

## Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah chaired the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Left Wing Extremism of Ministry of Home Affairs, in New Delhi today

Chennai, Feb 07 2023: Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah chaired the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of Ministry of Home Affairs on Left Wing Extremism, in New Delhi today. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai, Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra and Shri Nishith Pramanik, Members of the Committee from both the Houses of the Parliament, Union Home Secretary, DG, BSF and CRPF and several senior officials of Union Home Ministry and line Ministries were present during the meeting.

In his address, the Union Home Minister said that there is no place for violence and Left Wing Extremism ideas in the "self-reliant New India" under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Government of India has adopted a policy of zero tolerance in this direction. Shri Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Home

Affairs' policy to deal with Left Wing Extremism has three main pillars, which are, strategy to curb extremists' violence with Ruthless Approach, better coordination between Centre and States, and, eliminating support for Left Wing Extremists through Public participation in development.

Shri Amit Shah said that this three-pronged strategy has given historic success in curbing Left Wing Extremism in the last eight years, such as-

- For the first time after nearly 04 decades in 2022, the number of deaths of civilians and security forces has been brought under 100.

- 76% reduction in violent incidents related to Left Wing Extremism is observed in 2022 in comparison to 2010.

- The number of civilian and security personnel who lost their lives in Left Wing Extremism incidents has come down by 90% to 98 in 2022 in comparison to the figure of 1005 in 2010 and number of Left Wing Extremism-affected districts



reduced to 45 from earlier 90.

- Number of districts under Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme reduced from 126 to 90 in April-2018 and further reduced to 70 since July-2021.

- Number of districts most affected by LWE has reduced from 35 to 30 in April-2018 and further reduced to 25 since July-2021.

- Since 2019, security forces have achieved huge success in establishing 175 new camps in Left Wing Extremism affected areas, and, reducing the security vacuum along with making top leadership of Left Wing Extremists ineffective,

to break the backbone of Left Wing Extremism. He said that as a result of these efforts, success has been achieved against Left Wing Extremism in difficult areas like Budha Pahad and Chakarbanda and Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha have been almost freed from Left Wing Extremism.

The Union Home Minister said that our security forces have caught the Naxalites with new innovative methods and under this policy, with the establishment of new security camps in Lohardaga district of Jharkhand, in February 2022 13-day joint operation got many

successes.

Shri Amit Shah said that Ministry of Home Affairs is determined to destroy the entire ecosystem of Left Wing Extremists by financial choking. He said that The BSF Airwing has been strengthened with the induction of new pilots and engineers in the last one year to aid operations in Left Wing Extremism-affected areas and save lives of our soldiers.

The Union Home Minister said that Modi Government has made several successful efforts to better coordination with the governments of Left Wing Extremism affected states without

any party or ideology related bias. He said, the Modi Government is providing funds for modernization of state police forces and assistance related to construction of fortified police stations to the affected states without any discrimination.

Shri Amit Shah said that security as well as accelerated development in Left Wing Extremism-affected areas is the main focus of the Government's policy under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the government is taking several steps for the all-round development of these areas. He said that along with the flagship

schemes of the Government of India, several special schemes are being implemented for the development of these areas. He said that 17,462 km of roadways have been sanctioned to improve road connectivity, out of which work on about 11,811 km has been completed. Apart from this, to improve mobile connectivity, 2,343 mobile towers have been installed in the first phase during the last eight years under the Mobile Tower Project and in view of the development of technology, approval has also been given to upgrade them to 4G. Apart from this, 2,542 new mobile towers are being installed in the second phase.

Shri Shah said that opening of Eklavya schools in Left Wing Extremism affected tribal dominated blocks have been placed in Priority Areas since August-2019. While 142 Eklavya Residential Model Schools (EMRS) were sanctioned in 21 years prior to 2019, in the past 3 years, 103 EMRS have been sanctioned. He said that

so far, 245 Eklavya Schools have been sanctioned in 90 Left Wing Extremism affected districts and out of these 121 are functional. He said that 1,258 bank branches and 1,348 ATMs have been opened in the last 8 years in the worst left wing extremism affected districts for financial inclusion of the citizens. Apart from this, in the 90 SRE districts affected by Left Wing Extremism, 4,903 post offices have been opened in the last 8 years to ensure the reachability of post offices within 3 km radius of every Gram Panchayat, out of which 3114 post offices have been opened during the last one financial year only. The skill development scheme's scope has been increased from 34 districts to 47 districts in the year 2016, and, under it, 47 ITIs and 68 SDCs have been sanctioned, out of which 43 ITIs and 38 SDCs are functional. In the meeting, all the members gave their valuable inputs and appreciated the efforts of the Modi Government in fighting Left Wing Extremism.

