

India and Mexico today signed a Memorandum of Understanding on research, technology and innovation collaborations with focus on several key technology areas like Aerospace, Electronics, Earth & Ocean Sciences and Water, Mining, Minerals, Clean Energy, Biotech and Healthcare

Chennai, March 04 2023: India and Mexico today signed a Memorandum of Understanding on research, technology and innovation collaborations with focus on several key technology areas like Aerospace, Electronics Instrumentation & Strategic Sectors; Civil, Infrastructure & Engineering; Ecology, Environment Earth & Ocean Sciences and Water; Mining, Minerals, Metals & Materials; Chemicals (including leather) and Petrochemicals; Energy (Conventional & Non-Conventional) and Energy Devices; Agri, Nutrition & Biotech and Healthcare.

The Multi-Sectoral Historic Agreement was signed in the August Presence of Union Minister for Science &

Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh and Foreign Minister of Mexico Marcelo Ebrard at the India Science Centre, Lodhi Road in presence of High-Level Delegations from both the sides.

Welcoming Mr Ebrard and his Delegation, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the Government Delegation coming with Private Successful Start-Up ventures is a welcome sign and both the sides will exploit the Innovative Eco-System fully to have Sustainable Start-Ups.

Dr Jitendra Singh conveyed to the Mexican Delegation that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives high priority to scientific innovation and he highlights scientific projects in each of his speeches, like marine



science, climate change and bio-fuels among others. Terming India and Mexico as 'Privileged Partners', the Minister said, the two countries can complement and supplement each other in many areas and we are on right course.

Dr Jitendra Singh assured the Mexican Foreign Minister that the three priority areas of Water, Lithium and

Vaccines flagged by the Mexican side will be taken care of the CSIR and other Sister Organizations and India will provide tangible results in coming few months. He said, Lithium is becoming a real connect between India and Mexico, apart from the future vision of Sustainable Start-Ups. The Minister appreciated the presence of Foreign Minister for

signing of the MoU and said, it reflects the seriousness, the Mexican Government attaches to its relationship with India.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that CSIR and Mexican Agencies through this MoU could contribute effectively to the global society through Research and Innovation Partnerships for technology development, upscaling

of each other's Intellectual Property for commercialization and Research Infrastructure Development & Sharing. He said, in addition to regular research & development, capacity building & training and participation in Knowledge dissemination activities, a special focus on Technology and Industry collaboration has been structured in the MoU.

The Minister also informed that as a way forward to identify specific collaborative proposals, topical interaction meetings between scientists from CSIR and institutions in Mexico are planned in this month itself, specifically focusing on Health, Energy, Aerospace and Environmental protection aspects. He said, it will be highly relevant to finalize collaboration proposals in consultation with industries and other stakeholders.

Foreign Minister of Mexico, Marcelo Ebrard thanked profusely Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sending COVID Vaccines during the peak of the pandemic and he underlined that India was the first country to send Vaccines to Mexico, when many

other advanced powers and friends shown initial reluctance.

Mr Ebrard said that Mexican President Mr Andreas Manuel Obrador has instructed the Mexican Delegation to forge close ties with India and work for Joint Strategic Vision. He said, India-Mexico bilateral relations are though old and time tested, but this is the "Best Moment of Bilateral Engagement".

It may be recalled that Marcelo Ebrard called on Dr Jitendra Singh in March last year during his visit to India and flagged technology partnership between the two countries to new areas like vaccines, Information Technology, green revolution, health, biotechnology and space.

Export figure for last year already crossed in February; confident that merchandise and services exports would touch USD 750 billion this year: Piyush Goyal

Chennai, March 04 2023: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal said that the export figure for last year had already been crossed in February and expressed confidence that merchandise and services exports would touch USD 750 billion this year. He was addressing the 8th edition of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi today.

Responding to a question on India achieving the highest export figure in the past year, the Minister said that it was the result of a deep-dive analysis and extensive planning where India's capabilities were thoroughly assessed, new markets were sought out, districts, especially remote ones were empowered to become export hubs and all Indian Missions abroad were effectively leveraged to promote trade, technology and tourism. The Minister noted that last year, merchandise and service trade had crossed USD 650

billion.

Shri Goyal opined that the transformational initiatives undertaken by the government over the last decade, such as the Swachh Bharat Mission, electrification of around 35 million homes in rural India, creation of a robust power grid, housing for all, free healthcare for over 500 million people had held India in good stead to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic. He lauded the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's decisive leadership and said that all through the pandemic PM Modi constantly sought ideas not only to overcome the pandemic but to transform the challenges it posed into opportunities.

