

I.N.D.I.A. bloc MPs protest, demand Shah's apology over Ambedkar remarks

Chennai Dec 18 2024: MPs from the INDIA bloc, including prominent Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, staged a protest in the Parliament premises on Wednesday, demanding an apology from Home Minister Amit Shah for his remarks, which they alleged insulted Dr. B.R.Ambedkar.



leader Jairam Ramesh accused the BJP and RSS of harboring hatred toward Ambedkar.

In his controversial statement, Shah said, "It has become a fashion to say 'Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar.' If they had taken God's name so many times, they would have attained heaven in seven lifetimes." This comment drew sharp criticism from opposition leaders, who saw it as a dismissal of Ambedkar's legacy.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge condemned Shah's

remarks, accusing the BJP and RSS of opposing Ambedkar's vision and favoring Manusmriti over the Indian Constitution. "For millions like me, Babasaheb is no less than God," Kharge said, emphasizing Ambedkar's enduring role as a champion of the marginalized.

Shah, however, countered in the Rajya Sabha, accusing the Congress of treating the Constitution as the "private fiefdom" of one family and engaging in appeasement politics. He further claimed that the Congress had failed to support backward

classes, accusing them of attempting to breach the 50% reservation cap to include Muslim quotas.

The home minister also highlighted the BJP's implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Uttarakhand, asserting the party's commitment to extending the policy across all states.

The escalating debate underscores deep ideological divides between the ruling BJP and the INDIA bloc, with Ambedkar's legacy becoming a focal point of political contention.

CM MKS allocates additional Rs. 400 cr for Kalaingar's dream housing scheme

Chennai Dec 18 2024: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has announced an additional allocation of Rs.400 crore for the Kalaingar Kanavu Illam Thittam (KKIT Kalaingar's Dream Housing Scheme) to

expedite the construction of houses under the initiative.

The scheme, with a total sanctioned budget of Rs.3,500 crore, aims to construct one lakh new concrete houses during 2024-25. Each

house, costing Rs.3,50,000 and spanning 360 square feet with a kitchen, is part of the government's ambitious goal of achieving a "hutfree Tamil Nadu" by 2030, according to a Daily

Thanthi report.

To reduce the financial burden on beneficiaries, essential materials such as cement and steel bars are being provided at subsidized rates through TANCEM (Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Limited). The funds are released in four installments directly to beneficiaries via a Single Nodal Account (SNA), corresponding to key construction milestones: ground level, window level, roofing level, and final completion.

So far, Rs.1,051.34 crore has been allocated, with Rs.860.31 crore disbursed based on construction progress. Additionally, Rs.135.30 crore has been allocated for the procurement of cement and steel, bringing the total expenditure under the scheme to Rs.995.61 crore, according to reports.

Ashwin retires from international cricket

Chennai Dec 18 2024: In a stunning turn of events that has sent ripples through the cricketing world, Ravichandran Ashwin, one of India's most successful and respected cricketers, has announced his retirement from international cricket here on Wednesday.



The decision, which comes after years of stellar performances in all formats of the game, marks the end of an era for Indian cricket.

Ashwin, 38, made his mark as a key bowler for India across formats, known for his sharp cricketing mind, varied spin deliveries, and his ability to turn the game on its head. He leaves behind a legacy that includes 537 Test wickets, having made significant contributions in both Test and limited-overs cricket.

Ashwin's international career began in the first match of the 2011 when he made his debut against West Indies in Delhi. Quickly establishing

himself as a key figure in India's bowling attack.

His unique ability to bowl both with precision and flair made him a match-winner for India in numerous crucial encounters. His contributions in the longest format, especially in Indian conditions, have been remarkable, including his match-winning performances in the 2016-17 series against Australia and his pivotal role in India's historic win against Australia in the 2021 Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Beyond his wicket-taking ability, Ashwin was celebrated for his cricketing intelligence. His skill to outthink

batmen, coupled with his relentless work ethic, earned him the admiration of teammates, coaches, and opponents alike. His adaptability in overseas conditions, particularly in challenging tours to Australia, England, and the West Indies, further solidified his reputation as one of the best spinners of his generation.

