

**CM M K Stalin inaugurates integrated rehabilitation service centre for persons with disabilities**

Chennai Nov 25 2024: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated "Vizhuthugal Integrated Service Centre" in Kannagi Nagar, Sholinganallur. The centre, established under the Tamil Nadu Rights Project, aims to provide holistic physical and mental rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities.

The Chief Minister highlighted the state's pioneering initiatives for the welfare of persons with disabilities, a

legacy started by former CM and DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi. He noted that Tamil Nadu was the first state in India to create a dedicated department for disability welfare and introduced the term "Persons with Disabilities" to promote dignity and inclusivity.

The government has implemented several welfare measures under the Chief Minister's leadership, including increasing the monthly maintenance allowance

for severely disabled individuals to Rs.2,000, Doubling educational assistance for students with disabilities, Providing advanced assistive devices and free travel benefits in government buses.

The "Vizhuthugal" Centre is the first of 273 integrated service centres planned under the World Bank-supported Tamil Nadu Rights Project. Located in Kannagi Nagar, an area identified for its socio-economic needs,



the centre offers: Six rehabilitation

services: special education, vision assessment, audiology

and speech therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and psychological services.

Access-friendly infrastructure to cater to persons with disabilities in the Perungudi and Sholinganallur zones of Greater Chennai. Surveillance cameras and emergency assistance systems to ensure safety.

IoT technology to address emergencies remotely, the first such implementation in India.

The centre has been revamped with state-of-the-art facilities under Harmonized Guidelines 2021 at a cost of Rs.3.08 crore. Additionally, an Aavin milk booth operated by a person with disabilities has been established on the premises. Chief Minister Stalin interacted with beneficiaries and their families during the event. The centre's services will operate on a pre-scheduled timetable, benefiting those identified during

the 2023-24 field survey.

Health Minister Ma. Subramanian, Chennai Mayor R. Priya, MLAs S. Aravind Ramesh, A.M.V. Prabhakar Raja, and K. Ganapathi, officials were present at the event.

This initiative underscores Tamil Nadu's commitment to empowering persons with disabilities and fostering a society rooted in equality and dignity.

**Heavy rainfall alert for Tamil Nadu as low-pressure system intensifies**

Chennai Nov 25 2024: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has sounded an alert for Tamil Nadu, forecasting heavy to very heavy rainfall over the next five days as a well-marked low-pressure system intensifies over the Bay of Bengal.

Initially forming over the East Equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal, the system has moved west-northwestward and developed into a well-marked low-pressure area over the southeastern Bay of

Bengal. It is expected to strengthen into a depression by Monday as it tracks northwestward toward the Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka coasts. The IMD has issued orange and yellow alerts for multiple districts, with heavy rainfall anticipated across the state starting today.

Cauvery Delta Districts: Very heavy rainfall is predicted in Mayiladuthurai, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, and Nagapattinam over the next three days.

Northern Coastal Districts: Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, and

Chengalpattu are on yellow alert from November 27 to 29, with intense rain expected.

Other Districts on Alert: Villupuram, Cuddalore, and other coastal areas are also bracing for heavy downpours. The IMD has advised local authorities to prepare for potential disruptions, particularly in flood-prone and low-lying areas.

The public, including farmers and fishermen, are urged to exercise caution and stay informed about weather updates. Coastal regions should

remain vigilant as strong winds and rough seas are likely to accompany the system.

The weather system is projected to influence Tamil Nadu's climate through the end of the week, with risks of localized flooding in vulnerable areas. The IMD is closely monitoring the system and will provide timely updates to ensure public safety.

Residents are advised to follow official weather advisories and take necessary precautions during this period of heavy rainfall.

**Trump unveils plan in new book Save America**

Chennai Nov 25 2024: US President-elect Donald Trump announced the start of sales of his new book 'Save America', in which he describes his first four years as head of state and vision of the next term in the

White House.

The book is priced at \$99, with a signed copy available for \$499. It's described as an "unparalleled look" at the Republican's first four years in office and his vision for his next term, and

is filled with "iconic moments" from Trump's first administration.

"From Historic Summits with World Leaders to candid scenes from the White House, every photo has been selected by

President Trump, alongside his words, which provide insight into what will shape his next four years in office," the book's description says.

Trump, who was already in office after the 2016 election, won the November 5 presidential election, making him the first US leader since the 19th century to return to the White House after a four-year hiatus. Trump's victory was declared by all leading media outlets involved in vote counting: the Associated Press, Fox News, CNN, NBC, ABC and CBS. The Electoral College from the states must vote for candidates in accordance with the will of the voters on December 17, and the new Congress will approve the results of the vote on January 6. The inauguration will take place on January 20.

