

**TNCC chief exposes BJP's social injustice**

Chennai March 28 2024: Congress leader K. Selvaperunthagai said that the "BJP has made Union Minister for State L. Murugan and our sister former Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan belonging to the oppressed section of the society to resign their post and to contest in the Lok Sabha elections in Nilgiris and South Chennai constituencies respectively. Now they have to wander in hot sun to campaign and collect votes. But BJP has made people like External Affairs Minister Jaishankar who was born in South



Chennai and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman born in Trichy to comfortably sit and enjoy their positions. This is against social justice. We demand an answer for this. There is no social justice and justice as well in BJP. BJP's destruction model All parties have a model of governance. Congress has a Kamarajar model of governance, while our ally DMK has a Dravidian model of governance. BJP has Modi model, the model which destroys the constitution, state parties, buys off MLAs from the opposition-ruling states thus overthrowing the government", he concluded.

**CPM on verge of losing national status, symbol?**

Chennai, March 28 2024: A Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader reportedly warned this

week that the party risks losing its famous Hammer, Sickle and Star symbol if it doesn't perform well in the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections. K Balan, a CPI(M) central committee member and former

Kerala minister, cautioned recently, "It is time to make sincere efforts to protect the party symbol." "Otherwise, the party will be forced to fight the elections on symbols like the octopus or pangolin in future," he was quoted as saying while urging the supporters to work hard.



AK Balan was speaking at the inauguration of the Kerala State Financial Enterprises Officers Union (KSFEOU) leadership workshop in Kozhikode, Kerala.

He reportedly said that if the CPI(M) "fails to secure a certain percentage of votes and win seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha election", it will lose its national party status and even risk losing its election symbol.

"The problem of losing the national status is that then the famed symbol of the CPM cannot be used, and then we will be at the mercy of the Election Commission who will allot a symbol," Balan has said.

National party status only if... In the last general party secured 1.77 per cent of votes polled in the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections.

The candidates set up by the party in any four or more States in the last general elections to the Lok Sabha or to a state assembly must have secured not less than 6 per cent of the total valid votes polled in each of those States. The party must return at least four members to the House of the People in the general elections from any state of states.

The CPI(M) has only three members in the Lok Sabha two from Tamil Nadu and one from Kerala. The party must have won at least 2 per cent of the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha, with any fraction exceeding half being counted as one. Additionally, the party's candidates must have been elected to that House from not less than three States. However, it fell short of the eight seats needed to reach the majority mark. The party had the highest vote share, at 47 per cent.

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## Sun Group first in India to stream Live TV Channels on Sun NXT in Dolby Vision



Chennai March 28 2024: Sun Group first in India to stream Live TV Channels on Sun NXT in Dolby Vision. Sun TV HD, Gemini TV HD, Surya TV HD & Udaya TV HD will now stream in Dolby Vision to elevate viewing experience to the next level. Sun Group, one of the leading media conglomerates in India, announces a pioneering development in the world of linear television. Sun TV HD, Gemini TV HD, Surya TV HD & Udaya TV HD are now streaming in Dolby

Vision exclusively on its OTT platform, Sun NXT. This historic milestone makes Sun Group the first broadcaster in India to stream 24-hour general entertainment TV channels in India in Dolby Vision HDR, setting a new benchmark in the industry.

Since 2021 the Sun NXT app has been streaming content in Dolby Atmos. Subscribers with Dolby Vision-enabled Televisions will now be able to watch Sun TV HD, Gemini TV HD, Surya TV HD &

Udaya TV HD in Dolby Vision.

Dolby Vision is the next-level HDR that delivers ultra vivid colours, sharper contrast, and richer details, that unlocks the full potential of HDR, giving the viewers of Sun NXT dynamic picture quality that brings entertainment to life. With Sun Group, a frontrunner in pioneering experiences for its audiences across genres, embracing Dolby Vision, the audience can now witness their favourite

TV shows with strikingly vivid imagery and enhanced realism. This strategic move underscores Sun Group's dedication to elevating the overall content quality across its diverse portfolio. Courtesy of this technological advancement, viewers across the world, from the USA and Canada to Europe, Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand, including India, will be able to view their favourite TV-shows like never before!

