

# COMBINED PASSING OUT PARADE OF AGNIVEERVAYU TRAINEES AT AIR FORCE STATION TAMBARAM

Chennai, May 31 2024: An impressive combined Passing Out Parade (POP) was held at Air Force Station, Tambaram on 01 June 2024 where a total of 1983 Agniveervayu trainees (including 234 women) of other than science stream successfully passed out from Mechanical Training Institute (MTI) and Workshop Training Institute (WTI). The POP marked the successful culmination of 22 weeks of rigorous and transformative military training at both the training

institutes. Air Vice Marshal Aman Kapur, Senior Officer-in-Charge Administration, Central Air Command was the Reviewing Officer (RO) and chief guest for the parade. The parade was followed by various activities that included blind fold stripping & assembling, arms drill, physical training display, drill by Agniveervayu team, yoga, continuity drill without arms and unarmed combat drill.

The Reviewing Officer (RO)



congratulated all trainees passing out and felicitated the award winners who had performed exceedingly well in various fields. In his address, he urged all trainees to hone their skills further, enhance professional knowledge and to develop an ecosystem to learn so that they can contribute towards aerospace safety and organisational objectives in defence of the nation. He further brought out that the IAF has been witnessing major changes in operational

philosophy and is on the path of transforming itself into a vibrant strategic force of great calibre. The Reviewing Officer impressed upon Agniveervayu to keep themselves physically fit, mentally agile and to uphold the core values of the Indian Air Force.

It was indeed a momentous and joyful occasion for the families who were present to witness the impressive and magnificent parade of the Agniveervayu trainees.

## Vadakara Station: Transforming the Travel Experience with Modern Amenities under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

Chennai, May 31 2024: Vadakara railway station serves as a crucial transit point, with 44 trains passing through the station, with a total footfall of more than 20,000 passengers each day. Vadakara caters to both inland and foreign tourists who visit various spots of religious and tourist

importance in the region. Nestled in the serene surroundings near Vadakara railway station is the Lokanar Kavil temple that stands as a testament to ancient Kerala's architectural grandeur. Adjacent to the station is the Kunjali Marakkar Museum that beckons visitors to explore the maritime heritage of

Kerala through its fascinating exhibits and artefacts.

Vadakara station redevelopment under Amrit Bharat Scheme

Under the proposed redevelopment plans as part of the Amrit Bharat station scheme, Vadakara station is slated to undergo a comprehensive transformation with a

budget of 15.02 crore rupees allocated for its redevelopment.

Scope of redevelopment work

The envisioned upgrades aim to enhance the passenger experience and modernise the station's facilities. Planned enhancements include

Creation of a spacious 5500 sq. m.



improved traffic circulation area, adorned with beautification elements, to facilitate smoother movement within the station premises.

A new entrance porch spanning 1140 sq. m. will provide a grand welcome to passengers

A 60 sq. m. air-conditioned waiting hall promises comfort during transit.

Additionally, an extensive 9100-square-metre parking

area is proposed to alleviate congestion and enhance accessibility.

The introduction of 250 new seating arrangements on the Platform and increased platform height will improve passenger convenience and safety.

Modern amenities such as high mast lights, BLDC fans, and mobile charging units are set to be installed, ensuring a more comfortable and convenient travel

experience.

The station's facade will undergo a makeover, blending traditional Kerala architecture, promising a visually appealing ambiance.

Status of ABSS works

With 50% of the proposed works already completed, including the installation of new lighting arrangements, the project is on track for its targeted completion by

November 2024.

In conclusion, the proposed redevelopment of Vadakara station promises to significantly enhance the travel experience for the public. With improved infrastructure, modern amenities, and a commitment to preserving Kerala's architectural heritage, the revamped station will offer smoother transit, greater comfort, and convenience for passengers.

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## City of Varanasi from India along with Two Global Cities Chosen to Host Toyota Mobility Foundation's \$9m Sustainable Cities Challenge

Chennai, May 31 2024: The Toyota Mobility Foundation (TMF) today announced that Varanasi along with two global cities, Detroit and Venice, have been selected to host innovation challenges as part of the Toyota Mobility Foundation's Sustainable Cities Challenge. The goal of the \$9 million global initiative is to help cities accelerate toward sustainable mobility, fostering healthier and safer urban environments while enhancing people's ability to commute, work, study, and access services.

