

COP, visited 3 vote counting centers in Chennai and inspected the security arrangements with police officials

Chennai, April 20 2024: Yesterday (19.04.2024) Parliamentary Election-2024 was held in Tamil Nadu. The Electroning Voting Machines (EVMs) belonging to 3 parliamentary constituencies North Chennai, Central Chennai and South Chennai in Greater



Chennai Police area were taken safely by police with and kept safe in 3 vote counting centers namely Queen Mary's College, Loyola College and Anna University. On the direction of Commissioner of Police, GCP 4 layers of strong police security arrangements have been made in the above Reserve (AR) in the 3rd layer and Greater Chennai Police Law of Additional Commissioners, Joint Commissioners & Deputy Commissioners of Police. Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) in the first layer, Tamilnadu Special Police (TSP) in the 2nd layer, Greater Chennai Police Armed

Peaceful polling, no untoward incidents reported: Commissioner Rathore

Chennai, April 20 2024: The polling was peaceful and no untoward incident was reported, said the Greater Chennai Police (GCP) Commissioner Sandeep Rai Rathore. Talking to mediapersons, he said the three Lok Sabha constituencies in Chennai district and a few Assembly segments from Tiruvallur and Chengalpattu districts altogether 24 came under the jurisdiction of the GCP. Rathore said: "No law and order issue reported was reported. Everything proceeded smoothly and peacefully."



Police, GCP visited 3 vote counting centers Queen Mary's College, Anna University and Loyola College and inspected the security arrangements along with police officers and also consulted and advised the police officers about security arrangements and precautionary measures. Today (20.04.2024) morning, Tr.Sandeep Rai Rathore, IPS, Commissioner of Police, GCP visited 3 vote counting centers Loyola College, Anna University, and Queen Mary's college. He added that the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) would guard the inner area of counting centres, while the Tamil Nadu Special Police and the Armed Reserve Police would guard the outer perimeter. With the local police personnel deployed outside the premises of counting centres, the four-layer security arrangement will be in place for 45 days until counting day.

India must continue reforms for sustained growth and Investments: IMF



Chennai, April 20 2024: India is on a sustained growth path driven by consumption and public investments, India's economic performance stands out against a backdrop of global uncertainties said Krishna Srinivasan IMF Director, Asia and Pacific Department in an Exclusive interview to ANI. "Growth at 6.8% in 2024-25 is an impressive number. And this is largely led by private consumption and public investment" said Srinivasan. Srinivasan says India has successfully navigated from the multiple shocks in the past starting from pandemic to recent tensions in gulf. While acknowledging India's growth potential, he also underscored the need for reforms in India to fully capitalize on demographic advantages. Emphasizing significant investment in education, healthcare, and business environment, he highlighted the imperative of collective efforts of centre and states to ensure India realizes its economic potential. "I would highlight now, India is a young growing population we are likely to add about 15 million people to the labour force every year. This if you want to benefit from this demographic change, you will need lots of reforms. I think in particular, I would emphasize the need for significant investment in education, healthcare, so that this growing labour force can contribute productively to the economy" he said. He further added "I think India also needs to liberalize its trade regime to remove

restrictions so that firms can compete. Well. You have to make the environment more attractive for FDI". Srinivasan also stressed the importance of reforms in India to sustain growth rates comparable to or even surpassing China's. He acknowledged India's status as the fastest-growing economy, outpacing China, albeit with the recognition of China's significantly larger scale. "China is more than four times bigger than India. Medium term good prospects for India are pretty good at 6.5%. It can do better than that. But all it impinges on the reforms India pursues. If it can get hearts and minds together and embark on reforms, then India could get the 6.5% or more over the next several years," he said.

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Aari Arjunan, CV Kumar & Erode Mahesh launch "Oru Nodi" Audio !!

Chennai, April 20 2024: Director P. Manivarma's film 'Oru Nodi' features Thamankumar, M.S. Bhaskar, Vela Ramamurthy, Pal. Karuppaiya, Sri Ranjani, and Kajiraj. K.G. Rathiish is handling the cinematography for this film, while Sanjay Manickam is composing the music. Produced by Madurai Azhagar Movies G. Azhagar and K.G. Satheesh of White Lamp Pictures, renowned distributor G. Dhananjayan of Creative Entertainers and Distributors will release this film.

While the film's worldwide theatrical release is scheduled for this month end, the audio launch was held recently in Chennai, which witnessed the presence of film's cast, crew members along with special guest including Bigg Boss fame Aari Arjunan, the producer, director C. V. Kumar, and the actor, speaker Erode Mahesh, who worked in the film, also attended as special guests and launched the audio.

Here are some excerpts from the event!