## Some of the world's best solutions to its toughest problems, including in the energy sector, have come out of Asia: Petroleum Minister Hardeep S. Puri

Chennai, Feb 07 2023: The 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable is being held at an apt time when there is a pressing need to galvanise global efforts for "Mapping Stable & Secure Energy pathways for achieving Energy security, Energy Justice, Growth and Innovation", said Mr. Hardeep S. Puri, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India.

India hosted the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) in association with the International Energy Forum (IEF) today i.e. on 7 February 2023 in Bengaluru. The theme for this roundtable was "Mapping new pathways for energy security, inclusive growth and energy transitions".

Convening in Bengaluru, the nation's hi-tech center, AMER9 was opened by Mr. Hardeep S. Puri and took place alongside India Energy Week, which runs from 6 to 8 February.

Mr. Hardeep S Puri, Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, GOI, speaking at the Opening Session of 9th Asian

Ministerial Energy Roundtable

While speaking at the Opening Session of the Roundtable, the Minister said that the 21st Century belongs to Asia, and this is being vindicated in the post-pandemic energy sector. Asian economies have not only managed to bounce back fastest from the impacts of the Pandemic but have also made significant progress toward clean energy. He said that the present century is marked by the remarkable growth story of Asia due to its demographic dividend and innovation. Some of the world's best solutions to its toughest problems, including in the energy sector, have come out of Asia.

Mr. Puri said that the Asian Ministerial Roundtable has always been a meaningful platform for dialogue between producers, consumers & International Organizations to join and debate energy issues which confront the Asian and the global energy sector. "Our interaction and takeaways from our discussion today will have a direct bearing on our tomorrow and future generations.", he said.

Speaking about the growth of Asian economy, the Minister said that the world economy has radically changed over the past decade. The Asian share of global GDP has risen from 38% to 45% and is likely to exceed 50% by 2030. Asian Economy has grown at the average rate of 5½ percent over the preceding two decades and registered growth of 6.5 per cent posted in 2021, while it is expected to moderate to 4.0 percent in 2022 amid an uncertain global environment and rise to 4.3 percent in 2023, the Minister said.

Mr. Puri elaborated that the economic growth coupled with urbanization, industrialization, and improving energy access and living standards will result in a rise in energy demand of over 3 percent between 2021 and 2030 for a majority of emerging Asian Economies. Whereas the energy demand of advanced economies would be plateaued or will even decline by then.

Highlighting the importance of alternative energy sources, the Minister said that while the affordable traditional energy resources are essential for meeting the

based load requirements, new sources of energy which are cleaner, sustainable, and innovative, are critical for combating the menace of the climate change. Transfer of low-cost clean scalable technologies, financing for R&D and deployment of clean technologies are crucial for catalysing faster action to mitigate climate change.

With India assuming G20 presidency, it endeavour to utilise the opportunity to give resonance to the voice of the developing/underdeveloped countries and highlight the common concerns of energy security, energy justice, and sustainable energy transition so that all developing countries can gain reliable and clean energy.

Talking about India's energy transition, Mr. Puri said that India recognizes that its energy transition path will involve a variety of energy solutions to support energy and economic growth. Advanced biofuels, green hydrogen, renewables and nuclear will play a critical role in the energy mix as India charts its path to the energy transition, he said.

"India has met its commitment of 40% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil energy sources by 2030 November 2021. The country's installed Renewable Energy (RE) capacity by October 2022 stands at 166 Giga Watt while its nuclear energy-based installed electricity capacity stands at 6.78 Giga Watt", he elaborated further. He said that India is setting up 2G refineries utilizing agricultural waste and bamboo to make ethanol, using indigenous technology. This contributes to achieving rural prosperity and also goes a long way in reducing pollution

along with achieving energy security goals.

Speaking about the E20 Fuel which was launched by Prime Minister yesterday, the Minister said that another feather added to the splendid Indian journey to decarbonization with roll out of E20 by PM yesterday, much earlier than the initial target date of 1st April 2023. Fifteen cities will be covered under phase 1. We are targeting a phased rollout of E20 in the entire country between now and April 2025. "We are also targeting the setup production capacity of 15 MMT of CBG from 5000

plants by 2023 with an investment of US \$20 billion.", informed the Minister.

Highlighting the potential of green hydrogen in India, Mr. Puri stated that today, Indian companies can supply the most competitive green hydrogen/green ammonia due to availability. The availability of the lowest cost for solar power combined with engineering prowess makes India an ideal place for a green hydrogen production hub. "We are Setting-up pilot scale and commercial-scale green hydrogen manufacturing

plants at several of our Refineries", he said.

The Minister also talked about the recent budget which further strengthened India's efforts towards green energy and sustainable development.