Responding to a query on global uncertainty caused due to conflict, Shri Goyal said that these turbulent times had given India an opportunity to showcase its resilience. He explained that food security had emerged as a serious challenge before the world and said that PM Modi had the foresight to plan ahead to fortify India's

food security by ensuring an adequate supply of fertilizers.

Speaking of the time when fertiliser prices hit the roof, Shri Goyal said that PM Modi had ensured that farmers, especially small and marginal farmers did not take a hit by taking the burden of the increased prices on the central government. 'India is self-sufficient on food security, and we will continue to produce at greater levels than last year so that we can support some of our neighbours and other friendly nations', he said.

The Minister stressed that the government had been creating an enabling environment to attract investment into India. He highlighted that India was a nation of 1.4 billion people who are both youthful and aspirational with excellent skills, including managerial skills. He observed that the government had been successful in meeting the basic requirement of life of the people, liberating them from the struggle to secure the basic amenities of life,

thereby empowering them to aspire for better things in life.

These enhanced aspiration levels, the Minister said, presented a huge market opportunity to investors, in addition to sharpening India's competitive edge in the world market due to the willingness people have to work harder and contribute more to India's growth story. 'Government has focused on greater Ease of Doing Business, reducing compliance burden, decriminalising laws, implementing PLI scheme in critical sectors, digitising the economy promoting Startups. The world will not get a better friend and trusted partner like India', he noted.

The Minister responded to a query on semiconductors and said that many companies were already in dialogue for investing in India in the semi-conductor chain because of the India's stability and investor-friendly business ecosystem. Demystifying the reasons behind India's trade deficit and import reliance, the Minister

stressed that with the high levels of investments coming into manufacturing in India, India had been succeeding in producing high quality goods and services at competitive prices, rapidly reducing reliance on imports.

He underscored that the government was focusing extensively on bringing in quality consciousness through various initiatives such as Quality Control Orders (QCOs). The Minister also mentioned that the number of QCOs had grown by over four times and stands at about 440 products now and in the next two years, it would grow upto 2000 helping



achieve India's aspiration of achieving 'Zero Defect, Zero Affect'. The Minister spoke of India's sustainability thrust and said that since time immemorial, respect for nature was deep rooted in India's civilizational ethos. 'Sustainability and quality are the two factors that will hold

India in good stead in the times to come', he added.

Shri Goyal said that India would soon touch the mark of being a USD 5 trillion economy and said that it would emerge as the third largest economy in the world by 2027-28. By 2047, India will be a

developed economy with a USD 32 trillion economy, a prosperous economy where every last citizen would have access to a good quality life, he said and added that if the nation came together as one, India could even dream of building a USD 40 trillion economy by 2047.

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Pallu Padama Pathuka, a zom-com set against a forest backdrop

Chennai, March 04 2023: The zombie genre has seen some impactful and intense films from the west, now the south produced a good one. Pallu Padama Pathuka, a zom-com set against a forest backdrop, directed by Vijay Varadhan, attempts to change this. The film scares and good entertainment.

The film follows a group of five youngsters who are on the verge of committing suicide in a deep forest due to their individual problems. They stumble upon a group of deadly zombies and a girl who comes to their rescue. The girl explains to them about the deadly virus and asks



them to use weapons to destroy it.

The premise provides ample scope to create situational

comedies, and works well.

The technical aspects are impressive, Sanchita Shetty has done a good job, and Attakathi Dinesh's performance is very good. Overall, Pallu Padama Pathuka is a film to watch.

Director Vijay Varadaraj, Produced By K. E. Gnanavel Raja, Cast Dinesh, Sanchita Shetty, Shah Ra, Jagan, Production Studio Green, Music Balamurali Balu, Cinematography

Ballu, Shreyas Krishn, Editing San Lokesh, Stunt Dinesh Subbrayan, Art Ramesh Subramaniya Suresh PRO Nikhil Murugan.

Sasikumar starring Ayothi Movie Director Mandhira Moorthy's craft is powerful enough to hold the audience's attention throughout the film

Chennai, March 04 2023: Movies that touch on human values and emotions never fail to captivate us. And when a film is effective enough to immerse us in its world, we expect nothing less than a good movie. Ayothi, directed by Mandhira Moorthy, is the kind of film that leaves a lasting impression on its viewers despite a melodramatic approach. It addresses various issues such as religion, superstitions, chauvinistic attitudes of men, and more.

