

Congress promises to restore J&K's Statehood, caste census, scrapping Agnipath scheme



Chennai, April 05 2024: With barely weeks to go for the Lok Sabha polls, the Congress party has released its manifesto today, focussing on work, welfare and wealth. The party has called the manifesto "Nyay Patra". The party has promised to restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, giving legal guarantee to MSP, among others.

When asked about OPS being missed out of Congress manifesto, Congress leader Chidambaram said, "Its not missing. But the developments taken place in the last two or three months need to be considered. The government has appointed a committee headed by Finance Secretary to review NPS

and OPS and find a way in which objectives of OPS can be funded by a pension scheme. Unless, we receive the report from the committee, it will be immature to act on it."

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) met in March and 'deliberated' thoroughly on the party's manifesto for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and other Congress leaders were present at the meeting.

"The Committee successfully ensured public participation in this exercise, rather than merely confining it to an academic one. It held extensive consultations

in different parts of the country and submitted a draft to me on March 6, 2024," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said.

The Congress party has promised to restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir, give legal guarantee to MSP, conduct nationwide socio-economic and caste census and scrap Agnipath scheme in its 2024 manifesto.

Highlights
National minimum wage at Rs 400 per day

Mahalakshmi scheme to provide Rs 1 lakh per year to every poor Indian family. Abolish contractualisation of regular jobs in govt, PSUs and ensure regularisation of such appointments

Allegations against persons who were allowed to escape law after joining BJP will be probed, Launch urban employment programme guaranteeing work for urban poor in reconstruction, renewal of urban infrastructure. Abolish Agnipath programme and direct Armed Forces to resume normal recruitment to achieve full sanctioned strength. New right to apprenticeship act to provide one year apprenticeship to every diploma holder or graduate below age of 25. Legal guarantee to MSP announced by government every year as recommended by Swaminathan Commission

Will fill nearly 30 lakh vacancies in

sanctioned posts at various levels in central govt. Rajasthan model of cashless insurance of up to Rs 25 lakh will be adopted for universal healthcare

Ten per cent quota in jobs, educational institutions for EWS will be implemented for all castes, communities without discrimination. Pass constitutional amendment to raise 50

per cent cap on reservations for SC, ST and OBC. Nationwide socio-economic and caste census. Appeal to people to look beyond religion, language, caste; choose wisely and install democratic government. National minimum wage at Rs 400 per day

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NEW CHIEF PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER FOR SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Chennai April 05 2024: M.Senthamil Selvan has taken over as the new Chief Public Relations Officer of Southern Railway today, vice B.Guganesan, who has been transferred as the Dy General Manager (General), Southern Railway. M.Senthamil Selvan was previously the Dy.General Manager (Co-ordination) & Secretary to General Manager, Southern Railway, before his posting as the Chief Public Relations Officer.

Senthamil Selvan graduated in Electrical Engineering from the Institute of Engineers (I), Kolkata and did his Master's degree in Engineering from College of Engineering, Guindy, Anna University.



Shri M.Senthamil Selvan, who has taken over as Chief Public Relations Officer of Southern Railway

He joined Indian Railways through the UPSC and is a commissioned Officer of the Territorial Army as a lieutenant. Belonging to

Railway, including as the Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer of Arakkonam and Royapuram Electrical Locomotive Sheds during various time periods. He has also undergone training in High Speed Rail in Japan, organised by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Before joining as the Chief Public Relations Officer of Southern Railway, he has worked as the Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer, Operations, Chennai Division, Dy.General Manager (General), Southern Railway and as Dy.General Manager (Co-ordination) & Secretary to General Manager, Southern Railway.

SR records significant progress in key performance indicators in FY 2023-24. Gross revenue of Rs.12020 Crores achieved

Chennai, April 05 2024: During the financial year 2023-24, Southern Railway has registered a significant growth across all areas of Railway working with remarkable achievements against key performance indicators.

Gross Earnings witnesses upswing Southern Railway

posted an annual Gross revenue of Rs. 12020 Crores in FY 2023-24 which is highest ever so far with an increase of almost 10% over the previous financial year. The Annual Gross Revenue comprises of originating passenger earnings of Rs.7151 crores, originating freight earnings of Rs.3674 crores and an

amount of Rs. 570 crores and Rs.624 crores towards Other Coaching earnings and Sundry earnings respectively.

Premium Trains introduced

During the year 2023-24, Southern Railway has introduced 8 new pairs of Vande Bharat train services viz., Chennai-Coimbatore-Chennai- Tirunelveli, Vijayawada- Chennai- Vijayawada, Coimbatore- Bengaluru Cantt.- Coimbatore, Thiruvananthapuram- Kasaragod -Thiruvananthapuram (Via Kottayam), Thiruvananthapuram- Kasaragod -Thiruvananthapuram (Via Alappuzha), Mangaluru-Madgaon-Mangaluru, and Chennai-Mysuru-Chennai,

Later Thiruvananthapuram-Kasaragod (via Alappuzha) Vande Bharat services have been extended upto -Mangaluru Central. All these services have been widely welcomed by all passengers at large and

witnessing a remarkable patronage.