Mr. Puri also spoke about the encouragement by India to battery energy storage system with capacity of 4,000 MWH supported through Viability Gap Funding. "We are providing customs duty exemptions to imports of capital goods and machinery required for manufacture of lithium-ion cells used in EV batteries." he said.

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## Sutra Two day Exhibition Inaugurated by Brinda Sivakumar, Rasna Rahul Hiran, Elakiya Arumugaswamy, Dr.Ranjitha Sundanthiram, Nighat Ayesha, Kavitha Pandian, Deepa Madan & Umesh at Hyatt Regency

Chennai, Feb 07 2023: Sutraa Exhibition hold it's exhibition, featuring 'Made in India' and regional items at Chennai on 7th and 8th February at Hyatt Regency.

The fashion fairs will present clothing and lifestyle retailers from across the country.

The event will focus on festive fashion and product categories spanning women's occasion wear, traditional wear, fusion wear and accessories, as well as jewellery, bags, home décor and lifestyle and gift items among others.

Estimated visitors are expected to be above 3000 and around 60 exhibitors will showcase their products.



The categories to be included at the fairs are apparel and clothing and arts and crafts.

The events are being organised by Sutraa Exhibition which is headquartered in Kolkata.

Sutra aim to promote a spectrum of designers, inspired sarees, salwar suits, lehengas, footwear and other accessories only for you. Sutra brought an exhaustive collection from which you need to

pick your attire as per your occasion and you are all set to slay this wedding season.

So don't waste your time in searching Indian designers clothing instead come to shop the perfect designer clothing.

Some of the exhibitors participating in the event are:- Wafe Kolkata, Laksh, Samaroho Boutique - Kolkata, Khwahish, V Studio - Ahmedabad, Healer Meenal Anand -

Chennai, Saanvi By Shraddha Agarwal, Simran's Collection - Bangalore, Harsh Designer Boutique, Om Collection - Mumbai, Anura, Rajjev Chennai, Manal Designer Studio - Bangalore, Lucille by Sandhya, Neelam Purses and Handbags, Grey Room, Begum's Chikankari Mumbai & Dubai, Adah by Pawan, J'Kriti Boutique, Mahesh Products.

You would love to choose the best of Indian Jewellery and other essential from our exhibition, to look exceptional in your wedding day. All the designs are infused with an ultra modern spirit so that you fall in love with our exhibition and the style and fashion we bring to cater the women of today.

## Bengaluru Hosts the 1st Energy Transition Working Group Meeting, Push Towards Clean Energy was Priority

Chennai, Feb 07 2023: The second day of the first Energy Transition Working Group Meeting under India's G20 Presidency witnessed serious discussion on moving towards clean energy while reducing carbon emissions.

The three-day meeting began on Sunday in India's Silicon Valley, Bengaluru. The G20 members discussed the theme 'Energy Security and Diversified Supply Chains' on the second day. Along with this, the member countries also shared their views on topics such as energy efficiency, reduction of carbon emissions from industries and control of energy consumption. During the meeting, India emphasised on establishing universal access to clean energy.



The Union Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy is playing the role of a partner in this meeting. Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy RK Singh held a bilateral meeting with his Sri Lankan counterpart Kanchana Wijesekera on the sidelines of the G20 meeting. Alok Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Power, and Ajay Tiwari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power, also participated in the meeting, wherein issues

and problems related to the sector, besides mutual cooperation, were discussed.

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) signed an MoU with Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Joint Business Council (IMT-GT JBC) to promote the adoption of energy efficiency and sustainable practices in the region. As part of this strategic partnership, EESL will provide technical advice, project management support,

contracting and implementation support to execute select energy efficiency programs from its portfolio with a proven track record of successful implementation.

Additionally, on the first day of the meeting, a study report commissioned under India's G20 Presidency, "Carbon Level Reduction, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) Technology Drawbacks and International Cooperation" was unveiled. A 3D model of NTPC's flagship project on Flue Gas CO2 to Methanol Synthesis was also showcased at the event. Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, RK Singh visited the venue of the International Seminar on CCUS and discussed the many initiatives taken by NTPC.

## G-20 theme based Workshops on Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) and Madhya Pradesh Farm Gate organised

Chennai, Feb 07 2023: G-20 is an influential platform for international economic cooperation. It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening the global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues. India is chairing the G-20 forum from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023. G-20 consists of 19 countries and the European Union, - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, South Africa, United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union. G-20 members represent approximately 85 percent of global GDP, more than 75 percent of global trade, and nearly two-thirds of the world population.

