

TN to distribute Pongal cash gift, hampers from Jan 10; tokens from tomorrow

Chennai, Jan 06 2024: The Tamil Nadu Government announced that the Pongal cash gift and gift hampers will be distributed from tomorrow.

Token will be distributed till January 9. Pongal gift hampers will be given to ration cardholders till January 13. Those

who could not get gift hampers before January 13 can get the same on January 14.

Pongal will be celebrated across the state on January 15. Chief Minister M K Stalin has announced Rs 1,000 cash incentive to people on the occasion of the harvest festival Pongal.

The Pongal cash gift of Rs 1,000 cash will be distributed



through fair price shops ahead of the festival to all ration cardholders as “Pongal gift,” except for Central and state government employees, Income Tax payers, those employed in public sector undertakings, sugar ration cardholders and those holding ration cards without any commodities.

The government

has already announced a Pongal gift hamper containing one kg each of rice and sugar, besides sugarcane, the release said.

Free dhoties and sarees will also be distributed along with the Pongal gift hamper.

TN to distribute Pongal cash gift, hampers from Jan 10; tokens from tomorrow.

Global Investors meet begins tomorrow, targets Rs. 5 lakh crore investment, 170 global leaders to participate

Chennai, Jan 06 2024: The Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet (GIM), the government’s ambitious big-ticket event, will take place on January 7 and 8, at Chennai Trade Centre. While Tamil Nadu has held two previous editions of the GIM, on 2015 and 2019, this will be the first under the MK Stalin government.

Work is on in full swing at the Chennai Trade Centre in Nandambakkam for the Global Investors

Meet 2024 to be inaugurated on Sunday. The Tamil Nadu government may reach its target of attracting Rs 5 lakh crore worth of investments during the third edition of Global Investors Meet (GIM), which will be inaugurated by Chief Minister MK Stalin on Sunday.

The event is likely to see the launch of ‘Tamil Nadu Vision \$1 trillion report Tanfund, an initiative that aggregates Indian and global venture



capital and private equity funds, and a new semiconductor and advanced electronics policy.

More than 30,000 people have already registered for the summit. The event will see the

participation of 450 international delegates. Industry leaders and conglomerates from more than 50 countries are expected to attend the two-day event. Nine countries are official partners.

This edition, which will have 9 partner countries and more than 30 participating nations, will see the Tamil Nadu government releasing a report on the roadmap to make the State achieve a \$1 trillion economy goal by 2030. This slogan of a \$1 trillion economy has been one of the most vociferous

of the Stalin government since May 2021.

A key aspect of this GIM is to achieve distributed growth across Tamil Nadu. The industrial growth has largely been around Chennai, and Coimbatore and Tiruppur regions. The Industries Minister TRB Rajaa told The Hindu that there could be a big announcement for Thoothukudi on the southern coast.

The government’s aim is to create more jobs for the youth and women workforce in the rural areas. One other area that has seen some development is

the Krishnagiri and Hosur regions. The electric vehicles manufacturing market in that region is booming. Industries Minister TRB Rajaa said the government is targeting 75% conversion rate of MoUs during the third edition of the GIM as the conversion rate during the first and second editions of the GIM was not that great.

While the state attracted Rs 2.42 lakh crore worth of investments in the first edition, it signed MoUs worth Rs 3 lakh crore during the second edition of the GIM. “The response has been overwhelming and we have managed to get

investments for regions down south too,” industries department secretary Arun Roy said. “One of the notable aspects is the investments promised in Global Capability Centres. Though these centres may not bring in big money, they would generate more jobs for

our youth,” Roy said. Over 170 globally acclaimed speakers will share their vision in 26 captivating sessions. Former Reserve Bank of India governor and member of CM’s Advisory Council Raghuram Rajan, former chief economic advisor to Union government Arvind Subramanian, ISRO chairman S Somanath, author Chris Miller, CEOs, and Indian and global business leaders will present their insights.

Industry sector pavilion including Tamil Nadu Ecosystem Pavilion, and Startup TN Pavilions will be the key highlights of the event.

Singapore-based companies are set to sign MoUs worth \$5 billion (USD3.7 billion) with the Tamil Nadu Government at the upcoming Global Investors Meet 2024 to be held in Chennai on January 7 and 8. Singapore is one of the partner countries in the event.

