

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches "Geospatial Hackathon" to promote Innovation and Start-Ups in India's Geospatial ecosystem

Chennai, Jan 14 2023: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, Start-Ups in new emerging technologies are key to India's future economy.

After launching the "Geospatial Hackathon" this morning here, DrJitendra Singh said, the Hackathon will promote Innovation and Start-Ups in India's Geospatial ecosystem. He invited the nation's youth to participate and contribute towards the building of the nation's geospatial economy.

The Minister said, half of our population is under 40 years of age and are very aspirational and that is evident that the Indian Start-Up economy crossed a major milestone as it added the 100th Indian Start-Up to the Unicorn club in 2022.

DrJitendra Singh said, in line with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India is on the cusp of Geospatial Revolution and a healthy synergy among Government, Industry and Scientific Community will tremendously boost up economic output and would help India becoming a 10 Trillion Dollar Economy by 2030.

DrJitendra Singh appreciated Ministry of Science and Technology, Survey of India, IIT Hyderabad and Microsoft India for planning, participating and designing the Geospatial Hackathon, which he said will serve as a formal Launchpad to India's geospatial strategy and policy which envisions making India a global leader in the geospatial sector in times to come and become truly Atmanirbhar. He also appreciated all the partnering agencies, academia, research institutions, industries,



and think tanks who have joined the noble mission on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti, celebrated across India with different names and rituals.

DrJitendra Singh said, the aim of this hackathon is to promote partnerships not only among the public and private geospatial sectors but also to strengthen our country's geospatial Start-Up ecosystem. He

added that for achieving the Sustainable development goals 2030, there is an urgency for our country to have reliable geospatial information for effective policy development, programming, and project operation.

DrJitendra Singh said, after the unlocking of the Space Sector in 2020 for private participation, the Modi Government has taken

initiatives to liberalize and democratize the geospatial sector. The Minister emphasized that with the launch of the National geospatial policy, India is walking the path of promoting ease of doing business in the entire geospatial sector and it will catalyze the mission to build India's vibrant and globally competitive Geospatial ecosystem.

As emphasized by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi during the inaugural message at the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress 2022, "Geospatial technology is driving inclusivity across the nation leaving no one behind".

Survey of India is proposing a Geospatial Data Processing, Solution development, and Servicing Challenge inviting solutions for select problem statement from these used cases and

to foster the adoption of modern geospatial technologies such as cloud, open APIs, Drone based mapping, Sharing and integration of a wide range of data.

"Geospatial Hackathon" will end on 10th March, 2023 and there will be Two Sets of Challenges- Research Challenge and Start-Up Challenge to find out 4 winners for the Best Solutions to the Geospatial Select Problem Statements.

Dr S Chandrasekhar, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology said that during the challenge, various geospatial datasets related to the problem statements will be made available to all the participants to analyse this data and create insightful data processing, solution, and servicing tools. He said, building on the concept of 'open innovation' and 'open data sharing', the challenge is likely to benefit stakeholders across the Geospatial

community in India.

Shri Sunil Kumar, Surveyor General of India in his address said that assimilation of innovative ideas and solutions from a wide array of geospatial experts covering academia, Start-ups, and emerging technologist would help in solving some of the most common problems faced by Survey of India and other Geospatial data-generating, Solutions and Services providing agencies and replicating the successful ideas in product developments for finding solutions to key challenges facing the country.

Prof. P.J. Narayanan, Director, IIIT Hyderabad, Prof. Ramesh Loganathan from IIIT Hyderabad, Shri Navtez Bal, Executive Director-Public Sector, Microsoft India and Dr Anita Gupta, Advisor and Head, NSTEDB, DST also took part in today's event.

VETERANS' DAY CELEBRATED ALL ACROSS THE NATION

Chennai, Jan 14 2023: The Indian Armed Forces celebrated the 7th Armed Forces Veterans' Day on 14 January 2023. Veterans' Day is celebrated in recognition of the services rendered by the First Commander-in-Chief of Indian Armed Forces, Field Marshal KM Cariappa, OBE who retired on this day in 1953. "Wreath Laying Ceremonies and Veterans' Meets" were organised all across the country at multiple locations: Dehradun,

Delhi, Jalandhar Chandigarh, Jhunjunu, Panagarh, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata to reinforce the commitment and solidarity towards the Nexts of Kin (NoK) of our bravehearts and towards our veterans as a mark of respect for their selfless service and sacrifices towards the Nation.

Honourable Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh along with Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, attended the Veterans' Meet at Dehradun.