Over 150 cities from 46 countries entered the Sustainable Cities Challenge after the call to cities was first launched in June 2023. In November 2023 the shortlist of 10 cities were announced from which the top 3 were chosen as the finalists. Now, the three selected cities will launch their own City Challenges inviting global innovators to work with them with Varanasi launching its City Challenge on June 27, 2024. Innovators could be from anywhere around the world residing both locally or anywhere else, but the solutions must be applicable and tailored to meet the mobility needs of the winning cities. In late 2024, solutions that best meet the needs of the cities will be selected and have access to a share of USD 3 million per city in innovation grants to demonstrate and pilot test. In 2026, winners of



the challenge will be selected for further scaling and implementation.

As one of the most prominent heritage cities in India, Varanasi experiences huge influx of tourism, which, while vital to strengthening the city's tapestry of faith and culture, brings with it concerns of safety and crowding. The Varanasi City Challenge creates an opportunity to address these issues by generating innovative, data-driven solutions incorporating elements of technology and design. Overall, the aim is to make the city, and particularly the crowded areas of Varanasi's old city (Kashi), safer and more accessible to pilgrims, local residents and the vulnerable populace.

Akshat Verma, IAS, Municipal Commissioner/Chief Executive Officer, Varanasi Municipal Corporation/Varanasi Smart City said, "Participating in the Toyota Mobility Foundation's Sustainable Cities Challenge presents an exciting prospect for Varanasi. This initiative offers us a valuable chance to explore technical and design

related avenues for enhancing mobility within our city, benefiting both our residents and the growing tourism. By collaborating with innovative minds, we aim to bolster Varanasi's reputation as a premier global tourist destination. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to work closely with TMF, their partners, and experts to achieve this goal."

Elated with Varanasi making it to the final list, Mr. Vikram Gulati, Country Head and Executive Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Governance, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "We at TKM are thrilled that Varanasi has been chosen as one of the global cities in the Toyota Mobility Foundation's Sustainable Cities Challenge. At Toyota, we are committed to redefining mobility extending beyond traditional automotive solutions to encompass human-centric, sustainable urban transportation. The Challenge in Varanasi exemplifies our dedication to this vision by providing a platform that bridges innovative minds and local stakeholders. Also, closely aligned with our global commitment to producing "Happiness for All", I am confident that this initiative will not only transform Varanasi but also contribute significantly to the global pursuit of creating more sustainable urban environments. The solutions could also act as a template that could be replicated not only in India but also globally providing potential solutions to city planners."

Speaking about the initiative, Mr. Pras Ganesh, Executive Program Director, Toyota Mobility Foundation, said, "As the Toyota Mobility Foundation, we are passionate about the freedom of mobility, and the opportunities that such mobility can unlock for individuals and communities. With like-minded partners such as World Resources Institute and Challenge Works, we seek out innovative solutions to overcome the barriers that hinder these opportunities."

The Sustainable Cities Challenge, our global challenge that matches visionary cities and the most creative innovators, will now focus on the 3 incredibly dynamic cities of

Chennai, May 31 2024: MayaaVerse Creations Private Limited (MCPL), a leading developer of World's first photo-realistic Immersive Tech platforms, and NTPC School of Business (NSB), a premier business school under the NTPC Education and Research Society, today announced a strategic collaboration to explore the use of virtual reality (VR) technology and create an immersive virtual campus within MCPL's Immersive Tech space.

This groundbreaking partnership aims to combine MCPL's cutting-edge Immersive Tech development capabilities with NSB's expertise in business education. By leveraging virtual reality, the collaboration seeks to provide students and faculty with an innovative and engaging learning environment within a fully realized virtual world.

"At NTPC School of Business, we are committed to embracing innovative technologies that enhance the learning experience for our

students," said Dr. Rajeshwari Narendran, Director of NTPC School of Business. "By partnering with MayaaVerse Creations, we aim to explore the boundless possibilities of virtual reality and the Immersive Tech in education, fostering a more engaging and interactive learning journey for our students while preparing them for the digital future."