Director Manivarman said, "I would like to extend my gratitude to all those who are in attendance for this special occasion. I want to express my appreciation to each member of the team who has provided unwavering support throughout the promotional events, much like during the shooting phase. When seeking out opportunities, our perception by others may change. However, Azhagar, the producer, placed his trust in me and

granted me the opportunity to direct this film. I am truly grateful to him for that. The storyline of this film was initially shared with Ratheesh, the cinematographer, who upon hearing it, expressed interest in collaborating on this project. Ratheesh also serves as the co-producer of this film. Due to the limited budget of the film, the producer graciously provided me with the requested resources without any coercion. Throughout the filming process in Madurai, he wholeheartedly supported the project despite numerous challenges. Once the shooting concluded and dubbing commenced, I approached Cable Shankar to lend his voice for a character. After watching the film, he expressed admiration for it. Additionally, he introduced Dhananjayan, a prominent figure in Tamil cinema, to the film. It is primarily due to Cable Shankar and Dhananjayan that this movie has gained such widespread recognition today. I am immensely grateful to both of them for their invaluable contributions."

Cinematographer-Co-Producer G.K. Satheesh said, "Oru Nodi marks the debut production of White Lamp Productions. Cable Shankar and G. Dhananjayan are the driving forces behind the success of this film. When questioned by my friends about the motivation behind producing this film, my response always remains the same: 'I would do anything for my friend.'"



Music Director Sanjay Manickam expressed his gratitude towards the director and producer for entrusting him with the opportunity. Throughout the film's production, the director and cinematographer provided guidance from both sides. Once the director completed writing the film's story, he shared the entire narrative with me. Initially hesitant, I was encouraged by his words, "I have faith in your ability. Work bravely. Composing the soundtrack for the film was an incredible experience. It was a first time we had the opportunity to create music for a two-and-a-half-hour film, and the thought of it was exhilarating. The director played a crucial role in guiding me through every scene, and I am truly grateful for their support. I would like to express my special thanks to the director for their invaluable guidance. In this film, there are three songs, all of which have been beautifully sung by the talented Satya Prakash, my friend Varun Chandrasekaran, and myself. We also collaborated with the band from my college, working together seamlessly to bring the music to life for the film."

Producer Azhagar G said, "I commenced my

work on this project at the esteemed Meenakshi Amman temple in Madurai. Director Manivarman has skillfully helmed this film. Cinematographer KG Ratheesh has also executed his duties commendably. Dhananjayan has led us and our team to remarkable achievements. On behalf of our 'Oru Nod' film team, I express my gratitude to him."

Actor Thaman Kumar said, "We may have generously assisted numerous individuals we encountered throughout our lives, unaware of their true motives for utilizing us for their own benefit. Eventually, we would uncover their intentions at some point. Many of us have likely experienced such situations and individuals. Such occurrences are prevalent in both cinema and various aspects of life. I may have overlooked those who took advantage of me in the past, but I have always remembered those who offered their support. Among them, Erode Mahesh stands out as the individual who provided me with the most assistance. To be honest, without his help, I would not have been a part of the film industry for the past decade or so.

I am currently content as I have had the

opportunity to act in Oru Nodi. I have appeared in numerous films, some of which have achieved moderate success while others remain unreleased. Throughout this journey, journalists like yourselves have supported and motivated me. I express my gratitude to you all at this juncture. The producer is the greatest asset of this film. Skilled actors are always seeking opportunities to display their abilities, and it is the producer who can provide the necessary investment and support to nurture talented artists and actors. Mani Varman sir trusted and encouraged people like us to explore our potential through this movie. Only producer like Azhagar has the ability to bring this vision to life, and I express my gratitude towards him for this opportunity. Despite facing numerous challenges and pressures during the filming process, the producer handled them with ease and successfully completed the movie. Initially, he kept his filmmaking endeavors a secret from his family and discreetly shot the film in his hometown without anyone's knowledge. KG Ratheesh played a crucial role in the making of this film. In addition to his role as the cinematographer, he also served as a co-

producer. His dedication and contribution to the project are truly remarkable. His meticulous planning ensured that all scenes were captured as intended each day. A total of 65 shots were completed daily, thanks to the efficient collaboration between the director and Ratheesh. The entire cast, including the actors and actresses, wholeheartedly supported the production process."

Producer C. V. Kumar mentioned that the collaboration between Hero Thaman Kumar and director Mani five years ago, resulting in the creation of the film 'Kanmani Papa'. This particular movie also achieved significant success. However, due to its failure to reach the intended audience, it did not receive a notable release, ultimately leading to a lack of success. Intrigued and emotionally invested in this project, I eagerly awaited updates on the progress of 'Oru Nodi'. I am pleased to learn that producer G. Dhananjayan, known for his exceptional ability to generate interest, is now overseeing this film. With his Midas touch, I am confident that he will ensure the success of this movie in a unique manner. I extend my best wishes to the entire team.

Actor Aari Arjunan said, "I just saw Twitter now. The release of the movie 'Aranmanai 4' has been scheduled for May 3rd. This means there is no competition for another movie for a week. Only Vishal's movie 'Ratnam' is in the race. I take this opportunity to request everyone to vote. Only this can bring a good change to the society. Both Dhananjayan and C.V. Kumar have been the pillars of Tamil cinema in encouraging young and new talents. During my crucial initial days in the industry, I would be in awe admiring the efficiency of CV Kumar sir in nourishing fresh and unique contents. I would desperately look out if there would be any opportunities from them. They have gone in search of many hard-

working people than me and have exhibited their best potentials. I wish the entire team of 'Oru Nodi' for a grand success."