**TN Assembly session to begin on Dec 9**

Chennai Nov 25 2024: The next session of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly (TNLA) is set to commence on December 9 at 9:30 AM in the Assembly Hall of the State Secretariat, according to a notification issued by TNLA Secretary K. Srinivasan on Monday. Speaker M. Appavu has convened the session, which is expected to witness intense debates.

Key Issues

The session comes amid sharp criticism from the opposition, targeting the ruling DMK on multiple fronts:

Law and Order Concerns: The opposition has raised questions about the government's handling of law and order in the state.

TANGEDCO-Adani Controversy: The recent indictment of Adani Group in the US over a

bribery case involving Indian states has brought the spotlight on the alleged nexus between TANGEDCO and the business tycoon. Monsoon Management: The government is also likely to face scrutiny over its preparedness and response to the challenges posed by recent North East monsoon rains. This session marks the first since Udhayanidhi Stalin, DMK youth

wing secretary and son of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, was elevated to the post of Deputy Chief Minister and placed third in the cabinet hierarchy. His new role is expected to add a dynamic dimension to the proceedings.

With significant political and administrative issues at stake, the upcoming session is poised to be a heated and closely watched event.

**Post rapprochement, Cyprus mulls joining NATO**

Chennai Nov 25 2024: Cyprus plans to join NATO, the strategy of gradual rapprochement of the Republic of Cyprus with the alliance was the focus of the meeting of the island state's President Nikos Christodoulides with US President Joe Biden in late October, Greek newspaper Kathimerini reported.

Cyprus was one of the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement, but in 2004, in connection with its accession to the European Union, it left it.

Christodoulides visited Washington on October 30. This was the first official visit of the President of Cyprus to the American capital since 1996.

Christodoulides, elected president in February 2022, fully supported anti-Russian sanctions. He advocates strengthening the island's ties with the United States. At the same time, the Cypriot authorities previously stated that there were serious obstacles to joining NATO, since Turkey would object

to it, and Cyprus did not meet the conditions for NATO membership.

Nicosia has developed a plan, the ultimate goal of which will be joining NATO, realizing what serious obstacles it will inevitably encounter, the publication said. This is a detailed, well-thought-out, long-term plan, consisting of many interdependent stages, which has already been adopted by Washington, it said, adding that White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan called it a "win-win option." The starting point of the plan is the positive development of the Cyprus settlement and progress in relations between Cyprus and Turkey.

According to the newspaper, after Washington, Christodoulides also discussed his plan with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte on the sidelines of the European Political Community summit in Bucharest.

Cyprus has been de facto divided between the Greek and Turkish communities since 1974, following an armed invasion by Turkey provoked by a coup in Cyprus and an attempt to annex the island to Greece. Thirty-seven percent of the island's territory, where the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) was proclaimed in 1983, was occupied. Only Turkey has recognized the TRNC. UN-mediated talks between the Greek and

Turkish communities on the reunification of Cyprus were interrupted after the failure of another round held in the Swiss city of Crans-Montana in 2017. Attempts are currently being made to resume negotiations.

Greek Cypriots believe that the Cyprus problem can only be resolved on the basis of UN decisions within the framework of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. Turkish Cypriots advocated a confederation of Cyprus. The leader of the Turkish community, Ersin Tatar, stated that he would not return to the negotiating table until the equal sovereignty and international status of Turkish Cypriots was recognised.

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## India beat Australia by 295 runs; take 1-0 lead in 5-Test series

Chennai Nov 25 2024: India beat Australia by 295 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match Test series at the Optus Stadium on Monday. India completed the victory inside of four days by bowling out the home team for 238 runs in the second innings. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj claimed three wickets apiece, while debutant Nitish Kumar Reddy got his maiden Test wicket by accounting for a well-set Mitchell Marsh giving the visitors the much needed break through.

At the tea break on Day 4, Australia's score stood at 227/8 after 53.4 overs, with Alex Carey (30 not out) at the crease. The Indian bowlers have maintained tight control throughout the session, and with Australia's tail exposed, it is looking increasingly difficult for the hosts to stave off defeat.

The day began with Australia resuming their innings at 12/3, still 521 runs behind.

Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head were at the crease, providing the backbone of Australia's counterattack. However, the Indian bowlers, especially the experienced paceman Jasprit Bumrah, had other ideas.

Australia's innings took a turn for the worse when Bumrah dismissed Head in spectacular fashion. Head, who had been playing a counterattacking innings, seemed set for a big score, having struck eight boundaries in his 101-ball knock. Bumrah, however, devised a clever plan to unsettle the left-hander, targeting him with straight deliveries and cutting off any width outside the off-stump.

