

**One Nation, One Election Bill to be introduced in Parliament on Dec 16**

Chennai Dec 14 2024: The government has scheduled the introduction of two key bills related to the "One Nation, One Election" initiative in the Lok Sabha on Monday, December 16, 2024.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal will present The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill in the Lower House. This move marks a significant step by the ruling BJP toward implementing its long-standing vision of conducting simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.

On Thursday, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister



Narendra Modi, approved the constitutional amendment bill to facilitate the "One Nation, One Election" concept. The Cabinet also cleared two draft legislations:

A constitutional amendment bill to establish provisions for simultaneous Lok Sabha and state assembly elections.

A supplementary bill to amend laws concerning three Union Territories with legislative assemblies, aligning them with the constitutional amendment.

The proposed constitutional amendment aims to streamline the electoral process by synchronizing Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly

polls. This initiative is expected to reduce the frequency of elections, cut costs, and ensure greater administrative efficiency during poll periods.

The introduction of these bills is seen as a pivotal move to reshape India's electoral framework, aligning with the BJP's broader agenda of reforming governance practices.

**Former TN Congress president E.V.K.S. Elangovan dies, leaders condole**

Chennai Dec 14 2024: Former Tamil Nadu Congress President E.V.K.S. Elangovan passed away today at a private hospital in Chennai. Political leaders condole the death of Elangovan.

The senior politician had been hospitalized since November 13 due to a lung-related ailment and had been undergoing intensive treatment for over two weeks.

E.V.K.S. Elangovan, aged 75, is survived by his wife and son. At the time of his passing, he represented the Erode (East) constituency, a seat previously held by his son, E. Thirumahan Everaa, who passed away in January 2023.

Supporters and party cadre paid their respects to Elangovan at his residence in Erode, Tamil Nadu, on Saturday.



Political Legacy

E.V.K.S. Elangovan came from a prominent political family in Tamil Nadu. He was the son of E.V.K. Sampath, a founding member of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) who later joined the Indian National Congress after parting ways with the DMK in 1961. Elangovan was also the grandnephew of social reformer E.V. Ramasamy, popularly known as Periyar.

Elangovan served as Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) president

twice, from 2000 to 2002 and 2014 to 2016, during periods when the party faced significant challenges in the state. He was first elected to the Tamil Nadu Assembly in 1984 from Sathyamangalam and later served as a Member of Parliament from the Gobichettipalayam Lok Sabha constituency in 2004. During his tenure in Parliament, he held the position of Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, and later, Commerce and Industry in the

Congress-led UPA government.

Known for his outspoken nature, Elangovan was not shy about taking bold political stances. Ahead of the 2001 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, he criticized the AIADMK, then a Congress ally, for alleged links to pro-LTTE groups, a sensitive issue in the region. He also expressed dissatisfaction when Tamil Maanila Congress founder G.K. Moopanar aligned with AIADMK leader Jayalalitha in 1999.

**Polar research cooperation pact signed India, UAE FMs discuss IMEEC, hail launch of VTC**

Chennai Dec 14 2024: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and visiting UAE Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed discussed the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), and welcomed the recent launch of the work on the Virtual Trade Corridor (VTC), during the 15th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting here on Friday.

Following the meeting, they witnessed the exchange of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on polar research

cooperation.

The two sides also welcomed the launch of work on the MAITRI interface (Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface), and acknowledged that VTC and MAITRI will streamline trade processes through a data exchange system that facilitates paperless transactions between the two countries, a statement said.

The Virtual Trade Corridor is an integral part of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), a flagship initiative aimed at improving maritime

connectivity and trade between India, the UAE, and Europe.

Work on the VTC and MAITRI was launched in September this year.

The two Ministers also welcomed the signing in February this year and entry into force of the India-UAE Bilateral Investment Treaty.

They reaffirmed the strong trade relationship between the UAE and India, further enhanced by the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). They commended the

strong cooperation between the two central banks, particularly in the fintech sector, and the development of public digital infrastructure, including Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC), instant payments, and card schemes, a statement said.

