

# President Murmu addresses joint session Highlights key achievements of Govt

Chennai, Feb 01 2024: Kicking off the Budget session of Parliament with her address to both Houses, President Draupadi Murmu on Wednesday listed the revocation of Article 370, law to criminalise triple talaq, and passing of the women's reservation Bill among key achievements of the government.

Murmu said that in the last 10 years, India has witnessed the completion of many works that had been awaited for decades.

"For centuries, it was the aspiration of people to see Ram temple construction. This dream has now

been realised," she said. She also highlighted the success of various government schemes and record investment in building the country's physical and digital infrastructure.

President Murmu said India has emerged as the fastest-growing economy despite global challenges, recording more than 7.5 percent growth for the last two consecutive quarters. She also said that the government had successfully contained inflation despite global challenges, thus shielding the common man from price rises.

Murmu highlighted that India is now among



the top five economies in the world, with exports and foreign direct investment rising over the years. She also cited a Niti Aayog report to state that nearly 25 crore people

have come out of poverty in the last 10 years.

The President said the government has, in the last few years, laid a strong foundation for good governance and

transparency.

"Our government has been continuously working for ease of doing business. In the past few years, as many as 40,000 compliances have either been

removed or simplified. As many as 63 provisions in the Companies Act and Limited Liability Partnership Act have been de-criminalised," she said.

Murmu said that the government has been strengthening the MSME sector by taking various measures.

She noted the progress made towards digital India and said that the country accounts for nearly 46 percent of the digital transactions happening across the world.

Murmu said that India is currently witnessing record investment in infrastructure.

"In the last 10 years, 3.75 lakh kilometres of new roads have been constructed in rural areas. The length of the National Highway has increased from 90,000

kilometres to 1.46 lakh kilometres," she said.

The President said that the government has been continuously working to make farming more profitable.

She also mentioned the government's efforts to ensure internal security and said that today there is peace in Kashmir and incidents of separatist activities have considerably come down in the North East.

"Whether it is terrorism or expansionism, our Armed Forces have been dealing with them following the principle of tit for tat," she added.

# Stalin meets officials of leading Spain companies for investment. Acciona to invest in wind power

Chennai, Feb 01 2024: With an investment of Rs 400 crore, Roca has committed to set up a new pipe and fittings manufacturing plant in Perundurai and to expand its existing factories in Ranipet and

Perundurai. Chief Minister M.K. is on an official visit to Spain to attract industrial investments in Tamil Nadu. Stalin interacted with executives of various industrial groups and leading companies in

Spain at the Industrial Investment Conclave.

Yesterday executives of leading companies in Spain met Chief Minister. Stalin urged them to make investments in Tamil Nadu.

The Acciona Chief Executive Officer Raphael Mateo and CEO, Water Division Manuel Manjan Wilda met the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

During this meeting, it was said that Tamil Nadu is the leading



state in India in wind power generation, water treatment and water recycling, and many major companies in this sector are already operating in Tamil Nadu, and Tamil Nadu government is implementing a separate policy for renewable energy investments, therefore Acciona, a leading international company in these sectors, The Chief Minister highlighted that Tamil Nadu would be an ideal destination for the company's investment.

The Industries

Minister explained in detail about the investment opportunities in this sector. At the end of this consultation, Acciona has expressed interest in making investments in these sectors in Tamil Nadu.

Carlos Velazquez, International Director of Roca, which is a global leader in the production of ceramic and home construction products, and Nirmal Kumar, Indian Director, also met the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

During this meeting, the Chief Minister requested that Roca Company, which is currently operating in Perundurai and Ranipet in Tamil Nadu, should further increase the sales of this company in India, for international exports, and set up new industrial units in Tamil Nadu for its expansion. The Industries Minister also explained about the favorable environment prevailing in Tamil Nadu for investment and export in this sector.

At the end of this

meeting, Roca has committed to invest Rs 400 crore. Accordingly, Roca has proposed to set up a new factory for the manufacture of new pipes and fittings in Perundurai, Erode district and to expand the existing factories in Ranipet and Perundurai. This will create new jobs for 200 people.

During these meetings, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Guidance Company V. Vishnu was present.