## Varthana Successfully Acquires India School Finance Company's (ISFC) School Portfolio

Chennai March 28 2024: In a significant development for the education finance landscape in India, Varthana Finance, a leading Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) that provides loans to affordable private schools and students to pursue higher education, today announced the successful completion of its acquisition of Indian School Finance Company's (ISFC) School Portfolio.

This transaction marks a pivotal turn in the sector representing a meaningful passing of the torch from ISFC to Varthana, echoing a legacy of commitment and a vision for the future of affordable education in India.

This acquisition unites the top players' dedication in serving India's 400,000 private schools while strategically expanding their reach and impact to a wider network of educational institutes. The involvement of Varthana's founders in ISFC's launch and early years transcends the conventional business transaction, adding a significant depth to the collaboration. This sale signifies a heartfelt exchange of

stewardship, with Varthana poised to carry forward ISFC's mission of enhancing affordable education development in India.

Commenting on the acquisition Steve Hardgrave, CEO & Co-founder of Varthana says, "Taking the ISFC portfolio under Varthana's wing is another significant step in our journey to ensure that India's schools are well supported to deliver quality education to the country's 350 million young people. It is particularly special that our relationship with ISFC has come full circle, and we are honoured to take that legacy forward. We also know how uniquely committed Bob is to invest in new and impactful ideas. We are thrilled to play a small role in helping to recycle this catalytic capital toward the next generation of pioneering initiatives that require support to take flight."

Central to this transaction is the pivotal role played by Bob Pattillo, founder of Gray Matters Capital, a US 501 c(3) foundation that is focused on impact investing. Recognizing the early

need for specialized financing for affordable private schools in India, he founded ISFC in 2009, Bob has also influenced the establishment of school finance banks globally. Today, school finance in the affordable school segment serves as a catalytic force for developing quality education in low-income communities.

Reflecting on the sale Bob Pattillo says, "The combining of ISFC's rich legacy with Varthana will multiply what can be achieved in the realm of education finance in India, ensuring that future generations can access the education they merit. It fills me with great pride that through ISFC, we have supported 5 million children from low-income families over 15 years, sparking a movement that has led mainstream commercial lenders to recognize the value of this segment. Our foundation's mission is accomplished, and while ISFC has navigated successfully through the trials of COVID, our choice reflects our considered judgment of what will serve the best interests

of the families with kids in these schools. This sale signifies more than a transaction; it's a demonstration not only how capital can be transformative when aligned with a market need, driven individuals, and a clear vision but also when to pass on the torch to others who are best suited to carry the mission forward."

Sandeep Wirkhare, ISFC CEO adds, "This may be an exemplary transaction where an impact institution helps create a product segment, stabilize and hands over a growth baton to the most like-minded institution to continue customer and employee relationship."

This sale is not just an exchange of assets; it represents a heartfelt transfer of stewardship, with Varthana well-positioned to carry forward ISFC's mission of advancing affordable education development in India. The combined strengths and shared dedication of both entities set the stage for a promising future, ultimately contributing to the enhancement of the educational landscape in the country.

## DEFENDER OCTA: A NEW HIGH-PERFORMANCE HERO New Defender OCTA will be the toughest, most capable and luxurious Defender ever

Chennai, March 28 2024: Original British adventure brand Defender will introduce a new high-performance, all-terrain hero in 2024: New Defender OCTA.

The new flagship Defender will be the toughest, most capable and luxurious model in the line-up, charting new territory for the brand. Mark Cameron, Managing Director, Defender, said: "Defender has been synonymous with all-terrain capability with a bloodline tracing back to the Series 1 in 1948. New Defender OCTA will take this to another level, with a dramatic stance, innovative technology and unparalleled attention to detail. With a astounding performance and a bold new attitude, it will enable our clients to master epic adventures in heightened luxury."

Defender OCTA will feature V8 Twin Turbo mild-hybrid petrol power and class-leading 6D Dynamics air suspension,



enabling extreme performance across all terrains.

