

Cong's newly elected MLAs authorise Kharge to pick new Karnataka CM

Chennai, May 15 2023: Ahead of the CLP meeting, the AICC observers had held a separate meeting with both Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah inside the hotel.

The Congress legislative party (CLP) on Sunday passed a single-line resolution, authorising the AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge to choose the next leader of the legislative party.

"The Congress Legislature Party unanimously resolves that AICC President is hereby authorised to appoint the new Leader of the Congress Legislature Party", the one-line resolution read after the CLP meeting.

Earlier in the day, Kharge had told reporters, "CLP meeting will be held today and will hand over the report



to the high command after which the high command will take its time to declare the name of the CM".

Karnataka Congress chief DK Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, the claimants to the CM's post along with Congress observers Sushil Kumar Shinde, Jitendra Singh and Deepak Babaria were also present.

Ahead of the CLP meeting, the AICC

observers had held a separate meeting with both Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah inside the hotel. The race for the CM's post has heated up with both the contenders enjoying a considerable clout within the party.

Outside the hotel where the meeting is being held, the supporters of both Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah raised slogans for their leaders in the run-up to the

huddle. Earlier in the day, a poster war had erupted between the supporters with each pushing for their leader to be chosen as the CM.

On Saturday, the Congress registered a decisive victory in Karnataka, removing the BJP from the lone southern state it had governed for the past four years. The grand old party won 135 seats while the saffron party bagged 65.

Minister of State Dr L Murugan to lead delegation to Cannes Film Festival from 16th to 27th May

Chennai, May 15 2023: Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr L.Murugan will lead an Indian Delegation to Cannes International Film Festival this year. Walking in traditional Tamil attire 'Veshti' at the red carpet on Cannes Inaugural day showcasing our rich Indian Culture Dr Murugan will be accompanied by filmmaker Ms Guneet Monga of The Elephant Whisperers fame, Ms Manushi Chhillar, Indian actress, model and the winner of the Miss World 2017, Ms Esha Gupta - acclaimed actress of the Indian Cinema & Kangabam Tomba - acclaimed Manipuri Actor, whose restored film 'Ishanau', is being screened in Cannes Classic Section this year.



The India Pavilion is being conceptualised and designed by National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad with the theme - 'Showcasing India's Creative Economy' to the global community. The pavilion design has been inspired by the Saraswati Yantra, the abstract representation of goddess Saraswati, keeper of knowledge, music, art, speech, wisdom and learning. The colours of the pavilion draw inspiration from the vibrant colours of India's national flag - saffron, white, and green, and blue. Saffron for the strength and courage of the country, white for the inner peace and truth, green for showcasing

Apart from these, many Indian films are slotted for being screened in Marche du Films.

A restored Manipuri film 'Ishanhou', will be showcased in the 'Classics' section. The movie was previously played in the festival's 'Un Certain Regard' section in 1991 and its film reels were preserved by the National Film Archive of India. The Manipur State Film Development Society got the film restored through the Film Heritage Foundation & Prasad Film Labs.

The eclectic bouquet of Indian films being screened in the segments of both Festival de Cannes & marche du Films, underlines that Indian cinema has truly come of age.

A series of interactive sessions will be organised throughout the festival at India Pavilion. The key sessions planned are-

Showcasing India as the Complete Filming Destination & Co-Production engagement with Global Film Commissions will foster filming in India. It will not only give impetus to the growth of our film sector but

also has potential to enormously boost tourism in the country. Incentives announced last year at Cannes, would be pitched to get more filmmakers to India.

Facilitating distribution collaboration between Nations will break the barriers of our films travelling across world markets

Engaging with other key Film Markets and Festivals of the World and drawing synergies for IFFI.

She Shines: Contribution of Women in Cinema would highlight the women presence in filmmaking is more significant than just employment, it contributes to a greater cultural issue.

Session on the format of '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow' started to nurture young film talents in IFFI, 2020, would showcase its success story and also facilitate in getting more collaborations for it.

Cannes has always been special for both India and France and will remain a coveted space for cultural exchange. Last year, India was the 'Country of Honour' at the Marche du Cannes. Now with the success of Indian Films at Oscars this year, of which RRR already has the world dancing to "Naatu Naatu" and The Elephant Whisperers winning Oscar in the Best Documentary Short Category shows the growing reach of our Indian Stories.

