

## Apollo Hospitals organizes mega health check for TN Government employees, CM Stalin visits camp

Chennai, March 19 2023: In a special effort to commemorate the 70th Birthday of the H'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M. K. Stalin, Apollo Hospitals has partnered with the Tamil Nadu Secretariat Association (TANSA) to conduct a preventive health check camp for all employees of the Tamil Nadu Government. The H'ble Chief Minister Thiru

M.K.Stalin visited the camp today and oversaw arrangements. Ms. Preetha Reddy, Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals, was also present.

The camp, which will be held at the Secretariat over the next ten days, is being organized for the benefit of over Tamil Nadu State Government

employees, pensioners and their families. The camp will help over 5000 beneficiaries consult with expert physicians who will screen and detect diseases for a variety of ailments and non-communicable diseases. The camp seeks to create awareness among the public about preventive health checks, in line with the vision of the



Chairman of Apollo Hospitals, Dr Prathap C Reddy.

Apollo Hospitals is also offering preventive treatment through a second pathway - the TN State Government Employees and Pensioners ProHealth Programme, exclusively for TN Government staff, pensioners and their

dependents. This health check programme is comprehensive and has been designed to include multiple tests relating to blood count, biochemical parameters, liver function tests, lipid tests and other general tests. The programme is offered at a cost of Rs 2500 per employee at select Apollo Hospitals.

## Dayanidhi Maran, Central Chennai, MP, inaugurated the India's Biggest RETICON one-day conference. Over 1000 eye surgeons from India and abroad attended the event

Chennai, March 19 2023: The 13th edition of RETICON, India's biggest annual retinal conference organized by Dr Agarwals Retina Foundation, was held in Chennai today. More than 1,000 Ophthalmologists from India and abroad attended the conference. Thiru. Dayanidhi Maran, Central Chennai, Member of Parliament inaugurated the event by lighting the ceremonial lamp in the presence of Prof. Dr. Amar Agarwal, Chairman, Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital and Dr Ashvin Agarwal, Executive Director & Chief of Clinical Services, Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital.

RETICON 2023 brings together vitreoretinal specialists and fellows to acquire an update on the latest techniques and technologies for the management of vitreoretinal disorder, which is constantly evolving. The sessions revolved around the topics of medical retina, surgical retina, and vitreo-retinal surgeries. RETICON offers a unique opportunity for PG students and general ophthalmologists to understand various state-of-the-art diagnostics and treatment options in the vitreo-retinal specialty.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Amar Agarwal,



Chairman, Dr Agarwals Eye Hospitals, said: "The 13th edition of RETICON was a great success, with around 1,000 eye surgeons from India and abroad attending the conference. In India, there is low awareness about retinal diseases. This makes the field of

retinal surgery extremely important. With rapid medical advances related to retinal diseases, their management and treatment are becoming much more affordable and effective. The RETICON conference aims to share the latest

advancements and innovations in vitreo-retinal surgery available to all retinal surgeons to improve clinical outcomes."

Prof. Dr. Amar Agarwal added: "Retinal diseases are the major cause of preventable blindness. Retinal diseases can be effectively managed if

diagnosed on time, but unfortunately, retinal diseases get a low priority in blindness prevention programs compared to diseases like cataracts. Due to a lack of awareness about symptoms, and ignorance about seeking treatments, there has been a

significant rise in patients who are suffering from vision loss. People aged above 40 should take simple tests to examine their vision, by closing one eye and checking for blurred vision. In case of impaired colour vision, decreased contrast or colour

sensitivity, patients should consult a Retina Specialist. Especially if one is diabetic, it is important to keep their blood sugar levels under control. Regular retinal examination every 6 months is mandatory to detect early changes in retina."

## Vice President's speech during the release of memoir of former TN Governor, PS Ramamohan Rao (Excerpts)

Chennai, March 19 2023: India is on rise as never before and the rise is unstoppable. Global relevance and recognition of the Nation is at a level never before. This rise is with challenges from within and without.

It is here that the intelligentsia and people from the media come into picture. We all need to be cognizant of the emergence of incubators and distributors of anti-Indian forces orchestrating pernicious narratives to down size our growth trajectory and taint our functional democracy and constitutional institutions. It is imperative that we all believe in our nation and nationalism and engage in neutralizing such misadventures.

In a democracy, all are similarly accountable to law. No one can have privilege consideration by Law, else Democracy will cease to exist if between A and B, A will be looked at by law through a different prism.

Be you so high, the law is always above you. It is known to us all that there can be no such privileges. There can be no enforcement of these privileges. The rigors of law to apply to all. Some people unfortunately think they are different or to be dealt with differently.

Ours is the most vibrant and functional democracy. Equality is something which we can never negotiate. Adherence to law is not optional. Some people

have to realize it. Intelligence and the media have to see a lot of meaning in it.

In democracy, dynamics of governance will always be challenging, requiring harmonious functioning of constitutional institutions, it will always happen. The legislature, the executive and the judiciary - there will always be issues and we shall never have a day when we can say henceforth, there will be no issues, because we are a dynamic society it is bound to happen.