Available for the first time on Defender, 6D Dynamics will give Defender OCTA an unparalleled breadth of capability, comfort and composure, whether on-road or off-road.

The hydraulic interlinked 6D Dynamics technology features an innovative pitch and roll control system that will enable Defender OCTA to maintain a near-level stance during acceleration, braking and cornering on-road, while also maximising independent wheel travel and articulation across the most demanding off-road terrain.

Reflecting the vehicle's luxury credentials, a

diamond's octahedron shape inspires the new OCTA name diamond being the hardest naturally occurring substance on Earth, renowned for its rarity.

A new encircled diamond graphic symbolizes the flagship Defender model. It features on a number of interior and exterior components, including as a gloss black diamond within a machined and sandblasted titanium disc on each Signature Graphic panel. Titanium has also been chosen for its robustness and resilience to the elements in its natural state.

Mark Cameron added: "The Defender OCTA name and signature graphic are representative of the

vehicle's strength, resilience and desirability inspired by the vehicle's diamond-like tough luxury credentials. The new signature graphic is particularly significant as it will be the first time it is seen on a Defender and it will identify all flagship Defender models in the future."

Defender OCTA is undergoing the most exhaustive development regime in Defender history, from the snow and ice of Sweden to Dubai desert, Nürburgring tarmac and Moab rock crawls.

Ahead of its full reveal later this year, prospective clients will be invited to attend exclusive previews as part of a new global Defender Elements series. Clients interested in registering for the first release of Defender OCTA are invited to contact their Defender retailer now. Find your nearest Defender retailer at [www.landrover.in/defender](http://www.landrover.in/defender)

## UTI Large & Mid Cap Fund – Benefit from a portfolio of sound businesses available at relatively cheaper valuations

Chennai March 28 2024: UTI Large & Mid Cap Fund offers a diversified investment portfolio and aims to invest in sound companies which provide margin of safety by trading cheaper, relative to their history or peers. According to the SEBI categorization of mutual funds, large and mid cap funds invest a minimum of 35% each in the equity and equity related instruments of large cap and mid cap companies. The Fund aims to provide stability with a biasness towards large cap companies and offers higher growth in the portfolio through investment in mid and small cap companies.

Value Investing is a strategy that involves picking stocks which are trading at less than their intrinsic value. Markets often over react to short-term news flow or sentiments, which gives the opportunity to the value investor to buy a stock below its intrinsic value. Buying below the intrinsic value provides margin of safety, which is the distinguishing feature

of value investing. By purchasing a stock at lower valuations, the value investor increases the odds of making money or losing less money if the business does not perform as expected or takes longer to perform. Value investors emphasize on margin of safety over growth and embrace cyclical and the potential for mean reversion in business fundamentals and valuation. The value investor makes money when the stock trades at intrinsic value - capturing the potential for improvement in business fundamentals and valuations.

The Fund follows a top down approach to pick sectors which are available at below mean valuations with reasonable prospects. It follows a bottom up approach to pick sound businesses with reasonable relative valuation, a healthy past track record and potential for future growth are considered. The core belief of the Fund is that a company goes through its own valuation cycle which may vary on account

of either macro cycles or company specific factors, and its aim is to capture the inefficiency in the cycle. It would also look towards growth oriented companies if the valuations are in the comfort zone.

The investment strategy of the Fund is built around three tenets: relative valuation versus history or peer, growth opportunities at reasonable valuations and mean reversion. The Fund focuses on quality companies whose relative valuation are below their historical valuation or valuation of their peers, providing margin of safety. The Fund also looks at growth oriented stocks which are trading at reasonable valuations.

In this regard, small caps can offer the combination of growth and value as they are not well discovered by the market and good quality companies could be available at reasonable valuations. The strategy also endeavours to pick businesses that are undervalued and benefit from mean

reversion in profitability and valuation as the cycles payout.