As the initiator of this long-standing partnership, MCPL is creating a virtual experience center for the NTPC School of Business. This center will provide students and visitors with an immersive journey through the institution's rich history, vision, achievements, and faculty lectures, along with various videos. Attendees will navigate through the remarkable story of this significant institution, gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation of its

contributions to the country. MCPL and NSB will also work together to create a virtual replica of the NSB campus within MCPL's Immersive Tech platform. This virtual replica will also allow students to attend classes, participate in discussions, and engage in various academic and extracurricular activities in a fully immersive and realistic digital environment. By making education immersive, this collaboration is a joint step towards making education more comprehensive and extensive. With this enablement, we are adding a new chapter to modern education, where students don't just learn but experience learning.

"We are thrilled to join forces with NTPC School of Business in pioneering the future of education in the



metaverse," said Ashish Minocha, Chief Business Officer at MayaaVerse Creations. "This collaboration represents a significant step towards revolutionizing the way knowledge is imparted and experienced, empowering students with immersive and interactive learning opportunities that transcend traditional boundaries."

The collaboration between MCPL and NSB represents a significant milestone in the integration of virtual reality and Immersive Tech technologies into the education sector. As the Immersive Tech continues to evolve and gain mainstream adoption, this partnership positions both organizations at the forefront of this transformative shift, paving the way for new and innovative learning experiences.

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"We are thrilled to join forces with NTPC School of Business in pioneering the future of education in the

## Salem Jn Railway Station is being upgraded at a cost of Rs.45 Crores under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

Chennai, May 31 2024: The vibrant industrial city of Salem, is home to the famous Salem Steel plant as well as the unique and delicious variety of Mangoes known as "Malgoava, due to which Salem City is hailed as the 'Mango City of Tamil Nadu'. The Salem Steel Plant of SAIL (Steel Authority of India Ltd.) manufactures the famous Salem Steel Stainless products, for both large industrial houses as well as other domestic users. The Steel City is also one of the largest producers of traditional silver anklets in the region. Salem City also boasts of large textile, automotive, Poultry and sago industries and is the fifth largest Urban agglomeration in the state after Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore and Tiruchchirappalli. Salem also has one of the largest magnetite

deposits in India and major companies like Dalmia and TAANMAG have mines here.

With such industrial and urban importance, Salem Jn railway station, the railhead serving the city of Salem assumes an important role in passenger as well as cargo transportation in the region. Now, the Junction Railway Station which is having a daily footfall of more than 50,000 passengers, is undergoing a remarkable transformation under the ambitious Amrit Bharat Station Scheme at a cost of Rs.45 Crores. The upgradation aims to turn Salem Jn rail station into a world-class transport hub, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and inclusive infrastructure for passengers and visitors.

Improvements to basic passenger amenities

The ongoing



redevelopment works include a host of improvements to enhance basic passenger amenities, including renovation of the concourse, waiting hall, ticket counters, VIP Lounge, etc.

The circulating area of the station is being redeveloped / beautified. The façade of the station is also being transformed aesthetically.

Toilet facilities are being improved to better standards.

The entry and points of the station and the circulating area of the station are being modified to provide easy

access for vehicles, and pedestrian walkways will be developed for the convenience of commuters.

Passenger platforms will receive significant attention, with the addition of benches, water taps, and shelters, ensuring a comfortable and pleasant experience for travelers.

A New Foot Over Bridge, connected with Lifts and Escalators, will also be constructed.

Water Supply, Sanitation and Drainage arrangements

In line with the Amrit Bharat Scheme's



commitment to water supply, sanitation, and drainage arrangements, the upgradation works include the construction of a septic tank and storm water drains. Additional submersible pumps will be installed to maximize water availability from bore wells and open wells, catering to the growing needs of the station and its passengers.

Feel Good initiatives A 'Feel Good' approach has been adopted to elevate the overall ambience of Salem Jn station, both by design, elevation and colour scheme. The Second Entry of the station will be developed

tactile coping slabs, facilitating safe and convenient boarding and alighting for differently abled passengers.