State Agricultural Extension and Training Institute, Bhopal, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, New Delhi and MANAGE, Hyderabad organized a workshop on the theme 'Women Led Agricultural Development' regarding the contribution of women in agricultural entrepreneurship and agri-startups in Madhya Pradesh and providing financial assistance, in which about 250 women farmers, entrepreneurs, new startup founders and other participants from various districts of the state participated. In this program Shri Nirupam Mehrotra, C.G.M.,



NABARD-Bhopal was the Chief Guest and Shri S.K. Ingle, Joint Director (Mass Media), MoA&FW graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. First of all, the program was addressed by Shri K.P. Aharwal, Director, SIAET. Shri Sanjeev Kumar Ingle advised the women of the state to take advantage of the State and Central Government schemes for technical and financial assistance in Startup women entrepreneurship. He advised the small and marginal farmers to innovate spraying of pesticides and nutrients in the crops, so that crops can be sown in the shortest time and with less while fetching more returns. Further, he informed that the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has aimed at the formation of 10,000 FPOs. The women of MP have been advised to take advantage of these schemes so that they can avail of maximum financial assistance and adopt the Farm Gate App for agricultural produce marketing. In order to ensure the participation of MANAGE Hyderabad, NABARD and other associate banks for agricultural entrepreneurs, an

agreement was signed during this program.

Suggestions were given by Shri Tarsem Singh Jeera, Circle Head Bhopal, Central Bank of India emphasizing on increasing the value addition and marketing of agricultural products through AC&ABC program.

Shri Nirupam Mehrotra, C.G.M., NABARD-Bhopal said that in MP Rural areas, one-third of the total women (around 15-29 age group) are increasingly moving towards women entrepreneurship. But still there is a need to do more work towards gender equality. He said that once the Self-Help Group is started, the rules for availability of working capital and marketing should be made easier for women to take forward the SHGs.

Dr. Shahaji Fund, Deputy Director, MANAGE Hyderabad said that the AC&ABC program was first launched as a pilot project in the state of Telangana. After this it is being run in all the states of India. NABARD Bank, Bank of India, Central Bank of India, SBI, MPGB Bank and MANAGE signed an

MoU on the occasion. After that Women entrepreneurs from different districts of the state narrated their success stories.

Doubts from participants were resolved during the interactive session.

Panel discussion on Agri entrepreneurship and Agri Startup were held in the second session. Smt. Suman Prasad, Deputy Director (Agriculture), District Bhopal, Smt. Rashmi Varghese, Deputy Director (Agriculture Directorate), Vindhyachal Bhavan, Bhopal, Smt. Ashalata Pathak, Senior Agriculture Development Officer, Directorate Vindhyachal Bhavan Bhopal, Shri Vinay Patidar, Consultant, MANAGE Hyderabad, Dr. Swati Sharma, Nodal Officer of NGO CARD, Bhopal and officials of MANAGE, Hyderabad and SIAET-Bhopal participated in the proceedings.

Preeti Maithil Nayak, former Director Agriculture and MD, Farm Seeds and Development Corporation, explained the Agricultural women entrepreneurs on startups related to agricultural inputs and value addition of agricultural produce.

After this Shri U.S. Jadoun, Deputy Director SIAET, presented a memorandum of thanks to the women participants, and the program concluded. The program was conducted by Smt. Rani Rackwar of Doordarshan Bhopal.

## India stands committed to reducing emissions intensity of GDP by 45% by 2030 and reach to net-zero by 2070, while developing sustainably: Bhupender Yadav

Chennai, Feb 07 2023: Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav today addressed the Ministerial Session on 'Adapting to an Uncertain Future: Reshaping of Global Partnerships' at India Energy Week in Bengaluru. Her Excellency Magna Mudyiwa, Deputy Minister of Energy and Power Development, Zimbabwe was also present.

Speaking on this occasion Shri Bhupender Yadav said that under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has emerged as one of the global forerunners with the ability to show concrete and collective resolve to ensure harmony and energy security in the world at a time when global energy supply chains are in troublesome state, a crisis of essentials is present all over the world. He also said that to reshape the global partnership, India has adopted a "whole-of-society" approach with governments engaging at national, sub-national and local governments levels, including the private sector, civil society organizations, local communities, and people in vulnerable situations.

Shri Yadav said that today, India is one of the fastest growing emerging market economies with a young population and burgeoning innovation and business ecosystem. With Nominal GDP for 2023/24, estimated to grow 10.5% year-on-year to 301.75 trillion rupees (USD 3.69 trillion) in 2023/24, India strives to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025.

Noting that India is at the centre of the energy transition, combining



economic and energy demand growth with rapid decarbonisation, Shri Yadav said that India stands committed to reduce emissions intensity of our GDP by 45% by 2030 and subsequently reach to net-zero by 2070. In this context he also said that India's commitment to the sustainable and carbon neutral future is being guided by its enhanced National Determined Contribution (NDC) and Long-Term Low Carbon Development Strategy which call for clean and efficient energy systems, disaster resilient infrastructure, and planned eco-restoration. India's net zero goal entails a five-decade long journey and India's strategy must therefore be evolutionary and flexible, accommodating new developments in technology, the global economy and international cooperation, he said.