UTI Large & Mid Cap Fund was launched in the year 2009. The Fund has an AUM of over Rs. 2,380 Crores as of December 31, 2023. The Fund has about 52% invested into Large Caps, 41% in Mid Caps and the remaining in Small caps as on December 31, 2023. The scheme's top holding consists of HDFC Bank Ltd., ICICI Bank Ltd., Reliance Industries Ltd., Infosys Ltd., Federal Bank Ltd., ITC Ltd., Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Axis Bank Ltd. and NMDC Ltd., which accounts for around 35% of the portfolio's holdings.

UTI Large & Mid Cap Fund is designed for investors who seek exposure to a portfolio of investing in both large and mid market capitalization stocks with a bias towards relative value style of investing. The Fund is suitable for investors looking to build their core equity portfolio for long-term wealth creation.



## A story of medical excellence & hope: Couple's journey from 9 miscarriages to a healthy baby

Chennai March 28 2024: Can you imagine the happiness in a parent's heart after being blessed with a baby after nine pregnancy losses? Well, that is exactly what happened for a couple who have been married and hoping to become parents for over 7 years!

The journey to parenthood is often difficult, and for some couples, it can be a path filled with heartbreak and setbacks. This was the reality for a couple who recently entered our care, burdened by the misfortune of suffering nine pregnancy losses. Their struggle stemmed from a unique blood condition called anti-phospholipid antibody syndrome (APLA) positivity. This condition causes blood clots within the vessels supplying the developing fetus, blocking its crucial supply of oxygen, nutrients, and blood flow. This ultimately leads to stunted growth and, tragically, fetal demise.

The couple, married for seven years, had a history of recurrent pregnancy loss. The wife, diagnosed with PCOS (polycystic ovary syndrome), had endured nine prior abortions within the first trimester, all occurring before the eighth week of pregnancy. Despite initiating Aspirin and LMWH (low-molecular-weight heparin) therapy after the second loss, their efforts continuously failed due to APLA positivity. Further complicating their situation was a deep arcuate uterus and a tubular uterine cavity, presenting a formidable medical challenge.

However, by implementing a comprehensive approach, we were able to achieve a joyous outcome. Initiating anti-inflammatory and antithrombotic agents even before conception proved to be a pivotal step. This proactive approach significantly improved the chances of a successful

pregnancy. Meticulous evaluation of the couple's medical history, close monitoring of symptoms, and prompt management of the wife's condition were paramount. Teleconsultation played a crucial role—it provided them with immediate access to medical expertise, eliminating the stress and potential delays associated with hospital visits during critical moments. Educating the patient about emergency medications that could be administered in unforeseen situations further empowered them to navigate unforeseen challenges.

In the midst of challenges, the journey of this determined couple towards parenthood serves as a symbol of hope and medical progress. Despite facing setbacks, their persistence and the support of a holistic medical strategy resulted in the long-awaited arrival of their

precious child. They celebrated the birth of their healthy baby boy on July 27th, 2023, weighing 2.08 kilograms. Their story offers inspiration, underscoring the potential for fresh starts and resilience in the face of adversity.

Dr. Suman Singh, Consultant—Obstetrics and Gynecology, talking about her experience with this case states that, "Offering hope, help & success to this couple who endured the heartbreak of 9 lost pregnancies due to APLA positivity stands as an example of the transformative power of medical care. Through meticulous evaluation, timely intervention, and the use of teleconsultation, we were able to navigate the complexities of their case and welcome a precious new life into the world. It's moments like these that remind us of the privilege and responsibility we hold as healthcare providers, to be healers as well as supporters."

## Montra Electric's inclusion in RAAHI Project boosts sustainable transport in Amritsar

Chennai March 28 2024: Montra Electric, the EV brand of 123 years legacy Murugappa Group in a momentous stride toward sustainable mobility, has been empaneled as one of the OEMs under the Rejuvenation of Autorickshaws in Amritsar through Holistic Intervention (RAAHI) project. The project is part of the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) programme under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

The RAAHI scheme, launched in 2019, has the goal of replacing over 12,000 aging diesel three-wheelers. All recipients are carefully selected and reviewed by the Amritsar Smart City Ltd team. Under the RAAHI scheme, each beneficiary is entitled to a subsidy of ₹1,40,000. If the customer chooses to purchase the Montra Electric Super Auto outright, the full subsidy will be deposited into their account. This subsidy is in addition to the FAME discounts. Women drivers will receive a 90% subsidy on pink electric autos, and their families are



also eligible for skill development courses from NSDC.

