

## RAILMADAD: An effective grievance redressal mechanism of Indian Railways

RailMadad mechanism sees increase in usage amidst improved awareness amongst passengers and owing to its reliability  
 Telephonic call is the most preferred mode of grievance registration for passengers  
 Southern Railway takes an average of 37 minutes to resolve grievances  
 The First Response Time is 8 minutes for Medical & Security assistance

Chennai, Feb 13 2023: As a socially responsible and accountable entity, Indian Railways considers redressal of passenger complaints as one of its Key Performance Indicators. To put in place an effective complaints monitoring system which would also provide a one-stop solution to complaints, grievances, enquiry and also serve as a robust feedback mechanism, RAILMADAD was launched in 2019. Complaints and grievances lodged through different modes were brought into a single platform and channelized through this portal for time bound redressal.

Receipt & Disposal of complaints in Southern Railway through RAILMADAD

In Southern Railway, over 61% of the complaints are received through Rail Passenger Helpline 139, 21%

through RailMadad website (railmadad.gov.in, railmadad.in) 10% through social media forums, 5% through RailMadad App and the remaining 3% through other means like SMS to 139, E-mail, CPGRAMS, etc.

Southern Railway has been achieving 100% complaint disposal rate since 2019-20 and also maintains 37 minutes as average disposal time since April 2021. Southern Railway also maintains 8 minutes as the First response Time (FRT). FRT is an indicator of efficiency in handling Medical and Security assistance during emergencies.

Railways at all levels have taken concerted efforts in creating awareness about RailMadad amongst passengers. Faster and satisfactory resolution of grievances has resulted in



restoring the faith of the passengers in the grievance redressal system which serves as an harbinger of hope during any inconvenience experienced by passengers during their train journey or while at railway premises.

As a result lots of passengers have now started using the Railmadad complaints mechanism. The total no. 75613 complaints have been resolved in the current financial year 2022-23 till date when

compared to 31450 complaints resolved during the previous financial year 2021-22 (Apr-Mar).

How RailMadad works?

RailMadad, the unified customer interface for grievance, enquiry, suggestion and assistance, provides passengers the choice to access the portal through multiple channels, namely, Web, App, SMS, Social Media and Helpline number (139) during the journey

for expeditious resolution of their complaints. On registration of a complaint, a unique complaint number is generated and the status of the grievance is continuously monitored. Passengers also have the facility to track the status of their complaints using the unique reference number.

Depending on the complaint's nature, urgency and complexity the maximum time limit within which a case has to be resolved is

predetermined. As the name suggests, RailMadad has come to the rescue of thousands of passengers during emergencies offering first response and subsequently the required assistance in minimum possible time. While all the departments work in perfect coordination to resolve complaints, it is the Security, Mechanical and Commercial wings that deploy field personnel, play a very crucial role and rush to the passengers' aid during emergencies

arising during travel.

Responding to onboard complaints is a very challenging task. RailMadad handles this meticulously, as it is integrated with the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) and other platforms like Integrated Coach Management System (ICMS). Thus, when an onboard complaint is registered both the Train Running Railway and Train Owing Railway is alerted and the complaint is resolved within the earliest possible time.

Suggestions module

Further, the Suggestions module of RailMadad is an innovative tool through which suggestions from various stakeholders are received and forwarded to concerned branch officers, who could use them as a guide to make future decisions. RailMadad is also used as a managerial tool to measure the

efficiency of the subordinate units. Each Division/unit is committed to rectify the deficiencies in their system and offer quality service to the passengers.

Team RailMadad

RailMadad portal is monitored round the clock by a dedicated and efficient team of Officers, Controllers, Inspectors at the Divisional-level, Zonal-level, Railway Board-level and also by the Engineers at CRIS (the Centre for Railway Information Systems). The consolidated Team effort is driving the RailMadad portal to the realm of success.

It is noteworthy that RailMadad was awarded Silver-under category-II of National e-governance Awards "for excellence in providing Citizen Centric Delivery" during the 23rd National Conference on e-governance held at Mumbai in February 2020.

## Head of Largest-Ever U.S. Delegation to Aero India: Ambassador Jones Lauds Growing U.S.-India Defense, Security, and Economic Partnership

BENGALURU, Feb 13 2023: Speaking at a press conference in Bengaluru on the eve of Aero India 2023, the head of the U.S. delegation to Aero India, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Ambassador A. Elizabeth Jones, said the size of the U.S. delegation, impressive USA Partnership Pavilion that will open Monday, and growing diplomatic and security cooperation over the last year "show that the U.S.-India strategic partnership is one of our most consequential relationships."

"India and the United States are working together in so many ways to ensure a free and open, prosperous, connected, and resilient Indo-Pacific region, where our democracies can thrive. As partners, we're working together to address climate change; improve global health and prepare for new pandemics; cooperate on cyber challenges; build quality infrastructure; and ensure sustainable supply chains. We're strengthening our cooperation on critical technologies, from space components to semiconductors," said Ambassador Jones.