They appreciated the robust cooperation in the energy sector between the two countries, including the desire to deepen ongoing collaboration in areas such as long-term supply agreements, collaboration in upstream and downstream projects, mutual investment in strategic reserves etc. They also welcomed the expansion of cooperation in new areas of partnership such as nuclear energy, critical minerals and green hydrogen.

Both Ministers expressed satisfaction over the active and growing exchanges between the two countries in the defence and security sector, which aligned with the broader strategic goals of the two countries. They welcomed the successful completion of the first Army-Army exercise 'Desert Cyclone' in January 2024 and the holding of the first-ever India-UAE defence partnership forum involving the defence industries of the two countries, the statement added.

**Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake to visit India on Dec 15-17**

Chennai Dec 14 2024: Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake will travel to India on December 15-17 for his after the recently concluded presidential and parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka.

Disanayaka will hold discussions with President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on bilateral issues of mutual interest, according to the MEA.

President Dissanayake will also participate in a business event in

Delhi to promote investment and commercial linkages between India and Sri Lanka. Further, he will visit Bodh Gaya as part of the visit," per an official statement.

In October this year, during External Affairs Minister's meeting with Disanayaka in Sri Lanka, the two discussed ongoing initiatives in the field of energy production and transmission, fuel and LNG supply, solar electrification of religious places, connectivity, digital public infrastructure,

health and dairy development.

Disanayaka acknowledged that India's economic support was critical to realise his vision of a prosperous Sri Lanka and meeting the aspirations of the people, a government release issued during Jaishankar's visit pointed out.

Sri Lanka is interested in exporting renewable energy to India, which it believes could help reduce production costs in the country and create additional resources.

"Sri Lanka is India's closest maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and holds a central place in Prime Minister's vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy," the statement noted.

The visit of President Disanayaka to India is expected to further strengthen the multi-faceted and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries, it said.

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## SRM Unveils an Early Childhood Development-based book 'GLOW'

Chennai, Dec 14 2024: SRM College of Physiotherapy released GLOW: Guiding the Little Ones' Well-Being, a pioneering book, on 10th December 2024, authored by Dr. K. Vadivelan, Professor at SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRM MCH&RC), Kattankulathur. This book, as a part of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-funded project, serves as a vital resource to help parents monitor developmental milestones in children aged 0-12 months.

At the event, the Parental Eye, a user-friendly app was introduced. This tool complements the book GLOW: Guiding the Little Ones' Well-Being. The app offers parents and caregivers real-time updates, resources, and guidance to track their child's developmental milestones, representing a significant step in promoting child well-



being.

GLOW simplifies the complex process of developmental tracking, providing evidence-based, user-friendly guidance to parents. The book empowers parents to identify developmental delays early, paving the way for timely interventions that shape a child's future positively.

"The early years of a child's life lay the foundation for their cognitive, physical, and emotional growth. GLOW aims to bridge the gap in awareness, equipping parents with the knowledge they need to support their child's well-being," says Dr. Vadivelan, the principal investigator of the ICMR-funded

initiative.

The event was graced by Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat, a Member of NITI Aayog, as the Chief Guest. Sharing his personal experience in the healthcare field, Dr. Saraswat stated, "I have witnessed the importance of physiotherapy since 1982 and have experienced its impact in my own life."

The Pro-Chancellor (Academics) of SRMIST, Dr. P. Sathyanarayanan, delivered a Presidential Address emphasizing the contributions of SRM College of Physiotherapy at SRM MCH&RC to the community. He remarked, "This book

is a valuable resource, destined to benefit countless children. The department excels in its efforts, and our alumni, who studied here, are excelling in practice and becoming experts in sports medicine and other fields across India and the globe."

Present on the occasion were SRMIST's Vice Chancellor Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan, Registrar Dr. S. Ponnusamy, Pro Vice-Chancellor (MHS) In-charge and Dean (MHS) Dr. Nitin M. Nagarkar, and Dean SRM College of Physiotherapy Dr. T. S. Veeragoudhaman.

GLOW is part of an interdisciplinary research initiative funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to address developmental delays in children. SRMIST's collaborative research approach underscores its commitment to societal well-being through innovation and excellence in research.