Bumrah continued with a strategy of forcing Head into a defensive mode, even getting him to play an ill-timed flick. Eventually, Bumrah got the break-through with a full-length delivery, with Head edging a wide ball to

Rishabh Pant behind the stumps, falling for 89.

India's bowlers then capitalised on the pressure created by Head's departure, and just a few overs later, Mitchell Marsh, the other key Australian batsman, was dismissed for 47. Marsh had been playing a gritty knock, with a few delightful shots including a couple of sixes and fours.

However, it was a ball from debutant Nitish Reddy that undid him. The delivery was back of a length, wide outside off-stump, but it kept low and Marsh attempted a cut shot. The ball found the thick edge of Marsh's bat and crashed into the stumps. Reddy, who had been brought into the attack to provide fresh energy, picked up his maiden Test wicket, and the Australian hopes were dented further.

The Australian tail quickly began to fall apart. Starc, who joined Carey at the

crease, had little chance to stabilise the innings. Washington Sundar produced a brilliant delivery that clipped Starc's bat as he attempted a shot on the on-side. The ball flew almost behind short leg, where Dhruv Jurel, standing in the right position, stretched out his right hand and took a blinder of a catch.

Starc was dismissed for just 12, leaving Australia at 227/8 and effectively ending any realistic hopes of victory.

Before these wickets fell, Australia had been fighting back through some strong batting from Head and Marsh. Head was in aggressive mode, and his pull shots off the short deliveries were particularly impressive. He took on Bumrah, pulling him for a couple of boundaries before eventually falling to his tactics. Marsh had also been busy, driving the ball through the covers with authority and lofting the ball over mid-off for a six.

## Yogi Babu ventures into Hollywood with Trichy-native Tel K. Ganesan's 'Trap City'

Chennai Nov 25 2024: Tel K.

Ganesan, a native of Trichy in Tamil Nadu, has emerged as a transformative figure in Hollywood, breaking barriers and introducing Indian talent to global audiences under the banner of Kyyba Films. From producing impactful films to strategically merging the best of Indian and Western cinema, Ganesan's journey exemplifies his commitment to creating a cultural bridge between Tamil Nadu and Hollywood.

Ganesan's efforts have consistently spotlighted Indian talent on the international stage. He facilitated the Hollywood debut of popular Tamil actor Napoleon through 'Devil's Night: Dawn of the Nain Rouge', setting a precedent for Indian representation in Western cinema. Continuing his vision, Ganesan brought acclaimed Tamil composer and actor G.V. Prakash Kumar into Hollywood projects, showcasing his multifaceted artistry.



In his latest production, 'Trap City', Ganesan introduces Tamil comedy icon Yogi Babu to Hollywood in a never-seen-before role, including a standout scene where Yogi Babu dances like Michael Jackson to an English rap song. These collaborations underscore Tel K. Ganesan's dedication to amplifying Tamil talent and fostering cross-cultural storytelling.

'Trap City' marks Tel Ganesan's debut as a director and screenwriter. Featuring a star-studded cast—Brandon T. Jackson, Jay "Jeezy" Jenkins, Yogi Babu, Napoleon Duraisamy, and G.V. Prakash Kumar—the film explores themes of redemption, morality, and survival in the urban music

industry. The movie follows a young artist's fight for survival in the gritty music

industry, combining compelling storytelling with powerful performances. More details about 'Trap City' will be made available soon.

Tel Ganesan played a pivotal role in bringing Liam Neeson's 'The Marksman' to Indian audiences. The movie was widely released in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu-dubbed versions across 700+ screens, ensuring accessibility to regional markets.

Tel K. Ganesan, born on June 11, 1967, in Trichy, pursued his early education at the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) school and

St. Joseph's High School. He earned his degree in Mechanical Engineering from the College of Engineering, Guindy, Chennai, before moving to the United States.

There, he completed his Master's in Mechanical Engineering at Wayne State University and an Executive MBA from the University of Michigan's Stephen M. Ross School of Business.

After a successful tenure at Chrysler, Tel ventured into entrepreneurship, founding Kyyba Inc., a Michigan-based company specializing in IT and engineering services. Under his leadership, Kyyba expanded into various sectors, including film production through Kyyba Films.

## Will introspect & rebuild NCP (SP), says Supriya

Chennai Nov 25 2024: NCP (SP) working president Supriya Sule has said her party, which won just 10 seats in the Maharashtra assembly elections, will introspect over the poll results and pledged to work towards a capable, inclusive and progressive state.

In a statement on X, the Baramati Lok Sabha member on Sunday said they respect the people's mandate. She promised to rebuild the party and said it would move forward with determination despite its dismal show.

The Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) and its Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) collectively bagged only 46 of the state's 288 assembly seats.

"We respect and humbly accept the verdict of the people in

the assembly elections. This result is a moment for deep reflection and renewal. We will introspect, learn, and rebuild with honesty, hard work, and an unshakable commitment to the values we stand for," Sule wrote.

She stressed that her party was committed to creating a capable, inclusive, and progressive Maharashtra.

"Our vision of a capable, inclusive, and progressive Maharashtra remains unchanged. We reaffirm our pledge to fight for the rights, dignity, and self-respect of farmers, workers, women, youth, and every marginalised section of society," Sule stated.

She said her party will continue to carry forward the ideals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Dr

Babasaheb Ambedkar, and social reformers like Jyotiba Phule.

"We are determined to carry forward the timeless ideals of Shiv-Shahu-Phule-Ambedkar with renewed energy and purpose," she wrote on the social media platform.

Sule congratulated those who had won in the elections. "We hope you will serve Maharashtra with dedication and prioritise the welfare of every citizen," she said.

The parliamentarian, who is the daughter of Sharad Pawar, expressed gratitude to the voters, party workers, their MVA allies and the authorities for facilitating the elections.

"A heartfelt thank you to all voters, the diligent workers and leaders of NCP (SP), our Maha Vikas

Aghadi allies, the Election Commission, police, administration, media, and everyone who contributed to making this election a vibrant celebration of democracy," Sule added.

She said her party would remain focused on its goals and continue its efforts to serve the people of Maharashtra. "We remain steadfast. Our fight continues - with humility, with courage, and with the hope of building a Maharashtra that fulfils the dreams of its people," she added.

Sharad Pawar suffered the worst-ever defeat in his political career in Maharashtra polls with the NCP (SP) led by him winning only 10 seats in the 288-member House. His MVA partners Congress and Sena (UBT) got 16 and 20 seats, respectively.

## "Unleash Your Fashion Potential with LANGUAGE®'s Latest Footwear Collection"

Chennai Nov 25 2024: Step into the vibrant world of fashion with LANGUAGE®, ensuring you radiate confidence and elegance at any event. A diverse array of footwear, perfect for every gathering is available - whether you're hosting a cozy family dinner or attending a grand celebration.

LANGUAGE® invites you to explore its latest stunning footwear collection, thoughtfully designed to blend comfort and elegance. The Edwin Loafer shines with its lightweight design and plush feel. It offers seamless transitions from formal events to relaxed outings, featuring a premium leather upper and a leather-lined removable footbed for ultimate ease. The Lane Lace-ups



provide a refined look with a sleek silhouette and reliable support, crafted with meticulous attention to detail for extended wear. Meanwhile, the standout Davin Monk Shoes make a bold statement with intricate detailing and a unique perforation design, made from high-quality leather and enhanced by a strong sole for both style and resilience. Together, these styles elevate your wardrobe while ensuring stability, allowing you to celebrate every moment in style.

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LANGUAGE® ensures that your footwear speaks volumes, letting you shine with unmatched grace and confidence.

Discover the perfect pair that matches your personal style in the latest collection from LANGUAGE® - a celebration of craftsmanship, versatility, and modern elegance. Explore the collection at exclusive outlets in Nungambakkam & Express Avenue Mall in Chennai, Sarath City Capital Mall in Hyderabad, Lulu Mall in Kochi, Pavilion Mall in Ludhiana, Bhupendra Road in Patiala, and Mall Road in Bathinda. The shoes are also available in over 250 multi-brand outlets nationwide, including Metro Shoes, Mochi, Inc.5, Centro, Rocia, and Regal Shoes.

This season, elevate your wardrobe with meticulously designed footwear from LANGUAGE® that merges functionality with style. Whether you're embracing tradition or making a modern statement, tailored especially for



## ACTION HERO & NATIONAL HEARTTHROB VIJAY DEVERAKONDA TAKES HIS LOVE FOR FOOD TO ANOTHER LEVEL

Chennai Nov 25 2024: EPIC was the theme of the day for action star, Vijay Deverakonda. The VD 12 actor was spotted having a taste of his favorite crispy chicken up in the sky. The actor, who has been working with an international action director for his upcoming film, shared a series of pictures on Instagram from his latest EPIC food adventure. Vijay has always been known for his epic personality and his undeniable love for food. He's even said in the past that he'd go to any



lengths for a good meal – and this time, the sky was the limit! In a carousel post shared by Vijay on Instagram, he was seen hanging out (quite literally!) of a hot air balloon flying several feet above land, aka, experiencing INDIA'S MOST EPIC KFC IN THE SKY. Wearing a chic black shirt, white linen pants and a beige beanie, Vijay was seen enjoying his all-time favorite from the KFC menu - Classic American Zinger.