Shri Yadav also said that India's long-term low-carbon development strategy to reach net-zero by 2070 notes, inter-alia, that alongside the imperative of development, and need to ensure the country's energy security, based both on the expansion of non-fossil fuel sources for power generation and

rational utilization of fossil fuel resources. India's long-term low-carbon development strategy therefore rests on seven key transitions to low-carbon development pathways. In the context of energy security, the Strategy calls for low-carbon development of electricity systems consistent with development of an integrated, efficient and inclusive transport system; promotion of energy and material efficiency in buildings, and sustainable urbanization; and economy-wide decoupling of growth from emissions and development of an efficient, innovative low-emission industrial system.

The Union Environment Minister highlighted that in the Union Budget 2023-24 greening the economy is one of top seven priorities (Saptarishi). He said that India has launched, and is nurturing many programs for green fuel, green energy, green mobility, green buildings, and green equipment, and policies for efficient use of energy across various economic sectors. Ethanol blending with petrol, the National Green

Hydrogen mission, promotion of electric vehicles and tremendous push on the renewable energy front are some of the significant initiatives that India is pursuing towards a clean and green energy future. These initiatives are playing important role in India's Energy transitions and to provide for large-scale green job opportunities, he said.

Highlighting the primary characteristics of Union Budget 2023-24, Shri Yadav said that, it reflects the Government's nonstop commitment towards India's Energy Transition. Some of the important initiatives of the Union Budget are:

Energy Transition: This Budget provides ` 35,000 crore for priority capital investments towards energy transition and net zero objectives, and energy security by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

In his concluding remarks, Shri Yadav quoted Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who in his address at the G-20 Summit in Bali, Session I: Food and Energy Security, said,

"India's energy-security is also important for global growth, as it is the world's fastest growing economy. We must not promote any restrictions on the supply of energy and stability in the energy market should be ensured. India is committed to clean energy and environment. By 2030, half of our electricity will be generated from renewable sources. Time-bound and affordable finance and sustainable supply of technology to developing countries is essential for inclusive energy transition."

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

Chennai, Feb 07 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, Dacalty 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!

## Axis Bank launches an enhanced Rewards Redemption Program with 13 loyalty program partners Points and Miles Conversion across all Debit & Credit Cards

Chennai, Feb 07 2023: Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank, announces the launch of its enhanced rewards program in association with airline and hotel loyalty programs across the industry. This program allows Axis bank credit and debit card holders to seamlessly transfer their accumulated EDGE Rewards\*/Miles across 13 partners such as Singapore Airlines (KrisFlyer), Marriott International (Marriott Bonvoy), ITC Hotels (Club ITC), Turkish Airlines (Miles and Smiles), Qatar Airways

(Privilege Club), United Airlines (MileagePlus) and more.

This new proposition by the Bank gives more power to the customers by giving them a bouquet of rewards to choose from and make exciting additions to their travel plans. It offers seamless and attractive conversion options while delivering value for customer's earned rewards. Axis Bank will continue to expand this program, with an aim to have the largest rewards transfer proposition in the banking industry.

This program is

extremely powerful for customers having affluent segment of Axis Bank credit cards, as they can avail accelerated conversions across all partners. As an illustration, a customer holding Axis Magnus credit card, can convert 25,000 Axis Edge Reward points (earned on monthly spends of 1 lakh) to 20,000 KrisFlyer miles – which is redeemable for a one-way Economy Class Saver Award ticket from Mumbai to Singapore on Singapore Airlines!

Speaking on this announcement, Sanjeev Moghe, President & Head- Cards &

Payments, Axis Bank, said, "We have been continuously working on innovation-led partnership models to strengthen value propositions for customers and deliver premium benefits at convenience. In this endeavour, we have partnered with a suite of loyalty program partners across airlines and hospitality groups. We have observed that the travel segment is a high engagement area for our customers and our best-in-class rewards proposition will add an immense value to our customers' travel plans"

## ETS selected by NCERT for establishing PARAKH, India's first National Assessment Regulator

Chennai, Feb 07 2023: ETS, the world's largest educational assessment organization, announced today that the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) selected ETS to support the set-up of India's first national assessment regulator, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development).

"NCERT on behalf of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, is in the process of setting up PARAKH, as mandated by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and is delighted to have ETS as the technical partner in this endeavour," said Professor Indrani Bhaduri, Professor and Head of the Educational Survey Division,

NCERT. "Their understanding of global best practices in curriculum and assessment will be a great asset in standardising these aspects across the various school boards in the country thereby paving the path towards quality, consistency and uniformity in the teaching-learning and assessment practices. We at NCERT are enthused to partner with ETS and deploy their considerable expertise in educational research in learning assessments and intend to capitalize the same for the betterment of all aspects of school education, benefiting the learners, teachers and educational delivery system in this country."