3 top brokers face probes for money laundering, fraudulent trading: Report

Chennai, May 15 2023: The investigations have been underway for 4-5 years on multiple fronts against the three top brokers, who head organisations with businesses.



Three top brokers of the country have come under the scanner of multiple regulatory and enforcement agencies, including for suspected money laundering and fraudulent trading activities amounting to several thousands of crores of rupees, senior officials said on Sunday.

The officials also said that the three brokers, whom they refused to identify citing the ongoing nature of the investigations, have also been found to have been connected to PEPs (politically exposed persons) and the role of a key family member of a senior political leader in a key industrial state is also being investigated.

The investigations have been underway for 4-5 years on multiple fronts against the three top brokers, who head organisations with businesses spread across multiple segments of the capital markets and the financial services sector including brokerage, investment advisory services, portfolio management, asset management fund and non-banking financial services.

The agencies and

regulators involved in the investigations so far include the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), while these three have now made references for bringing in the CBI into the picture due to the suspected involvement of PEPs, the officials said.

While suspected money laundering activities facilitated by the capital market brokers have always been under the scanner, this could be the first major case of some top-ranking brokerage and financial services sector players being caught for the web of complex financial market transactions they weave to hide their money laundering activities, they added.

The investigations have involved scrutiny of multi-layered financial and banking transactions, transfer of funds to and from several tax havens, call

data records and also social media conversations.

Requests were also sent to several foreign jurisdictions for administrative assistance on identifying the trail of fund transfers amounting to thousands of crores of rupees.

While some such jurisdictions, including Switzerland, have already responded, the affected parties have challenged any information sharing citing confidentiality clauses.

As per the laws prevailing in various countries, the concerned banking or financial institutions give an opportunity to their respective clients before sharing the information with any foreign country.

The officials said the three brokers first came under the scanner for their role in a case involving a spot commodity exchange but soon they were

found to be engaged in large-scale money laundering activities, including for their brokerage and fund management clients.

The scope of the investigation was expanded after some politically connected persons were found to be involved, they added.

In most cases, it was Sebi that suspected a possible money laundering angle in the activities of these brokers and accordingly, the matter was flagged to other agencies and departments for further investigations.

Without identifying the brokers, a senior official said these were among the top players in the market till 2-3 years ago when the market saw the emergence of some online players on the top during the Covid-19 pandemic and that actually further pushed those traditional players into areas that were supposed to be forbidden in a highly-regulated market.

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Party is important than the govt, Stalin tells functionaries

Chennai, May 15 2023: In a stern warning, DMK Supremo and Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin on Sunday said that the party is more important than the government and directed all the functionaries to listen to each and every cadre and work hard to achieve 100 percent victory in the upcoming polls.

Addressing the party functionaries including all 72 district secretaries through video conferencing, the DMK president said that as a result of our hard work, we have come to the power with the support of Tamil Nadu people.

"I am working beyond my strength to run the government. Due to the mismanagement of the previous AIADMK regime, our state was in dire financial straits. Even so, we are implementing various welfare schemes which are needed for the

public. We are also implementing unannounced schemes and fulfilling our poll promises in a way that directly benefits every individual in one way or another," he said.

Hitting out the Himachal, Gujarat, Assam, Karnataka poll promises made by other parties, Stalin said that the schemes that we are implementing are being promised by other parties in other states.

"To celebrate our two years of governance, we have successfully conducted 80 percent public meetings across the state of the 1,222 meetings that we planned. I have received information that due to rain in a few places and due to lack of proper coordination with the party functionaries, the meeting was not held properly. I request the district secretaries to find out what are the problems in those areas and fix them," he added.



Exuding the displeasure over the activities of the party functionaries, Stalin said that the party is more important than the government. Everyone should rejoice in this. Art can only be done if there is a wall. The party should be strong. Our focus should be on strengthening the party and making the cadres happy. If any of the

cadres have any grievances, listen to what they are saying and speak comfortably to those who complain and try to solve it.

The district secretaries and ministers should listen to the grievances of the block, town, union, district level functionaries in their respective districts and resolve them. A great burden will gnaw

at their mind. It is our responsibility to ensure that there is no bitterness or resentment at any level in the party.