Vijay Deverakonda said, "For me, good isn't good enough. I live for the thrill of the extraordinary, the EPIC. Whether it's my work, my hobbies, or even the experiences I chase, I'm always searching for the greatest. When it comes to taste, KFC has always been EPIC. And today I got to enjoy this taste at India's most EPIC KFC - in the sky in a hot air balloon! Quite literally an out of the world moment!"

And today I got to enjoy this taste at India's most EPIC KFC - in the sky in a hot air balloon! Quite literally an out of the world moment!"

## LS MPs to mark attendance on tab

Chennai Nov 25 2024: Lok Sabha members attending the Winter Session of Parliament beginning Monday will have the option of marking their attendance using a digital pen on an electronic tab.

Chamber as part of Speaker Om Birla's initiative to make Parliament paperless. "Physical attendance registers will continue to be kept at the counters. However, members are advised to use the tab as a preferred choice and help make Parliament paperless," a team of engineers from the National

Secretariat Informatics Centre will be deployed at each counter for technical assistance. Members have to mark their attendance in the register to avail of their daily allowance when Parliament is in session. Earlier, Lok Sabha members marked their attendance using a mobile app.

## Nothing India Expands Service Network with New Exclusive Service Centres in Hyderabad and Chennai

Chennai Nov 25 2024: London-based consumer tech brand, Nothing, the fastest-growing phone brand in the country as per Counterpoint Research, announced the expansion of its service centre network to better cater to its growing customer base. According to CyberMedia Research, Nothing has experienced impressive growth of approximately 646% in the third quarter of 2024, a testament to its rapid expansion and increasing popularity. The Hyderabad exclusive service centre was inaugurated on November 25, followed by Chennai on November 26, expanding the company's exclusive service network from three to five locations nationwide.

"We are thrilled to expand our service network with new exclusive service centres in Hyderabad and Chennai," said Pranay Rao, Head of Marketing, Nothing India. "This expansion underscores our commitment to providing exceptional customer service and support as we continue to grow rapidly in the Indian market. Our new centres, along with our existing exclusive service centres at Mumbai, Delhi & Bengaluru, will ensure that our customers receive the best possible care and experience with our products." Additionally, the company will have priority exclusive service desks at 5 multi-brand service centres, with more coming up soon. The priority desks in Kolkata, Gurgaon, Cochin, Ahmedabad and Lucknow are operational and 20 more new priority desks are coming up soon. These facilities provide top-tier service to customers, ensuring a seamless, fast and efficient experience. Nothing India already offers pickup and drop services covering 18,000 pin codes across the country, making reliable and convenient service accessible to a broader audience. These Exclusive Service Centres provide a unique brand experience with hands-on product zones, refreshments, retro gaming consoles, and ESD-compliant repair facilities. With an average 4.8+



Google rating and 98% same-day resolution rate, Nothing's Exclusive Service Centres ensure high-quality and efficient customer service. Already available at Flipkart, Croma, and Vijay Sales, and other retail partners in India, Nothing has more than doubled its offline presence from 2,000 to 5,000 locations and will soon be available at 7000 outlets across India.

## PURE EV Partners with Arva Electric to Expand Footprint in Middle East and Africa

Chennai Nov 25 2024: PURE EV, one of India's leading electric two-wheeler manufacturers, today announced a strategic partnership with Arva Electric Vehicles Manufacturing LLC, a subsidiary of Clarion Investment LLC. This collaboration aims to enhance the distribution and sales of electric motorcycles and bring sustainable mobility options to consumers across the Middle East and African regions. PURE EV will supply Arva Electric with an initial batch of 50,000 units of its flagship models - the ecoDryft and eTryst X over the next couple of years. Following this initial phase, the supply is expected to increase to 60,000 units annually, solidifying PURE EV's presence in these

emerging markets. Dr. Nishanth Dongari, Founder and Managing Director of PURE EV said, "Our commitment to innovation and user experience ensures that we provide market-ready offerings and meet the growing demand for electric mobility solutions. This partnership not only aims to enhance sales but also to foster sustainable mobility solutions in regions where electric motorcycles are rapidly gaining traction, marking a significant step towards expanding our footprint in Middle East and African markets. By leveraging our strengths and capabilities together with Arva Electric, we are poised to make a significant impact on the electric vehicle