Honourable Rajya Raksha Mantri attended the event at Chennai. The event at Delhi was held at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt

which was attended by the three Service Chiefs, CISC and Secretary Ex-Servicemen Welfare (ESW) along with other senior officers of the

Armed Forces. Nexts of Kin, Veterans and representatives of various ex-servicemen organisations also graced the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the three Service Chiefs highlighted the important welfare measures undertaken by

various welfare departments under the veterans vertical of Indian Armed Forces. The Service Chiefs highlighted the recognition of the selfless service rendered by the veterans in Nation Building. The "We for Veterans" anthem was played at all public places as an ode to our veterans. The celebrations also witnessed the release of SAMMAAN magazine, a yearly journal published by Directorate of Indian Army Veterans (DIAV) covering

informative articles and various topics of interest to the veteran community. The Indian Air Force also released the VAYU SEMVEDNA magazine on the occasion.

The Armed Forces Veterans' Day is being commemorated since 14 Jan 2017 to reaffirm the camaraderie between the retired, the serving and the nation on this day takes a moment to reflect, remember & honour the heroes who made the supreme sacrifice and selflessly served the nation.

P.Raveendran, IRTS assumes charge as PCCM of Southern Railway

Chennai, Jan 14 2023: P.Raveendran, IRTS has assumed charge as the Principal Chief Commercial Manager (PCCM) of Southern Railway on 12th January 2023. An alumnus of the College of Engineering, Guindy, Shri P.Raveendran joined Indian Railways as an Officer of Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) cadre belonging to 1988 batch. Prior to taking over as PCCM, Southern Railway, he held the post of Chief Claims Officer,

Southern Railway.

Shri P. Raveendran has specialized in railway operations and focuses on increasing efficiency and asset utilization in railway freight operations. He has varied experience in the areas of Logistics, infrastructure development and multi-modal logistics business, etc. Earlier, he has served as Chief Freight Transportation Manager, Southern Railway, Group General Manager, Container Corporation



of India (CONCOR) and Divisional Railway Manager, Khurda Road and Chairman, Chennai Port Trust.

The Hon'ble Railway Minister's Award for meritorious service had been

presented to Shri P. Raveendran while he held the position of Senior Divisional Operations Manager for the Chennai Division of Southern Railway.

Shri P. Raveendran had undergone long-

term training in Urban Agglomeration assignments, he had Passenger Transportation in as part of his earlier assignments, he had Malaysia, Thailand and Belgium.

E-Sevai Maiyam
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An Officer of the Income Tax Department with Bengal background translates Thirukkural into English with transliteration along with explanatory notes in Tamil out of his passion for Tamil



Chennai, Jan 14 2023: S B Chakraborty, who is working as a Joint Commissioner in Income Tax Department, Chennai and a native of Bengal and domiciled in Chennai, has translated Thirukkural into English because of his penchant for Tamil language. Chakraborty's parents migrated to Tamil Nadu from West Bengal. Born and brought up in Chennai, Chakraborty said that right from his childhood he was interested in Tamil language. Speaking about his interest in Thirukkural, Chakraborty said, "I had a strong passion for the Tamil language from an early age. During my school days, memorising Thirukkural further fuelled my interest. Later, while reading the translations of Thirukkural, the idea arose to translate

Thirukkural into English in a very simple way. Some raised doubts about the need for another translation of Thirukkural. But I took up this work because I had a lot of difficulty in reading and understanding some of the translations. Also, I understood that some of the translations were made according to the author's ideology," he said. Chakraborty said that his school's Tamil teacher, Mr. Marudhur Arangarasan, was instrumental in the translation. "When I got the idea to translate Thirukkural, I got in touch with my schooltime Tamil teacher Mr. Marudhur Arangarasan, whom I love and respect. I met him in person and expressed my interest in translating Thirukkural, and his words inspired me. He gave me many

Thirukkural books as a gift. First he wanted me to translate the book in my mother tongue Bengali. Then I went to my maternal uncle Mr. Amulya Bhushan Chakraborty who lives in West Bengal and requested him to help me in my endeavour. He completed the work in three years with the help of Mrs Bononi Nag and his son Mr. Satwik Chakraborty. He typed and edited the final form of the text himself. But his sudden death left me deeply saddened.

I published Thirukkural in Bengali in his memory," he added. Chakraborty said that along with the translation, he has tried to explain the meaning of Thirukkural in a simple style to make it easier to understand. "During the very difficult time of

coronavirus pandemic, I thought to complete my work with full heart and soul. That is why I was able to publish the simple Tamil text and error free English translation of Thirukkural. I am confident that I have done my best to this masterpiece of ancient Tamil literature," he said. Many friends, relatives and well-wishers have supported me in my efforts in this journey and I express my sincere gratitude to all of them, said Chakraborty. "I would like to express my sincere gratitude to M. Vedyappan and his staff at Discovery Publishing House for publishing my first book. I would also like to say that all the revenue from this book will be spent on public charity," added Chakraborty.