Pointing out the recent cabinet reshuffle, Stalin said not everyone gets postings and responsibilities at the same time and it is not wrong that those MLAs prefer to be ministers.

"But if you don't get the opportunity, you

don't have to bother about this. Many of our cadres do not even get a chance to become a MLA. It's not about the minister or MLA. This is the situation in every position in our party. Only a few get opportunities and others have to wait for it. Meanwhile, they should work hard and those who work will surely get recognition," the DMK

president encouraged his cadres. However, Stalin said that exactly one year left for the parliamentary elections and if the party members work with enthusiasm and happiness, the DMK will win the 2024 parliamentary election and 2026 assembly polls as well.

Speaking to DT Next, a senior leader who attended the meeting said that the leader of the ruling party is upset with some of the recent incidents that harm the government.

"Our leader (MK Stalin) is upset with the behaviour of senior leaders and some of the district level functionaries of the party. He expressed his concern over the recent incidents and slammed the party men for their behaviour and warned them not to get involved in such things and strengthen the party. The

party is still strong and we will register a huge win in the upcoming polls," he added.

Agreeing with Stalin's words, Political critic and Journalist Priyan said that the Chief Minister should realise the present discontent and regret in his party. "The party is essential to stay in power and to come to power again. DMK can only come to power if the party structure is strong. He would have removed incompetents and non-performers in his cabinet and given a chance to new ones. Islam community, Vanniyar and Mutharaiyar community should also be given due representation in the cabinet. Experienced cadres and functionaries should not only be expected to continue working for the party but should also be honoured by giving them postings," he opined.

National Technology Week Celebrates India's Technological Advancement and Innovation

Chennai, May 15 2023: The National Technology Week, which took place from May 11th to May 14th, 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, successfully concluded today. This year's theme was 'School to Startup-igniting young minds to innovate'.

The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi who highlighted the importance of supporting and nurturing young scientists in the country. The Prime Minister informed the audience that over 10,000 ATAL tinkering labs in 700 districts have become innovation nurseries, with 60 percent of these labs in government and rural schools. More than 75 lakh students are working on over 12 lakh innovation projects in Atal Tinkering Lab, which is a testament to young scientists emerging from schools and reaching the far corners of the country. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of nurturing young talent and supporting them in implementing their ideas, noting that hundreds of startups have been incubated at Atal Incubation Centres (AIC). He expressed his confidence that the Tinkerpreneurs of India will soon become leading entrepreneurs of the world.

The exhibition saw a participation of more than 5000 school



students, 1500+ other visitors, 800 exhibitors, 200+ student exhibitors, and 100+ startups from various sectors showcasing their innovations and products. The event aimed to promote and recognize the contribution of technology in India's progress and development. Under AIM Pavilion, 75 exhibitors from AIM participated, including 40 exhibitors from school innovations of Atal Tinkering Labs, from 21 states across the country, and 35 Startups from across the country that have been incubated under Atal Incubation Centers.

The highlight of the event was the interaction between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and students of the Atal Tinkering Labs, where he encouraged young minds to innovate and contribute to the nation's progress. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the AIM Pavilion, which showcased innovations

from different sectors of the innovation lifecycle. Additionally, the event included 10+ technical sessions by different ministries/departments, including special sessions conducted between Startups and Atal Tinkering Lab students. These special sessions carried the idea for technopreneurs to become entrepreneurs.

Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission, stated that the event was a huge success, providing a platform for innovators, entrepreneurs, and investors to interact and exchange ideas. The event also highlighted the government's initiatives, such as Start-up India, Stand-up India, and Make in India, which have fostered a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

To mark the 25th anniversary of these landmark events, Technology Development Board

and Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) NITI Aayog, along with Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Defence Research and Development Organisation - Ministry of Defence, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Biotechnology, Department of Atomic Energy, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Education, Indian Space Research Organisation and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) organized National Technology Week, 2023 with a primary focus on Atal Innovation Mission programs and showcasing innovations from different sectors of the innovation lifecycle with a central theme of 'School to Startup-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate'.