The director has skillfully kept the plot simple without introducing too many characters, events, or subplots, despite touching on so many issues. Within a few minutes into the film, we are introduced to a family of four from Ayothi. The family is headed by a conservative, religious patriarch, Yashpal Sharma, who treats his wife cruelly and exploits her in many ways. They have two children — a college-going girl, Shivani, played by Preethi Asrani, and a young boy. On the occasion of Deepavali, the family decides to go on a spiritual trip to Rameswaram, not knowing that the trip would turn into a disaster. Janki, the mother of the two children, suffers serious injuries in an accident, and a man from Rameswaram, Sasikumar, who happens to be the friend of the cab driver involved, decides to help the helpless family.

Things get complicated when Janki dies on the way to the



government hospital. The rest of the story depicts the sufferings of the two children at the hands of their extremely religious father and how Sasikumar and his friend, Pugazh, help them to take their mother's dead body to their hometown despite all odds.

Debutant director Mandhira Moorthy's craft is powerful enough to hold the audience's attention throughout the film. The characters and dialogue are well-etched and kept as real as possible. Mandhira Moorthy has sensibly understood what a protagonist should be. Sasikumar's heroism is subtle, and his character beautifully travels along with the story.

When a filmmaker introduces us to a character in the very first scene with evil attributes, it's obvious that they will undergo a transformation in the end. But how it happens matters the most, and Mandhira Moorthy has presented it with many heartwarming moments. Although the script lacks major conflicts, it makes up for it with deeper emotions that resonate with the audience. The audience travels along with the emotions of a family from North India, which

is a rare occurrence in Tamil cinema. Preethi Asrani's performance as Shivani is exceptional, and the director has rightly used close-up shots to highlight her acting skills.

It's refreshing to see Pugazh in a character role instead of a comedian. He has done justice to the role given to him. Yashpal Sharma's performance as a man with conservative and chauvinistic attitudes is convincing, and his act towards the climax is commendable. Sasikumar has played his role well and fits in perfectly. Revealing his character name might spoil the experience of the viewers, so it's best not to reveal it.

Composer NT Raghunathan's background score elevates the emotional sequences to another level, helping the viewers connect with the characters on screen many times. The other technical aspects are decent enough to hold the audience. Madhesh Manickam's cinematography captures the emotions effectively and lets his frame speak for itself. The quality is evident right from the very first scene and the locales of

Ayodhya and Rameswaram are captured beautifully.

Ayothi is a movie that constantly emphasises love over religion, and it's worth watching.

CAST:

Sasi Kumar - (Abdul Malik) Yashpal sharma - (Balram) Preethi Asrani - (Shivani) Pugazh - (Pandi) Anju Asrani - (Janaki) Advait (Child) - (Sonu) CREW:

Director: R.Manthira Moorthy Producer: R.Ravindran Banner: Trident Arts DOP: Madheshmanickam Music: N. R Raghunathan Editor: San Lokesh Art director: G.Durai Raj Stunt: Dinesh Subbarayan Choreography: Sherif Costume designer: Keerthi Vasan Audiography: Ghatam Siva VFX: Mahi PRO: Nikil Executive Producer: Linda Alexander

Publicity designer: Thandora Music label - Sareegama Production Coordinator: S.Jayaraman Production controller: T. Selvaraj Production Executive: S.N. Asraf Manager: D. Baskar Creative - Marketing: J. Hariharan Subtitles: Rekhs Colourist: K.Arun Sangameshwar.

Jayam Ravi starrer Agilan Movie Jayam Ravi took lots of risks for many action scenes - Jayam Ravi has elevated the intensity of the film with his performance - Director Kalyan Krishnan

Chennai, March 04 2023: Actor Jayam starrer "Agilan" is helmed by N. Kalyana Krishnan, who earlier directed the actor in 'Bhoologam'. Both of them have collaborated for this film, a commercial entertainer, produced by Screen Scene Media Entertainment Pvt Ltd. While the film is all set to hit screens worldwide shortly, the crew members of the film interacted with press and media fraternity about their working experience in this movie. Producer Sundar said, "I thank press and media friends for being a great support. Agilan involved a huge journey. I thank (Jayam) Ravi sir for banking his trust on me. There were lots of challenges in materializing this film, because, the major portions were to be filmed in the backdrops of harbour areas. We had to wait for the arrival and departure of ships. However, the entire crew handled the situation carefully, and have now delivered an excellent output. The stunt team has put in lots of efforts for the film with complete involvement. There was one particular scene, when the hero had to board on a moving boat, and we all decided to go for a body double. However, Jayam Ravi sir objected it and performed it on his own. This is just one example, but he took lots of risks for many action scenes. Priya Bhavani Shankar has done a remarkable job in a cop role for this movie. Sam CS's music doesn't need any introduction, for it's always phenomenal. Both the songs and BGM have come out very well. I thank the entire cast and crew for supporting me. Thank You." Choreographer Eswar Babu said, "I thank both director Kalyan sir and producer Sundar sir for giving this opportunity. I have explored the brilliance of Kalyan sir while working with SP Jhananathan sir. I thank producer for giving him this opportunity. Sam CS has given beautiful music for this film. The song that I am associated has come out very well, which happens to be the turning point of this film. I thank both Jayam Ravi sir and Sam CS sir. Ravi sir has lots of patience, even when



