

Karunanidhi towering figure in Indian politics, society: PM Narendra Modi

Chennai August 18 2024: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed late DMK President and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M Karunanidhi as a "towering figure" in Indian politics, literature and society.

The late leader's efforts to promote the Tamil language and culture are still remembered by the people, Modi said in a message to Karunanidhi's son and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin.

Stalin shared on his 'X' handle, Modi's message for the release of a commemorative coin on the occasion of Karunanidhi's centenary on Sunday by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The CM thanked Modi.

"I wholeheartedly thank Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. @narendramodi avl. for his kind wishes and support for the grand success of the Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar Centenary Commemorative Coin



release ceremony," Stalin said.

In his message, the PM said Karunanidhi "was a towering figure

in Indian politics, literature and society." "He was always

passionate about the development of Tamil Nadu, as well as

national progress."

"As a political leader, Thiru Kalaignar Karunanidhi ji left an indelible mark on our country's history as a Chief Minister who was elected by the people multiple times over the span of decades, underlining his deep understanding of society, policy and politics," the PM added.

The DMK stalwart was a multi-talented personality with a "prolific pen."

The release of the

coin honours the memory of Karunanidhi, as well as the ideals he stood for and it will serve as a reminder of his legacy and enduring impact of his work, Modi added.

"As we march ahead confidently towards building a developed India by 2047, the vision and thoughts of leaders like Thiru Kalaignar Karunanidhi ji will continue to shape the nation's journey," Modi said and wished the coin release ceremony be a "huge success."

Rajnath releases commemorative coin on Karunanidhi centenary

Chennai August 18 2024: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will release a Rs 100 commemorative coin on the centenary of late DMK president M Karunanidhi here on Sunday.

Singh will release the "Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar

Centenary Commemorative Coin," in the presence of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, ruling DMK president and Karunanidhi's son at an event here.

A host of state ministers and others will attend the event slated at the

Kalaivanar Arangam here. Karunanidhi (1924-2018), a Dravidian stalwart, was a five-time chief minister of the state and helmed the DMK for nearly five decades till his death.

The Union Finance Ministry had last month issued the



Coinage (Issue of the Commemorative Coin on the occasion of the Birth Centenary of Kalaignar Dr. M. Karunanidhi) Rules, 2024.

The coin would be of ₹100 denomination and would be released under the authority of

the Central government on the occasion of the birth centenary of the late leader.

The coin would bear the portrait of the late leader in the center of the coin on the reverse side. The inscription 'Birth

Centenary of Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi' would be in English as well as in Devnagari script.

On the same day, Mr Singh is expected to inaugurate facilities that come under his Defence Ministry in Chennai.

Chief Minister M K Stalin thanks PM Narendra Modi for his greetings

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Chennai August 18 2024: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday for his warm wishes regarding the successful release ceremony of the centenary commemorative coin in honor of former Chief

Minister M. Karunanidhi.

"I extend my heartfelt thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his kind wishes and support for the grand success of the Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar Centenary Commemorative Coin release ceremony," Stalin shared in a social

media post.

Praising the late DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi, Prime Minister Modi remarked, "This is a significant moment to commemorate the centenary of one of India's most remarkable sons, Thiru Kalaignar Karunanidhi Ji."

He further added, "Thiru Kalaignar Karunanidhi Ji was a towering presence in Indian politics, literature, and society. His dedication to the development of Tamil Nadu and national progress was unwavering," Modi wrote in a letter to CM Stalin.

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Alcon and Aravind Eye Care System Launch Global Centre of Excellence for Cataract Surgery Training in Chennai

Chennai, August 18 2024: Alcon, the global leader in eye care dedicated to helping people see brilliantly, and Aravind Eye Care System today announced the launch of India's first Global Centre of Excellence (CoE) dedicated to providing comprehensive training in advanced cataract surgery procedures for ophthalmology residents. The development of this centre marks a significant milestone in a 20-year partnership between Alcon and Aravind Eye Care System, a philanthropic eye care organization with unparalleled expertise in teaching and coaching.