Mr. KK Paul, Managing Director, TI Clean Mobility (TICMPL) said, "We are thrilled to participate in the RAAHI Project as an OEM partner. We eagerly anticipate supplying our advanced electric 3-wheelers to beneficiaries as part of this initiative. Recognizing the pivotal role of 3-wheelers in last-mile transportation, Montra Electric is committed to enhancing last-mile mobility through innovative design and performance. Our eco-friendly mobility solutions are poised to revolutionize transportation in India."

The RAAHI project is centered on lowering city air pollution levels and is an integral aspect of City Investments to

Innovate, Integrate, and Sustain (CITIIS). This initiative comprises six interconnected elements: numerous electric vehicle charging stations, bolstering the 3-wheeler industry, creating livelihood opportunities, enhancing pedestrian safety, improving first and last-mile connectivity, and promoting cleaner air quality.

To be eligible for the benefits offered by the RAAHI program, potential drivers must be members of the Amritsar Auto-Rickshaw Drivers Cooperative Society. They need to possess either an Aadhaar card or a voter card, as well as the registration certificate for their previous auto, a valid driving license, and a membership slip from the society.

TI Clean Mobility, a

subsidiary of Tube Investments of India (a Murugappa Group Company), is revolutionizing last-mile transportation with the Montra Super Auto. Featuring a best-in-class 10kWh battery pack, it offers an impressive range of 203 km (ARAI Certified), industry-leading peak torque of 60 Nm, and a top speed of 55kmph. The vehicle introduces industry-first multi-drive modes for enhanced fuel efficiency and a Park Assist Mode for seamless maneuvering in city traffic. Safety and durability are paramount, with superior materials ensuring peace of mind for users. The Montra Electric 3W prioritizes comfort with double fork front suspension, a car-like driver seat, and ample cushioning. It provides ample space for both driver and passenger, including a category-defining boot space for luggage. Equipped with advanced telematics and apps in English and vernacular languages for both drivers and commuters, ownership is made easy with digital financing, 24/7 roadside assistance, a 2-year extended warranty option, and a 3-year AMC plan.

## India, China continue talks on border disengagement

Chennai March 28 2024: India and China exchanged views on achieving complete disengagement and resolving the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the western sector of their border areas, the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday.

During the 29th meeting of the Working

Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC), both sides agreed to maintain regular contact through diplomatic and military channels, the Ministry said.

The meeting in Beijing on Wednesday was held between the Indian delegation, led by the MEA Joint Secretary

(East Asia), and the Chinese delegation, led by the Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on how to achieve complete disengagement and resolve the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in

the Western Sector of India-China border areas," the Ministry said.

In the interim, both sides agreed to maintain regular contact through diplomatic and military channels and to uphold peace and tranquility on the ground in the border areas in accordance with existing bilateral agreements and protocols.

## Palaniswami to intensify campaign in Sivaganga

Chennai March 28 2024: Leader of Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami is all set to begin his election campaign in Sivaganga on Thursday for the upcoming parliamentary polls.

In this, EPS will meet the AIADMK-DMDK

alliance party members and will address in Pavadi Thoppu in Virudhunagar, to gain vote bank for Virudhunagar DMDK MP candidate Vijaya Prabhakaran.

According to a Daily Thanthi report, EPS had marked his presence in a

public meeting at Sankarankovil town in Tenkasi on Wednesday to campaign for Puthiya Tamilagam leader Krishnasamy.

It has been reported the EPS is set to meet match sticks, firecrackers, printing and other businessmen

in Sivakasi.

This evening at 7 PM, EPS would join in Madurai Palanganatham to support AIADMK MP candidate Dr. Saravanan. After the meeting, EPS will come to Chennai from Madurai by flight, added reports.