flaws are committed by others. I thank Editor Ganesh sir, and cinematographer Vivek, all the assistant directors, and the entire crew for their wonderful support." Music Director Sam CS said, "Story premise is very important for any film, and it will completely change the intensity of the film. In this movie, the depiction of fresh and never-seen-before lifestyle and reality of port area is shown. Kalyan has done lots of research for this film. He would even suggest the ragas for composing music. I was completely unaware about it earlier. I have started learning it (ragas) now. But I love music, and am doing the best that I can deliver. The film has come out very well. Ravi sir is a good human being. He has the ability to effortlessly step into the shoes of any given character. He has delivered a mind-blowing performance in this movie. I request you all to support this movie. Thank You." Actress Priya Bhavani Shankar said, "the entire crew has worked a lot in shaping this film with perfection. I have no combination scenes with Tanya, but I wish her great success. Jayam Ravi has worked a lot towards enriching this entire project. The film has come out very well, and I request you all to support it." Actress Tanya Ravichandran said, "I thank director and the entire crew for giving this opportunity to me. I believe everyone will appreciate my character. Sam has given fabulous music for this film. Everyone will love this movie. Thank you all." Director Kalyan Krishnan said, "I think everyone here has spoken what I wanted to convey. The film is based on the incidents that occur in the port. So many stated that it's going to be a new experience for all. But then, I would say that the film will be easily relatable with everyone. I have so many friends residing near the port area, and their lifestyle is



as simple and normal like us. So, it will be a movie that will be easy to connect with. Jayam Ravi has elevated the intensity of the film with his performance. Usually, directors are addressed as the 'Captain of the Ship', but for our team, producer Sundar sir is the captain. I have seen many producers in my experience, but his support was phenomenal. The audience will realize the same after watching the film. My entire directorial journey has always centred around Jayam Ravi sir. We have worked together from Peranmai. I wrote screenplay for Peranmai, directed his Bhoologam and now Agilan. All these movies have good message, and working with him was so immensely great. Both Priya and Tanya have performed stupendously in this movie. Chirag plays an important character in this movie. Sam CS has delivered powerful music for this film, and VFX works will be one of the finest highlights in this movie. I thank the entire crew for a wonderful support. Thank You." Actor Jayam Ravi said, "The appreciations of press and media have been my greatest support in my two decades of film journey. I strongly believe and desire that our bonding will continue forever. The making of Agilan involved lots of challenges and it raised lots of questions in our minds as to whether the project would materialise. And that's when the producer extended support with complete trust. I thank the entire crew for making this happen.

Bobby Master and I share a good bonding from the days of Peranmai. He has done a remarkable work for this film. Vivek is the most-loved student of P.C. Sriram sir. He is a hard worker, and is associated in my next project as well. Chirag is like my brother, and I wish him success. Priya is a Tamil speaking heroine, and she is doing her best and showing lots of progress from one film to the other. Producer Sundar sir is like my brother, and we are going to collaborate for more projects. Director Kalyan is a talented personality and hard worker. He always desires and strives to convey good message for the audiences. He will be crowned with more success. The film's output was possible only because of a wonderful team. Sam CS has composed terrific music for this movie. Tanya is a surprise element in this movie. I hope and believe that you all will like this movie. I request you all to watch this film, and support us. Thank you."

Technical Team

Produced By: Screen Scene Media Entertainment Pvt Ltd Director: N Kalyana Krishnan Music Director: Sam CS Cinematographer: Vivek Anand Editor: N. Ganesh Kumar Art Director: Vijay Murgan Executive: A.P. Ravi Stunt: Miracle Micheal Lyrics: Vivek Choreographer: Eswar Babu & Sherif Costume Designer: Pallavi Sing Publicity Designer: Thandora Chandru Promotions & Strategies: Shyam Jack Teaser Cuts: Vignesh RK VFX: Baywood Virtual FX PRO: Nikil Murukan.