The Alcon Aravind Centre for Surgical Advancement will house a state-of-the-art training facility, with high-end equipment donated by Alcon, including CENTURION® Vision System, LuxOR Revalia™ Ophthalmic Microscope, ARGOS® Biometer, and NGENUITY® 3D Visualization System. Alcon's innovations will be available in the operating room and practice lab to train residents in advanced procedures such as phacoemulsification. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Raj Narayanan, President, Alcon International, said, "Alcon has dedicated itself to helping people see brilliantly. We believe that everyone with cataracts should have access to high-standard care for effective post-surgery vision restoration and a better quality of life in their aging years. This Centre marks an important milestone in our 20-year partnership with Aravind and brings to life our shared vision of increasing access to quality eye care."

programs."

Phacoemulsification is an advanced technique of cataract surgery that is recognized as the preferred procedure in several evidence-based guidelines¹ as it offers advantages over the manual incision method, such as better post-operative visual acuity² and shorter recovery time.³ The procedure also has a smaller risk of surgical complications.³

Most of the ophthalmic residency programs in India focus on basic cataract surgery and few offer phacoemulsification training,⁴ highlighting the need for an elevated capacity for advanced surgical procedures such as phaco. The CoE aims to address this gap by providing surgical residents with more exposure to high-quality equipment and training.

Alcon is committed to advancing eye care and ensuring that the best possible treatments are accessible to those in need. This collaboration underscores the three pillars of Alcon's social impact and sustainability initiative: Brilliant Lives, Brilliant

Martin Group Managing Director Shri Charles Martin donated Rs 2 crore to help the people affected by the landslides in Kerala's Wayanad



Chennai August 18 2024: Managing Director of Martin group Coimbatore Shri Charles Martin handing over one Crore DD to Wayanad Flood Relief Rehabilitation and another one crore through Rotary for Flood Relief Rehabilitation House construction totalling Rs. 2 Crores in the presence of Rotary International Past District Governor Dr K.A.Kuriachan, Kairali TV Senior Manager, Mr Jigeesh and Martin Group Directors Dr Leema Rose Martin and Mrs Sindhusree Charles and PR Manager Mr John Paul in Thiruvananthapuram CM's Secretariat today.

World Breastfeeding Week event at Moorthy Nagar Anganwadi Centre, with 30 women participating



GOODWILL TRUST, ROTARY CLUB OF MOGAPPAIR AND NATURE RESOURCE FOUNDATION, CAME TOGETHER TO HOST AN INSPIRING WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK EVENT AT MOORTHY NAGAR ANGANWADI CENTRE, WITH 30 WOMEN PARTICIPATED.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- *AWARENESS TALK* ON BREASTFEEDING TIPS AND HEALTHY FOODS.- *INTERACTIVE QUIZ* WITH PRIZES FOR PARTICIPANTS.- *STRESS MANAGEMENT TIPS* AND DISTRIBUTION OF STRESS RELIEF MATERIALS. NUTRITIONAL SNACKS WERE PROVIDED, AND BOTH MOTHERS AND ANGANWADI WORKERS LEFT EMPOWERED AND GRATEFUL FOR THE VALUABLE INSIGHTS SHARED.

Goodwill Trust Hosts Independence Day Plastic Awareness Program at Vivekananda Vidhyalaya School

Chennai, August 18 2024: On Independence Day, Vivekananda Vidhyalaya Matriculation School, Padi, was the venue for

proceedings. The program engaged 70 students with insightful discussions on the impacts of plastic on



a significant plastic awareness program organized by Goodwill Trust and Nature Research Foundation. The event, honored by Ms. Bharathi Natesan – Goodwill trust – Director, Ms. Vijayalakshmi, Headmistress of Vivekananda Vidhyalaya school., featured students dressed as freedom fighters, adding a patriotic flair to the

health, ecosystems, and marine life. Topics included pollution, types of plastics, biodegradable options, and the importance of recycling. Interactive quizzes and practical demonstrations were held, with participants receiving stationery gift pouches as encouragement.