Energy conservation

To promote energy efficiency, sustainable practices, such as tapping into non-conventional energy sources, will be adopted. LED lights will be used throughout the station buildings to provide better illumination while consuming lesser power. Furthermore, low-height masts with LED lights will grace the station's streets, promoting energy-saving street lighting.

Development Works Completed / Nearing Completion

The Station's Portico is being extended for providing Drop Off / Pick Up points.

Improvements to the Terminal Building, including

improvements to the façade, are under progress.

Platform Fencing of Platform 1 & 2 has been provided; finishing works are under progress.

Works are underway for providing a Dedicated Bus Bay in the circulating area in the main entry of the station.

The toilet on Platform No.1 has been renovated.

The redevelopment of Salem Jn station under the Amrit Bharat Scheme aligns with the broader goal of developing stations as 'City Centers,' contributing to the integration of both sides of the city. The redesign and modernization of station buildings, along with well-designed passenger amenities and inter-modal integration, will enhance the overall travel experience.

## Mobil 1 partners with RPPL to Power Up the Streets of India with Exhilarating Motorsport Roadshow

Coimbatore, May 31 2024: Mobil 1, in partnership with Racing Promotions Pvt Ltd (RPPL), successfully concluded the Bengaluru roadshow of F4 and Indian Racing League (IRL) cars ahead of the upcoming racing championship. Turning the streets of Bengaluru into a vibrant arena of specialized breathtaking performances and precision driving, the event marked a significant highlight in the ongoing partnership of Mobil 1 with RPPL, aimed at nurturing and promoting motorsport culture in India.



backdrop.

Spectators in Bengaluru were treated with a preview of the upcoming racing championship season, witnessing a dynamic display of IRL and Formula 4 cars operated by emerging motorsport talents Sohil Shah, one of the two champions of IRL 2023, and Rishon Rajeev, Formula 4 Vice Champion. As these cars thundered along the KTPO Convention Centre, people from diverse backgrounds gathered in large numbers, drawn by the powerful engines and thrilling action against the city's bustling

The roadshow not only delighted local spectators with a taste of professional motorsport but also celebrated Mobil 1's 50 years of innovation and leadership in synthetic motor oils, highlighting its ongoing contributions to automotive and industrial advancements in India. While the Bengaluru roadshow witnessed the debut of the golden Mobil 1 emblem for 50 years, the brand plans to feature a series of specially designed liveries and other highlights from Mobil 1's extensive racing history, celebrating its legacy.

"The Mobil 1 brand's journey through the last 50 years is a testament to ExxonMobil's ability to push boundaries and become the trusted choice of leading automakers, professional racers, and

millions of drivers worldwide. The Mobil 1-RPPL show run is not just an event; it's a celebration of the spirit of motorsports. By bringing the action right to the city streets, we aim to bring to the fans an up-close and personal experience of the world of racing. This event marks a significant milestone in our ongoing collaboration with RPPL, a key player in advancing motorsports in India with our partnership significantly contributing to the growing enthusiasm and support for motorsports nationwide", said Vipin Rana, CEO of ExxonMobil Lubricants Pvt. Ltd.

"We are thrilled with the success of the Bengaluru show run, which kicked off our nationwide series in grand style. This event showcased the thrill and excitement of

motorsports directly to the community, amplifying their anticipation for the full championship season. Mobil 1 has been instrumental in bringing this vision to life, and together, we are committed to further enriching India's motorsport landscape. As we gear up for upcoming roadshows, we are excited to continue this journey, inspiring a new generation of motorsport fans and participants across the country", said Akhilesh Reddy, Chairman of Racing Promotions Private Limited.

Following the resounding success of the exhilarating Bengaluru roadshow, Mobil 1 and RPPL are poised to expand the series, bringing the same thrilling display of speed, precision, and motor prowess to the streets of Mumbai, Chennai and other parts of India in the upcoming months. This initiative highlights Mobil 1 and RPPL's dedication to enriching India's motorsport culture and creating platforms that entertain and inspire the next generation of motorsport enthusiasts.