There is no room for confrontation or being a complainant by those who head these institutions. Those who are heading the executive, legislature

or judiciary, they cannot be complacent, they cannot act in confrontation. They have to act in collaboration and find resolution together.

I have been thinking for a long time that there is a need for a structured mechanism amongst those at the helm of these institutions - the legislature, the judiciary and the executive. And such structured mechanisms of interaction will go a long way. Those who head these institutions cannot use their platforms for a dialogue with the other institution.

I have no doubt ... I've been saying for a long time ... the country's great democracy blossoms and flourishes, it is the

primacy of our Constitution that determines the stability, harmony and productivity of democratic governance. And Parliament reflecting the mandate of the people is the ultimate and exclusive architect of the Constitution.

A constitution has to evolve from the

people through Parliament. The executive has no role in evolving the Constitution and no other institution including the judiciary has any role to evolve the constitution. Constitution evolution has to take place in Parliament and there can be no super body to look into that. It has to

end with Parliament. Democratic values and public interests are optimally served when the legislature, the judiciary and the executive discharge their respective obligations scrupulously confining to their domain and acting in harmony, togetherness and tandem. This is

quintessential, any transgression of this will create a problem for democracy. It is not being possessive about power. It is being possessive about powers given to us by the Constitution. And that is a challenge we all have to collectively face and harmoniously discharge.

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## Apsara Reddy's Humanitarian Awards-2023, Nidhi Razdan, one of India's best journalists, said that children should be given the confidence that they don't have to hesitate to express any problem to their Parents

Chennai, March 19 2023: Apsara Reddy's Humanitarian function was grandly held at the HYATT REGENCY, Teynampet, Chennai.

The awards ceremony, now in its third year, recognized 13 different categories and one Lifetime Achievement Award.

This award ceremony is held to highlight those who have contributed to the education and progress of children.

Former Health Minister Vijayabaskar presented the award for education to Poovizhi. Gargi film director Gautham Ramachandran was presented with the award for cinematography. Dr. Srimathikesan was awarded in the science category, Malini Jeevaratnam for gender equality and Sri Vatsan Sankaran was awarded for development.

Likewise, Lalitha Ramanujan in the confidence building category, Vinayak Vijayakumar in the medical category and Cyril Alexander in the best activist category were awarded.

Dr. Sowmya Anbumani given Award



to Dr. Arul Raj for his excellent work in recovering children from drug addiction, Madhumita Gomathinayagam in the social activist category, Sharmila Arunagiri who excelled in providing rehabilitation, Dr. Ilanjezhyan who excelled in providing education to rural students and Prof. Mohammad Abdul Kader in the literary category received awards.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Madurai, Dr. Nagarajan, who passed away, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. It was received by his son-in-law and IAS officer Radhakrishnan Jaganathan along with his family.

Renowned journalist Nidhi Razdan, Bollywood actress Mrunal Thakur, Former

Minister Vijayabaskar, IAS officer Radhakrishnan, Soumya Anbumani and many other celebrities attended the program as special guests.

Earlier, Mrunal Thakur who spoke on the program, said that children are our future and it is our duty to trust them and protect them if they report any problems. Noting that not only girls but also boys are affected, she said that children should be made to understand that they don't have to hesitate to reveal anything, said award-winning journalist Nidhi Razdan.

When Soumya Anbumani addressed, She said that despite climate change and war, women and children are the most vulnerable and said that her daughter had recently given birth to a baby girl and that she was thinking of

protecting and raising that child through this program.

Performances by The Bala Boys from the US were a super hit as top industrialists women walked the fashion ramp in support of children's rights.

Apsara Reddy, said, "Society needs to do more to protect children. Each one of us have a responsibility towards children. We must remember that scars that are not visible are the hardest to heal."

Dr C Vijayabaskar said, "Sexual abuse is not gender specific. Boys also go through sexual crimes when young. We as parents and society must protect children and help them live secure lives."

Actors Sham, playback singers Naresh Iyer, Vijay Jesudas, music director AR Rahman's daughter Khadija Rahman, legendary actor Gemini Ganesan's daughter and Dr. Kamala Selvaraj, former minister MC Sampath, North Chennai Joint Commissioner of Police Ramya Bharati, among others, were present at the award ceremony. Celebrities were the special guests.

## 'Intelligentsia and people need to be cognizant of those orchestrating pernicious narratives against India': Vice President

Chennai, March 19 2023: The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar today cautioned that 'India's rise at the global stage comes with challenges – within and without. He called for intelligentsia and the people to be cognizant of 'incubators and distributors orchestrating pernicious narratives to downsize our growth trajectory and dent our functional democracy and constitutional institutions'.

The Vice President was addressing a gathering after releasing a book 'Governorpet to Governor's House: A Hick's Odyssey' – a memoir of the former Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri PS Ramamohan Rao in New Delhi. Shri Dhankhar lauded the former Governor for his contributions to public life and sharing his insightful experiences in his memoir.

Shri Dhankhar observed that the 'essence of democracy' is that 'all are similarly accountable to law. No one can have privileged consideration by law and be looked at through a

different prism'. Suggesting that India is the most vibrant democracy, he said 'equality before law is something we cannot negotiate'.