"ETS is honored to work alongside NCERT in building the future of learning through innovation and quality

assessment expertise to measure what matters most as India becomes a powerhouse in global education," said Amit Sevak, CEO of ETS. "The PARAKH initiative will serve as a global model for how to build world-class assessment and learning systems to deliver high-quality student outcomes, advance education and improve millions of lives."

The PARAKH initiative will set norms, standards and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards in India. This will put a heightened focus on building quality assessments to better measure and increase knowledge and skill acquisition across India.

PARAKH's aims align with India's NEP 2020 with the new

regulator being established as the nation's premier, official resource for all assessment-related information and expertise. PARAKH's mandate is to support learning assessment in all forms. ETS brings its decades of expertise in educational measurement across K-12, higher education, languages and workforce as well as in large-scale assessment services to this new initiative.

ETS's mission to advance quality and equity in education by providing fair and valid assessments, research, and related services closely aligns with PARAKH's twin objectives: to monitor the health of the Indian education system and achievement of learning outcomes, and to improve assessment and establish standards.

**Day by day we will let go off this loss,  
but we will never let go of our love**

**R Sathyanarayanan  
Rainbow Estates and Builders**



**கண்ணன்  
அஞ்சலி**

திருவண்ணாமலை மாவட்டம், செய்யாறு டவுன் திருவோத்தார், துமரன் தெரு, தெய்வத்திரு. சரவண முதலியார் அவர்களின் மூத்த குமாரன்  
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**திரு. S. ஏகாம்பரம்**  
அவர்கள்

**07.02.2023 செவ்வாய்க்கிழமை மாலை : 03.30 மணியளவில் இயற்கை எய்தினார்**  
அன்னாரின் இறுதி ஊர்வலம்  
**08.02.2023 புதன்கிழமை மாலை 03.00 மணிக்குமேல் அவர்களின் இல்லத்தில் இருந்து புறப்பட்டு இடுகாட்டில் நல்லடக்கம் செய்யப்படும். என்பதை ஆழ்ந்த வருத்தத்துடன் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறோம்.**

**குடும்பத்தினர், உறவினர்கள் மற்றும் நண்பர்கள்**

## ONGC eyes partners for Deepwaters: India Energy Week

Chennai, Feb 07 2023: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is in talks with global oil majors to infuse state of the art technologies in its aggressive exploration push in Deepwaters of India. The Maharatna held a parley of discussions with major operators in the India Energy Week in Bengaluru during 6-8 Feb 2023. ONGC held discussions with the American oil and gas giant ExxonMobil, the Norwegian energy multinational Equinor, the American oil services conglomerate Baker Hughes, the French research organization Institut Français du Pétrole on various issues like Technology, and Deepwaters.

ONGC Chairman & CEO Arun Kumar Singh at the Leadership Panel in India Energy Week



On 6 February 2023, speaking at the prestigious Leadership Panel on "The importance of continued investment in Exploration & Production", ONGC Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Arun Kumar Singh said "Energy security is geography dependent. India has kept E&P investment same, and ONGC invests \$ 3.5 billion to keep up production."

Eyeing deep-water exploration, Mr. Singh highlighted that "The

world is now getting balanced, as Deep-Sea investments are becoming economical. A combination of factors is there. For India and China there is one Reality. However, other geographies have different realities."

Under its Energy Strategy 2040, Mr. Singh said that "Now, the investments needed are more as renewables have come in. So, there is an issue of structural inefficiencies which have crept in. The transition to renewables is a reality, however, oil

and gas will remain in focus in the journey. It will happen eventually."

ONGC Chairman & CEO Arun Kumar Singh at the Leadership Panel in India Energy Week

In IEW 2023, ONGC is looking to make India's energy self-reliant by achieving its economic aspirations. ONGC looks at IEW 2023 as a platform to foster a pentathlon of collaborations. Looking at Deepwater Oil and Gas exploration, Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR), boosting renewables capacity, building carbon capture, utilization and sequestration capabilities (CCUS), and developing India into the world's leading hydrogen economy, ONGC is devoted to the event's theme of "Growth. Collaboration. Transition."