Jedidiah P. Royal, Principal Deputy

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, who leads the U.S. delegation of senior U.S. government officials from the Department of Defense, said, "These close partnerships have generated tens of thousands of jobs in India and enabled critical transfers of technology and manufacturing expertise to India. U.S. companies have established engineering centers and manufacturing hubs and have also invested in building R&D centers that harness India's incredibly talented scientists and engineers to advance cutting-edge R&D projects."

Major General Julian C. Cheater, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs, said, "As democracies bookending the Indo-Pacific, the United States and India share a common vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. That shared vision is strengthened by world-class events like Aero India where we are able to engage in-person to increase trust and understanding."

Rear Admiral Michael Baker, Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in New

Delhi said, "As we mark the one-year anniversary of the U.S. Indo-Pacific

Among the major highlights throughout Aero India 2023, an F-16

in Aero India 2023 with exhibits in the USA Partnership Pavilion

Industries Association (AIA), Astronautics Corporation of America,

Agency, GE Aerospace, General Atomic Aeronautical Systems Inc, Hi-Tech Import Export Corporation, Jonal Laboratories, Inc., Kallman Worldwide, Inc., Lockheed Martin, Pratt & Whitney, TW Metals, LLC, and United Performance Metals. Link to information about U.S. exhibitors at the USA Partnership Pavilion organized by Kallman Worldwide and located in Hall A at Yelahanka Air Force base : <https://kallman.com/shows/aero-india-2023>

The United States Air Force Band of the Pacific's seven-member music ensemble Final Approach, based out of Yokota Air Base in Japan, will perform for the public at Aero India on February 16. The rock band will also

perform for the general public from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on February 15 at the St. Joseph's University auditorium, Langford Road in Bengaluru.

Below are links to the manufacturers' descriptions and imagery of the above-mentioned platforms.

U.S. Air Force:

F-16 Fighting Falcon, 51st Fighter Wing, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea (Static)

Pacific Air Forces F-16 Demonstration Team, Misawa Air Base, Japan (Aerial Demo)

U.S. Navy:

F/A-18E Super Hornet, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5, Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan (Static).

Strategy, we are excited to be in Bengaluru for Aero India. The U.S.-India Defense relationship is an important element of that strategy - and our Defense Partnership is stronger than ever. This week you will have the chance to see American Air power operating alongside the Indian Air Force: we plan to have a variety of aircraft here, one of our largest delegations ever, and the U.S. Air Force Pacific Band who will perform at venues around Bengaluru."

Fighting Falcon duo, one of the United States Air Force's (USAF) leading fighter jets, will conduct daily aerial demonstrations. The F/A-18E and F/A-18F Super Hornet, the U.S. Navy's most advanced frontline carrier-based, multi-role strike fighter available today, will be on static display.

On February 13, Ambassador Jones will open the USA Partnership Pavilion at Aero India 2023.

Leading U.S. defense companies participating

include Aero Metals Boeing, Defense Alliance, Aerospace Security Cooperation



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## Madhya Pradesh CM says protecting the health of the earth is our highest duty



Chennai, Feb 13 2023: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that protecting the health of the earth is our highest duty.

“The reckless use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to increase production has badly affected the health of the Earth and the quality of the soil. This has also had a bad effect on human health,” said Shri Chouhan, in his Inaugural Address to the G20 1st Agriculture Deputies Meeting (ADM) of Agriculture Working Group (AWG) at Indore today.

Stressing upon adoption of technology that is ecofriendly, Shri Chouhan said it is necessary to adopt the campaign of Natural Farming started by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

“India has believed for centuries that nature should not be exploited, we should only harness natural resources. For the natural balance, it is necessary for humans as well as animals and birds to exist,” he said.

Shri Chouhan said, due to the ever increasing population, food security is an important issue facing the world today.

“Only 12 percent of the world's land is suitable for agriculture. By the year 2030, the demand for food grains will be 345 million tonnes, while in the year 2000 this demand was 192 million tonnes. It is evident that neither the agricultural land is going to increase nor our natural resources are going to increase,” he said.

Shri Chouhan said we should also make appropriate efforts to increase the productivity of agricultural land. “For this, the use of mechanization, digitalization, new technology and new seeds will have to be encouraged continuously,” he said.

Shri Chouhan said that under the leadership of PM Modi, there has been continuous improvement in agriculture growth rate in Madhya Pradesh for a decade.