Noting that dynamics of governance would always be challenging, the Vice President said it required harmonised functioning of constitutional institutions – the legislative, the executive and the judiciary. But, he said, 'there is no room for confrontation, or being a complainant, by those who head the institutions. They have to act in collaboration and find resolution in togetherness and tandem.' The Vice President suggested creating 'a structured interactive mechanism amongst those at the helm of the institutions - the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executives' in this regard.

Shri Dhankhar reiterated that 'it is the primacy of our constitution that determines the stability, harmony and productivity of democratic governance.

Parliament, reflecting the mandate of the people, is the ultimate and exclusive architect of the Constitution'.

Former Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Governor of Haryana, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, former Governor of Tamil Nadu and the author, Shri P.S. Ramamohan Rao, Members of Parliament, Shri K. Keshav Rao, Shri Y.S. Chowdary and other dignitaries were present.

Text of Hon'ble Vice President's speech (Excerpts):

"It is an honour for me that I have been associated with the release of 'Governorpet to Governor's House: A Hick's Odyssey'. I wish to commend the author for his vision and efforts to document what I consider a very comprehensive account of his distinguished public service journey since 1956 when he joined the IPS.

Shri P.S. Ramamohan Rao, 'Hick' to his college friends, has traversed six decades in public service exemplifying sublime commitment to duty

affecting ever furtherance of public interest.

"Governorpet to Governor's House; A Hick's Odyssey" encapsulates a long, eventful and adventurous journey and experience of the author, insightfully revealing his passion and mission. His positioning as DGP, Andhra Pradesh and Governor, Tamil Nadu are high marks of his accomplishments. The book, with no pretensions of literary pompousness, yields to seamless reading and on several aspects, it is rarely informative and ever inspirational.

As a matter of fact, Integrity, commitment, nationalism are not optional they are compulsive.

A well informed and knowledgeable person has penned in impeccable language a mosaic of memories encapsulating with characteristic candour and reflecting on important historical events and facets of bureaucratic functioning dotting his six decades in public service.

## Lively break-up album 'Single Aayiten Di' starring Mugen Rao, Teju Ashwini, directed by Magesh Ram K, produced by SGC Media, with music by Dharan Kumar gears up for release

Chennai, March 19 2023: In a bid to change the trend that break-up means a sad song in films and albums, 'Single Aayiten Di' produced by SGC Media & Entertainment, directed by Magesh Ram K and music composed by Dharan Kumar has taken shape as a lively break-up album. The song features Mugen Rao and Teju Ashwini in lead roles and also stars Imman Annachi, Deepa and Prankster Rahul. After the success of the album 'Baby Nee Sugar' starring Ashwin and Losliya, SGC Media & Entertainment and Magesh Ram K have teamed up again for the album 'Single Aayiten Di'. It is to be noted that Magesh Ram K has also directed the film 'Ivan



Thaan Uthaman' starring Mahat Raghavendra. Magesh Ram K has joined forces with a skilled team for 'Single Aayiten Di'. Noted director Vignesh Shivan has penned the lyrics, Dharan Kumar composed the music, 'Cobra' cinematographer Harish Kannan handled the cinematography and R C Pranav has taken care of editing. Sharing details about 'Single Aayiten Di', Magesh Ram K said, "Single

Aayiten Di is an album that cheerfully tells break-up is not the end of the life and it should be taken positively. This is the idea behind the album. Normally in romantic albums, only the hero and the heroine will be there. But in 'Single Aayiten Di', there are Imman Annachi, Deepa and Prankster Rahul apart from Mugen Rao and Teju Ashwini. 'Single Aayiten Di' has been made like a movie with

no compromises in production values. I am sure everyone will enjoy the album, which will be released on March 21 by Sony Music." Rubini S is the creative producer of the album. Satish Krishnan has handled the concept and choreography, Karthik has taken care of art direction and Poorthi Pravin is the costume designer. Nikil Murukan handles public relations. Produced by SGC Media & Entertainment, directed by Magesh Ram K, music composed by Dharan Kumar, and starring Mugen Rao and Teju Ashwini in lead roles, 'Single Aayiten Di' is a lively break-up album releasing on March 21 on Sony Music.

## Union Agriculture Minister Tomar holds bilateral meetings with the ministers of Guyana, Suriname, Zambia, Mauritius and Sri Lanka

Chennai, March 19 2023: Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar held bilateral meetings today with Agriculture Ministers of various countries participating in the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference. An MoU was also signed with the World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations. Meanwhile, Shri Tomar thanked the ministers for being a part of the global conference organized by India with the aim of promoting Shree Anna, under the International Year of Millets (IYM). He said that the International Year of Millets is being celebrated so that the Indian Shree Anna, its recipes and value-added products are accepted globally as a people's movement. He hoped to further strengthen India's agricultural ties with various countries.

