

**SC issues notice to ED, No relief to Kejriwal Next hearing on Apr 29**

Chennai, April 15 2024: The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a plea by Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal challenging his arrest by the agency and his subsequent remand in the money laundering case connected to the Delhi excise policy [Arvind Kejriwal vs Directorate of Enforcement].

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta sought

the response of the central agency and posted the case for further hearing on April 29.

“Issue notice. returnable on April 24. Notice is accepted by the respondent who are presented in court on caveat. Reply to be filed on or before April 24 and rejoinder on or before April 27,” the Court directed.

Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, sought an earlier date but the Court posted the case for hearing next on



April 29.

“This is an unusual

matter. There are 15 same person.. one arguments for next day,” the bench said.

Singhvi, however, proceeded to question the timing of Kejriwal’s arrest right before the Lok Sabha polls.

“Arrest on March 16 is about the timing after the case was registered long back..First round of polling is on April 19,” he said.

The bench said that it has read the petition and documents.

“We know the facts and we have gone through the paper books. You should not have argued after we issued notice,” the Court remarked before

posting the case for April 29.

The plea by the Delhi Chief Minister before the apex court was filed after the Delhi High Court had recently dismissed his plea in connection with the matter, and opined that there was evidence to show that Kejriwal’s involvement in the scam.

Further, it had said that the money received as kickbacks was used for political campaigning in the 2022 Goa legislative assembly elections.

**New case filed against T.N. BJP president Annamalai**

Chennai, April 15 2024: Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai and about 300 party cadres were booked under sections 143 (unlawful assembly) and 341 (wrongful restraint) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) by the Sullur police in Coimbatore late on

Sunday (April 14, 2024) night, after they staged a protest at Ondipudur, against the obstruction of their convoy along a previously permitted route, by the police.

This is the second case registered against the BJP leader in

Coimbatore over the past week -- three days ago, a case was registered against him by the Peelamedu police under the same two sections along with section 290 (causing public nuisance).

The police reportedly stopped the convoy at around 10.30



p.m. on Sunday, on the grounds that the

permitted time for campaigning concluded at 10 p.m. and directed them to go along an alternative route. However, Mr. Annamalai maintained that he was not campaigning, but only greeting people en route, with the lights of his vehicle switched

off. The stand-off had caused a traffic jam along the route. In a social media post after the incident, Annamalai said the “excesses of the DMK government had gone beyond all limits, as they stopped

our campaign vehicle yet again today for flimsy reasons...The draconian DMK government will face the people’s wrath when Coimbatore will unanimously cast its vote on April 19, disapproving of the three years of misgovernance.”

**TRAI recommendations to help startups develop India-made products: Industry body**

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Chennai, April 15 Monday.

The latest recommendations by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on ‘Regulatory Sandbox’ would assist startups and entrepreneurs in building indigenous solutions and products, facilitate the development of new original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and boost investments, the Broadband India Forum (BIF) said on Monday.

In light of fast developments in technologies like 5G/6G, AI, Virtual Reality and others, the TRAI last week released recommendations to boost live testing of such innovative use cases and strengthen digital transformation and broadband proliferation in the country.

“This is perhaps the first such measure in decades and will greatly augment the startup and MSME ecosystem through the entry of credible new local players, thereby enhancing both competition and technological innovation, while also attracting investments,” said TV Ramachandran, President, BIF.

The recommendations would help build world-class products and solutions from India for the world.

According to the BIF, permission for carrying out testing in live networks will allow the startup ecosystem to test the reliability of their indigenously developed products and solutions, and suitably tweak them to make them more mature and readier for adoption by operators in the commercial networks.

The recommendations would also act as a catalyst for bringing new technologies into the industry, which would promote innovation and the creation of new Intellectual Property Rights.

“Besides, cutting down costs significantly, the recommendations, when implemented, would also help draw investments into the overall network services ecosystem,” the BIF stated.