“The state has made



significant contribution in meeting the country's food grains needs. The state has been at the first position in the production of oilseeds in the country. Madhya Pradesh has 60 percent participation in the production of Soy in the country. Madhya Pradesh is the largest producer of wheat in the country. We have made every possible effort to increase production in the state. In this, the work of increasing the irrigation area is noteworthy. In the year 2003, only 7.5 lakh hectare area was irrigated in the state. By increasing this, now we are irrigating 45 lakh hectare area. Our target is to provide irrigation facility in 65 lakh hectare. The use of new technology and good seeds is being encouraged in the state to increase production,” he said.

Shri Chouhan said, besides increasing production, it is also necessary to reduce the cost of production.

“Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi, continuous efforts are going on to provide necessary support to the farmers, to reduce the cost of production and to make farming a profitable business. In this direction, initiatives are also being taken to help the farmers with the use of new economical technology and mechanization. Loans are being made available to the farmers at zero percent interest. A fixed amount is being made available to the farmers every year in the Kisan Samman Nidhi, an initiative of PM Modi. In this, Madhya Pradesh has also added its own amount. Its objective is to support the farmer in the cost of agriculture,”

he said.

Shri Chouhan said, it is also necessary to provide fair price to the farmers for their produce.

“The concept of Minimum Support Price is applicable in India. Along with this, the State and Central Government are also active in helping the farmers in case of natural calamity,” he said.

Shri Chouhan said that PM Modi has taken up the task of promoting traditional millets in the form of a campaign.

“Millets have been named as “Shri Anna” by PM Modi. The United Nations has also declared this year as International Year of Millets. Let us make every possible effort that these nutritious grains do not disappear from the earth,” he said.

On the sidelines of the G20 1st ADM, Shri Chouhan also inaugurated an exhibition that showcased the potential, achievements and progress made by Agriculture and Allied Sectors with special emphasis on Millets. The Chief Minister visited various stalls and keenly observed the agricultural products. Animal Husbandry and Fisheries stalls along with Millets and its value-added food products were the center of attraction in the exhibition.

Thereafter, two side events namely: Stock taking of G20 initiatives and Global Forum on Climate Smart Agriculture on Food Security, were held on the first day of the three-day meeting. Along with participation of the delegates, side events also witnessed the presence of various organizations and individuals of repute.

Following the deliberations, the day concluded with the delegates enjoying the Kisan mela, live counters, DIY stalls and the cultural event, which gave them a flavour of local culture and cuisine. Earlier, Shri Chouhan also addressed a press conference and interacted with the media.

Early this morning, the day started with the heritage walk at Rajwada Palace where the delegates got an opportunity to indulge in the history of the palace, which was built by the Holkars in 18th century.

Union Minister of Civil Aviation & Steel, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia will address the Conference tomorrow, following which there will be general discussion among the participating members and International Organizations.

Day Three will be dedicated to the deliberations on the key deliverables of the AWG. It will be a technical session with round about discussions and participation from all concerned members and international organizations.

Representatives of G-20 member countries, guest countries and international organizations are attending the three day 1st Agriculture Deputies Meeting (ADM) of Agriculture Working Group (AWG) being held under India's G20 Presidency, being organized by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India under the stewardship of the Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.

## NEC Corporation India signs MoU with AVIT to enable learning for students, researchers and faculties in the field of AI/ML

Chennai, Feb 13 2023: NEC Corporation India (NEC India), a wholly owned subsidiary of NEC Corporation, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AVIT (Aarupadai Veedu Institute of Technology) for a comprehensive education program for tech aspirants. The MoU will help students and researchers achieve their full potential across diverse workloads by establishing a dedicated AI/ML and HPC lab on the campus. The MoU was signed by Mr Deepak Jha, GM, NEC Corporation India and Mr. G. Selvakumar, Principal, AVIT.

Mr. Deepak Jha,

General Manager & Head, Artificial Intelligence Platform, NEC India, said, “The joint education programme will create industry-ready professionals. The students will learn profound technological concepts, cutting-edge software and hardware 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 MOU, we look forward to making the youth self-

reliant on emerging technologies.”

Mr. G. Selvakumar, Principal, AVIT, said, “Curating blended educational frameworks is the future, and we believe that along with NEC India, we can expose our students to world-class technological innovation and real-world problem-solving acumen. We believe this will help groom them into becoming better technology professionals who will be equipped to navigate a dynamic workplace.”

As data analytics, 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. The education programme aims to upskill and make 240 students industry prepared annually.

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

## NTPC organizes three-day International Operations & Maintenance Conference 2023 at Raipur

Chennai, Feb 13 2023: “India is committed to providing reliable and affordable power supply to people while keeping environmental concerns as the core priority”, said Shri R.K. Singh, Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy during the inaugural ceremony of the three-day international Operations & Maintenance conference, the Indian Power Stations 2023 being organized by NTPC Limited at Raipur in Chhattisgarh. While addressing the audience he further lauded NTPC Limited's accomplishment by saying, “NTPC Limited has set global operational benchmarks in terms of its performance, culture, and progress.”