## AVIT, VMRF(DU) signs MoU with NEC Corporation India and Intel Technology India Private Limited for enabling learning for students, researchers and faculties in the field of AI/ML, IOT, Cyber security, Smart Mobility and High-performance computing



Chennai, Feb 07 2023: AVIT, Aarupadai Veedu Institute of Technology (AVIT) (Constituent Institution of Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation- Deemed to be University) announced a collaboration with NEC Corporation India, a wholly owned subsidiary of NEC Corporation and Intel Technology India Private Limited for a comprehensive academic program for tech aspirants. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between AVIT and NEC Corporation India and also with Intel help students, and researchers achieve their full potential across industries by establishing a dedicated AI/ML, HPC lab and Intel Unnati Data centric Lab. The MoU was signed by Mr Deepak Jha, GM, NEC corporation India, Dr. G. Selvakumar, Principal, AVIT and Mr. Girish from Intel Corporation in the presence of Mr.J. Suresh Samuel, Member, Board of Management (BOM), VMRF(DU). This MOU is signed through the strategic partner Edu lateral Foundation. This strategic partnership with INTEL and NEC corporation is first of its kind in South India, offering Comprehensive Academic Programmes in Engineering & Technology and Arts and Science Programme with Intel and NEC certifications, assured Internship and Placement.

collaboration, Dr.P.K. Sudhir, Vice-Chancellor, VMRF(DU) said, "Curating blended educational frameworks is the future, and we believe that along with NEC India and Intel, we will train our students to world-class emerging technological innovation in hardware and software applications and real-world problem-solving solution and acumen with periodic certifications throughout the degree programme. We believe this will help groom our students becoming well-rounded technology professionals with knowledge and skills in Industry 4.0 to navigate a futuristic dynamic workplace".

On signing the MoU, Deepak Jha, General Manager & Head, Artificial Intelligence Platform, NEC Corporation India, said, "The joint certification programme will create industry-ready professionals. The students will learn profound academic concepts, cutting-edge software technologies and solutions, as well as domain expertise. The Union Budget 2023, with its focus on making AI in India for India, industry-academia partnerships, and youth upskilling, has reinforced our commitment to knowledge and skill sharing with future tech aspirants. With this agreement, we look forward to making the youth self-reliant on emerging technologies."

high-performance computing and artificial intelligence continue to converge and evolve, the world is geared up for a new future. Through this partnership, NEC India aims to help students design solutions and stay on the leading edge of new and emerging technologies, while keeping pace with the constantly evolving landscape.

As part of this agreement, NEC India will provide the AVIT with a Vector Engine (VE) system. With the establishment of the NEC Vector Engine (VE) system-driven lab, NEC aims to equip AVIT with the technology infrastructure required for the course and project work, job-oriented and hands-on training and research facilities.

Mr Girish, Business Manager, Intel Unnati, spoke about growing skill gap witnessed today between graduates from technical fields and the expectations of the IT industry. The government of India along with various institutes have launched several initiatives over the years to enable India's transformational journey and bridge the growing skill gap. In its National Education Policy the government stressed on the need to enhance the curriculum for higher education to better equip the faculties and graduating students with industry relevant data-centric skills.

With education as a focus, Intel has launched multiple

programs over the last 20 years for students pursuing higher education. The newly launched Intel® Unnati Program, is designed to help students keep pace with the fast-changing needs and expectations of the industry pushing Intel's education agenda further.

The Intel® Unnati Program is focused on technology inclusion and advancing students' skills in emerging technology. Programs under Unnati are curated to equip engineering students with relevant data-centric skills and cultivate them to be industry-ready, providing a strategic impetus to India's digital economy transformation. Through a network of system integrators, Intel aims to set up Intel® Unnati Data-Centric Labs in emerging technologies. Empowering Students with Industry Leading Labs, Intel Unnati labs include hardware and software stack recommendations from Intel experts, course content including hands on exercises and co-branded course completion certificates for students.

On MOU signing, Dr Pradeep, Executive Director, Edu lateral Foundation stated, "We aim to provide state-of-the art facilities within an inspiring research setting, to improve opportunities for interdisciplinary working and research excellence at AVIT thereby solving real-world problems through a huge network of partnerships and collaborations".

## Apollo Hospitals rolls out Clinical Intelligence Engine (CIE) for doctors across India

Chennai, Feb 07 2023: The Apollo Hospitals group, one of Asia's largest and the most trusted healthcare providers, today has announced the launch of Apollo Clinical Intelligence Engine- a clinical decision support tool, to be open to use by all India doctors on Apollo 24|7's platform. Developed using the latest techniques in AI and ML, this tool is all set to revolutionise Indian healthcare by exponentially elevating the accuracy of diagnosis, doctor productivity and patient satisfaction, all in one go.

The Clinical Intelligence Engine is capable of analysing vast amounts of data to help healthcare professionals identify patterns which may be missed otherwise. Numerically speaking, the intelligence engine has over 1300 conditions and 800 symptoms in its vocabulary, covering 95% of everyday case mix in OPDs. Built by over 100 engineers, using 40 years of data from Apollo and the collective intelligence of 1000s of doctors along with supporting data from peer-reviewed journals, it is among the largest connected health data lakes in the world, which has been tested and validated by quite a few global academic



institutions. Designed specifically for the South Asian Region mix, this indigenous breakthrough is powered by a knowledge base built, maintained and periodically reviewed by an in-house team of more than 500 Apollo doctors and specialists. It helps and support differential diagnosis situations as well, enabling doctors to be more prompt and precise for better clinical outcomes.

