Commenting on the occasion, actress Janhvi Kapoor said, "It's very exciting to launch Sai Silks fourth Kancheepuram VaraMahalakshmi store in Chennai. Sai Silks' expertise, focus on innovative designs provides the inspiration to go out in style and enjoy life's precious moments. The firms

focus on quality, customer service, product range is unique and strengthens its brand recognition and enhances customer loyalty."

The fourth VaraMahalakshmi retail brand format was established in 2011 with the first store opening in Chickpet, Bengaluru, and has been further scaled in cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Vijaywada, Nellore etc. as of May 31, 2022.

VaraMahalakshmi stores are more traditionally decorated and reflects the brand's roots in the Kancheepuram culture. It was conceived as a brand which would reinvent the handloom saree business and offers Kanchipuram silk sarees and other handloom and occasion-wear sarees under one roof.

Sai Silks has four store formats including Kalamandir, Kancheepuram VaraMahalakshmi Silks, Mandir, and KLM Fashion Mall, offering products to various segments of the market that include premium ethnic fashion, ethnic fashion for middle income and value-fashion, with a variety of products across different price points, thereby catering to customers across all market segments.

NATIONAL SC-ST HUB MEGA CONCLAVE ORGANISED FOR CREATING AWARENESS AMONG SC-ST ENTREPRENEURS

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) organized National SC-ST Hub (NSSH) Conclave at Sahid, Smruti Bhavan, Baripada, Mayurbhanj, Odisha today to promote entrepreneurship culture and spread awareness of the NSSH Scheme and other Schemes of the Ministry. Comptroller & Auditor (CAG) General of India, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu and Minister of State for MSME, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma graced the occasion with their presence along with other senior dignitaries. The event saw the participation of around 700 SC-ST aspiring and existing entrepreneurs.

Addressing the Conclave, Shri Murmu emphasized on the significant role of the MSME Sector in the Indian economy in terms of its contribution to GDP and overall exports from India. Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister of State Shri Verma stated that MSME



Sector not only plays a crucial role in providing large employment opportunities at a lower capital cost but also helps in the industrialization of rural & backward areas. He also highlighted the various schemes of the Government to empower the MSME Sector and said that through this conclave the SC/ST entrepreneurs from the State will explore innovative ideas and mutual business opportunities and avail maximum benefits from these schemes.

A special technical session chaired by Dr Ketaki Bapat, Advisor/Scientist 'G', from Office of Principal

Scientific Advisor of India provided an interactive platform for aspiring and existing SC-ST entrepreneurs to interact with CPSEs, lending institutions, etc. The programme also witnessed the participation of CPSEs like Power Grid Corporation, Steel Authority of India, Indian Oil Corporation, Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. who gave presentations on their vendor empanelment process and details of products/services to be procured. The program also had financial institutions such as UCO Bank, and State Bank of India, which detailed various lending schemes

pertaining to the MSME sector. Training institutes like IIT Kharagpur, Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology also participated in the program by putting up a stall and demonstrating their technology and various skill development programmes. The program also had facilitation desks of UDYAM Registration for facilitating registrations of SC/ST MSE participants on the spot.

Senior officers from the Ministry of MSME and the State Departments of Odisha were also present during the event. For inclusive growth, various initiatives under NSSH Scheme to promote entrepreneurship culture among SC-ST communities and their active participation in the public procurement process to reach 4% mandate as per public procurement policy has also been described.

Director Esakki Karvannan has rightly conveyed the message that I wanted to. I am happy that he shares my thoughts for the society: Cheran

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: 'Tamilkudimagan' is a film produced by Lakshmi Creations. Directed by Esakki Karvannan, who made movies like 'Pettikada' and 'Pagiri', this film has director Cheran in the lead role.

Sri Priyanka of 'Migamiga Avasaram' fame is playing the female lead. Actors Lal, S A Chandrasekhar, Vela Ramamurthy, Deepiksha, Aruldoss, Ravi Maria and others have played key roles.

Sam CS of 'Vikram Veda' fame has composed the music for this film. Rajesh Yadav is in charge of the cinematography and Karthik does the editing.

The teaser of Tamilkudimagan which was released recently has become a huge hit with more than 2.7 million views.

Talking about this film, Director Esakki Karvannan says, "This is the story of a



person who fights as an individual to break the caste structure in this society. Today we have abolished caste-based job system. But why are we not able to eliminate the castes centered on it?

Castes were formed on the basis of the profession that people did. But many here do not understand that. Many people have changed from the professions they used to do to different jobs. So there is no need to call them by the occupation-based castes."

He said further: "Instead

it should be mentioned as Tamilkudimagan in the place of caste. By doing this the caste system can be completely wiped out in a significant time. Many complain that the word caste annoys then and they cannot live in peace in the society because of this. The story of this film attempts to find a solution to this issue. Especially, this film is based on true events.

There are six songs in this film. Inspired by the story and songs, producer Suresh Kamatchi acquired the music rights of

Tamilkudimagan for a huge sum on behalf of his VH Music.