This initiative aimed to raise awareness about the environmental

challenges posed by plastic use, reinforcing the commitment to a plastic-free future as

India approaches its 100th year of independence.

Sara Ali Khan Unveils 5 Essentials to Get Ready for Raksha Bandhan

Chennai, August 18 2024: Chennai Raksha Bandhan, a celebration of sibling love and protection, is just around the corner. This festival is all about creating cherished memories and looking your best while doing it. To help you shine on this special day, the ever-glamorous and ITC F i a m a B r a n d Ambassador, Sara Ali Khan shares her gifting option and Rakhi essentials to ensure you look and feel fabulous.

1. Refreshing Morning Bath

To kickstart her day of fun and festivities, Sara indulges in a luxurious bath that keeps her feeling fresh all day long. She turns her bath into an indulgent experience with ITC F i a m a B l a c k c u r r a n t & B e a r b e r r y S h o w e r G e l. Its invigorating fragrance transforms a regular shower into a delightful, foamy escapade. Packed with natural ingredients, it leaves the skin glowing & rejuvenated.

2. Gift of Fragrant Love

Pick a special gift



this Rakhi for your sibling. A grooming kit or a body care essential is a great option.

Speaking on the occasion of Rakhi, Sara Ali Khan, Brand Ambassador ITC F i a m a S a y s, "I'm very close to my brother and we have shared a very playful bond over the years. While he knows I'm the best sister one could ask for, this Rakhi I want to express my love a little more. So along with my sisterly nakhre I'm going to gift him something that I love,

which makes me feel refreshed every single day. It is the ITC F i a m a M e n S h o w e r G e l C e l e b r a t i o n P a c k, so that his days are fragrant and fresh always!!!"

2. Festive ready skin

Its festive time and in this season, a body + skincare routine is essential. Follow a regimen of day and night skincare - a hydrating body wash, serum and sunscreen should be your go-tos to ensure the glow shines throughout the Rakhi festivities.

3. Fragrance Layering

To make her scent last all day, Sara practices the art of fragrance layering. She finishes with ITC F i a m a Y u z u & B e r g a m o t P e r f u m e M i s t for a fresh and vibrant twist. The zesty yuzu and sophisticated bergamot create a lively and invigorating aura that perfectly complements her festive attire and mood.

5. Stylish Accessories

No look is complete without the right accessories. Finish up your Raksha Bandhan ensemble with delicate jewellery, a chic watch, or bangles, adding an elegant touch that makes her feel ready to celebrate.

Getting ready for Rakhi is more than just picking out a cute outfit. By incorporating these five essentials into your routine, you'll not only look stunning but also feel confident and rejuvenated. Enjoy the festivities and cherish the moments with your loved ones, feeling fabulous from head to toe.

Vice President urges businesses to prioritise local production

Chennai, August 18 2024: Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar here on Saturday called upon the nation to embrace economic nationalism, urging the industry, trade, and commerce sectors to prioritise local production over avoidable imports.

Emphasizing the concept of Economic nationalism as a facet of Swadeshi and a reflection of being vocal for locals, Dhankhar highlighted the negative impact of unnecessary imports on the economy, including the drain of foreign exchange and the loss of job opportunities for Indian workers. "Our reliance on imported items like carpets, garments, and toys is not only sending our foreign exchange abroad but also impeding the growth of domestic entrepreneurship," the Vice President stated.

He appealed to the industry to resolve this issue by supporting



local production, which would, in turn, provide work for Indian workers and foster entrepreneurship.

Addressing a programme organized on the occasion of 23rd Anniversary of Swarna Bharat Trust at Venkatachalam, near here, Dhankhar underscored the critical need for optimal consumption of natural resources, urging citizens to use resources based on necessity rather than financial power.

He emphasised that the overuse of natural resources driven by economic strength poses a significant threat to future generations.

