

PM lauds winners of Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has lauded the winners of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP). The Government of India has been conferring the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to children for their exceptional achievement in six categories namely innovation, social service, scholastic, sports, art and culture and bravery. 11 children from across the country under different categories of Bal Shakti Puraskar have been selected for PMRBP-2023. The awardees include 6 boys and 5 girls, belonging to 11 States and UTs.

In a series of tweets, the Prime Minister said: "Had an excellent interaction with those who have been conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar."

"Proud of Aadithya Suresh, who has shown remarkable resilience. He was diagnosed with a bone disorder but he is not one to have a low morale. He pursued singing and is now a talented singer. He has performed in over 500 programmes."

"M. Gauravi Reddy is a prolific dancer. She has been performing at various programmes and is very passionate about Indian culture. Delighted that she has been conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar."

"My young friend Sambhab Mishra is a very creative youngster. He has numerous articles to his credit and



is also the recipient of prestigious fellowships. I congratulate him on being conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar."

"Shreya Bhattacharjee, a Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardee, is a tabla artist who has a record for playing the Tabla for the

longest duration. She has also been honoured at forums like the Cultural Olympiad of Performing Arts. Had a very good interaction with her."

"I am proud of Rohan Ramchandra Bahir, who jumped into a river and saved a woman from drowning. He displayed great bravery and fearlessness.

Congratulations to him on being conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar. Best wishes to him for his future endeavours."

"The phenomenally talented Aditya Pratap Singh Chauhan has been awarded the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for his strides in

innovation. He has been working on developing a cost effective technology for ensuring clean water."

"Celebrating innovation among the youth! Rishi Shiv Prasanna is passionate about developing Apps. He is equally interested in science as well as popularising it among

the youth. Happy to have met this Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar winner today."

"Youngsters like Anoushka Jolly have shown remarkable compassion and innovation. She is diligently working on an App and other online programmes to spread awareness against bullying. Glad that she is now a Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardee."

"We are committed to popularising different sports and emphasising fitness. Hanaya Nisar is a Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardee who has represented India in various martial arts competitions. She has won various laurels. Proud of her accomplishments."

"Shauryajit Ranjitkumar Khaire won immense admiration for his success in the 2022 National Games. He is a powerhouse of talent when it comes to Mallakhamb. I congratulate him for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar and wish him the very best for his upcoming endeavours."

"Meet Kumari Kolagatla Alana Meenakshi, a distinguished chess player and now, a Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardee. Her successes in chess have made her shine in various competitions globally. Her accomplishments will certainly inspire upcoming chess players."

Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla inaugurates the two-day Agriculture Festival-Exhibition and Training Program at Kota, Rajasthan

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Rajasthan, has organized a two-day Agriculture Festival-Exhibition and Training at Dussehra Ground in Kota, Rajasthan on 24th-25th January 2023 to make Kota Division an advanced and a leading player in the field of agriculture and rural development. The exhibition was inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla and Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Kailash Chowdhary.

Shri Lalchand Kataria, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Government of Rajasthan and Shri Udayal Anjana, Minister of State, Cooperation Department, Government of Rajasthan were also present at the inauguration ceremony. Apart from them senior officials from Central Government, State Government and Indian Council of Agricultural Research and around 15,000 farmers, agri startups, corporates bankers, extension

workers and employees of private agricultural institutions participated in the first day of the event.

Shri Samuel Praveen Kumar, Joint Secretary (Extension), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India delivered the welcome address. Shri Dinesh Kumar, Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Rajasthan shared the details of the programme.

Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla said that India is an agricultural country. Our country is at the forefront in food production. In the changing agricultural landscape, we should resolve to use contemporary practices, and using innovation, we should aim to become a frontline country in the world. He said that AatmaNirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) will be realized when our farmers use new agricultural practices, innovation, value addition, more crop per drop etc. Shri Om Birla stressed on the use of horticulture, startups and drones. He said that through Startups, we have worked to bring down production cost in some instances, and in other cases we have increased production,

at some places we have set up food processing units and at other places we have achieved value addition.

Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Shri Kailash Chowdhary, while addressing the farmers, said that keeping in view the global scenario of the agriculture sector, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has implemented several important schemes for the progress of Indian agriculture. This is a proof of dedication towards farmers and efforts being made to increase their income. An unprecedented increase has been made in the budgetary allocation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The combined budget allocation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the year 2013-14 was Rs 30,223.88 crore, which has been hiked by more than 4.59 times to Rs 1,38,920.93 crore in the year 2022-23.

Shri Lalchand Kataria, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Minister, Government of Rajasthan said that to improve the financial condition of the farmer,

there is a need for new technology, innovation, animal husbandry, traditional farming, all of which has been displayed here. Through the startups, farmers will get information about how to store, how to do farming with less water, how to plough the field with less cost.