Speed enhancement works

With renewed impetus on Speed enhancement projects, Southern Railway has increased the sectional speed to 130 Km/h for 145 Route Kms between Arakkonam and Jolarpettai. The sectional speed has been enhanced to 110 km/h in a network spanning 1272 Route Kms. Significantly, 75 Permanent Speed restrictions have been removed. As a result, about 170 number of passenger carrying trains have been speeded up thus extending the benefit of reduced transit time to the passengers.

OSOP Stalls

During the FY2024, Southern Railway has operationalized 263 "one station one product" (OSOP) stalls and it fetched a revenue of over Rs. 20 crores for the beneficiaries who operated these stall. The objective of OSOP stalls is to popularise and encourage local business and supply chain. It aims

to provide enhanced livelihood and skill development to artisans, craftsmen, potters, weavers, tribals etc.

Bharat Gaurav Trains

During the FY2024, 42 itineraries were operated by various registered service providers earning a revenue of Rs.34 crores for Southern Railway. Bharat Gaurav trains were introduced with the objective of promoting tourism by showcasing India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the

world.

Amrit Bharat Stations in SR

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is a major step towards improving the overall railway infrastructure, amenities and passenger experience at railway stations.

In Southern Railway, a total of 116 stations, have been identified for development under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. This includes 75 stations in Tamil Nadu, 35 stations in Kerala, 3 stations in

Puducherry (UT), 2 stations in Karnataka and one station in Andhra Pradesh jurisdiction of Southern Railway.

During the year 2023-24, the work related to Amrit Bharat stations have witnessed significant progress.

Major Infrastructure and Electrification projects commissioned

According thrust on infrastructure development, during the year 2023-24, Doubling projects of Milavattan - Tuticorin (7.7 km), Tirunelveli -

Melappalayiayam - (3.60 km), Aralvaymoli-Nagercoil Jn (12.87 km) sections have been commissioned.

Marching ahead towards Mission 100% Electrification, a total of 191 Route Kms have been electrified during 2023-24. This includes the electrification projects of Shoranur- Nilambur (66 Km), Bagavathipuram-Edaman (33 Km), Madurai - Bodinayakkanur(90 km) and Mangaluru-Padil (2 km).

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AIR INDIA TRANSFORMS 'FLYING RETURNS' LOYALTY PROGRAMME TO OFFER GREATER EASE, REWARDS, AND RECOGNITION TO MEMBERS

Chennai April 05 2024: Air India today launched its transformed Flying Returns loyalty programme, introducing a simplified new structure, more customer-friendly features, renamed tiers, and an updated identity. The revamped Flying Returns prioritizes greater ease, more rewards, and recognition for Members, while offering them instant global status and privileges around the world.

In its first overhaul in more than a decade, Flying Returns moves away from the legacy model of miles-based collection of points to a fairer, more equitable spend-based approach.

Flying Returns Members will be able to enjoy the benefits of the new programme and collect points based on the new structure, starting today.

"The revamp of Flying Returns is an important step forward in the way the 'new' Air India intends to serve and delight customers. We spent the past year listening, gathering insights from over 50,000 customers, and benchmarking our program against the best loyalty offerings out there. This deep dive, coupled with a complete digital overhaul, has resulted in a much stronger and value-delivering programme that we are proud to



present today," said Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial & Transformation Officer, Air India.

"We are confident that this evolution of Flying Returns, along with more strengths we will add to the programme in due course, will elevate it to the forefront of global loyalty programmes."

Some highlights of the reimagined Flying Returns programme are as follows:

Spend more, earn more: With Flying Returns now becoming a spend-based programme, the amount of Flying Returns Points that Members will be able to collect per flight will now be based on the amount they spend on a ticket rather than the distance they fly, thus delivering greater value for money spent over miles flown.

Evergreen Points: Flying Returns Points will now never expire, as long as a Member takes at least one flight on Air India every 24 months, regardless of their Membership Tier level.

No blackout dates and no restrictions: Members can redeem Flying Returns Points to purchase any Air India seat that is available for sale; there are no

restrictions. **Cash + Points:** Members will now be able to pay for their Award flight using a combination of Flying Returns Points and cash, thus providing greater flexibility.

Global reach and value: As India's most globally connected loyalty program, Flying Returns offers its Members the ability to earn or redeem points on 25 other Star Alliance partner airlines across the world. This global network comprises among the very best airlines for quality and service in their respective regions and enables members to redeem for flights to over 700 destinations worldwide.

Global status: Members will also enjoy their Flying Returns Tier privileges across all Star Alliance member airlines worldwide, as well as access to 1000+ lounges across the world for those with applicable Membership Tier levels.

Renamed Membership Tiers: Flying Returns will continue to offer four Membership Tier levels that have been renamed: Red (from 'Base'), Silver (from 'Silver Edge'), Gold (from 'Golden Edge'), and

Platinum (from The Maharaja Club).