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## Navya2k24 at Rashtriya Raksha University exudes cultural extravaganza



Chennai April 15 2024: The Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, recently organized a vibrant and engaging two-day cultural feast named Navya2k24. The event commenced on April 8, 2024, and concluded on April 9, 2024. It was a student-driven initiative that showcased various cultural activities, bringing together students, faculty members, and staff in a celebration of diversity and talent.

### Event Highlights:

**No-flame cooking:** Participants demonstrated their culinary skills without the use of fire.

**Treasure Hunt:** An exciting game that involved participants searching for hidden treasures.

**E - Sports:** competitive gaming activities that engaged tech-savvy participants.

**Raksha Samwad:** Debate Competition: A Platform for Intellectual

Discourse and the Exchange of Ideas.

**Mr. and Miss RRU Competition:** A contest to showcase personality and talent.

**Pithoo** is a traditional Indian game involving skill and teamwork.

**Blindfold Matka Phodo Challenge:** A challenging activity that tested participants' coordination and communication.

**Tug of War:** A classic team sport that promotes unity and strength.

**Musical Chair:** A fun-filled game that combines music and movement.

**Lemon on Spoon Balance Race:** An entertaining race requiring balance and agility.

The event was organized by different student clubs consisting 100+ students, led by Prof. Kalpesh H Wandra, Pro Vice Chancellor & Pavan Soni, Deputy Registrar within the university, each dedicated to specific activities.

Participants from these clubs came together to plan and execute Navya2k24 successfully.

The grand finale of the event was the DJ Night & band performance where all participants enthusiastically joined in the celebration, creating lasting memories and fostering a sense of community within Rashtriya Raksha University.

The Vice-Chancellor of Rashtriya Raksha University encouraged students to organize more large-scale events like Navya2k24 in the future. He emphasized the importance of learning essential skills such as crowd management, fund management, media engagement, and event planning, among others, through such initiatives. The Vice-Chancellor highlighted that participating in organizing such events can significantly contribute to the holistic growth and development of the

students.

Furthermore, this cultural programme at Rashtriya Raksha University also helped in enhancing the overall educational experience of the students by offering them a chance to explore their creativity beyond academics. It encouraged teamwork, collaboration, and leadership skills among participants while fostering a sense of pride in their cultural heritage. The event likely left a lasting impact on both the performers and the audience by promoting cultural awareness and celebrating the rich tapestry of traditions present within the university community.

Looking ahead, Rashtriya Raksha University is gearing up to host a mega-annual event in next academic year. This forthcoming event aims to further enhance the university's cultural landscape and provide students with valuable opportunities for growth and learning.

## NIT Puducherry students launch app for Karaikal citizens

Chennai April 15 2024: Department of Computer Science and Engineering, NIT Puducherry had organized the launching of new app called "Karai Kavalan" for the Karaikal citizens on 12/04/2024 at Ki Raa Auditorium, NIT Puducherry. The app is designed specifically for the upcoming election in mind. The citizen of Karaikal can anonymously report any misconduct to their nearest police station through the app instantly with photo. Complainant can check the status of the reported case in real time on the app.

The app was launched in the presence of Dr. Usha Natesan, Director, NIT Puducherry, the chief guest Shri. Manish, IPS, SSP, Karaikal, Dr. S Sundaravarathan, Registrar, NIT Puducherry, Guest of honors Shri. A Subramanian, SP Karaikal South, and Shri. Balachandar, SP Karaikal North, Dr. Anuman Mahapatra,



Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Cyber Crime Division, Karaikal, Officials of Karaikal, Faculty, Staffs and Students of NIT Puducherry.

Dr. Anuman Mahapatra, HoD, Department of CSE, NIT Puducherry welcomed the gathering and gave an overview of the new Karai Kavalan app. The developers of the app, Mr. Vikram and Mr. Priyadarshan from third year B.Tech., Department of Computer Science and Engineering, NIT Puducherry explained

the features of the app to the gathering.