Ashwin's impact was not confined to bowling. He also made significant contributions with the bat, often playing crucial knocks in tight situations. His batting abilities, particularly in Test matches, made him a valuable allrounder for India.

While his

retirement marks the end of an era, Ashwin leaves a team in good hands. His successor, should they emerge, will have big shoes to fill, with Ashwin's balance of skill, temperament, and leadership having made him an indispensable asset for India.

As Ashwin steps away from international cricket, his fans and teammates are left to reflect on his extraordinary contributions to the game. His retirement not only brings to a close a remarkable career but also signals the end of one of the most effective partnerships between spin and cricketing acumen in modern-day cricket.

SC reserves judgment on sex trafficking survivors plea

Chennai Dec 18 2024: The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved its judgement on a plea seeking a comprehensive victim protection protocol for sex trafficking survivors, while emphasising that it would treat the matter "very seriously". A bench comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan was hearing a miscellaneous application filed by 'Prajwala,' an organisation dedicated to combating sex trafficking.

The plea stemmed from a previous order passed on December 9, 2015, in a writ petition filed in 2004. While the main petition was disposed of earlier, the application alleged non-compliance with the court's directives and highlighted the stalled progress on anti-trafficking legislation.

Senior advocate Aparna Bhat, appearing for Prajwala,



argued that there is no institutional framework to comprehensively address human trafficking and stressed on strengthening the existing mechanisms. Bhat pointed out two major issues - the Union Government's failure to set up the Organised Crime Investigative Agency (OCIA) as promised under the 2015 order,

and the lack of progress on legislative initiatives.

She pointed out that the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection, and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018, lapsed after being passed by the Lok Sabha, as it was not considered by the Rajya Sabha.

Bhat highlighted that while the National Investigation Agency

(NIA) was tasked with handling trafficking cases after amendments to the NIA Act of 2008, the agency has investigated only around 10 cases, compared to nearly 1,000 reported annually.

"Whichever agency investigates must have interstate or cross-border access, as local police are ill-equipped to handle such cases," she argued.

Additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhat, representing the Union, contended that the provisions under the new Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2024 (BNS) sufficiently address organised trafficking.

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India to host World Boxing Cup Final & Congress

Chennai, Dec 18 2024: The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) on Tuesday announced that India has been awarded the hosting rights for the prestigious World Boxing Cup Final and the World Boxing Congress, both scheduled for November 2025.

This landmark achievement reflects India's growing prominence in the global boxing arena and reinforces its ability to host worldclass sporting events. The World Boxing Cup Final 2025 will be a highly anticipated ranking tournament, marking the culmination of three World Boxing Cups held earlier in the year.

The event is set to bring together the world's best boxers,



who will compete for top honours while solidifying their global rankings, leaving a significant mark on the sport.

In parallel, the World Boxing Congress 2025 will gather key stakeholders, officials, and dignitaries from the global boxing community. The Congress will serve as a platform to discuss important developments, strategies, and the future direction of the sport.

Commenting on the achievement, BFI President Ajay Singh said, "It is a proud moment for India to be recognized by World Boxing Federation for hosting such prestigious events. This opportunity not only highlights India's organizational excellence but also underscores our unwavering commitment to ensuring boxing remains an integral part of the Olympic movement. We are honoured to contribute

to the sport's legacy and look forward to welcoming the global boxing community to India in 2025." The hosting of these events is expected to inspire aspiring athletes, draw global attention to Indian boxing, and strengthen India's position as a powerhouse in the international boxing community.

The Boxing Federation of India is committed to delivering a memorable and impactful experience for athletes, officials, and fans worldwide. Preparations are already underway to ensure the World Boxing Cup Final and World Boxing Congress 2025 set new standards for hosting international sporting events in India.

Ronaldo to run for Brazil football association presidency

Chennai Dec 18 2024: Brazil legend Ronaldo has announced he will run for the presidency of the country's football association and wants to "recover the prestige of the national team, media reports said.



