

**NITT Press and Media Release with photos | Distinguished Alumni Award 2024 presented**

Chennai Jan 14 2025: The National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli presented the Distinguished Alumni Awards (DAA) 2024 on 11th January 2024, celebrating the exceptional accomplishments of its alumni. The awards were conferred by Prof. B.S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad, and Dr. G. Aghila, Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli, in a grand ceremony held on campus.

Dr. G. Uma, Dean (Institutional Development and Alumni Relations), welcomed the august gathering and expressed heartfelt gratitude to the awardees who travelled from across the globe to grace the occasion.

The Chief Guest of the award ceremony Prof. B.S. Murty, Director of IIT Hyderabad, acknowledged NIT Trichy for its distinguished legacy and highlighted its unique distinction as the only NIT or IIT led by a woman Director, Dr. G. Aghila. He also shared valuable insights into the innovative initiatives at IIT Hyderabad, including introducing new B.Tech courses and strategies aimed at improving global rankings. He underscored the significance of such efforts in elevating the global stature of Indian institutions and encouraged NIT Trichy to continue its pursuit of excellence.

This year, 12 Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented, and 9 awardees were present in person to receive the honour. These awards recognize the outstanding contributions of alumni who have excelled in diverse fields, including Academics, Research, Entrepreneurship, Public Administration, and Service to Society.

The recipients of the awardees include professors from Georgia Tech and IIT Delhi, retired leaders from ISRO, Bharat Serums, and Microsoft, senior top executives from Reliance Life Sciences, Northern Tool, and Arjas

Modern Steel, founders of innovative ventures, and a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India.

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Dr. G. Aghila, Director of NIT Tiruchirappalli, honoured the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Awardees for their exceptional contributions across various fields. She reaffirmed NIT Trichy's commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, with a focus on the proposed 20-acre Research and Innovation Hub along the Trichy-Thanjavur highway. This hub will drive pioneering research in AgriTech, FinTech, SpaceTech, GreenTech, Quantum Computing, Semiconductors, and Generative AI, with alumni support integral to achieving these ambitious goals. She also invited alumni to engage in mentoring, research collaborations, and supporting scholarships, reinforcing the institute's vision as a global leader in education and innovation.

RECAL President Shri. K. Mahalingam praised the exceptional achievements of REC/NITT alumni and their strong bond with the institute. He assured that RECAL and the Dean (ID & AR) office will collaborate with the

Distinguished Alumni Awardees to harness their expertise for the institute's growth and global excellence. One of the Distinguished Alumni Awardees announced an endowment program in his mother's name to support a meritorious girl student from an economically disadvantaged background, strengthening NIT Trichy's dedication to empowering deserving students.

Dr. Shobitha Poulose, Associate Dean (Alumni Relations), expressed her sincere gratitude to the

distinguished alumni awardees, the chief guest, stakeholders of NIT Tiruchirappalli, and all the attendees for their support and participation.

List of Awardees Present in the Ceremony

Distinguished Alumni Awards (DAA) -2024

I. Excellence in Academics/Research/Innovation/Invention Prof. Devesh Ranjan, B.E - Mechanical Engineering: Class of 2003 Professor, George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA. Dr. G. Jegan Lal, B.E - Mechanical Engineering: Class of 1984, Retd., Deputy Director, Systems Reliability & Quality Assurance, LPSC, ISRO, Trivandrum. Prof. Naresh Bhatnagar, B.E - Production Engineering: Class of 1984. Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

II. Excellence in Corporate/ Industry, Dr. K V Balasubramaniam, B.E - Mechanical Engineering: Class of 1979, Retd. CEO, Bharat Serums & Vaccines, Mumbai. Mr. K V Subramaniam, B.Tech - Chemical Engineering:

III. Excellence in Entrepreneurial Venture, Mr. Shyam Ramamurthy, B.Tech - Chemical Engineering: Class of 1984. Founder, Catalyng Business Solutions, Chennai.

IV. Excellence in Public Administration, Mr. G Saikumar, B.E - Industrial Engineering: Class of 1981, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.

Class of 1979, President, Reliance Life Sciences, Mumbai. Mr. Ramaswamy Visweswaran, B.E - Metallurgical & Materials Engineering: Class of 1984. Managing Director, Arjas Modern Steel Private Limited, Bengaluru. Mr. Suresh Krishna, B.E - Mechanical Engineering: Class of 1991. President & CEO, Northern Tool + Equipment, USA.

For more details Contact: Dr. G. Uma, Dean (ID & AR), (Institutional Development and Alumni Relations). Deanid@nitt.edu; Mobile (Dean ID&AR): 9486001108.