Priority and premium one-stop member service: Silver, Gold, and Platinum members will have access to a one-stop member service contact centre that will provide a seamless experience in immediately addressing any member inquiries and requests.

More Options – Flying Returns: In its new avatar, has more to offer to everyone with new features such as:

Family Pool: Members will be able to combine their Flying Returns Points with others in their family, for free, enabling them to redeem for travel sooner.

The benefit of booking direct: Members will earn 2 additional bonus Flying Returns Points for every INR 100 spent in booking flights directly on Air India's website (airindia.com) or mobile app.

More options to collect Flying Returns Points: Members can now also collect Flying Returns Points across a wide range of Air India's non-airline partners, including car rentals, hotel stays, shopping, lifestyle experiences, and more.

Vedanta debt to be divided among demerged firms in ratio of assets

Chennai April 05 2024: Mining conglomerate Vedanta is on track for the demerger of its key businesses, including aluminium, into separate listed companies and allocation of debt across the demerged entities would be done in proportion to their assets, sources familiar with the matter said.

Vedanta is in advanced stages of engagement with its lenders on the issue, and the process has proceeded smoothly, they said.

There is clarity about the allocation of debt across entities after the demerger. "The debt will get divided amongst the resulting demerged entities in the ratio of assets getting allocated to them as per the prescribed rules and regulations," a senior company official said at a recently concluded

investor event.

Citing the example of Vedanta Aluminium, the official said the debt that would get allocated to the company would be in direct proportion to the book value of the assets held by it. This is to ensure that the transaction is tax-neutral.

Vedanta had in September last year announced the creation of demerger of metals, power, aluminium, and oil and gas businesses to unlock potential value. After the exercise, six independent verticals - Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Power, Vedanta Steel and Ferrous Materials, Vedanta Base Metals and Vedanta Limited - will be created. For every share of Vedanta, shareholders will receive one share of each of the five newly listed companies.

After the demerger,

the businesses of Hindustan Zinc as well as the electronics business will remain with Vedanta Limited. Immediately after obtaining the NOCs, the application will be moved to NCLT.

SBICAPs has been onboard to represent lenders with respect to debt allocation and they are hopeful to obtain the NOCs at the earliest, sources said. In parallel to the demerger, Vedanta is also undertaking a deleveraging programme to cut debt at the group level by \$3 billion in the next three years, taking its net debt level below \$9 billion.

The deleveraging is expected to be funded largely by robust internal cash flows, further supported by proceeds of strategic asset sales and potential equity partnerships.

"The demerger is expected to simplify the Group's corporate

structure with sector-focused independent businesses. Each of our businesses is at a global scale hence the board decided to go for a demerger. We intend to build a corporate structure with 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.

Samsung Showcases Bespoke Home Appliances Featuring AI Capabilities and Enhanced Connectivity

Chennai April 05 2024: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today showcased Bespoke appliances that are powered by AI, demonstrating the future of connected and sustainable homes. With AI-powered home appliances, Samsung aims at exceeding customers' expectations in the fast growing premium appliances market.

With inbuilt Wi-Fi, internal cameras and AI chips, Samsung's latest appliances featuring Bespoke AI seamlessly connect and provide convenient home management with easy to access controls through the SmartThings Application.

"We are introducing Bespoke AI, our next big innovation in home appliances which will ensure smarter living for Indian homes and reduce energy consumption, contributing to a greener planet. With our Bespoke AI-powered home appliances, consumers will be able to customise their choices, get easy controls for elders and kids, and get seamless diagnosis for their home appliances. With the



transformative power of AI, we are confident that Bespoke AI will strengthen our leadership in the digital appliances market in India," said JB Park, President & CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia.

AI also helps increase longevity and sustainability of these appliances, with users getting notified when their refrigerator is due for water filter replacement or the air conditioner needs a filter change through the SmartThings App. With the introduction of AI, Samsung aims at reducing the time required to manage these appliances. The 'Bespoke AI' event was conducted at Samsung BKC at the Jio World Plaza.

"With AI, appliances can now be smarter, and help reduce users' time and energy spent on home chores. Through

enhanced connectivity and AI capabilities, these appliances take the consumer experience to the next level by revolutionising the smart home experience. With AI appliances, our objective is to further strengthen our premium portfolio and increase our share in the premium appliances segment," said Saurabh Baishakhia, Senior Director, Digital Appliances, Samsung India.

Samsung's Bespoke appliances in India including Refrigerator, Air Conditioner, Microwave and Washing Machine are now powered by AI.

Refrigerator: It comes with AI vision camera that helps in automatic food recognition of up to 33 food items initially. The number of items that can be identified will increase over time depending on the

storage done by the user over time. The refrigerator, through its screens, suggests what to cook for lunch, or dinner, based on the food items stored.

With smart food management system, users can know when a specific food item in the refrigerator is about to expire. Furthermore, an enhanced single camera allows a wider view in different lighting conditions. With wider coverage, not only refrigerator shelves, but door bins are also captured creating a "View Inside" the refrigerator from anywhere, anytime.