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First jallikattu of the year begins at Pudukottai, 300 tamers, 700 bulls participate



Chennai, Jan 06 2024: This year's first Jallikattu in the Tamil Nadu began in Thatchankurichi village in Pudukottai with great fervour ahead of Pongal festivities.

Law Minister S. Raghupathy and Minister for Environment and

Climate Change Siva V. Meyyanathan inaugurated the Jallikattu event at 7:30 a.m. Minister administered the oath to the tamers. District Collector I.S. Mercy Ramya and other officials were present.

Bulls were released into the sporting arena one after the other

through the "vadivasal". According to sources, around 700 bulls and at least 300 tamers would participate in the event.

Hundreds of bulls were brought from neighbouring districts to the village in mini freight carriers.

As many as 415

police personnel were deployed to regulate and control the crowd at the venue. Separate teams of health care officials are stationed to treat the injured bull and tamers. A fleet of ambulances is also deployed to rush the injured persons to the nearby hospitals.

India should be a Pioneer of Standards: Piyush Goyal Bureau of Indian Standards celebrates 77th Foundation Day

Chennai, Jan 06 2024: India should be a Pioneer of Standards, said Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Textiles and Commerce and Industry while delivering presidential address during 77th Foundation Day of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) here today. BIS along with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) jointly organised the 'Dialogue for Strengthening Quality Ecosystem in India' to mark the day.

The Union Minister said BIS should not just be an adopter of standards. He said that the standards should be made compatible to international standards wherever possible, for example, lifts or air filters or medical items. Adding on he said that this can be achieved through increase in stakeholder consultations and by involving industry representatives.

Shri Goyal applauded the efforts of BIS in Hallmarking jewelry and pointed out that mandatory hallmarking covers 343 districts. More than 4.3 lakh articles are hallmarked every day and 90% jewellery that people are buying is hallmarked.

He said that till



2014, there were only 14 Quality Control Orders of 106 products. But, now, there are 156 QCOs of 672 products. Shri Goyal said that 90% of the QCOs came in last few years when Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi led the country. Talking about toys, he said that 52% decline in toy imports was reported from 2015 compared to 2023 because of QCOs that mandated quality above all.

"QCO's are being processed in nearly 2500 more items which reflects our commitment towards quality by providing high standards goods and services," he said.

The Union Minister said that 9 years ago, PM gave the vision of Zero Defect, Zero Effect which means that India should make products of high quality that are sustainable, eco-friendly have zero climate impact. Shri Goyal said that PM's vision is being adopted and as a result the consumers have become quality conscious. Quoting PM

he said, "Over decades, India had been dependent on foreign standards for quality. Now India's pace & progress will be decided by our own standards."

Shri Goyal said that Quality is King. But, Better Quality is probably the emperor. He said that quality is cost effective which in turn helps the industry and consumers. He said that Quality is a common factor and it is necessary. In his opinion Good Quality is non-negotiable. And the awareness generated by BIS where in consumers, industry, exporters or importers, all understand its benefits.

The Union Minister appealed to young generation to become the Young Ambassadors of Quality and of Viksit Bharat. He said that the youngsters can promote e learning, and can upgrade PARAKH initiative in colleges & universities.

He said that after studying gap analysis, comprehensive

network of state of art modern labs are set up to facilitate BIS and industry. Shri Goyal said that BIS recently agreed to invest Rs 40 Cr to set up 21 labs for cotton testing. He called upon the industry and said that they should come forward with areas for which testing is required. He said BIS has ample funds and asked them to ensure transparent ecosystem and high surveillance for better delivery.

Present at the occasion was Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Secretary DPIIT, Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Director General BIS, Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari and others.

Delegates including experts from diverse fields related to standardisation, policymakers, industry professionals, consumer groups, academicians, representatives of various Industries, associations, leading manufacturers, traders, special invitees and representatives from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and DPIIT, also participated in the event. The inaugural session was followed by technical sessions.

BJP to ensure live telecast of Ram Temple consecration



Chennai, Jan 06 2024: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced plans to telecast the grand consecration ceremony of Shri Ram Mandir in Ayodhya live on the booth level across the country. The ceremony is scheduled to take place on January 22, 2024.