Producer-Distributor G. Dhananjayan of Creative Entertainers & Distributors, said, "Producer stated that he started this project 'Oru Nodi' at the auspicious backdrop of Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple. I strongly believe that he has a great fortune and success ahead. I also thank Ratheesh for banking his trust upon this movie, and exerting a great hard work for this project. I was invited by Cable Shankar for watching this movie, and I kept writing note points during the screening. Unlike many directors, who don't give up on their ideologies, he accepted to make some modifications. Initially, the film's title was

'Nodi', and he later changed it to 'Oru Nodi' based on my suggestions. Usually, I don't get satisfied at an ease, and would keep suggesting change one after the other. I was keen on editing a 8-minute scene, and without any hesitation, he tweaked the film, and the entire team has done so much improvisations to make sure that the film will appeal to the interests of universal audiences. At the same time, when I finally suggested to make a change, director Manivarman refused and stated that it would completely change the course of this movie. I actually felt his point so precise and meaningful and it was a great lesson to me. Oru Nodi is arriving on April 26 and it will be an engaging movie for you all."

Orator Erode Mahesh said, "Oru Nodi is an important film to the entire team, and my close friend-actor Thaman. He has worked hard to achieve a stature in this industry for past 12 years. I pray that the film shall witness a huge success. I am glad to see my role models and icons like Vela Ramamoorthy and Pazha. Karuppaiah gracing this occasion. The sacrifices made by their families for all the actors in this film are truly commendable. Due to divine grace, the lead actors have performed their roles with great dedication. The distributor, under divine grace, has agreed to produce this film. The distributor, under divine grace, is releasing this film. With the support of the audience and divine grace, I wish this film great success."

Flying Squads dismantled: CEC

Chennai, April 20 2024: The first and single phase of Lok Sabha election in the State of Tamilnadu was smooth and peaceful.

The largely peaceful polling was annotated with technical snags and malfunctioning of electronic voting machines (EVMs) in a few locations, resulting in frayed tempers and delayed voting in the city yesterday in the first phase of LS polls.

Chief Electoral Officer Satyabrata Sahoo said that Flying Squad Teams and Static Surveillance Teams will be dismantled in the state, an announcement that would give much relief to traders, farmers and jewellers. However, the teams will continue



to be stationed in the border areas of the neighbouring states of Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh where elections are not yet over.

Sahoo said polling was peaceful except for a few stray incidents. A very low percentage of EVMs had to be replaced due to technical issues, he said. He said postal ballots are yet to be added to the final count. Stating that

voter turnout increased between 3pm and 6pm.

Asked if repolling would be conducted anywhere, the CEO said it would depend on the reports to be filed by the presiding officers, observers, and political parties.

The three constituencies in Chennai continued their streak of low turnouts, as per the provisional figures released after the polling for the Lok

Sabha election on Friday. Chennai North saw a turnout of 60.13% while Chennai South saw a 54.27% turnout and Chennai Central recorded 53.91%, the lowest in the state. The turnout in all three constituencies showed a decrease from the 2019 elections when Chennai North recorded 64.26%, Chennai South recorded 57.07% and Chennai Central 58.98%.

Overhaul of criminal justice system begins, says CJI

Chennai, April 20 2024: Hailing the enactment of the new criminal justice laws as a watershed moment for society, Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said India is set for a significant overhaul of its criminal justice system.

Speaking at a conference here on 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System', he said the new laws would be successful if "we as citizens adopt them".

The newly enacted laws have transitioned India's legal framework on criminal justice into a new age, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Chandrachud said.

He also said that much-needed



improvements have been introduced to protect the interests of victims and carry out investigation and prosecution of offences efficiently.

"The enactment of these laws by Parliament is a clear indication that India is changing and on the move, and needs new legal instruments to deal with the current challenges," the CJI said.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Attorney General R Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta were also present at the conference.

The newly enacted laws -- the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act -- to completely overhaul the country's

criminal justice system will come into effect from July 1.

However, the provision related to cases of hit-and-run by vehicle drivers would not be implemented immediately.

The three laws got Parliament's approval on December 21 last year and President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent on December 25.

Stone Bench Films & Zee Studios South in association with Invenio Origin present, Hari directorial, Actor Vishal starrer 'Rathnam' press meet

Chennai, April 20 2024: Actor Vishal and director Hari, who previously collaborated on super hit movies 'Thamirabharani' and 'Poojai', have now come together for 'Rathnam'. This high-voltage action flick is being produced by Stone Bench Films Kaarthekeyan Santhanam in association with Zee Studios South. Invenio Origin Alankar Pandian and Kalyan Subramaniam have co-produced this much awaited film. Fans can mark their calendars as 'Rathnam' is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on April 26, 2024. The entire team gathered to meet the press and media fraternity in Chennai Thursday evening, where they shared their experiences from working on this exciting project.