Dr. Usha Natesan, Director, NIT Puducherry congratulated the student developers and informed them that the app will be very beneficial for the Karaikal public, as it is very easy to report of any illegal activities. Shri. Manish, IPS, SSP, Karaikal praised the simplicity of the app and express gratitude to the NIT Puducherry student developers for developing and launching the app within a short span of time and before election. Shri. A

Subramanian, SP Karaikal South, and Shri. Balachandar, SP Karaikal North highlighted the benefit of the app from the police administration side. The app will help the police administration rapidly to act on the complaints.

The student developers of the app, Mr. Vikram and Mr. Priyadarshan was felicitated by Shri. Manish, IPS, SSP, Karaikal. Finally, Dr. Sanjay Bankapur, Assistant Professor, Department of CSE thanked everyone for joining the app launch event.

## GENERAL MANOJ PANDE, CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF EMBARKS ON A VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Chennai April 15 2024: General Manoj Pande, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), departed on a visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan from 15th to 18th April 2024, marking a significant step in bolstering the defence cooperation between India and Republic of Uzbekistan.

On 15th April 2024, General Manoj Pande will engage in dialogues with the top defence leadership of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The meetings are planned with Lieutenant General Bakhodir Kurbanov, the Defence Minister of Uzbekistan; Major General Khalmukhamedov Shukhrat Gayratjanovich, the First Deputy Minister of Defence and Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces; and Major General Burkhanov Ahmed Jamalovich, the Deputy Minister and Chief of Air and Air Defence Forces. These dialogues are pivotal in



fostering stronger military cooperation. The itinerary also includes a visit to the Armed Forces Museum followed by a tour of the Hast Imam Ensemble, offering insights into the rich military history and achievements of Uzbekistan.

On 16th April 2024, the COAS will pay homage to Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the second Prime Minister of India, by laying a wreath at his monument. Thereafter, he will visit the Victory Park, commemorating Uzbekistan's contributions and sacrifices in the Second World War. The engagements on the day will encompass a

visit to the Centre for Innovative Technologies LLC, where the COAS will get an insight into initiatives being undertaken by the Republic of Uzbekistan in defence technology and innovations. General Manoj Pande will thereafter visit the Uzbekistan Armed Forces Academy and inaugurate IT lab at the academy, established with India's assistance.

Travelling to Samarkand on 17th April 2024, General Pande will meet Commander of the Central Military District. The visit will culminate in Termez, on 18th April 2024, where the COAS is also scheduled to witness

the Joint Exercise DUSTLIK between the armed forces of India and Uzbekistan, highlighting the interoperability and camaraderie developed between the two countries. He will also visit the Termez Museum and the historical monuments of the Surkhandarya Region, beholding a first-hand account of Uzbekistan's glorious past and cultural landscapes.

The visit by General Manoj Pande aims at strengthening military cooperation between India and Uzbekistan besides exploring new avenues of collaboration between the two nations.

Chennai April 15 2024: With General Elections 2024 underway, ECI is on track for the highest ever seizures of inducements recorded in the 75-year history of Lok Sabha elections in the country. Enforcement Agencies have made a record seizure of over Rs. 4650 crores in ECI's resolute fight against money power even before the first phase of polling for the 18th Lok Sabha elections commences on Friday. This marks a sharp increase over Rs 3475 crores seized during the entire Lok Sabha election in 2019. Significantly, 45% of the seizures are of drugs and narcotics, that are under the special focus of the Commission. The seizures have been possible by comprehensive planning, scaled up collaboration and unified deterrence action from agencies, proactive citizen participation and optimal engagement of technology.

Use of black money, over and above political financing and accurate disclosure thereof, may disturb the level playing field in favour

## With General Elections 2024 underway, ECI is on track for the highest ever seizures of inducements recorded in the 75-year history of Lok Sabha elections in the country



of more resourceful party or candidate in specific geographies. The seizures are a critical part of ECI resolve to conduct the Lok Sabha elections free of inducements and electoral malpractices and to ensure a level playing field. CEC Shri Rajiv Kumar, while announcing the polls last month, underlined Money Power as one of the '4M' challenges. On 12th April, Commission led by CEC Shri Rajiv Kumar along with ECs Shri Gyanesh Kumar and Shri Sukhbir Singh Sandhu reviewed all Central Observers deployed in Phase -1 of elections going to poll on 19th April. Tightening, monitoring and checking were amongst the focus of deliberations to ensure inducement-free electoral process.