As per party sources, BJP workers have been instructed to set up large screens for the live telecast of the Shri Ram Consecration at the booth level.

This initiative aims to provide a means for the common people to witness the consecration of Shri Ram Lala.

"This way, the general public can have darshan of Shri Ram

Lala and witness the consecration ceremony," the source mentioned.

Additionally, BJP workers are encouraged to engage in social work on a personal level.

"Workers may choose to distribute blankets, organize community feasts ('bhandar'), or contribute through donations in terms of food or fruits to help those in need," the sources added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend the consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple on January 22. The event has garnered significant attention, with several VVIP guests from India and abroad receiving

invitations to participate in the auspicious occasion in Ayodhya.

Vedic rituals for the Pran-Pratishtha (consecration) ceremony of Ram Lalla (infant Lord Ram) in Ayodhya will begin on January 16, a week before the main ceremony.

A priest from Varanasi, Lakshmi Kant Dixit, will perform the main rituals of the consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla on January 22. From January 14 to January 22, Ayodhya will mark the Amrit Mahotsav.

A 1008 Hundi Mahayagya will also be organised, in which thousands of devotees will be fed. Several tent

cities are being erected in Ayodhya to accommodate thousands of devotees, who are expected to arrive in the temple town of Uttar Pradesh for the grand consecration.

According to the Sri Ram Janambhoomi Trust, arrangements will be made for 10,000-15,000 people.

Local authorities are gearing up for the anticipated surge in visitors around the grand ceremony and are in the process of implementing enhanced security measures and making logistical arrangements to ensure a smooth and spiritually enriching experience for all attendees.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates and lays foundation stone of 12 National Highway projects

Chennai, Jan 06 2024: Adding an immense segment in modern-road infrastructure of Kerala, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 12 National Highway projects with a total length of 105 km, worth over Rs1464 Crore, in the presence of Union Minister Shri V. Muraleedharan, Kerala PWD Minister Shri. P. A. Mohammed Riyas, MP from Kasargod Shri Rajmohan Unnithan, MLAs, and Senior Officials in Kasargod,



Kerala on Friday.

The proposed projects aim to enhance seamless connectivity between Tamil Nadu and Kerala, ensuring swift and trouble-free transportation. This initiative holds the promise of reducing overall transportation costs. Furthermore, a focus on eliminating

black spots on National Highways is anticipated to contribute to a significant decrease in road accidents.

The undertaking is poised to generate substantial employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly, fostering socio-economic growth in

Kerala. Additionally, the improved accessibility to Munnar is expected to boost tourism potential, while the construction of a high-level bridge will eliminate a 27 km detour during floods, streamlining travel and benefiting the export of key Kerala products.

'From Moonwalk to Sun Dance', Dr Jitendra Singh lauds successful insertion of Aditya-L1 to Halo Orbit

Chennai, Jan 06 2024: From Moonwalk to Sun Dance, Aditya L1 marks ISRO's success trilogy with three success stories, one after the other, in quick succession... Chandrayaan 3, XPoSat and Aditya L1 at the Lagrange point.



This was the instant first response of Union Minister for Space, Dr Jitendra Singh soon after Aditya L1 reached its designated destination at the Lagrange point.

In a tweet which went viral, the Minister said "From Moon walk to Sun Dance! What a glorious turn of year for Bharat! Under the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi, yet another success story scripted by Team ISRO. Aditya L1 reaches its final orbit to discover the mysteries of the Sun-Earth connection".

In a series of media interviews, Minister said that the success of Aditya L1 is going to be a path breaking effort to discover the mysteries of the Sun, which were hitherto either not understood or became a part of the fairy tales and folktales.

India also has a

special stake in the study of Sun phenomena because of the large number of satellites in space, said Dr Jitendra Singh. The Minister also took the example of the private space exploration company SpaceX losing 40 satellites in a go, after being hit by a solar storm a day after launch, to underline how important the understanding of solar phenomena is. Pointing out the importance of the mission, the Minister said that all scientists in the space exploration field are eagerly waiting for inputs from the Aditya L1 mission.

Dr Jitendra Singh also said that this mission will help us in understanding Solar heating, Solar storms, Solar flares and Coronal Mass Ejections among other solar phenomena.