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# Actor Jeeva's 'Def Frax' Music Label Launch: The label will focus on promoting independent artistes

Chennai, Feb 01 2024: Actor Jeeva, who has been delivering critical and commercial hits in Indian cinema, completes 21 years in the film industry today. After successfully starting his film career, he has taken up music production as the next step. The launch of his new venture 'Def Frax' Records Music Label, an event dedicated to independent artistes and providing a platform to showcase their talents, was attended by media and actors Jitan Ramesh, Arya, Karthi, Jayam Ravi, Vishnu Vishal, Mirchi Siva, Vichu Vishwanath, Vivek Prasanna, Kalaiyarasan, Aadhav Kannadasan, Jagan, director Mohan.G, actor and music arrangers Vijay Antony, Siddharth Vipin, Santhosh Narayanan and many other celebrities were present today.

In an industry often dominated by mainstream narratives, our music label is committed to fostering creativity and individuality. We firmly believe that every artist deserves to shine and share their unique voice with the world.

Our platform is designed to support

independent artists at every stage of their music artist career, from creation to global recognition. We aim to contribute to the richness and vibrancy of the music industry by embracing and creating diverse musical styles and genres.

Speaking at the event, actor Jeeva said, "Today we're unveiling what we've been working on for this 'Def Frax' music label for the last one year. The company is also built to produce songs and short films for independent artists. We've introduced more than 40 new directors through our parent company Super Good Films. We are proud to introduce independent artistes through this company. Based on a short story told by 'Superstar' Rajinikanth, 'We have to keep doing our work without listening to anyone and progressing'." Today we're announcing what we've got going on for the music label company, which was created to produce songs and short films for independent artists. We take pride in introducing independent artists through this company, just as we have introduced more than 40 emerging directors through our parent company, Super Good

Films. Based on the short story told by 'Superstar' Rajinikanth, 'We should keep doing our work without listening to anyone and progressing', the company has been named as 'Deep Frogs'. "This institution will be an art gallery," he said, welcoming everyone.

Santosh Narayanan

Later, when music director Santhosh Narayanan released the song 'Puriya Vai' by Killa.K's independent artist, he said that his biggest independent song was 'Enjoy Enjami' and he is also planning to start a music label company. Then I am happy that people like Jeeva are entering the field. If there are people like Jeeva with business



acumen and artistic passion, the sky is the limit for independent artists.

He said that there are more than 6 lakh independent singers in Tamil Nadu and he found out in his little research. He wished that this 'Def Frax' music label company would be a platform for them.

Vishnu Vishal

Vishnu Vishal, who released the short film 'Panimal Vihum Kanal Garun', said that when he started his film career, he was looking for opportunities, two days ago he completed 15 years in the film industry, and he has been friends with Jeeva for 13 years. Produced by 'Def Frax'. Giving opportunities to new

talent is in his blood and his father has given opportunities to many such artists. Vishnu Vishal said that his production company also wants to work with the company. He also expressed his congratulations.

Karthi

When actor Karthi released the independent song 'The Pop', our Tamil girls dance and compose the music themselves. After this I will introduce anyone who is looking for such an opportunity to Jiva. Jeeva is like a schoolmate. Like his father, Jeeva has a mind to give opportunities to newcomers. He recalled that Karthi and

director Aamir received the Cyprus International Film Award on behalf of Jeeva for the film 'Ram'.

Speaking at that time, Jeeva said that he is now on this platform to thank him for receiving the award. He also said that he would like to thank his parents for encouraging the interest of independent artists.

Jayam Ravi

Social networking sites are an easy way to get leads when actor Jayam Ravi releases independent singer Kenisha's song 'Ithai Yaar Solwaro'. There are more supporters of independent artists than us on social media. It is a great gift for such independent artists to

have a mentor like Jeeva. He will be there for you like a father was a mentor to him. Actor Jeeva is his long time friend. During the shooting of his first film, both of them participated in the shooting in a set set like a train. Jeeva, Jayam Ravi and Arya aka Jami are the best of friends and he has rightfully claimed that he has become a family friend to me. He will be a family to you like us. Def Frax said he sincerely wishes the company continued growth.