Shri Udayal Anjana, Minister of State, Cooperative Department, Government of Rajasthan said that both Agriculture Department and Cooperative Department are complementary to each other. Farmers should be educated by organizing such fairs, which will strengthen their economic condition. Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla and Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Shri Kailash Chowdhary also inaugurated the drone demonstration by flying the drone themselves.

In this exhibition, 150 stalls have been set up to provide farmers with updated information related to agriculture. Keeping in view the important role of startups in the field of agriculture, 75 stalls of Startups have been set up in this exhibition,

which is one of the main features of the exhibition. Information about the schemes being run by the Central and State Governments for the farmers is being provided through the various stalls set up in the exhibition. Along with this, private sector companies / organizations related to the supply of various inputs for agriculture have also displayed their products.

After the formal inauguration of the two-day agriculture festival, exhibition and training programme, parallel farmer training sessions were organized in three training rooms on modern and scientific agricultural techniques on the subjects of agriculture,



horticulture, animal husbandry and dairying. Two training programmes each were organized in all the three auditoriums this afternoon. Farmers were taught the nuances of remunerative farming by various subject experts. Six training programmes

were organized on contribution of Quality Seeds in crop production, advanced cultivation of guava and amla in Farmers Producer Organization Kisan Bazar, Kota division, Climate Smart Farming Practices, Sheep Farming for additional income and

importance and use of Nano Urea in Sustainable Farming etc.

Vote of thanks was delivered by Smt. S. Rukmani, Joint Secretary (M&T), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers, Government of India.

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Namami Gange Organises Seminar on 'Millets for Life: Developing Climate Resilient Local Communities in The Ganga Basin'

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) organised a one-day national level seminar on 'Millets for LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment): Developing Climate Resilient Local Communities in the Ganga Basin' at India International Centre in New Delhi today. The seminar connected experts involved with several aspects of millet cultivation and marketing promotion, including policymakers, academicians and practitioners. Extensive deliberations were conducted on various strategies to promote natural farming and sustainable development in the Ganga Basin. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared 2023 as International Year of Millets (IYM). Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has called for a mass movement in the country to promote Millet and urged to promote nutrition campaign through Millets.

The seminar provided direction towards promoting millet-based natural farming practices among the local communities

DG, NMCG calls Ganga Praharis 'Brand Ambassadors' of Namami Gange programme

We have to address the challenge of monetizing the cultivation of Millets so that more and more farmers make the shift-DG, NMCG

We have to change



our perspective and shift to a sustainable living rooted in the traditional wisdom of our own country-CEO, FSSAI

The seminar was aimed at initiating discussions and formulating strategies towards adopting millet as the means of transformation to impart sustainable development and promotion of natural farming practices in the Ganga basin. The seminar provided direction towards promoting millet-based natural farming practices among the local communities. It also gave an understanding of instilling skills for millet-based alternative livelihoods to enhance local incomes and achieve the goal of LiFE. Moreover, the seminar successfully ensured that Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) are being exerted through converging various government initiatives at the grass root levels. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared 2023 as International Year of Millets (IYM). Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has called for a mass movement in the country to promote millet in view of the International year of Millets 2023.

Shri G. Asok Kumar,

DG, NMCG began his address by expressing gratitude towards Ganga Praharis for their support towards Ganga rejuvenation. Referring to the United Nations recognition of Namami Gange as one of the one of the 'Top 10 World Restoration Flagships to Revive the Natural World' he credited the Ganga Praharis for the achievement and called them the 'Brand Ambassadors' of Namami Gange programme. Shri Kumar emphasized on the importance of millets which form an integral part of the core diet taken by people residing in the villages and is part of the Indian tradition. "We have forgotten the traditional wisdom of our own country because of the tendency of some among us to blindly ape the west. It is time to go back to our roots," he added, referring to the Independence Day speech of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in which he said that Pran of Amrit Kaal - Goal of developed India, is to remove any trace of colonial mindset, take pride in our roots, unity and sense of duty among citizens.

"We have to address the challenge of monetizing the cultivation of Millets so that more and more farmers make the shift. We have to make the 'Millet Campaign'

profitable for farmers'," Shri Kumar said, adding, "We will try to make the Ganga Basin a Millet Basin in the coming few years." He also mentioned the 'Sahi Fasal' campaign, launched in 2019 by the National Water Mission to nudge the farmers to grow less water-intensive, economically remunerative and environmentally friendly crops.

CEO of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Shri Ganji Kamala Vardhana Rao emphasized the changing consumption patterns of people in India and called for eating habits that are based on the nutritious value of the food we eat. "We have to change our perspective and shift to a sustainable living rooted in the traditional wisdom of our own country," he added.

