

Palaniswami releases AIADMK manifesto for LS polls Rs. 3,000 for women; to stop Mekedatu; waiver of edu loans

Chennai March 26 2024: **The leaders discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral ties**

PM congratulated PM De Croo on successful hosting of the First Nuclear Energy Summit

The two leaders exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi had a telephone conversation today with Mr. Alexander De Croo, Prime Minister of Belgium.

PM congratulated PM De Croo on recent successful hosting of the First Nuclear Energy Summit in Brussels.

Both leaders reviewed the excellent relations between India and Belgium. They



discussed ways to further strengthen the bilateral partnership in diverse sectors including trade, investment, clean technologies, semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, green hydrogen, IT, defence, ports, among other others.

The two leaders affirmed commitment to further bolster the India - EU Strategic Partnership under the

ongoing Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

They exchanged views on regional and global developments. They agreed upon the need to enhance cooperation and support for early restoration of peace and security in the West Asia region and Russia-Ukraine conflict. The two leaders agreed to remain in touch.

TRAI releases recommendations on 'Usage of Embedded SIM for Machine-to-Machine Communications'

Chennai, March 26 2024: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released recommendations on 'Usage of Embedded SIM for Machine-to-Machine (M2M) Communications'.

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), through its letter dated 09.11.2021, sought TRAI's

recommendations under the TRAI Act, 1997 on the usage of embedded SIM for M2M communications. In this regard, TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on 'Embedded SIM for M2M Communications' on 25.07.2022 for soliciting comments/counter comments from stakeholders. In response, 15

stakeholders submitted their comments. An open house discussion on the consultation paper was held on 14.12.2022 through virtual mode. Based on the comments/inputs received from stakeholders, extensive deliberations on the subject and on its own analysis, the TRAI has finalized its recommendations.

With the rolling out of 5G services in the country, the opportunities for M2M ecosystem have expanded greatly, offering increased scope for applications in various sectors of the economy such as agriculture, transportation, healthcare and industrial automation. These recommendations are

aimed at streamlining the regulatory landscape of M2M embedded SIM (eSIM) in India. Through these recommendations, the Authority has laid emphasis on ensuring security by way of proper Know Your Customer (KYC), which is essential for ensuring network security, mitigating fraud risks and enhancing the overall integrity of the M2M eSIM ecosystem. The Authority has also recommended a framework for profile switching of eSIMs and swapping of SM-SR. This will provide significant flexibility to the M2M eSIM users and will promote healthy competition in the sector.

Implementation of these Recommendations by the Government will promote orderly growth in the M2M eSIM segment of the telecom sector in India and will stimulate the development of a homegrown M2M eSIM ecosystem in the country, thus enabling the growth of modern M2M communication.

The salient features of these Recommendations are

as follows:
 All communication profiles on any M2M eSIM fitted in an imported device on international roaming in India should be mandatorily converted/reconfigured into communication profiles of Indian telecom service providers (TSPs) within a period of six months from the date of activation of international roaming on such M2M eSIM or on change of ownership of the device, whichever is earlier.

Unified Access Service License holder, Unified License (Access Service Authorization) holder, Unified License (Machine-to-Machine Authorization) holder, Unified License for VNO (Access Service Authorization) holder, Unified License for VNO (Machine-to-Machine Authorization) holder and the companies holding M2M Service Providers (M2MSP) Registration with a specific permission to own and manage Subscription Manager-Secure Routing (SM-SR) in India should be

permitted to own and manage SM-SRs in the country.

For installation of profiles of Indian TSPs on M2M eSIMs fitted in the devices imported in India, the concerned Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and M2MSP should be given the flexibility to choose between (i) profile download from the Subscription Manager - Data Preparation (SM-DP) of the Indian TSP to the M2M eSIMs through the existing (foreign) SM-SR, or (ii) profile download from the SM-DP of the Indian TSP to the M2M eSIMs through the new (Indian) SM-SR, after SM-SR switch from foreign to Indian.