The three-day Indian Power Stations 2023 International Operations & Maintenance Conference or IPS 2023 is being organized from 13th to 15th February at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium at Raipur, Chhattisgarh on “Strategies for reliable and sustainable power generation in changing energy scenario” being the theme for this year. Day 1 began with the inauguration of the Conference and Techno galaxy exhibition followed by technical sessions of the Operations & Maintenance Conference and interaction with vendors at the exhibition. Continuing the same on Day 2, there will be a concluding session for NTPC delegates. Day 3 will include Techno galaxy and interaction with vendors in exhibition stalls followed by the presentation of vendors.



Commenting on the contribution of NTPC Limited in the energy sector, Shri Krishna Pal Singh, Minister of State of Power said, “The efforts of NTPC have been commendable so far. As the need for power increases in the country, the need is to tackle certain challenges that come along with it. I believe that a lot of interesting ideas will come from this conference which will help significantly in the future of sustainable and reliable power.”

NTPC Vindhyachal achieved the distinction of crossing 600 + BE score and received the coveted Overall Excellence award. Since the IPS conference was withheld in the past two years due to the Covid pandemic, this year, the laurels for the stations recognized for Overall Excellence for Years 20-21 and 21-22 assessment years were bagged by NTPC Singrauli and NTPC Rihand respectively. The Overall Excellence for assessment year 22-23 - Special recognition by jury - was awarded to NTPC Solapur. The awards were received by the BUH of the Respective stations along with the Regional Executive Directors.

NTPC Korba

received the First Runner-Up award, and NTPC Talcher Kaniha received the Second Runner-Up award. Shri Gurdeep Singh, CMD NTPC, Shri Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairperson Central Electrical Authority (CEA), Shri VK Dewangan, CMD, REC Ltd, Shri DK Patel Director (HR), Shri Ramesh Babu V, Director (Operation), Shri Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya, Director (Projects) and Shri Jaikumar Srinivasan, Director (Finance), independent directors of NTPC and senior officials were present during the felicitation ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Gurdeep Singh, CMD NTPC Limited said, “Reliable and sustainable power is more important than PLF or the generation. Going forward, the challenges with renewable energy and thermal power will become more severe as the requirements for the grid will have to be taken into consideration. Safety, reliability, flexibility, efficiency, and affordability is the priority. We should keep the cost of power as low as possible”

As the world is currently undergoing major transformations

induced by the Covid 19, the war in Ukraine, and the resultant supply chain disruptions affecting global commodity prices. NTPC pledges to never compromise on the availability of energy for the country's growth and to maintain a high living standard for the people.

Shri Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairperson, CEA said, “The narrative around the world is to move away from coal-based power generation. The fact that every country has its own transition path holds true. But for a country like India, there is no option other than coal for a sustainable and reliable source of energy for consumers at present.”

Shri V Ramesh Babu, Director Operations, NTPC also spoke on the occasion. He emphasized the commitment to generating and providing reliable power at competitive prices in a sustainable manner by optimizing the use of multiple energy resources with innovative eco-friendly technologies, contributing to the economic development of the nation, social upliftment of society, and promoting a healthy environment.



## Queen Mira Int'l School, Madurai, to enrich 200 students from govt, corpn, pvt schools with exposure visit to ISROHC judges, police officers, Kollywood celebrities meet and greet school children



Chennai, Feb 13 2023: As part of its social initiative, the Queen Mira International School (QMIS), Madurai, is taking around 200 students, majority of them are from Corporation and Government schools, on an educational tour to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). To impart practical scientific knowledge to the middle school children, QMIS, along with a group of its own students, is taking those from the underprivileged sections to ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota in the Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh. The nearly 200-member team, while on its way to Sriharikota, made a stopover in Chennai on Feb 12, where Justices J Nisha Banu and M S Ramesh, the judges of Madras High Court, greeted them. Senior police officers R Thirunavukkarasu, IPS, and A Mylvaganan, lyricist Madhan Karky, pianist Anil Srinivasan of Rhapsody Music Foundation and music composer Jerard Felix also joined the judges in providing the students a warm send-off. According to Chairman Dr C