Thanks & Regards Prof R Mohana Krishnan Director Sports SRM Institute of Science and Technology

**Zomato collaborates with Femi9 to provide free sanitary napkins to female delivery partners in Tamil Nadu**

Chennai Jan 14 2025: Zomato, India's online food ordering and delivery platform, has collaborated with Femi9, to encourage healthy menstrual hygiene habits pursuant to which Zomato shall be providing free sanitary napkins for female delivery partners in Tamil Nadu. This initiative, unveiled at Femi9 Mega Celebration Event 2, aims to enhance the health and well-being

of women in the gig workforce by ensuring consistent access to safe and eco-friendly menstrual products. Under this initiative, Zomato onboarded female delivery partners will receive eco-friendly sanitary napkins, along with a leaflet titled "Be a Cramp-ion," which includes health tips to support and educate them during menstruation.

"At Zomato, we are committed to creating a more inclusive and empowering environment for women across, especially in our delivery partner fleet. Initiatives like these reflect our holistic approach to supporting and inspiring more women to join the gig workforce. This is another step in our ongoing journey to foster key collaborations that address specific needs of women," - Anjali Ravi Kumar, Chief Sustainability Officer, Zomato



As of November 2024, Zomato had over 2,500 active female delivery partners operating across 250+ cities. Zomato has also introduced several initiatives to support their well-being, including introducing a Kurta as an option, providing shorter-distance delivery options, instituting two paid period rest days per month, and including maternity cover in the insurance plan.

Launched in 2010, Zomato's mission is better food for more people. Zomato is a restaurant search & discovery and food ordering and delivery platform.

**SRM IST Volleyball Women Team Secured Gold in SOUTH ZONE INTER UNIVERSITY Volleyball Women Tournament**

Chennai Jan 14 2025: SOUTH ZONE INTER UNIVERSITY Volleyball Women Tournament 2024-25

Organised by the JPR University, Chennai From 7th to 11th Jan 2025

Quater Final Result - SRMIST Beat Vels university 25-13, 22-25, 25-15, 25-22.

League Result - SRMIST beat University of Calicut 25-17, 25-13, 25-15.

SRMIST beat MG university kerala 16-25, 25-21, 25-16, 25-15.

Final League



SRMIST beat Kerala. 4th place- Jeppiaar 14-25, 25-19, 17-25, 27-25, 15-09.

Winner - SRMIST, Runner - Jeppiaar University 3rd place- MG University, Tournament

Thanks & Regards Prof R Mohana Krishnan Director Sports SRM Institute of Science and Technology

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 கல்பாற் தெருவில்-சுரர் வீடு  
 11, SOUTH PERUMAL KOIL STREET, VADAPALANI, CHENNAI - 600 026.  
**8148231942 / 8144337349**  
 வரத இ-சேவை மையம்



**ACCUSED TAMILARASI AND HER MOTHER GOVINDAMMAL PERUMAL UNDER GUISE OF IMPORTING SUGAR TO MALAYSIAN COMPANY CHEATED RS.10.61 CRORES WAS ARRESTED BY CENTRAL CRIME BRANCH, GREATER CHENNAI POLICE.**

Chennai Jan 14, 2025: Malaysian Citizen, preferred a complaint before the Commissioner of Police, Greater Chennai Police alleged that the accused Tamlaras and her mother Govindammal Perumal having their companies namely 1) Ellipse Edorse and 2) Ellipse Universal Trading India Private Limited at Valsaravakkam to believe that 12,000 Metric ton sugar will be imported to Allied Group SDN BHD of Malaysia. Believing their words, the

complainant's company transferred money of Rs.10.61 crores to the above accused companies bank accounts during the years 2021 and 2022. The accused A1 and A2 without importing the sugar to them furnished bogus documents as if sugar was imported and cheated.

Based on the complaint, a case was registered in the EDF-I, Beta-1 Team, Central Crime Branch, Greater Chennai Police. Similarly, the accused Tamlaras have also cheated a Mumbai

businessman of Rs.75 lakhs, was absconding from the clutches of law.

A special team headed by EDF-I, Central Crime Branch Assistant Commissioner of Police Tr.S.Siva led by Inspectors of Police Tr.P.C.Shivakumar and Tmt.S.Prabha conducted house search and arrested the accused Tamlaras F/A 42 D/o.Perumal, No.203, Saraswathi Ramakrishna Street, Prakasam Salai, Valsaravakkam, Chennai-87 and Govindammal Perumal F/A 62, W/o.Perumal,

Thiru.A.Arun, I.P.S., Commissioner of Police, Greater Chennai cautioned the businessmen to be careful about such kind of fraudulent companies and not to get deceived by them.

Flatt - A, Srihari Apartments, Old No.20, New No.15A, Kadambadiamman Koil Street, Maduravoyal, Chennai-95 and seized immovable property documents worth of about Rs.1 Crore and they were sent judicial custody on 10.01.2025.