The M2MSP registrant/telecommunication service licensee, whose SM-SR controls M2M eSIMs in India, should not refuse integration of its SM-SR with the SM-DP of the licensed telecom service provider, whose profiles are to be added in such M2M eSIMs, upon the request of the concerned OEM/ M2MSP. The integration of SM-SR with SM-DP should be carried out in

accordance to the GSMA's specifications and should be completed within a period of three months from the date of receipt of the formal request from the concerned OEM/ M2MSP.

The M2MSP registrant/telecommunication service licensee, whose SM-SR controls M2M eSIMs in India, should not refuse integration of its SM-SR with the SM-DP of the licensed telecom service provider, whose profiles are to be added in such M2M eSIMs, upon the request of the concerned OEM/ M2MSP. The integration of SM-SR with SM-DP should be carried out in

Keeping in view the challenges in its implementation, the use of 901.XX IMSI series allocated by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to Indian entities should not be permitted for providing M2M services in India, at this stage.

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Apollo Cancer Centres Pioneers A New Era In Breast Cancer Surgery

Chennai March 26 2024: Renowned for its commitment to excellence in healthcare, Apollo Cancer Centre, Chennai (ACC), has achieved a groundbreaking surgical milestone by successfully performing South Asia's first-ever robotic nipple-sparing mastectomy with immediate reconstruction. The surgeons were able to remove the entire breast while preserving the nipple through tiny hidden incisions, enabling aesthetic outcomes for the patient.

Performed by Apollo Cancer Centres' esteemed team of robotic surgical oncologists, led by Dr. Venkat P and Dr. Priya Kapoor, this innovative procedure marks a significant advancement in the field of breast cancer surgery.

The surgery was conducted on a 37-year-old woman from Assam who was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer and a BRCA1 mutation. Given her condition, a bilateral mastectomy with removal of both her ovaries prophylactically was required.

Considering her age and the importance of preserving the natural appearance of her breasts, the approach chosen was a nipple-sparing mastectomy. This technique aims to minimize the impact on the patient's quality of life by preserving an essential body marker for women and ensuring a more positive post-treatment experience.

The surgeons followed specific



protocols to successfully execute this surgery. Following neoadjuvant chemotherapy, the patient opted for bilateral mastectomy and prophylactic oophorectomy. The innovative Robotic Nipple Sparing Mastectomy (NSM) with Risk-Reducing Oophorectomy was performed, utilizing tiny incisions and leveraging the advantages of robotic surgery.

Udipi Barua (name changed on request) said, "The clinicians at Apollo Cancer Centre facilitated a remarkably swift recovery, enabling me to resume my normal routine within a week after a life-altering procedure. Dr. Venkat and the team allowed me to reclaim my life with dignity, preserving my natural appearance while conquering cancer. Today, I emerge stronger and with renewed hope."

Dr. Venkat P, Senior Consultant - Surgical Oncology, ACC Chennai, expressed his optimism about the future of robotic breast surgery in India, stating, "In our commitment to preserving the patient's natural breast contour, we embraced the revolutionary approach

of robotic bilateral mastectomy with risk-reducing oophorectomy. This cutting-edge, robotic-assisted technique not only provided superior visualization but also minimized blood loss, improved ergonomics, and delivered outstanding cosmetic outcomes. The patient's successful & faster recovery aided for a discharge within 24 hours' post-procedure."

Dr. Priya Kapoor, Consultant - Surgical Oncology, ACC Chennai, said, "The procedure not only removes the entire breast through discreet incisions but also increases the likelihood of preserving sensation in breast skin and nipple. The innovation goes beyond, leaving the nipple, skin, and breast intact even after surgery, preserving the entire shape of the breast. By introducing this new technique, we aim to provide our patients with the best possible cosmetic outcomes and ensure a better quality of life post-surgery."

Dr. Preetha Reddy, the Executive Vice Chairperson of Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited, expressed immense pride in a ground breaking achievement, stating, "It is exhilarating to

witness the extraordinary triumph of our robotic surgical team, under the leadership of Dr. Venkat and Dr. Priya, in achieving South Asia's inaugural robotic bilateral nipple-sparing mastectomy, with the Da Vinci Xi. The exceptional results of this innovative surgery herald the inauguration of RoBreaS, India's premier robotic breast surgery program. Moreover, setting a new standard in surgical excellence, this effort paves the way for a future where advanced technology and compassionate care converge, igniting new hope in cancer care. At large, it is a testament to our unwavering dedication to offering superior treatment options, and make advanced healthcare much more accessible to all."