Ensure new courses are eligible for TNPSC exams, demands Anbumani

Chennai, May 15 2023: While urging the state government to allow all the candidates who hold M.Sc., degrees in agriculture to participate in competitive examination for the post of assistant director (agriculture), PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss has urged the state government to ensure that the courses provided in the institutions are eligible for government jobs while introducing such courses.

In a statement, the party leader said that an announcement has been made to allow candidates who studied M.Sc (Agricultural Extension) and M.Sc (Agriculture Economics) to write TNPSC (Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission) to be held on May 20 and 21. "Earlier, candidates holding M.Sc. degrees in all streams of Horticulture were allowed to write exams



for the post of assistant director (Horticulture). Allowing only two agriculture courses is concerning and disappointing," he said.

He added that while hearing a case filed by 7 candidates, the Madurai bench of Madras High Court ordered the government to allow them to write the exam.

"Not only the 7 candidates, who filed the case, but all the candidates should be allowed to participate in the exam. As several

thousands of candidates are affected, it is impossible to receive applications from them and allow them to write before May 20," he stated.

He requested the TNPSC to postpone the exam for assistant director (Agriculture) and conduct exams for the remaining two posts. "As per the high court order, applications should be received from all the candidates and ample time should be

given to them for preparation," he said.

He also urged the government to avoid changing the education qualification for the competitive exams that are conducted by the TNPSC.

"Also, while introducing new courses in educational institutions, the government should announce whether the courses are eligible to participate in the TNPSC exams," he demanded.

Elderly security guard run over by car in T Nagar

Chennai, May 15 2023: Police have launched a hunt for a car driver who ran over a 70-year-old man who was sleeping in the parking area of a shopping complex in T Nagar on Friday, leading to the elderly man's death.

The deceased was identified as Venu, a resident of Thomas lane in Teynampet.

Police investigations revealed that the elderly man was employed as a security guard at a



commercial complex on Theyagaraya Road and used to sleep in the parking area after work on many days.

On Friday night, Venu went to sleep at his usual spot around 9 pm. Unmindful of a man

sleeping on the floor, a car had ran over while exiting the complex. The old man had screamed, but the car did not stop and fled the scene, police said. Hearing his cries, other staff in the complex rushed to his

aid and moved him to a nearby hospital, where he succumbed to the injuries on Saturday.

On information, Pandy Bazaar Traffic investigation wing recovered Venu's body and sent it for postmortem. A case has been registered and further investigations are on.

Police are checking CCTV footage outside the complex to ascertain the identity of the car which was involved in the elderly man's death.

Chennai sizzles at 40 degree Celsius Due to humid air and high temperatures, hot and uncomfortable weather is likely for the next 2 days - RMC

Chennai, May 15 2023: Chennai's maximum temperature crossed 40 degree Celsius on Sunday for the first time in summer. The temperature surged as the wind direction pattern changed due to the cyclone Mocha, which formed over the Bay of Bengal and crossed north Myanmar and southeast Bangladesh coasts.

The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) stated that due to humid air and high temperatures, hot and uncomfortable weather is likely for the next two days.

As per RMC data, on Sunday Vellore recorded the hottest



temperature with 41.5 degree Celsius. Followed by Chennai Nungambakkam 40.7 degree Celsius (105.26 degree Fahrenheit), Chennai Meenambakkam 40.6 degree Celsius, and Karur 40 degree Celsius.

"Usually, the mercury level in Meenambakkam would be higher than Nungambakkam as there is no sea breeze

for the outskirts. As the cyclonic storm crossed, the wind from Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema is usually hot and that gets pushed towards Tamil Nadu. At present, the city gets northerly - westerly wind that dominates the sea breeze to land, which leads to sultry conditions for Chennai and its suburbs," said P Senthamarai Kannan, director of area cyclone

warning centre, RMC, Chennai.

He further stated that the maximum temperature is likely to rise gradually by two - three degree Celsius for the subsequent days. A few districts are expected to cross 40 degree Celsius due to the change in wind pattern.

For Chennai and its suburbs, the maximum temperature is likely to be around 41 degree Celsius for the next two days. The minimum temperature will record around 30 degree Celsius to 31 degree Celsius. Meanwhile, the weather department predicted light to moderate rain is likely to occur over isolated places in Tamil Nadu.