## Federal Bank and Tata AIA Life Insurance Announce Strategic Bancassurance Partnership

Chennai, May 31 2024: Federal Bank, a prominent private sector bank in India, announced a Bancassurance tie-up with Tata AIA Life Insurance Co Ltd, one of India's leading life insurance companies. This strategic alliance aims to provide Federal Bank's customers, access to Tata AIA Life's comprehensive insurance product suite.



Federal Bank has an extensive network, which will enable Tata AIA to further strengthen its footprint. Both entities focus on the technology-enabled, consumer-centric business model, adding to the synergies of the partnership.

For Federal Bank customers, the partnership will enable them to benefit from

Tata AIA's diverse, consumer-centric life insurance solutions, including term insurance, savings and wealth creation plans, retirement, and pension solutions etc. Further, they can avail Tata AIA's innovative plans such as Param Rakshak that offer triple benefits of high life cover, market-linked returns, and health & wellness benefits. The solutions are backed by Tata AIA's empathy led; tech enabled service experience powered by best-in-class technology solutions.

Shalini Warriar,

Executive Director, Federal Bank said - We are pleased to announce a strategic Corporate Agency Bancassurance partnership with TATA AIA Life Insurance Company. This partnership aims to bring the best of insurance products to our valued customers. It is a well-known fact that the penetration of insurance amongst Indian consumers is low, and through this partnership, the Bank aims to enhance financial security and wealth management for our customers. The coming together of these two revered

brands reflects our commitment to always exceeding customer expectations.

Ramesh Viswanathan, Chief Distribution Officer-Bancassurance, Tata AIA Life Insurance, said, "At Tata AIA, our endeavor is to partner with our consumers, giving them access to best-in-class life insurance solutions, backed by empathy-led service experience, to enable them to live a fikar-free life. We are delighted to enter a long-term relationship with a reputed and technology-savvy bank like Federal Bank. This association will enable us to offer our diverse insurance solutions to the bank's customers, empowering them to fulfill their aspirations and secure their loved ones across all stages of life."

## Apollo hospitals performs world-first Renal denervation therapy with Simplicity Spyral for a hypertensive patient with Ectopic kidney

Chennai May 31 2024: Apollo Hospitals Chennai has achieved a remarkable world-first by successfully performing the Simplicity Spyral renal denervation (RDN) therapy on a patient with an ectopic kidney. Dr. Refai Showkathali and his team carried out this pioneering procedure to treat resistant hypertension in a 58-year-old man with uncontrolled blood pressure despite being on a maximum medical regimen.

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is a prevalent condition affecting nearly one-third of individuals over 40 years old. Controlling blood pressure is crucial, as even a modest 5mmHg reduction can decrease the risk of stroke by 34%, ischemic heart



disease by 21%, and mortality by 13%.

The 58-year-old patient had an ectopic left kidney located in the right iliac fossa, supplied by two separate renal arteries, an extremely rare anatomical variation. The innovative RDN therapy involved a radiofrequency ablation of both renal arteries, leading to a remarkable reduction in the patient's blood pressure from over 160/100 mmHg to 130/80 mmHg within a day. He was discharged the next day, requiring only two medications instead of the previous

Dr. Refai Showkathali, Senior Consultant, Interventional Cardiology, Apollo Hospitals Chennai, said, "We are happy to have successfully performed the world's first Simplicity Spyral RDN therapy on a patient with an ectopic kidney. This procedure offers new hope for patients with complex resistant hypertension conditions. The patient's significant improvement demonstrates the therapy's potential in managing obstinate cases of high blood pressure."

## MGM Cancer Institute Preserves Arm During Complex Removal of a football sized Cancerous Tumor

Chennai, May 31 2024: MGM Cancer Institute, a leading cancer care facility in Chennai, has announced the successful completion of a critical surgical procedure to remove a 30cm cancerous tumor from a 30-year-old patient from West Bengal. The surgery was performed by the REC NAC team at MGM Cancer Institute, including Dr. Balaji Ramani, Dr. Sivakumar Mahalingam, Dr. Sivaram Ganeshmoni, and Dr. Dhanasekar Padmanabhan, Surgical Oncologists at the institute.