The enhanced seizures reflect ECI's

unwavering commitment to monitor inducements and curb electoral malpractices for a 'level playing field', particularly in favour of smaller and less resourceful parties.

In an incident in Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, the Commission suspended the flying squad team leader for laxity in duty and selective checking of a cavalcade of a prominent leader. Similarly, officials checked vehicles in the convoy of CM of a state and also vehicle of a Dy CM in another state. Commission has also taken strict action against approximately 106 government servants who have been found assisting politicians in campaigning, thereby violating the Code of Conduct and instructions.

In the press briefing during announcement

of Parliamentary elections, CEC Shri Rajiv Kumar stressed in his presentation on strict compliance of BCAS instructions on surveillance and inspection of non-scheduled aircrafts and helicopters by Income tax, airport authorities and SPs of concerned districts, border agencies to keep close watch on international checkpoints and GST authorities to closely monitor godowns, especially makeshift godowns meant for storing freebies. The Commission during reviews had always emphasized that there will be multi-pronged surveillance on all modes of transport - check posts and nakas for road transport, Coast guard for coastal routes and DMs and SPs alongside agencies for air routes including checking of helicopters and non-scheduled flights.

## INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT DEPARTS FOR INDIA-UZBEKISTAN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE DUSTLIK

Chennai April 15 2024: The Indian Army contingent departed today for the 5th edition of India-Uzbekistan joint military Exercise DUSTLIK. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 15th to 28th April 2024 at Termez, the Republic of Uzbekistan. Exercise DUSTLIK is a yearly event conducted alternatively in India and Uzbekistan. Last edition was conducted at Pithoragarh (India) in February 2023.

The Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 60 personnel is being represented by 45 personnel from the Indian Army, majorly from a Battalion of the JAT Regiment, and 15 personnel from the Indian Air Force. The Uzbekistan contingent comprising approximately 100 personnel, from Uzbekistan Army and Air Force, will be represented by personnel from Southern Operational Command, part of



South-West Military District.

Aim of Exercise DUSTLIK is to foster military cooperation and enhance combined capabilities to execute joint operations in mountainous as well as semi urban terrain. It would focus on high degree of physical fitness, joint planning, joint tactical drills and basics of special arms skills.

Tactical drills to be practiced during the exercise will include creation of a Joint Command Post, establishing an Intelligence & Surveillance Centre,

securing of landing site, Small Team Insertion & Extraction, Special Heliborne Operations, Cordon and Search Operations, Room Intervention Drills and Demolition of illegal structures.

The complexity of this edition of Exercise DUSTLIK has been enhanced with conduct of multi domain operations as the contingent comprises of personnel from combat support arms and services besides Infantry. Two Women Officers also form part of the IA contingent, including one from the Regiment of Artillery

and the second from the Army Medical Corps.

Exercise 'DUSTLIK' will enable the two sides to share their best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures of conducting joint operations. The Exercise will facilitate developing interoperability, bonhomie and camaraderie between soldiers of both the countries. This will also enhance the level of defence cooperation, further fostering bilateral relations between the two friendly nations.

## "Country as a whole most likely to receive above normal rainfall during the Southwest Monsoon season" says Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences

Chennai, April 15 2024: Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr M. Ravichandran told the media today that the country as a whole is likely to receive above normal rainfall during the south west monsoon from June to September 2024.

Briefing the media about the summary of the 2024 Southwest Monsoon Season Rainfall today in a press conference held at National Media Centre, New Delhi, he said there will be 106% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of  $\pm 5\%$ . The LPA of the season rainfall over the country as a whole is 87 cm based on data of 1971-2020.

Dr. M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences

Dr. Ravichandran said, the forecast is based on both dynamical and statistical models, and it suggests above normal rainfall is likely over most part of the country except some areas of Northwest, East and Northeast India, where below normal rainfall is likely. He told media that the expected La Nina, positive IOD and below normal snow cover over northern hemisphere would be favourable for rainfall during southwest monsoon season 2024.