Jasari.K.Ganesh

Speaking on the release of the documentary 'Folk Agenda', Mr. Isari K. Ganesh got angry with actor Jeeva. He said that he was never informed about starting the company. He said that he is ready to travel with this company. He said that he wishes this Def Frax company to grow even more. Speaking then, Jeeva said, "Wells International is one of the major production companies in the Tamil film industry. Isari K. Ganesh is also creating great works. New talents like Pradeep Ranganathan introducing" he said.

Vijay Antony

While speaking Vijay Antony said that

the people who worked on his independent song 'Every Woman' released by him have shown their talent and he is a 'def frock' and regardless of anyone's talk he has come towards the next stage as a composer, actor and director.

If we have a belief we can achieve anything. He wished 'Def Frax' company to come big in India.

Kudos to Jeeva for such a good effort!

'Mirchi' Shiva

Speaking after the release of the short film 'Ek Ladukka Ek Laduki', Mirchi Siva said, "Talent can never be hidden; it will come out one day; we should not give importance to the negative comments on social media, we should believe in our talent and keep moving forward." Best wishes for success at the global level."

Kalaiyarasan & Aadhav Kannadasan

Both Kalaiyarasan and Kannadasan congratulated the film crew while releasing the preview of the web series 'Funtastic' starring 'Inian'. Kalaiyarasan said that he was happy to have worked with Jeeva in the film Besumu Padho Moozhik and that he treated him as a good friend.

## Modi urges members not to disrupt Houses

Chennai, Feb 01 2024: Ahead of the Budget session of Parliament, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged the Members to not disturb the proceedings of both Houses and said, "Those who have become habituated to creating ruckus will introspect as to what they have done in the past ten years."

Prime Minister Modi told reporters outside Parliament, "No one remembers those who created ruckus... no matter how harsh the criticism is, no one remembers it. On the other hand, a large section of people still remember those who benefited the House with their good ideas."

PM Modi also said the BJP would present the full Budget once the new government is



formed.

"You know when election time is near, usually a full budget is not presented.. Following the same tradition, we will also present the full Budget before you after the formation of the new government," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister said at the end of the first session held in this new Parliament building, the Parliament took a very significant decision, and that decision was the 'Narishakti

Vandan Act'.

"On January 26, we saw how the country experienced the bravery, strength, and determination of women power...adding that at the beginning of the budget session today, the interim budget will be presented under the guidance of President Draupadi Murmu Ji and tomorrow by Nirmala Sitharaman Ji. In a way, this is a festival of realization of women's power." The Budget Session of Parliament began on

Wednesday with an address by President Droupadi Murmu to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Interim Budget on Thursday. The session will continue till February 9.

Meanwhile, ahead of the Session, the Government on Wednesday convened an all-party meeting to ensure smooth functioning of both Houses.

## Utilising active microparticles for artificial intelligence

Chennai, Feb 01 2024: Artificial intelligence using neural networks performs calculations digitally with the help of microelectronic chips. Physicists at Leipzig University have now created a type of neural network that works not with electricity but with so-called active colloidal particles. In their publication, the researchers describe how these microparticles can be used as a physical system for artificial intelligence and the prediction of time series.

"Our neural network belongs to the field of physical reservoir computing, which uses the dynamics of physical processes, such as water surfaces, bacteria or octopus tentacle models, to make calculations," says Professor Frank Cichos, whose research group developed the network with the support

of ScaDS.AI. As one of five new AI centres in Germany, since 2019 the research centre with sites in Leipzig and Dresden has been funded as part of the German Government's AI strategy and supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Free State of Saxony.

"In our realisation, we use synthetic self-propelled particles that are only a few micrometres in size," explains Cichos.

"We show that these can be used for calculations and at the same time present a method that suppresses the influence of disruptive effects, such as noise, in the movement of the colloidal particles." Colloidal particles are particles that are finely dispersed in their dispersion medium (solid, gas or liquid).

For their extremely small experiments, the physicists developed tiny units made of plastic and gold nanoparticles, in which one particle rotates around another, driven by a laser.

These units have certain physical properties that make them interesting for reservoir computing.

"Each of these units can process information, and many units make up the so-called reservoir. We change the rotational motion of the particles in the reservoir using an input signal. The resulting rotation contains the outcome of a calculation," explains Dr Xiangzun Wang.