landscape globally." Mr. Aniyam Kutty, Managing Director, Arva Electric Vehicles Manufacturing LLC said, "We are pleased to partner with PURE EV, as their expertise in R&D and cutting-edge technology helps in building efficient and reliable 2W products. Both the companies are committed to promoting eco-friendly mobility solutions with an aim to reduce carbon emissions and support environmental sustainability in these regions." The UAE electric two-wheeler (E2W) market is projected to witness a CAGR of 9.11% during the forecast period 2024-2031, growing from USD 29.97 million in 2023 to USD 60.19 million in 2031. The

demand for the UAE electric two-wheeler market is expected to rise owing to the easy accessibility of electric motorcycles, rising prices of gasoline products, and increasing efficiency of vehicles compared to traditional vehicles. All intellectual property rights related to the motorcycles will be maintained by PURE EV for the protection of proprietary technologies as they expand their market penetration. Notably, PURE EV motorcycles are regarded as only Indian electric motorcycles to be homologated in the Middle East after due approvals for operation. The government also plans to offer different incentives and subsidies for purchasing and selling electric vehicles.

## South India's Retirement readiness holds steady with an Index of 48 Points: Max Life's India Retirement Index Study 4.0

Chennai Nov 25 2024: Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. ("Max Life"/"Company") has unveiled the findings of the fourth edition of its retirement survey, India Retirement Index Study (IRIS), conducted in partnership with KANTAR, the world's leading marketing data and analytics company. The study highlights that South India's Retirement Index stands at 48, maintaining a stable score compared to the previous edition. This score places the region at par with North India while being marginally behind East India (54) and West India (49), as well as the national average of 49. Despite maintaining stability, South India faces unique challenges and opportunities in retirement preparedness, reflected in its Financial Index remaining at 49, the Health Index at 45, and the Emotional Index at 60.

and insights that drive proactive retirement planning. Together, we aim to create a secure future for all." Growing Financial Challenges in the South India The South India's financial preparedness remains the lowest among all regions, pointing to significant financial insecurity. While ownership of most financial products remains stable, 42% of people in South India are yet to start investing towards retirement—marking the highest rate across all zones. Key retirement-related anxieties persist, with 81% worried about medical expenses depleting savings, and 80% being concerned about inflationary pressures. Despite these challenges, life insurance remains a favored choice for retirement investment, with 62% choosing it to secure their future. Triggers for retirement investments include family/friends' recommendations (43%), employer and financial advisors' input (39%), health realization (45%), and uncertainties (35%). However, common barriers like reliance on family wealth and a perceived lack of trusted advisors hinder more proactive planning. High Awareness but Low Ownership of NPS In the South India, awareness of the National Pension System (NPS) is quite high, with more than 7 out of 10 South Indians

(72%) being familiar with the product. This awareness is primarily driven by TV and print ads, news articles, social media ads, and word-of-mouth from office colleagues, friends, and family. However, only 14% of South Indians actually own an NPS, which is below the national average of 17% and significantly lower than the ownership rates in the East India (26%) and West India (22%). Those who do invest in NPS are attracted by its better returns, low-cost long-term savings options, tax benefits, and the trustworthiness of the product. Despite these advantages, there are barriers to NPS adoption, with many potential investors feeling they need more guidance and lacking clarity on the benefits, which prevents them from purchasing NPS. Nevertheless, the South India perceives NPS as a trusted, safe, hassle-free, and worry-free product. Health Awareness and Preparedness Varies Health preparedness remains a mixed area, with only 32% of South Indians undergoing annual check-ups and 48% forgoing any health checks. While 45% own health insurance—lower than the national average of 50%—44% believe they will maintain good health during retirement, showing some optimism. Salaried individuals expressed higher health confidence (47%) than the self-employed (40%). Emotional Resilience and Concerns

Emotional preparedness in South India shows mixed results, with 52% feeling 'Totally Secure' about familial support—slightly below the national average of 55%. However, concerns over financial dependence (80%) and loneliness (72%) during retirement remain persistent challenges. Environmental and lifestyle changes are additional stressors, affecting 83% of respondents. Barriers to Retirement Planning Key barriers in the South India include reliance on family wealth, a belief that it is too early to plan for retirement (34%), and the highest reported need for trusted advisors (20%). Such challenges point to a greater need for awareness and strategic financial planning. Retirement Sentiment and Future Outlook Despite these challenges, many South Indians remain optimistic about retirement. The region continues to prioritize financial independence, family well-being, and health as key drivers of retirement savings. In conclusion, the IRIS 4.0 findings for the South India reflect a steady but complex journey towards retirement readiness. Max Life remains dedicated to raising awareness and providing solutions to ensure a financially secure and fulfilling retirement.