The patient was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma, a rare cancer that typically affects the bones and surrounding soft tissues, most commonly found in children and young adults. Previously, the patient had undergone two tumor removal surgeries and two cycles of

chemotherapy at a

private hospital in Kolkata, but the tumor recurred, growing into a massive fungating mass that compressed his shoulder and arm.

Facing a recommendation for tumor excision and left limb amputation from his previous doctors, Mr. Subhan Ray

sought a second opinion at MGM Cancer Institute as a last resort. The REC NAC team at MGM Cancer Institute examined the patient, analyzed the tumor's complex 3D reconstruction imaging and then decided to undertake the challenging task of removing the tumor without causing harm to the arm. Along with the patient's weakened condition and low hemoglobin levels, further evaluation revealed that the tumor was very close to essential vessels and nerves offering only a slim chance to save the

limb. With the assistance of Dr. Sabari Girish, Lead Plastic Surgeon at MGM Cancer Institute, the REC NAC team successfully resected the tumor completely, preserving the patient's left arm using flap reconstruction technique.

Dr. Balaji Ramani, Senior Consultant in Surgical Oncology at MGM Cancer Institute, commented on the complexity of the surgery: "This is a rare case. Despite undergoing two previous tumor removal surgeries and chemotherapy, the tumor continued to grow, bleed, and became a large fungating mass. The patient could no longer undergo chemotherapy sessions. Believing limb removal was the only option, the patient and his family had lost hope. We advised one last surgery to remove the tumor before it could affect the bones. We meticulously

planned the surgery using advanced 3D imaging techniques, and were able to completely remove the tumor without amputating the limb."

Medtronic Global has confirmed this is the first-ever use of the FDA-approved Simplicity Spyral RDN catheter in ectopic kidneys worldwide, out of approximately 20,000 procedures performed globally. While appropriate medication and lifestyle modifications are the frontline treatments for hypertension, some patients may require additional interventions like RDN for better blood pressure control. This breathtaking achievement showcases Apollo Hospitals Chennai's leadership in interventional cardiology and its commitment to pioneering medical advancements that improve patient outcomes.

planned the surgery using advanced 3D imaging techniques, and were able to completely remove the tumor without amputating the limb."

Expressing his gratitude, the patient said, "I am incredibly thankful to the entire team at MGM Cancer Institute. Their expertise and compassion have given me a new lease on life. I am optimistic about my recovery and look forward to resuming my usual activities."

This case underscores the importance of early detection and the availability of advanced medical treatment options for rare cancers like Ewing Sarcoma. MGM Cancer Institute, part of MGM Healthcare, remains committed to advancing cancer treatment through innovative approaches and a patient-centered focus.

## Orion Innovation Names Kelly Ercolino - SVP of Marketing IT Industry Marketing Leader Brings Decades of Experience to Lead Orion's Strategic Marketing Function

Chennai May 31 2024: Orion Innovation ("Orion"), a leading digital transformation and product development services firm, has named Kelly Ercolino their new Senior Vice President of Marketing. As a technology industry marketing leader and strategist with two decades of experience, Ercolino will lead, develop, and implement a multi-channel marketing strategy in collaboration with Orion's leadership team to achieve the company's revenue and growth goals. She will play a key role in elevating Orion's brand, marketing strategy and initiatives across the company's global Product Engineering, Delivery Centers, Centers of Innovation (COI), and Industry Verticals.



track record of delivering exceptional results and building innovative marketing organizations to drive exponential growth in our space." said Raj Patil, CEO of Orion. "We're looking forward to working with Kelly to further strengthen our brand, deepen our market penetration, and accelerate our relationships as the leading digital transformation player in the industry."

moment in the company's growth and ongoing expansion," said Kelly. "Orion is a company committed to inspiring and accelerating digital innovation on a global scale. I'm excited to work with Raj and the leadership team to build a strategic marketing function to maximize the many opportunities Orion has to transform and modernize their clients' businesses."

"Kelly has a proven

"I'm thrilled to join Orion at this key

strategist and consultant for several high-profile technology companies. Before that, she was Vice President of Marketing at Carbyne, a public safety digital transformation company, and Global Marketing Head at Coforge, a global digital services and solutions provider. She also held senior-level marketing roles at enterprise software solutions provider NICE and was vital in creating the global business marketing function at Tata Consultancy Services. Ercolino has extended her dedication to continuous improvement by recently completing a 12-month high-intensity Executive program for CMOs at Columbia Business School rooted in the cutting edge of Strategic Marketing.