## JETSYNTHESES WELCOMES GOPAL SRINIVASAN, MADHUSUDANAN R, AND ARJUN SANTHANAKRISHNAN AS CHENNAI FRANCHISE OWNERS FOR GLOBAL E-CRICKET PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON 2

Chennai Dec 14 2024: JetSynthesys, a global leader in digital entertainment and technology, announces the addition of prominent industry leaders including Gopal Srinivasan, Chairman of TVS Capital Funds Limited, Madhusudanan R, Co-founder of M2P Fintech and Arjun Santhanakrishnan, Group CEO of GS Global as the team owners for the Chennai franchise in the second season of its popular IP, Global e-Cricket Premier League (GEPL).

Gopal Srinivasan, Madhusudanan R and Arjun Santhanakrishnan bring a wealth of expertise to GEPL's growing ecosystem. Their acquisition of the Chennai franchise sheds light on the city's deep-rooted connection to cricket, a sport that goes beyond entertainment to serve as a cornerstone of Chennai's cultural identity. Their leadership and vision, coupled with their passion for innovation, will be instrumental in shaping the future of cricket esports in India and beyond.

The Global Esports Premier League (GEPL), hosted on the mobile app Real Cricket, JetSynthesys' category-defining cricket video game, delivers the most authentic, immersive, and feature-rich cricket simulation experience for mobile users. Last year's tournament attracted over 200,000 registrations and culminated in a rigorous selection process that identified the top 64 players who formed eight teams. The action-packed finale saw these



eight teams play-off each other in and compete for global esports glory. With cumulative multiplatform reach of 70mn+, GEPL S1 was also streamed on JioCinema and witnessed a significant viewership of over 1.1mn+ mins.

Mr. Rajan Navani, CEO and founder, JetSynthesys, expressed his enthusiasm about these developments, "We are incredibly excited to have Gopal Srinivasan, Madhusudanan R and Arjun Santhanakrishnan join as the team owners of Chennai franchise. Their combined experience brings a fresh perspective that aligns perfectly with our vision to push the boundaries of cricket esports globally. Their involvement strengthens our resolve to not just grow GEPL, but to create an entire ecosystem where gaming, technology, and cricket intersect to inspire a new generation of gamers."

The new team owners also shared their excitement about joining the league.

Mr. Gopal Srinivasan

commented, "As a firm believer in the transformative power of technology, I'm happy to support the Global e-Cricket Premier League and the Chennai franchise. Esports offers a unique platform to nurture talent and foster inclusion. I look forward to witnessing the incredible skills and passion of our players and expanding India's influence in the global esports landscape."

Mr. Madhusudanan R added, "Cricket has always been a unifying force in India, and esports is rapidly transforming how we connect with the sport. Being part of the Chennai franchise in the GEPL allows us to tap into a growing digital audience and offer them a platform to showcase their skills. I am excited about the potential this league holds for fostering talent and pushing the boundaries of competitive eCricket."

Mr. Arjun Santhanakrishnan said, "Cricket is redefining the boundaries of sports, and I am thrilled to be a part of this journey with the Chennai franchise in the Global e-Cricket

Premier League. The blend of cricket, technology, and esports is creating new opportunities for fan engagement and innovation, and I look forward to witnessing the next generation of esports talent from Chennai rise on the global stage."

Mr. Rohit Potphode, CEO & League Commissioner of GEPL, enthused on the occasion, "We are thrilled to have Gopal Srinivasan, Madhusudanan R and Arjun Santhanakrishnan onboard as the franchise team owners for Chennai. Their participation adds immense value to the league, not just from a leadership standpoint but in terms of fostering innovation and new opportunities for players. As we look ahead to Season 2, we are working hard to expand the league's footprint and deliver an unparalleled competitive experience that will captivate both players and fans alike."

The second season of GEPL is set to introduce an expanded team format, new league guidelines, and a more intense competitive framework, building on the success of Season 1. Real Cricket 24 continues to set the standard for cricket simulation with nuanced mechanics, challenging gameplay, and a focus on strategy. The finals for GEPL Season 2 are scheduled for January 2025, where the top teams will once again compete for the prestigious title of 'e-Cricket Icon' on a global stage.