Breast cancer stands as the most prevalent cancer in women globally, and it ranks as the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths. Recognizing the increasing incidence of breast cancer, particularly in younger women, Apollo Cancer Centre has been at the forefront of adopting cutting-edge technologies to improve patient outcomes.

As part of overseas deployment to ASEAN countries, ICG Ship Samudra Paheredar arrives at Manila Bay, Philippines

Chennai March 26 2024: Indian Coast Guard ship Samudra Paheredar, a specialized Pollution Control Vessel, arrived at Manila Bay, Philippines on 25 March 2024 on a three-day visit. The visit of specialized Pollution Control Vessels is part of a broader initiative aimed at demonstration of ICG Marine Pollution Response capabilities and shared concern & resolve towards Marine Pollution in the ASEAN region, besides bolstering bilateral cooperation with the Philippine Coast Guard

(PCG). The ICG ship is on an overseas deployment to ASEAN countries namely the Philippines, Vietnam, and Brunei from 25 March to 12 April 2024. The deployment is the third in a row by the Indian Coast Guard to ASEAN countries. Earlier in the year 2023, ICG Pollution Control Vessels visited Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Indonesia as part of the initiative.

During this deployment, the ship is scheduled to make port

calls in Manila (Philippines), Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam), and Muara (Brunei). The ship is equipped with specialized marine pollution control equipment and a Chetak Helicopter in Pollution Response configuration, designed to contain, and recover spilled oil and augment the operation. The demonstration at visiting ports includes Pollution Response training and a practical display of various equipment.

Additionally, the ship has also

embarked 25 National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets to participate in the Government's initiative "Puneet Sagar Abhiyan," and provide it an international outreach in coordination with partner nations. As part of an overseas exchange program, the NCC cadets, in coordination with ICG ship crew, Partner agencies personnel, Indian Embassy/ Mission staff, and local youth organizations will undertake beach cleanup and similar activities during the port call of the ship.

RC CHENNAI BHARATHI- RESTORE WATER, SAVE THE NEXT GEN AWARENESS CAMPAIGN - WORLD WATER DAY

Chennai March 26 2024: Water is the most essential commodity for lives to prosper. Every year, March 22nd is celebrated as world water day.

In association with the Government College of Arts for Men, the Rotary Club of Chennai Bharathi created awareness on World Water Day. The awareness campaign was held on March 22, 2024, at the ANNA NAGAR EAST METRO STATION. Twenty student volunteers from the NSS department of the Government College of Arts for Men, Nandanam, commuted across the metro and participated in the awareness camp. This campaign greatly impacted the public who traveled via the metro to commute to work/ school, college, etc. The students prepared placards with slogans about saving water and interacted with the public to convey the importance of conserving water. To conserve water, the Rotary Club of Chennai Bharathi gifted betel leaf saplings to the public, conveying the message *grow more, make the surroundings



green, and help conserve water.

The public, which included commuters and metro rail staff, expressed happiness and welcomed the initiative of the awareness program. They were very joyful when they received the saplings, creating smiles.

Fifty saplings were gifted to the public. The students were very

enthused about participating in this awareness campaign. Each student received a certificate of appreciation for their time and support for this event. This event was followed by a sumptuous breakfast, which included idli, vada, sambar, chutney, and a water bottle.

The chief guest, Rtn Rajasekaran, chairman for community service development, RI

District 3232

preceded the event along with the president of the club, Rt. Dr. Jayashree kadambi, Club secretary Rtn. Sujatha and environment chairperson, Rtn. Sridevi, who sponsored the saplings.

We humbly thank the Anna Nagar East Metro Rail staff for their immense support. This campaign was a massive success due to the tremendous support from the Government College of Arts for Men, Nandanam students. We also thank the management for their support.