Producer Karthikeyan Santhanam said, "I had never imagined about getting a chance to produce a movie with Vishal sir as hero and Hari sir as director. Vishal was the one who recommended Hari as director for this project. It's a blessing for me to work with these icons. It's a team work made with complete joy and satisfaction. I thank my brother-in-law Karthik Subbaraj and my family for this opportunity."

Invenio Origin's Alankar Pandian said,

"It's a honour to be collaborating with Stone Bench for the second time after 'Jigarhanda Double X'. Vishal-Hari combination has been my favourite and it's a privilege to be a part of this project. Just like every fan, I am looking forward to the grand success of this film, and we at Zee Studios extend our gratitude to everyone involved."

Zee Studios' Vinod C J said,

Vishal is my friend of 6 years, we were talking

about doing a film, and only then he introduced Hari sir. I am a big fan of Hari Sir films. It was a great pleasure to join such a successful partnership. Working with Stonebench Films and Invenio Origin has been a pleasure. Fans will surely celebrate this film. Thanks to everyone.

Cinematographer Sukumar said, "Hari sir has put in an unprecedented amount of effort on this film. We accomplished a remarkable stunt scene in one go. Vishal sir, with his unwavering enthusiasm, consistently delivers outstanding performances regardless of the number of takes. After Vijay sir, Vishal sir exudes an incredible amount of energy. Without doubt, the film will be well-received by all. Thank you for your support."

Stunt Master Kanakannan said, "I had the privilege of working with Hari sir for the first time in 'Poojai' and now this marks our third collaboration. Similarly, my initial project with Vishal was 'Sandakozhi', and his energy remains unchanged even today. In this film, we were challenged with an action scene that had to be captured in a single shot. To achieve this, we dedicated an entire day to rehearsals and put in immense effort to bring it to life. Hari sir's movies have always been sensational, and I believe this particular film will surpass any other in terms of its impact."

Choreographer Dinesh said, "Ever since Hari sir's 'Saamy', I have had a strong desire to be a part of his projects, and it is truly wonderful to have the opportunity to work with him in multiple films. His work pace is truly remarkable, and it has remained unaffected even after years of relentless dedication. I



have closely observed Vishal sir's growth since his debut film 'Chellamey', and I hold a great admiration for him. I have known Devi Sri Prasad sir since my school days and have collaborated with him on numerous Telugu movies. The experience of working on 'Rathnam' has been quite comfortable, and I sincerely hope that everyone will thoroughly enjoy this movie."

Meena of PVR said, "Vishal is always truthful. He always stands up for others and it is a joy to be here for him. It is a pleasure to participate in this event."

Actor Samuthirakani said, "This film holds a special place in my heart. Hari and Vishal are truly remarkable individuals. I have gained invaluable knowledge from Hari Anna - Dedication, perseverance, unwavering determination. Vishal is akin to a brother to me. Hari's directorial craftsmanship leaves a lasting impression on me. Hari Anna and I attended the same school. He has imparted a great deal of wisdom to me. Vishal will be collaborating with me on a project, and if it comes to fruition, it will undoubtedly achieve

great success. 'Rathnam' will be adored by all and will captivate audiences with its fast-paced narration."

Music Director Devi Sri Prasad said, "My earnest thanks to 'Rathnam' team. I thank everyone for their wishes on my National award. I have worked with Hari sir in many movies starting from 'Aaru'. A film entirely banks on the shoulders of a director, and we all work by his vision. Hari sir is like a family to me, and it resonates with our songs. 'Rathnam' will be different from his previous movies. There is a strong emotion in this movie. I am working with Vishal sir for a long time. It's delighting to work with him again, that too in a movie by Hari sir. Samuthirakani sir has done a terrific job, and Stone Bench Karthi is a good-hearted person. There is a single shot action sequence in this movie, which left me awestruck. This will perhaps be the lengthiest single shot action sequence that anyone would have seen till now. I had a great time as a composer. Hari sir's thought process is truly remarkable. This particular scene is my

absolute favorite in his film. Vishal sir has contributed well. Priya Bhavani Shankar's performance in this movie is commendable. This film will become a favorite among many."

Producer G Dhananjayan said, "Hari sir, who has delivered remarkable blockbuster hits in Tamil cinema, has presented an exceptionally well-crafted trailer for his upcoming film. It is evident that this film is bound to be a phenomenal success. Recently, Vishal sir gave an interview that has now become viral. In his interview, he mentioned that the film may encounter some challenges, but it will undoubtedly be a tremendous hit. I kindly request Vishal sir to consider a Rs 300 crore mark film after the Rs 100 crore mark with 'Mark Antony,' without any intentions on politics. This is merely a humble request. Unfortunately, Tamil cinema has not witnessed a hit film recently. I extend my best wishes to 'Rathnam' to break that streak and become a resounding success at the box office."

Producer Kathiresan said, "'Thamirabharani' and 'Poojai' achieved

great success, and I handled the area distribution for both films. Bringing back that successful partnership in the film industry is truly rewarding. Vishal, despite his many physical scars, puts in a lot of effort. Let's hope for a major success for this movie."