Food Scientist, Dr. Khader Valli termed Millets as superfood that is available in 2800 varieties on the planet. He emphasized that Millets are important for sustainable development as it immensely improves our immunity due to the rich fibre content. "Millets is our traditional food which used to be the source of essential nutrients. The other grains prevalent in India are imposed in one way or the other," he said, adding, "Millets are also important from the point of view of water conservation as they consume very less water as compared to other crops." He said that India must focus on production of Millets on a large scale and go back to the traditional eating habits to remain healthy.

PM interacts with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) awardees at his residence, 7 Lok Kalyan Marg, earlier today.

Prime Minister presented souvenirs to all the awardees and discussed their achievements on a one-to-one basis, which was followed by interaction with the entire group. He engaged in an open-hearted interaction in an informal setting. The children asked him various questions about the challenges they face

and sought his guidance on a variety of topics.

Prime Minister suggested the awardees to start by solving small problems, gradually build capacity, enhance capability and develop confidence to solve bigger problems as they go ahead in life. Discussing the issue of mental health and problems faced by children, he talked about tackling stigma around the issue and the important role of family in tackling such issues. Several other topics were also taken up by the Prime Minister during the interaction,

including the benefits of playing Chess, taking up art & culture as a career, research & innovation, spirituality, among others.

The Government of India has been conferring the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to children for their exceptional achievement in six categories namely Innovation, Social Service, Scholastic, Sports, Art & Culture and Bravery. Each awardee is given a medal, a cash prize of Rs. 1 Lakh and certificate. This year, 11 children from across the

country, under different categories of Bal Shakti Puraskar, have been selected for PMRBP-2023. The awardees, belonging to 11 States and UTs, include 6 boys and 5 girls, namely: Aadithya Suresh, M. Gauravi Reddy, Shreya Bhattacharjee, Sambhab Mishra, Rohan Ramchandra Bahir, Aditya Pratap Singh Chauhan, Rishi Shiv Prasanna, Anoushka Jolly, Hanaya Nisar, Kolagatla Alana Meenakshi and Shauryajit Ranjithkumar Khaire.

Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the valedictory function of India International Science Festival in Bhopal

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: The India International Science Festival concluded today in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. On this occasion, the Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that science and technology are developing rapidly in the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The application of Science and Technology has increased in every field. This sector is one of the priorities for the Central Government.

Union Minister Shri Tomar said that Vigyan Bharti, State Government and Central Government together provided an efficient platform for students, scientists and start-ups from across the country through this event. A large number of students and youth were invited to the festival. He said that our country is a young country. Youth energy is the biggest strength of our country. As Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has termed it, - our country is going through



Amritkaal. This is the time when the country can fulfill the biggest expectations and goals, drawing on the strength of the young population. For this, the Government of India is promoting science and technology. Shri Tomar said that when we came into Government, the budget for Science & Technology was around Rs 2,000 crore, which Prime Minister Shri Modi increased to more than Rs 6,000 crore. The priority of the government can also be understood from the fact that the then former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had given the slogan of Jai Jawan-Jai Kisan, and later Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee included Science and given the slogan Jai Jawan-Jai Kisan-Jai Vigyan, now Prime

Minister Shri Modi has included Anusandhan and now it has become Jai Jawan-Jai Kisan-Jai Vigyan and Jai Anusandhan.

Shri Tomar said that science has a great impact upon our lives. Today its utility can be felt all over the world including in our country. India also has the ability to achieve a position in today's competitive world, but to reach there and be able to go ahead, we should know the scientific importance of even the smallest thing. Only then we will be able to go ahead in the world competition.

Shri Tomar said that today no field is untouched by science and technology. In the agriculture sector too, due to technology, work has become easier, losses are being reduced and time is being saved.

The use of drone technology is being made accessible to farmers. Farmers will get huge benefits through Digital Agriculture Mission, he said. Based on the way research is being done in the agriculture sector, we can say that in the coming days, India will increase its production and productivity by using technology. Along with fulfilling the country's needs, we will also be successful in discharging our responsibilities toward the world.

Madhya Pradesh' Science and Technology Minister Shri Omprakash Saklecha also addressed the function. On this occasion, Union Science and Technology Secretary Dr. Chandrashekhar, Secretary, Department of Space, Shri S.K. Somnath, Vigyan Bharti General Secretary Shri Sudhir Bhadauria, Madhya Pradesh Secretary Shri kunj Srivastava, Dr. Sudhanshu Vritti and Dr. Anil Kothari were among dignitaries present.