## Soodhu Kavvum 2: A Hilarious Sequel with a Satirical Edge

Chennai Dec 14 2024: Soodhu Kavvum 2 successfully captures the chaotic energy and dark humor of its predecessor. The film cleverly blends a prequel narrative with a sequel, offering a fresh perspective on the original story while maintaining its signature style.

Nostalgic Charm: The film effectively pays homage to the original with familiar characters and situations, evoking a sense of nostalgia for fans.

Sharp Social Commentary: Soodhu Kavvum 2 continues its tradition of biting satire, cleverly critiquing the political landscape and societal issues.

Engaging Performances: The ensemble cast delivers strong performances, with standout performances from Shiva and Karunakaran, who reprise their iconic roles.

Well-crafted Comedy: The film is filled with hilarious



moments, absurd situations, and witty dialogues that keep the audience entertained.

Soodhu Kavvum 2 is a worthy sequel that lives up to the high standards set by its predecessor. While it may not surpass the original, it offers a delightful cinematic experience with its unique blend of humor, satire, and action.

Soodhu Kavvum 2 is a delightful sequel that successfully captures the quirky charm and dark humor of its predecessor. Shiva's portrayal of Gurunath, the eccentric kidnapper, is as hilarious as ever.

The film's unique blend of comedy, satire, and action keeps audiences engaged throughout. Key Strengths: Nostalgic Charm: The film effectively reintroduces beloved characters and their quirky rules, evoking a sense of nostalgia for fans of the original. Sharp Social Commentary: Soodhu Kavvum 2 continues its tradition of biting satire, cleverly critiquing the political landscape and societal issues. Engaging Performances: Shiva delivers a stellar performance, capturing the essence of Gurunath's eccentric

personality. The supporting cast also shines, adding to the film's comedic appeal. Visually Striking: The film boasts impressive cinematography, with creative camera angles and visually striking sequences that enhance the storytelling. While the film may not reach the same heights as its predecessor, it offers a fun and entertaining cinematic experience. Soodhu Kavvum 2 is a must-watch for fans of the original and anyone who appreciates offbeat humor and clever storytelling.

## Cosmic Conversations: NASA's Vision Meets Bengaluru's Young Minds

Chennai Dec 14 2024: National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Director of the Flight Operations Directorate Norman Knight, Chief Astronaut Joe Acaba, and Chief Flight Director Emily Nelson recently visited Bengaluru to meet students and strengthen collaborative ties with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The outreach events aimed to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers by providing insights into space exploration and scientific research.

During the event, the NASA specialists spoke about human spaceflight, and why international cooperation is important for space exploration.



Select school and college students across Bengaluru interacted with the NASA officials and shared their interests in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields.

The NASA delegation convened high-level meetings with ISRO officials to discuss opportunities for cooperation on human space flight missions and astronaut training. NASA and ISRO look forward to the upcoming launch of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic

Aperture Radar (NISAR) as well as welcoming the first Indian astronaut on the International Space Station in 2025.

U.S. Consulate General Chennai Spokesperson Diplomat Samantha Jackson said, "We are thrilled to bring NASA's expertise to the students of Bengaluru, inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers. This outreach program underscores our commitment to fostering STEM education and international

collaboration, providing young minds with the opportunity to meet leading experts and explore the wonders of space exploration."

The U.S. Consulate General Chennai, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National College Basavanagudi, and Parikrma Humanity Foundation partnered to host an interactive session, "Beyond the Stars: Student Dialogue with NASA." The program underscored the growing collaboration and scientific exchanges between the United States and India, paving the way for future innovations and discoveries in space exploration.



## MAMATA MACHINERY LIMITED INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING TO OPEN ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024

Chennai Dec 14 2024: Mamata Machinery Limited ("MML" or "The Company"), shall open the Bid Offer Period in relation to its initial public offer of the Equity Shares on Thursday, December 19, 2024.