Vaathi/ Sir Team honours and celebrates real-life Sir/ Vaathi K. Rangaiah

Chennai, March 04 2023: Vaathi/ Sir team tells the story of a young lecturer, played by Dhanush. He goes to a Government School in a rural area and gives a facelift to the education system. He brings students to schools and raises awareness among them to fight the caste system, and celebrate equality through education. He triumphs past many hurdles, thanks to his willpower and the determination of the students. Recently, the team honoured a similar and equally inspiring government school teacher, K. Rangaiah, who won President Award, for his services. Director Venky Atluri met K Rangaiah and conversed about the film and his life. Being the youngest teacher to receive the President Award for his efforts,



he has been instrumental in bringing back students to schools in his village, Savarkhed. When the school headmaster at his village changed after he joined work, he decided to take up the responsibility of bringing back students to schools and ran campaigns against persisting problems in the region. He stated that after looking at the film, he identified himself with it. He was reportedly reminded of the many struggles he

had to face over 13 years, to achieve what he did today. He thanked Venky Atluri for making such a fantastic film and said that many scenes from Sir/Vaathi are like his biography. Sir/ Vaathi team salutes many such teachers who dedicate their lives to the upliftment of students and treat them like their God. The hymn "Gurur Brahma, Gurur Vishnu, Guru Deva Maheswaraha, Guru Sakashath Parabrahma Tasmai Sree Gurave Namaha!" couldn't

have been more apt. In a bid to recognise Rangaiah's efforts and to establish a library, the leading production house Sithara Entertainments has donated to him a sum of Rs 3 lakhs. This funding will go towards the construction of libraries in schools, providing students with access to books and educational resources, crucial for their academic, personal, and professional success.

Making 'Flexibility' her life mantra, Chennai-based Saranya Mohan juggles her role as Amazon's Flex delivery partner and an autorickshaw driver

Chennai, March 04 2023: Women have gracefully donned their many hats while managing the endless chores at home and the diverse agendas at work. In their various roles as mother, wife, daughter and as strong leaders, women are making a difference in society. Amazon India is constantly working towards creating an inclusive and equitable workplace for all, be its employees, sellers or partners, and is empowering individuals from various walks of life. Aligned with this year's International Women's Day theme, 'Embrace Equity', Amazon India in its second edition of the 'She Is Amazon' campaign aims to bring to the fore, women who inspire, lead, innovate and deliver smiles to customers.

One such example is Saranya Mohan from Chennai, who works with a local school to pick up and drop children in her autorickshaw and is also Amazon's Flex delivery partner. After completing her M.A. in Tamil literature in 2018,

she got married the same year. While she received a few work prospects after her marriage, she did not consider them due to low pay and inflexible working hours. For 4 years post marriage, she continued to be a homemaker and looked for flexible work but nothing worked for her. In July 2022, she purchased an autorickshaw and worked with a local school to ferry students between their homes and school.

Alongside driving the autorickshaw, Saranya continued looking for more flexible opportunities to earn extra income and pay back her existing loan. Her husband, who was already delivering for Amazon as a Flex delivery partner, motivated her to step out of her comfort zone and enroll in the same program. In August 2022, Saranya enrolled and became Amazon's Flex delivery partner too. The program allows delivery partners to further their earning potential by delivering Amazon packages to customers in their free time.

"It has only been a few months since I became an Amazon Flex Partner but I am enjoying every bit of it. I'm glad to have taken this decision, which has allowed me to further my earning and actively contribute to family expenses. As a woman brought up with traditional values, I found it difficult to leave my comfort zone and work in a male-dominated industry. However, my husband has been a tremendous support in this process. I hope to inspire other women who hesitate to break free of societal norms," says Saranya.

Both Saranya and her husband work around their delivery schedules, split household chores, and tend to the needs of their 4-year-old child.

Dr. Karuna Shankar Pande, Director, Amazon Logistics, India said, "At Amazon, we are committed to building a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workforce by providing work opportunities to individuals from various walks of life. It is gratifying to see how Saranya has benefited from the flexibility of

the program. Her determination to succeed in life will take her a long way and inspire everyone on her journey."