## Chennai All Set To Host the Second Leg of HCL Squash Tour and Southern Slam

Chennai May 31 2024: To enhance the squash ecosystem in India, HCL, a leading global conglomerate, along with the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI), is set to launch the second leg of the HCL Squash Tour and Southern Slam in Chennai. The city will host both tournaments at the Indian Squash Academy from June 4 to June 8, 2024.

The HCL Squash Tour is a multi-city PSA Challenger Tour, certified by the Professional Squash Association (PSA), which helps improve the world rankings of the players. Alongside the PSA tour, the Southern Slam is being organized. This event is a 5-star certified tournament by the SRFI and an ASF-accredited Gold event that enhances the Asian rankings of junior players.

Rajat Chandolia, AVP and Head of Brand at HCL, said "The HCL Squash Tour and the slams are integral components of our revamped Squash Podium Program,

designed to cultivate the potential of Indian players by offering them a ample opportunities and robust infrastructure. This initiative resonates with our brand's philosophy of 'Human Potential Multiplied,' which seeks to elevate the capabilities of individuals and communities while fostering a more dynamic sports ecosystem nationwide. Such tournaments are instrumental in ensuring that Indian players excel on the global stage."

Cyrus Poncha, Secretary General, the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) said, "The Southern Slam & PSA Tournament in Chennai is a fantastic opportunity for our young players to showcase their skills and compete against top international talent. This event is a crucial step in our mission to elevate Indian squash to new heights and foster a culture of excellence. We are committed to providing the best

platforms for our athletes to grow and succeed. I am eager to witness the high level of competition and sportsmanship over the next few days and wish all the players the very best."

These tournaments are being organized as part of the HCL Squash Podium Program, which provides Indian players the opportunity to compete with some of the best squash talent on home turf. The PSA tournament will feature over 47 players from five countries, including Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Kuwait, Qatar, and India, competing for a \$3,000 prize in both the men's and women's categories. In the Southern Slam, more than 250 junior players will compete in the U-11, U-13, U-15, U-17, and U-19 categories. This is the first of four zonal tournaments to be held alongside PSA tournaments in the coming year, providing junior players the opportunity to experience an

international-level competition and learn from senior players. Furthermore, participating and performing in the slam helps junior players improve their Asian rankings.

Recently, HCL hosted the inaugural PSA of the HCL Squash Tour in Indore, alongside the Indian Junior Open, at Daly College. The event featured over 48 players, and 7 out of the top 8 seeded players, both men and women, improved their rankings as a result of the competition.

In Chennai, the top-seeded squash talents will participate, including Anahat Singh (U19 & World Rank 114), Ravindu Laksiri (142 Rank), Rathika Suthanthira (170), Rahul Baitha (206 Rank), Vedant Patel (316), and Om Semwal (279 Rank), in the two tournaments. Also, Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu is participating in this PSA and Anahat Singh will take part in both PSA and Southern Slam.

## Dr Rashmi Saluja conferred the International Buddha Peace Award by the Myanmar Embassy

Chennai May 31 2024: Dr Rashmi Saluja, Executive Chairperson, Religare Enterprises and Chairperson, GTTCI {Global Trade & Technology Council (India)}, was awarded the International Buddha Peace Award at the 'Mahasaddhammajotik adhaja' Title conferring Ceremony on Sunday, 26 May, 2024. The ceremony that took place at the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi was presided over by His Excellency Mr. Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar to India.

Dr Saluja was recognized for her contributions to promoting peace and



global harmony. In her acceptance speech, Dr Saluja highlighted the urgent need for peace in today's world. She said, "In these challenging times, the need for peace is more critical than ever. India has always been at the forefront of promoting peace and harmony, both within the nation and globally. It is our collective responsibility to continue this legacy

and work towards a more peaceful world."