The total offer size of equity shares (face value Rs. 10 each) comprises of Offer for Sale up to 7,382,340 [73.82 lakhs number of equity shares] ("Offer for Sale") by Promoter Selling Shareholders. ("Total Offer Size")

The Offer for Sale comprises of up to 534,483 Equity Shares by Mahendra Patel, up to 1,967,931 Equity Shares by Nayana Patel, up to 1,227,042 Equity Shares by Bhagvati Patel, up to 2,129,814 Equity Shares by Mamata Group

Corporate Services LLP and up to 1,523,070 Equity Shares by Mamata Management Services LLP ("Promoter Selling Shareholders")

The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at Rs. 230 to Rs. 243 per Equity Share (the "Price Band"). The price band includes a discount of Rs. 12 per Equity Share is being offered to Eligible Employees bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion ("Employee Reservation Portion")

Discount").

Bids can be made for a minimum of 61 Equity Shares and in multiples of 61 Equity Shares thereafter. (The "Bid Lot")

The Anchor Investor Bid/Offer Period opens on and closes on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. The Bid/Offer Period will open on Thursday, December 19, 2024 for subscription and close on Monday, December 23, 2024. (The "Bid Details")

This Equity Shares

are being offered through the Red Herring Prospectus of the Company dated December 12, 2024 filed with the Registrar of Companies, Gujarat at Ahmedabad. (The "ROC")

The Equity Shares to be offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the stock exchanges being BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE" together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges"). For the purposes of the Offer, BSE is the Designated Stock Exchange. (The "Listing Details")

Beeline Capital Advisors Private Limited is the book running lead manager to the Offer (The "BRLMs").

## Toyota Kirloskar Motor Unveils the All-New Camry Hybrid Electric Vehicle

PONDICHERRY, Dec 14 2024: Toyota Kirloskar Motor today unveiled the All-New Camry hybrid electric vehicle, designed to be a "Sedan to the Core". Reiterating its commitment towards realising the carbon neutral goals, the All-New Camry Hybrid Electric Vehicle is equipped with advanced 5th generation hybrid technology, delivering significantly improved efficiency and enhanced performance. This new model brings unmatched sophistication with cutting-edge safety features, elevated exteriors and interiors, seamless technology integration, thereby deliver the unique aspirations of the consumers. The All-New Camry Hybrid Electric Vehicle is more than a car it's a reflection of refined style and exclusiveness.



capacity Li-ion battery that propels the All-New Camry Hybrid Electric Vehicle output to an impressive total maximum power of 169kW (230 PS). This sophisticated Hybrid System combines performance with exceptional fuel economy of 25.49 km/l\*, making it the perfect choice for the environmentally conscious, luxury sedan enthusiast.

Bold Innovation with Hybrid Powertrain: Embracing clean vehicle technology, at the heart of the All-New Camry Hybrid Electric Vehicle is the powerful yet efficient 2.5L Dynamic Force Engine, delivering 221 Nm of torque at 3200 rpm. Paired with an electronically controlled continuously variable transmission (e-CVT), the vehicle ensures a smooth and dynamic driving experience. The e-CVT offers multiple driving modes Sport, Eco, and Normal to suit all driving styles and conditions. Additionally, Toyota's 5th Generation Hybrid Technology System, features a high-

toward building a futuristic carbon-free, happy society".

Expressing his views, Mr. Tadashi Asazuma, Deputy Managing Director, Sales-Service-Used Car, Toyota Kirloskar Motor & Lexus, stated, "The all-new Camry exemplifies our unwavering commitment to crafting vehicles that blend performance, sustainability, and cutting-edge innovation. Developed under the concept of 'Sedan to the Core', the All-new Camry delivers an unmatched driving experience thanks to its advanced 5th generation hybrid system, offering enhanced performance and exceptional responsiveness.

I believe that our new offering will bring the pride of ownership with its sporty design, tech-loaded features and advanced safety systems offering peace of mind to our customers thus reinforcing our vision to offer mobility that is both aspirational and responsible for the Indian market."