In a meeting with Guyana's Agriculture Minister Mr. Zulfikar Mustafa, Union Minister Shri Tomar recalled the visit of the President of Guyana, Dr. Mohammad Irfan Ali and Vice President Bharat Jagdev to India and said that agriculture is a very important area of cooperation between the two countries. Expressing happiness over the steady progress in India-Guyana relations, he hoped for concrete cooperation in



Agriculture and allied sectors. Shri Tomar congratulated Guyana for the huge crude oil discovery, saying that this would enable Guyana to establish itself as a major energy exporter, which has the potential to transform the lives of its people. Expressing immense potential for cooperation in Agriculture and Agro-Processing Industries between India and Guyana, he said that the two countries complement each other as Guyana has vast arable land and water availability and India has the technology, expertise and skilled manpower, which will mutually benefit both the countries. India is keen to share its expertise and experience in the development of agriculture and allied sectors in Guyana, for which an MoU is under finalisation. He assured that Guyana's request

for deputation of two experts to ITEC from India for three years to support the Guyana Sugar Corporation management and revive the sugar estates/plants in Guyana would be considered at the earliest.

Shri Tomar, in a meeting with Suriname's Minister of Agriculture, Shri Parmanand Prahald Sewdien, said that India and Suriname share close, warm and friendly relations, which have been strengthened by cultural and people-to-people contacts over the course of 150 years. He wished success to the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians in Suriname, and expressed confidence that the official visit of President Santokhi to India in January 2023 would take our bilateral relations to a new high.

Expressing happiness and pride, he said that Hindi is spoken on a large scale in Suriname. Like India, Suriname is also a country of multi-ethnicity and diversity, where people live in peace and harmony. As per the discussion held during the second meeting of the Joint Working Group on Agriculture, Shri Tomar hoped that the draft Joint Action Plan for 5 years (2023-27) would be ready soon and said that we will provide wood export facility from Suriname to India. India's exports of agri-related goods to Suriname in 2021-22 was USD 4.34 million. There are more possibilities to increase trade and investment, especially in agro-food processing. Under India's flagship programmes, development partnership, India is committed to provide technical assistance to Suriname as needed, contribute to capacity building and skill development of human resources. Shree Anna is the ideal solution to make countries self-reliant and reduce dependence on imported grains. India can start agricultural cooperation projects, if offered by Suriname, as well as depute agricultural scientists under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programs to conduct studies for the cultivation of Shree Anna in Suriname.

## ZEE5 consolidates its prominence in south, celebrates the success of its Tamil content

Chennai, March 19 2023: ZEE5, India and Bharat's largest homegrown video streaming platform, celebrates the success of their marquee, original Tamil content line-up with titles like Vilangu, Ayali, and Paper Rocket. Capturing the hearts of Tamil audiences across the globe, ZEE5 clocked a 54% increase in viewer base and a 63% increase in active user base in the Tamil region in the last 12 months. The watch time for Tamil content per day increased by 23%.

Bolstering its content library further, ZEE5 forayed into the Tamil entertainment industry last year with a diverse slate of Tamil originals featuring the best of industry talent. Authentically bringing alive the cultural nuances of the region with fresh plots and compelling narratives, ZEE5's Tamil slate garnered popularity and appreciation amongst consumers and critics alike. Entering the 100 million streaming club, Vilangu and Ayali are the top two titles while the response has been equally encouraging for Paper Rocket, Valimai, Yaanai, Coffee with Kadhal and Veetle Vishesham.

Speaking on the success, Mr. Manish

Kalra, Chief Business Officer, ZEE5 India said, "We, at ZEE5, are happy to receive an encouraging response at the very onset of our journey in this region. The advantages of following a consumer-first approach in curating the Tamil slate has worked successfully for us, taking us closer to the hearts of the Tamil audiences. Our growth is a testament to our market understanding in identifying and catering to audiences' entertainment needs with increased choices like exclusive originals, blockbuster movies, international sports, TV+ content at different price points allowing them to explore and engage. Going forward, our focus will remain on sustaining the growth trend and scaling up our investments in the Tamil entertainment industry. We appreciate the support from the creative ecosystem and look forward to more collaborations as we bolster our Tamil content line-up with real, relatable and quality storytelling."

Mr. Siju Prabhakaran, Chief Cluster Officer - South, ZEE Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. said, "We have sojourned in the OTT space with a very

confident outlook and understanding of the market. Our creative experimentation this year has had us pushing the envelope and presenting unconventional narratives that transcended traditional barriers of what people expect on OTT. Ayali, for instance, with its poignant take on girl child education, may not have ticked every box for an OTT show but the way it has caught on with audiences is heartening and opens up interesting new spaces for us to build characters and content in. On the other hand, Paper Rocket spoke to the young, millennial audiences, taking them on a joyride of emotions, entertainment and excitement. We are proud to have built a library of content that caters to the diverse tastes of our viewers. Going forward, the idea is to continue innovating, experimenting and produce compelling stories that are true to the land, have a strong moral and cultural compass, help our viewers navigate change by offering a fresh perspective and above everything else, bring people together."

The next exciting content offering on

ZEE5 Tamil is Sengalam starring the immensely popular Kalaiarasan and Vani Bhojan. Written and directed by SR Prabhakaran, the show is rooted in Madurai culture and centers around three brothers of an influential family who are on a mission for revenge and the intriguing dynamics of politics and power-play between them.