Director Hari said, "This is my seventeenth film and the third movie I have worked on with Vishal. It was Vishal who introduced producer Karthi to me. Interestingly, Karthik Subbaraj was also a part of that company, and it was a unique experience to work with a company involving a director. 'Rathnam' will consist of 60% action and 40% commercial elements, which will surely appeal to today's audience. Vishal is not only skilled in action sequences but also exceptional at emoting. All the artistes involved in this film have done an outstanding job. I would like to highlight a particular scene, which was shot in a single take. In this scene, we successfully executed eight sequences and four stunts. I always strive to bring a sense of reality to all the action sequences, and we have achieved a great impact in this

particular scene. The action sequence was performed by Vishal sir and Priya Bhavani Shankar across four different locations, covering a stretch of 3.5 kilometers in a single shot. Many people believed that it would be an impossible feat, but the team has done a remarkable job. We dedicated an entire day to rehearse this scene, and it was successfully accomplished on the third take. We have created this film with the audience in mind, and we believe that everyone will enjoy it. Thank you."

Actor Yogi Babu said, "It is a heartwarming and delightful experience to witness my AV from the days of Lollu Sabha. During my collaboration with Hari sir in 'Yaanaai', I would frequently inquire about his films and working approach. He consistently emphasized that hard work is the key to success. He has diligently adhered to this principle. I sincerely hope and pray that he continues to create more remarkable movies. Vishal sir is truly a great individual, and his character has remained unchanged throughout the years. Devi Sri Prasad sir has always showered me with immense love and affection. Samuthirakani sir has consistently wished for my well-being. Working on this film has been an incredible experience. I am confident that everyone will thoroughly enjoy it."

Actor Vishal said, "I am grateful to you all and my friends for giving me this platform over the course of two decades. Your efforts have made this journey possible. 'Rathnam' will be released on April 26th. Tomorrow holds great significance as it is a crucial day for voting. If necessary, a film's release can be postponed to next Friday, but the importance of

voting cannot be undermined. 'Mark Antony' has opened a new door for me to the 100 crore club, and it has also brought success to director Adhik Ravichandran. As Hari sir emphasizes, we must pay attention to what others say about us, whether it is positive or negative. In my household, my father would always collect newspaper clippings whenever my name appeared. My mother is a devoted fan of Hari sir. After 'Mark Antony', when people expressed concerns about not seeing the old Vishal, I called Hari and proposed the idea, to which he responded with great enthusiasm. Everyone is eagerly anticipating our third film. The story he shared was a delightful surprise that I never expected, and I immediately agreed to do it. Stone Bench Productions and Zee Studios have contributed their Midas-Touch to this project. Everything has been going smoothly. Hari sir always prioritizes the hero and also ensures that each film includes a significant female character. This is a good quality. Samuthirakani is truly like a brother to me. He has narrated a story, and I am eagerly awaiting its transformation into a film. Yogi Babu is my closest friend, and I always feel at home with him. Sukumar has provided stunning visuals. Hari sir is synonymous with hard work. Whatever he says, you can trust and follow. It is unimaginable to conceive and visualize a single shot for five minutes, but he has accomplished it. Kanakannan is my beloved friend, and if I have endured a hundred stitches on my body, it is all because of him. I am eagerly awaiting the audience's enjoyment of this movie next week."

Rotary Club Of Nanganallur Elite: CSR Initiative- Ambulance to Hindu Mission Hospital, Nanganallur



Chennai, April 20 2024: The Club President Rtn Sivakumar & Members take immense pleasure to dedicate an Ambulance for Hindu Mission Hospital worth 9lacs INR through the CSR fund. The CSR fund is sponsored by Aithent Technologies & Quinte Financial Technologies, heartfelt thanks to our member Rtn TK Gopu who played a vital role in getting us Introduced to the CSR Sponsors... At this juncture we also thank our Charter President Rtn Kannan Azhagiriasamy who did the pivotal role in getting the

entire documentation coordinated between Hindu Mission Hospital & CSR Company. The Ambulance is inaugurated on 18th April at 4:30PM, our beloved District Governor Elect (RID:3234) Rtn NS Saravanan & PDG (RID 3232) Rtn Sridhar consented to inaugurate & grace the occasion. Gracefully they addressed the gathering with wonderful words & blessings, also appreciated all efforts.

The club honoured the CSR company employees

and Mr. Selvan Swamy (Vice President, Quinte) & Rtn TK Gopu (Associate Vice President, Aithent Technologies) for their contribution to this noble cause. Rtn Natarajan, Joint Secretary, Hindu Mission Hospital detailed the entire information as to how seamless the process took very little time to get required approval from CSR company.. We took the opportunity to appreciate & recognize our Community Service Health Director Rtn Dr. Velmurugan, Ortho Surgeon for dedicating Free Fridays for the past 2

years, this means Free Consultation on all Fridays..Rtn G.Srinivasan gracefully dedicated 10 stethoscopes to the Duty Doctors during this occasion and informed that rendering such services are an opportunity to serve the society.. He further added that many more projects and donations will follow in near future..Mrs. Usha, Secretary, Hindu Mission Hospital, delivered the Thank You Note & the EMCEE is performed by Rtn Sathish, Secretary, Rotary Club Of Nanganallur Elite.