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Sabari Manohar - Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "The launch of the All-New Camry Hybrid Electric Vehicle is an exciting milestone for us in India. This new model with its 5th Gen

Hybrid Technology, striking design, and luxurious specs, is crafted for those who seek contemporary elements sleek, spacious, safe & seamless driving experience. Equipped with Toyota Safety Sense 3.0 and a suite of connectivity features, it offers our valued customers not just elevated style, but also peace of mind, comfort and convenience at every turn. We sincerely thank our customers for their trust in the brand and appreciation for our sustainable mobility offerings that gave us the confidence to introduce this new and advanced model, aimed at fulfilling their eco-friendly vehicle choices".

Sophisticated Exteriors with Styling for Bold, Futuristic, and Luxury Lifestyle: The All-New Camry Hybrid Electric Vehicle's sleek design and bold presence makes it an iconic car for discerning sedan fans, seeking luxurious lifestyle and fun-to-drive experience. The stylish front grille and sleek rear design enhances its dynamic look, allowing it to stand out with futuristic elegance that is both captivating and timeless. The hood and fender at the front have been modified to contribute to a refreshed look with bumper and grille redesigned to offer a more dynamic appearance, improving both aesthetics and aerodynamic. Every angle and contour are crafted to demand attention, embodying "Elegance at every glance."

## Gold price dips by Rs. 720 per gram

Chennai, Dec 14 2024: The price of gold in Chennai has decreased by Rs 720 per sovereign on Saturday (December 14).

The yellow metal saw a dip of Rs 1,160 per sovereign in the last two days.

It is now being sold at

Rs 57,120 per sovereign in the city today. Accordingly, gold price per gram has decreased by Rs 90 with a gram

now costing Rs 7,140. Silver price has decreased by Re 1 and is being sold at Rs 100 per gram.

## Hyderabad airport gets new terminal

Chennai, Dec 14 2024: Hyderabad residents and flight enthusiasts are up for a treat as 'Rajiv Gandhi International Airport' gears up to get a second runway and another runway, owing to the

increasing number of passengers.

Air passenger traffic is growing day by day, already having reached the 3-crore mark and well on the way to reaching 4.5 crores by 2030. Increased air

travel demands in a post-pandemic world have led to massive congestion during peak hours.

This has also created problems of long queues for security checks, check-ins and

immigration, causing discomfort to travellers by eating up their time. This expansion aims to address several issues persisting after the previous ones like lack of seating facilities and food outlets.



**Image Left - A.M. Jain College student A. Vignesh sprints into the national spotlight by striking a gold medal in the 4x400 meters relay at the prestigious 39th National Junior Athletic Championship held in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, from December 7-11, 2024. This prestigious championship not only showcases the nation's young athletic talent and Vignesh's dedication and hard work but also highlights the college and staff's commitment and effort in nurturing sporting skills and illustrating that academics and sports can go hand in hand.**

**Image Right - (L to R) Mithresh, Vignesh, Sharan, Santhosh**

## FS Misri Dhaka visit helped bilat ties: MEA

Chennai, Dec 14 2024: India said on Friday that Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's recent visit to Dhaka will help in sustaining the bilateral engagement with Bangladesh with a view to addressing New Delhi's concerns and advancing the relationship.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, addressing a media briefing, said that "It is our understanding that

the Foreign Secretary's visit will help in sustaining bilateral engagement between India and Bangladesh with a view to addressing concerns as well as advancing the substantive issues in the relationship." He also said that the Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Advisor had informed FS Misri that "around 70 people have been arrested in connection with attacks on minorities" and added "We hope, and it is our expectation that

the Bangladeshi side will do the needful."

Jaiswal said that Foreign Secretary Misri during his December 9 visit to Dhaka met with the Chief Advisor Mohamed Yonus, and the Foreign Affairs Advisor Touhid Hossain, and also held the Foreign Office Consultations with his Bangladeshi counterpart Jashim Uddin.

"The Foreign Secretary spoke to the media on how we intend to take forward the

relations. Foreign Secretary highlighted during his talks India's support for a democratic, stable, peaceful, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh.

He also reiterated India's willingness to build a positive and constructive relationship with Bangladesh based on mutual trust and respect and mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns and interests," the MEA spokesperson said.