Pariksha pe Charcha is a unique and popular initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi which has enhanced students' self confidence, helped them manage stress and be healthy and fit: Dharmendra Pradhan

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan today addressed a press conference ahead of the upcoming popular programme Pariksha Pe Charcha 2023 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Pariksha Pe Charcha has been conceptualized by the Prime Minister wherein students, parents, teachers interact with him on various topics related to life and exams. This year's edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha will be held at 11 AM on 27th January 2023 at Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi. The programme will be telecast live on Door Darshan and other major TV channels.

While briefing media, Shri Pradhan spoke about the importance of Pariksha Pe Charcha in helping students beat exam stress, strengthening Pariksha Pe Charcha as a mass movement and the quantum jump in student participation this year. He said that this unique and popular initiative by Prime



Minister Shri Narendra Modi has enhanced students' self confidence, helped them manage stress and be healthy and fit. About 2400 students shall benefit from the live words of wisdom of Prime Minister in the Talkatora Stadium. At the same time, crores of students will watch the programme live from their respective schools, he added.

The Minister informed that about 38.80 Lakh registrations have taken place this year, out of which more than 16 lakhs are from State Boards. This is more than two times higher than the registrations (15.73 lakh) which took place during PPC 2022. The registrations have been done from 155 countries. The Minister also informed that about 20 lakh questions

have been received and NCERT has shortlisted questions on various topics ranging from Family pressure, stress management, prevention of unfair means, how to stay healthy and fit, career selection etc.

He said around 80 winners of Kala Utsav competition and 102 students and teachers from across the country shall also witness the main event on 27th January 2023 as special guests. The participant students will be taken to places of national importance like the Rajghat, Sadaiv Atal, Prime Minister's Museum, Kartavya Path etc to make them acquainted with our rich legacy. The Winners of Kala Utsav and students and teachers of States shall also witness Republic Day parade on 26th

January 2023 and Beating Retreat on 29th January 2023, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan disclosed.

The Minister highlighted that the Prime Minister authored the book 'Exam Warriors' in 2018. Considering the phenomenal success of this book, now it is being published in 11 Indian languages i.e. Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. Hindi & English revised editions have also been published, he added.

The Minister informed that a painting competition as precursor to PPC-2023 was also organised in 500 districts across the country on 23rd January on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. After paying tributes to Netaji, around 50000 students from KV, NV, State Boards and CBSE affiliated schools participated in the competition. The theme for paintings are the mantras given by the Prime Minister in 'Exam Warriors' book.

KFC INDIA AND HERO INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE UNITE FANS IN CHENNAI WITH 'KFC STREET FOOTBALL'

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: We're in the midst of the football season and excitement is at its peak with the on-going Hero Indian Super League. But there's more! Football enthusiasts as well as KFC fans can 'score big' this season as your fav brand of crispy chicken – KFC – and your fav sport of football come together for the first time. Announcing an iconic partnership, KFC India has joined hands with the Hero Indian Super League (ISL) as the official partner this season. As a part of this collaboration, football fans will get a chance to enjoy the first-ever KFC Street Football – a unique platform for young football enthusiasts across the country to showcase their talent to millions of viewers.



freestyle moves, football enthusiasts will get a chance to be part of the action on ground. Viewers are also in for a 'Bucket-sized' surprise during the match. So, practice your dribbles and Let's Football, Let's KFC this sporting season!"

KFC Street Football will be scouting for players with some cool moves & great footwork across 5 cities of Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata & Kochi. Indian football legend Baichung Bhutia was present at the inaugural match in Bangalore and cemented this association while announcing the biggest and most anticipated football championship in the country. The KFC Street Football League was unveiled in Chennai at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium. Rapper, Dacaly was present on-ground to add to the spirit of the sport.

Talking about the association, Indian Football phenom Baichung Bhutia said

"India has an unexplored reservoir of football talent, especially at the grassroots level. With KFC's partnership with the Hero Indian Super League and the introduction of KFC Street Football we are looking at the first-ever platform in the country that allows young football enthusiasts to showcase their talent to a national audience. I am thrilled to announce this unique collaboration and look forward to an amazing gaming season this year."

Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) spokesperson added, "We are pleased to partner with KFC India for KFC Street Football and the Hero Indian Super League. At FSDL, we constantly look at ways to provide football talent and fans a platform to express themselves through a large platform. We are sure that this association will amplify the popularity and growth of the Indian football ecosystem."

Since December, football fans across the country have been asked to post online videos showcasing their footwork and freestyle moves using the hashtag #KFCStreetFootball. That's not all, spectators will also have a chance to take part in on-ground challenges including The Dribble Challenge, the KFC Bucket Challenge, and the Freestyle Challenge at the KFC Selection Zone. The top 3 will get a chance to showcase their skills live during each game, at half time, where a life-size KFC Bucket will take center stage. These performances would be aired on Star Sports giving young talent a national audience.