The event featured distinguished guests such as Abhidhaza Maharaththa Guru, Agga Maha Pandita Dr Ashin Nyanissara, and Abhidhaza Maharaththa Guru, Dr Bhaddant Nuanesara, adding significant importance to the occasion. Over 150 Buddhist monks, followers, dignitaries from various

embassies, and diplomats attended the ceremony.

This event reinforced the strong diplomatic ties between India and Myanmar and highlighted the shared commitment towards peace and understanding among nations. Religare Enterprises Ltd emphasized its ongoing dedication to supporting initiatives that promote peaceful coexistence. The company continues to provide platforms that highlight the shared responsibility of individuals, organizations, and nations in working towards global harmony.

## 9 in 10 from the Indian LGBTQIA+ community prioritize savings over spending to secure their financial future: Max Life's IPQ 6.0

Chennai May 31 2024: The flagship study of Max Life Insurance Company Limited (Max Life), the India Protection Quotient Survey (IPQ), in partnership with KANTAR, has revealed insights into the financial preparedness of the LGBTQIA+ community in India from the perspective of life insurance. This pioneering initiative, conducted in partnership with Pride Circle, one of India's premier Diversity and Inclusion Advisory firms, represents a significant step forward in understanding and addressing the specific financial needs of the diverse community.

Under the vision of 'One India-Protection for All', the PAN-India survey includes the LGBTQIA+ community for the first time to understand their financial preparedness. With a population estimated to be around 135 million people, or



around 10% of India's 1.4 billion population, the LGBTQIA+ community represents a significant segment whose financial preferences and challenges cannot be overlooked.[1][2]

With a Protection Quotient of 37 points, the LGBTQIA+ community exhibited a 17-point difference in financial preparedness, as compared to the digitally-savvy urban Indian at 54 points. In contrast, the LGBTQIA+ community has displayed a commendable level of awareness, understanding, and proactive engagement in financial planning, with 99% individuals aware of life insurance products. Despite high awareness, ownership

of life insurance in the community stands at 68%, as opposed to 80% ownership in the digital cohort.

Prashant Tripathy, CEO and Managing Director, Max Life said, "As India advances towards a more inclusive and sustainable future, the need to create comprehensive financial solutions for all is more critical than ever. At the heart of this mission is our flagship India Protection Quotient survey, which not only measures awareness levels of life insurance but also strives to achieve a deeper, more unbiased understanding of financial protection. This year, with the inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community, the India

Protection Quotient reaffirms our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equitable access to financial security for all Indians. We are dedicated to ensuring that everyone has the protection they deserve, driving forward a vision where every life is valued and safeguarded."

Ramkrishna Sinha, Co-Founder, Pride Circle said, "The inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community in Max Life's India Protection Quotient study is an important step to uncovering the gaps and challenges faced. We are optimistic that this will lead to enhanced attention, addressing the needs of this community, and a deeper understanding of the importance of life insurance. We at Pride Circle remain committed to working for the enablement of the LGBTQIA+ community, and this is a step toward financial wellbeing."

## Launch of a new Software Functionality for online filing of the PF member to update/correct their Member Profile

Chennai May 31 2024: The Employees' Provident Fund Organization is one of the World's largest Social Security Organizations in terms of the clientele and the volume of financial transactions undertaken. Presently, around 7.5 Crore members are actively contributing to the Provident Fund, Pension & Insurance Schemes each month.

In the first 2 months of this Financial Year alone

around 87 lakh claims had been settled in the form of social security benefits like advances for housing, post matriculate education of children, marriage, illness, final Provident Fund settlements, pension, insurance etc.

The member claim these benefits online which has been made possible through a robust computer software application, which validates the data of the

member in the Universal Account Number (UAN).

Therefore, the consistency of the data of the member in the records of the EPFO is of paramount importance to ensure that the services are provided online seamlessly and to the correct member duly avoiding any risk of erroneous payments or frauds.

The integrity of the data in the Member Profile is thus being

ensured by a Standard Operating Process (SOP) issued by the EPFO on 22nd August, 2023. It has now been operationalized by EPFO in a digital online mode. The members may request for change/rectification in the Member Data like Name, Gender, Date of Birth, Parent Name, Marital Status, Nationality, Aadhaar, etc online and upload the relevant prescribed documents.