Chandran, QMIS, in association with M.S. Chellamuthu Trust and Research Foundation led by well-known psychiatrist Dr C Ramasubramanian, has, as part of executing its social responsibility, decided to provide technical exposure to the disadvantaged students on Space technology. "Hence, we selected skilled students from government-run schools for the ISRO tour through the inter-school competitions, called 'The Little Emperors' (TLE), conducted for them a couple of months ago," he said. Managing Director Mr Abinath Chandran said the science tour for about 200 children has been arranged under the guidance of Dr R Thiruchenthuran, founder-president of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Vision 2020, and upon obtaining due approval from the ISRO administration and Madurai Corporation and other schools concerned. "We are the first private educational institution in the State to take the students of Corporation, Government-aided and other private schools to the Spaceport of India," he stated. All these middle school students who would embark on an

ambitious journey are the winners of TLE - Season 8' hosted by Queen Mira in the last week of November 2022. Inspired by the ISRO Deputy Director R Venkatraman, who is on the school's advisory board, the school had 'Space Exploration' as the theme for the mega event. The eighth edition of TLE received an overwhelming response from the schools in Madurai and neighbouring districts. About 40 events including 'Kural Koorum Kadhaigal', doodle art, arcimboldo, junior journalist and mime were conducted for various sections from pre-primary to secondary graders. Academic Director Ms Sujatha Guptan said, the week-long competitions saw the participation of about 6,000 students from over 200 schools, including corporation, government and aided schools, in seven districts - Madurai, Theni, Sivagangai, Dindigul, Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram and Tenkasi. Queen Mira is also the first school in this part of the State to have invited government, aided and corporation schools for the inter-school event and conducted

competitions for them exclusively. As a precursor to the ISRO trip, the school released a lyrical video titled 'Vanatha Vellaporom', penned by Madhan Karky to the music scored by Jerard Felix, on its campus on the 13th of January with both the Kollywood personalities as chief guests. It is a 'Space Anthem' created as a tribute to ISRO and to inspire and motivate school children to become space scientists in future. The 'Space Anthem' was formally launched in the presence of special guests during the send-off ceremony in Chennai on Sunday. The field visit to the government Spaceport will further ignite the participating students' passion to pursue higher studies and careers in Astronomy and Space Science and help develop an interest in Space Technology. The children who the Queen Mira International School is taking for the ISRO exposure visit include those from the Madurai Corporation schools in Krishnapuram Colony and Sundararajapuram and Ponmudiyar and Navalur Somasundara Bharathiar Corporation higher secondary schools among others.

## Guidehouse commences operation in Chennai To hire over 2000 employees by end 2023

Chennai, Feb 13 2023: Guidehouse, a leading global provider of consulting and managed services to public sector and commercial clients, today announced the commencement of its operation from Chennai. Guidehouse is the fastest-growing global consulting firm, serving both commercial and public sector markets supporting clients within sectors including Healthcare, Life Sciences, Financial Services, Energy, Sustainability, and Infrastructure.

The 72,964 sqft office located in- 2nd Floor, Cambridge Tower, Ramanujan IT SEZ was inaugurated by



Charles Beard, COO, Guidehouse and Mahendra Singh Rawat, Country Head, Guidehouse India, today. Guidehouse will be seeking top talent to join the team, with plans to hire 2000 full-time employees in Chennai by the end of 2023. In addition, Guidehouse anticipates opening additional locations in India in the next 12-18

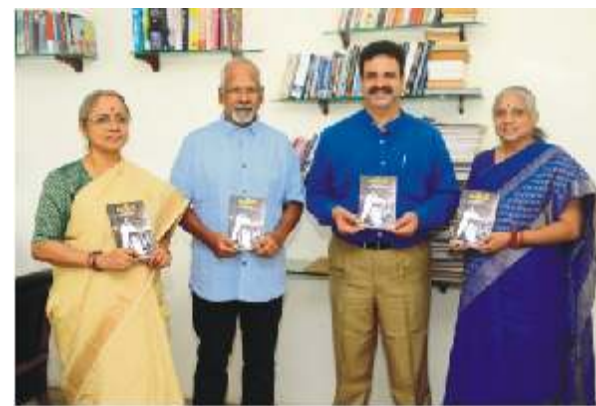
months. The India team at Guidehouse will support managed services engagements and specialized technology services in cutting-edge digital modernization capabilities on critical projects to the company's clients across the globe.

"We remain committed to growing our presence across

India and cultivating exceptional career opportunities for the local workforce as we expand our capabilities and digital expertise in new areas," stated COO Charles Beard. He continued to confirm the commitment of Guidehouse to its growth in India stating, "Chennai has the perfect combination of professionals and a deep talent base for multiple business and expansion opportunities, which we see as critical to the growth of Guidehouse. With this wealth of talented professionals, Chennai has become a hub for IT and managed services expertise for our business."

## Mani Ratnam Releases 'Ponniyin Selvan' Writer Kalki Krishnamurthi's Tamil Biography

Chennai, Feb 13 2023: Writer Kalki Krishnamurthi who wrote Ponniyin Selvan, was a multi-faceted personality as Editor, art critic, lyricist besides being a patriot and freedom fighter. He participated in the freedom struggle and was imprisoned thrice. His life, like his writings, is very interesting. Journalist S Chandra Mouli has written the biography of Kalki in Tamil titled "Kalki: Ponniyin Selvar" and published by Kalaignan Padhippagam. The book was launched by



Director Mani Ratnam today (13 February 2023) and the first copies of the book were received by Mrs. Seetha Ravi and Mrs. Lakshmi Natarajan, granddaughters of Writer Kalki.