Giving a detailed presentation DG, IMD, Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that currently, moderate El Niño conditions are prevailing over the equatorial Pacific region and the Climate model forecasts indicate neutral condition by the beginning of monsoon season and La Niña conditions during second half of monsoon season.



Dr. M. Mohapatra, D G , Indian Meteorological Department

He also informed the media that at present neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are prevailing and Climate model forecast indicate positive IOD conditions likely to develop during the monsoon season.

He added that since Sea Surface temperature conditions over the pacific and the Indian Ocean are known to have a strong influence on the Indian Monsoon, IMD is carefully monitoring the evolution of sea surface conditions over these ocean basins.

Dr Mohapatra further said that Northern hemisphere snow cover extent during the last three months (January to March 2024) was below normal which indicates above rainfall this monsoon season. Winter and spring snow cover extent over Northern Hemisphere as well as Eurasia has a generally inverse relationship with the subsequent monsoon season rainfall. He said, IMD will issue the updated forecasts for monsoon season rainfall in the last week of May 2024.

Probability forecasts for the Seasonal (Jun to Sep, 2024) rainfall over country as a whole is given below in table:

Probabilistic rainfall forecast for monsoon season (June – September), 2024

Fig.1. Probability forecast of tercile distribution of probabilistic forecasts of rainfall for second

half (August-September) of the season is issued around end of July along with forecast for August.

Summary of the Forecast of Rainfall during Southwest Monsoon Season, 2024 is as follows:

The rainfall over the country as a whole during monsoon season (June to September) is very likely to be above normal (>106% of the Long Period Average (LPA)).

Quantitatively, the seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole is likely to be 106% of LPA with a model error of  $\pm 5\%$ .

The LPA of the season rainfall over the country as a whole is 87 cm based on data of 1971-2020.

Currently, moderate El Niño conditions are prevailing over the equatorial Pacific region. Climate model forecasts indicate neutral condition by the beginning of monsoon season and La Niña conditions during second half of monsoon season.

Currently, neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are prevailing. Climate model forecasts indicate positive IOD conditions likely to develop during the monsoon season.

Northern hemisphere snow cover extent during the last three months (January to March 2024) was below normal. Winter and spring snow cover extent over Northern Hemisphere as well as Eurasia has a generally inverse relationship with the subsequent monsoon season rainfall.

IMD will issue the updated forecasts for monsoon season rainfall in the last week of May 2024.

## Promote the spirit of economic nationalism; be vocal for local – Vice President to IRS officers

Chennai, April 15 2024: The Vice-President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar today urged the officers of Income Tax Department to promote the spirit of economic nationalism suggesting that this would bring rich dividends to Indian economy and society.

Addressing the valedictory of 76th Batch of the Indian Revenue Service at the National Academy of Direct Taxes (NADT) in Nagpur today, VP asked the young officers to be vocal for local. "You will be interfacing with business community. You can imbibe in them a spirit of nationalism," he told them while elaborating that it would bring three major benefits to country- first, foreign exchange will not be drained out due to avoidable imports, second, employment will be generated for our youth and third, entrepreneurship will take a big jump in the country.

Praising the increasing digitalisation of tax administration in India and transparency measures such as the Faceless E-Assessment system, VP said that it has introduced anonymity in tax regime and is living up to its objective of 'honouring the honest'. A society that



honours the honest and does not reward the dishonest is a society that is stable for peace, harmony and growth, he added.

Describing the cash handling as a menace, Shri Dhankhar noted that technology also discourages the informal handling of cash, which is extremely damaging to society. Lauding these steps for bringing unprecedented transparency and accountability within the system now, he said that this aligns with the new norm of zero-tolerance to corruption in Bharat today. Power corridors have been duly neutralized of corrupt elements and corruption is no longer a passport to opportunity, it is sure passage to jail, he asserted.