Currently the highest growing OTT platform in India as per latest industry reports, ZEE5 is known for its diversified content across 100+ taste clusters and its focus on real, relevant, and resonant storytelling. Today, ZEE5 is home to 5 lakhs+ hours of on-demand content and 160+ live TV channels. With a rich library of over 3,400+ films; 200+ TV shows, 170+ originals, ZEE5 offers content in 12 Indian languages: English, Hindi, Bengali, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, Oriya, Bhojpuri, Gujarati, and Punjabi, and 6 international languages. The platform has an exciting line-up for 2023 that will add to its extensive library of content offering a wider array of catalog to entertainment seekers.

## OKINAWA STRENGTHENS ITS LEADERSHIP POSITION, SURPASSES 2.5 LAKH SALES MILESTONE

Chennai, March 19 2023: "We are truly overwhelmed and would like to thank our customers & other stakeholders for believing in us and firming Okinawa's position in the market as a leading electric two-wheeler brand in the country. The 2.5 lakh milestone is a strong testament to the quality of our robust product portfolio and a representation of our unwavering commitment to achieving a sustainable future and meeting the demand of our customers."

As the industry pioneer and a responsible corporate, our emphasis is on faster adoption of electric mobility in India with best-in-class products, and cutting-edge technologies. With sustainable mobility at the core of our value proposition, our aim is to establish a benchmark in reliability and quality standards that would augment our customers' experience by several notches. This



accomplishment marks a stepping stone to many more accolades as we move forward in our journey.

With a strong pipeline of new products planned to be launched in India very soon, we aim to achieve the magical number of One Million milestone by 2025."

Jeetender Sharma, MD & Founder, Okinawa Autotech

Achieving yet another milestone in fostering the growth of electric mobility in the country, Okinawa Autotech, a leading Indian electric two-wheeler manufacturer today announced that it has reached its 2.5 Lakh sales milestone in India. The company rolled-out its 250,000th unit, the popular Praise Pro

model from its state-of-the-art manufacturing plant in Rajasthan to mark its achievement as the first and, currently the only EV manufacturer to have attained this feat.

Leading the EV revolution from the front, the company started its operations in 2015 and introduced its first model Ridge in 2017. The company now boasts of widest product portfolio, 540+ 3S touchpoints, unmatched after-sales service and enhanced customer connect. The journey of achieving this milestone is also in-line with Okinawa's vision of sustainable future. It's 2,50,000 EV two-wheelers have saved approximately Rs. 12.5 Billion as petrol cost and 300.3 million\* Kilograms of Carbon

Dioxide.

(\*Assumption an avg daily commute of 30 km & Petrol at Rs. 90 per liter)

Recently, the company announced the inauguration of its first Research and Development (R&D) Center in Italy, Europe, in association with its joint venture (JV) partner Tacita@? with a total investment of Euros 25 million over a period of the next three years. The partnership will focus on new product development, upgrading the existing product portfolio and developing an all-new e-powertrain to support the next generation of products. The company is further planning to unveil its first electric cruiser motorcycle very soon, followed by other new models in 2023. Keeping in sync with the rapid growth of the industry, the company is planning to expand its touchpoints to 1000+ dealerships across India by 2025. Currently, Okinawa holds more than 542 touchpoints across the country.

## L20 inception meeting focuses on universalisation of social security with women at the centre of future of work

Chennai, March 19 2023: The Labour20 (L20) engagement group's inception meet, as part of India's G20 presidency, today began deliberations in Amritsar, Punjab on key issues concerning the global workforce to provide direction to the G20 nations and institutions to focus on development reaching to the last person.

Trade union leaders, labour studies experts and delegates from 20 nations at the Labour20 inception meeting under India's G20 presidency are preparing to call for universalisation of social security and to put women at the centre of future of work.

In the inaugural session Shri Hiranmay Pandya, L20 Chair and National President of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), said that in tune with the spirit of G20 in 2023, the work force of the world is one family. He highlighted the G20 theme #OneEarth #OneFamily #OneFuture and how the concept is relevant to the labour movements globally.

The L20 event had delegates from previous presidency, Indonesia, and next presidency, Brazil, too participating,



apart from Trade Union representatives from other G20 nations. The L20 meet will conclude tomorrow with a joint statement on Universalisation of Social Security and Woman and Future of Work, both subjects being debated in details at the event, said BMS former National President Shri C.K. Saji Narayanan.

He said, the economic crisis adversely impacts women the most, and hence the future of work depends majorly on the women workforce, which needs direction globally. It is also important to evolve a global mechanism for

portability of social security, in view of the latest trends in labour migration worldwide, he said.

Shri Arun Maira, former member of the Planning Commission of India, said India seeks peace and harmony in the world, and noted that it is time to bring back the "family spirit" in economy. He said there are many communities who are concerned about their future well-being in the economy and in society. These include women, youth, farmers, factory workers, self-employed workers, and micro-enterprises. He said all of them must be listened to now.

The day saw five parallel technical sessions on International Migration of Labour and Portability of Social Security Funds; Social Protection for Informal Workers; Skill Training and Skill Upgradation and Role and Responsibilities of Employers, Employees and Governments; Changing World of Work and New Employment Opportunities in G20 Countries; and Promoting Sustainable Decent Work. The second day of the two-day L20 Inception Meet tomorrow will importantly discuss Women and Future of Work.