'Bihar first phase polling percentage disappointing'

Chennai, April 20 2024: Despite best efforts made by Election Commission and appeals from top leaders and celebrities, poll percentage in first phase of Lok Sabha elections in Bihar could reach only 48.23 per cent, which is 5.24 per cent less than polling of 2019 general elections in the state.

Polling was held in Jamui, Gaya, Aurangabad and Nawada seats for first phase of Lok Sabha elections in the state on Friday.

Only 48.23 per cent polling was registered, which was 5.24 per cent less of voting witnessed during 2019 Lok Sabha elections as then figure was 53.47 per cent.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) H R Srinivasan said that he had expected for an increase in poll

percentage but at last, it remained 5.24 per cent, less than the figure of last election.

He would hold a meeting to analyse why low polling was registered in first phase of Lok Sabha elections in the state, he said.

All possible efforts would be made to increase poll percentage in remaining six phases of Lok Sabha elections, he said.

Srinivasan said that scorching heat could be the reason behind low percentage of the polling.

All arrangements like providing safe drinking water and other basic facilities were made available at booths but still voters turnout remained low, he noted.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Samrat Chaudhary

claimed that NDA would win all four of 40 seats in Bihar, where polling was held in first phase of Lok Sabha elections.

People had made up their mind to give another term to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added.

On the other hand, Leader of the Opposition Tejaswi Prasad Yadav claimed that INDIA bloc was set to bag all four seats.

People were fed up with hollow promises made by PM Modi, he remarked.

In all four seats, there is straight contest between NDA and INDIA bloc candidates.

Former Bihar chief minister Jeetan Ram Manjhi of HAM, a constituent of NDA, has locked horns with Kumar Sarvajeet of RJD, a constituent of INDIA

bloc.

In Gaya Lok Sabha seat. Rajesh Kumar, father of Sarvajeet had defeated Manjhi in 1991 Lok Sabha elections. Sushma Kumari of BSP is also in the fray from this seat.

In Aurangabad, Sushil Kumar Singh, sitting BJP MP, who has been winning from this seat since 2009 Lok Sabha elections, is contesting against RJD's Abhay Kushwaha.

In Nawada, BJP has fielded Vivek Thakur, son of former Union minister Dr C P Thakur. RJD has made Shrawan Kushwaha its candidate. Both Thakur and Kushwaha are contesting this Lok Sabha elections for first time. Independent candidates Vinod Yadav and a popular Bhojpuri singer Gunjan Singh are also in the fray.

HP introduces "HP Innovation and Digital Education Academy" (HP IDEA) to equip educators with Digital skills in India

Chennai, April 20 2024: HP today introduced the HP Innovation & Digital Education Academy (HP IDEA) program in India. This initiative aims to support educators with essential digital pedagogy skills, transforming teaching methods and enriching the learning experience for students in CBSE schools in India.

In collaboration with the Centre for Teacher Accreditation (CENTA) and Verdant & Co, the HP IDEA program is meticulously designed to cater to the evolving needs of educators and students in the digital age. By providing comprehensive training and resources, it equips teachers with the tools and knowledge required to excel in a technology-driven learning environment.

Ipsita Dasgupta, SVP & Managing Director HP India market, said, "Advocating Digital Equity is a crucial aspect of HP's vision for the digital future. We are proud to bring this incredible program to India and look forward to seeing its impact for educators and students across the country. With this initiative, we will work to transform



teaching methods and enrich the learning experience for students in CBSE schools".

Priyanka Arya, Director and Chief Operating Officer, Centre for Teacher Accreditation (CENTA) said "With 1.5 million teachers from 100,000+ schools, CENTA has unparalleled reach, as well as understanding of what teachers look for in both career growth and professional development. As a certification and accreditation body, CENTA is keen to continuously bring to teachers great professional development initiatives. HP IDEA is an international teacher professional development initiative backed by tech major HP Inc. We are super excited to be collaborating with HP in taking this programme to schools in over 20 cities in India".

Christine Kerlin

Nasserghodsi, Managing Partner, Verdant & Co. said "Launching HP IDEA in India, in partnership with CENTA, marks a transformative step towards enhancing educational methods and accessibility. This collaboration not only advances digital pedagogy but significantly contributes to equipping educators with the skills necessary for 21st-century teaching. Together, we are set on empowering teachers and students, driving a new era of educational excellence".

Aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the HP IDEA program in India is poised to reach 50 schools, benefitting approximately 5,000 teachers and 50,000 students across India. The focus remains on empowering educators with the latest tools and

best practices in teaching and learning.

The program offers two pathways for participating schools: HP IDEA Fellow and HP IDEA Associate. The HP IDEA Fellow pathway is an immersive one-year teacher development program designed for select practitioners and instructional leaders. On the other hand, the HP IDEA Associate pathway provides focused intervention for all staff members at participating schools, enabling them to become HP IDEA Associates by engaging in trainings delivered by HP IDEA Fellows.