The Minister also said that the Aditya L1 mission is not only indigenous but also a very cost effective mission, just like Chandrayaan, with a budget of only Rs. 600 Crore. Dr Jitendra Singh said that even though talent was never lacking in the country, the missing link of enabling milieu was created under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Halo Orbit insertion (HOI) of Aditya L1 was achieved at approximately 4:00 PM today. The final phase of maneuver involved firing of control engines for a short duration. The orbit of Aditya L1 spacecraft is located roughly 1.5 million Kilometres from earth on a continuously moving Sun - Earth

line, with an orbital period of about 177.86 earth days. The specific halo orbit is selected to ensure a mission lifetime of 5 years, minimizing station keeping maneuvers and thus fuel consumption and ensuring a continuous, unobstructed view of the sun.

The halo orbit insertion of the spacecraft presented a critical mission phase, which demanded precise navigation and control. The success of this insertion not only signifies ISRO's capabilities in such complex orbital maneuvers, but it gives confidence to handle future interplanetary missions.

Aditya L1 was designed and realized at UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) with participation from various ISRO centers. The payloads onboard Aditya L1 were developed by Indian scientific laboratories, IIA, IUCA and ISRO. The Aditya L1 spacecraft was launched by PSLV-P57 on September 2, 2023. The spacecraft underwent a cruise phase lasting approximately 110 days to reach the halo orbit.

Vice-President urges the corporate leaders to handhold Indian institutions



Chennai, Jan 06 2024: The Vice-president of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar today urged the corporate leaders and business tycoons to prioritize and handhold Indian institutions and recognize their immense intellectual potential. Highlighting the unparalleled potential and intellect of India's youth, Shri Dhankhar asserted that the research and development is driven mainly by the corporate in the world in west.

Addressing the gathering at NIT, Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh today, Shri Dhankhar emphasized India's unparalleled demographic advantage, highlighting that 65 percent of the population is under 35 years of age. Citing historical examples, the Vice President drew attention to the remarkable progress experienced by nations with a demographic dividend in the 1980s and 90s. Proclaiming it as "India's century," he

added "India will perform for itself, India will perform for the world".

The Vice-President lauded the annulment of Article 370 and 35A, terming it a historic step towards national unity. He asserted that with the abolition of article 370, a concept where a group of people thought the destiny of people of Jammu and Kashmir was nestled in their hands, has come to an end. Referring to the intent of the framers of the Constitution who considered article 370 as a temporary arrangement, he stated that our Constitution was plagued by article 370 while noting the prolonged adversity faced by the nation because of it.

Highlighting the positive transformation post abrogation of Article- 370, Shri Dhankhar mentioned that hosting of G20 meetings in J&K gave a remarkable boost to its tourism.

Quoting Bismarck's words - 'let the winds of

change flow', Shri Dhankhar exhorted the youth to look beyond the geographical boundaries. Reflecting on the economy's transformative journey from being part of the Fragile Five in 2012-13, Shri Dhankhar highlighted that transparency and reforms have made India the 5th largest global economy today. He also expressed confidence that by 2030 India will be the third largest economy.

Sharing experience from his personal journey, the Vice-President described education as the most important, impactful transformational mechanism, bringing about equality like no other organ or methodology can. "It cuts into equities that are very painful and therefore you are lucky to be getting in Bharat the best of education," he told NIT students.

Shri Dhankhar also praised India's Prime Minister for catalyzing the G20 summit to the maximum. Citing the

inclusion of the African Union into G20, he described it as an example of India's leadership of Global South. He further asserted that Bharat cannot afford to remain silent on critical issues that impact global stability, peace and harmony.

Commending the government's focus on women empowerment, Shri Dhankhar stated that women are making impactful contribution in every aspect of life from space, to being the fighter pilot and to the global corporate system.

Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, Governor State of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Anurag Thakur, Union Minister of Sports, Youth Affairs, and Information & Broadcasting, Rajesh Dharmani, Minister, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Prof. Hirala Murlidhar Suryawanshi, Director, NIT, Hamirpur and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS (BIS) CELEBRATED 77TH FOUNDATION DAY AT MADURAI

Chennai, Jan 06 2024: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Madurai celebrated its 77th Foundation day.