Air Conditioner: With Welcome Cooling function for Air Conditioner, users can cool their home even from a distant location. AI Geo fencing allows users to set commands and the SmartThings application will send you a notification to start or turn off your appliances when you are within a specified range or moving away from the range. The specified range is between 150 meters to 30 kilometers.

Microwave: Personalising diet recipes, Bespoke AI helps automatically customize the recipe to a 'low fat' version.

HCL Jigsaw Announces Its Fifth Edition; Offers Free Registration and Prize Purse of Rs. 12 lakhs for Winners

Chennai April 05 2024: HCL, a US\$13.1 billion global conglomerate, today announced registrations for the fifth edition of HCL Jigsaw - India's Biggest Problem-Solving Assessment Platform are now open.

This Pan-India initiative aims to cultivate a community of India's Top Young Problem Solvers by recognizing and rewarding their critical thinking abilities through a rigorous evaluation process. This year, HCL Jigsaw is inviting all school students from Grades 6 to 9 to participate in competition without any registration fees. Interested students and schools can secure their sport by registering at www.hcljigsaw.com before 31st July 2024. Total prize purse for the fifth edition is Rs 12 Lakh. In addition to this, schools with over 150 participants will be recognized as India's Top Problem-Solving Schools.

Reflecting on the initiative, Rajat Chandolia, Associate Vice President and Head of Brand at HCL said, "At HCL, we aim to multiply potential of young minds with the right skills and knowledge to navigate in a rapidly evolving world.

Through HCL Jigsaw, we're committed to providing a platform for evaluating and honing essential 21st-century skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving among school students. This year, we are pleased to offer complimentary registration, to break down barriers and foster inclusivity, encouraging more schools and students to participate in this transformative program."

HCL Jigsaw assesses students on different parameters under three primary attributes that can be characterized as key components of the problem-solving process. These include:-

- **Research Skills** this would assess students on how well they can define a problem, formulate an investigation/action plan, and collect and organize information.

- **Thinking** Critically this attribute will allow us to assess the student's ability to interpret the information accurately, synthesize information and draw conclusions, systems thinking, and problem solving and evaluate claims and justification.

- **Communication** Process understand

students' ability to structure information coherently and their understanding of information context and purpose.

HCL Jigsaw is a virtual competition and will include three assessment stages/rounds:

- **Round 1 (Qualifiers)** A MCQ based test (Pan-India) Olympiad will be carried out in two slots between 15th to 16th June 2024 and 2nd to 4th August 2024.

- o This year, HCL has included pre-recorded video content and live sessions led by industry experts. Students can utilize these to hone their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

- o Following this round, all participating students will receive a comprehensive assessment report on August 11, 2024.

- o The top 20 percentile students of each grade from this round will be selected for the semi-finals.

- **Round 2 (Semi-finals)** - Collaboration through Project-Based Learning) A collaboration and project-based round would be held from 24th August 2024, till 25th August

- o Top problem solvers/ winners will be announced on 9th September 2024.

- o Top 20% percentile students selected will be put in teams of three

- o This round will also have real-world case-based problem that the team will work on

- o Selected students will be split into teams of three and will compete in a project-based challenge revolving around an assigned theme.

- o The top 5 teams per grade from this round will progress for the finale.

- **Round 3 or Finale (Group Presentations)** A jury presentation round will be held on 7th September 2024 and 8th September 2024

- o Selected 5 teams per grade (60 students overall) will be given a real-world case scenario based on different themes and they will present their solutions to a panel of esteemed jury.

- o Jury will evaluate the solutions and select the top teams as the winners who will be declared as the "India's Top Young Problem Solvers."

Gold Savings App Jar Surpasses 2 Crore Users

Bangalore April 05 2024: Jar offers a streamlined investment journey that takes minimal time and customers can start saving money in small amounts, which gets invested in 24K, 99.9% pure gold. With Jar, users can save effortlessly and convert it to cash or receive physical gold at their convenience. Jar's revolutionary round-off method effortlessly accumulates spare change from every transaction and invests it in gold so users can save that extra bit every month.



The company's remarkable growth has not gone unnoticed. Jar won in the Best WealthTech Startup category at the Global Fintech Awards 2023

and was even mentioned as being one of the top UPI auto-pay players in the country. Jar was also recognized by LinkedIn as one of India's Top Startups of 2023.

In the last 3 years, Jar has truly made leaps and bounds in the digital gold space, having started with a simple thought. Traditionally, there have always been high entry barriers in savings and investing: a high ticket size to start

investing, time to understand and get started, and the complexity of the financial products.

From humble beginnings in Hassan, Karnataka and Bihar Sharif, Bihar respectively, both Nishchay Ag and Misbah Ashraf had seen first-hand how middle India both earns and spends on a daily basis. They knew there was a gap in the market for a

financial product that could help millions of people save better and get them started on their financial fitness journey.