## Equentis Angel Fund Eyeing INR 500 cr. (\$60 Million) for India's Growth-Focused Startups

Chennai Dec 14 2024: Equentis Wealth Advisory Services, an established player in India's investment advisory sector, has launched its inaugural Category I Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) the Equentis Angel Fund. With a target corpus of INR 500 crore (\$60 million), the Equentis Angel Fund is poised to back early-stage, high-growth Indian startups.

Focusing on Pre-Series A and Bridge-to-Series A rounds, the fund will make investments in the range of INR 410 crores (\$500K-\$1.2 million). Startups operating with a Total Addressable Market (TAM) of INR 8,000 crore (\$1 billion) and a strong growth trajectory will be the core focus of the fund.

Over the next 18-24 months, Equentis' Angel fund plans to invest in 40-50 startups, focusing on themes from Defence, Consumer Tech, Deep Tech, Logi Tech, Fin Tech & AI seeking growth capital to scale their businesses.

Sharing his views

## Indian Life insurers register record new business figures in November'24; premium collection and policy issuances swell by 15.67% and 1.21% respectively on a YTD basis

Chennai Dec 14 2024: The Life Insurance Council has released its business figures for November 2024, highlighting a dynamic landscape in the insurance sector. The year-to-date (YTD) performance remains robust, reflecting a 15.67% growth compared to the same period last year. This positive trend underscores the resilience and ongoing expansion of the life insurance industry, even as it navigates various market challenges.

In November 2024, YTD collections displayed impressive growth, rising from ₹2,11,690.65 crores last year to

₹2,44,868.20 crores this year. This indicates a strong underlying demand for insurance products as consumers and corporate clients seek enhanced protection. According to data released by the Life Insurance Council, the life insurance industry saw individual single premiums growing by 10.44% on a Y-o-Y basis to close at ₹3669.44 Crs for Nov'24 while YTD growth stood at 13.7%. Individual non-single premiums came in at ₹8,153 Crs and grew by 6.46% in Nov'24, even as YTD collections settled at 16.63% higher than the corresponding period last year. This

powerful 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 7.66% growth in combined individual premium collections for the month of Nov'24 and 15.68% growth on a YTD basis. In the Group policy segment, new policy issuances expanded by 2.31% 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

Investment Advisory to a full-spectrum Wealth Management Services, diversifying our business for a more robust future" said Rakesh Gupta, Chief Operation & Compliance Officer at Equentis Wealth Advisory Services Limited.

Equentis has made its first investment in a LogiTech Startup, Yatnavat Technologies Private Limited operating under the brand OORJAA.

Equentis has a team of established and seasoned professionals from Investment Banking, Private Equity, Market Research and Equity Research backgrounds to lead the fund's Investment Committee, composed of industry veterans, will oversee key decisions to ensure strategic alignment and value creation.

To amplify the fund's impact, Equentis is also seeking to partner similar funds, boutique/mid-market i-banks, startup accelerators and incubators.

## Uttar Pradesh Minister of States' Shri JPS Rathore & Shri Asim Arun Leads Roadshow for Prayagraj Mahakumbh-2025 in Chennai

Chennai Dec 14 2024: The Uttar Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Sri Yogi Adityanath, is dedicated to making Mahakumbh 2025 a global symbol of India's cultural unity. As part of this endeavor and vision, Minister of State (Independent Charge)-Cooperative, Shri Jayendra Pratap Singh Rathore and Minister of State (Independent Charge)- Shri Asim Arun led a grand roadshow in Tamil Nadu. He highlighted the Mahakumbh as a unique celebration of unity within India's diversity and extended an invitation to the Hon. Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri RN Ravi, Hon. Chief Minister Shri M. K. Stalin, and the esteemed people of Tamil Nadu to participate in the Prayagraj Mahakumbh-2025. They emphasized that the government is taking significant steps to ensure the event is historic, featuring international participation and state-of-the-art facilities. Speaking to the media after the roadshow, Shri Singh stated that the Mahakumbh embodies the spirit of India's cultural and



spiritual consciousness and is a divine and vibrant representation of 'Ek Bharat- Shreshth Bharat-Samaveshi Bharat (One India, Great India, Inclusive India).'