Referring to India's rise as the fastest growing major economy in the world, the Vice President said that this is a different Bharat and we

are defining global discourse today. Referring to certain individuals casting doubts over India's growth trajectory, he remarked, "There are skeptics outside and inside, trying to occupy public space. My message to them - step out of 'bubble' to experience the environment of hope & possibility." VP also added that such individuals will be enlightened once they get out of that bubble and if they don't, it is the duty of citizens to "burst the bubble."

Shri Dhankhar also advised the passing our officers to use counseling and persuasion to instill in people a sense that "the surest passage to success is to be tax compliant and law abiding" whereas shortcuts will lead to a painful route.

Praising the Indian Revenue Service's pivotal role as the custodian of our taxation

system, VP asked them to "empower taxpayers with information, foster trust through transparency, uphold the highest standards of integrity in your professional conduct." Describing civil servants as the natural role models for the youth, he told the young officers that "you are required to exemplify by conduct discipline, integrity, humility, ethics and sense of commitment. You must be inspirational and motivational for young minds all over the country."

Shri Ramesh Bais, Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Nitin Gupta, CDBT Chairman, Shri Seemanchal Das, Principal Director General Training, Shri P.C. Mody, Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, Shri Anand Baiwar, Director General of Income Tax Training and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

## Auction for Sale (issuel re-issue) of (i) '7.37% GS 2028' and (ii) 'New GS 2064'

Chennai, April 15 2024: The Government of India (GoI) has announced the sale (issue/ re-issue) of (i) "7.37% Government Security 2028" for a notified amount of Rs. 12,000 crore (nominal) through price based auction using multiple price method, and (ii) "New Government Security 2064" for a notified amount of Rs. 12,000 crore (nominal) through yield based auction using multiple price method. GoI will have the option to

retain additional subscription up to Rs. 2,000 crore against each security mentioned above. The auctions will be conducted by the Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai Office, Fort, Mumbai on April 19, 2024 (Friday).

Up to 5% of the notified amount of the sale of the securities will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions as per the Scheme for Non-Competitive Bidding Facility in the Auction of Government

Securities.

Both competitive and non-competitive bids for the auction should be submitted in electronic format on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system on April 19, 2024. The non-competitive bids should be submitted between 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and the competitive bids should be submitted between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

The result of the

auctions will be announced on April 19, 2024 (Friday) and payment by successful bidders will be on April 22, 2024 (Monday).

The Securities will be eligible for "When Issued" trading in accordance with the guidelines on 'When Issued transactions in Central Government Securities' issued by the Reserve Bank of India vide circular No. RBI/2018-19/25 dated July 24, 2018 as amended from time to time.

## Thermax Unveils Its State-of-the-Art Manufacturing Factory for Water and Wastewater Solutions in Pune

Chennai, April 15 2024: Thermax, a leading provider of energy and environment solutions, today announced the opening of its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Pune for water and wastewater treatment solutions. This marks a significant step aligned with Thermax's broader mission of conserving resources and preserving the future.

The new facility that is spread across two acres embodies Thermax's dedication to excellence and engineering, driven by innovation, quality, and customer-centricity. Thermax's Water and Waste Solutions business, in recent years, has expanded significantly to include not only Reverse Osmosis (RO) and Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) but also Effluent Recycling Systems (ERS) and Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) solutions. In addition to these, the plant will also implement and cater to Thermax's new technologies to offer softener and filter vessels, tubular membrane modules, and Capacitive Deionisation (CDI) solution. The new facility can be scaled to double its capacity.

The factory will



integrate advanced production techniques and high levels of automation to enhance production efficiency and output while minimising waste. Securing its supply chain, the plant will be supported by nearly 1,000 vendors from Maharashtra and across the country. The facility will also host a remote monitoring setup based on Thermax's Edge Live® digital solution.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the new water and wastewater solutions facility, Ashish Bhandari, MD and CEO of Thermax, stated, "At Thermax, we are making significant strides towards becoming a trusted partner in energy transition and environmental stewardship. Establishing a world-class manufacturing facility for water and wastewater solutions reflects our relentless pursuit of setting higher benchmarks in providing clean

treatment and conservation products/systems that will be manufactured and assembled at the new plant. Thermax Water and Waste Solutions division's innovative manufacturing line and products are poised to serve various sectors, including industrial, commercial, and residential applications ranging from water treatment, effluent treatment, and sewage treatment to reverse osmosis (RO).