"The fact that writer Kalki's writings have

been enjoyed across generations is a testament to the appeal of his writing! After the success of the PS1 and getting ready for the release of PS2, I am happy to release the book on life and achievements of Kalki"

said Mr Maniratnam. Mrs. Seetha Ravi said, "Today's Instagram generation, who have enjoyed reading Kalki's works and watching Ponniyin Selvan on screen, can know about his personality vividly told in this book. The message of his life is his deep patriotism and courageous writing." The 220 pages book "Kalki: Ponniyin Selvar" is priced at Rs 225/-. For copies contact: Kalaignan Pathippagam, 9 Sarangapani street, T Nagar, Chennai 600017. Ph: 044-28340488.

## "Vijay Sethupathi would explain the scenes even to the junior artists on the sets" - Actress Deepshika

Chennai, Feb 13 2023: Filmmaker Ranjith Jeyakodi's recent release 'Michael' has garnered phenomenal response from the film buffs. Released as a Pan-Indian film, Sundeep Kishen plays the titular character in this movie, which also features Vijay Sethupathi and Gautham Vasudev Menon in prominent characters. While Divyansha Kaushik and Varalaxmi play the female lead roles, Deepshika performed an amazing character called 'Jennifer'. She plays the second wife of Gautham Vasudev Menon, and mother of childhood Sundeep Kishen, a club singer looking like a beautiful doll. Deepshika is our very own Tamil girl born and brought in Chennai. However, she got too busy with Telugu projects while acting in Tamil movies. She is now currently acting in nearly half dozen of Telugu films that are scheduled at different stages of production. Michael has expanded her domain to the Pan-Indian stretches, by gaining her lots of recognitions and appreciations for her spellbinding performance. The elated actress Deepshika shares her experience of working on this film, and about her upcoming projects. "I am glad to receive appreciations and positive feedbacks for my performance as Jennifer in Michael from industry friends, close friends and fans. I thank Ranjith Jeyakodi sir for this great opportunity. Initially, this role was supposed to be played by another leading actress, but she couldn't make it at the last minute due to some reasons, and that's when Ranjith Jeyakodi approached and



asked me if I could do this role. The one liner about my character instantly attracted me towards this project, and I got into it without any second thoughts. The entire film revolves around my character of 'Jennifer'. During the narration itself, I could easily predict that it will have a good impact with the audiences. Director Ranjith Jeyakodi made sure that my character appears now and then in the first half and in the film's climax. Furthermore, I got an opportunity to act along with the talented actors like Vijay Sethupathi, Sundeep Kishen and Gautham Vasudev Menon. During the shoot, Gautham Vasudev Menon sir completely transformed into an actor, and he was so cordial with everyone on the sets. Many scenes involving me and Vijay Sethupathi were filmed, but were removed due to the length issues. Vijay Sethupathi is a natural actor, and respects everyone so equally. While shooting

the jail sequences, he would voluntarily walk towards the crowd artists in the backdrops, give inputs for them to showcase their acting abilities, which surprised me a lot. Both Sundeep Kishen and I didn't have any sequences together. However, as the entire crew worked together in a friendly way, Sundeep Kishen would come to the shooting spot even though there were no scenes for him. Although I played the mother's role of his childhood character, director Ranjith Jeyakodi depicted me as 'Jennifer', and not as a mother character. When I accepted to be a part of this project, I never expected that my character would be noticed and appreciated to such an extent. Many appreciated watching my performance in this movie. At the same time, few cited that there are mild traces of KGF in this movie. The film's cinematographer Kiran Kaushik is a former associate of

cinematographer Ravivarma. During the shoot, I saw him as a proficient and well-experienced cinematography for his works were phenomenal. Hence, his visuals would have given an impact of KGF to many audiences. Currently, I am acting in a Telugu movie titled 'Uthvegam', where I play a lawyer and a social activist that always stands up for the right and justice in the society. Arun Adithya has played the lead role in this movie, and he essays the character of a lawyer too. The story revolves around the difference of opinions between both the characters, which is told in an entertaining manner. My other Telugu film 'Raavana Kalyanam' is gearing up for release now. The film is simultaneously made in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Hindi. Sandeep Madhav plays the lead role and Simha performs a pivotal character. Besides, I have completed acting in another Telugu movie produced by Telugu industry's topmost actor Ravi Teja. Since, I am getting more offers consistently in Telugu industry, I am showing complete focus and interest in the industry. The shooting of my Tamil movie is completed as well now. The official announcement about it will be out soon. I am glad that I got introduced in a Telugu Pan-Indian movie, and my next movie too is having its release in four languages. I feel proud to be a part of back-to-back Pan-Indian movies, which motivates and instils more energy in me to continue my journey," says Deepshika.