The 48-year-old, who was capped 98 times, will run as a candidate to replace current Confederation of Brazilian Football (CBF) president Ednaldo Rodrigues, the BBC reported.

Brazil, record five-time winners of the World Cup, last won

the competition in 2002 and have not progressed further than the quarter-final stage since.

"For many decades, Brazilian football has always been the escape route for the Brazilian people when they faced daily problems,"

Ronaldo told Globo Esporte external "This was the fuel of the Brazilian people and today we see a total lack of interest from the population in the national team.

"Among hundreds of things that motivate

me to become a candidate for president of the CBF is to recover this prestige and respect that the national team has always had and that no-one else has today."

Rodrigues' term runs until March 2026 and the presidential elections must take place in the 12 months before then.

Ronaldo, a World Cup winner in 1994 and 2002, is second on the competition's all-time top scorer list behind Germany's Miroslav Klose with 15 goals in 19 appearances.

Great to see lower order chip in useful runs: Rahul

Chennai Dec 18 2024: India opener K.L. Rahul lauded Ravindra Jadeja for his crucial contribution with the bat during a challenging period in the ongoing Test at The Gabba here on Tuesday.



Rahul, who stitched an important partnership with Jadeja, highlighted the significance of the allrounder's role in helping the team surpass the follow-on and build a competitive total.

"Jadeja has been brilliant, batting down the order for us for many years. That's what we expect from him. He's proven time and again that he can step up when it

matters," Rahul told reporters in his post-match comments. The partnership between the two came at a critical stage, with Jadeja's crucial 77 runs contributing significantly to the team's efforts.

Rahul further emphasised how Jadeja's experience and calm approach helped stabilise the innings during a challenging phase.

"It was really important to get past the follow-on and see how many runs we could put on the board. Jadeja made that possible. He's a very experienced player, and I enjoy watching him train and play," Rahul added.

Reflecting on the contributions of Akash Deep and Jasprit Bumrah in such situations, Rahul praised their collective effort to avoid the

follow-on.

"It's great to see the lower order chip in and score runs. The bowlers really put in the work in the nets, and it's satisfying to see them step up and score some crucial runs when needed," he said.

Rahul also spoke about the positive impact of the lower order's fight, especially in the context of the match being affected by rain. "There's a lot of pace and bounce in the wicket, so to get behind the ball, defend really well, and leave well showed great composure. It gives confidence to the team and shows the heart of the lower-order batters," he noted.

TN's Nithyashree upsets Syndrela in national TT

Chennai Dec 18 2024: The Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium bore witness to a dramatic day of upsets and edge-of-the-seat thrillers at the UTT National Ranking Table Tennis Championships here on Tuesday.

Only eight of the 16 seeded men survived the carnage, making the road to the more brutal quarterfinals, to be played later this evening.

Adding to the list of shock upsets, former national champion Madhurika Patkar stunned fifth seed Pritha Vartikar 3-0, while Tamil Nadu qualifier Nithyashree Mani sent West Bengal's Syndrela Das packing with a 3-1 scoreline.

Top seed Harmeet Desai had a shaky start against Mizoram's qualifier H. Jeho, dropping the opening game. But once Harmeet shook off the rust, he unleashed a torrent of winners to claim a 3-1 victory.

The turning point came in the third game



when Harmeet, staring down a couple of game points, steadied his nerves and flipped the momentum. Jeho, valiant but outpaced, was left gasping as Harmeet cruised through the fourth game, sealing his spot in style.

Meanwhile, second seed Ankur Bhattacharjee made light work of Tamil Nadu's Preyesh Raj Suresh with a commanding 3-0 win, barely breaking a sweat. Manav Thakkar, the fourth seed, performed clinically against Assam's Priyanuj Bhattacharyya, showing no mercy in a ruthless takedown.

The drama intensified with Payas Jain. The third seed faced early resistance from Maharashtra's Jash Modi. The

Maharashtra paddler, determined to rattle his higher-ranked opponent, snatched the second game after an intense deuce. But Payas found his rhythm just in time, neutralizing Jash's fightback to clinch the match.