Every year January 06 is celebrated as the BIS Foundation Day. Subsequently 2024 marks the 77th BIS Foundation Day. Shri S. D. Dayanand, Senior Director and Head, BIS Madurai welcomed the guests and presented the Program Objectives. In his speech he reiterated the history of BIS since 1947 and its evolution over the years. He further informed of the establishment of Madurai Branch from March 2021.

Shri. M. Somasundaram, Managing Director, Group of Amman TRY Steels, Trichy presented the key note address. He emphasized on sustainable manufacturing practices for achieving

continuous success and compete with international products. In his speech he mentioned how Indian Standards help manufacturers become more accountable, responsible and more competitive in the field. He encouraged manufacturers to utilize BIS guidelines for manufacturing world renowned quality products.

Shri Jignesh Kumar, General Manager, Process and QA, Ramco Cements during his speech mentioned the importance of BIS CARE App in creating awareness among common people about quality and Standardization. He also stressed on the presence of immense scope within Indian market in comparison with international arena. He also appreciated the steps taken by BIS in promoting standards at

grass root level.

Smt. Hemalatha P Panicker Joint Director, BIS, Madurai presented the Overview of BIS and explained the features of BIS Care App.

Shri. V. Ramesh, Joint Director, BIS, Madurai explained the salient features of the Indian Standard IS 14650:2023, Unalloyed and Alloyed Steel Ingot and Semi-finished Products for Re-Rolling Purposes. After the Discussion of the Indian Standard (Manak manthan), a detailed open house discussion was held and queries regarding the standards were clarified. Participants were also requested to send email for technical queries related to the Indian Standard.

Representatives from various Industries, Manufacturers, BIS licensees, regulatory

bodies, Consumer Organisations, NGOs and Mentors from various educational Institutions along with their students participated in the celebration. In the afternoon session, students from schools performed Cultural on BIS and awareness on quality, certification and standardization in products.

As part of the Foundation Day celebrations, day long competitions were conducted in 11 different educational institutions from 02-01-2024 to 04-01-2024 by BIS Madurai branch office for creating awareness on standards and quality. Cash prizes and Certificates were awarded to the winners of these competitions. The licensees who have been manufacturing conforming products consistently for the past three years were felicitated in the event.

1.07 lakh children identified through Swasth Balak Spardha felicitated and 1.38 lakh on-spot registrations done

Chennai, Jan 06 2024: The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) is participating in 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' a nationwide campaign to raise awareness through outreach activities to achieve saturation of schemes of the Government of India across the country covering all Gram Panchayats, Nagar Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies with the objectives to reach out to the vulnerable who are eligible under various schemes but have not availed benefit so far. It emphasises their enrolment in the schemes;

dissemination of information and generating awareness about schemes and interaction with beneficiaries of government schemes through their personal stories/ experience sharing.

The campaign is being taken up by adopting a whole of government approach with active involvement of various Ministries/Department s of Government of India, State Governments, Central Organizations and Institutions to ensure the widest possible participation of all concerned for the

benefit of citizens of the country and to realize the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Brief activities being undertaken during the yatra by field functionaries of MoWCD:

Beneficiaries are given an opportunity to speak of the benefits they have received through various schemes of WCD as "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani"

Organising Swasth Balak Spardha and felicitation of healthy children.

On-spot registrations of the beneficiaries for enrolment in Anganwadi Services

Scheme.

Dissemination of information regarding schemes of MoWCD to sensitise masses across all the Gram Panchayats has been ensured.

As on 4th January 2024, as per Viksit Bharat Dashboard, 14.70 lakh beneficiaries from around 60 schemes of various Ministries have narrated their experiences under "Meri Kahani Meri Zubani (MKMZ)," out of which 1,03,594 are beneficiaries of schemes under MoWCD (54,258 from POSHAN Abhiyaan, and 49,336 from PMMVY).

Ministry of Tourism conducts training in Chilika Lake, a Ramsar Site in Odisha under Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme

Chennai, Jan 06 2024: Ministry of Tourism (MoT) in collaboration with Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) launched the fifth training under the Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme on 6th January 2024 for local community members, boat owners, and Forest department officials of Chilika Lake in the presence of Dr Sagnik Chowdhury, Regional Director (East), Ministry of Tourism, Dr M Ramesh, Scientist 'E', MoEF&CC, Dr Md Sabir Hussain, Nodal officer and Head, IITM Bhubaneswar, Dr Amlan Naik, DFO Chilka Wildlife Division and Addl CEO, Chilika Development Authority (CDA), and other officials from CDA, and Forest Department, Govt of



Odisha.