This event across Chennai was possible with the support of the district team. Special thanks to DG Rtn. Ravi Raman, Rtn. Rajasekaran, and Rtn. Irulandi, thank you for your immense support and encouragement and for allowing us to conduct this event. It was a soul-stirring experience and a joyful moment to see the students interact with the public joyfully. Youth are the power, and they are the future. Let's work together to create hope in an impactful manner.

Nissan accelerates business transformation & prepares roadmap for India, announces appointment of new Managing Director

Chennai March 26 2024: Nissan Motor India, today announced the appointment of Saurabh Vatsa as Managing Director (MD) of the company effective April 01, 2024. Earlier this year, Saurabh Vatsa was appointed as Deputy Managing Director by the company on January 15. Upon elevation to the role of MD, Saurabh will report to Frank Torres, President, Nissan India Operations and Region Divisional Vice President of Business Transformation (AMIEO).

Saurabh Vatsa succeeds incumbent Managing Director Rakesh Srivastava who retires this year on March 31, 2024. Under the stewardship of Rakesh, the brand saw the introduction of the bestseller Nissan Magnite B-SUV in India. The Nissan Magnite since introduction in 2020 has achieved cumulative domestic



sales of over 100,000 SUVs as of February 2024. The company has also won the prestigious Global Nissan President Award for Project Magnite in 2020 and for the Nissan India Business Transformation Plan in 2022 during his tenure. The company thanks Rakesh for his contributions and leadership of the brand wishing him the very best for the next phase of his career.

Frank Torres, President, Nissan India Operations said, "Rakesh has been a key member of our India leadership team. We thank Rakesh for his exceptional leadership,

tenacity, and wisdom in leading the company through turbulent times including the COVID 19 pandemic while contributing to the turnaround of India business operations. As we transition into a new phase of the transformation plan for India, we are assured of having an experienced and insightful leader in Saurabh Vatsa. He will build on the foundation laid by Rakesh and spearhead our next phase of growth as we prepare to deliver on the MTP and enter FY24."

Commenting on his elevation, Saurabh Vatsa said, "I am excited to be part of Nissan at this crucial

juncture of our growth plans in India. India presents a complex and challenging market, and Nissan, with its global brand stature, rich legacy, and cutting-edge technology is poised to deliver on this promise. We are constantly pushing the boundaries on 'what's next' and our daring spirit of innovation is what sets us apart. We intend to deliver on the ongoing business transformation plan in preparation of the MTP which includes a new product portfolio and enhanced customer centricity."

Nissan had committed to invest INR 5300 CR (600 MN USD) in India as part of the Alliance and introduce more products for the Indian consumer as part of the transformation plan in 2023. These changes underpin the business transformation plan and product pipeline the brand has prepared for India.

Indian Bank inaugurates new premises of its St. Joseph's College of Engineering and Sathyabama University Branches



Chennai March 26 2024: S L Jain, Managing Director & CEO of Indian Bank inaugurated new premises for its St. Joseph's College of Engineering and Sathyabama University

Branches at Semmencherry in two separate events on March 22nd 2024.

Dr B Babu Manoharan, Chairman of St. Joseph's Group of Institutions joined the

occasion at St. Joseph's College of Engineering and Dr S Sambashiva Rao Registrar of Sathyabama University was present at opening ceremony in Sathyabama University. G

Rajeswara Reddy, FGM of Chennai, P Anbukumaraj, Zonal Manager, Chennai South Zone, other senior officials and staff members of Indian Bank was present during the occasion.

International Women's Day celebrated at CSIR-SERC and CSIR-CMC

Chennai March 26 2024: International Women's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre (CSIR-SERC) and CSIR Madras Complex (CMC), Chennai, on 25 March 2024. This year's theme for International Women's Day 2024 is Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress.

Smt. Brindha Srinivasan, Assistant News Editor, Hindu Tamil Thisai, was the

chief guest of the function. Smt. Porkodi, Writer, Novelist, & Cine Dialogue Writer, was the guest of honor. Dr. N. Anandavalli, Director, CSIR-SERC and Coordinating Director, CMC, welcomed the gathering. In her opening remarks, she said that Women's Day is celebrated to recognize the contributions of women and to create awareness on gender equality. Speaking on this year's theme, she said that it is

critical to invest in and empower women for the betterment of society and the nation. She spoke on the inexplicable gap between education and workforce participation and pointed out that women who study STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) are less likely to enter into STEM careers.