Dedicating the Apollo Clinical Intelligence Engine to all doctors, Dr Prathap C. Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group said, "As I turn 90, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to have built one of Asia's largest omnichannel healthcare ecosystem. But it has always been my wish to do more to make India truly healthy, especially when we face a huge tsunami of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer. When my team

conceptualized the Clinical Intelligence Engine, I knew it was a breakthrough that would revolutionize healthcare as we know it. The CIE could not be restricted to Apollo but needed to be shared with doctors across India. I am therefore happy to offer the Apollo CIE to every qualified, practicing doctor in India I am sure that together, we will be able to make Indians healthier through timely and more accurate diagnosis independent of geographical, regional or income divides."

"The launch of the game-changing Apollo Clinical Intelligence Engine is a major milestone for us at Apollo Hospitals," said Ms Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Group. "When we empowered Apollo doctors with CIE in OPDs a few months back, we found a tangible improvement in the accuracy of diagnosis, doctor productivity and patient satisfaction. Currently more than 4000 Apollo

doctors are using it and have seen a considerable impact in their diagnosis outcomes; it has become a part of their routine OPD operations. We are committed to using technology to improve the healthcare experience for patients and physicians, and the Apollo CIE is a testament to that commitment."

The Apollo CIE also increases the scale of operation for healthcare providers by helping organisations meet the multi-channel demand for access with safe, clinically validated health interactions via the Symptom Checker and doctors equipped with this expert clinical knowledge system. Apollo CIE analyses users symptoms, determines the cause and recommend next best actions. The CIE is a self-learning engine that helps doctors stay abreast with access to an ocean of knowledge. Last year alone, the CIE has been able to take into considerations over 6,00,000 new developments as result of clinical papers that get released.

The CIE is available for use in Apollo Hospitals and will be available for wider use on 6th February, 2023. For more information, please visit [www.ciengine.com](http://www.ciengine.com).

## Shiv Nadar University Chennai Announces Dates for 2023 Session Entrance Exam

Chennai, Feb 07 2023: Shiv Nadar University Chennai, part of Shiv Nadar Foundation and one of India's premier institutions, has announced its entrance exams for the 2023 session. Entrance tests are to be held across 10 cities, which include Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Trivandrum, and Kolkata. The exams will take place in phases between 8th April to 17th June 2023, offering abundant possibilities for prospective students to showcase their talents and secure their future at the renowned University. Prospective students will also have the flexibility to take the entrance exams at any of the 10 designated cities, offering a chance to reschedule if a conflict arises with their initially chosen city or exam date. However, a candidate can appear for the test for any specific program only once.

Registrations form are available on <https://www.snuchennai.edu.in/> from 6th February till 31st March 2023. Sharing his thoughts on the announcement, Prof. Sriman Kumar Bhattacharyya, Vice-Chancellor, Shiv Nadar University, Chennai, said, "Foresightedness paves the path to a promising tomorrow. Hence, visionary and proactive individuals who are fully equipped with skills will thrive in the dynamic job market of the new age. At Shiv Nadar University Chennai, we are proud to offer innovative engineering, management, and humanities programs that equip our students with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the new age. With the announcement of our 2023 admissions exam dates, we are eager to welcome a new cohort of talented and motivated individuals."

The University offers six specialized

undergraduate programs in the disciplines of engineering, commerce, and humanities. These contemporary programs are industry-oriented, nurturing knowledge and skill sets that will enable students to enter and excel in an evolving professional or educational landscape, both in India and abroad.

Currently, the University has 815 students and 55 faculty and staff members.

Number of seats available across programs of School of Engineering:

□ B. Tech Computer Science and Engineering (Internet of Things): 120

□ B. Tech Artificial Intelligence and Data Science: 120

□ B. Tech Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security): 60

Number of seats available across programs of School of Commerce and Management:

□ B. Com

(Professional Accounting): 60

□ B. Com/B. Com (Hons): 60

Number of seats available across programs of School of Science & Humanities:

□ B. Sc. Economics (Data Science): 60

Shiv Nadar University Chennai strives to make the admission process accessible and accommodating to all interested candidates. The University is the first private state university to be legislated in Tamil Nadu after 90 years (since the Annamalai University Act in 1928) upon the passing of the Shiv Nadar University Act 2018. Students will pursue undergraduate degrees in six specialized courses. These programs have been designed in line with the evolving educational and professional requirements within India and abroad.