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**A CRACKDOWN ON EDUCATION COUNSELING CENTERS IN THE CASE OF AN ATTEMPT TO GET ADMISSION IN UG/PG MEDICAL COURSE BY SUBMITTING A FAKE NRI CERTIFICATE.**



Chennai Jan 14, 2025: During the online MBBS counselling conducted by the Directorate of Medical Education and Research for the year 2024-2025 for UG and PG admission in medical courses under NRI quota, it was found that some students have submitted fake NRI Bonafide certificates as issued by Indian

Embassy in various foreign countries. On the complaint filed by the Directorate of Research Chennai a case has been registered in Forgery Investigation Wing, Central Crime Branch and taken up for investigation.

On investigation it was revealed that students have applying for admission under NRI

quota from some educational counseling center operating in Chennai. In order to seize/collect the document relating to the case, as per the orders of CCB & CBCID Court toady 11.01.2025 search have been conducted in the following place by Central Crime Branch police headed by Selvi.M.Gayathri, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Forgery Investigation Wing.

1. Sree Sai Educational Academy, Pallavaram
2. Meta Neet, Porur
3. Sri Sai Career Next Academy, Saligramam

4. Sri Sai Career Next Academy, Nungambakkam

5. Zion Career Solutions, Velachery

6. Life Link Education Consultancy, Annanagar

7. Study India Education Consultancy, Ashok Nagar

8. Madha Medical College, Kundrathur.

During the said search, 105 incriminating documents relating to case, 19 seals, 22 computers, 2 pendrives, 5 Hard Disk, Cellphones were seized. The above documents will be scrutinized and further action will be taken.

**SRM IST Chess Men Team Won GOLD Medal in SOUTH ZONE INTER UNIVERSITY CHESS Championship**

Chennai Jan 14, 2025: SOUTH ZONE INTER UNIVERSITY CHESS Championship FOR MEN 2024-25

Organised by Vel Tech University, Avadi, Chennai From 8th to 11th Jan 2025

Results - Round 1: SRMIST beat Karnataka State Law Univ 4-0

Round 2: SRMIST beat JNTU, Kakinada 4-0

Round 3: SRMIST beat University of Calicut 3.5-0.5

Round 4: SRMIST beat Bharathiar Univ 3-1

Round 5: SRMIST beat University of Madras 4-0

Round 6: SRMIST beat KLEF Univ 3-1

Round 7: SRMIST beat Anna University 3-1

Final standings: Winner: SRMIST,



Chennai (Defending Champion) - 24,5 Points. Fourth: Anna University, Chennai - 20,5 Points. Runner: Jeppiaar University, Chennai - 21,5 Points. Third : KLEF Univ, AP - 20,5

Points. Fourth: Anna University, Chennai - 20,5 Points.

SRM Institute of Science and Technology Chess Men Team Won this championship Continuously 4 Year. Top four team Qualify for All India Inter University Chess Championship.

**Unreserved Express Specials between Coimbatore and Dindigul**

Chennai Jan 14 2025: The following Special trains will be operated to clear extra rush of passengers during Thai Poosam Festival as given below:

Train No. 06106 Coimbatore - Dindigul Unreserved MEMU Express Specials:

Train No. 06107 Dindigul - Coimbatore Unreserved MEMU Express Special will leave Coimbatore at 09.35 hrs on and from 05th February to 14th February, 2025 (Except Sunday) and reach Dindigul at 13.10 hrs, the same day (9 Services)

17.50 hrs, the same day - Coimbatore Unreserved MEMU Express Specials are as follows (Timings in hours) : M.SenthamilSelvan, Chief Public Relations Officer

Train No. 06106 Coimbatore - Dindigul Unreserved MEMU Express Special (Except Sunday)	Stations	Train No. 06107 Dindigul - Coimbatore Unreserved MEMU Express Special (Except Sunday)
09.35	(d) Coimbatore	(a) 17.50
09.48/09.50	(a/d) Podanur	(a/d) 17.08/17.10
10.13/10.14	(a/d) Kinathukadavu	(a/d) 16.43/16.44
11.07/11.10	(a/d) Palacchi	(a/d) 16.17/16.20
11.33/11.34	(a/d) Ukumalipettai	(a/d) 15.35/15.36
12.05/12.10	(a/d) Palani	(a/d) 14.55/15.00
12.35/12.36	(a/d) Odanchattam	(a/d) 14.27/14.28
13.10	(a) Dindigul	(d) 14.00

**One Way Special Trains will be run to cater to the increasing number of passengers in view of Pongal Festival as given below:**

Chennai Jan 14, 2025: 1. Train No.06037 Chennai Egmore - Mangaluru Jn One Way Special:

Train No.06037 Chennai Egmore - Mangaluru Jn One Way Special will leave Chennai Egmore at 15.00 hrs on 13th January, 2025 (Monday) and reach Mangalore Jn at 08.50 hrs, the next day (1 Service)

Coach Composition: 3- AC Three Tier Coaches, 9- Sleeper Class Coaches, 6- General Second Class Coaches & 2- Luggage cum Brake Vans

The details of timings and stoppages of Train No.06037 Chennai Egmore - Mangaluru Jn One Way Special are as follows (Timings in hours):