Smt. M. Vijayalakshmi, Senior Stenographer, CSIR-

SERC, introduced the guest of honor to the audience. In her International Women's Day Lecture, Smt. Porkodi called upon women to respect and value themselves, win over challenges, focus on their strengths, and not compromise on their aims and objectives. She also said that it is important to identify our unique talents, cultivate skills, align our careers with our passions, and make a positive impact on the world.

Axis Bank introduces digital opening of US Dollar Fixed Deposits for NRI customers at GIFT City through its mobile application

Chennai March 26 2024: Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India today announced the introduction of Digital US dollar Fixed Deposit for NRI customers at Axis Bank IBU- GIFT City. With this introduction, Axis Bank becomes the first bank to offer a digital journey for GIFT City Deposits.

NRI customers of Axis Bank can now open US dollar Fixed Deposits at GIFT City through 'Open by Axis Bank'; the mobile banking application of Axis Bank. This offering simplifies the process of booking US dollar Fixed Deposit for NRI customers, by providing them end-to-end digital paperless solution and eliminating the need for physical

documentation. Besides seamlessly opening an FD account anytime from anywhere, customers can also track and manage their FD digitally.

With attractive interest rates, Axis Bank provides NRIs with one of the best investment opportunities. The US Dollar fixed deposit also offers a wide range of investment tenures from seven days up to ten years. Customers can also request partial or full pre-mature closure of the FD from the Axis Bank mobile application.

Highlighting the Banks's focus on strengthening its GIFT City franchise, Vivek Gupta, President & Head - Wholesale Banking Products, Axis

Bank said, "Axis Bank as a leading Bank at GIFT City, is committed to supporting the Government's vision for developing GIFT City as a preferred financial services destination for global investors - both Corporate and Retail. We are excited by the opportunity to now attract retail NRI customers with our GIFT City IFSC Banking Unit (IBU)'s digital FD value proposition. The IBU's digital US Dollar FD will enable NRI customer's multiple options of tenure and interest rates to choose from and they can be assured of high-quality service from the IBU's dedicated team."

Commenting on the announcement, Arjun Chowdhry - Group

Executive & Head-Affluent Banking, NRI, Cards & Payments, Axis Bank said, "Axis Bank believes in the power of 'OPEN' banking and we have been continuously investing in digital-first products that reimagine customer propositions. In this endeavour, we are excited to introduce Digital US dollar FD at GIFT City for our NRI customers, who can now leverage a seamless banking experience with us. This proposition provides convenience to our customers by eliminating the need for physical documentation, and at the same time provides a secure investment avenue with an attractive interest rate and wide range of tenures."

A.M. Jain College conducts 'Saranalayam - Mass Cleaning Programme' at Arignar Anna Zoological Park

Chennai March 26 2024: A.M. Jain College is thrilled to announce the successful completion of 'Saranalayam - Mass Cleaning Programme' at Arignar Anna Zoological Park. This initiative, led by the college, showcased the college's unwavering commitment to environmental custodianship and engagement.

More than 200 dedicated students from A.M. Jain College's Rotaract Club enthusiastically participated in the cleaning programme, demonstrating their passion for service and environmental conservation. Guided by zoo officials and animal keepers, these students engaged in a variety of cleaning activities aimed at preserving the natural beauty of the park.

Furthermore, the Rotary Club of Madras Central and Avenue Directors took the



opportunity to honour deserving animal keepers for their remarkable service to the zoo. Their dedication to the well-being of the park's inhabitants and the preservation of wildlife

habitats underscore their deep seated commitment to environmental harmony.

The successful completion of Saranalayam - Mass Cleaning Programme

underscores A.M. Jain College's commitment to fostering environmental responsibility and inspiring collective action in maintaining clean and vibrant public spaces.

Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt. Ltd. (RNAIPL) receives Platinum Category Water Positive accreditation from DQS

Chennai March 26 2024: On the occasion of International Water Day 2024, Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt. Ltd. (RNAIPL) has announced that it has received Platinum category recognition for water-positive operations in 2023 following a rigorous audit conducted in February 2024 by DQS, an internationally accredited ISO certification body specialising in audits, assessments & trainings across the globe.