During the press conference, the Cooperatives Minister reminded, "Many of you may have witnessed the 'divine and grand' experience of the Prayagraj Kumbh in 2019, which became an indelible symbol of India's cultural pride on the global stage. The world widely acknowledged the efficient management of the event." He further emphasized that this year's Mahakumbh will surpass the previous one in both grandeur and divine essence. Prayagraj Mahakumbh-2025 is expected to welcome over 450 million pilgrims, saints, ascetics, and tourists. In preparation, the

Uttar Pradesh government has made meticulous and timely arrangements.

During his address to the press, the Shri Rathore informed, "Under the inspiration and guidance of Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath, the Mahakumbh will take place in Prayagraj from January 13 to February 26, 2025, on the sacred banks of the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers. Recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the Mahakumbh will once again be held on the holy land of Prayag after a gap of 12 years."

Swachh, Swasth, Surakshit and Harit Mahakumbh

Addressing the media regarding the preparations for the

Mahakumbh, the Cooperatives Minister said, "It would be a clean, healthy, safe and digital Mahakumbh. A pledge has been taken to make the event environment friendly by declaring it a single-use plastic-free Mahakumbh. As part of this initiative, various shops of donapattal vendors will be allocated within the Mela area, and meetings have been conducted with principals of 400 schools to discuss cleanliness and the initiative of a clean Maha Kumbh is being communicated to 4 lakh children and 5 times the population of Prayagraj. Furthermore, under the 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign, the message of a single-use plastic-free environment is being delivered to every household."

He highlighted that special emphasis has been placed on making Mahakumbh Mela 2025 both clean and green. Approximately three lakh plants have been cultivated across Prayagraj, with the Uttar Pradesh government pledging to ensure their care and maintenance even after the conclusion of the Mela.

## ICICI Prudential Life and RGA launch life insurance industry's first product covering women specific ailments

Chennai Dec 14 2024: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance today launched 'ICICI Pru Wish', a first-of-its-kind health product, in the life insurance industry, catering to women specific critical illnesses and surgeries. This product has been developed by ICICI Prudential Life Insurance in collaboration with Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated (RGA), a leading global life and health reinsurer.

ICICI Pru Wish offers an instant payout of up to 100% of the health cover amount on diagnosis of critical illnesses like breast, cervical, uterine cancers and heart ailments to name a few. Unlike standard plans, where the payouts are in the form of reimbursements, this product offers a fixed lump sum on diagnosis, providing flexibility to

customers.

As per research findings, one of the causes for customers' anxiety was the probability of an increase in premium every few years. ICICI Pru Wish, with its premium guarantee for a period of 30 years, can enable customers to better plan for their premium payments providing them with peace of mind. This product also provides customers with a premium sabbatical for 12 months, anytime during the premium payment term. This feature offers customers financial flexibility, equipping them to navigate their health responsibilities.

Besides, this product also offers customers an option to cover maternity related complications and newborn congenital illnesses.

Mr. Amit Palta, Chief Product and

Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "We are delighted to offer ICICI Pru Wish, the life insurance industry's first health product addressing women specific health ailments. This product empowers them to be financially prepared by offering a lump sum payout to cover medical exigencies.

ICICI Pru Wish has been developed by combining our customer-focused approach and RGA India's in-depth knowledge on the health challenges faced by Indian women. We believe the women customer segment offers a large market opportunity, and this product has been specifically designed to address the insurance needs of this segment. This product will relieve the financial distress caused to women due to the unique health

risks they face.

ICICI Pru Wish offers customers a compelling proposition by providing a premium guarantee for 30 years while giving them the flexibility to make multiple claims for certain medical incidences. Importantly, it provides an additional payout which helps in covering rehabilitation expenses."

Mr. Sunil Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, Reinsurance Group of America, India said, "We are excited to announce our collaboration with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance on 'ICICI Pru Wish,' a pioneering health product designed specifically to address the unique needs of Indian women in today's world. This partnership highlights our mutual dedication to offering innovative, customer-focused solutions for changing market demands."