2. Train No. 06104 Ramanathapuram - Tambaram One Way Special:

Station	Train No.06037 Chennai Egmore - Mangaluru Jn One Way Special
Chennai Egmore	(d) 15.00 (Monday)
Perambur	(a/d) 15.45/15.50
Tiruvallur	(a/d) 16.13/16.15
Arakkonam	(a/d) 16.38/16.40
Katpadi	(a/d) 17.43/17.45
Jolarpettai	(a/d) 18.58/19.00
Salem	(a/d) 20.37/20.40
Erode	(a/d) 21.40/21.50
Tiruppur	(a/d) 22.33/22.35
Coimbatore	(a/d) 23.27/23.30
Palakkad	(a/d) 01.55/02.05
Shoranur	(a/d) 03.00/03.05
Tirur	(a/d) 03.43/03.45
Kozhikode	(a/d) 04.27/04.30
Vadakkara	(a/d) 05.08/05.10
Thalassery	(a/d) 05.33/05.35
Kannur	(a/d) 06.07/06.10
Payyanur	(a/d) 06.34/06.35
Kanhangad	(a/d) 07.03/07.05
Kasaragod	(a/d) 07.26/07.30
Mangaluru Jn	(a) 08.50 (Tuesday)

Station	Train No. 06104 Ramanathapuram - Tambaram One Way Special
Ramanathapuram	(d) 15.30 (Sunday)
Parakkudi	(a/d) 15.53/15.55
Mangaluru	(a/d) 16.20/16.25
Sikaranga	(a/d) 16.48/16.50
Kalai	(a/d) 17.13/17.15
Karakkudi	(a/d) 17.35/17.40
Aranjani	(a/d) 18.15/18.16
Peruvurani	(a/d) 18.39/18.40
Pathukottai	(a/d) 19.00/19.02
Atrampattinam	(a/d) 19.14/19.15
Muthupet	(a/d) 19.26/19.27
Tiruvallur	(a/d) 19.48/19.50
Tiruvavur	(a/d) 20.20/20.30
Peralam	(a/d) 20.53/20.54
Mayiladuthurai	(a/d) 21.34/21.36
Sikazhi	(a/d) 22.09/22.10
Chidambaram	(a/d) 22.26/22.28
Cuddalore Port	(a/d) 22.58/23.00
Panruti	(a/d) 23.23/23.26
Vilupuram	(a/d) 00.30/00.45
Melmaruvathur	(a/d) 01.42/01.44
Chengalpet	(a/d) 02.13/02.15
Tambaram	(a) 03.30 (Monday)

**GREATER CHENNAI TRAFFIC POLICE TRAFFIC MODIFICATION NEAR ANNA SALAI & GP ROAD JUNCTION**

Chennai, Jan 14, 2025: To ease the traffic flow on Anna Salai x GP Road Junction. During the time both incoming and outgoing will be stopped which create traffic snarls on peak hours. The following modification will make the traffic ease.

At present, vehicles coming from General

vehicles coming from Anna Flyover towards GP road will allowed to take U turn near Mount Road Mosque (Near Buhari Hotel) to reach GP road.

Motorists are requested to Cooperate.

2. Light Motor





## A contest of a different kind in Tamil Nadu for Pongal

Chennai Jan 14, 2025: A Beauty Contest for commercial vehicles including lorries and tractors was held as part of Pongal festival across different locations in Tamil Nadu. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation by agriculturists in Dharmapuri, Pollachi and Bhavani in Tamil Nadu wherein the judges panel selected the top three for exceptional vehicles and prizes were given to the owners and drivers. Thanks to Sundaram Finance Ltd for this novel concept.

M Rafi Ahmed - Good marketing makes the company look smart. Great marketing makes the customer feel smart. This is how US marketing leader and B2B marketing blogger Joe Chernov views on innovative marketing strategies during product promotion. Ever heard of 'Beauty Contest' for commercial vehicles? Surprisingly, Shell Rotella, a heavy duty engine lubrication product company is the pioneer in hosting such an event in 1982 specifically for trucks. Thinking out-of-the-box, the Chennai headquartered Sundaram Finance Ltd, an NBFC primarily involved in financing for the



commercial vehicles, came up with the idea of celebrating the harvest festival of Pongal in a different way. Yes, the company announced the 'Beauty Contest' for commercial vehicles including lorries and trucks which was held across various branches spread across Tamil Nadu.

This innovative customer connect programme made headlines as it was mainly for agriculturist customers whose daily chores are incomplete without 'tractors'. No doubt, tractors play a pivotal role in farming activity. In short, the company's customers were solely the farmers who had purchased tractors on loan from Sundaram Finance Ltd.

At the Pongal special event held in Dharmapuri, winners of 'Pongal Beauty 2025' for commercial vehicles were announced and were given prizes. The best decorated tractor and for the most well

maintained and clean tractor were selected at the contest. Chief guest agriculturist Arulmani, Motor Vehicle Inspector Theeran & Raja (Surveyor) were present at the Sundaram Sangamam programme.