It was a beautiful torture and look where it got us - Ram Charan to Variety's Marc Malkin at the Digital Pre Show Red Carpet Interview, also asks him to invite one of the Indian Superhero's to Hollywood! A GLOBAL STAR!



Chennai, Jan 14 2023: The Golden Globe has started! Mega Power Star Ram Charan looked dapper and suave on this year's Grey Carpet at the Variety Digital Pre Show. A truly humble star, Ram and director SS Rajamouli interacted with Marc Malkin from Variety and said some interesting points that all drove home to Indian cinema in the global space. This movie reminded the host of a Marvel movie as Ram looked like an Marvel Actor as per Variety's Marc Malkin

and he asked Ram if he would want to be a Marvel Star, a superhero, and Ram humbly stated that, "Absolutely, why not!" On his favourite Marvel star, he said that it was Captain America. He also spoke about the fact that, "We have Amazing Superheroes in India too. How about you invite one of our heroes back here?" On being asked who got hurt the most in the action sequences and speaking about Naatu Naatu, Ram again, true to his nature stated that,

"My knees still wobble talking about it. Ya, it was what it is, it is a beautiful torture and look where it got us! We are standing here, talking to you today on this carpet, thanks to it" Ram Charan proud on representing India at Golden Globes At the Golden Globes, Mega Power Star Ram Charan elatedly mentioned about how it felt surreal to be at the "Mecca of Films", representing India, specially the south of India. He spoke about the hard work that has gone into the making

of the film. "I want the technicians and directors of Hollywood to experience us and I am looking forward to working with them," he stated. He went on to mention how the world of cinema is coming together and people are recognising the potential from across, thanks to the new exposure to different kinds of cinema. He expressed his gratitude and happiness on winning the Best Original Song for Naatu Naatu.

G-20's First Infrastructure Working Group Meeting in Pune on January 16-17, 2023



Chennai, Jan 14 2023: The first G-20 Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) meeting under G20 India Presidency is scheduled to be held during 16th-17th January 2023 in Pune. The forum will bring together the IWG member countries, guest countries and international organisations invited by India to discuss the 2023 Infrastructure Agenda under the Indian G20 Presidency. The meeting will be hosted by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India along with Australia and Brazil as the co-chairs.

The outcomes of the Infrastructure Working Group feed into the G20 Finance Track priorities and promote Infrastructure Development.

The Indian G20 Presidency's theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' sets the tone for the 2023 Infrastructure Agenda under the 2023 Indian G20 Presidency. The theme underlines the message of equitable growth and aptly ties up with the central agenda of the discussions which is building resilient, inclusive and sustainable urban infrastructure.

In the Pune meeting, discussions will focus on the agenda for the Infrastructure Working Group under the Indian Presidency. The flagship priority to be discussed in this meeting is "Financing Cities of Tomorrow: Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable". The theme will focus on various facets of making cities economic centres of growth,

financing urban infrastructure, building future-ready urban infrastructure, directing fiscal investments for unlocking private financing for energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable infrastructure and mitigating social imbalances.

On the side-lines, the Pune meeting will also be complemented by a High-Level Workshop on "Financing of Cities of Tomorrow". The Workshop will discuss relevant themes pertaining to technical and managerial capacity needs to build the Cities of Tomorrow, Investors' considerations in increasing private financing and the financial capacity needs of Cities of Tomorrow.

The G20 meeting was preceded by a number of Jan-Bhagidari initiatives by the Pune Municipal Corporation and other Pune city stakeholders,

including lectures on G-20, seminar on 'Making Cities Future Ready and Importance of Urban Development', a G-20 cyclothon, a motorbike rally on National Youth Day, swachhata drive and model G-20 discussions in the educational institutions. The initiative aims to involve people from all walks of life in the whole discussions happening around the G20 meeting.

During India's G-20 Presidency, the G-20 Infrastructure Working Group will be used as a forum to discuss the challenges that cities face and opportunities that cities will bring in the near future and chart out a course that makes cities more liveable.

The Ministry of Finance will steer the G20 Infrastructure agenda to ensure that the G-20 acts as a global prime mover to envision new ideas and accelerate collective action.

AR Rahman on his birthday announces the launch of the new digital platform KATRAAR.