This certification reflects RNAIPL's success in implementing a comprehensive strategy to reduce the plant's water footprint through overall reduction of water usage, extensive rainwater harvesting, intensive recycling of wastewater as well as water replenishment actions including rejuvenation of water bodies. RNAIPL is also a zero-discharge plant utilising recycled water for a variety of industrial purposes.

Commenting on this milestone, Keerthi Prakash, Managing Director, RNAIPL,



said, "RNAIPL has an unwavering commitment to sustainability and responsible water management. Receiving the platinum certification from DQS for water-positive operations is an important validation of our efforts as we move towards setting new benchmarks in environmental stewardship. We remain dedicated to enhancing our water efficiency and minimising our environmental footprint, ensuring a brighter and more sustainable future for all."

Some of RNAIPL's water conservation initiatives include:

RNAIPL currently meets 85% of its total water requirements through rainwater harvesting. Rainwater is collected from

across the plant and channeled into ponds developed in its premises.

RNAIPL re-uses water from its Effluent Treatment Plants and Water Treatment Plants for various industrial purposes, significantly reducing the need for additional water supply.

The plant recently expanded its sewage water recycling capacity from 120 kilo-litres to 300 kilo-litres per day, showcasing its commitment to efficient water management

RNAIPL's advanced rainwater harvesting, and water recycling infrastructure has established it as one of the plants that is least dependent on external water sources across the global Renault Nissan Alliance.

RNAIPL aims to achieve a 21% reduction in water usage by 2030 compared to the levels of FY 2022-23

RNAIPL is reducing water usage through a number of initiatives that include regular water audits, upgrading plumbing where required and implementing stringent monitoring measures for water usage.

Within the local community, RNAIPL has committed to rejuvenating and reviving 10 lakes and ponds in and around Oragadam including in Ezhicur, Kandigai, Appur, Serapananchery, Valayankaranai, Vaipoor, Perinjampakkam and Vattampakkam villages. Around 90% of the work has already been complemented.

Vedanta says projects pipeline in place to add \$6 bn to topline, \$2.5-3 bn to EBITDA

Chennai March 26 2024: Mining conglomerate Vedanta Ltd has a pipeline of more than 50 active projects and expansions to drive growth, which is expected to generate incremental revenue of over USD 6 billion and incremental USD 2.5-3 billion of annual EBITDA upon completion, a top company executive said at an investor event.

These growth initiatives, which the company categorises into the 'Discovery' stage, 'Concept' stage and 'Execution' stage, are spread out across all Vedanta's business segments - aluminium, zinc, base metals, steel, copper and power.

"We continuously explore options to create additional value at all our sites. We currently have several high-impact projects in execution mode, across all our businesses. These will further contribute to our cost leadership, while substantially increasing our operating capacities. These levers will help drive our EBITDA towards the stated target of USD 7.5 billion annually," the company's vice

chairman Navin Agarwal said at the event.

Vedanta is expecting a group EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) of USD 5 billion on revenue of USD 17.5 billion in the current fiscal ending March 31.

Some of the significant projects due for immediate commissioning include a refinery expansion at the Lanjigarh Aluminium facility, which will take its capacity from 2 million tonnes per annum to 5 million tonnes, a 1 million tonnes a year expansion at BALCO, commissioning of the Athena and Meenakshi power plants with an aggregate capacity of 2.2 GW that will take the commercial power portfolio to 5 GW, capacity expansion at Gamsberg Zinc facility to deliver 5,00,000 tonnes MIC, and becoming India's largest ferro-alloys producer with 5,00,000 tonnes a year capacity.

The pipeline of growth projects and initiatives represents the steps that Vedanta is taking towards meeting its ambitious guidance on annual EBITDA,

which has been projected to reach USD 7.5 billion in the near term. The group has guided towards an EBITDA of USD 6 billion in FY25, representing a growth of nearly 35 per cent year-on-year.