It wasn't smooth sailing for everyone. Ronit Bhanja, seeded fifth, was pushed to the brink by Siddesh Pande of CRBSB. Ronit stumbled in the opening game but clawed his way back to edge out Siddesh with nerve-wracking close margins.

His confidence surged in the fourth game, where he delivered a strong finish to seal the match.

The day's grittiest match belonged to former national champion Anthony

Amalraj, who was locked in a five-game dogfight against eighth-seed Anirban Ghosh. Amalraj's experience shone through as he held his nerve in a high-pressure decider, securing a 3-2 win.

In the women's singles, seeds stumbled and qualifiers rose. Second seed Poymantee Baisya, third seed Swastika Ghosh, and Karnataka's fourth seed Yashaswini Ghorpade, who represents PSPB, made it through, but not without tense moments.

Yashaswini, in particular, faced a scare against Tamil Nadu's spirited Selena Selvakumar. Trailing 0-4 in the fifth game after losing the first two, Yashaswini showed immense grit, clawing her way back to stop Selena in her tracks. Her resolute fightback, marked by sharp attacking play and forcing errors from her opponent, saw her cross the finish line with relief.

Blindsided by PCB on all key decisions: Gillespie

Chennai Dec 18 2024: Jason Gillespie has opened up about the reasons behind his resignation as Pakistan's red-ball coach, admitting he was "completely and utterly blindsided" by key decisions made by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) that led to his departure last week.

The Australian coaching veteran, who was appointed as Pakistan's red-ball coach in April, stepped down from his role just over a year into his contract, refusing to join the squad on their tour of South Africa due to growing frustrations with the PCB, according to The Express Tribune report.

His resignation followed that of former South African cricketer Gary Kirsten, who resigned as the white-ball coach in October for similar reasons.

In an extensive



interview with ABC Radio, Gillespie revealed that the tipping point came when the PCB decided not to renew the contract of assistant coach Tim Nielsen, a decision he had no prior knowledge of.

"As a head coach, you like to have clear communication with your employer," said Gillespie. "I was completely and utterly blindsided by the decision to not have a senior high-performance assistant coach." He went on to express disappointment over the lack of consultation regarding Nielsen's dismissal,

which left him questioning whether the PCB actually wanted him to continue in his role.

"I had developed a really close relationship with the Test captain Shan Masood, and we were certainly going in the right direction," he added. "That's why this decision was so frustrating." Nielsen, a former coach of the Australian team, had been praised for his work with the Pakistan team during their recent white-ball tour of Australia, where Pakistan won the ODI series.

"All the feedback I and the PCB had

received was how effective Tim had been in his role. The players were getting a lot out of him," Gillespie said. "They even called him 'grandpa.'" Despite success on the field, including a notable win against England in the Test series, Gillespie's role had been steadily diminished. "The lack of communication from the PCB made it difficult to do my job effectively. My role was reduced to minimal tasks, like catching balls during practice, and I was left out of key decisions like team selection," Gillespie added.

EIGHT SOUTHERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES BAG THE PRESTIGIOUS RAILWAY WEEK AWARDS

Award Ceremony of the 69th Railway Week Celebrations to be held on 21st December 2025 in New Delhi

The following employees of Southern Railway which includes two Gazetted Officers and Six non-gazetted staff will receive the prestigious award from Hon'ble Union Minister of Railways in New Delhi

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Station
1.	Marjunath Yadav	Sr Divisional Electrical Engineer	Madurai
2.	Boopathy Raja S	Sr Divisional Commercial Manager	Salem