Under this initiative, two training programmes of 15 days each namely Alternative Livelihood program (ALP), and Paryatan Navik Certificate (PNC) will be conducted. With the help of the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) a total of 60 participants (30 for each course) were identified from the local communities in and around Chilika

Lake to impart trainings and subsequently certifying them as nature-guides.

This is part of the ongoing effort of enhancing livelihood opportunities for local communities through harnessing the nature-tourism potential of the Ramsar Sites across the country under the Amrit Dharohar Initiative of the MoEF&CC. In the first phase of this programme, five priority Ramsar sites

were identified namely Sultanpur National Park, Sирpur wetland, Yashwant Sagar, Bhitarkanika National Park, and Chilika Lake. The first three training programmes for Sultanpur National Park, Sирpur wetland, and Yashwant Sagar have been successfully completed in December 2023 and the fourth training that was inaugurated on 5th January 2024 is currently undergoing.

Divya Kala Shakti: Witnessing Abilities in Disabilities Shines at Ravindra Kala Kshethra Cultural Centre, Bengaluru

Chennai, Jan 06 2024: In a celebration of talent, resilience, and inclusivity, the Governor of Karnataka, Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, inaugurated the regional cultural event, "Divya Kala Shakti: Witnessing Abilities in Disabilities," at Ravindra Kala Kshethra Cultural Centre in Bengaluru today. The event, graced by Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment Shri A. Narayanaswamy and attended by Senior Officers from State and Central Government, showcased the extraordinary abilities of Divyangjan.



Disabilities, and (Divyangjan) Multiple Disabilities. The performances, ranging from classical to folk and modern styles, also included yoga and acrobatics, highlighting the innate and diverse talents in their talents in performing arts, music, dance, acrobatics, and more.

Over a month of dedicated practice brought together 75 children and youth from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry, representing various disabilities such as Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Locomotor Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual

Disabilities, and (Divyangjan) Multiple Disabilities. The performances, ranging from classical to folk and modern styles, also included yoga and acrobatics, highlighting the innate and diverse talents in their talents in performing arts, music, dance, acrobatics, and more.

The event garnered an audience of over 1000, Parents, Special Teachers, Rehabilitation Professionals, Students, NGOs, and more. This showcase not only celebrates their abilities but also aims to raise awareness and change societal perceptions towards Divyangjan.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

(Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India, has been actively promoting such initiatives. The "Divya Kala Shakti" programme funded under the Awareness Generation Program (AGP), reflects the Department's commitment to creating platforms for Divyangjan to contribute to the socio-cultural and economic growth of the nation.

Additionally, through the ADIP Scheme of DEPwD, MSJ&E, GoI, 152 persons with disabilities have been provided with aids and appliances amounting to Rs.12.69 lakhs.

Ivy Leaf: Unique Corporate Wellness & Corporate Development Sanctuary Launches amidst Nature

Chennai, Jan 06 2024: In an innovative departure from conventional corporate settings, Ivy Leaf Corporate Wellness has launched a unique blend of transformative corporate experiences with the core principles of wellness and rejuvenation. Set in the breathtaking Sahyadri mountains and overlooking the serene Mulshi Dam, this sanctuary is set to revolutionize the concept of corporate development experiences in 2024. Initiated by the Ignited Minds Society, Ivy Leaf seamlessly integrates the ancient wisdom of Ayurveda with modern corporate wellness strategies into modern corporate development programs. More than just a location, it offers a transformative journey with a focus on inner silence and mindful reflection, essential for effective leadership and strategic decision-making in today's fast-paced business environment. In the launch event attended by many corporate leaders, Dr. Saroja Asthana, Director, Ivy Leaf, averred, "Our inspiration has always been to create a space that transcends



the conventional boundaries of corporate development environments. The inception of Ivy Leaf was driven by a blend of visionary aspirations and valuable corporate feedback. We recognized the growing need for a sanctuary where professionals could not only strategize and grow but also reconnect with their inner selves in a tranquil setting. Our mission at Ivy Leaf is to provide an environment that nurtures both personal well-being and professional excellence, a testament to our commitment to holistic corporate development." The sanctuary's picturesque and serene surroundings play a crucial role in facilitating this transformation. The stunning natural beauty and tranquil