## Raghu Vamsi Aerospace Group lays foundation stone to build New Facility in Hyderabad with the investment of Rs.300 crore

Chennai Nov 25 2024: Hyderabad-based, The Raghu Vamsi Group, which manufactures cutting edge High Precision, Life Critical products for Aerospace, Defence, Space, Oil & Gas and Medical sectors, today laid the foundation stone for its new state-of-the-art facility in Hyderabad. The company has committed an investment of Rs. 300 Crore to build State-of-the-Art Facility near International Airport, which will feature dedicated manufacturing bays for 15 Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs).

The groundbreaking ceremony for this cutting-edge facility held today, with Shri D. Sridhar Babu, Minister of IT, Electronics, Communications, Industries &



Commerce, Telangana, presiding over the event, alongside Dr. E. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, VC & MD of TSIIC, and Shri Praveen PA, Director of Aerospace & Defence, Telangana.

"We are excited to mark this significant milestone in our journey. This state-of-the-art facility is set to reinforce the Raghu Vamsi Group's commitment to excellence, sustainability, and innovation in the

manufacturing sector, with this investment, we aim to not only enhance our manufacturing and R&D capabilities but also employ 2000 people over the next three years and contribute to the economic growth of Telangana," said Vamsi Vikas, Managing Director, Raghu Vamsi Group.

The company's future growth looks even more promising. In the last five years, Raghu Vamsi has grown at a CAGR of

over 35%, with orders exceeding Rs.2,000 crore. To support this rapid growth, Raghu Vamsi has acquired 8 acres of land in the Telangana Government's Hardware Park, located near the international airport. The company is investing ₹300 crore to develop a state-of-the-art facility spanning 200,000 square feet across three buildings. This new facility is dedicated to R&D, Assembly, and Manufacturing.

To support its global ambitions, Raghu Vamsi has significantly expanded its manufacturing capabilities through strategic partnerships and joint ventures with global industry giants such as ITP Aero (Spain), Rave Gears (USA), Adani Defence, and Part East Robotics.

## CHEF SANJEEV KAPOOR INSPIRES CULINARY ENTHUSIASTS AT PHOENIX MARKETCITY'S MASTERCLASS

Chennai Nov 25 2024: Phoenix Marketcity and Palladium Chennai, was buzzing with energy as renowned Chef Sanjeev Kapoor hosted an exclusive Masterclass on Saturday, 23rd November 2024, showcasing his culinary expertise to over 1,000 eager food enthusiasts. The session was a perfect blend of simplicity and sophistication, as Chef Sanjeev Kapoor demonstrated how to create restaurant-style dishes that anyone can make at home.

Chef Sanjeev Kapoor, a renowned restaurateur, cookbook author, and founder of the FoodFood channel, also known for his groundbreaking work on the popular TV show Khana Khazana, took participants through an exciting and interactive cooking session. The dishes prepared during the Masterclass included the Banana



Berry Smoothie Bowl, Burrata Palak with Garlic Crisp, Roasted Pepper Pasta, Saffron Millet Risotto with Grilled Veggies, Caramel Baked Yogurt, Flavours of Hummus, Pav Bhaji Fondue, Steam Chicken Porcupine, Thai-Style Chicken and Cashew Nut Stir-Fry, and Tiramisu in a Glass.

Chef Sanjeev Kapoor shared valuable insights on how these dishes, though simple, can be prepared with a restaurant flair that anyone can recreate in their own kitchens. His unique approach focused on breaking

down complex techniques, making them accessible and approachable for home cooks, while also inspiring those with aspirations of entering the culinary business or participating in competitions.

Reflecting on his long-standing connection with Chennai, Chef Sanjeev Kapoor shared heartfelt memories of the city, emphasizing the importance of hard work, sincerity, and enjoying the process. "Don't compare yourself with others. Stay focused, have fun, and success will

follow," he advised the attendees.

The chef's dynamic presence and exceptional culinary skills captivated the audience, making the session both engaging and memorable. As the event ended, attendees left feeling inspired, motivated, and excited to experiment with new recipes.

For Phoenix Marketcity, the successful Masterclass with Chef Sanjeev Kapoor was another milestone in its commitment to hosting unique, enriching experiences that cater to the diverse tastes and passions of its community.

## SRM hosts the Industrial Research and Innovation Summit (IRIS 2024)

Chennai Nov 25 2024: SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) successfully hosted the inaugural Industrial Research and Innovation Summit (IRIS 2024) on 23rd November 2024, with ASSOCHAM as an enabling partner. The event brought together over 220 industry delegates with the academic and research community of SRMIST, fostering collaboration and innovation.

The summit aimed to bridge the gap between academia and industry, promoting knowledge

sharing and technological advancements. Key highlights of the event included:

**MoU Exchange:** SRM IST signed MoUs with four leading industry partners: Ki3, Aarovin Pharma, Panacea Medical Technologies, and Jajal Medical Services. These collaborations will



pave the way for joint research projects, technology transfer, and the development of innovative solutions.