## SEBI launches same day settlement for 25 scripts

Chennai March 28 2024: SEBI has issued operational guidelines for stock exchanges to launch the same-day transaction settlement (or "T+0") beta version for a select few cash segment stocks starting today.

Introducing the T+0 settlement would be of

great benefit for traders and investors who are looking for immediate liquidity, allowing them to utilise funds and react to the market quickly in the highly volatile sessions.

The T+0 settlement will occur concurrently with the current T+1 settlement cycle.

Presently, the market is considering same-day transaction settlement within a year after fully embracing the T+1 cycle.

SEBI's aim is to boost investor confidence and simplify the trading process for retail investors.

Sellers under the present T+1 system may only get 80% of their cash on the day of sale; the remaining 20% must be waited for the following day. Nonetheless, sellers will have instant access to 100% of their cash on the day of transaction due to the new T+0 settlement system.

## Gold price touches Rs. 50,000 per sovereign in Chennai

Chennai March 28 2024: In Chennai, the price of gold has surged to over Rs. 50,000 per sovereign, reflecting a significant increase in demand for the precious metal. The price of gold jewelry has risen by Rs. 35 per gram, reaching Rs. 6,250 per gram in certain areas.

This rise in gold prices has led to an

uptick in sales, with consumers flocking to purchase gold jewelry and ornaments. In response to the heightened demand, jewelry stores and dealers have adjusted their prices accordingly, with some offering competitive rates to attract customers.

The surge in gold prices can be attributed

to various factors, including economic uncertainty, inflationary pressures, and geopolitical tensions. Gold has long been considered a safe haven asset during times of economic turmoil, making it an attractive investment option for individuals seeking to safeguard their wealth.

In Chennai, where

gold holds cultural and traditional significance, the rise in gold prices has sparked renewed interest among consumers. From weddings to religious ceremonies, gold jewelry plays a central role in various cultural celebrations and rituals, further driving demand for the precious metal.

## Lawyers write to CJI against groups trying to pressure judiciary

Chennai March 28 2024: A group of lawyers, including senior advocate Harish Salve and Bar Council of India chairperson Manan Kumar Mishra, have written to the Chief Justice of India, alleging that a "vested interest group" is trying to pressure the judiciary and defame courts "on the basis of frivolous logic and stale political agendas".

"Their pressure tactics are most obvious in political cases, particularly those

involving political figures accused of corruption. These tactics are damaging to our courts and threaten our democratic fabric," their letter, dated March 26, addressed to CJI D Y Chandrachud said.

The letter, shared by official sources, targeted a section of lawyers without naming them and alleged that they defend politicians by the day and then try to influence judges through the media at night.

This interest group creates false narratives of a supposed better past and golden period of courts, contrasting it with the happenings in the present, the letter said, claiming that their comments are aimed at influencing courts and embarrassing them for political gains.

The group of lawyers, who are behind the letter titled "Judiciary Under Threat-Safeguarding Judiciary from Political and Professional

Pressure", number around 600 and also include Adish Aggarwala, Chetan Mittal, Pinky Anand, Hitesh Jain, Ujjwala Paward, Uday Holla and Swarupama Chaturvedi, the official sources said.

Though the lawyers behind the letter have mentioned no specific cases, the development comes at a time when courts are dealing with several high-profile criminal cases of corruption involving opposition leaders.



## AIADMK questions law order situation, rampant drug culture in TN

Chennai March 28 2024: Questioning the deteriorating law and order situation in Tamil Nadu, leader of opposition and AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami asked who would protect the people of Tamil Nadu if police personnel were being attacked by DMK functionaries.

Backing his claim, He said that he was not just blabbering for there were instances where police personnel had registered complaints after they were attacked by some DMK functionaries for stopping vehicles involved in illegal transportation stones. This proved that the law and order in the State was out of control, he charged.

Speaking at an election campaign in Tenkasi for PT leader Krishna s w a m i Edappadi Palaniswami said that despite being in power for three years, DMK did not speak about its achievements in the election campaign, rather "they only slammed" him.