Chennai, Jan 14 2023: It's a digital music platform that enables artists to list, engage and monetize their creations i.e) music, arts, etc.. directly to their users. AR Rahman will be releasing some of his exclusive creations through the Katraar platform. Many international standard creations will be in this platform soon. The



platform is being partnership with the will be deployed on the developed in HBAR foundation and Hedera Network.

Coal Ministry Offers Relaxation in Revision of Performance Bank Guarantee

Chennai, Jan 14 2023: The Ministry of Coal had launched the 6th round and 2nd attempt of 5th round of commercial coal mines' auction on November 03, 2022 for 141 coal mines. Considering the demand from the industry and to promote Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), the Ministry has decided that going forward the first revision in the Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) would be done upon grant of mine opening

permission for the respective coal mines. As per the provisions of the tender document, the Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) to be submitted for each successfully auctioned coal mine is to be revised annually based on the National Coal Index (NCI) for the month of April in the beginning of the year. Since, NCI has become double since the launch of first commercial coal mine auctions in 2020, several representations

were received from the industry for relaxation in PBG revision provisions. It was requested that unprecedented increase in NCI has led to significant financial burden on successful bidders, whose mines are in the pre-operationalization stage, impacting fund availability for mine operationalization activities. This investor friendly initiative is expected to reduce the

financial burden on the bidders during the process of operationalisation of the coal mines and is expected to enhance participation from the bidders in the commercial coal mines' auctions. In lieu of the same and to effectuate this amendment in the ongoing round of auction, the Ministry has extended the auction bid due date to January 30, 2023 from its earlier bid due date of January 13, 2023.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES ANNOUNCES DIVERSE LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR UNFCCC CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP28) FOCUSED ON RAISING GLOBAL CLIMATE AMBITION

Chennai, Jan 14 2023: The latest Pongal release 'Varisu' marks the first-ever movie of Thalapathy Vijay to be made simultaneously in Tamil and Telugu. The film has witnessed phenomenal reception among the fans and family audiences to a greater extent. The film is directed by Vamshi Paidipally, who earlier made a feel-good entertaining movie titled 'Thozha'. He has now crafted a beautiful family entertainer for actor Vijay, which is produced by the Telugu Film industry's leading producer Dil Raju. When it comes to Vijay's movies, each and every actor gets recognized for their screen presence, and gain a good response from the audiences and fans. Significantly, Varisu features a huge star cast comprising Sarathkumar, Prabhu, Shaam, Prakash Raj, Telugu actor Srikanth, Yogi Babu, and many more prominent actors. In particular, actor Shaam, who plays Vijay's elder brother appears throughout the film alongside Vijay. He is now appreciated for his commendable performance. Overwhelmed by the heart-warming response to his performance and the grand success of this movie, actor Shaam shares his memorable moments working with actor Vijay in 'Varisu'. He says, "20 years ago, I had shared the screen with Vijay sir for a single scene in Kushi, and now, I am really glad to be acting with him in the movie 'Varisu' as his brother. Since, the film has senior actors like Prakash Raj sir, Prabhu sir, Sarathkumar sir, and Srikanth sir, I feel I am the most junior in the Varisu family. Following 'Master' & 'Beast', Vijay sir wanted to be a part of a family entertainer and accordingly listened to the script narrated by director Vamshi Paidipally. He got impressed as soon as he listened to the script, and instantly gave a nod for the project. I learned a lot from Vijay sir during the shooting of this film. He takes care of every single co-star on the sets