That's how Jar was born and, through Jar, these barriers of entry have been reduced significantly by leveraging the two most widely adopted financial tools in India - UPI and gold. Gold remains a popular investment in India, with over half the population (53%) choosing it. Now, a growing number of young investors are turning towards digital gold.

After getting a foothold in the gold space, Jar now plans to expand its offerings to include Lending, Investments and more to meet the needs of its ever-growing user base.

NSDC Achieves ISO/IEC 27001:2022 Certification

Chennai, April 05 2024: National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is proud to announce its achievement of the ISO/IEC 27001:2022 certification, a significant milestone underscoring its unwavering commitment to information security and excellence. This achievement exemplifies NSDC's dedication towards stringent information security measures, guaranteeing quality standards in safeguarding information.



standards of information security, fostering trust among stakeholders and partners.

The ISO/IEC 27001:2022 certification is a globally recognized standard for Information Security Management Systems (ISMS), validating organizations' ability to implement rigorous security protocols to safeguard sensitive data. Attaining this certification signifies NSDC's dedication to upholding the highest

In December 2022, NSDC initiated its journey towards the certification by undertaking a thorough evaluation of its Information Security Management System (ISMS) in accordance with the rigorous standards outlined in the ISO/IEC 27001:2022. The major focus areas of the assessment included identifying and evaluating risks to NSDC's information security, vulnerabilities, the potential impact along with developing and executing risk treatment plans to effectively mitigate or manage these identified

risks.

On this achievement, Mr. Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO, NSDC and MD, NSDC International, said, "At NSDC, we go beyond imparting skills, our mission is to cultivate well-rounded professionals capable of navigating the demands of future careers. And central to this mission is the steady commitment to upholding stringent security measures, ensuring the safety of individuals' data. With this, the ISO/IEC 27001:2022 certification not only instills confidence in us but also marks our dedication to achieve excellence. This certification is a testament to our relentless efforts to ensure the safety and

integrity of sensitive information. The attainment of this certification reaffirms NSDC's position as a leader in the field of skill development and underscores its commitment to fostering a secure environment for all stakeholders. It signifies the culmination of 15 months of constant dedication and collective effort from the entire NSDC team."

Going forward, NSDC will implement yearly surveillance audits, ensuring sustained alignment with the ISO/IEC 27001:2022 standard. This standard sets an exemplary industry precedent, underscoring the paramount importance of prioritizing information security and data privacy in today's digital landscape. As NSDC continues to empower individuals with essential skills for the future workforce, this certification serves as a testament to its unwavering commitment to excellence, integrity, and security.

Mahindra Auto sells 40,631 SUVs, a 13% growth and total volumes of 68,413 in March 2024

Chennai, April 05 2024: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M Ltd.), one of India's leading automotive companies, today announced that its overall auto sales for the month of March 2024 stood at 68,413 vehicles, a growth of 4%, including exports.

Vehicles segment, Mahindra sold 40,631 vehicles in the domestic market, a growth of 13% and overall, 41,161 vehicles, including exports. The domestic sales for Commercial Vehicles stood at 20,930.

President, Automotive Division, M&M Ltd., "We ended the financial year F24 on a positive note with Mahindra PikUps crossing 2 lakh units during the year, which is the highest ever for any commercial vehicle in the load segment in India. In March, we sold a total



of 40,631 SUVs, with a growth of 13% and 68,413 total vehicles, a 4% growth over last year."

According to Veejay Nakra,

Mobil 1 TM 50th Anniversary: Ready for What's Next

ExxonMobil is proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the introduction of Mobil 1™ motor oil to the global marketplace. In 2024, ExxonMobil will commemorate its 50-year history of the Mobil 1™ brand with a series of initiatives across partnerships, motorsports, and virtual reality, each of which will highlight the brand's legacy and what's to come.

ExxonMobil is excited to continue shaping the future of engine protection and performance.

One of the central components driving the celebration of Mobil 1 in this milestone year is a short film to encapsulate the brand's journey. ExxonMobil has partnered with former Formula 1 racer and McLaren driver David Coulthard for the video to guide audiences in an immersive journey through the Mobil 1 brand's evolution, influential collaborations and technological achievements.

Throughout the 2024 motorsports season, the Mobil 1 brand will celebrate its legacy with a series of specially designed liveries and other highlights of the Mobil 1 brand's extensive racing history.

"ExxonMobil takes great pride in the Mobil 1 brand's legacy as a revolutionary synthetic motor oil," said Laura Bustard, Mobil 1 Global Brand Manager. "From

its inception 50 years ago, Mobil 1 motor oil has consistently set the standard for quality and performance and will continue to improve and excel for the next 50 years. Anyone with any knowledge of the automotive space or racing knows how iconic this brand has been and will be."

The Mobil 1 brand's journey through the last 50 years is a testament to ExxonMobil's ability to push boundaries and their commitment to performance and sustainability. Mobil 1 has become the trusted choice of leading automakers, professional racers, and millions of drivers worldwide. The Mobil 1 brand's advanced oil formulations provide unparalleled protection against engine wear, extending engine life and reducing maintenance costs for consumers.