Billionaire Anil Agarwal-owned Vedanta has a unique portfolio of assets among Indian and global companies with metals and minerals - zinc, silver, lead, aluminium, chromium, copper, nickel; oil and gas; a traditional ferrous vertical, including iron ore and steel; and power, including coal and renewable energy; and is now foraying into the manufacturing of semiconductors and display glass.

The company on September 29, 2023, had announced the creation of independent verticals through the demerger of underlying companies, mainly its metals, power, aluminium, and oil and gas businesses to unlock potential value. As part of the vertical split of Vedanta Ltd, shareholders will get one share of each of the five newly-listed companies for every one share of Vedanta.

After the demerger, the businesses of Hindustan Zinc as well as the display and semiconductor manufacturing units will remain with Vedanta Limited.

"The demerger is expected to simplify the Group's corporate structure with sector-focused independent businesses. Each of our businesses are at global scale hence the board decided to go for a demerger. We intend to build an asset ownership and entrepreneurship mindset where each company would chart out its growth trajectory.

"The demerger will give global investors, including sovereign wealth funds, retail investors, and strategic investors, direct investment opportunities in dedicated pure-play companies. With listed equity and self-driven management teams, the demerger would also provide individual units a platform to pursue strategic agendas more freely and better align with customers, investment cycles, and end markets," Vedanta had said in its demerger announcement.

Dr Agarwals to Conduct Glaucoma Patient Summit in Chennai

Chennai, March 26 2024: Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital is organizing Glaucoma Patient Summit in Chennai on March 29, 2024. To be addressed by some of the leading ophthalmologists and glaucoma specialists in India, the event is expected to attract the participation of hundreds of patients from across the country. The hospital is also establishing video conferencing facilities at its centers nationwide to facilitate live telecast and remote participation of patients. For registration, patients can visit <https://www.dragarwal.com/glaucoma-patient-summit/> or contact 9594901868.

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that can cause vision loss and blindness by damaging a nerve in the back of the eyes called the optic nerve. The symptoms can start so slowly that patients may not notice them. The only way to find out if a person has glaucoma is to get a comprehensive dilated eye exam.

For all in-person participants, basic glaucoma eye checkup will be conducted free of cost. The tests will include: NCT and Fundus picture screening. The summit will also have interactive sessions for the participants to ask questions and get expert opinions. The participation fee is Rs.99 per person. The participants who upload their prescription during



registration will receive a waiver of the registration charge upon successful verification. Free consultations will be available for registered participants for one week.

Interacting with the media, Dr. Ashvin Agarwal, Chief of Clinical Services, said glaucoma is the most common cause of irreversible blindness. There are 80 million people worldwide with this condition. The age-standardized prevalence of glaucoma is approximately 3-5% in the population aged 40 years and older worldwide. In India, it is the third leading cause of blindness after cataract and refractive error. At present, there are 12 million patients with glaucoma in the country. But treatment and regular checkups can help slow or prevent vision loss, especially if you catch the disease in its early stages. It is also important to create awareness about breakthrough medical and surgical treatments, and

strategies in managing this sight-stealing condition."

Talking about the goals of the summit, he said, "We are conducting first-ever Glaucoma Patient Summit so that no patient has to fight glaucoma alone. The event will bring together individuals living with glaucoma to empower each other through knowledge, connection, and shared experiences. With the panel discussions, they can learn all about glaucoma, advanced glaucoma eye treatment options, its medical and surgical management, and connect with expert doctors and peers, and discover resources to live their best life."

The panelists of the summit will include Dr. Ashvin Agarwal, Chief Clinical Officer - Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital; Dr. Kaladevi Sathish, Zonal Head - Clinical Services, Chennai; Dr. Preethi S, Regional Head - Clinical Services, Gachibowli, Dr. Anu M. Rajadyn, Sr. Consultant

Ophthalmologist, Dr. Manish Shah, and Dr. Medha Prabhudesai, Heads of clinical services, and Dr. Sugepriya, Glaucoma Specialist, Consultant Ophthalmologist and Dr. Sneha Madhur Kankaria, Consultant Ophthalmologist. They will be addressing the panel discussions on the following topics: Understanding Glaucoma; Investigations & Screening in Glaucoma; Medical Management; Lasers in Glaucoma; Surgical Management; Alternative Therapies; Visual Rehabilitation, and Emotional Component Management.