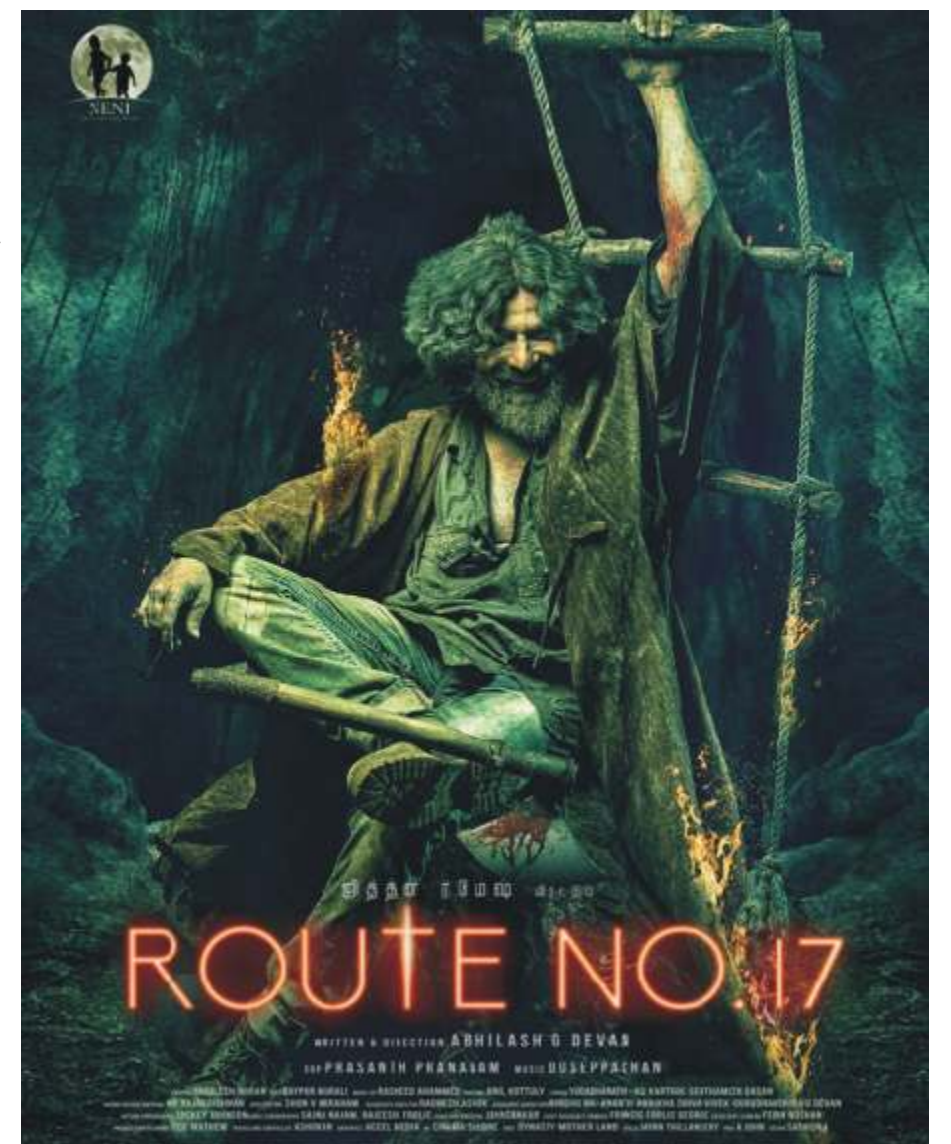
without any ego. His respect for everyone is so unconditional. I have never seen him speaking badly about any actor on the sets. What was so surprising is the fact that I never saw him using a mobile phone during the shoot. Even if there was a situation to call someone on phone, he would do it only during the lunch break. I was strongly influenced by this nature and even started avoiding my phone during the shoot. He would jovially interact with everyone on the sets, and at other times, would be preparing silently for the forthcoming scene shoots. He wouldn't go for any rehearsals. He would interact a bit and discuss about our combination scenes, and sets out for the take immediately. That's when, all of us on the sets would get awe-stricken by his magic before the camera. Actress Rashmika Mandanna is a national sensation and she would be seen energetic all the time on the sets. Since she has a great liking for Vijay sir, she would keep admiring him all the time. She used to feel all those moments were totally unbelievable for her as she never thought she would get an opportunity to work with Vijay sir. Prakash Raj sir would make sure that the lunch is prepared from his house for all his co-stars when he is shooting for the film. He is a powerful artiste, who can emote through his expressive eyes. On the other hand, myself and Sarath Kumar sir are regular to gym. So when we had

work with Ajith sir in any movie, both of us have met several times. Both our daughters are schooling together, and we would meet each other during the school events. Ajith sir is someone, who regularly takes part in all his children's school and educational programs. He is a great example and inspiration on how a parent should be concerned about their children's education. I would sometimes attend and miss the school related events, and my wife would go for it. She would come back and tell me that when a person like Ajith sir is able to keep aside his busy schedule and take part in such occasions, why am I unable to do it. I have got scolding from my wife several times because of Ajith sir. When I told Vijay sir that Ajith sir's Thunivu is getting released along with Varisu for Pongal, he was so happy to watch both movies. His positive approach was so amazing. You all would get surprised by a fact. I was initially approached to play the villain role in Ajith sir's Thunivu movie, but I couldn't take it up as the shooting dates of both the movies clashed, and couldn't be adjusted. I thank director Vinoth for considering me to play the particular role in this movie. Since Vamshi sir hails from Telugu film industry, there were many assumptions that Varisu would be a movie with Telugu flavour. However, now they have changed their perception towards the film, after watching it. Vamshi is someone, who loves Tamil so much. He would interact with everyone on the sets in Tamil alone. He created every single scene keeping Vijay fans in mind. He has done a great job in favour of Vijay fans than the directors of Vijay sir's previous movies. It's great to see that the fans are celebrating his efforts now. I am now acting in a movie directed by Vijay Milton, and another movie as the solo lead character. The announcements will be soon made by the respective production houses."