Cautioning against reckless expenditure, the Vice President remarked that such actions will jeopardize the well-being of future generations. "If we spend unnecessarily based on the power of money, we are putting the future generation in danger," he stated.

Expressing concern over the export of raw materials, such as iron ore, without value addition, Dhankhar said that this practice not only diminishes employment potential but also weakens the nation's economic framework.

"It is painful to see our iron ore leaving the ports without added value. As a nation, we cannot afford to

prioritize easy and quick money over long-term national interests," he asserted.

The VP called for a collective effort to prioritize the nation's well-being over political, self, and economic interests, expressing confidence that this shift in mindset will be achieved.

Expressing his deep admiration and respect for the former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Dhankhar highlighted Naidu's lifelong dedication to the welfare of the nation, emphasizing his unflinching commitment to the ideals that have shaped his public life.

AP Governor Justice S. Abdul Nazeer, Sameera Nazeer, Venkaiah Naidu, Usha Naidu, Ministers Aanam Ramanarayana Reddy and P. Narayana were among those who attended the 23rd Anniversary celebrations of Swarna Bharat Trust.

Yatra Expands Southern Presence with Latest Franchise Store in Chennai

Chennai August 18 2024: Yatra Online Limited, India's largest corporate travel services provider and leading online travel company, has opened a new franchise store in Chennai. This new store marks a significant milestone in Yatra's mission to broaden its presence across the country and offer unparalleled travel solutions to its customers.

The new franchise store, located at Anna Salai, Saidapet.

Chennai, will provide a comprehensive range of travel services, including flight bookings, hotel reservations, holiday packages, visa assistance and more. This expansion is part of Yatra's strategic initiative to enhance its accessibility and bring its innovative travel solutions closer to customers in key regions across India.

"We are thrilled to expand our network in Chennai with the opening of our new

franchise store," said Sabina Chopra, COO of Corporate Travel and Head of Industry Relations at Yatra. "This expansion underscores our commitment to providing exceptional travel experiences and personalized service to our customers. With the new store, we aim to cater to the growing demand for seamless travel solutions in Tamil Nadu and strengthen our presence in the southern region. Yatra invites all residents of

Chennai to visit the new store and experience the convenience and excellence of its travel services firsthand."

Yatra's expansion into Chennai aligns with its ongoing efforts to enhance customer engagement and provide localized support. The company's franchise model allows for personalized service while maintaining the high standards of quality and innovation that Yatra is known for.

India hosts 3rd summit virtually; 123 nations attend Modi mulls human-centric growth for Global South Focus on multi-sectoral development: PM

Chennai August 18 2024: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday proposed the creation of a human-centric "Global Development Compact" for the Global South to facilitate trade, sharing of technologies and concessional financing based on India's growth journey, in a move that came amid concerns over many countries falling into the Chinese 'debt trap'.

The needy countries will not be burdened with debt in the name of development finance, Modi said announcing the new initiative at the third India-hosted virtual Voice of the Global South Summit.

Modi said the 'Compact' will be in line with the priorities of developing countries even as he urged the Global South to work unitedly in confronting food and energy security crises and the challenge of terrorism and extremism.

India hosted the third edition of the summit in sync with its commitment and priorities for the Global South or the developing countries.

"I would like to propose a comprehensive 'Global Development Compact' on behalf of India. The foundation of this Compact will be based on India's development journey and experiences of development partnership," Modi said at the closing session of the Summit.

"It will be human-centric, and multi-dimensional for development and will

promote a multi-sectoral approach. It will not burden the needy countries with debt in the name of development finance," he said.

The summit was joined by 123 countries including Heads of State and Government of 21 nations. A total of 34 foreign ministers attended the deliberations while 118 other ministers also joined other ministerial sessions, according to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

Head of Bangladesh's interim Government Mohammad Yunus, Prime Minister of Bhutan Tshering Tobgay, his Nepalese counterpart K.P. Sharma Oli, Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth were among those who attended the summit.