The Live telecast of the summit will take place at Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospitals in Telangana (Secunderabad), Bangalore (Yelahanka), Mumbai (Kothrud), Chennai (Chembur), Coimbatore (RS Puram), Madurai (Arapalayam), Mohali, Salem, Puducherry, and Thanjavur.

Government has directed NCCF and NAFED to initiate procurement of 5 lakh tonnes of onion for the buffer requirement directly from the farmers

Chennai March 26 2024: In the current year, the Government has directed NCCF and NAFED to initiate procurement of 5 lakh tonnes of onion for the buffer requirement directly from the farmers as Rabi-2024 harvest started arriving in the market. For the procurement, NAFED and NCCF are to pre-register the onion farmers to ensure that payments to the farmers are transferred to their bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer.



Rabi onion is critical for country's onion availability as it contributes 72-75% of annual production in the country. The Rabi onion is also crucial for ensuring year-round availability of onion as it has better shelf life compared to Kharif onion and can be stored for supplies till November-December.

It may be recalled that the Department of Consumer Affairs had, through NAFED and NCCF, purchased about 6.4 LMT of Onion during 2023-24 for the buffer stocking as well

as intervention by way of simultaneous procurement and disposal. The continuous procurements by the NAFED and NCCF have guaranteed remunerative prices for onion farmers all through the year in 2023. Subsequently, the Department of Consumer Affairs adopted retail sale intervention for disposal of onion through retail outlets and mobile vans operated by NCCF, NAFED, Kendriya Bhandar and other State controlled cooperatives at subsidized price of Rs.25 per kg during last year. The timely intervention and calibrated release

ensured stabilization of retail prices effectively without impacting farmer realization.

Global supply scenario and dry spell induced by El Niño had necessitated the Government to take up policy measures to regulate onion exports during FY 2023-24. These measures included 40% duty on onion exports imposed on 19th August 2023, imposition of Minimum Export Price (MEP) of USD 800 per MT with effect from 29th October, 2023 and export prohibition w.e.f. 8th December, 2023 to ensure availability of onion to the domestic consumers at affordable prices.

The recent decision to extend onion export prohibition has been necessitated by the overall domestic availability against the prevailing international prices and global availability concerns. The Government, meanwhile, has allowed exports to neighboring countries that rely on India for their domestic consumption requirements. The Government has allowed the export of Onion to Bhutan (550 MT), Bahrain (3,000 MT), Mauritius (1,200 MT), Bangladesh (50,000 MT) and UAE (14,400 MT i.e. 3,600 MT/quarter).

French firm Starburst Accelerator SARL partners with IIT Madras to set up €100 Million Start-up Hub

Chennai March 26 2024: French aerospace and defence firm Starburst Accelerator SARL is partnering with Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with a funding support of €100 million (100 Million Euros). Through this collaboration, IIT Madras will enable Starburst to set up accelerator programs to boost Aviation, Space, and Defence (ASD) ecosystem in India.

Starburst Accelerator SARL is looking to create venture capital funds for ASD technology, a powerful engine to



drive the transformation of India's economy and its integration with global stakeholders. This partnership will enable export promotion and provide support for Indian ASD startups to explore international markets through the extensive network of Starburst.

An MoU towards this collaboration was signed at IIT Madras campus on Monday (25th March 2024) by

Mr. François Chopard, Founder and CEO, Starburst Aerospace, Mr. Cedric Vallet, Innovation and Venture Director, Starburst Aerospace, and Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, Prof. Manu Santhanam, Dean (ICSR), IIT Madras, in the presence of representatives from IIT Madras and Starburst Aerospace.

Starburst is a global aerospace and defence

accelerator, connecting startups with corporates, investors, and government. With offices in Los Angeles, Paris, Munich, Singapore, Seoul, Tel Aviv, and Madrid, the team has built an ecosystem of key players with 17,000+ startups in its network.

Starburst, known for its global network and deep industry knowledge, brings invaluable experience to the collaboration. By offering a conducive environment for innovation and entrepreneurship, the partnership aims to strengthen India's position as a hub for ASD innovation on the global stage.