About 14 trucks were beautifully decorated and showcased at the beauty contest. Three assessors evaluated the tractors and selected the top three, who were awarded for their exceptional vehicles. Most of the attendees were agriculturists, and the company officials explained the Sundaram Finance tractor financing system more particularly the Kamadhenu scheme.

The awards were presented by the Sub-Inspector - Vadipatti police station, BPCL executive, and zonal head Jeevan. Sub-inspector explained about road safety measures and requested them to drive safely. This

event was held to connect with customers in a fun filled environment recognizing truck owners who maintain their vehicles with high standards of safety, cleanliness and cabin quality reflected in their unique truck decoration and identity.

In Pollachi and Bhavani, similar events were conducted wherein 45 customers including owners and truck drivers attended while 14 trucks were beautifully decorated and were displayed at the contest. Appukutty, chairman of PA college was the chief guest. The judges were Ariff -Insurances value surveyor, Sridhar - N & M company Manager and Katturaja, President Pollachi Lorry Owners Association. The winner was Balaji Krishna Kumar. Though an imported concept, Sundaram Finance takes the credit of introducing this novel product promotion exercise in Tamil Nadu..

## Introduction of Permanent Pictorial Cancellation for Chidambaram Depicting Lord Nataraja - Temple Car Carried Special Cover Released on the Occasion of Aarudra Therottam

Chennai Jan 14, 2025: The Department of Posts is proud to announce the introduction of a Permanent Pictorial Cancellation for Chidambaram, a town renowned for its spiritual and cultural significance. The cancellation, featuring the majestic image of Lord Nataraja, the cosmic dancer, pays homage to the Chidambaram Nataraja Temple, a timeless symbol of art, devotion, and heritage.

This initiative was launched on the auspicious occasion of Aarudra Therottam, the grand annual temple car festival celebrated with fervor and devotion. Lord Nataraja, revered as the embodiment of cosmic rhythm and balance, holds a special place in the hearts of devotees across the world.

To mark this



momentous event, a temple car carried Special Cover during the Aarudra Therottam has also been released. The special

cover was released by Smt. T. Nirmala Devi, Postmaster General, Central Region - Tamilnadu Tiruchirappalli

in the presence of Shri. V. S. Jayasankar, Postmaster General, Southern Region - Tamilnadu, Madurai and received by Shri. Venkatesa Deekshidhar, Secretary, Pothu Deekshithars, Sri Sabanayagar Koil, Chidambaram. This cover captures the essence of the vibrant festival and showcases the architectural and cultural splendor of Chidambaram.

The Permanent Pictorial Cancellation will be available at the Chidambaram Head Post Office, reflecting its rich spiritual legacy.

This initiative celebrates Chidambaram's unique identity and aims to inspire greater appreciation for its historical and spiritual treasures.

## Vidya Wires Limited files DRHP with SEBI for an IPO

Chennai Jan 14, 2025: Vidya Wires Limited one of the largest manufacturers of winding and conductivity products for a range of critical industries and applications has filed Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI for an Initial Public Offering (IPO).

The public offer comprises of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs. 320 crore by company (THE "FRESH ISSUE") and an offer for sale (OFS) aggregating up to 10,000,000 equity shares by the Promoter Selling Shareholders ("OFFER FOR SALE") with face value of Rs.1 each equity share.

Shyamsundar

Rathi, Shailesh Rathi And Shilpa Rathi are the promoters of the company.

The Offer for Sale of upto 10,000,000 equity shares comprises of equity shares aggregating upto 5,000,000 by Shyamsundar Rathi and upto 5,000,000 equity shares by Shailesh Rathi (collectively THE "PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDERS") and such Equity shares THE "OFFERED SHARES")

Vidya Wires Limited proposes to utilize the net proceeds towards funding capital expenditure requirements for setting up new project in subsidiary viz. A L C U , Repayment/prepayme

nt in full or part of all or certain outstanding borrowings availed by the Company and for General corporate purposes.

The company is the 4th largest manufacturers in the industry with a 5.9% market share of installed capacity in industry in FY24 in India as per the CareEdge Report. With plans to expand manufacturing capabilities and further diversify the product range, the Company seeks to enhance its market position. The product portfolio includes precision-engineered Wires, Enameled Copper Rectangular Strips, Paper Insulated Copper Conductors, Copper Busbar and Bare Copper Conductors,

Specialised Winding Wires, PV Ribbon and Aluminum Paper Covered Strips, among others. The products are used in varied critical applications such as energy generation & transmission, electrical systems, electric motors, clean energy systems, electric mobility, railways. Used for conductivity, durability, and thermal efficiency, the products are integral to high-performance applications where reliability is crucial. (Source: CareEdge Report)

Pantomath Capital Advisors Private Limited and IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited are the Book Running Lead Managers to the issue.