The Tamil Nadu chief minister "has done nothing for the state, so there is nothing to talk about", the AIADMK leader said, adding that "Stalin is a puppet chief minister." In fact, the Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly said that "Stalin mistakenly became the CM," and because of this regime, "people are suffering a lot".

"People are



suffering under his rule but Stalin puts a pen symbol in the sea (pen-shaped monument for former CM M Karunanidhi) in memory of his father. If you want to put a pen symbol in your father's memory, put it in your trust fund, why are wasting people's money?" Palaniswami raised questions.

Palaniswami said, "Stalin once in a meeting said that he was waking

up every morning fearing what his party members would do next that would tarnish the party's image. This is enough for the people to understand the situation has exacerbated to the level where it could not be controlled anymore."

In addition, drug usage, especially among youngsters, has increased. This increase can be equated to the recent

developments in the State when a DMK functionary named Jaffer Sadiq was arrested for links with an international drug cartel and selling drugs worth ₹2,000 crores, he charged.

"Teams to identify and prevent selling of drugs near schools and colleges was constituted by the DMK government. The teams too earmarked about 2,000 people who

were selling drugs near schools and colleges. Out of 2,000 only around 140 were arrested because the rest of them were DMK functionaries," Palaniswami claimed. These might sound like tall allegations, but it was a fact which even the DMK could not disagree, he claimed further.

"Every step of the DMK government blatantly proves that it

is a family party. Stalin very proudly announces that all his party cadre were his members, so it is not a bad thing to be called as a family party," he added.

But would he make any of the party cadre who he says as his family, as the top leader, he questioned. "At the same time, AIADMK has repeatedly proved that it is a party of commoners. I, who started as a cadre rose to the level of general secretary, is the best example of what I say," he noted.

Introducing AIADMK candidate for Kanniyakumari constituency Pasilian Nazerath, he said the candidate was another best example of how

even a person from a fishing community could become a Member of Parliament candidate unlike the sitting MP Vijay Vasanth whose business background was well known.

Since DMK was not a party of commoners, its governance was also against the commoners of the State, he said. "Almost all steps taken by the DMK government starting from increase in petrol diesel price, hike in property tax to the exorbitant increase of the electricity tariff were against the commoner," Mr. Palaniswamy said.

Other AIADMK leaders like Thalavai N. Sundaram, A. Tamil Magan Hussain, among others were present during the meeting.

## Spl rep for disaster risk reduction UN Secretary General Guterres appoints Indian to post

Chennai March 28 2024: A top official at India's National Disaster Management Authority has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres as his special representative for disaster risk reduction.

Kamal Kishore (55) has been appointed as assistant secretary-general and special representative of the secretary-general for disaster risk reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), said Stéphane Dujarric, the secretary-general's spokesperson, at the daily press briefing on Wednesday.

Kishore, in his current position at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), holds the rank of secretary to the government of India. He succeeds Mami Mizutori of Japan at UNDRR.

As part of India's G20 presidency, Kishore led the G20 Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction. He also contributed to the development of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Climate Action Summit in 2019.

Kishore "brings to the position nearly three decades of experience in disaster risk reduction, climate action and sustainable



development at the global, regional, national and local levels, having worked in government, the United Nations (UN) and civil society organisations", Dujarric said.

Before joining the NDMA, Kishore spent nearly 13 years with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Geneva, New Delhi and New York. During this time, he led global advocacy to integrate disaster resilience concerns in the Sustainable Development Goals and a global team of disaster risk reduction advisors to support UNDP-programme countries, a UN statement said.

As programme advisor, he also led the development of disaster and climate risk management related elements of the UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-17).

Prior to the UNDP, he served as director of information and research and manager of the Extreme Climate Events Programme, covering Indonesia, The Philippines and Vietnam at the Asian

Disaster Preparedness Centre in Bangkok from 1996 to 2002, and as an architect at The Action Research Unit for Development from 1992 to 1994 in New Delhi, where he worked on post-earthquake reconstruction projects.