## 3rd Dr. KCG VERGHESE TROPHY to be held at HITS From 18th & 19th February 2023

Chennai, Feb 13 2023: The 3rd Dr. KCG Verghese Equestrian competition will be held at Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science on the 18th and 19th February 2023. This Equestrian competition will see the participation of over 10 teams on these two days.



The teams will compete in the following categories including: DRESSAGE, SHOW JUMPING, TENT PEGGING & ARENA POLO. This event is being held in commemoration of completion of 10th year of the Horse Riding club of the Institution.

speaking on the occasion, Dr. Anand Jacob Verghese, Chancellor, Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science said, "We are the only private university to have a full fledged Stable with over 20 horses. With the support and vision of our Founder, our campus had an equestrian facility even way back in 1996. A Horse Riding Club was established in 2011 and in commemoration of 10 years of the club we have decided to start a rolling Trophy named after our Founder. This trophy will reiterate our commitment in maintaining a fully functional stable to encourage participation in this unique sport.

Also, in addition to the extracurricular and

sporting facilities offered at HITS, This club is a stellar example to provide our students an all rounded experience including horse riding as part of their period of study at the campus."

- The 3rd Dr. KCG Verghese Trophy will see the following teams competing:
1. OFFICERS TRAINING ACADEMY - Indian Army
  2. TNPOLICE
  3. NCC
  4. CHENNAI EQUITATION CENTRE
  5. EAST COAST EQUESTRIAN
  6. CHENNAI RIDING SCHOOL
  7. EQUINE DREAMS
  8. CHENNAI POLO.2.0
  9. SPT TANJAVUR
  10. AMBUR EQUESTRIAN CLUB and HINDUSTAN UNIVERSITY

**About the Categories:**  
Dressage - Dressage is described as "the

highest expression of horse training where horse and rider are expected to perform from memory a series of predetermined movements.

Its fundamental purpose is to develop, through standardized progressive training methods, a horse's natural athletic ability and willingness to perform, thereby maximizing its potential as a riding horse.

The rider is relaxed and appears effort-free while the horse willingly performs the requested movement.

Show Jumping - Show jumping is an amazing, beautiful, courageous and fun fast sport that, because of the incredible, effort and also your heart of the horses involved, just has the ability to capture an exciting audience.

The show jumping course tests a horse's athleticism, agility and tractability while simultaneously testing a riders precision, accuracy and responsiveness. The relationship you build up with a horse must be

based on respect toward the horse, not on fear or pain show jumping, competitive equestrian event in which horse and rider are required to jump, usually within a time limit, a series of obstacles that have been designed for a particular show.

Arena Polo - Arena polo is an indoor or semi-outdoor variant with similar rules to traditional polo, and is played with three riders per team. The playing field is smaller, enclosed and usually of compacted sand or fine aggregate, and often indoors. Arena polo has more maneuvering due to space limitations, and uses an air-inflated ball slightly larger than the hard solid ball used in field polo. Standard mallets are used, though slightly larger-head arena mallets are an option.

Tent Pegging - Tent pegging is a cavalry sport of ancient origin, and is one of only ten equestrian disciplines officially recognized by the International Equestrian Federation. Used narrowly, the term refers to a specific mounted game with ground targets. More broadly, it refers to the entire class of mounted cavalry games involving pointed and edged weapons (lance and sword) on horseback, for which the term "equestrian skill-at-arms" is also used.

## Government has launched of National Air Quality index and decided to leapfrog from BS-IV to BS-VI fuels standards to combat air pollution

Chennai, Feb 13 2023: Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today informed that pollution is one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases. There is no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to pollution. Health effects of pollution are synergistic manifestation of factors, which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals.

It was stated that Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 131 cities (including 123 non-attainment cities exceeding National

Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), which were notified to protect human health) in the country which includes Kanpur city. Further, CPCB carried out environmental quality monitoring in 100 Industrial Areas, including Kanpur Industrial Area, during 2018 and evaluated Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) scores. The Kanpur Industrial Area has CEPI score of 89.46. The Government has taken several steps to combat pollution in the country, which include:

- Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards,
- Notification of Emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time,
- Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality,

Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.),

Launching of National Air Quality index,

Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards.

Notifications of waste management rules/regulations which were issued include:

- Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016,
- E-Waste Management Rules, 2022,
- Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016,
- Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016,
- Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules 2016,
- Utilization of Ash from Coal and Lignite based Thermal Power Plant 2021.

written reply it was stated that for abatement of water pollution and chemical pollution, the steps taken by the Government include formulation and notification of standards for effluents from industries and sewage treatment plants into land masses/water bodies. Enforcement of these standards is done by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) through a consent mechanism to establish/operate; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of water quality; promotion of cleaner production processes, etc.

It was also stated that Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and SPCB are empowered under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for taking all necessary action for improvement of condition of environment.