Madurai, March 19 2023: Leading private life insurer, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance today unveiled the South India specific findings of its flagship research Bajaj Allianz Life India's Life Goals Preparedness Survey 2023, which identifies the Life Goals and aspirations of Indians. The survey captures a comprehensive overview of South India's life objectives, aspirations, motivators, and readiness to pursue these goals. It charts more than 40 life goals and assesses how they are working towards achieving these goals.

Financial Security of family emerged as the top Life Goal with 74% of the respondents from the southern parts of the country prioritizing it over other goals. In fact, Chennai saw about 76% of the respondents choosing financial security of family as their top Life Goal. Leading a healthy and fit lifestyle, contributing towards community and society through charity and retirement planning continue to feature among the top Life Goals as per the survey. Interestingly, Bajaj Allianz Life India's Life Goals Preparedness Survey 2023 also finds that there is over 2X increase in number of Life Goals for Indians.

Life Goals of Indians has increased from 5 in 2019 to 11 in 2023.

**SOUTH INDIA'S TOP LIFE GOALS A C R O S S C A T E G O R I E S**

? 74% of the respondents have financial security for their family as the most important Life Goal

? About 30% Indians in South want to "Retire Rich by growing wealth". For Chennai, this number goes up to 43%

? Health and Fitness Goals have increased by 73% in South

? 1 in 2 South Indians have a goal of being physically and mentally fit, and it emerges amongst the top 5 Life Goals for the respondents

? In Chennai, this increase is more than 2X

? In Chennai, travel goals have increased by 2.3X where 55% respondents have travel goals. In Bangalore, travel goals increase to 59%

? Philanthropy saw a big increase, as a Life Goal, post Covid-19

? Charity goals increase by 61% in South, led by Chennai with a 173% increase over pre-pandemic period

? 1 in 3 people in

the south are looking to contribute towards creating a social impact

"The pandemic has certainly shaped our outlook towards life, career, health and family. A deep realization about wanting to do more and live a holistic life encompassing self-care, family-security, and societal-wellbeing surfaces across cohorts of socio-economic profile. Further, the survey underlines a key finding that Life Insurance continues to be a reliable anchor and enabler to India's Life Goals," said Chandramohan Mehra, Chief Marketing Officer, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance at the unveiling of Bajaj Allianz Life India's Life Goals Preparedness Survey 2023, here in Chennai.

**DRIVERS OF LIFE GOALS**

The Bajaj Allianz Life India's Life Goals Preparedness Survey 2023 reveals that the average number of influencers increased from 3 to 4 in 2023, as people felt comfortable reaching out for more advice. Interestingly, social media sites and influencers enjoy widespread popularity, even as the reliance on family, elders and friends for advice continues to increase.

? Social media is amongst the top 3 influencers of Life Goals for Indians

? Over 2X increase in importance of social media in fuelling new age health, travel & lifestyle goals

**SOUTH INDIA'S PREPAREDNESS TO ACHIEVE THEIR LIFE GOALS**

The Life Goals Preparedness Index of the sample studied in the south stood at 41 in 2023, as compared to India's 47. Life Goals Preparedness Index is a function of confidence, knowledge and action taken towards financial planning for one's Life Goals.

? For 52% of their Life Goals, South Indians are unsure of achieving them

? When it comes to financial planning of Life Goals, in south, people believe 65% of Life Goals lack sufficient financial planning.

**R E S E A R C H DESIGN**

Kantar conducted the Bajaj Allianz Life India's Life Goals Preparedness Survey 2023 with 1936 people across 13 cities including metros, Tier 1 and emerging Tier 2 cities. In the south, cities covered were Chennai, Bangalore, Madurai and Guntur, and the sample size stood at 609.

## B20 meeting organized in Gangtok, foreign delegates made aware of Sikkim's organic farming

Chennai, March 19 2023: The B20 meeting under India's G20 Presidency began on Thursday in Sikkim's capital Gangtok. The meeting was attended by more than 100 delegates including around 50 foreign delegates from 24 countries. In the meeting, the vibrant organic farming of the state was displayed prominently in front of the world through the B20 programme. It also focused on exploring opportunities for cooperation in industries such as tourism, hospitality and pharmaceuticals. Meanwhile, Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang addressed the delegates



participating in the conference. He appealed for support to establish Sikkim as the 'Greenest Agro-ecological Destination' in the world. He said that Sikkim needs such green technology which can ensure better production from limited agricultural land.

Chief Minister

Tamang stressed the need for capacity development of the new generation of farmers in the state as well as the need to provide them new methods of training on organic farming. The title of the B20 meeting was 'Conference on Opportunities for Multilateral Business

Partnership in Tourism, Hospitality, Pharmaceuticals and Organic Farming'. The meeting also included B2B and B2G events involving government officials, policy makers, business leaders, CEOs, representatives of multilateral organizations and local entrepreneurs. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary, Sikkim, VB Pathak said that Sikkim is a leader in the protection and conservation of its natural resources. It promotes green investment and is ideal for business opportunities. During this, an exhibition was organized for local entrepreneurs at MG Marg.