"Like many neural networks, the system needs to be trained to perform a particular calculation."

The researchers were particularly interested in noise. "Because our system contains

particles in water, the reservoir is subject to strong noise, similar to the noise that all molecules in a brain are subject to," says Professor Cichos.

"This noise, Brownian motion, severely disrupts the functioning of the reservoir computer and usually requires a very large reservoir to remedy. In our work, we have found that using past states of the reservoir can improve computer performance, allowing smaller reservoirs to be used for certain computations under noisy conditions."

Cichos adds that this has not only contributed to the field of information processing with active matter, but has also yielded a method that can optimise reservoir computation by reducing noise.

## Picnic Organised for Ashraya Special School by Southern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation



Smt. Sonia Singh, President, Southern Railway Women's Headquarters Organisation (SRWHQO) and team pose for Photograph with the students of Ashraya Special School run by SRWHQO at Perambur

Chennai, Feb 01 2024: Ashraya, a school for special children, is run by Southern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation in Chennai. This Organisation is led by Smt. Sonia Singh, who is very compassionate about the needs and welfare of special children. On 30.01.2024 (Yesterday), she arranged an outing for these Ashraya Kids to Chennai Rail Museum. The children were overjoyed to ride the toy train and walked through the museum gallery enthusiastically.

Smt. Sonia, along with the other office bearers of the organization, distributed refreshments and gift to children.

Ashraya, a school cum vocational training centre, exclusively run for the special children was started on 08th February, 1993. Offering individualized educational programme for children from the age of six years, the main objective of this institution is to make these special children independent and self-reliant by emphasizing on self help skills,

academics, pre-vocational skills and vocational training.

The programme base for these special children is IEP - Individualised Educational Programme. Yoga, play therapy, arts & crafts and vocational training form part of the extra-curricular activities. The staff of Ashraya is qualified specially to impart education to these children. Ashraya offers vocational training for children aged 16 years and above in making chalk, envelopes, files,

phenyl, covers, diyas, bouquets and candles. The sale proceeds of the products are disbursed among the students as an incentive and as a token of the Organisation's efforts to make them self-reliant and independent. The students of Ashraya have proved that given the right kind of atmosphere and training, they can not only be self-sufficient but can also excel in the field of computer education, sports, arts and crafts. At present, 30 special children are studying at Ashraya Special School.

## BRICS Pay shows way for high value transactions Moscow bats for digital currency settlements

Chennai Feb 01 2024: Russia is discussing with other BRICS countries the integration of national financial message transmission systems, and currently 159 foreign participants from 20 countries have already joined the Russian platform.

Russia has a Financial Messaging System that is an alternative to SWIFT. Some other countries have similar infrastructure. And they are discussing the interaction of such platforms, but the interest and technical readiness of our partners are important here.

On whether the BRICS countries are ready to integrate national financial communication systems is being discussed by economic experts, but it is pertinent to note that a total of 159 foreign participants from 20 countries have already joined the Russian system, officials concerned on this issue have said recently.

Furthermore, the

Russian Central Bank is holding talks with many friendly countries on cross-border settlements in digital currencies. And Russia is currently holding consultations and negotiations with many friendly countries and, of course, with the BRICS countries on cross-border settlements in digital currencies.

The share of the BRICS countries in Russia's trade balance has doubled in two years to 40 per cent, and settlements with those countries in national currencies have more than tripled to 85 per cent.

With all the geopolitical and economic upheavals happening globally the BRICS Pay has not come to limelight.

BRICS Pay is a new financial settlement platform for the member countries to use. BRICS Pay is a joint venture between the five BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) that was launched in 2018 by the BRICS Business Council among the top

priorities in the Annual Report. The team behind the venture consists of individuals from all five countries.

It appears that Bric Pay has now been launched as a new financial settlement platform. It is hoped and seen as a vehicle that will change the volume of trade and the volume of financial transactions between the BRICS members by making payments easier.

Payments and transactions however will not be denominated in US Dollars. Instead, the BRICS member countries are focused on de-dollarization and using their respective national currencies. The new Bric Pay system is likely to accelerate this process.