Popular cinematographer P.C. Sreeram, actor Joe Malloori, actor Ashwin and others attend the introductory event of dance-fitness app JOOPOP, a new initiative by choreographer Sherif and Vincent Adaikalaraj



Chennai, May 15 2023: An event to formally introduce and demonstrate the app was held in Chennai.

Popular cinematographer P.C. Sreeram, actor Joe Malloori, actor Ashwin and others attended the introductory event of JOOPOP. Speaking on the occasion, P.C. Sreeram said, "I am sure this initiative will be a huge success." P.C. Sreeram further said that he was a close friend of investor Vincent Adaikalaraj and he came to the event on his invitation, and added that he was very happy after coming here to meet choreographer Sherif and learn about JOOPOP app. "This initiative is bound to succeed. My heartiest congratulations to Sherif and Vincent

Adaikalaraj," he said. Speaking at the event, actor Ashwin said, "This is an innovative initiative. With JOOPOP app you can ensure physical health through simple dance exercises. My congratulations to Sherif, Vincent Adaikalaraj and their team who designed this app after hard efforts."

In his address, Vincent Adaikalaraj said that he was very excited when Sherif told him that such an app should be developed and the work on it started immediately. "After various research and testing efforts JOOPOP app is fully developed and being introduced today. I congratulate Sherif and team for their hard work. JOOPOP will be a huge success as it is a much needed app

in today's times," he added.

Sherif said that Ulaga Nayagan Kamal Haasan, who always keeps himself updated with latest technologies, was very appreciative when we explained him about JOOPOP dance app and thanked Kamal Haasan for launching the app.

Talking about JOOPOP, Sherif said, "We all know the importance of physical exercise. But in today's world, everyone from children to adults are busy with their work and are not able to spare enough time for fitness. Keeping this in mind, we have developed this app to maintain physical health through simple dance exercises in just five to ten minutes a day," he said.

Speaking further, he

said, "This app is divided into three categories for school children, adults and those who want to take up dance as a career. Users can choose their desired section and take their appropriate dance exercises very easily."

Explaining the use of the app by schools, Sherif said, "We have already tested the app successfully in around 450 schools. All of those schools have welcomed the JOOPOP dance app. Five to ten minutes of dance lessons tailored to the needs of each class of students will give the students an exciting opportunity to workout before the commencement of classes everyday. This will keep them energised, both physically and mentally."

Union MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar to attend 1st Ministerial Meeting of the Indo-EU Trade and Technology Council in Brussels

Chennai, May 15 2023: Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar is leaving tomorrow on a two-day visit to Brussels to participate in the 1st Ministerial Meeting of the Indo-EU Trade and Technology Council, that will take place on May 16.

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar is part of a Ministerial delegation comprising India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal that is attending the Indo-EU TTC.

The TTC was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen in April 2022 as a strategic coordination mechanism that will deepen cooperation between India and the EU in such fields as trade, trusted technology and security.

The Minister will be participating in the Working Groups' sessions on (i) Strategic Technologies, Digital Governance and Digital Connectivity (ii) Green and Clean Energy Technologies and (iii)



Trade, Investment and Resilient Value Chains.

The meeting will discuss collaboration between both sides in the fields of microelectronics and supply chain resilience, digital skills, Digital Public Infrastructures (DPI), High Performance Computing and Quantum Technologies, Telecom and IT standardization, Artificial Intelligence.

Both sides will work towards an MoU on cooperation in semiconductor manufacturing, equipment's, talents building, design and R&D for trusted partnership in semiconductor global value chain. They will aim to sign a Memorandum of Understanding by September 2023.

They will also make efforts to put together a joint roadmap on developing tools (such as benchmarking tests, metrics), standards for

Ethical and Responsible AI and work towards making AI test beds available and share practices and mutually learn from the risk-based approach to AI development.

The EU and India will collaborate on enhancing interoperability of their Digital Public Infrastructures, promoting secure, privacy-preserving solutions for developing countries

They will also work towards narrowing the digital skills gap, explore the possibility of recognising each other's certifications, and advance the promotion and exchange of skilled professionals and identify priority areas for skills: AI, cyber security, data, semiconductors, virtual worlds, and perform a joint mapping of digital skills gap.