After going through all the performances, a panel of freestylers and coaches will choose the final 15 contestants to play in the Battle of the Streets Finale based on individual innovation, style, and flair. The final 5 teams will have 3 players in each team who will be the best from the 150 enthusiasts who get a chance to perform at the half time street football challenge.

So, if you're a football fan, 'head' your way ahead of competition and get a chance to showcase your skills to millions with KFC Street Football!

Croma strengthens its footprints with the launch of its 300th store in Chennai

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: Croma, India's first and trusted Omnichannel electronics retailer from the Tata Group, achieved one of its milestones with the launch of its 300th store in Sholinganallur, Chennai. Croma launched around 100 new stores this year and plans rapid expansion in the next FY. Croma has been expanding its footprint in Tier 2 and 3 towns to reach more people and be more accessible basis demographic evaluation and economic drive and the availability of the warehouse in that target market.

Croma, which has a strong presence in major cities, has entered new markets such as Lucknow, Pathankot, Kanpur, Solapur, Jamshedpur, Kochi, Ludhiana, and many others. It will be expanding its footprints in cities such as Kanpur, Tirupati, Cuttack, Jabalpur, Gorakhpur, Dharwad, Bikaner, Trichy, Ajmer, and Kurukshetra and others as they are thriving



business hubs and home to consumers looking for the best in electronics. Croma intends to broaden its alternative channels, such as travel retail, and continue to expand at a faster pace.

Croma's ramping up of best-in-class omnichannel experience to provide world-class electronic retail experience to its discerning customers across Indian cities. To achieve this, Croma is investing in getting closer to the customer by opening more stores, at a faster pace; building digital capabilities & online presence (croma.com) and expanding their supply chain infrastructure.

Additionally, they

revamped their website, croma.com, to enhance the online shopping experience for its more than 30 million monthly traffic.

With the launch of its milestone 300th store in Chennai, Croma now has 19 stores in the state of Tamil Nadu. At Sholinganallur store, throughout the expansive space of over 10,000 sq. ft. spread across two levels, consumers can get shopping assistance from highly knowledgeable Croma experts in-store as they explore the latest range of products including TVs, smartphones, digital devices, cooling solutions, household appliances as well as audio and related

accessories. They can also learn more about Croma's post-purchase services or seek out store associates for expert advice.

Commenting on the 300th store launch, Mr. Avijit Mitra MD & CEO, Croma Infiniti-Retail Ltd, said, "We are elated to have surpassed the milestone of 300 stores spanning across the top 100+ cities of India. With our growing retail presence, our aim is to delight our customers with a world class shopping experience, expert advice and assured lifetime service. We will continue to expand our service across India with stores and croma.com."

Croma's Sholinganallur store is open all days from 11 am to 9.00 pm. The 300th Croma store in Sholinganallur, Chennai, details: 2B, Survey Nos. 449/2C1A, 449/2C1B and 449, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Sholinganallur, OMR, Sholinganallur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600119.

SCO Film Festival in Mumbai from 27th to 31st January, 2023

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is organizing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Film Festival from the 27th - 31st of January, 2023, in Mumbai, through the National Film Development Corporation. The SCO Film Festival is being organized to mark India's Presidency at SCO.

The festival will open with a world premiere of an Indian film as the SCO Film Festival is being organized during the Presidency of India at the SCO. The Opening Ceremony will be held at Jamshed Bhabha Theatre, NCPA, Mumbai on 27th January, 2023.

Film Festival Screenings will take place at two locations in Mumbai, 4 auditoriums at the Film Division Complex at Pedder Road and 1 NFDC Theater at Nehru Planetarium Building at Worli.

The digital catalogue and detailed screening schedule of SCO Film Festival was ceremonially released by Joint Secretary (Films), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, MD-NFDC and Festival Director Shri Prithul Kumar in Mumbai today. Addressing a press



conference on the Film Festival in Mumbai today, the Festival Director, SCO Films Festival Shri Prithul Kumar informed, "This film festival has been organized to mark India's Presidency at SCO, which is multilateral organization of eight countries". It is an offshoot of long-standing popularity of Indian films in the SCO member countries, he said.

The Festival Director further said, the SCO Film Festival aims to build cinematic partnerships and act as a bridge between the cultures of various countries in the SCO. It will also create synergies in the film fraternity of SCO Members by way of collective cinematic experience. The films being showcased in the SCO Film Festival, all brought by the SCO states, will allow spectators to experience different cultures and the films will be a window

for people from the SCO countries to know each other better.

The festival will open with a world premiere of Tamil film 'Appatha', which is directed by Padma Shri and National award-winning filmmaker Priyadarshan. The film features National award winning actor Urvashi in the lead role and will be benchmarked as her 700th film and 51 years in the Indian film industry.