HP IDEA is a part of HP's commitment to accelerate digital equity for 150 million people by 2030. HP IDEA has already made a significant impact globally, benefiting over 1 million students and teachers across 32 cohorts in 23 countries and 7 languages. Leveraging world-class research and frameworks from institutions like the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the University of Michigan, the program ensures the delivery of cutting-edge educational practices.

VerSe Innovation adds World's Largest Digital Newsstand to its portfolio; onboards 8,500+ premium magazines and newspapers across 60 languages by acquiring Magzter

Chennai April 20 2024: VerSe Innovation, India's biggest local language technology platform, today announced its acquisition of Magzter, a cross-platform, self-service, global digital newsstand with a library of 8,500+ premium magazines and newspapers. This move marks Dailyhunt's strategic foray into super premium content and signifies a transformative juncture in VerSe Innovation's journey to becoming India's largest digital media tech conglomerate.

Launched as Dailyhunt Premium, this subscription-based offering will provide users access to premium content from international publishers in over 60 languages including English, French, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, and more. This includes globally acclaimed publications such as Time, Newsweek, Fortune, The Economist, Forbes, Reader's Digest, Cosmopolitan, Vogue, Maxim, Elle, Vanity Fair, New Yorker,

Bazaar among others across their respective India and international editions. This expansion addresses the demand for high-quality premium content, particularly catering to the discerning tastes of India's elite and aspirational upper-middle-class demographic.

The acquisition fortifies Dailyhunt's position as the largest platform for news and infotainment in the country, serving content in key international and regional languages. Furthermore, this acquisition also marks the evolution of the Dailyhunt's revenue model, expanding from pure advertising to include a blend of subscription-based revenue streams.

Speaking about the acquisition, Virendra Gupta and Umang Bedi, Co-founders, VerSe Innovation, said, "Magzter is a perfect fit for our ecosystem. The acquisition aligns seamlessly with our growth trajectory and enhances our ability to deliver premium content experiences to our ever-expanding

user base. We will keep strengthening our capabilities and spreading our wings, leading the way in India's digital content space."

"We are excited to join forces with VerSe Innovation and contribute to the evolution of content consumption in India," said Girish Ramdas and Vijayakumar Radhakrishnan, Co-Founders, Magzter. "This partnership opens up new avenues for delivering high-quality content experiences to users across India, further strengthening our goal of providing unparalleled digital reading experiences to our readers."

Magzter, with its impressive track record of having over 1.1 million active paying subscribers from India alone and a user base exceeding 87 million since its establishment in 2011, has become the world's largest and fastest-growing digital newsstand. Offering thousands of magazines and newspapers across 40+ categories, Magzter brings a wealth of premium content to the Dailyhunt

ecosystem. Aventus was the exclusive financial advisor in this transaction.

VerSe Innovation's acquisition capability is underpinned by its robust financial standing led by its successful funding round of US\$ 805 million, alongside Dailyhunt's consistent positive EBITDA, for over two years, and showing continuous YoY growth.

VerSe continues to build strategically with the launch of several new initiatives including VerSe Collab - An tech driven Influencer Marketplace and the upcoming introduction of the VerSe NeXTChange, a Bharat focused programmatic audience network and WISE - VerSe's Generative AI Platform for content generation. VerSe Innovation remains steadfast in its pursuit of growth and expansion opportunities. With a deep and diverse capable, the company is on track unlocking new avenues for expansion and further cementing its position as the leading media tech conglomerate.

Swiggy Instamart will now deliver from 35+ categories in minutes with Swiggy Mall integration

Chennai, April 20 2024: On-demand convenience delivery platform Swiggy, which pioneered the quick commerce category in 2020 with the launch of Swiggy Instamart, will now integrate Swiggy Mall with its quick commerce offering. Swiggy Mall marked Swiggy's foray into online retail, delivering a significantly wider number of home and family shopping needs compared with existing quick commerce platforms.

Swiggy Mall is currently operational in parts of Bengaluru. Given the tremendous customer love shown for Swiggy Mall's wider and deeper assortment of categories, including sports goods, footwear, clothing, electronics, electric appliances, toys, stationery etc, the integration will further broaden the choice for consumers, who are showing an increasing predilection to purchase products other than groceries and staples from Swiggy Instamart.

"Swiggy Instamart is broadening its offerings to include an even wider array of products. With our latest update, customers can now explore an extensive selection across 35+ categories, that go way beyond groceries and home essentials, delivered in minutes. This marks a significant milestone in our journey towards providing unparalleled convenience, ensuring our users have everything they need at their fingertips, faster than ever before," said Phani Kishan, Head

of Swiggy Instamart.

Swiggy Instamart is already present in more than 25 cities allowing Swiggy Mall to scale up over the coming months, starting with Bengaluru. Consumers in more cities will now have access to brands such as HP, Croma, Realme, Liberty Footwear, Puma, Enamor, La Opala and products like keyboards, headphones, vacuum cleaners, coolers, cookers, idli maker, dinner and crockery sets, AC blankets, shoulder bags, wallets and more.