A. Jawber Ali, Station Supd, Madurai.png



Sri Boopathy Raja, Sr DCM, Salm.jpg



Sri Giridhar Prasad Gond, Loco Pilot, Goods, Chennai



Sri Marjunath Yadav, Sr DEE, Madurai.png

Non-Gazetted:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Station
1.	A. Jawber Ali	Station Superintend	Madurai
2.	Tijo Kurakose	Senior Technician	Perambur Loco Workshop
3.	Nandini Jagadeesan	Chief Nursing Superintendent	Southern Railway Headquarters
4.	Nandakumar S	Train Ticket Inspector/Head Ticket Collector/Dy CTI	Chennai
5.	Giridhar Prasad Gond	Loco Pilot Goods (Electrical)	Chennai
6.	T.M. Gopalakrishnan	Senior Section Engineer	Golden Rock Workshop



Sri S Nandakumar, Dy CTI, Chennai.png



T.M.Gopalakrishnan, SSE, Golden Rock Workshop.png



Sri Tijo Kurakose Sr Technician, Perambur Loco Workshop.png



Smt NANDINI JAGADEESAN, Chief Nursing Supdt., Chennai.png

Southern Railway extends heartfelt congratulations to the awardees for their exemplary dedication and outstanding contribution.

Chennai Dec 18 2024: Christened as 'Athi Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar,' the prestigious Railway Board Award is presented to the employees of Indian Railways every year for showcasing exemplary performance and outstanding service in

their field of work. Instituted to recognize and reward exceptional contributions towards the growth and efficiency of Indian Railways, the Railway Week Awards are celebrated annually to commemorate the commissioning of the first passenger train in

India on April 16, 1853. Announced at the Railway Board level and conferred by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Railways, the Award holds the highest significance in a Railway employee's career.

It is indeed a proud moment for Southern

Railway as eight of the Zone's outstanding employees will be conferred with the 'Athi Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar - Railway Week Award 2025' during the Central function of the 69th Railway Week Award Ceremony to be held on 21st December 2024 in New Delhi.

ISRO installs new & accurate sundial in Thiruvananthapuram VSSC

Horological device uses sun position to indicate time

Chennai, Dec 18 2024: Scientists at the Vikram Space Sarabhai Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, have successfully designed and installed an accurate and fully functional sundial recently.

The sundial was installed at the Rocket Garden of VSSC Space Museum, ISRO said in an update on Tuesday.

Sundials are horological devices that indicate the time of day using the shadow cast by the apparent position of the sun.

Used as early as 1500 BCE in Ancient Egypt and Babylon, sundials were among the only means to measure time prior to the advent of modern-day clocks.

India has been a pioneer in the science and engineering of sundials, as evident from the 18th century time-keeping instruments in Jantar Mantars across the subcontinent, including the Vrihat Samrat Yantra of Jaipur, the largest stone sundial in the world.

Although rendered practically obsolete by modern technology, sundials remain fascinating scientific tools, offering insights into not only the history and evolution of science, but also the celestial mechanics and orbital motions of the Earth.

In November 2024, a team consisting of members from SPL, TTDG and CMD of VSSC successfully designed and installed an accurate and fully functional sundial at the Rocket Garden of VSSC Space Museum, Thumba (8.53 deg N, 76.86 deg E).

Unlike common sundials that only indicate the local solar time, this is a "Polar Sundial with Analemmatic Correction", which accurately gives the Indian Standard Time (IST) as well as the date.

Being among the exclusive few analemma-corrected sundials in the world, this system features a unique design that enables simultaneous time and date reading throughout the year using a single dial and pointer.

The sundial adopts a Polar configuration, with the dial plate (of size 4 ft x 4.2 ft) affixed on an acrylic wedge structure having a precise inclination of 8.53 deg as dictated by the local latitude of Thumba.

Giving the quintessential feel of TERLS, a 3D-printed model of the RH200 sounding rocket (1.6 ft tall; 1:7.4 scaled-down model) is used as the style for casting the shadow, fixed perpendicular to the inclined plate.

The entire sundial structure is mounted on a 6 ft diameter concrete platform, ensuring exact alignment with the true North-South direction. The direction of the True Geographic North was geometrically determined by the Method of Perpendicular Bisectors (using the symmetric motion of the sun about the local meridian), avoiding errors from relying on the conventional magnetic compass for north determination.