## FEMA and San Antonio River Authority Officials Visit Chennai to Exchange Expertise and Support Water Resource Management

Chennai, Jan 14, 2025: A two-member delegation traveling under the Ambassador's Water Expert Program (AWEP),

an initiative of the United States Departments of State and Interior, visited Chennai at the invitation of the United States Consulate General from January 2-13 to engage and collaborate with experts, policy makers, and educational institutions on water resource

challenges, disaster management, and climate change.

Steven Metzler, Director of Water Resources, San Antonio River Authority (SARA), and Julia McCarthy, Deputy Director of the Mitigation Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 5, visited Anna University's Centre for Climate Change and Disaster

Management, joined a fireside chat at the Future Cities Summit during the Shastra Tech Fest at the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras), met industry stakeholders with the



Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), took a storytelling tour along the Adyar

River, and offered expertise on a panel discussion at Uagine 2025 on "Innovative Solutions to Combat Climate Change: A Global Perspective."

The delegation also held discussions with Chennai Mayor R. Priya; Dr. K. Manivasan, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department; Dr. D. Karthikeyan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply

Department; and J. Kumaragurubaran, IAS, Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation.

Steven Metzler, Director of Water Resources, San Antonio River Authority (SARA), said, "My Indian counterparts and I

Flood protection and disaster management

are critical to the resilience of the city and its residents. While there are challenges, there are also opportunities and potential solutions to improve the situation which we are exploring with the state and city during our visit."

U.S. Consul General in Chennai Chris Hodges said, "The United States supports the Government of Tamil Nadu's ongoing efforts at river remediation, effective sewage management, flood mitigation, and disaster resilience as a partner and a friend. Thanks to our

AWEP experts, the U.S. Consulate General Chennai now has a scalable roadmap for continued partnership with Tamil Nadu through U.S. technological expertise, business partnership and best practices. This program also opens opportunities to strengthen the ongoing

Sister City partnership between San Antonio in Texas and Chennai, which may serve as a model for other cities in our consular district and throughout India."



## JK Tyre celebrates India's automotive emergence with the landmark 20th edition of the Indian Car of the Year [ICOTY]

Chennai Jan 14, 2025: The Indian Car of the Year (ICOTY) and Indian Motorcycle of the Year (IMOTY) awards, proudly presented by JK Tyre ever since its inception, was held at the beautifully curated Levitas Lounge in New Delhi. Recognized as the most prestigious accolade in the Indian automotive industry, these awards celebrate a remarkable legacy of innovation and excellence. The event was graced by prominent industry leaders, renowned journalists, and members of the automotive fraternity. This year's occasion was particularly significant as it marked the 20th anniversary of ICOTY.

Dr. Raghupati Singhania, Chairman & Managing Director, JK Tyre & Industries, along with ICOTY Chairman Dhruv Behl, IMOTY Chairman Kartik Ware, and esteemed jury members, presented the awards to the winners.

The title of 20th Indian Car of the Year 2025 was bestowed upon the Mahindra Thar Roxx. The vehicle's innovative features, well-thought-out design and segment-best technology thoroughly impressed the jury. The Aprilia RS 457 was unanimously adjudged the 18th Indian Motorcycle of the Year 2025, proving its breathtaking performance and superior all-round ability were clear deciding factors in its victory.

On the momentous occasion, Dr. Raghupati Singhania, Chairman & Managing Director, JK Tyre & Industries Limited, said, "The ICOTY and IMOTY Awards stand as a testament to the remarkable achievements in India's dynamic automotive landscape. These esteemed accolades celebrate excellence and innovation, reflecting the industry's unwavering commitment to progress. Over the years, the Indian automotive sector has demonstrated remarkable strides, solidifying its position as a global leader. At JK Tyre, we are proud to contribute to this legacy and recognize the dedication and ingenuity that drive this industry forward."

To cater to the growing popularity, acceptance, and

availability of a wide range of premium cars from various manufacturers in the Indian market, the ICOTY jury introduced the 'Premium Car Award' in 2019. The Mercedes-Benz E-Class was recognized as the worthy winner of the title in 2025. Considering the evolving automotive landscape and Government's increased focus towards electric vehicles, the 'Green Car Award' was introduced in 2021, aimed at acknowledging manufacturers' contributions to the future of mobility. The MG Windsor proudly received the Green Car Award for 2025.

The cars and motorcycles nominated for this year's edition of the ICOTY and IMOTY awards were put through a thorough evaluation process. 28 jury members from across leading automobile publications with over 400 years of working experience evaluated the contenders across four categories. The judging process entailed an in-depth evaluation of each vehicle's attributes, considering factors such as price, fuel efficiency, design, comfort, safety, performance, practicality, technological innovation, value for money, and adaptability to Indian driving conditions to determine the winners.