ExxonMobil recognizes that the Mobil 1 brand's success is not just a product of superior technology but a result of close

collaboration with leading automakers, racing teams, and industry experts. These collaborations have allowed Mobil 1 to continually evolve and set new industry standards.

"The Mobil 1 brand remains dedicated to maintaining and growing meaningful relationships," said Robert Shearer, Director of Global Sponsorships. As we move forward into the future, we are excited to see a continuation of the collaborative innovation and intelligence that stems from our work with automakers, racing teams and other great partners. Track to road technology is seen with each improvement to Mobil 1 motor oil."

On the occasion, hear from the leaders on half a century of innovation, performance, and trust, paving a thrilling journey ahead with Mobil 1™ and a promise of outstanding engine performance and protection.

GE Aerospace to Invest over INR 240 crore in Expanding its Manufacturing Facility at Pune in 2024

Chennai, April 05 2024: Close on the heels of launching as a standalone company listed on New York Stock Exchange, GE Aerospace has announced an investment of over Rupees 240 crore (~USD 30 million) to expand and upgrade its manufacturing facility in Pune.

The investment will allow the facility to add new projects and manufacturing processes by acquiring machines/equipment and specialized tools along with capacity enhancement of existing products.

"Our team at the Multi-modal Manufacturing facility in Pune has a strong focus on safety, quality and delivering for our customers. I am delighted to see the expansion at this site which has already become a strong contributor to our global supply chain of aircraft engine components," said Mike Kauffman, vice president, Global Supply Chain at GE Aerospace.

"This investment helps us to continue our growth in aerospace in India, giving us the resources, we need to meet increasing

customers' demand," said Amol Nagar the managing director for GE Aerospace's Pune facility.

Inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi in February 2015, the factory produces components for commercial jet engines. These are supplied to GE's global factories where they are used to assemble G90, GENx, GE 9X, which is the world's most powerful commercial jet engine, and the LEAP engines by CFM, a GE and Safran joint venture. The facility has been instrumental in developing local

aerospace manufacturing talent having trained over 5000 people since inception in specialized aerospace precision manufacturing processes.

Certified under ISO14001 & ISO45001, the facility has built environmental best practices and stewardship in the community. For example, 30% of its power consumption comes from renewable sources, it has zero liquid discharge, recycles and reuses 1 crore litres of water (100 million litres) every year and recycling 20 metric tons of plastic.

Bajaj Allianz Life Enhances Loans Against Policy Processes Offers instant loan against policy in a hassle-free way in 24 Hours

Chennai, April 05 2024: With a focus on providing policyholders a hassle-free experience to meet their financial goals, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, one of the leading private life insurers, has digitized its process to offer pre-approved loan against their policy. Simplifying the borrowing process, the fully-digital and paperless facility eliminates credit score checks, enabling swift, paperless access to loans with minimal clicks. Bajaj Allianz Life offers loans against life insurance policies issued by them at a competitive interest rate ensuring affordability for its valued customers.



LIFE GOALS. DONE.

customer-centric approach has driven the improvisation of this digital process, ensuring a seamless customer experience that now enables loan disbursement within 24 hours.

Rajesh Krishnan, Chief Operations & Customer Experience Officer, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, "At Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, we live by our Customer First promise in every

fosters transparency, empowering customers to make informed decisions at every turn. We're dedicated to empowering our customers on their journey to achieving their life goals."

New streamlined processes guarantee faster loan disbursements within 24 hours, significantly reducing the turnaround time. The updated paperless process requires minimal clicks, ensuring a hassle-free experience for our customers. Transparency remains paramount, and with the revamped policy loan process, customers have full visibility of their loan amount from the start, empowering them to make informed decisions.

Fun of Missing Out is the new FOMO! GenZ Ditches the Fear and Embraces the Fun: Reveals ITC Figma Mental Wellbeing Survey

Chennai, April 05 2024: In India, attitudes towards mental wellbeing have been gradually evolving with increased awareness towards reducing the stigma that is commonly associated with this issue. Insights from the Feel Good with Figma Mental Wellbeing Survey 2023* sheds light on GenZ redefining their outlook towards a happier state of mind and a sense of contentment. Commissioned with NielsenIQ, the survey covers a gamut of beliefs, behaviours and major stressors for GenZ and Millennials towards mental health while identifying de-stressors that bring them happiness and a sense of calmness.

Contrary to the 'Fear of Missing Out' on social events and activities, GenZ embraces a fresh perspective towards FOMO as 'Fun of Missing Out'. This shift in perspective empowers individuals to set boundaries, prioritize their well-being, and engage in what truly brings them joy and fulfillment. The survey illustrates that despite the varied causes of stress and increasing anxiety, 51% Indians who believe social media has a positive impact turn to online counselling as a treatment option. Yoga, meditation, and exercise emerge as popular



choices among 86% of Indians to combat stress, highlighting the importance of physical activity in maintaining mental balance. 75% Indian GenZ watch a pick-me up series or a feel-good movie to unwind.