Thus, in this configuration the sundial plate is exactly parallel to the Earth's rotation axis (polar axis), with the rocket-shaped style parallel to the Earth's equatorial plane, pointing to the intersection of the celestial equator and local meridian.

Typical sundials have straight hour lines that can only indicate the local time at the installation site, which can be significantly different from the standard clock-time. This is not of much use today, with the Indian Standard Time (IST) being the accepted standard for civil time throughout the country.

"To obtain the actual time as seen on our watches, a systematic correction is incorporated to account for the sun's apparent seasonal motions", ISRO said.

During the course of the year, the sun exhibits seasonal variations in its path due to two reasons: (i) Earth's axial tilt of (23.44 deg with the ecliptic) results in an apparent north-south motion of the sun about the equator; (ii) Earth's orbital eccentricity (0.0167) results in an apparent east-west motion of the sun due to the speeding up or slowing down of the orbital motion.

In combination, the two phenomena lead to an annual figure-of-8 motion of the sun in the sky, called the "Analemma" (discernible upon viewing the sun at the same time of day over one year), which manifests as the Equation of Time: the difference between local solar time measured by sundials and mean time measured by modern clocks.

To capture this systematic behaviour, the sundial design is enhanced by introducing inverted analemma curves instead of straight hour lines. To improve readability, the analemma curves are limited to 15-minute intervals, and declination curves to the 1st of each month, though a simple visual interpolation can indicate the times and dates that fall in between.

TRANSRAIL LIGHTING LIMITED INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING TO OPEN ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024

Chennai, Dec 18 2024: Transrail Lighting Limited ("TLL" 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 for subscription and close on Monday, December 23, 2024. The Anchor Investor Bid/Offer Period opens and closes on Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

The initial public offering comprises of a fresh issue of Equity Shares aggregating up to Rs.4,000 million and an offer for sale aggregating up to 10,160,000 Equity Shares ("Offer for Sale") by one of the Promoters of the Company, Ajanma Holdings Private Limited ("Promoter Selling Shareholder").

The Company proposes to utilize the Net Proceeds towards funding (i) incremental working capital requirements of the Company; (ii) capital expenditure of the Company; and (iii) general corporate



purposes. The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at Rs. 410.00 to Rs. 432.00 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 34 Equity Shares and in multiples of 34 Equity Shares thereafter.

The Equity Shares of the Company 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.

Inga Ventures Private Limited, Axis Capital Limited, HDFC Bank Limited and IDBI Capital Markets & Securities

Limited are the book running lead managers of the Offer (The "BRLMs"). All capitalised terms used herein but not defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the Red Herring Prospectus.

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process, in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the SCRR read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations and in compliance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, wherein not more than 50% of the Net Offer shall be allocated on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs") ("QIB Portion"),

provided that the Company may, in consultation with the Book Running Lead Managers, allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations ("Anchor Investor Portion"), of which one-third shall be reserved for domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price. In the event of under-subscription, or non-allocation in the Anchor Investor Portion, the balance Equity Shares shall be added to the QIB Portion ("Net QIB Portion").

IMFA Enters into Joint Venture with JSW Green Energy

Chennai, Dec 18 2024: Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd (IMFA), the country's leading fully integrated producer of ferro chrome, announced a joint venture with JSW Green Energy to source renewable energy for its smelting operations. IMFA has signed a binding term sheet with JSW Green Energy One Ltd and JSW Green Energy Seven Ltd, and will invest Rs 83.26 crores in a hybrid project that combines 50 MW AC solar and 100 MW wind for a total contracted capacity of



70 MW. The Company will subsequently sign a power purchase agreement (PPA) as a captive consumer which will be valid for 25 years. Mr Binoy Agarwalla, Vice President & Head - Power Business Unit said: "As a pioneer in

the ferro alloys industry with backward integration into captive power, renewable energy is a key aspect of reducing our carbon footprint. By combining solar and wind power, we are taking a proactive step towards a green future and aligning

with the global trend of sustainability." IMFA is putting up a 100,000 tonnes per annum greenfield facility at Kalinganagar, Odisha to augment its ferro chrome production in line with increasing demand.