The State Bank of India has launched a Bric Pay based mobile app for cross border transactions, while Russia's Sberbank has partnered with Bric Pay so that its customers to make cross border payments. Likewise, Russia's VTB bank has also integrated Bric Pay

into its systems allowing its customers to make fast and secure payments to other BRICS countries.

The Bank of China has integrated Bric Pay into its systems, as has Beijing based ICBC, one of the largest banks in the PRC. It has also adopted Bric Pay for cross border transactions. In Brazil, Petrobras has begun to use Bric Pay for cross border transactions as well. At the root core of Bric Pay is the New Development Bank, (sometimes referred to as the BRICS Bank as it is collectively owned by BRICS member countries) where all financial transactions between BRICS nations are processed.

However, BRICS Pay is not just restricted to BRICS. The UK's Standard Chartered Bank has integrated Bric Pay into its digital payment platform to enable its customers to make payments to other BRICS countries.

Moscow bats for digital currency settlements

## Chennai to host India International Leather Fair 2024 and concurrent events



Chennai, Feb 01 2024: "The 37th edition of India International Leather Fair (IILF) will catalyze the growth of leather & footwear sector" said Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Chairman, Council for Leather Exports.

Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan added "IILF occupies a very prominent place in the global calendar of leather fairs. Since its inception, IILF has witnessed significant growth, both in terms of number of exhibitors and in terms of range of products displayed. This fair plays a vital role in the growth of Indian Leather and Footwear Industry. IILF 2023 was held in a net area of 10,000 sq.mtr with 460 Exhibitors including 126 overseas Exhibitors from 23 countries. 13,000 business visitors from 48 countries visited the fair. The 37th Edition of the fair (IILF 2024) will be held in Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai from 1st to 3rd February 2024. Ribbon Cutting ceremony of the fair is scheduled at 10 am on February 1, 2024 at Convention Centre, Chennai Trade Centre. The fair will display the entire range of products relating to leather and footwear industry from raw materials to finished products IILF 2024 has attracted more than 450 exhibitors, covering an area of over 10,500 sq.mtrs. CLE is also organising the concurrent event "Designer Fair" wherein about 38 overseas and Indian designers will be displaying their design prototypes and

innovations". Coinciding with IILF, the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) will be organizing the 7th edition of Designers Fair (1st to 3rd February 2024) at Hall 1 D in Chennai Trade Centre. 38 design companies and institutions from 12 countries namely India, Russia, USA, Portugal, Italy, Brazil, Turkey, Greece, Australia, UK, Philippines and Mexico will be displaying their design prototypes and innovations in this fair.

Shri R. Selvam, Executive Director, CLE said "As part of export promotion efforts, CLE is continuing its aggressive market promotion campaign to tap both traditional and potential markets and accordingly CLE has organized 'Group Participation' of exporters in 16 international fairs and exhibitions and visit of delegations to overseas countries under the Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAIS) of Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India during the period April-December 2023. CLE will be participating/organising 9 more international events during January March 2024 with MAIS support, which include Delhi International Leather Expo (DILEX) to be held in Delhi during 4th and 5th March 2024 and Designers Fairs, Chennai during 1st to 3rd February 2024.

The Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India is implementing the Central Sector Scheme Indian Footwear & Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) for 5-years period FY 2021-2026 with an outlay of Rs.1700 Crore. The core objective of the IFLDP is to enable creation of world class infrastructure for the leather and footwear industry to cater to the domestic market and exports and to enable modernization, technology upgradation, capacity expansion in the existing manufacturing units besides encouraging setting up of new units in the sector. The IFLDP will also address environmental management specific to the leather tanning industry, establishment of greenfield and brownfield Mega Leather, Footwear & Accessories clusters in the country, promotion of Indian Brands in the overseas countries, and setting up of new Design Studios etc. We are glad to inform that total investments to the tune of Rs. 1176.31 Crore has already been committed as of now under this scheme.

The Council for Leather Exports (CLE) being the industry body is coordinating with the Leather & Footwear industry stakeholders in the country and with DPIIT, Govt of India and implementation agencies FDDI, CLRI, NID, IIFT, NPC, State Government

Departments for s m o o t h implementation of the sub-schemes of IFLDP.

Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Chairman, CLE added "We thank the Government of India for the wonderful support provided to the leather & footwear industry. We expect additional support measures for the sector in the upcoming Union Budget 2024-25 so as to further catalyze our growth. As far as Union Budget is concerned, we have requested for re-instatement of import duty exemption on wet blue, crust and finished leathers, addition of new inputs under Import of Goods under Concessional Rates of Duty (IGCR) Scheme and also for allowing export of all value added leathers including crust leathers, without any export duty, inspection, certification or testing. Consideration of these requests in the budget will help in increasing the export of value-added products from the country. Besides, we also have been requesting Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for the leather and footwear industry, so as to not only enhance the production and exports, but to strengthen the supply chain in the country".

On the whole, the India International Leather Fair 2024 and concurrent events will witness series of events which will open-up new window of opportunities for the overall growth and development of Indian leather and footwear sector.

## Sanjay Agarwal's Family Office acquires stake in Teamwork Arts producers of the Jaipur Literature Festival

Chennai, Feb 01 2024: The Family Office of Sanjay Agarwal, Founder, Small Finance Bank, has joined hands with Teamwork Arts, producer of the world's largest literary gathering, the renowned Jaipur Literature Festival—the 'Greatest Literary Show on Earth'.

Teamwork Arts produces 33 annual festivals across 72 cities in 21 countries including Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Israel, Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, UK, USA.

Sanjoy K. Roy, the Co-founder of Teamwork Arts, and his colleagues bring together a seasoned team excelling in creativity and in curating immersive experiences that intersect knowledge, literature and the arts and innovation, Sanjay Agarwal and his family office bring their financial heft and understanding to help grow the existing Teamwork Arts brands and create new opportunities and platforms for excellence in the arts. Collectively, the two organisations have joined hands to envisage and create value for the arts in India and abroad.

This year,

Teamwork Arts brings to the city of Jaipur the grand literary extravaganza, the Samsung Galaxy Tab S9 Series Jaipur Literature Festival, which will see over 550 writers, speakers, and performers, representing 16 Indian and 8 international languages. The Indian languages include Assamese, Awadhi, Bengali, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Kurukh, Malayalam, Odia, Punjabi, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Tamil, Toda, Urdu, and the Banjara language—Lamani (Lambada). In its 2023 edition, the iconic Festival reached out to 250 million people.

Sanjay Agarwal, a Jaipur native and visionary banker, understands the power of ideas. Taking tradition forward, Sanjay Agarwal's family office, known for fostering art, culture, and sports, is proud to preserve the legacy of Jaipur Literature Festival, and other literary festivals and their cultural significance. Marking a significant association between banking and culture, he sees a deeper and meaningful connection by being an integral part of Teamwork Arts. This bears upon itself the responsibility to craft a platform for 'Freedom of Expression', where knowledge, innovation,

and creativity thrive. His commitment to Jaipur's cultural ecosystem is reflected in initiatives like 'AU Jaipur Marathon', 'AU Jaipur Rangam' and 'Ibaadat' programmes etc.

Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, Founder, MD & CEO, AU Small Finance Bank said, "My association with Sanjoy K. Roy and Teamwork Arts will be instrumental in various experiential and intellectual events hosted across the world. We look forward to weaving new chapters into the rich tapestry of literary events, creating a space where ideas flourish, voices resonate, and the cultural spirit of the nation finds global relevance and sonance. It is a profound and joint responsibility to not only preserve the cultural legacy but also elevate it to new heights. I am both honoured and thrilled to embark on this incredible journey with Teamwork Arts, the Samsung Galaxy Tab S9 Series Jaipur Literature Festival being the maiden event."

Speaking at the occasion, Mrs. Jyoti Agarwal said, "Both Sanjay and I believe in the power of culture to bind and propel societies and consider it our duty to support initiatives in this space. The Jaipur Literature

Festival has been an iconic initiative and is especially dear to us given its Jaipur roots. We have long admired the great work being done by Teamwork Arts and feel humbled and honoured to be part of its even more purposeful, future journey. Sanjay and I see an immense potential in Teamwork Arts to help build a better society, fuelled by culture, art, dialogue, and a never-satisfying hunger for knowledge."