A First-of-its-Kind 5500 SQ FT underground set work of a gigantic cave erected for the 'Route No.17' movie. Jithan Ramesh to appear in the lead role with three different get-ups for 'Route No.17' Route No.17 - A Revenge Story of 30 Years Route No.17 - Where the Trespassers get mysteriously killed



Chennai, Jan 14 2023: Dr. Amar Ramachandran is producing the film 'Route No. 17' in his banner of Neni Productions directed by Abhilash G Devan, a former associate of critically acclaimed Malayalam filmmaker Thambi kannamthanam. Besides, he is the director of 'Thai Nilam', bankrolled by the same production house that has won 14 International Awards. Jithan Ramesh is performing the lead role in this movie 'Route No. 17', and Anju Pandiya is essaying the female lead character. Earlier, she was an air hostess and is debuting in films through this movie. While Hareesh Peradi is playing the antagonist's character in this movie, Aruvi fame Madhan is appearing in another major role. Besides, Amar Ramchandran, Nihal, Akil Prabhakaran, Jennifer, Bindhu, Kasi Viswanathan, Titus, and many prominent actors are a part of this star cast. Malayalam film industry's most-celebrated music director, Ouseppachan is composing music for this film. Yugabharathi, Ku. Karthik and Kavignar Senthamizhdasan are penning lyrics for the songs. Jackey Johnson of Telugu blockbuster Drishyam fame is choreographing action sequences. Rajakrishnan and his team, who worked for Kanthara are taking care of Sound Graphics & Sound Design. Abhilash, director of this film says. "The film's title signifies an isolated path inside a forest. The path that was open 30 years ago is completely closed now. The trespassers, who choose to travel along this path, are mysteriously found dead on the same night. The mysterious events are interwoven with a heart-wrenching emotional backstory. The film is a tale of revenge set in three different periods between the years 1990 & 2020. Significantly, Jithan Ramesh is



appearing in three different looks according to the script. In particular, one of the looks demanded him to appear as a 90Kg person, which is created by the National award-winning Makeup artist Rasheed Ahamad. Akhilesh Mohan, the editor of Prithviraj-Mohanlal duo's Bro Daddy and forthcoming project 'Lucifer 2' is editing this movie. It is noteworthy that he is popular in Bollywood for his sleek editing of Ranbir Kapoor's action sequences in all his movies. Cinematographer Prashanth Pranavam, who cranked the camera for his previous is handling the cinematography for this movie. The film posed lots of challenges for the DOP as the film was to be shown in three different periods and complex locations like caves, barren lands, and dense forests. And he has done remarkable work by showcasing different shades and tones. Many were spellbound over the visuals even before the DI process and

appreciated it. We have introduced Poet Senthamizh Dasan as the lyricist for this movie. Swetha Mohan has crooned a beautiful soothing lullaby song for this film. We are confident that she will be conferred with a national award for this song. Furthermore, Reetha Thyagarajan has rendered her voice for a couple of songs titled 'Pirango' and 'Love Making'. The film is set against the backdrops of the region located between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka like Gundalpet, Thenkasi, and Kadaya Nalloor. Furthermore, an underground set work of 5500Sq Ft was created, where a 28-day schedule of shooting was done. So far, none have erected such a unique set work for any movies. We created this set work at Gannavam in Andhra Pradesh, where the shooting of Baahubali was held.

The general public would visit the place only to witness the grandeur of our set work. Apart from

these locations, we shot for 10 days at dense forests across Tenkasi that had frequent visits of Elephants and Tigers. After 6 PM, people would never approach this place, but we had the shooting done there every day till 9 PM. All our shooting days were like a festival, like going on a fun trip. RouteNo17 First Look was Revealed by The Charming actor Jiiva, And the second look was revealed by Actor Arya yesterday. Its now viral in Everywhere. We are planning to release the movie trailer in January 2023, and the theatrical release in April." Technical Crew Production: Amar Ramachandran Direction: Abilash G Devan Music: Ouseppachan Cinematography: Prashanth Pranavam Editing: Akhilesh Mohan Sound Effects - Kanthara Team Sound Design - Rajakrishnan (Kanthara Team) Action - Jackey Johnson Makeup - Rasheed Ahamad PRO - A. John

VST Tillers Tractors Ltd, Malur Plant wins IMexI Commitment Prize

Chennai, Jan 14 2023: VST Tillers Tractors Ltd, one of India's leading farm equipment manufacturers, today announced that their Malur Plant in Karnataka has been conferred the IMexI Commitment Prize 2022. The recognition is accorded in appreciation of the VST's verified efforts towards building a sustainable improvement-based culture of operational excellence.