Vakrangee Ltd. Board to Consider Fund Raise on December 21



Chennai Dec 18 2024: Vakrangee Limited one of India's largest Last Mile Distribution Platform, has announced that the company's board will meet on December 21, 2024 to consider the proposal for raising of funds by way of rights issue, warrants, preferential issue including a qualified institutions placement or through any other permissible mode and/or combination, by way of issue of equity shares or any other eligible securities, subject to all such regulatory/statutory approvals as may be required including the approval of shareholders of the Company.

Recently, the

company announced that it has entered in to an agreement with Central Bank of India as Corporate Business Correspondent (CBC) for offering Banking Services across Pan India.

Vakrangee has emerged as one of the leading Financial Inclusion players with more than 14,000 Banking BC points and 4th Largest ATM operator in Rural India with 6,000+ ATMs. This partnership will expedite the expansion of Vakrangee's network, reinforcing our presence across both rural and urban landscapes of the nation. Moreover, it will significantly enhance access to banking and financial

services in unserved and underserved regions, driving financial inclusion across the country.

Under this partnership, Vakrangee will now be able to provide banking services across Pan India, further strengthening the financial inclusion drive in the country. Vakrangee will be providing key Banking services such as Opening of Saving & Current Bank Account (through e-KYC), Opening of Fixed /Recurring /Term Deposit account, amongst many others.

Commenting on this partnership, Mr. Vedant Nandwana,

Managing Director, Vakrangee Ltd. said, "We are happy and honored to announce this partnership with Central Bank of India which enables us as Corporate Business Correspondent for Banking services across our Vakrangee Kendras on a Pan India basis. We are well on track with respect to our Vision 2030 growth strategy to increase our Operational Vakrangee kendras to 3,00,000 by 2030. This tie up further ensures scalability to our growth model as we would be able to on-board and activate Banking services at our Vakrangee kendras."

DAM Capital Advisors Limited's initial public offering to open on Thursday, December 19, 2024

Chennai Dec 18 2024: DAM Capital Advisors Limited (the "Company"), proposes to open its initial public offering (the "Offer") on Thursday, December 19, 2024. Bid/ Offer Closing Date will be Monday, December 23, 2024. Anchor Investor Bidding Date is one Working Day prior to Bid/Offer Opening Date, that is, Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed from Rs. 269/- per Equity Share to Rs. 283/- per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 53 Equity Shares and in multiples of 53 Equity Shares thereafter.

The initial public offering of up to 29,690,900 Equity Shares of face value of Rs.2 each ("equity shares") of the Company. The Offer comprises of an offer for sale of up to 8,714,400 Equity Shares of face value of Rs.2 each aggregating up to Rs. [.] million by



Asset Management Private Limited ("MAAMPL"), up to 7,042,400 Equity Shares of face value of Rs.2 each aggregating up to Rs. [.] million by Narotam Satyanarayan Sekhsaria ("NSS"), up to 5,771,000 Equity Shares of face value of Rs.2 each aggregating up to Rs. [.] million by RBL Bank Limited ("RBL"), up to 5,064,250 Equity Shares of face value of Rs.2 each aggregating up to Rs. [.] million by Easy Access Financial Services Limited ("EFSL"),

together with MAAMPL, NSS and RBL, the "Investor Selling Shareholders") and up to 3,098,850 Equity Shares of face value of Rs.2 each aggregating up to Rs. [.] million by Dharmesh Anil Mehta (the "Promoter Selling Shareholder", together with the Investor Selling Shareholders, the "Selling Shareholders" and such offer by the Selling Shareholders, the "Offer for Sale").

Offer includes a reservation of up to

70,000 Equity Shares of face value Rs.2 each, aggregating up to Rs. [.] million (constituting up to [.]% of the post-offer paid-up Equity Share capital, for subscription by eligible employees ("Employee Reservation Portion"). The Offer less the Employee Reservation Portion is hereinafter referred to as the "Net Offer". The Offer and the Net Offer shall constitute [.]% and [.]%, respectively, of the post-offer paid-up Equity Share capital of our Company.