Supporting the vision, Mr. Sanjoy K Roy, Managing Director, Teamwork Arts' said, "We are delighted to join hands with the Sanjay Agarwal Family Office and see this as a way to continue to create value for the arts and to take forward the responsibility of creating diverse platforms for artistic expression where knowledge, innovation, and creativity come hand in hand."

The Jaipur Literature Festival brings together some of world's best intellectual minds on a singular platform where ideas, ideologies, viewpoints, and worldviews are discussed, debated, and challenged. Dubbed as the world's 'greatest' literary gathering, the Jaipur Literature Festival takes India to the world and brings the world to India.

## Largecap: The Pillar of An Investor Portfolio - By Sidhavelayutham, Founder & CEO, Alice Blue

Chennai, Feb 01 2024: Investors should always remember that portfolio risk management is as essential as striving to meet the return objective. There are more than 5000 stocks listed in the Indian stock market. It is a huge collection of a lot of microcaps, a few smallcaps, some more midcaps and a handful of largecaps.

Currently, there are a lot of investors who might be thinking that there is no evident benefit of investing in largecap stocks as the smallcap and midcap stocks are hitting through the roof and becoming multibaggers by giving double or even triple digit returns in a span of months.

In this kind of return environment, it

is very important to understand and recall the concept of volatility. Smallcaps and midcaps have comparatively much higher volatility against largecaps. If there is a black swan event in the world such as a war or a global epidemic, the largecaps will be the one to balance out investors' losses in other stocks during market fall.

Additionally, there are a lot of global pension funds and large institutional investors which hold largecap stocks just for getting a regular cash flow stream in the form of dividend income. In fact, as the standard deviation in these stocks is relatively much lesser, it saves the investor from large capital losses during instances of market turbulence.

Despite modest growth on a yearly basis, the L&T and TCS of the stock market have been exceptional compounding stories as the Indian economy rose to periods of super strong economic growth, higher corporate earnings growth in a declining interest rate environment.

On the other hand, if one looks into smallcap stocks, say for example Brightcom Group there are a series of days where the stock went through lower circuit/upper circuit patterns bringing in more stress on any investors' mindset. Additionally, there is a big issue in terms of low liquidity when it comes to smallcap stocks.

If the risk profile of

an investor is about getting stable returns, then there is no better choice than largecaps. In fact, the investors can further cut down on their volatility risk by investing in index funds. These are mutual fund schemes in which the investment is in the top 50 companies by market cap regarded as largecaps. The role of a fund manager is largely passive here and the portfolio churn cost is limited.

However, if an investor seeks higher growth with some amount of stability to his/her portfolio, then one should go for a mix of both smallcap/midcap and largecap stocks. The portfolio allocation of these types would certainly depend on the individual investor risk appetite.

## Electric Scooters in Small Towns Outshine Metros in Average Daily Kilometres

Chennai, Feb 01 2024: Ather Energy, India's leading electric scooter manufacturer, has unveiled its 'Ather 2023 Report', highlighting significant trends and accomplishments. The year 2023 saw a remarkable 1,98,496 Ather scooters traverse an impressive 1.2 billion kilometres, marking a 209% increase from the previous year. This growth is particularly noticeable in smaller towns and cities, where Ather scooters are increasingly popular.

In terms of daily travel, scooters in Nagercoil, Cuttack, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Bhubaneswar surpassed the national average, recording a daily average of 40 kilometres compared to the typical 26 kilometres by most Ather owners. Metropolitan areas also showed significant usage. Bengaluru and Chennai continue to lead the total distance chart. In Bengaluru over 40,500 scooters accounted for nearly 218.5 million kilometres at an average of 5,387 kilometres per scooter. Chennai followed with

its 14,835 scooters covering 86.8 million kilometres, averaging over 5,854 kilometres each. Telangana, Pune and Delhi are also among the top 5 cities in the chart, covering 69.7 million km, 68.4 million km and 53 million km respectively.

Ather owners frequently embarked on long rides, with over 60,000 scooters travelling more than 100 kilometres at least once in 2023. A notable achievement includes a rider completing 62 trips of over 100 kilometres on a single charge, showcasing the exceptional range of Ather scooters.