## Improved varieties, better shelf life, efficient processing and access to markets are all vital to strengthen the millet value chain, says senior official

Chennai, March 19 2023: Improved varieties, better shelf life, efficient processing and access to markets are all vital to strengthen the millet value chain, a senior Agriculture Ministry official has said.



"We must carry out R&D in all areas of the value chain of millets and bring together the knowledge of production, processing and storage and make it available to the consumer", said Dr Vijaya Lakshmi Nadendla, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, addressing the Plenary Session on 'Strengthening Millet Value Chain with Collaborative Approach', organised by FICCI at the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference, today.

On the occasion, Mr Jitendra Joshi, Chairman, FICCI Task Force on Millets & Director Seeds, South Asia from Corteva Agriscience, said, "Millets are nutritionally rich, easy to cultivate and sustainable farmer-friendly crop with no environmental impact. As the PM perfectly narrated that millets are a solution for personal health and global health." "Let's take our millets to the global map," he added.

Mr Manoj Juneja, Deputy Executive Director and CFO, World Food Programme (WFP), underlined that millet is crucial for food and nutritional security, promoting biodiversity and empowering farmers. "It's high time we revive the brand of millets and foster resilient food systems", he said. Mr Sivakumar S, Group Head - Agri & IT

Businesses, ITC Limited, emphasised synchronisation of the millets value chain as a critical requirement for scaling millets. In this regard, "Millets stakeholder partnerships are vital to creating such synchronisation", he said.

Chef Harpal Singh Sokhi said, "Millets are the Pearls of India; I think the International Year of the Millets (Shree Anna) 2023 campaign is a great step towards making a sustainable Indian product as a lifestyle platform." Besides, Mr Pankaj Agarwal, Founder and MD, Just Organic, called for "collaborative participation from all the stakeholders, starting from seed companies to farmers and chefs to markets and finally the consumers themselves".

Ms Vishalakshi Vuyyala, Director, Minkan Agro Industries, said that the revival of millet food and crop cultures within the farming communities is of utmost importance to achieve the International Year of Millets campaign objectives and make it more sustainable.

Speaking at a separate session on "Opportunity for Women empowerment to create Millet success story", Dr Nadendla averred that women's contribution is immense

in agriculture, irrespective of traditional, horticultural or any other crop. She added that as the government is propagating millets cultivation and increasing demand, it is expected that more women will get engaged in the cultivation of millets, thereby leading to a need for skilling and capacity building.

Dr Nadendla alluded to the International Year of Millets campaign and said, "I'm very much hopeful that the demand will increase, and the markets will grow. There is also a huge export potential". She also spoke on the 10,000 Farmers Producer Organisations (FPO) program of the government, stating the government is "exclusively promoting 100% Women FPOs" and issued a guideline for the inclusion of "one woman on the Board of Directors of each FPO". She also spoke on the dedicated FPO programme in the Ministry of Agriculture with "various measures for women empowerment."

During the session, Dr Shilpa Vora, Chief Research & Development Officer, Marico, noted that millets are one of the ways to ensure nutritional security, adding, "it is not a new grain; however, ensuring sustainable quality and

availability is needed". Further, she underlined that millet, traditional nutriceals, need continuous investment into the entire supply chain, creating value-added products and sensitizing nutritional awareness.

Ms Akshi Jindal, CEO, Barmalt Malting India, highlighted that millets are easy to work with and offer endless possibilities. Ms Lovneet Batra, Nutritionist - Millets, added that "our traditional staple can be the food for the future, a sustainable solution for the double burden of malnutrition and obesity simultaneously". She said that millets are essential for all life stages— from infant to young and old; however, awareness is an issue. Ms Ruchika Bhawalka, Founder of Milletamma, also alluded to the need for broad basing awareness, stating, "we started WhatsApp groups and YouTube videos and visited farmers' markets to tackle that".

On occasion, Ms Sushila Watti, Board Member, Narmada FPC Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, said that their farmer producer company is set to establish its first millet processing plant. She added that they also run an awareness campaign in their region about cultivating the millet - Kodokutki. Ms Janki Maravi, President & Founding member, Halchalit Mahila Kisan Women producer Company, Samnapur, Dindori, said their all-women producer company had 1,200 shareholders and recorded sales of 75 tonnes of Kodokutki in 2022.

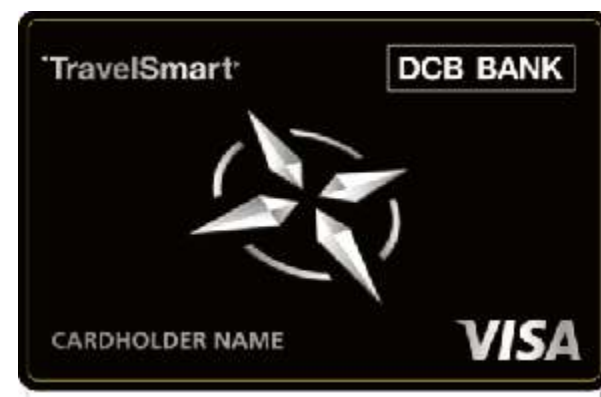
## DCB Bank launches TravelSmart Card for hassle-free international travel

Chennai, March 19 2023: DCB Bank, a new-generation private sector bank, launches DCB TravelSmart Card for international holidays, business trips and workcations.