The Competition section is for the SCO Member States only and comprises of various prestigious awards like Best Feature Film, Best Actor (Male), Best Actor (Female), Best Director (Feature Film), Special Jury Award.

The Non-competition section is for all SCO countries, viz. Member States and also Observer States and Dialogue Partners States in the following categories-

SCO Country Focus

films selected to represent the respective SCO country at the film festival. Thus, enabling exchange among the different countries and acting as a bridge between the cultures of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization members. There are 17 films in the SCO Country focus category.

Director Focus films made by a well-known director of the SCO Country, an acclaimed veteran who is well respected in the country for their craft and lineage of cinema, contributing to the heritage of the Country. There are 8 films in Director focus category.

Children Focus films that educates and entertains the young audience while being easy to understand. Thus developing the interest of young children and nurturing their minds. There are 7 films in Children's focus category

Short films not exceeding 20 mins in duration that is artistically and cinematically adept and captures the audience's imagination by applying original ideas. There are 6 films in Short films category.

Nitin Gadkari chairs 10th meeting of Group of Infrastructure Committee to address existing inter-ministerial issues with regard to implementation of various infrastructure projects

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari chaired the 10th meeting of Group of Infrastructure Committee today to address existing inter-ministerial issues with regard to implementation of various infrastructure projects. Shri Gadkari said an action plan has been introduced to accelerate PM Gati Shakti scheme's progress.



Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry; Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology; Shri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and Labour & Employment; Gen (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for RT&H & Civil Aviation; Shri Krishan

Pal Gurjar, Minister of State for Power; Shri Shripad Naik, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Shri Ajay Bhatt, Minister of State for Defence & Tourism participated in the meeting.

Senior Officers from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Ministry of Defence (MoD), Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Ministry of Railways (MoR),

Ministry for Commerce and Industry (MoCI), Ministry of Power (MoP), Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), National Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL) and representatives from States attended the meeting.

Several issues were placed on the agenda for deliberation to expedite the progress of on-going infrastructure projects. These included issues

related to pending forest and environment clearances, facilitation of working permissions/approvals, ensuring land allocation/transfer and release of funds. Discussions were also held on policy matters related to environment/forest/wild life clearance, railways and power, among others. Environment Clearances and Land policies of Railways & MoRTH and making comprehensive guidelines for Environment and Forest clearance were also discussed at length.

Bharat Fritz Werner (BFW) to Expand Manufacturing Facility at Hosur To be the first-of-its-kind infrastructure of such a scale in the APAC region. To create 600 additional jobs

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: Bharat Fritz Werner (BFW) a leading Indian Advanced manufacturing technology solutions company, announced its plan to scale up three-fold from its current annual capacity of 3000 mcs to 10,000 mcs by setting up a new state-of-the-art facility in Hosur, Tamil Nadu. The company has committed a substantial investment in three phases for a plant with a 60,000 square meter built-up area over a land of more than 50 acres. The announcement was made at the ongoing IMTEX 2023, South and

Southeast Asia's biggest exhibition on machine tools and manufacturing technologies at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC).

Towards progress and supporting sustainability initiatives, BFW's facilities will include Net Carbon zero class assembly plant with the conveyerized assembly of machines, Lean and Green fully digitalized processes, and a world-class Spindle Technology Centre, all with the appropriate level of integrated automation engineered by its subsidiary, m2nxt and a

fully integrated Sheet Metal Processing plant.

Touted to be the first-of-its-kind infrastructure of such a scale in the APAC region the first phase of the new plant will be operationalized by Q1 FY '24 while the second phase by Q2 of FY '24 and the third and final phase during FY '25. As part of the expansion plan, BFW has collaborated with Adroitec India to propagate these solutions across the country.

Ravi Raghavan, MD, BFW India said "BFW has firmed up its

roadmap to be a global player by 2025 and the vision boasts a large and integrated manufacturing facility with a provision for critical sub-suppliers to be located under one roof for efficient logistics. Today I am happy to share that our 3x scale-up and aligned product/process technology roadmap through our initiative 'LEAP - BFW' is well poised to support the current and future needs of our global clients. We are hoping to create additional 600 jobs with this expansion. AT BFW we see no limits to enabling progress."

JIO ANNOUNCES THE LARGEST EVER JIO TRUE 5G ROLL-OUT WITH 50 CITIES ACROSS 17 STATES / UT

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: Reliance Jio today announced the largest-ever launch of its True 5G services across 50 cities. With this, Jio users across 184 cities are now enjoying Jio True 5G services.