Amazon Flex is an innovative opportunity for individuals like Saranya to create their own schedule and earn part-time income by delivering Amazon packages to customers during their spare time. The part-time work opportunity has been designed for individuals whose commitments do not suit the patterns of traditional work. This could include housewives, students, or others, who can work part-time, choose their own schedule, supplement their existing income and work around family or personal commitments. Launched in 2019, the company has created part-time opportunities for thousands of individuals to further their earning potential by delivering packages to customers in their free time.

Aspiring and interested Flex delivery partners can apply here - <https://flex.amazon.in/>

SquareFoot Outdoor Flooring is the most versatile and will suit every project

Chennai, March 04 2023: Everyone enjoys having a deck outside their home where they can unwind and spend time with their loved ones. Even though natural wooden decks are aesthetically pleasing, the fear of it getting affected by weather, colour fading, splitting can become a major issue, restricting your flooring options. SquareFoot is a one stop destination to experience floors without having to worry about mishaps while also experiencing a sophisticated product. They offer a large decking range including Ipe natural wood decking, Java Teak decking, composite decking and our technologically advanced co-extrusion decking which offers elegant, resilient, low maintenance products with a stunning appearance and classic charm of natural wood.

SquareFoot co-extrusion deck is the ultimate in durability and one of the toughest co-extruded composite decking ranges available. Its resilient protective cap made of advanced polymer



resists scratches, fade, mould, and mildew, and is exceptionally low-maintenance, with only the most basic of cleaning required for optimal longevity. Co-extrusion deck offers decay and weather resistance with top protection from biodegradation, insects, and harsh weather. Its streaked colour variation provides a natural look that embodies the essence of timber. Enjoy the stain and slip resistance of this environmentally friendly alternative to timber, which is holistically sustainable from its manufacturing to its use of raw materials.

The elegance and inimitable warmth of natural wood is combined with the convenience and durability guaranteed by their exclusive technology. SquareFoot

outdoor flooring is made up of a combination of bamboo fibre, high-density polyethylene and chemical additives, making them recyclable and eco-friendly. The product is available in two varieties viz tile deck and long deck; in a wide range of sizes and patterns, which have been designed to meet all your needs. SquareFoot outdoor floorings are designed ergonomically to create a non-slippery surface with a good grip for wet areas like pool sides, gardens and parks and can also be installed as a composite deck flooring at a beach.

Mr. Gaurav Saraf, Jt Managing Director, SquareFoot says, "We assure you that our flooring is the most versatile and will suit every project. By combining modern technology and design, you can achieve an

ethnic and realistic look. Our Co-extrusion deck floors have been specially seasoned and treated to ensure long-term use in all outdoor areas."

SquareFoot gives you an all-in-one, easy-to-install, versatile product which is needed to maintain feasibility, convenience and style. It can also be installed over existing surfaces. The designed tiles can be removed and stored in winter. The deck floor tiles are low maintenance and can be used without damaging rental properties.

SquareFoot meets all your design requirements while keeping up with the volatility of your dynamic tastes to help you achieve the flooring that you seek.

The outdoor flooring range starts from Rs.425 per sqft and is displayed at SquareFoot showrooms in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Coimbatore, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Patna, Pune and Surat.

Southern Railway records substantial growth in passenger and freight segment

Chennai, March 04 2023: Southern Railway is progressively experiencing a robust growth in passenger and freight traffic as a result of concerted efforts. With respect to traffic handled as well as revenue generated, the zone has outperformed the previous year.

Freight Traffic Southern Railway attained an Originating Freight traffic of 33.9 Million Tonnes (MT) during April-February 2023, an increase of 24% over the same period last year which stood at 27.4 Million Tonnes, also exceeding the Railway Board's target of 32.25 MT by 5%. The freight earnings of Rs.3230.46 Crores in April-February 2023, exceeded the revenue of Rs.2456.81 Crores registered during the corresponding eleven monthly period of April-February 2022 by 31% and also exceeded the



Board's target of Rs.2809.60 Crores for the period by 15%.

This growth in freight loading during the aforesaid period was fuelled by Coal (16.058 MT), Food Grains (2.769 MT), Fertilizers (3.446 MT) and POL products (4.696 MT). While Coal registered an incremental loading of 1.138 MT over the Board's target for the eleven monthly period from April to February 2023, Food grains, Fertilizers and POL recorded an increase by 0.959 MT, 0.286 MT and 1.006 MT respectively over the Railway Board's target.

In the month of February 2023, Southern Railway

recorded an originating freight loading of 3.336 MT and revenue from freight stood at Rs.302.25 Crores which is 11% and 15% more than the Railway Board target respectively.