Feature Usage Pattern

Ather's Warp mode has been a crowd favourite since 2020 and owners clocked 115 million km in Warp mode in 2023. The cities with the highest Warp mode usage were Tumakuru (Karnataka), Karimnagar (Telangana), Kottayam & Malappuram (Kerala) and Nagercoil (Tamil Nadu). Ather owners from these cities engaged Warp mode for more than 20% of their rides, underscoring the

widespread appeal of performance features. The Park Assist™ or the reverse assist feature proved invaluable in navigating tight parking situations, cumulatively covering more than four times the Earth's circumference, or 162,000 kilometres. On board navigation has also gained popularity among Ather users, with 206 million kilometres navigated.

Ather Charging Ecosystem

The Ather Grid, Ather Energy's fast-charging network, is expanding its reach. Charging stations are now conveniently located every 6 to 15 square kilometres in cities such as Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Delhi NCR.

In 2023, Ather installed over 900 Ather Grids across India bringing the total number of fast chargers to 1600+ fast-charging points. Over this period Ather Grids have been strategically installed connecting locations that will allow customers to go on weekend getaways like Bengaluru to Nandi Hills, Pune to

Lonavala, Mumbai to Alibaug, Chennai to Pondicherry, Delhi to Agra, Siliguri to Darjeeling and many more. Ather Grids also allow a customer to travel the entire coastal region covering Kanyakumari and Kasargod (640 km) with over 52 fast charging stations installed.

This expansive grid has significantly alleviated range anxiety, evidenced by numerous intercity trips, including 447 Ather owners riding from Kozhikode and Malappuram in Kerala, and 232 Ather owners riding from Chikballapur to Bengaluru, among others.

Ather Energy remains steadfast in its commitment to revolutionising the way we commute. With every milestone achieved, Ather is driving towards a dynamic, electric future, aiming to establish electric scooters as the favoured choice for commuters throughout India. This dedication underscores Ather's role as a pioneering force in shaping an electrified transportation landscape.

## IMFA Q3 results: Profit climbs to Rs 109 cr, total income at Rs 695.02 cr

Chennai, Feb 01 2024: Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd (IMFA; estd 1961), the country's leading fully integrated producer of ferro alloys, announced Q3 FY24 results today for the period ending December 31st 2023.

Commenting on the Q3 results, Mr Subhrakant Panda,

Managing Director, said: "The third quarter earnings numbers are creditable in a difficult global environment where stainless steel demand has been muted and ferro chrome prices have softened, though costs have come down significantly too. The moderation in the Chinese economy has

had an impact across the commodities spectrum but we do not expect any further downside. Raising of chrome ore is on track to cross 0.6 million tonnes during the year for the first time with a further hike in FY25, and we are looking to tie up hybrid renewable expansion project

which will reduce our carbon footprint. We remain confident of superior performance on account of our fully integrated business model and long term debt free Balance Sheet, and shall increase smelting capacity to take advantage of the available resource base."

## India-Bhutan to beef up unique ties of friendship

Chennai, Feb 01 2024: Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra on Tuesday called on Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and discussed ways to further deepen the "unique ties of friendship" between the two nations.

Kwatra arrived here on Monday on a three-day trip, in the first high-level visit from India after the formation of a new Government under

People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Tshering Tobgay.

"An honour to receive the audience from His Majesty the King of Bhutan and benefit from his guidance on ways to further deepen the India-Bhutan unique ties of friendship," he posted on X, sharing some photographs of the meeting.

On Monday, Kwatra called on Prime Minister Tobgay at the Prime Minister's

Office in Gyalong Tshogkhong. The meeting discussed various areas of mutual interest and cooperation between Bhutan and India.

The Prime Minister also hosted a dinner for the Foreign Secretary and his delegation at his residence. During his Bhutan visit, Kwatra also held bilateral consultations with Foreign Secretary of Bhutan Aum Pema Choden. A wide-ranging discussion on multifaceted

cooperation between India and Bhutan in development partnership, space, energy, trade, technology, economic ties, and people-to-people ties, the Indian embassy here said on Monday.

Kwatra's visit comes against the backdrop of China and Bhutan looking at an expeditious resolution of their festering boundary row that could have implications for India's security interests.