Reliance Jio has become the first and the only operator to launch True 5G services in Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Vellore, Hosur, Tirupur Erode, Dharmapuri, Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu & Puducherry. Jio users in these cities will be invited to the Jio Welcome Offer, to

experience Unlimited Data at up to 1

Gbps+ speeds, at no additional cost, starting today.

Commenting on the occasion, Jio Spokesperson said, "We are thrilled to launch Jio True

5G services in 50 additional cities across 17 states and union territories, taking the total count to 184 cities. This is by far one of the largest rollouts of 5G services, not just in India,

but anywhere in the world.

We have stepped up the speed and intensity of True 5G rollout across the nation because we want every Jio user to enjoy the transformational benefits of Jio True 5G technology in the new year 2023. The entire nation will be able to enjoy and benefit from Jio True 5G services by December 2023.

We are grateful to the State Government of Tamil Nadu for their continuous support in our

quest to digitize every region."

Jio True 5G has a

three-fold advantage that makes it the only TRUE 5G network in

India:

1. Stand-alone 5G architecture with Zero dependency on 4G network

2. The largest & best mix of 5G spectrum across 700 MHz, 3500 MHz, 26 GHz bands

3. Carrier Aggregation that seamlessly combines these 5G frequencies into a single robust

"data highway" using an advanced technology called Carrier Aggregation.

Mission LiFE Pavilion to be set up at Bharat Parv event to encourage people to become Pro Planet



Chennai, Jan 24 2023: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched Mission LiFE in October 2022, with the message that Mission LiFE makes the fight against climate change democratic and that in which each one of us can contribute as per their respective capabilities. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is setting up a pavilion on the theme Mission LiFE during 'Bharat Parv' being organized by Ministry of Tourism, from 26th January to 31st January, 2023 at Red Fort, New Delhi on the

occasion of celebration of the 74th Republic Day.

The theme of Mission LiFE has been chosen to sensitise and educate the masses on LiFE actions which can promote sustainable living and help tackle climate change. The LiFE actions enshrined in Mission LiFE are showcased through various interactive media platforms such as LED screen, Motion Sensor wall, Interactive wall, Live AR wall etc. The pavilion on Mission LiFE encourages people to be Pro Plant. A Motion

sensor-enabled interactive wall will be an interactive display where a questionnaire specific to daily actions will be asked and the answers encourage the visitors to be Pro Planet. The Interactive touch wall will educate the visitors about the various small daily steps that can bring about a substantial change in the environment. The wall will showcase the day in a life of an Indian at home, public place and at work. A Live AR Wall is where the visitors can meet and click selfie with Prakriti - the mascot of the Ministry. The picture can be shared

in real time on mail or through WhatsApp to the visitors. A LED screen will showcase various videos based on the themes of Mission LiFE. The Plasma screen will showcase the paintings of the school children on Mission LiFE in the digital format along with the digital brochures on sustainable lifestyle and practices.

The pavilion will remain open for the general public from 5pm to 9pm on 26th January 2023 and from 12pm to 10pm on 27th January to 31st January 2023.

Croma celebrates Republic Day with their campaign "Constitution of Joy": Great deals on TVs, Laptops, Smartphones, Smartwatches, Soundbars and much more!

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: In honor of India's Republic Day, Croma, India's first and trusted omni channel electronics retailer from the Tata Group proudly announces its campaign 'Constitution of Joy' for its Republic Day Sale, which begins on January 19 and will run till January 29, 2023. Through its Constitution of Joy campaign, Croma aims to go above and beyond the call of duty to deliver great service, make a difference in the lives of others and improve customer experiences, such as the constitution was written to improve India and protect people's rights.

Enjoy a host of exciting deals and offers on laptops, Smartphones, Smartwatches, Smart TVs, Soundbars, headphones, speakers, tablets and accessories and much more from Croma branded



products and popular brands such as Apple, Samsung, HP, Dell, Lenovo, LG, Voltas, Redmi, Oppo, etc.

Customers can enjoy discounts up to 50% off on gadgets, home appliances, accessories, and more. Up to INR 5,000 cashback on consumer finance at Stores and up to 10% instant discount on select bank cards is also available. Croma's selection of top-brand electronics is sure to have something for everyone. In addition to these discounts, Croma is also providing unique promotions like coupon codes and scratch-and-win cards for in-store purchases for clients to save more.

Customers who

purchase a smartphone from Croma will receive promised benefit vouchers worth up to Rs 10,000.

Core i3 laptops start at Rs 33,990*, while gaming laptops from Intel start at Rs 54,990*. Students and teachers get a flat 10% on laptops. Samsung NEO QLED TVs begin at Rs 1,990 per month, 4K LED TVs begin at Rs 990* per month, and LG OLED TVs begin at Rs 2,999 per month.