The parleys will also focus on exchange of information on India and Europe payment services collaboration between

European Payments Initiative (EPI) and NPCI and explore interoperability between Digital ID system and share and exchange learning on DPIs. Both sides will work towards a MoU/ Agreement on mutual recognition of electronic signatures.

Along with Dr S Jaishankar and Shri Piyush Goyal, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar will also hold separate meetings with Belgium Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and Ms Ursula von der Leyen.

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar will be taking part in the stakeholders' event with select group of CEO/C-level relevant technology companies in the EU and India. The objective of the discussion is to share perspectives on policies that can create a more favorable environment for technology investment and collaboration between EU and India. They would also share insights on developing emerging technologies and establishing robust supply chains in the field of semiconductors.

The Minister would also be visiting the IMEC headquarters in Leuven and meet its COO and other top officials and the R&D and operational teams during the visit.

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Apollo Hospitals launches key upskilling programme for nurses on International Nurses Day



Chennai, May 15 2023: In a move to accelerate the career paths of its nursing workforce, Apollo Hospitals has launched an upskilling programme for the angels in white. This Earn While You Learn opportunity will expand horizons, deepen learning and strengthen competencies, with a view to enabling career progression for participants.

This programme will offer nurses the opportunity to work abroad as they advance their learning and be a part of the global nursing workforce. It will also offer language training, exposure to cutting-edge technology and tools, the personalized career counselling sessions and connections to the Apollo Alumni Network.

The Chairman Dr Prathap C Reddy and the leadership were addressing the workforce on the occasion of International Nurses Day. The leadership team lauded the selfless service of the nursing workforce, the dynamism of the nursing leadership of the Hospital and hailed the invaluable role the nurses had played in the brand's forty-year journey.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Prathap C Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group, said, "The pandemic proved yet again that nurses play a critical role in the care continuum. Their role in healthcare systems is indispensable. The demand for skilled nursing personnel is only set to rise in the coming years both nationally and

globally. The US, for instance, needs 50,000 nurses, the UK needs 20,000-30,000 nurses. We are pleased to launch this programme that will help India meet this demand for skilled nurses. Our collaborations with international institutes will ensure that the programme gives our nurses invaluable hands-on training and exposure in a world-class environment. The global burden of NCDs (Non Communicable Diseases) will also place an increased demand on healthcare systems across the world to meet changing needs of the patient population. In such a scenario, nurses and doctors alike will play a key role."

Preetha Reddy, Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Group, said, "The pandemic was a

trying time for healthcare systems across the world. In times of extreme stress, nurses have served as a harbinger of hope and symbols of compassion. We say with pride that we have been able to provide them an environment that is conducive to their learning, growth and well-being. We have kept in need the evolving needs of healthcare systems and our workforce and strived to foster a culture of nursing excellence. This International Nurses Day, we laud the selflessness and compassion of these angels in disguise and encourage them to participate in this upskilling effort."

Participants will be selected on the basis of a rigorous selection process.

INDIA-INDONESIA BILATERAL EXERCISE SAMUDRA SHAKTI - 23



Chennai, May 15 2023: INS Kavaratti, indigenously designed & built ASW Corvette, arrived at Batam, Indonesia to participate in the 4th edition of India-Indonesia Bilateral exercise Samudra Shakti-23 from 14-19 May 23. An Indian Navy Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft and Chetak helicopter is

also participating. The Indonesian Navy will be represented by KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda, CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft and AS565 Panther Helicopter.

Exercise Samudra Shakti is aimed at enhancing interoperability, jointness and mutual cooperation between

both the navies.

The Harbour phase will comprise Cross deck visits, professional Interactions, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, and sports fixtures.

During the Sea Phase, weapon firing, Helicopter Operations, Anti-

submarine warfare & air defence exercises and boarding operations are planned.

Samudra Shakti - 23 will showcase the high level of interoperability between the two navies and their shared commitment towards peace and stability in the region.

The India SADC meeting was held in Chennai to strengthen the relationship between India and various countries of the SADC countries



Chennai, May 15 2023: A meeting to strengthen trade and cultural ties between India and Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries was held at the Accord Metropolitan Hotel, Chennai.