SRM IST Vadapalani Teams Shine at Smart India Hackathon 2024



Chennai Dec 18 2024: Two teams from the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRM IST), Vadapalani campus, have emerged as winners at the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024, reflecting the institute's sustained commitment to technological innovation and entrepreneurial growth.

This year's Smart India Hackathon, held across multiple nodal centers, witnessed unprecedented participation, with over 86,000 teams competing at the institute level and 49,000 advancing to the national stage—representing an impressive 150% increase in internal hackathons over the previous year. More than 250 problem

statements were sourced from 54 ministries, government departments, PSUs, and industries, urging young innovators to devise practical, high-impact solutions.

Among the 28 ideas submitted by SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Vadapalani, 25 teams were shortlisted and three advanced to the Grand Finale. Two of these—Team CTRL K and Team Techie Tacos—claimed top honors. Team CTRL K, guided by mentors Dr. P. Jayanthi and Dr. B. Prabha, excelled in the software category with an AI-driven model to forecast agricultural commodity prices, demonstrating potential to stabilize markets and inform policy decisions.

In the hardware category, Team Techie Tacos, mentored by Dr. Rahul Krishnan and Dr. D. Vaishali, introduced a wearable device leveraging artificial intelligence to prevent falls among the elderly, seamlessly blending social impact with cutting-edge engineering. Although Code Factory Unlimited narrowly missed a win, their strong showing underscored the institute's vibrant ecosystem of research, hands-on learning, and industry engagement.

Recognizing these achievements, Dr. Ravi Pachamuthu, Chairman of the SRM Group, personally congratulated the victorious teams and mentors. He affirmed his unwavering support for nurturing

student talent, pledging additional resources and facilities to further enhance their innovation journeys. Accompanying him were Dr. C. V. Jayakumar, Dean (Faculty of Engineering and Technology), Dr. C. Gomathy (SPOC for SIH), and Dr. S. Karthik (SIH Coordinator), along with Heads of Departments, team members, and mentors. Their collective presence celebrated not just these individual triumphs, but the broader spirit of innovation and excellence that defines SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Vadapalani.

Not just Gen Z, millennials too: Redditors discuss the wave of pet parenthood embraced by young Indians

Chennai Dec 18 2024: Put a pause on traditional parenthood for Young India, pets are the new family members! As a conventional family roles evolve, young Indians are embracing pet parenthood, finding new ways to channel their nurturing instincts by welcoming into their lives their loving, furry companions. Conversations across Reddit communities like r/childfreeindia and r/childfree are buzzing with stories of this growing trend, with many choosing pets over children reflecting a new sense of fulfillment and connection that's energizing young Indians.

From Couples to Youth, India is choosing Pet Parenthood

Whether for financial freedom or emotional comfort, pets are quickly becoming the new family members for many Indians, especially child-free couples and young individuals. One Reddit post highlights Indian couples choosing "cats & dogs over babies," sparking heartfelt discussions about similar experiences. Other Redditors note that "It's not just about one generation," with many adding, "Not just Gen Z, millennials too" are embracing pet parenthood as an

alternative to traditional parenting.

Behind the Furry Love: Why Pet Parenthood?

Speculating on why pets are increasingly becoming the preferred choice, one Redditor's hot take reads, "With a dog/cat/pet, you don't have to worry about education, school, studies, or what job they will get," yet still enjoy the "love, affection, and company" they provide. Another chimes in, emphasizing how pets return "double the love and companionship" that owners offer making them the ideal furry companions for many

Indians. Redditors Advocate Mindful, Responsible Pet Parenthood

Emphasising that cats and dogs, like any sentient beings, require a lot of time, attention, and care, one Redditor cautions, "Pets are a commitment," urging first-time pet parents to be fully prepared for the responsibilities of pet parenthood. Others echo this sentiment, with one sharing, "I have no kids, no pets, no partner. I have my books. Everyone has a different lifestyle. Do what works for you," reminding us to make a prudent choice when embracing pet parenthood.