Top leaders of Belarus, Chile, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Lao PDR, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Oman, Suriname, Tajikistan, Timor Leste, Uruguay and Vietnam also joined the deliberations.

In his address, Modi said the 'Compact' will help in the balanced and sustainable development of partner countries.

"Under this Compact we will focus on trade for development, capacity building for sustainable growth, technology sharing, project-specific concessional finance and grants. To strengthen trade promotion activities,

India will start a special fund of 2.5 million dollars. Training will be provided in trade policy and trade negotiation for capacity building," he said.

A fund of USD one million will be provided for this, Modi said.

At a media briefing, Jaishankar said a range of issues including climate change, debt burden, challenges of new technologies, the situation in Gaza and the need for reform of the multilateral institutions figured in the deliberations.

Some of the leaders also talked about sovereignty, strategic autonomy and interference and expressed concerns in that regard, he said.

To a question, Jaishankar said China and Pakistan were not invited to the summit. In his remarks, the prime minister also said that the solution to various conflicts and tensions around the world lies in inclusive global governance.

"You have also raised concerns related to tensions and conflicts. This is a serious issue for all of us. The solution to these concerns depends on just and inclusive global governance," Modi said.

"Steps should be taken to reduce the gap between the Global North and the Global South. The Summit of the Future to be held in the UN next month can become an important milestone for all this," he said.

In his address at the opening session of the summit, Modi called on the Global South to

work unitedly in dealing with food and energy security crises and challenges of terrorism, amid concerns over the consequences of "uncertainties" across the world.

Modi said India will make an initial contribution of USD 25 million to the 'Social Impact Fund' that aims to develop digital public infrastructure (DPI) in the Global South.

There has been an "atmosphere of uncertainty" around the world and it has not yet fully come out of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, he said adding new challenges to development are being faced due to wars.

"We are already facing the challenges of climate change, and now there are also concerns about health security, food security, and energy security," he said.

"Terrorism, extremism and separatism remain a serious threat to our societies. Technology divide and new economic and social challenges related to technology are also emerging," he said.

The Prime Minister said the global governance and financial institutions formed in the last century have been unable to fight the challenges of this century.

"It is the need of the hour that the countries of the Global South unite, stand together in one voice and become each other's strength. Let us learn from each other's experiences," Modi said.

Indian Life insurers register record new business figures in July'24; premium collection and policy issuances swell by 20.50% and 8.90% respectively on a YTD basis

Mumbai, August 18 2024: Life Insurance Council has released updated industry business numbers for the month of July 2024. Amongst several key highlights, new business premiums (NBPs) underwritten by Indian life insurers has achieved a robust Y-o-Y growth of 14.2% in the month of July 2024, with YTD figures recording a 20.5% growth over the same period last year. New business premiums expanded from Rs.27,867.1 Crs in July 2023 to Rs.31,822.69 Crs in July '24, with YTD collections growing even more from Rs.1,00,871.97 Crs to Rs.1,21,549.39 Crs this year. Driven by a strong demand for enhanced insurance protection from individual consumers,

new policy issuances too increased by 2.73% on a Y-o-Y basis in July'24, resulting in the addition of 23,88,720 new policies vis-à-vis 23,25,235 policies sold in the year ago period.

According to data released by the Life Insurance Council, the life insurance industry saw individual single premiums growing by 24.82% on a Y-o-Y basis to close at Rs.4,610.66 Crs for July'24 while YTD growth stood at 17.89%. Individual non-single premiums came in at Rs.9,170.53Crs and grew by 18.72% in July'24, even as YTD collections settled at 19.55% higher than the corresponding period last year. This strong performance can be ascribed to the

fact that life insurers are increasingly focusing on encouraging first-time life insurance buyers to buy essential life insurance solutions, contributing to the 20.69% growth in combined individual premium collections for the month of July'24 and 19% growth on a YTD basis. In the Group policy segment, single premiums grew by 9.88% with monthly collections coming in at Rs.16,435.24 Crs. In fact, the Group policy category witnessed a 9.68% growth in premiums collected in July '24 while new policy issuances expanded by 10.51% on a Y-o-Y basis.