Mr. Dhruv Behl, Chairman, ICOTY, said, "The 20th edition of ICOTY is certainly a memorable one. ICOTY, the Green Car Award by ICOTY and the Premium Car Award by ICOTY are, far and away, the most coveted awards in the Indian automotive industry. Over the past two decades, ICOTY has set itself apart as being the most credible and respected awards in the industry. The 21-member ICOTY jury has a cumulative experience of 408 years, and it's an absolute honour for me to be Chairman of such an illustrious jury. I'd like to congratulate all the winners for bringing cutting edge technology and design to our roads in their respective segments."

Mr. Kartik Ware, Chairman, IMOTY, said, "The 18th edition of IMOTY saw competition as tough as it's ever been. The finalists were some of

the best machines India has ever seen, their capabilities ranging across the wide spectrum bookended by performance and innovation, and everything in between that a motorcycle must possess. However, there can only be one winner, and the Aprilia RS 457 is a deserving one for the special feelings it brings to Indian riders. A big thanks to my fellow jury members for making my first time out as IMOTY chairman as smooth as possible. And an equally big thanks to JK Tyre for supporting IMOTY since its inception. One more fantastic motorcycle joins the ranks of IMOTY winners!"

On winning the ICOTY 2025 award, Nalinikanth Gollagunta, CEO - Automotive Sector, M&M Ltd. said, "We would like to thank the esteemed ICOTY 2025 jury for honoring the Mahindra Thar ROXX with this coveted award. This recognition reaffirms the global benchmarks of design, engineering, and manufacturing excellence we have pursued. The Thar ROXX represents a passion for charting new adventures—an ethos that resonates with enthusiasts everywhere. We remain deeply grateful to our customers, whose love and trust continue to fuel our commitment to deliver unforgettable driving experiences."

On winning the IMOTY 2025 award, Diego Graffi, MD and CEO, Piaggio Vehicles Private Limited said, "In a year graced by exceptional motorcycles, the Aprilia RS457 has emerged as a true standout. The IMOTY 2025 jury has bestowed upon the Aprilia RS457 the title of 'Indian Motorcycle of the Year,' a resounding affirmation of its unwavering commitment to speed, agility, and Italian design. We are immensely proud to witness the Aprilia RS457 receive this well-deserved accolade. This recognition serves as a powerful testament to the dedication and passion exhibited by our team in crafting a motorcycle that truly embodies the spirit of Aprilia—speed, agility, and Italian design."

On winning the Premium Car Award 2025 by ICOTY, Santosh Iyer, MD & CEO, Mercedes-Benz

India said, "The Long Wheelbase E-Class remains the most desirable luxury sedan for the discerning Indian luxury car customer. Highly advanced and personal than ever before, the Long Wheelbase E-Class is an unmatched combination of luxury, sheer comfort, groundbreaking technology, digital intelligence and superior driving dynamics; making it the unanimous choice as India's most admired luxury sedan. The coveted ICOTY Premium Car of the Year, is a firm testament to the Long Wheelbase E-Class' unparalleled luxury stature in the luxury car market.

I dedicate this honour to the entire Mercedes-Benz India team, who made multiple 'India specific' enhancements to the car, making it highly suitable for the Indian conditions, exceeding even the most demanding customer requirements. The ICOTY Premium Car of the Year honour for the Long Wheelbase E-Class, salutes the innovation, pioneering spirit and brand legacy, that customers associate Mercedes-Benz with, inspiring us to create superior customer experience."

On winning the Green Car Award 2025 by ICOTY, Rajeev Chaba, CEO Emeritus, JSW MG Motor India said, "The MG Windsor is the right product at the right time with the right pricing and packaging. It is certainly a disruptor in the segment, redefining consumer perceptions about EVs. The strong sales momentum since its launch, highlights the evolving preference of consumers. The MG Windsor ticks all the boxes of their consideration sets, especially the value for money it delivers. The MG Windsor is all the more special to us because it has been successful in debunking myths around higher acquisition cost of EVs through path breaking initiatives such as Battery-As-A-Service and lifetime battery warranty. The interplay of all these factors has helped MG Windsor to emerge as the Green Car of the Year at the coveted ICOTY 2025. I would like to thank all our customers for their unwavering support, the esteemed jury at ICOTY and everyone at JSW MG Motor India who have worked relentlessly to make this achievement possible."

## Infosys Science Foundation Honors Early Career Researchers with the Infosys Prize 2024

Chennai Jan 14, 2025: The Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) today awarded the winners of the Infosys Prize 2024 at a felicitation ceremony in Bengaluru. In its 16th year, the prize changed the eligibility criteria and is recognizing researchers under the age of 40, underscoring the importance of early recognition for exceptional talent. The winners were conferred the prize for their stellar contributions across six categories—Economics, Engineering and Computer Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, and Physical Sciences. The winners were felicitated by Chief Guest Prof. Peter Sarnak, Gopal Prasad Professor of Mathematics, Institute for Advanced Study, and Eugene Higgins Professor of Mathematics, Princeton University, with a pure gold medal, a citation, and a prize purse of USD 100,000.