Being a pioneer and advocate of clean air, clean energy, and clean water solutions, Thermax's new factory operates entirely on solar energy and features a robust rainwater harvesting infrastructure. The facility not only complies with IGBC regulations but also underscores Thermax's commitment to green solutions throughout its operations.

With the opening of its first water and wastewater equipment manufacturing facility, Thermax remains steadfast in its mission to provide advanced solutions to customers that not only enhance water quality but also contribute to sustaining the blue, ensuring a healthier environment for all.

The factory was inaugurated in the presence of industry experts, customers, and other stakeholders. The inauguration ceremony featured insightful presentations, guided tours of the facility, and interactive demonstrations showcasing the advanced features and capabilities of the water

## Hazoor Multi Projects Ltd. Board Approves Rs. 4860 Mn Fund Raise Through Preferential Issue

Chennai, April 15 2024: Hazoor Multi Projects Ltd. a leader in Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contracting services, has announced that its board has approved a fund raise of Rs. 4860 Mn through preferential issue of fully convertible warrants, at an issue price of Rs. 300 per warrant, subject to necessary member and statutory approvals. The proposed allottees include FIIs and other investors from non-promoter group. The board also approved the increase in authorized share capital and the constitution of a fund raising committee.

Hazoor Multi Projects Ltd. stands at the forefront of India's rapidly evolving infrastructure landscape, having strategically ventured into the development of a business vertical dedicated to providing high-quality and

reliable Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contracting services. Responding to the escalating demand in the nation-building process, HMPL has swiftly emerged as a key player in the industry.

Over the past few years, HMPL has achieved remarkable milestones by successfully undertaking leading projects for the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), utilizing both EPC and Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) execution methods. Notably, the

successful completion of the Wakan Pali highway in 2019, despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, marked a pivotal moment for HMPL. The company further solidified its presence by taking on Package 11 of the prestigious Samruddhi Expressway and contributing to the NH 48 highway project, demonstrating a commitment to excellence in project execution.

The journey thus far has been characterized by HMPL's ability to forge successful partnerships, essential

for the triumph of the projects undertaken. A robust management team, proficient in both technical and commercial aspects, has been instrumental in steering the company toward consistent growth and success. The foundation of HMPL was built on a commitment to meeting timely schedules, maintaining high-quality standards, and prioritizing safety principles that have guided every endeavor.

Recognizing the importance of collaboration, HMPL has successfully synergized commercial and technical capabilities to deliver the best value services to key clients, including MSRDC and the National Highway Authority (NHA). In just four years, HMPL has cultivated a highly satisfied client base within the country's highway building program.

## IIT Roorkee Hosts the Indo-Europe Heritage Network General Assembly 2024

Chennai, April 15 2024: The IIT Roorkee hosted the Heritage Network General Assembly Meeting 2024 during April 8-11, 2024, with the participation of Heritage Network member universities from Europe & India.

Heritage Network is the first network between India and Europe for education and research cooperation in various disciplines, supported by more than 30 leading technical higher education institutions that are involved in collaboration through their research and academic activities that address common priorities of national interest and the well-being of society.

The Heritage Network aims to strengthen Higher Education Cooperation (research and training), and develop academic and research exchanges between partner institutions, and foster high-level educational programs in Engineering, Sciences, Design, and Technology between Europe and India. The Network also organizes workshops regularly on scientific and technical topics of mutual interest. The theme of the General Assembly for the year 2024 was "Sustainability: Teaching, Research, and Innovation".