environment provide the perfect setting for corporate guests to connect with their inner selves, with the objective to integrate it into their corporate lives. This not only offers a visual escape but also enriches the overall experience of achieving inner peace and mindfulness. Complementing its commitment to holistic wellness, Ivy Leaf's culinary journey is a significant part of its offerings. Each meal, meticulously curated with wellness in mind, nourishes both body and spirit, reflecting the sanctuary's philosophy of balance and well-being. Tailored for today's leaders and professionals, Ivy Leaf's array of programs includes engaging mindfulness workshops, rejuvenating Ayurvedic treatments, and various activities that

collectively enhance mental, physical, and spiritual health. The peaceful environment of Ivy Leaf acts as a catalyst for optimal professional effectiveness and personal growth, providing an idyllic setting where corporate professionals can strategize and reflect amid nature's calm. In 2024 and beyond, Ivy Leaf Corporate Sanctuary is poised to become a landmark destination for those seeking an exceptional blend of corporate development and wellness. It promises an unparalleled experience where the demands of corporate strategy are balanced with the tranquility of wellness practices, fostering a more insightful and rejuvenated approach to corporate planning and leadership development.

Need more Gurukuls in New India to protect cultural heritage while providing modern education: Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh

Chennai, Jan 06 2024: Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has called for setting up more Gurukuls in the country to not only provide modern education, but also protect India's moral and cultural heritage. After laying the foundation stone of 'Gurukulam Evam Acharyakulam' at Swami Darshanand Gurukul Mahavidyalay in Haridwar, Uttarakhand on January 06, 2024, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that at a time when moral values are deteriorating due to imitation of foreign culture, Gurukuls must come forward to provide modern education while incorporating moral values among the youth.

"About 1,000-1,500 years ago, there were many big universities in this country, wherein the Gurukul tradition was prevalent. After that, the country saw foreign invaders nearly destroying that system. They, in turn, developed a system which provided education to our youth, not in accordance with the country's cultural

spirit. Indian culture was portrayed as inferior. This feeling not only affected us politically but also mentally. During that time, Swami Darshanandji established this Gurukul which has been illuminating our young generations since then," the Raksha Mantri said.

Referring to the National Education Policy 2020, Shri Rajnath Singh voiced the Government's resolve to inculcate moral values in the young ignited minds right from primary education. "The new education policy is being implemented in many educational institutions across the country. The process is long as no change in the educational system takes place suddenly. Gurukuls can play a very important role in this long process," he said.

The Raksha Mantri pointed out that Gurukuls give an impression that they only follow ancient methods of education, but in today's times they have progressed and become modern. He exhorted the

Gurukuls to advance in the areas of emerging and cutting edge technology, such as Artificial Intelligence and quantum technology, along with traditional education, in sync with today's constantly-evolving times. "Develop such technologies that will make the nation a leader in this field. Gurukuls should act as a guide for other educational institutions. In the times to come, they should once again represent the country & its culture, and become the new identity of India.

Shri Rajnath Singh underscored the role Gurukuls can play in the cultural development in the country. He highlighted the efforts being made by the Government, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, towards cultural upliftment. "Infrastructural development from Kashi Vishwanath corridor & Mahakaleshwar Dham to Ram Mandir shows that the Government is working towards the preservation of our cultural heritage and its

upliftment. The idea goes beyond cultural preservation, so that our future generations can be proud of the culture of this great country. Gurukuls can play a major role in this direction," he said.

The Raksha Mantri made special mention about Yoga and how the ancient Indian practice has been followed by the entire world due to its benefits. "India follows the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The world is one family). Our vast store of knowledge is dedicated to the entire world. Today, 21st June is celebrated by the United Nations as International Day of Yoga Day across the world. The practice, which was once considered limited only to India, has not only been accepted by the people globally, but is now an important part of their daily life," he said. Highlighting the important place of Sanskrit in Indian literature, Shri Rajnath Singh stressed on the need to promote the ancient Indian language in the same way Yoga was made accessible to the people.