Dr. Raghu Appasani, Founder and CEO, MINDS Foundation states, "The first step to Happiness for adults in the busy lives that we all live now, is to understand what is stopping it and then trying to work on it whether internal or external. Figma in collaboration with Minds Foundation provides subsidized virtual therapy. The therapy sessions are designed for people who are committed to make personal changes for greater life satisfaction and help them gain a better understanding of themselves."

As mental wellbeing in recent years has gained some prominence in broadcast content, the Feel Good with Figma Mental Wellbeing survey also

throws light on attitudes towards mental health portrayal; 79% believe positive mental health portrayals in movies can aid in addressing stigma and 81% also feel that celebrities create strong impact as mental health advocates.

Sameer Satpathy, Divisional Chief Executive, Personal Care Products Business, ITC Limited, added, "Emotions are at the core of being human and the pursuit of happiness is non-negotiable. This is corroborated further by the Feel Good with Figma Mental Wellbeing Survey with Fun of Missing Out emerging as the new perspective. Mental well-being is an integral part of our psychological, emotional and social well-being. ITC Figma is committed to enabling and proactive conversations on mental wellbeing in India."

Rashmi Mandanna, ITC Figma's brand ambassador comments, "In today's fast-paced world, safeguarding our mental health is paramount,

given the relentless pressures we face. My daily life often spans odd hours with hectic schedules and travels but I believe in living in the moment and find little joys in the smallest of things, be it small gestures of kindness that I witness around me, or just a quick indulgence of my K-drama or Anime. In my opinion, doing what you like and indulging yourself with small breaks helps stress quicker. I'm proud to be associated with ITC Figma in their effort to not only acknowledge everyday stressors, but also make mental wellbeing a more proactive conversation today."

ITC Figma, in collaboration with The Minds Foundation, has also launched its first Virtual Clinic. The Virtual Clinic is designed to enable affordable access to mental health therapy delivered by licensed professionals. It is an appropriate platform that encourages individuals to seek help in an intimate virtual space without the fear of embarrassment or the prevailing stigma. The MINDS Foundation has specially put together a team of highly qualified therapists for the Virtual Clinic, thereby offering expert advice, therapy, and counselling at the convenience of one's own privacy.

A.M. Jain College Celebrates Convocation Day A total of 4,473 students passed the exam and around 2,400 were felicitated on the day

Chennai, April 05 2024: A.M. Jain College, a leading institution in Chennai dedicated to academic excellence, conducted their convocation day ceremonies for the 2022 batch. Held on 5th April 2024, the convocation for both Shift I and II, witnessed a total of 2,400 students being felicitated for their academic achievements.



The morning session, was graced by esteemed Chief Guest Dr R Raman, M.A. Ph.D., Joint Director of Collegiate Education, Chennai Region and in the afternoon, Mr P N Vasudevan, Managing Director of Equitas Small Finance Bank, presided over the ceremony, joined by Guest of Honor Mr Doulat Jain, Chairman of JITO International, JG Group.

Sharing his heartfelt thoughts, P. N. Vasudevan, Managing Director - Equitas

Small Finance Bank said, "I have lot of memories attached to A.M. Jain College, as I had studied here forty years ago. The institution had developed a lot during these years. Would like to convey two important aspects to young graduates, Digital technology reigns supreme these days, we could find STEM labs in schools nowadays. 3D printers and similar digital technology leaps us in to the foreseeable future, so learn as much of those technologies.

The next is social, help a s m a n y underprivileged people as possible in our society. If we start to help others it will stabilize our society in due course of time."

Sharing her thoughts Dr. M M Ramya, Dean, A.M. Jain College, said, "Convocation represents both an ending and a beginning for our students. It is a celebration of their hard work, sacrifices, and triumphs in earning their degrees. As they leave our institution, we are certain that our

newest alumni will remember the core values and teachings imparted by this great institution. The institution will take pride in seeing our alumni use their knowledge and abilities to positively benefit our society. We wish them all the best for their future endeavours."

The convocation served as a testament to the dedication and perseverance exhibited by the students throughout their academic journey.

Westside launches its 228th store in Chennai Velachery

Chennai April 05 2024: Westside, a part of the iconic Indian family - TATA, has inaugurated its newest store in Chennai with an aim to inspire fashion enthusiasts. Located at Westside, Tulive Helix, No.21, Near Guru Nanak College, Gandhi Nagar, Velachery, Chennai-600042, this store is spread across 28,000sq ft. With a conscious effort of making style simple for every moment, it will feature most of Westside's brands across apparels, accessories, cosmetics, footwear, and HOME - all conveniently available at one location!

The new store seamlessly embodies the brand's vision of delivering an extraordinary retail experience, providing customers with contemporary and modern fashion trends at an exceptional value. It is committed to offering a seamless shopping experience, with meticulously arranged and clutter-free displays that highlight the newest fashions. With distinctive style, the brand embraces innovation and refreshes their collection every three weeks on Friday.