The life insurance industry in India has been making significant strides forward by expanding

access to insurance and making an effort to reach out to areas and segments of the country's population that were previously underserved when it comes to their insurance needs. Towards this end, life insurers added more than 86,621 individual life insurance agents reflecting a 2.99% growth in cumulative agent count and proof of the continued pace of organic expansion. Moreover, the sustained pace of agent addition is being complimented by the high speed of digitisation by life insurers, paving the way for additional gains in insurance penetration that should provide a significant boost to new business premiums in FY25 and beyond.

FM to meet PSU Banks, RRBs heads on performance review tomorrow

Chennai, August 18 2024: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to convene a crucial review meeting at Vigyan Bhawan on Monday to assess the performance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

This meeting aims to evaluate key financial metrics and the effectiveness of various government schemes, ensuring that these financial institutions are aligned with the economic goals.

The morning session of the review meeting is dedicated to

the evaluation of the Public Sector Banks from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The review meeting will also focus on several critical areas. Finance Minister along with other participants will review deposit growth, the credit-to-deposit ratio, and asset quality, which are vital indicators of the banks' health.

Additionally, the meeting will address the current status of accounts acquired by the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) and discuss the action taken thus far, along with future strategies.

The finance minister will also evaluate the performance of PSBs under government initiatives such as PM Awas Yojana, PM Surya Ghar, and PM Vishwakarma will also be scrutinized, along with advancements in digital payments and cyber security measures.

In the afternoon meeting from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, the focus will shift to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). The agenda includes evaluating key financial parameters, Ground Level Credit (GLC) for agriculture,

and the status of technology upgrades.

The meeting will also cover initiatives for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), performance under government schemes, recent interventions, and any pending issues that require attention.

This comprehensive review is expected to provide valuable insights into the functioning of PSBs and RRBs, enabling the government to enhance its contributions to the economy and ensure financial stability across the nation.

China plans magnetic launcher base in Moon

Chennai, August 18 2024: Chinese scientists have proposed building a magnetic launcher on the Moon to transport resources mined there back to Earth. This idea, reported by the South China Morning Post, could be a cost-effective solution, potentially reducing transportation costs to about 10% of current methods.

The scientists, from

the Shanghai Institute of Satellite Engineering, suggest that the system would work like a hammer throw in athletics, using a rotating arm to launch cargo capsules. Thanks to the Moon's low gravity and vacuum conditions, the system could send payloads twice a day.

A key focus of the project is the extraction of helium-3, which could help

address Earth's energy needs. The magnetic launcher, powered by electricity and requiring no propellant, would be relatively easy to implement and could operate for at least 20 years. However, the system, which would weigh around 80 tonnes, would need to be delivered to the Moon by a super-heavy launch vehicle.

This project may

become part of the Russian-Chinese International Scientific Lunar Station (ISLS), planned for completion by 2035. The ISLS agreement, signed in 2022 and ratified in 2024, outlines a three-phase development of the lunar station, including modules on the Moon's surface and in its orbit.

Ongo Launches Instant National Common Mobility Card 'Ongo Ride' at Chennai Metro Rail Corporation to Provide Enhanced Commuting Experience

Chennai August 18 2024: Ongo, the digital payments platform of AGS Transact Technologies (BSE: 543451 & NSE: AGSTRA), one of India's leading integrated omnichannel payments providers, today announced the launch of 'Ongo Ride', an instant National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) at Chennai Metro Rail Corporation (CMRL). Ongo has installed unique card dispensers at 13 select Chennai metro stations to facilitate instant issuance of ready-to-use 'Ongo Ride' cards and provide commuters an enhanced travel experience. In due course, the company will look at issuing 'Ongo Ride' at additional metro stations in Chennai.