The President of the Indian Economic and Trade Organization Asif Iqbal, Trade Commissioner of India African Union Trade Council Shahul Hamid, High Commissioner Republic of Malawi to India H.E. Leonard Mengezi, High Commission of the Kingdom of Lesotho Charge D'Affairs Thabang Linus Kholumo, Honourable Consul of Myanmar in Tamil Nadu Ranganathan and others

were present during the event which projected the relationship between these countries.

High Commissioner Republic of Malawi to India H.E. Leonard Mengezi noted that India-Malawi relations date back to the 18th century. He also recalled former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's participation in Malawi's Independence Day celebrations in 1964. H.E. Mengezi noted that Malawi's leaders received higher education in India, UN. He said that the Republic of Malawi supports India's candidacy for the Security Council. In his speech, he mentioned that the Government of India also issued line of credit for 163 million dollars to

Malawi, which is helping in sectors like petroleum and sugar processing in Malawi. He also said that if businesses are established in Malawi from India, they are allowed to export from there to America, and arrangements have been made for Malawians to get training in India through various MoUs.

The President of the Indian Economic and Trade Organization Asif Iqbal, said that the business culture meeting was well conducted and the purpose of the meeting was fulfilled. There is a huge interest in India for Lesotho, a country with great scope for bilateral trading opportunities in MSME, Pharma and

Manufacturing sector. This will also be useful for identifying business partners, collaborations, alliances, setting up industrial units, display Indian products and services and other related business activities as well as taking up issues to concerned authorities.

The goal is to build bilateral relations reach new heights between India and the Kingdom of Lesotho. The focus will be on deepening and diversifying the relationship by identifying new synergetic areas for cooperation and collaboration", and the high commissioner also invite the Indian Delegation in July.

Dr. Jitendra Singh says a mechanism is sought to be developed soon to follow up the nurturing and progress of the Startups

Chennai, May 15 2023: Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS (I/C) Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, D/o Space, Atomic Energy and DoPT has proposed the setting up of a mechanism to follow up the nurturing and progress of Startups as their numbers have risen to more than a lakh.

"Such a mechanism is sought to be developed that will closely follow up the growth of these Startups, see how to sustain them so that they do not lose out, especially Startups that have received technical and financial support from the Government," he said, addressing the Valedictory function and Awards Ceremony of the National Technology Week Exposition at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi today."

The Science & Technology Minister said, as the Third Generation since Independence takes over, times have witnessed a shift from IT

to Biotech and Earth Sciences as new opportunities have opened in Oceanography.

"This 3rd Generation is the most fortunate as they are no longer 'Prisoners of their Aspirations,'" said Dr Jitendra Singh, adding, "These are one of the best times with India in the forefront, witnessing innovation under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi."

Dr Jitendra Singh said we should step aside of myths around the Startups. "One is Age factor, I have seen a scientist setting up a Startup after retirement; second is higher Qualification, you just need to be an Innovator, having an inherent quest for creativity," he said.

The Minister also proposed Cluster projects which are theme based projects, and said this exercise will be initiated next week. Dr Jitendra Singh said the National Technology Week Exposition is an

example of "Whole of Government" approach as laid out by PM Modi, with more than 12 Central Ministries & Departments converging to mount a grand show.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Govt. of India, Dr Ajay Kumar Sood suggested that there should be a Startup Day & Week on the patterns of the National Technology Day & Week.

In his address, Secretary, Dept. of Science & Technology, Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar said one thing standing out during the Exposition was every Startup is very conscious of Sustainable Development. "By Amritkaal, we hope to cease all greenhouse emissions and minimize damage to the environment."

Secretary, DBT Dr Rajesh Gokhale said the future of technology will be spearheaded by Biotechnology and Artificial Intelligence.

Chairman, DRDO, Dr Samir V. Kamat; Secretary (Earth Sciences), Dr M Ramachandran; Secretary, Technology Development Board, Dr Rajesh Kumar Pathak; & CEO, Atal Innovation Mission, Dr Chintan Vaishnav also addressed the gathering.

On the occasion Dr Jitendra Singh presented the National Technology Awards. Technology Development Board (TDB) had sought applications for National Technology Awards under five categories, - Main, MSME, Startup, Translational Research and Technology Business Incubator from various industries for successful commercialization of innovative indigenous technology, scientists involved in research and Technology Business Incubators. This year a total of 11 winners were selected after a stringent two-tier evaluation process with panellists comprising eminent scientists and technologists.