Mr. Anantha Krishna, Plant Head & Mr. Akash Diwakarrao Somkuwar, Quality Head, VST Tillers Tractors Ltd received the award at a ceremony held in Mumbai.

Mr. Bheem Reddy, Vice President- SFM, VST Tillers Tractors Ltd said "we are thrilled to receive IMexI Commitment Prize 2022 for operational excellence from Kaizen Hansei, a strategic partner of the Kaizen Institute, India. At VST Tillers Tractors we are always committed to achieving operational excellence in every aspect of manufacturing. It is our years of concerted effort in implementing lean operational practices,



disciplined execution, and domain expertise that is enabling us to ensure the highest quality and efficiency for our customers. Also, continuous improvement at every level of the organization fosters an engaged culture of innovation for our employees."

Mr. Akash

Diwakarrao Somkuwar, Quality Head, VST Tillers Tractors Ltd said, "it is necessary for a company to constantly introspect and improve to be competitive in an ever-changing and disruptive industry. We believe that to be future-ready, we need to be curious and courageous to challenge ourselves. IMexI

Commitment Prize is a testimony to our undeterred focus on achieving operational excellence. The assessment by Kaizen Hansei will help us in a great way in the coming years to upgrade and upskill.

The Integrated Manufacturing Excellence (IMexI) Initiative by Kaizen Hansei, a strategic partner of the Kaizen Institute, India, is designed to be a merit-driven initiative, with the Operational Excellence aspirations of the industry participants in mind.

The prize is conferred after a thorough assessment of processes and practices at VST's Malur Plant that is being adopted by manufacturing companies globally in their journey to be future-ready. The assessment focuses on the adoption of the tools and technologies that are most relevant to the plant, for delivering strategic value in terms of improved financial performance and enhanced customer satisfaction by building smart products, services, and processes at an operational level.

Refex Group Celebrates 'Road Safety Week'



Chennai, Jan 14 2023: Refex Group launched a 'Road Safety Drive' stressing the need to follow all traffic rules and drive safely. The three-day event kicked off on 11th Jan. at the Nandanam Road junction with Refex employees holding placards driving the road safety message as our nation is also celebrating the National Road Safety Week 2023 from 11th Jan to 17th Jan. According to statistics, in 2022, there have been a total of 1,55,622 deaths due to road accidents as were registered in India and close to 59.7 percent of such fatalities occurred due to over-speeding. Refex Group, as a

business group that truly cares, would like to stress that the value of every life on the road and the responsibility to drive safely lies with everyone.

Health and Safety of our stakeholders is one of the significant aspects of Refex Group's Environment, Society and Governance (ESG) initiatives. The Group believes in value creation through the triple bottom line (people, planet and profit) approach and strongly believes that adopting impactful ESG practices is turning out and will continue to be a key differentiator for a sustainable world. The commitment to be ESG

compliant will play a key role in the success of our business and our Company will take all necessary steps towards it. As a Group, we are also focusing on bringing about awareness to the health & safety of the general public and are taking steps to give back to our society as it is one of the key areas.

Commenting on the initiative, Anil Jain, Managing Director, Refex Group said, "The Group strives to optimize our contribution to a sustainable future while meeting our business goals. Future-focused, Refex has been steadily resolving to become an

ESG-compliant and carbon-neutral company across its businesses. We believe, going forward, two things will determine the success of the businesses - continuous innovation to adapt to the shifting paradigm of value creation and our commitment to be ESG champions. Giving back to society has been a major focus area for us and this is the reason for the current 'Road Safety Week' initiative where we are trying to create awareness amongst the general public and to sensitize them about the need to follow all safety rules for the safety and security of the society at large."

MAROON BERET CEREMONIAL PARADE AT GARUD REGIMENTAL TRAINING CENTRE AIR FORCE STATION CHANDINAGAR

Chennai, Jan 14 2023: To mark the successful completion of training of Air Force Special Forces 'Garud' Commandos, Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade was held on 14 January 2023 at Garud Regimental Training Centre (GRTC), Air Force Station Chandinagar. Air Marshal Surat Singh AVSM VM VSM was the Reviewing officer for the parade.