The key USP of 'Ongo Ride' is the instant card issuance process. Commuters can purchase 'Ongo Ride' cards for Rs 100 from these card dispensers in three easy steps: Select Card - Pay via UPI Collect



ready-to-use 'Ongo Ride' card. Each card comes preloaded with a balance of Rs 50. Commuters can conveniently top up their 'Ongo Ride' cards at ticket counters across all Chennai metro stations. This streamlined process offers a quick over-the-counter experience encouraging faster adoption of NCMCs across India.

Chennai Metro is one of the 12 metro systems in the country that are NCMC enabled and has a peak monthly ridership of 95+ lakh, and 35+ lakh closed-loop metro card users as of July 2024. 'Ongo Ride', a National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), offers commuter a unified payment solution which seamlessly integrates various

transportation modes such as metros, buses & water ferries as well as at parking and toll booths. Further, it does not require full KYC, as per the updated RBI guidelines, for making transit payments, promising a more efficient commuting experience.

Mr. Ravi B. Goyal, Chairman & Managing Director, AGS Transact Technologies Limited, said, "we are thrilled to launch 'Ongo Ride', an instant National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) designed for the modern-day commuter at Chennai Metro. Metro railways are a cornerstone of urban mobility infrastructure, with India experiencing a daily metro ridership

of approximately 10 million. At AGS Transact, we believe that NCMCs have the potential to transform mobility across the nation. With our unique NCMC card dispensers, we are simplifying the issuance process, and through 'Ongo Ride' we are enabling seamless access to all NCMC-enabled transit services. Our goal is to provide unparalleled convenience for commuters on the go."

The Reserve Bank of India recently updated rules allowing banks and non-bank PPI companies to issue National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC) without KYC specifically for transit payments. Commuters can conveniently top up their Ongo Ride cards with a maximum fund limit of Rs. 3,000 at ticket counters. While 'Ongo Ride' is universally accepted at all NCMC-enabled points across India, it's not intended for transactions related to online/e-commerce shopping or in-store dining experiences.

Joyalukas Diamond Jewellery Exhibition from August 15 to September 1, 2024 at Joyalukas Showroom, Crosscut Road, Coimbatore

Chennai, August 18 2024: For those who cherish the allure of fine jewellery and are lovers of diamonds, the Joyalukas Diamond Jewellery Show is surely not to be missed. From August 15th to Sep. 1st, 2024, this grand exhibition promises to be the most significant jewellery showcase of the year. Joyalukas, renowned globally for its superior craftsmanship and exquisite designs, unveils its exclusive bespoke jewellery collection at this spectacular show. The Diamond Jewellery Show will feature a captivating array of stunning never-before-seen diamonds, uncut diamonds, and precious jewellery pieces, each meticulously crafted



to embody the pinnacle of elegance and innovation. This exclusive collection is available only at the Diamond Showcase, ensuring a one-of-a-kind experience for visitors. In addition to "This year's Diamond Jewellery Show is a testament to our commitment to excellence and craftsmanship," said Mr Joy Alukkas, Chairman & MD of Joyalukas. "We are excited to present a collection that is not only unique but represents the highest standards of design and quality. Our bespoke pieces are crafted especially for

this exhibition, offering a rare opportunity for jewellery enthusiasts to witness and acquire some of the most exquisite pieces ever created." In addition to showcasing unparalleled designs and world-class craftsmanship, the Diamond Jewellery Show has exceptional offers. Customers get to enjoy FREE 1 GM Gold Coin with a purchase of Rs.1 lakh and above worth of diamond jewellery. With its unparalleled designs and world-class craftsmanship, the Diamond Jewellery Show stands

as the premier event for those seeking to explore and acquire exceptional jewellery. The exhibition will be held at the Joyalukas new showroom in Kondapur, offering a sophisticated setting to indulge in the world of brilliance. Joyalukas invites all jewellery aficionados and connoisseurs to experience the brilliance of their latest collection. Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to discover the ultimate excellence and take advantage of these exclusive offers.