## Digital initiatives of Uttar Pradesh were displayed in the exhibition organized in the program CM Yogi and Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav praised India's growing steps in digitization

Chennai, Feb 13 2023: The first Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) meeting under India's G20 Presidency began in Lucknow on Monday, with India stressing on building a strong Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem among the G20 member countries.

The first day of the three-day meeting, being hosted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, saw a workshop on 'Digital Public Infrastructure: Sharing Experiences in the Implementation of Digital Identity in Different Countries'. Other discussion themes included, 'Sharing Cyber Security Solutions for MSMEs', 'Focusing on Digital Public Infrastructure to Promote Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals' and 'Geospatial Applications for Infrastructure and Product Development in



the Digital Economy'. A workshop was also held on 'Utilization of Technologies'.

In addition to the meetings, the digital initiatives of the state of Uttar Pradesh were showcased during an exhibition before the G20 members. The meeting began with the inaugural speech by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. During this, CM Yogi said that digital technology is the need of the day and the speed with which work has been done in this field in India has set a unique example in front of the world. He said, "Pension to pensioners and

scholarship to students are also given through this medium in the state. For the past years, the vision of the respected Prime Minister is working in a transparent manner in taking India forward together with everyone on the global platform." He said that the country is moving forward in the field of digital economy. Referring to the benefits of digitization, he said that now emphasis will be laid on fast implementation of this model from agriculture to logistics and e-commerce.

Along with 141 delegates from member countries, guests from 33

countries are also participating in the meeting. The objective of the DEWG meeting is to create digital global alliances needed to handle geopolitical conflicts and better services for the people. This working group was formed in 2017 as part of Germany's G20 Presidency with the aim of promoting the implementation of a secure, interconnected and inclusive digital economy.

Currently the global digital economy is US\$11 trillion, which is expected to reach US\$23 trillion by 2025. The DEWG plays a key role in shaping the global policy dialogue in the digital space. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has said in a statement that India is looking to partner with other countries to build a robust UPI ecosystem, which will allow Indians to use the UPI platform for payments abroad.

## HCL-SRFI Successfully Concludes 21st Asian Junior Team Championship

Chennai, Feb 13 2023: HCL, a leading global conglomerate, along with the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI), today announced the successful completion of 21st Asian Junior Team Championships in Chennai at the Indian Squash & Triathlon Academy. The championship has been supported by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports & Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu.

The final match in the men's category was played between India and Pakistan where Pakistan won the title with a score of 2-0. Whereas, in the women's category, the final match was played between Malaysia, and Hong-Kong China, with Malaysia taking home the title with the score of 2-0.

The tournament witnessed participation from 69 players from 10 Asian countries including Chinese Taipei, Hong-Kong China, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri

Lanka and India. Leading players like Anahat Singh (IND, Asian Junior Rank 3 (GU17), Noor Zaman (PAK, Asian Rank 2 (BU19), Whitney Isabella Anak Wilson (MAL, Asian Junior Rank 2 (GU15), Doyce Lee Ye San (MAL, Asian Junior Rank 2 (GU17) participated in the championship.

Congratulating the winners, Sundar Mahalingam, President-Strategy at HCL Corporation said, "We were happy to host the 21st Asian Junior Team Championship on home ground and it marks our long-standing relationship with SRFI. Being able to showcase the best of junior squash talent from Asian nations once again truly excites the growing squash community in India and is certainly an ideal way to start 2023. The championship provided the perfect platform to showcase HCL's commitment to being a catalyst to maximize human potential."

Cyrus Poncha, Secretary-General,

Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) said, "The Asian Junior Team Championships have been exciting and continues to contribute to building a positive momentum growth of Indian squash players and performance strategies. I would like to express my gratitude to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports & Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu for their continuous support. A big thank you to HCL who have been supporting the sport as part of its Squash Podium Program and helped elevate India on the world map of Squash. All participating players displayed exceptional skills and will only raise the level of competition in times to come. Heartiest congratulations to the winners and wish you the very best. Your talent and dedication on the court makes will ensure that you will have great career in the sport."

India has been an integral part of the Asian Junior Squash

Championships since 1983, its inception year, held in Singapore. In all the editions of the championships held so far, India has been a consistently strong performer, almost always being ranked among the top four teams in both the boy's and girl's categories. The first time that India achieved the top rank in the Boys' Team Championships was in 2011 when the championship was held in Ratmalana, Sri Lanka and thereafter in 2017 (Hong Kong). On the other hand, the country achieved first rank in the girls' team championship for the first time in 2013 (Seoul, Korea).

HCL has been supporting Squash in the country for more than seven years now with initiatives like the PSA Tours, High-Performance Camps, Referee Clinics and Training Camps for coaches and other tournaments for India's squash players as part of the HCL Squash Podium Program.