The Reviewing Officer congratulated the Garuds on successful completion of their training. He emphasised

the importance of rigorous training and honing of Special Forces skills to keep pace with the changing security scenario. He presented Maroon Beret, Garud Proficiency Badge and

Special Forces Tabs to the successful Garud trainees and gave away trophies to the meritorious trainees. The best all rounder trophy was presented to AC Vikram Davar.

As part of the ceremony, Garuds demonstrated combat firing skill, hostage rescue, firing drill, assault explosives, obstacle crossing drill, wall climbing, slithering, rappelling and military martial arts.

The Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade is a significant event that marks the culmination of an extremely demanding training schedule. These newly passed out trainees enter the elite Garud force and add strength to the operational capability of IAF.

Transformation of Food Corporation of India to be done on a fast track mode: Shri Piyush Goyal at 59th Foundation Day of FCI

Chennai, Jan 14 2023: The transformation of Food Corporation of India (FCI) should be done on a fast track mode so that the organization can continue to help the people, the poor and the farmers of the country. This was stated by Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Textiles and Commerce & Industry while delivering the inaugural address at the 59th Foundation Day of FCI here today.

In his speech, Shri Goyal directed the Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution to monitor the transformation of FCI and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) every week and to update him on

the status on a fortnightly basis. He said strict action has to be taken against the officers who do not cooperate with or delay the transformation process.

Taking about the ongoing investigation against alleged cases of corruption in FCI, Shri Goyal said that it's a wake-up call for the organisation and assured that no one found involved in corrupt practices will be spared. He said FCI will follow the principle of Zero tolerance for corruption.

Shri Goyal directed the Secretary to institutionalise a mechanism wherein whistleblowers may be rewarded. He called out to all officers and staff of FCI to report any incident of

corruption.

Shri Goyal praised the way FCI carried out the world's largest food supply chain system, especially during the pandemic to ensure seamless supply of foodgrains under the "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana" (PMGKAY). He said that despite Covid pandemic, no one slept hungry in the country.

He said that India has set a global example in the areas of food security, strengthening economic scenario, controlling inflation and others.

Shri Goyal mentioned that the rice procurement figures for the year are good and he looked forward to a robust wheat

procurement in the coming season as well.

Virtually attending the event, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ms. Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti applauded the remarkable job undertaken by FCI during the pandemic by ensuring sufficient supply of food grains in every part of the country especially to vulnerable sections of the society under PM's visionary scheme of PMGKAY.

Secretary DFPD, Shri Sanjeev Chopra was also present at the event and directed CMD FCI, Shri Ashok KK Meena to ensure a system of eliminating corruption and providing an efficient and transparent service to the people.

CSIR-NIScPR Celebrates its 2nd Foundation Day Prof. B.N. Jagatap Delivers Foundation Day Lecture



Chennai, Jan 14 2023: CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR), New Delhi celebrated its 2nd foundation on 13th January 2023. NIScPR is one of the constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR). CSIR-NIScPR came into existence on 14th January 2021 with the merger of two internationally acclaimed CSIR Institutions namely CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR) and National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR-NISTADS). Since then, CSIR-NIScPR has been able to direct its

activities towards becoming a globally respected institution in the domain of Science Policy research and Science Communication, using the rich legacy spanning around 100 years and a robust inherent capabilities of erstwhile institutions. Through its efforts the new institution has taken big strides to promote Science, Technology & Innovation (ST&I) Policy Studies and Science Communication among diverse stakeholders and act as a bridge at the interface of science, technology, industry and society.

In the Foundation Day Function, Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR discussed the strength and rich legacy of NIScPR in her welcome

address. She further added, "We must keep on accelerating our activities to make those tangible, visible and fruitful to the society".

Prof. B. N. Jagatap, Senior Professor, Department of Physics, IIT Bombay & Chairperson, Research Council, CSIR-NIScPR delivered the Foundation day lecture. He illustrated evolution of the Indian education system from English Education Act 1835 to National Education Policy 2020. His lecture was thought provoking as well as inspiring.

On this special occasion, a number of scientific publications were released. Special Issue of the Journal of Scientific & Industrial Research (JSIR) focused on 'Industry 4.0: A Way Forward for Self-Reliance and

Sustainability' was released. TRL Assessment Bulletin, a book titled 'Science & Technology Quiz: Celebrating AzaadiKaAmritMahotsav', a Flip-book titled 'Treasure of Indian Traditions' was also released in presence of dignitaries of the function. The names of winners of the SVASTIK Photography Contest were announced on the occasion. This competition was organized in the year 2022.

During the Foundation Day Celebration, Ph.D. students of CSIR-NIScPR showcased their research and findings through the poster presentation. Dr. Yogesh Suman, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR proposed the vote of thanks.