The cooperation of director Cheran, who played the lead role in this film, was immense. He was moved and praised that this film is a way to break caste system."

Shooting has been completed and post-production work is currently underway. We are planning to release 'Tamilkudimagan' in February, says Esakki Karvannan.

Actors ; Cheran, SriPriyanka, Lal, S A Chandrasekhar, Vela Ramamurthy, Deepiksha, Aruldoss, Ravimaria etc.

Technical Crew Writing-Direction: Esakki Karvannan Music: Sam C.S. Cinematography: Rajesh Yadav Editing: Karthik Art: Veerasamar Choreographer: Dinesh Stunts: Sakthi Saravanan Public Relations: Nikil Murukan.

Quarterly Report on Public Debt Management for July-September 2022

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: The Budget Division, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, brings out the Quarterly Report on Public Debt Management for July-September 2022. Since April-June (Q1) 2010-11, Public Debt Management Cell (PDMC) of the Budget Division has been bringing out a quarterly report on debt management on a regular basis. The current report pertains to the quarter July-September (Q2 FY23).

During Q2 of FY23, the Central Government raised an amount worth ₹4,06,000 crore through dated securities, as against notified amount of ₹4,22,000 crore in the borrowing calendar, while repayments were at ₹92,371.15 crore. The weighted average yield of primary issuances hardened to 7.33 per cent in Q2 FY23

from 7.23 per cent in Q1 of FY23. The weighted average maturity of new issuances of dated securities was lower at 15.62 years in Q2 of FY23 as compared to 15.69 years in Q1 of FY23. During July-September 2022, the Central Government did not raise any amount through the Cash Management Bills. The Reserve Bank did not conduct Open Market operations for government securities during the quarter. The net daily average liquidity absorption by RBI under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) including Marginal Standing Facility and Special Liquidity Facility was at ₹1,28,323.37 crore during the quarter.

Total gross liabilities (including liabilities under the 'Public Account') of the Government, as per provisional data, increased to ₹1,47,19,572.2 crore at

end-September 2022 from ₹1,45,72,956 crore at end-June 2022. This represented a quarter-on-quarter increase of 1.0 per cent in Q2 FY23. Public debt accounted for 89.1 per cent of total gross liabilities at end-September 2022 up from 88.3 per cent at end-June 2022. Nearly 29.6 per cent of the outstanding dated securities had a residual maturity of less than 5 years.

The yields on Government securities in secondary market hardened in short-end curve due to near-term inflation and liquidity concern though softening of yield was observed for the longer tenure securities during the second quarter of FY23. MPC decided to hike the policy repo rate by 100 bps, i.e., from 4.90% to 5.90% during Q2 FY 2023 largely with an intention to contain inflation.

In secondary market, trading activities were concentrated in 7-10 year maturity bucket during the quarter mainly because of more trading observed in 10 year benchmark security. Private Sector Banks emerged as dominant trading segment in secondary market during the quarter. On a net basis, foreign banks and primary dealers were net sellers while public sector banks, co-operative banks, FIs, insurance companies, mutual funds, private sector banks and 'Others' were net buyers in the secondary market. The ownership pattern of Central Government securities indicates that share of commercial banks stood at 38.3 per cent at end-September 2022 as against 38.04 per cent at end-June 2022.

Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya visits Safdarjung Hospital, reviews mock drill for ensuring readiness of hospital infrastructure for COVID19 management

Chennai, Dec 28 2022: Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare visited Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi today to review the mock drill being undertaken for ensuring readiness of hospital infrastructure for COVID19 management.

The Union Minister stated that "I recently reviewed the COVID9 status and preparedness of prevention and management of COVID with State Health Ministers. Mock drills are being conducted across the country today to review the preparedness for management of COVID19, for which clinical readiness at hospitals is crucial. Government as well as private hospitals are undertaking mock drills today. State Health



Ministers are reviewing the drills in their respective states", he stated.

He had an informal interactive session with Heads of Departments and staff of Safdarjung Hospital and Vardhman Mahavir Medical College. He spent around an hour with the heads of various departments, doctors, nurses, heads of security and sanitation services and listened with patience to their numerous suggestions on quality hospital management, clinical

practices, infection control measures, sanitation processes and patient-centered high quality healthcare provision. They shared their experience of working for providing round the clock services during the pandemic. Dr Mandaviya advised the HoDs to meet their teams every week, undertake physical visit of all departments and evaluate their performance to ensure best output. He also praised the doctors for their exemplary work during the pandemic.

Dr Mandaviya cautioned against complacency and urged everyone to follow COVID Appropriate Behaviour. He emphasized to remain on the alert, refrain from sharing unverified information and ensure high level of preparedness. "COVID cases are rising all over the world and India might witness a spike in cases too. Hence it is important that the entire COVID infrastructure in terms of equipment, processes and human resources are at a state of operational readiness", he stated.

Dr Atul Goel, Director General of Health Services, Dr B L Sherwa, Medical Superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital, and heads of various departments including sanitation were present on the occasion.