The members include 13 premier universities from 10 European countries and 16 Indian



institutes. From the European side members of the network include Ecole Centrale de Nantes (France), TU Dresden (Germany), TU Dublin (Ireland), Warsaw University of Technology (Poland), Universidad Politécnica de Sevilla (Spain), Royal Institute of Technology/ KTH (Sweden), Politecnico di Milano, University of Genoa (Italy), Instituto Superior Técnico (Portugal), UPC, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium), CTU (Czech Republic), TalTech (Estonia). From the Indian side members are IIT Roorkee, IIT Madras, IIT-ISM Dhanbad, IIT Indore, IIT Kanpur, IIT Bombay, IIT Bhubaneswar, IIT Tirupati, NIT Karnataka, IISc, IIT Guwahati, IIT Ropar, IIT Hyderabad, NIT Rourkela, and NIT Warangal. All the universities were represented by senior administrators and policymakers of these universities.

The inaugural session was attended by Dr. Fabien Chareix (Science and Higher Education Attaché, French Institute in India), and Prof. K.K. Pant (Director, IIT

Roorkee). Prof. Raghunath Rengaswamy (President, Heritage Network), Dr. Teresa Zielinska (Vice-President, Heritage Network) and host Prof. Vimal C Srivastava (Dean, International Relations, IIT Roorkee) along with Heritage members.

During the two-day meeting sessions, apart from discussing international cooperation and thematic topics, the General Assembly meeting witnessed the transfer of leadership roles for president & vice-president of Heritage Network, due to after-completion of terms. Prof. Teresa Zielinska, Warsaw University of Technology, Poland was elected as the President of Heritage Network, and Prof. Vimal C Srivastava, IIT Roorkee was elected as the Vice-President of the Heritage Network. The success of the Network was evident with many European institutions applying for membership.

Prof. K.K. Pant, Director, IIT Roorkee stated "In the current era of global education and research, there is a need

for having increased bi-and multi-lateral academic programs and research collaborations. Thus, the Indo-Europe Heritage network can play a critical role in this endeavour."

The newly elected President (HN), Prof. Teresa Zielinska stated that "I have witnessed, promoted & initiated multiple avenues of cooperations between European & Indian institutions since the inception of the Heritage Network and will strive to make it more successful with more tangible outcomes".

Prof. Srivastava, Vice-President (HN) elect, after successfully hosting the GA meeting, stated that "with enthusiastic participation and support of member institutions, I am sure the Network will grow to serve the institutions with respect to successful academic and research collaborations, enhance faculty and student exchange, and help in receiving multilateral grant from various funding agencies".

During the meeting, the European & Indian member institutions discussed strengthening their existing collaborations and proposed enhancing network-related activities. This meeting also witnessed the significant leadership role of IIT Roorkee in the partnership between Indian & European engineering institutions.

## IIT Madras launches India's first mobile Medical Devices Calibration Facility

Chennai, 15 April 2024: Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has launched India's First 'medical devices calibration facility on wheels'. This has been developed by IIT Madras under its 'Anaivarukku IITM' (IITM for all) Initiatives.

Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, launched this facility at the campus today (15th April 2024) in the presence of Prof. R. Sarathi, Dean (Planning), Prof. M. Anbarasu (Head, CEC), Prof. S. Ramakrishnan, faculty and students.

Highlighting the importance of this initiative, Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, "Proper Diagnosis and treatment are extremely important and for that the medical devices need to be calibrated accurately and frequently. With escalating cost for calibration this effort



not only reduces the cost of calibration but also the transportation cost and time required. This is a progressive step towards affordable, scalable, quality health care for all."

Maintenance and quality assurance of life-saving medical devices are of paramount importance for healthcare delivery. Calibration is crucial as it ensures the accuracy of medical instruments for precise disease diagnosis and

effectiveness. This facility is first-of-its-kind in India and is geared towards providing an affordable quality calibration facility and enabling accurate disease diagnosis and treatment.

This mobile facility will ensure pervasive quality healthcare irrespective of geographical locations across the country. This will help to test and maintain medical devices that are used in

wide range of hospitals including those in villages at their doorsteps.

This initiative boosts the United National Sustainable Development Goal 3, which calls for Health and well-being for all.

The infrastructure available in this mobile unit include state-of-the-art equipment to test the safety of medical devices and their functionalities as per international standards.