NABARD Issues Statement to Dispel Misinformation Regarding 'Dairy Loan Yojana'

Chennai, April 20 2024: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) issues a statement to address the recent misinformation circulating about the NABARD Dairy Loan Yojana. A series of false claims suggesting that NABARD is directly providing loans to farmers for dairy farming ventures under their Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme. NABARD, categorically

and unequivocally states that these assertions are fake.

NABARD, as an apex development finance institution, functions by extending financial assistance and support to various financial institutions and cooperatives involved in rural development. It does not extend loans directly to individual farmers. All stakeholders are strongly urged, particularly farmers and rural

entrepreneurs, to exercise utmost caution and refrain from believing or propagating such misinformation. Unverified information can lead to financial risks and misunderstandings. Accurate information can be obtained from NABARD's official website, www.nabard.org.

NABARD remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting rural development and

agriculture through various initiatives and schemes aimed at fostering sustainable livelihoods. Hence, cooperation of all stakeholders is solicited in ensuring the dissemination of accurate information and discouraging the spread of misinformation.

For further clarification or inquiries, contact NABARD directly or visit our nearest office.

Digital-first Affordable Housing Financer, Altum Credo raises US\$ 40 million in Series C Equity funding round

Chennai, April 20 2024: Altum Credo, a new age tech-led affordable housing finance company, has concluded its Series C equity round to the tune of US\$ 40 million. The Company has raised US\$ 27 million in equity and facilitated partial exit to Series A investors of US\$ 13 million. Z3 Partners and Oikocredit led the round with participation from British International Investment, the UK's development finance institution and impact investor, and existing investors Aavishkaar Capital, Amicus Capital and Mr. PS Pai & family. Unitus Capital acted as the exclusive financial advisor for the transaction.

Having obtained the housing finance license in June 2017, Altum Credo has pioneered tech-driven affordable-housing finance in the country. The Company is focused on the largely untapped potential of unserved and underserved segments, targeting first time homeowners. As of Mar 24, Altum Credo had an AUM of INR 830 cr (US\$ 100 million) with 93% of their customers belonging to the economically weaker section (EWS) / low-income group (LIG) category. Altum Credo has a state-of-the-art technology infrastructure which is embedded in its entire loan-lifecycle, and since

inception has insisted on 100% cashless transactions.

Altum Credo raised its Series A equity funding of US\$ 9.8 million in 2018, and Series B equity funding of US\$ 12 million in 2021.

The Company plans to use the proceeds from the current fund raise to achieve AUM growth by further enhancing its distribution network and expanding its operational footprint. This fund raise also enables the Company to remain well-capitalized in the near-term and support growth.

Altum Credo's customer base consists of a healthy mix of salaried customers (both formal and informal segments) and self-employed proprietors of small and medium enterprises who predominantly belong to low-income group. These customers aspire to own a home, but most have little or no access to long-term credit therefore remaining un/underserved by large financial institutions. Altum Credo aims to bridge this gap by providing long term finance (making EMI affordable) via technology assisted service delivery with unwavering service commitment of being Simple, Convenient and Relevant.

The average ticket size of the home loan portfolio is at INR 8.5

lakhs with an average tenure of 15 years. With loan-to-value ratio below 50%, the average value of the properties funded is around INR 15-25 lakhs.

Vikrant Bhagwat, (Founder) MD & CEO, Altum Credo said, "As India traverses towards being a USD 5trn economy, access to affordable housing finance has immense potential to contribute towards this growth. This Series C fund raise is a critical milestone for the next phase of sustainable growth and will strengthen our balance sheet enabling effective leverage and sound ALM. The company will enhance its distribution network and expand operations in Central and Northern India. We are excited about the immense opportunities that lie ahead and the meaningful potential for financial inclusion. With every funding round we realise our objective towards deepening our resolve to provide accessible and long-term housing finance solutions to those who are still un/underserved. We express sincere gratitude to all our stakeholders and partners for their continuous support and belief in our vision of impactful growth".

Rishi Maheshwari, Managing Partner, Z3Partners said, "We are delighted to partner with Altum Credo in this next phase of growth as they

further expand their distribution network and empower millions of Indians by providing them access to long-term home finance. Vikrant, backed by a seasoned management team, have a stellar track record in financial services and have set in place a strong playbook to scale existing operations. We believe the Company is at an inflection point where physical and digital infrastructure come together to provide industry-leading operational metrics. This investment fits into our core thesis of technology being a catalyst to financially empower the underserved segment of Bharat, while also building businesses in a profitable and scalable manner."

Harsh Shah, Principal, at Oikocredit added, "Access to quality housing has a multiplier impact in the lives of people particularly children and women in low-income families, also helping them in adapting to rapid climate change. Our investment in Altum Credo aligns with Oikocredit's "community-focused approach" for access to affordable housing financing. We are confident that the company will continue to build a sustainable and impactful business under the able leadership of Vikrant and his team."