The event was attended by distinguished scientists and academicians from around the globe, business leaders, young researchers, and students. Trustees of the Infosys Science Foundation—Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan (President, Board of Trustees), Mr. Narayana Murthy, Dr. Pratima Murthy, Mr. Srinath Batni, Mr. K. Dinesh, Mr. Nandan Nilekani, Mr. Mohandas Pai, Mr. Salil Parekh, and Mr. S.D. Shibulal were present at the award ceremony.

Commenting on the occasion, Chief Guest Prof. Peter Sarnak, said, "It is a great honor for me to be part of the Infosys Prize 2024 ceremony recognizing the achievements of these young scholars whose brilliant research has advanced and helped shape their fields from mathematics, physics and computer science to the life sciences, economics, social sciences and humanities. Over the years I have witnessed firsthand the immense talent and impact of Indian

mathematicians, physicists and computer scientists and as clear from the descriptions of this year's prize winners this tradition extends across all these disciplines and to all of the 2024 prize winners. The annual recognition of such world leading scholars by the Infosys Science Foundation is an inspiration to students both in India and globally."

Highlighting the new direction, Kris Gopalakrishnan, President, Infosys Science Foundation, said, "As the Infosys Prize marks its 16th year, we are proud to celebrate early career researchers whose work embodies the progress and potential of science today. Recognizing early-career talent is crucial for driving innovation and inspires the next generation to address the challenges of tomorrow. This year's laureates have demonstrated exceptional dedication and ingenuity, contributing solutions to critical global challenges. Their achievements highlight the strength of the scientific ecosystem and reaffirm our belief that science is on the right path to creating a better, more sustainable future. In an attempt to establish meaningful research collaborations, from this year onwards we have asked winners from outside India to spend a month in Indian institutions of their choosing as part of a new Infosys Prize Residency program."

As part of the Infosys Prize Residency program, a laureate of the Infosys Prize in any category, not residing in India, is required to spend 30 days of their choosing in the calendar year following the announcement of the award in an Indian institution of their choice. This is done with an aim to encourage collaboration among the laureates and the science community in India.

On January 10, the fourth edition of the Infosys Prize Winners' Symposium was held at the Taj West End. The laureates presented their award-winning work to an

invited audience of their peers and senior members of academia.

The winners were chosen by jury panels headed by eminent academics: Prof. Jayathi Y. Murthy (President, Oregon State University) for Engineering and Computer Science; Prof. Akeel Bilgrami (Columbia University) for Humanities and Social Sciences; Prof. Mriganka Sur (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) for Life Sciences; Prof. Chandrashekar Khare (University of California, Los Angeles) for Mathematical Sciences; Prof. Shrinivas Kulkarni (California Institute of Technology) for Physical Sciences; and Prof. Kaushik Basu (Cornell University) for Economics.

The winners of the Infosys Prize 2024 in the six categories are:

Economics - The Infosys Prize 2024 in Economics is awarded to Arun Chandrasekhar, Professor, Department of Economics, Stanford University, for his contribution to the study of social and economic networks, using innovative data sets and drawing on theoretical methods from machine learning and computer science. His collection and mapping of networks data, from multiple villages in Karnataka, provides a testbed for studying important questions in development economics. Prof. Chandrasekhar's work sheds light on the role of networks in the functioning of modern economy. His work provides critical ingredients for better policy making.

Engineering and Computer Science - The Infosys Prize 2024 in Engineering and Computer Science is awarded to Shyam Gollakota, Professor, Schone and Enginol of Computer Scieeering, University of Washington for his impactful research and technology translation spanning multiple engineering domains in societally relevant areas such as smartphone-based affordable healthcare tools for low- and middle-income

countries, battery-free computing and communication, and augmentation of human auditory sensing with artificial intelligence.

Humanities and Social Sciences - The Infosys Prize 2024 in Humanities and Social Sciences is awarded to Mahmood Kooria, Lecturer, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, for his truly outstanding and seminal contributions to the study of maritime Islam in a global perspective, with particular focus on Kerala in the pre-modern and early modern eras. His pioneering studies have revealed the role of Islamic law in shaping economic, political, and cultural transformations on the Indian Ocean littoral.

Life Sciences - The Infosys Prize 2024 in Life Sciences is awarded to Siddhesh Kamat, Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, for his discoveries concerning bioactive lipids and their receptors, and their metabolic and signaling pathways. His research, using advanced methods to understand the function of lipids, a key component of cells, has important implications for understanding the role of these molecules in a range of cellular functions and human diseases.

Mathematical Sciences - The Infosys Prize 2024 in Mathematical Sciences is awarded to Neena Gupta, Professor in the Theoretical Statistics and Mathematics Unit at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, for her work on the Zariski Cancellation Problem, a fundamental problem in algebraic geometry first posed in 1949 by Oscar Zariski, one of the founders of modern algebraic geometry. In 2014, she proved the striking result that Asanuma's 3-dimensional affine variety yields a negative answer to Zariski's original Cancellation Problem in positive characteristic.