**Panel Discussion:** A panel discussion on "Bridging the Gap: Fostering Innovation through Strong Industry-Academia Partnerships" brought together industry leaders and academic experts to discuss strategies for effective collaboration and knowledge transfer.

**Campus Tour and Technology Expo:** Delegates had the opportunity to explore SRMIST's state-of-the-art research facilities and witness cutting-edge technologies developed by faculty and students. Prof. C. Muthamizchelvan, Vice Chancellor,

SRMIST, emphasized the importance of industry-academia partnerships in driving innovation and economic growth. He expressed his

gratitude to the industry delegates for their participation and support.

**Engaging Panel Discussion:** A thought-provoking panel discussion featuring industry leaders and academic experts delved into the critical aspects of fostering innovation through strong industry-academia partnerships. The panel discussion was moderated by Mr. Chandran Krishnan, Founder of Campus Angels Network, and included esteemed panelists such as:

Dr. Sanjay Tyagi,

Jurisdictional Director, STPI, Govt. of India

Mr. Anantharaman Prakash, Vice President, RNTBCI

Mr. Vishagan Vanangamudi, Director & President, Apex Laboratories

Dr. Amaresh Panda, Head Tech Transfer Office, KIIT

Mr. Raghu Panicker, CEO, Keynes Semicon

Mr. Sridhar Thiruvengadam, IT Industry Leader

The panel discussion explored topics such as technology transfer, talent development, intellectual property rights, and the role of government in fostering innovation.

The success of IRIS 2024 has set the stage for future collaborations between SRMIST and industry partners. The university is committed to fostering a culture of innovation and creating a positive impact on society through research and development.

## Tata AIA Life Insurance crosses milestone of 1 million App Downloads

Chennai Nov 25 2024: Tata AIA Life Insurance (Tata AIA), one of India's leading life insurers, has announced that its customer app has crossed 1 million downloads. This milestone is yet another testimony to the growing trust and dependence of Tata AIA customers on its digital solutions that include mobile app, consumer portal, WhatsApp enabled services etc. These solutions encourage a 'Do-It-Yourself' philosophy empowering Tata AIA consumer to experience convenient and seamless ways to manage their life insurance journey with the brand.

With this ultramodern app, consumers can manage their insurance policies from anywhere at any time. They need not visit a branch or print policy documents, as everything they need is available at their fingertips.

The app provides over 60 services 24x7, including premium

payments, tracking claim requests, portfolio updates, sum assured, fund value, NAV details. It also offers industry-first features like Instant Loans, improving the consumer experience and enhancing the ease of transactions. Another 'first of its kind' feature includes instant customer service, where transactions get completed in real-time and the consumer is intimated instantly.

Apart from service led facilities, the app provides over 12 Health and Wellness services, promoting holistic well-being among users. These include Outpatient Consultations, Diagnostics, Virtual/Online Consultations, Emergency Care, Emotional Wellness, Nutrition Management etc.

"We are committed to enhancing our customers' experience by continually innovating and expanding our digital offerings," said Soumya Ghosh, Executive Vice

President and Chief Technology Officer of Tata AIA. "Reaching over 1 million app downloads is not just a number; it signifies our dedication to providing best-in-class services that meet the evolving needs of our customers."

Through its sustained focus on digitization initiatives, Tata AIA has improved its instant issuance process with an end-to-end Straight Through Processing (STP) mechanism, which ensures an efficient and swift response to inquiries. Tata AIA ensures seamless digital services for its customers with an STP ratio of 97% in FY24.

The company's commitment to providing a superior payment experience is reflected in its app-to-app native unified payment interface (UPI) integration and transactions with no Card Verification Value (CVV). Tata AIA Life Insurance takes pride in its digital infrastructure, achieving 100% uptime

on digital platforms with no outages recorded in this financial year. This reliability ensures that customers can access vital services anytime, anywhere.

In the past 12 months, the number of monthly active users has increased 2X with a daily and monthly active user engagement of 11%. Due to its ease of use and best-in-class Consumer Experience, the app has seen a fivefold increase in digital transactions. Its user-friendly interface and functionality have earned the app an excellent rating of 4.7 on Android and 4.6 on iOS.

As proven by the impressive 92 Customer Satisfaction Score of its digital platforms, customer satisfaction remains the top priority for Tata AIA. The Persistency ratio which reflects the percentage of consumers who choose to renew their policies with Tata AIA, has earned the Company the top rank in four out of five cohorts, including 13th-month persistency.