All the ladies, get ready to splurge till you drop with the fashion's



favourite labels at the best prices! Indian wear by Westside is equally fashionable and engaging as the western wear. Utsa offers a versatile collection and is the modern solution to the everyday ethnic wardrobe. The most loved Bombay Paisley presents a contemporary, creative, free-spirited and fusion while Vark is coordinated ethnic wear for occasions that are modern, opulent, warm and sophisticated. Zuba, on the other hand, is premium day-wear that personifies elegance and modernity that is majestic and understated.

NUON is for all young girls who love party-glam and are zestful about fashion. The brand reflects youth that engages a social generation. Looking for smart and feminine casuals? Look no more as L.O.V is the answer for anything subtle and flattering. The collection at Gia is smart, casual and

comfortable for all curvy women. Wardrobe, a 9 to 9 fashion, is a workwear that is stylish, sophisticated and confident. Right from Casuals to Fusion to Indian, you name it and they have it all.

Men, don't you fret as Westside has got you covered! WES presents a work to weekend range, along with lounge wear that is comfortable and urban. For millennials for whom fashion comes first, NUON MEN is the go-to clothing line with curated street-wear that is always trending. E.T.A is relaxed urban wear with an ethnic edge. It is more Indian, artisanal and inspired from contemporary ethnic styles.

Studio West offers an exclusive range of beauty products not only for Indian women, but for men as well. With an extensive range of cosmetics, fine fragrance and mists, luxurious bath & body products, this cosmetic line is cool and edgy,

creative, disruptive for everyone who is confident, loves to express and are fashionable.

Westside's kids wear effortlessly combines fashion and functionality. The collection showcases an array of charming and trendy outfits, designed to bring out the playful spirit of your little ones. From adorable dresses and stylish tops to cozy knitwear and versatile bottoms, Westside offers a delightful selection for every occasion.

Blending comfort and style seamlessly, Westside's footwear collection is truly captivating. Whether you're looking for casual sneakers, elegant heels, sturdy boots, or sporty sandals, Westside has the perfect pair to elevate your footwear game. Discover the joy of walking with confidence and panache with Westside's stunning footwear collection.

At the store, you'll find a fantastic selection of home decoration items for your bedroom, kitchen, and living room. Enjoy a hassle-free shopping experience and discover exciting options to enhance your home décor from Westside HOME.

Walmart Vriddhi announces MoU with Dun & Bradstreet to accelerate growth opportunities for MSMEs in India

Chennai April 05 2024: Dun & Bradstreet, a global leader of business data and analytics, and Swasti, the program partner of the Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Program (Walmart Vriddhi), announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen support for micro-, small- and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs) across India.

The Walmart Vriddhi program provides free training, mentoring and digital tools to help small businesses grow, scale, and integrate into domestic supply chains. Dun & Bradstreet enables companies around the world to improve their business performance.

The MoU aims to expand business support services for participating MSMEs. Dun & Bradstreet will provide D-U-N-S® Numbers to all MSMEs registered for the program. A D-U-N-S® Number is assigned through Dun & Bradstreet's patented

identity resolution process, (part of its DUNSRight™ data governance, which includes thousands of separate automated checks). The D-U-N-S Number is used as the starting point for any company's Live Business Identity, which helps ensure the most accurate and up-to-date view of organizations, and enhances the credibility of MSMEs that seek partners or capital in the course of their business.

A company's D-U-N-S Number may be referenced when:

Applying for a loan with a financial institution

Applying for credit with a business partner

Applying to become a vendor or supplier of a company

Bidding on contracts locally or internationally

Dun & Bradstreet will also provide two learning modules on Government schemes for MSMEs and ESG, which will help simplify the complex

information that MSMEs seek, to identify the right programs and opportunities to help them scale.

Jason Fremstad, Senior Vice President, Supplier Development, Walmart said, "Through this partnership, we are channeling the expertise and resources of both Dun & Bradstreet and Swasti to further a holistic ecosystem for MSMEs to excel in the eCommerce landscape. This will help small businesses unlock more growth opportunities. We hope to see these businesses thrive in the digital economy and scale to new heights."

Joseph Julian, Program Director, Swasti, expressed optimism about the collaboration, stating, "Since its inception, Walmart Vriddhi has been engaged with MSMEs to support their learning and market connectivity, which has contributed to their business growth, particularly on

eCommerce platforms. We are glad that this MoU with Dun and Bradstreet will empower MSMEs associated with the Walmart Vriddhi program to further gain and grow in their businesses."

Preeta Misra, Senior Director, Credibility & Business Insights Group (CBIG), ESG and SME, Dun & Bradstreet, emphasized the significance of the partnership in supporting MSMEs. "We are delighted to deepen our partnership with Swasti through the Walmart Vriddhi program. By providing D-U-N-S® Numbers freely, we hope to enhance the visibility of participating businesses, enabling them to access opportunities. Additionally, by contributing content for the learning module, we're investing in skilling initiatives, empowering MSMEs with the knowledge and tools they need to thrive."