Passenger Traffic Southern Railway, being a passenger-friendly zone, has been taking persistent efforts to handle the ever increasing traffic volumes by operating reserved/unreserved, passenger trains and special trains during peak seasons and festivals.

Passenger traffic witnessed a significant growth in April-February 2023 (FY 2022-23) compared to the corresponding

period of last financial year (2021-22) in all the segments, namely, reserved, unreserved and Suburban. The overall originating passenger traffic handled by Southern Railway doubled up during April-February 2023 and stood at 582.6 Million passengers compared to 292.65 Million passengers handled during the same period last year. A revenue of Rs.5779 Crores was registered during this said period from originating passenger traffic

In the month of February 2023, Southern Railway registered an originating passenger count of 54.3 Millions across of all segment of passengers compared to 36.6 Million in February 2022, an increase of 48%. The earnings also rose up from Rs.374.37 Crores during February 2022 to Rs. 530 Crores during February 2023, an increase of 41.6%.

V-Guard signs MoU with ESAF Bank to finance Rooftop Solar Systems

Chennai, March 04 2023: V-Guard Industries Ltd, a leading electronics and electrical manufacturer, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ESAF Small Finance Bank to provide financing options to customers looking to install V-Guard's Solar Rooftop Power System. Under the agreement, ESAF Bank will provide various financing options, including loans and attractive installment payment plans. With the strategic alliance with ESAF Bank, consumers can opt to finance up to 80 per cent of the total cost of the rooftop solar power system, including the cost of installation for residential or commercial applications. This collaboration will not only reduce the burden on customers to make an upfront payment but also enable them to



generate their own electricity, thereby reducing their dependence on the grid. This partnership will enable customers to switch to clean energy with ease and affordability.

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Mithun Chittilappilly, Managing Director, V-Guard Industries Ltd., said, "We are excited to partner with ESAF Bank, which shares our vision of making clean energy accessible and affordable to all. With the increased focus on sustainability and the need for cost-effective solutions, Rooftop Solar Power Systems have become an

attractive option for consumers. This collaboration will help us reach more customers, who can benefit from our high-quality solar products and ESAF Bank's affordable financing options."

Mr. Hari Velloor, Executive Vice President, Business, ESAF Small Finance Bank, said, "We are delighted to partner with V-Guard, a company that has been at the forefront of innovation and sustainability. This partnership will enable us to provide financing options to customers looking to switch to clean energy and

contribute to a greener tomorrow. At ESAF Bank, we believe that sustainable development is key to building a better future, and this collaboration is a step towards achieving that goal."

V-Guard's Rooftop Solar Systems come with up to 40 per cent subsidy from Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The solar panels have 25-30 years of onsite warranty. Customers can choose from an extensive range of models from 3- 15 KW depending on their requirements. 1 KW plant can generate 4-5 units of electricity on a sunny day.

Update on Kollam Station redevelopment works

Chennai, March 04 2023: Southern Railway has taken up Kollam Junction railway station for redevelopment in order to offer a world-class ambience, futuristic infra and airport-like facilities for passengers. Kollam Junction railway station is one of the busiest railheads in Kerala. Categorized under "NSG-3" stations, Kollam Junction is the second busiest railway station in Kerala in terms of trains handled per day. Now the redevelopment work is underway and progressing at a steady pace.



completed for Phase -1 works

Work executed already

All the mandatory clearances have been obtained

To facilitate necessary construction works, shifting of Materials and facilities from the Southern Terminal building site has been completed

Site topographical survey, drone survey, soil investigation and Validation of Masterplan completed

PMS services were awarded and started functioning from Nov 2022

Demolition of offices completed for facilitating the construction of Terminals

Demolition of staff quarters done and alternate

accommodation has been provided for residents

Other Work in progress

The construction of site office for Project Management Consultancy is in progress

Erection of Concrete batching plant is nearing completion

Augmentation of raw materials for concreting is being collected and stored

Ancillary building works in full swing

Foundation for service building in progress

Earth work for foundation of SSE Office & Substation in progress

Around 36 existing facilities including Railway

Magistrate court, RMS, Parcel Office and Crew control Office are being shifted to temporary facilities for fast tracking of commencement of South terminal construction by 15 months.

Kollam Junction Station Redevelopment:

Tender was awarded for the redevelopment work in August 2022 as an EPC contract to M/s RITES - SCWPL (JV), Bangalore for an amount of Rs. 361.18 Cr. The project envisages redevelopment of the Southern and Northern side of the existing station. South Terminal building is planned as G+3 structure with amenities of world class standard. The newly redeveloped Kollam junction station will have ample number of lifts and escalators, multi level car parking, pick up and drop off facilities and dedicated arrival and departure concourse. The redevelopment work is slated for completion in another 33 months.