Intensive field experience with The Action Research Unit for Development, where work on post-disaster reconstruction and resettlement after two major disasters -- the Uttarkashi and the Latur earthquakes in 1991 and 1993, respectively -- allowed him to apply his professional skills as an architect.

According to his profile on the NDMA website, Kishore has worked on disaster risk reduction and recovery issues for more than 22 years at the local, national, regional and global levels.

As UNDP's regional advisor for South and South-West Asia, he supported more than 10 countries on a range of public policy and institutional development issues, while also advising them on the use of appropriate risk

reduction tools and methodologies, it said.

Kishore has supported post-disaster recovery through strategic advice, needs assessments, programme development, and coordination after major disasters in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan, The Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Kishore holds a Master of Science in Urban Planning, Land and Housing Development from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand, and a Bachelor of Architecture from the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee.

Geneva-headquartered UNDRR is the UN's focal point for disaster risk reduction and coordinates the UN-wide implementation of the Sendai Framework, which was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides member states with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster.

## LatentView Analytics Announces Acquisition of Decision Point Analytics

Chennai, March 28 2024: LatentView Analytics Limited (BSE: 543398, NSE: LATENTVIEW), a global digital analytics consulting and solutions firm, today announced the Board approval for acquisition of 70% of outstanding equity capital in Decision Point for a total consideration of \$39.1m. The remaining 30% equity is to be acquired over the next 2 years with a pay-out based on agreed valuation principles.

Established in 2012, Decision Point is a leader in AI-led Business Transformation and Revenue Growth Management (RGM) solutions with 300+ employees worldwide. The company brings deep experience in RGM, Demand Forecasting, Pricing Analytics, Promotion Analytics, Retail Segmentation, and Marketing Mix Models with a focus on CPG brands. Decision Point has won awards and recognition from Microsoft and Promotion Optimization Institute (POI).

Decision Point has over a decade of experience developing AI-powered solutions, including Beagle GPT, a conversational GenAI app for Microsoft Teams used by Fortune 500 Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG) customers to drive data analytics usage within their firms.

LatentView Analytics provides



business transformation consulting and works with companies to develop and implement flexible and agile analytics roadmaps. The acquisition of Decision Point will bolster LatentView's existing expertise in data engineering, data science, data visualization, as well as consulting and advisory services for analytics and GenAI readiness. LatentView will make investments to accelerate the expansion of Decision Point solutions in the focus markets of North America and Europe.

"Decision Point's strength in Revenue Growth Management solutions that help companies achieve sustainable and profitable growth with data, was the primary factor in this acquisition," said Rajan Sethuraman, CEO, LatentView Analytics. "Additionally, this deal will bring 300+ highly skilled employees into LatentView's CPG practice and help us

expand into the Latin America market."

Speaking on the acquisition, Rajan Venkatesan, CFO, LatentView Analytics said, "With the acquisition of Decision Point, we are honoring our commitment of staying focused on our core verticals. This acquisition will be fully funded from our existing cash reserves. We expect the transaction to be EBIDTA accretive, driving enduring and strategic benefits for our clients."

"We are excited about Decision Point becoming a part of the LatentView Group," said Ravi Shankar, Founder & CEO, Decision Point. "Decision Point will continue to be led by the existing management team and will be supported by LatentView's strong GTM presence in North America and Europe. We see great opportunities for cross-pollination and synergies across the organizations. Our GenAI product,

Beagle, has immense potential to enhance the adoption of business analytics across LatentView's customer base. Additionally, we're eager to introduce LatentView's proven marketing and supply chain analytics solutions to our global consumer goods clientele."

"Adopting GenAI applications has moved from a good-to-have, to a must-have capability with global leaders prioritizing it to drive sustainable growth," said Krishnan Venkata, LatentView's Chief Client Officer. "GenAI will play a pivotal role in driving RGM strategies, and with this acquisition, LatentView is poised to provide enhanced technology and data analytics solutions to add value to clients."

Lincoln International and H&B Partners served as the exclusive financial and legal advisors to LatentView Analytics. Equirus Capital served as the financial advisors to Decision Point.