DCB TravelSmart Card is a Debit Card when used in India. It offers the triple benefits of hassle-free travel without the need to purchase specific foreign currencies, insurance cover and enables customers to continue earning an attractive interest rate on the fund balance in DCB Savings Bank account.

DCB TravelSmart Card covers all major currencies, and temptingly offers mark-up fee as low as 2% on international transactions. A lower mark-up fee in relation to other cards means that customers overall save more by using this card while traveling abroad.

A package of insurance cover for traveller. DCB TravelSmart Card offers



complimentary travel insurance cover on baggage loss, baggage delay, flight delay, loss of personal documents for international travel. Insurance cover of INR 1,00,000 (domestic and international) on accidental death (by rail, road or air only) and lost card liability cover (domestic and international) up to INR 2,00,000. The card holder also enjoys exclusive discounts and offers provided by Visa from time to time.

Unlike other travel and forex cards, wherein customers must load a specific foreign currency as per the destination country, DCB TravelSmart is a

regular debit card linked to the customer's DCB Savings Bank account. Thus, customers continue earning an attractive savings account interest rate on the balance amount in their accounts. Whenever the cardholder swipes or uses the Card abroad, the currency of that country is automatically selected, and the money is debited from the Savings Bank account. The balance amount continues earning interest as per the Savings Bank account norms.

DCB Bank's Head of Retail Banking Praveen Kutty said, "Indian travellers are opting for international

experiences. Long and short holidays, staycations, business travel and medical travel are an increasing trend. DCB TravelSmart Card is an ideal international card with features that travellers would love to have. The last thing a traveller wants is the stress of loading the card, linking it with a bank account, and paying a high foreign exchange rate and mark-up fees. Thus, DCB TravelSmart makes international travel smooth and less stressful."

He added, "Moreover, no requirement of pre-currency change and insurance cover makes DCB TravelSmart Card a perfect travel buddy. Through this product, we aim to create unique travel experiences for our customers."

The replacement of an existing DCB Debit Card with the DCB TravelSmart Card is convenient and hassle-free.

## Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah attends the 4th convocation ceremony of Central University of Gujarat as chief guest today

Chennai, March 19 2023: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah attended the fourth convocation ceremony of Central University of Gujarat as chief guest, today.

In his address, Shri Amit Shah asked the students present in the program that they should never let the student inside them die and make sure that on the basis of their student life, and through their own development they should also contribute to the development of the country. The Central University of Gujarat has achieved very high standards in a short span of time and by establishing a very good library, it has made efforts to make education more accessible for students.

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that the batch receiving degree today will be known as Amrit Mahotsav Batch because this is the year of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and it is a proud moment for all the students. He said that the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has put three objectives in front of the people to celebrate the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Firstly, the youth of the country should be made aware of the freedom struggle and

the history of before independence. Second, to feel proud about the achievements of 75 years. Thirdly, by making the journey of 75 to 100 years a journey of resolutions, taking a pledge to make India first in every field of the world. He said that Prime Minister Modi has called the period of 75 to 100 years as Amrit Kaal and period of "Sankalp Se Siddhi". He said that when 130 crore people take one step forward, the country takes 130 crore steps forward. Shri Shah said that the responsibility of making India great and first in every field of the world rests with the youth of the country. He added that it is the responsibility of students to make a great India.

Shri Amit Shah said that the New Education Policy-2020 brought by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is the only education policy on which there was no controversy or opposition and it has been accepted by all. He said that this education policy has the power to put the youth of India in front of youth of the world on the global stage as it has been prepared after extensive deliberations. He said that this policy has brought our education out of narrow thinking. Shri Shah said that the

aim of education is not to get a degree, a good job or comforts in personal life, but to become a complete human. We should always make efforts in this direction and this education policy gives full opportunity for this. He said that it is based on Indian values but also includes all the elements of Modern education. Shri Shah said that the objective of this policy is to create such students and humans who are filled with feeling of national pride as well as global welfare and this policy has all the capabilities to make global citizens.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that in the new education policy, thrust has been given on mother tongue because any person can think well in his own language, can do research with better ability and it also enhances his analysis and decision making ability. He said that in order to maintain the importance of language in the New Education Policy, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has made a provision to make primary education compulsory in mother tongue. Shri Shah said that all our languages are flexible and we can expand our vocabulary and we should expand and enrich it. In order to

bring flexibility, provisions have also been made in higher education and emphasis has also been laid on e-learning.

Shri Amit Shah said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has provided immense opportunities for the youth of the country. He said that there were 724 start-ups in the country in 2016, which have increased to more than 70,000 by 2022, whereas 107 start-ups are in the unicorn club, compared to just 4 in 2016. He said that out of total start-ups in the country, 45 per cent are run by women and girls and 45 per cent start-ups are in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. Shri Shah said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi started 'Make in India' scheme by identifying several sectors. Many new sectors have been opened in it and as a result India's merchandise exports have crossed \$400 billion and investment of worth Rs.4 lakh crore has come through PLI scheme. Shri Shah said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has opened many areas for capacity building of the youth. He expressed confidence that at the time of the centenary of the country's independence, India would surely be first in the world in every field.