H.E Raymond Serbe BALE, Ambassador Republic of Congo has said that Congo has developed agricultural production and exports by looking at India

Chennai, March 04 2023: CEMAC Trade Council of India conference was held at Star Hotel, Guindy. It was attended by Dr. Asif Iqbal, President

India Africa Trade Council, H.E Raymond Serbe BALE, Ambassador Republic of Congo, Mr. Sanith Vijayakumaran Chairman, India CEMAC Trade Council Tamil Nadu, Dr. Venkatachalam Murugan IFS Head of Secretariat Tamil Nadu Ministry of External Affairs Govt of India and South Indian business delegation. The event was the first



step towards establishing CEMAC's goal of the Central African Common Market.

Business relations with India and Central African countries in various fields and future projects were discussed in the program.

Inaugurating the

India CEMAC Trade Council office on the occasion, the Congo Ambassador said that Indo-Congo trade relations are vital and it is gratifying to see the development of trade relations between India and Congo. He also said that both countries can benefit by strengthening this trade relationship. He also

mentioned that Indian businessmen are cooperating with good understanding.

Later, Prof Ranganathan Honorary Consul of Myanmar, spoke in detail about India's role in the G20 and Chennai as a strong city that offers opportunities to foreign countries to strengthen trades.

Following the conference, a delegation from the Indian CEMAC Trade Council is visiting Brazzaville, Congo this year to strengthen these trade opportunities between India and CEMAC.

Anant Madhukar Chowdhary taken over charge as Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, Bengaluru

Chennai, March 04 2023: Anant Madhukar Chowdhary has taken over charge as Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, Bengaluru. He will look after Railway Safety of Southern Railway, South Western Railway, Bengaluru Metro Rail

Corporation Ltd., Chennai Metro Rail Ltd., and Kochi Metro Ltd.

He belongs to the 1987 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE)

Shri A. M. Chowdhary started his

career in Southern Railway and held various post in the field of Electrification, Electric Locomotives and in General Administration

Prior to his appointment as Commissioner of Railway Safety, he was Commissioner of



Railway Safety, South Eastern Circle.

Prince Pictures S Lakshman Kumar Presents Harish Kalyan-Attakathi Dinesh starrer "Lubber Pandhu" launched with a ritual Pooja ceremony

Chennai, March 04 2023: The movie launch of Prince Pictures S Lakshman Kumar's new project 'Lubber Pandhu' happened as a simple ritual pooja ceremony. The film features Harish Kalyan and Attakathi Dinesh in the lead roles. Swaswika and Vadhandhi web series fame Sanjana Krishnamoorthy are

playing the female lead characters in this movie. Kaali Venkat, Devadarshini, and many prominent actors are a part of this star cast. Tamizharasan Pachamuthu, writer of 'Kanaa' and 'Nenjuku Nidhi' and co-director of 'FIR' is directing this movie. Dinesh Purushothaman of 'Love Today' fame is handling



cinematography. 'Run Baby Run' fame G. Madhan will take care of editing, and Sean Roldan is composing. AP Paalpandi is the

production executive and Shравanthi Sainath is the Executive Producer. The film's shooting will commence by the end of this month.

Vi invites prepaid users to join the network at just Rs.99 offering best value benefits at entry level

Chennai, March 04 2023: Leading telecom operator, Vi is inviting users in Tamil Nadu to join its network at just Rs. 99. Vi is the only brand to offer entry level recharge at affordable price point of Rs. 99 pan-India. Vi has launched a creative campaign inviting Mobile phone users to 'Switch to Vi' and full

talktime and 200 MB of data at Rs 99 for 28 days.

Inviting value conscious users to join the high speed Vi network, S. Murali, Cluster Business Head-Tamil Nadu & Kerala, Vodafone Idea Limited said, "At Vi, we have always believed in understanding the needs and aspirations of mobile users across

segments. We understand the criticality of seamless network connectivity for people to manage their day to day lives. With this entry level recharge pack, our endeavour has been to offer the best in class mobile services at most attractive price points. Mobile users and non-users in Tamil Nadu can

now join the Vi network at just Rs. 99 and enjoy the benefits of mobile connectivity in the digital era. With this offer, we are looking to drive inclusivity as well as enable more users to stay connected at all times. ". Vi RC 99 is available for all pre-paid customers across India.