Voltas' four-in-one inverter split air conditioner is available for as little as Rs 2,999* a month. The cost of the Croma 307L inverter frost-free refrigerator is Rs 22,990*. Aquaguard RO+UV water purifiers are available for Rs

14,990*, and front-load washing machines start at Rs 19,900*.

The cost of the Croma 307L inverter frost-free refrigerator is Rs 22,990*. Philips offers a 3-burner glass cooktop for Rs 2,490* and air fryers with a starting price of Rs 6,999*. For Apple users, AirPods are available starting at just Rs 8,999*. Starting at Rs 3,599* Croma 20W party speaker is available at never seen before prices. With some banks, there is an additional cashback of Rs 5,000*.

As a responsible brand, Croma makes every effort to give its customers happy moments. In order to significantly impact the creation of a positive and joyful atmosphere in someone's life, the brand is going the extra mile to make its customers happy.

All offers are subjected to the *T&C.

Rapido acknowledges the outstanding efforts of its Chennai Auto Captains at Rewards and Recognition event

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: Rapido, India's leading bike and taxi service, is proud to recognize the outstanding efforts of its Chennai Auto Captains at the recent Rewards and Recognition (R&R) event in Chennai. The event held on January 12th, 2023, was a celebration of the hard work and dedication shown by the Chennai Auto Captains who have played an instrumental role in Rapido's success in the city.

Rapido's Rewards and Recognition event comprised 150 of its captains out of which 100 Auto captains were given gifts with a combined monetary reward of Rs 5 lakhs based on the rides that have been completed by them. The top 5 winners also received gold coins,

TVs, and phones in recognition of their constant dedication to logging the most rides possible in the city. The company is committed to supporting its Auto Captains and providing them with the best working conditions and incentives to help them grow their business.

According to Pavan Guntupalli, Co-founder of Rapido, the event celebrates commitment and quality among their driver-partners, who contribute to the company's success. He further adds, "Our Rapido Captains are the backbone of our business, and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication. They have been instrumental in making Rapido a household name in Chennai and we are proud of their

achievements. We, as a company, always aim to go out of the way to ensure the wellbeing and safety of our driver-partners along with providing end-to-end support throughout. Empowering your employees in order to maximise their potential and motivate them to do better, especially during uncertain times, becomes absolutely crucial for a business to stand. Therefore, it gives us immense pleasure to do more for our driver-partners. Launching this initiative will not only boost our captains' morale but also improve our retention rate."

The novel R&R initiative is aimed to translate to support local operations. Rapido is committed to delivering best-in-class support to its drivers as an increasing competitive

differentiator. The company also announced the launch of the unique "Captain Healthcare Policy" to cover the health and welfare for the Captain and his /her family (spouse and children). The insurance covers Both IPD and OPD treatment, hospitalization, and accidental benefits up to a maximum of Rs. 2 Lakh.

Addressing additional concerns, Rapido has recently launched a new safety feature in its app. This feature is the Night Rides Check for those Riders who take rides between 10 pm and 6 am. Any Rider who uses Rapido during this time period will be contacted by the Rapido call centre for a safety check, post the completion of the ride.

National Girl Child Day celebrated across the Country

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: The Ministry of Women & Child Development celebrated the National Girl Child Day on 24th January, 2023. National Girl Child Day is celebrated with a view to promote awareness about the rights of the girl child to bridge the gender divide and to lay emphasis on the importance of girl's education, health and

nutrition.

This year, as part of celebration of the Day, the Ministry decided to make this event a janbhagidari, States/UTs and districts were requested to organize activities relating to valuing the girl child from 18th to 24th January, 2023. The hashtag for promoting the current campaign on social media platforms was hashtag(#akamcelebrating

girlchildmwd).

States/UTs have undertaken various activities/programs in the 5-Day celebrations of NGCD. Activities such as special Gram Sabha/Mahila Sabha on CSR, Oath taking ceremony/signature ceremony, door to door programme, Programme with schools (Govt/Private)- on value

of girl child, Posters/Slogan-writing/ Drawing/Wall Painting competition among school, community sensitization programme, talk show on Health & Nutrition related issues of girls, plantation drive were organized. Local champion in the field of education, sports were honoured/felicitated.

IDBI Bank reports a net profit of Rs. 927cr in Q3FY23

Chennai, Jan 24 2023: IDBI Bank reported a 60% rise in net profit to Rs.927cr for the third

quarter ended December 31, 2022. The Bank had posted a net profit of Rs.578 in the previous

year quarter. IDBI Bank's Operating Profit stood at Rs.2,051 crore, growth of 16% YoY. The NII stood at

Rs.2,925 crore, growth of 23% YoY and 7% QoQ. CASA to Total Deposit Ratio stood at 54.44%.